Welcome from the Council Chair by Thom Remington

As you arrive at Arsht Hall to begin the semester, take a good look around. By the start of the fall semester, a lot will have changed. Much of it will be behind the scenes as a major item is a complete change in the HVAC system.

I got a lesson in why we need to redo the HVAC system the day after I started writing this piece, near the end of the fall semester. I attended the Chorus concert in room 105. Because I have a class that ends at 12:30, the place was packed by the time I got there. I ended up sitting in the very back of the room, right up against one of those lovely, noisy heating/cooling units.

With a room full of warm bodies, the system was in deep-freeze mode. The back of my neck almost had icicles on it, and the noise made it hard to hear anything. A year from now, at the end of the fall 2017 semester that won’t be an issue.

It’s important to reflect on the efforts that have gone into the upcoming changes, most especially the fundraising. We, the members of OLLI, have raised a nice chunk of change; as of the time I write this, it’s getting close to $1.4 million. That’s pretty impressive, and I think we all deserve to feel good about it. Special kudos need to go to the Fundraising Committee. These folks have done a great job in encouraging all of us to give in this important effort.

One thing I’ve learned about fund-raising and foundations is that foundations want to know that an organization’s members have given before they’re willing to give. As of the latest statistics, fully 85% of our members have given. That’s not just good; it’s phenomenal!

After my wife and I decided to make an additional contribution in response to the challenge grant during fall semester, I was walking to the building one gray Tuesday morning. As I got closer to the building, I looked at it and thought, yet again, about how much OLLI means to me. I shuddered at the thought that, without our volunteering and our donations, it could dry up and blow away.

That’s a horrible thought.

So, if you haven’t donated, please do so. If you have, please consider giving just a little bit more to help along an organization that is so much a part of the life of each and every one of us.

“As of the latest statistics, fully 85% of our members have given. That's not just good; it's phenomenal!”

Noteworthy

- Bring-a-Friend Week (page 2)
- The humanities at OLLI (page 3)
- Circle Singers (page 4)
- OLLI at the Ocean and Summer Session 2017 (page 5)
- Renewing the Dream: Reaching the goal and beyond (page 6)
- Mentoring (page 7)
- Our new bottle filling station (page 8)
- OLLI at other locations (page 9)
- First State National Historical Park (page 10)
- Remembering Phoebe Mont (page 11)

Weather closings

Osher office
302-573-4417
www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/WDEL
1150AM, 101.7FM
February 20-24: Bring A Friend and Get (Ice) Creamed!

That’s right! For each prospective member you bring to experience OLLI classes during the week of February 20th, you get a coupon that’s good for an ice cream at an upcoming visit by the UD’s Moo Mobile! You are also automatically entered into the drawing for a $25 Wawa gift card! What’s not to like?

Your friend(s) get to visit classes (please check with instructor first) and meet OLLI members. If they join OLLI, they get a reduced tuition rate. Visitors can check out the Reading Room, purchase lunch in the Garden Cafe, lounge in the Lobby, attend the social on Tuesday and attend any members-only art exhibits, concerts and special activities are going on.

New members help ensure that OLLI continues to offer an exciting range of classes and special activities. They also get the benefits of the optional UD Student ID ($10): valuable access to the UD library, fitness center ($50 per semester) and course-audit benefits as well as student discounts at a variety of participating museums and other establishments.

So, when you bring a friend to OLLI February 20-24, everybody wins!

Nominations for OLLI Council,
by Joan Miller, chair, Nominating Committee

We elect five new members to our OLLI Council each year. The Council chair has appointed a nominating committee to select a slate of candidates. However, the process is still open and any member may nominate himself or herself or another member, by submitting a nomination form (available in the office) with 25 or more signatures in support of that candidate. The petition must be submitted to the office by Friday, February 17, 2017. Petition candidates, along with the Council committee candidates, will be listed for election by all members in March, and the five members receiving the highest number of votes will join the Council in April. However, if there are no petition candidates, the five candidates selected by the Council nominating committee will be voted on by the Council and no membership election will be held.

Distance Viewing at Osher
by Ken Mulholland

Distance Viewing, a new advantage of Osher membership, allows you to view classes you missed at home or take courses offered in previous semesters. In 2016 ten courses were videotaped and are available on the web. Any Osher member can access the courses by copying the web address which will be published in This Week. Each semester, the goal is to videotape four to eight courses which are offered in rooms 108/109 and 117.

Recognizing contributors to the OLLI Chorus

Past directors, Henry Chisholm and Marilyn Haas, current director, Janet Taylor Miller and retiring piano accompanist, Marian Chau at the December concert.
The “Humanities” is defined as the study of how people process and document the human experience and culture. At OLLI, we place the areas of genealogy and culture into this area of study, as well as the broad area of “General Studies” – those courses that don’t really fit into any other area!

Several long-running courses are in this group. **Gardening Speakers** utilizes the expertise of professional and amateur specialists to talk about horticulture and garden-related issues. A highlight of this class is the twice-yearly plant sale; many of these plants grace my living room! If you like to travel, or would like to learn about new travel opportunities both in the US and abroad, then **Travel Adventures** is for you. **Connections** is an open forum where class members explore social and cultural issues affecting everyone, utilizing experts from the community. **Objects as Cultural Artifacts** is co-taught by UD graduate students who present stories, science and broad cultural implications of a wide range of objects spanning art history, literature and humanities.

Like to hike? Try **Co-op Hiking with the Wilmington Trail Club**. This group hikes every week to a different destination in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey. Like wine? In **Everyday Guide to Wine**, members learn about wine making, wine tasting, types of wine and have the opportunity to tour a local winery and have a wine and food pairing event. Like baseball? **Fantasy Baseball** fans will create fantasy teams for a 2017 league. Will fantasy football and fantasy basketball be in OLLI’s future?

Genealogy studies involve learning what sources/databases contain ancestral information and learning how to utilize that information. In **Genealogical Research Methods**, class members look at records (census, land, court, tax, immigration, vitals) to research each member’s family history. **Genealogical Computer Workshops** and **Using Family Tree Software** provide hands-on activities to compliment the research methods course.

**Of Mice and Men** and **My New Best Friends** each explore issues affecting men and women today – but separately. These classes are open to members of any gender.

**SAT – Sixties (Seventies), Astronomy, Travel** looks at music, fashion, advertisements, politics of the decade; then focuses on astronomy; then travel tips, guidelines and travel stories. Will the eighties be next?

Interested in mentoring? **Try Help a Child – Be a Mentor** and bring your life experience and compassion to a local child by giving them the positive role model and trusting relationship they so much need. OLLI class time prepares you to work with kids and you will be paired with a K-5 child for one hour weekly at a local elementary school.

As you can see, these courses cover a wide range of topics and allow you to try something new and interesting!
The Circle Singers – A Good Run by Ellie Munson

After much prayerful consideration, I have decided to cancel the Circle Singers class. I am following doctor’s orders to slow down because of stress and high blood pressure. Teaching the Circle Singers class has been very rewarding and a lot of fun for me as well as for those who have ever taken the class. I have received lots of positive comments through the years.

In 1996, my late husband, Dave Munson, conceived of this class, where people could come and sing folk music for fun, and not necessarily have to read music or play an instrument. This class is where Dave and I first met in 1998, our romance blossomed, and we were married in 2000. We co-taught the class until 2006, when he passed away of a heart attack. I have been solo-teaching the class ever since for ten years. We have been part of the OLLI Outreach program, presenting our gigs for nursing homes and retirement centers as well as doing OLLI Lobby performances. Some highlights have been members of the class demonstrating their talents during our “Special Music Time,” a didgeridoo, a boom-ba, a charango, guitar solos, making music by blowing across narrow-necked bottles filled with varying levels of water, a violin/viola duet, and a newly formed ukulele group, to name a few. There was a therapy dog at a nursing home who seemed to bark in rhythm as we sang: “How Much is that Doggie in the Window?” (arf, arf), and who can forget the lady in a retirement center who spontaneously began to dance in the aisle as we sang. What joy we brought to residents in wheel chairs, as they began to clap their hands and smile as we sang. Many audiences joined us in singing songs that were familiar to them.

I feel bad about having to cancel this class, but there was no one who volunteered to take over the teaching although several expressed a desire to help. The Circle Singers had a good run, and I am thrilled to have been a part of making this happen.

CD: 89 at the 88 by Carroll and Joanne Humphrey

This is both a report and thank you for the sale of the CD, which was a small part of the Renewing the Dream Campaign. In the last two weeks before OLLI closed in December, we sold 114 CDs at $15 each which netted $1710 (doubled to $3420) for the Campaign. We are thrilled at the response and want to thank all of you who participated in making this happen.

Empty Binders – Free

Because the Circle Singers will no longer need their 3-ring binders in which to keep music, they can be put to use in other classes (to hold class hand-outs, to hold other music, etc.) Available FOR FREE are about 30 one and a half inch white binders, about 30 one inch red binders, and about 30 one inch orange binders. Please contact Ellie Munson (elliemunson@verizon.net) if you could use any of these 3-ring binders. Thank you.
Take an OLLI Vacation This Spring by Nan and Parry Norling

Warm weather lies ahead (truly!) and with it the opportunity to enjoy a mini-vacation at the annual OLLI at the Ocean program in late May. Registration forms and program schedules are now available for this four-day, three-night program in Rehoboth that takes place during the week after Memorial Day. You can combine socializing, beach time, and tourist/shopping with interesting and entertaining programs to stimulate your brain.

The program takes place at the Brighton Suites Hotel. Each two-room suite accommodates two people. If you’d like to go but don’t have a travel companion, please leave your name in the OLLI at the Ocean box on the right hand wall behind the Reception desk, and we will try to find possible partners.

There is room for about 100 people only so don’t procrastinate. Pick up a form at the registration desk now. For more information, email Parry Norling at Parry.Norling@comcast.net.

Summer Session will be here before you know it!—New Venue, A.I. duPont High School by Carolyn A. Stankiewicz, Chair, Summer Session 2017

We are going back to High School, Alexis I. duPont High School for Summer Session 2017. Due to the extensive renovations here at Arsht Hall during the summer of 2017, Summer Session 2017 will be held right off Kennett Pike (about 2 miles from here) at the A. I. duPont High School. Dates for Summer Session 2017 will be July 11 to August 3, with our usual schedule of offering classes Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the morning starting at 9 a.m. You will have the opportunity of registering for up to six classes.

We are indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to hold Summer Session 2017 at A.I. duPont High School because we will have access to a large auditorium for block-buster lectures and several classrooms all on one floor. Parking, including handicapped spaces, will be satisfactory.

You are invited to become part of the "going back to high school change" for Summer Session 2017 as an Instructor. Course proposals will be gratefully accepted until the middle of February. If you have taught previously at Osher, you are most welcomed to submit your course proposal. New instructors are encouraged to submit a proposal for consideration.

In Lobby Registration will be held at Arsht Hall from April 17–21. The fee remains $90 with a $25 discount for instructors. You will be encouraged to register during that time period if you intend on going to Summer Session 2017.

Let’s all go back to "high school" with enthusiasm, great course offerings, good enrollment and we will have a summer session to remember!
Spring Semester Open House Brings 47 First-Timers to OLLI
by Phil Weinberg, J. Harry Feldman, Jeff Ostroff and Elaine O'Toole, Marketing Committee

Greeters, welcomers, performers and demonstrators, tour leaders, subject advisors, info consultants, cookie bakers and servers, registration room volunteers—the Open House involves the enthusiasm of lots of OLLI members! Thanks to them, OLLI had a very successful Open House on January 5th as part of the three-day spring semester registration period.

Greeters at the front entrance steered our visitors to the Welcome Table in the lobby where other volunteers collected information and sent them in the right direction. Ellie Munson, Howard Smith and Ben Raphael represented the performing arts by providing background music.

From there, most visitors went to the Refreshment Room for cookies and beverages, and then to Don Grimes' slide show describing all we offer our students. Led by experienced OLLI members, our guests then toured both floors of Arsht Hall. Along the way, fourteen subject matter advisors were available to answer questions about classes offered in their curriculum areas. Additional consultants were in various locations to assist new members in filling out forms and to answer any other questions.

Forty-seven first-timers signed in at the Welcome Table. Of those, seventeen registered—a higher percentage than in past January Open Houses. New member Linda Perry won the drawing for a free semester of tuition. Five others won tote bags.

Looking ahead, the August Open House will be held in the Goodstay Center while Arsht Hall is being renovated. Excellent feedback from our volunteers will be used to modify the event to reach even more potential members.

A special thanks to Jenna Ford and all the office staff in addition to all the volunteers, whose enthusiasm made this event fun and successful for everyone!

Renewing the Dream: Reaching Our Goal and Beyond by Neil Cullen

Good news, good news. We have met the $104,000 Challenge and then some, raising a total of $1,509,000 in gifts and pledges through January 12, 2017, a total already beyond our $1,500,000 goal. These gifts come from 1962 individual donors, representing 85% of our average member enrollment. They also include $30,000 from foundations, and we await news on several other foundation applications. Wow! Congratulations to all for this major achievement with five months still remaining in our campaign.

Successful campaigns like ours have the enviable task of determining how to proceed. What might we accomplish with additional funds?
1. Parking. We should begin planning for improved and additional regular and handicapped parking at Arsht Hall.
2. Scholarships. Scholarship funds help assure a diverse membership. Current endowment funds only cover 50% of the demand. Additional Gift Fund contributions could help fill the gap.
3. Program funds. More Gift Fund donations would support our increasing number of partnerships with community organizations such as the mentoring program in local schools which entails fees for the necessary background checks.

Every new member gift that we receive before June 30 will enable us to broaden the scope of the Campaign to include parking, scholarships and additional program funds, making OLLI even stronger. While we have received gifts and pledges from a remarkable 85% of our members, we can build toward 100%.

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, thank you, one and all. Let's continue to renew our dream.
Elliot’s Passion
by Ben Raphael, Chair, Special Events Committee, Former Council Chair

For 35 years, we have been enjoying our OLLI. We learn, we teach, we help run the place and we socialize and have fun. We love our OLLI and it has given us a new lease on life. All this is great for us old-timers and OLLI has allowed us to age more slowly and gracefully. Collectively, we are smart and well educated. We put in the effort and we get all the benefits. That’s how it’s been—until now.

A new dimension has been added to our OLLI.

Last September I met one of our new instructors, Elliot Ketay, and was introduced to his passion “Help a Child – Be a Mentor,” the class he teaches on Tuesday mornings. Elliot is a retired school counselor who moved to Delaware from Vermont. The fact that his class exists to help others, to give back to our community, is what makes it different from all our other classes. Last semester his “students” were helping and improving the lives of a dozen local disadvantaged elementary school kids. The program is working and there were about 80 more children on a waiting list. As chair of our SEW (Special Events Wednesdays) Committee I thought I could help expand this program.

Elliot asked me if I could include him in one our SEW presentations. “I will be happy to,” I replied, “but I can’t do it until the fall semester of 2017 because the spring schedule has been filled.” I suggested that we have his presentation late in the semester so that more members would remember to sign up in the spring. “No, I want it at the beginning,” he replied. I tried to explain that this is impractical. Classrooms, based on the class size, would have already been assigned and, if there is a considerable influx of new student mentors, it would be next to impossible to make changes. Also, if a student had already signed up for five classes, he or she would be ineligible to enroll in another. But Elliot insisted on the beginning of the semester. I went to Andrea Majewski, our program coordinator. “You let me worry about that,” she said, most emphatically. And, the status of this class, and it may not be considered a “class” much longer, will probably be changed so that any member would be eligible to become a mentor.

I already knew that our manager, Carol Bernard, was also in favor of this program, but I had no idea of how much Elliot had infected our staff with his enthusiasm. It has already spread to our branches in Kent and Sussex counties, and by the time of Elliot’s presentation in September, all the other OLLIs throughout the country will know what we are doing and will be encouraged to follow Elliot’s passion.

More Information on Mentoring
Contact
Elliot Ketay: elliottk@udel.edu
Mary Fox: mfox@bbbsde.org
Big Brothers Big Sisters website: http://bbbsde.org/

A 21st Century Christmas by the OLLI Chorus

Regifting a Merry Christmas
Texting a Merry Christmas
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle from the OLLI ECO TEAM

**Reduce** use of plastic water bottles by bringing your own stainless or BPA free plastic bottle. OR

**Reuse** a plastic bottle.

Fill your bottle at the new bottle filling station at the south end of the first floor. This filling station/drinking fountain replaces an old rusty water fountain. It delivers a quick water bottle fill and enhances sustainability by minimizing our dependency on disposable plastic bottles. A counter shows our progress in keeping bottles out of landfill.

**Advantages.**

The filling station increases the aesthetics of your water by removing chlorine and other chemicals that cause a bad taste or odor.

The filling station protects your health by removing lead, Cryptosporidium (a parasite often found in water) and volatile organic compounds.

Thank the ECO TEAM, Martha Hays and the facilities committee and Carol Bernard and OLLI staff for making this facility available.

**Recycle**

If you do buy drinks in aluminum cans, glass bottles or plastic bottles, recycle the empty containers in the blue recycling bins. These have been equipped with lids that make their purpose more clear. Note that coffee containers cannot be recycled.

UD has single stream recycling and clean paper (newspaper and handouts) can be recycled in the blue containers. Paper in contact with food must be disposed of in the regular trash.

**More Ideas for a Sustainable Lifestyle**

Come to a Friday lunch meeting of the ECO TEAM in Room 114 to learn more about recycling and other green behavior.
Other Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes

OLLI Lewes/Ocean View

We have our Hiking Through History class. Lewes/Ocean View has Discover Slower Lower Delaware in which members explore nature and history south of the [Indian River Inlet] bridge (shown below) through leisurely strolls in warmer weather. There are other courses that cover Delaware history, local history and local wildlife.

OLLI Dover

Two OLLI Wilmington instructors are also sharing their expertise with Dover members. Ray Hain is teaching The History of Aviation and the Shroud of Turin. Bill Jones is presenting courses on Pompeii, Lewis and Clark—Voyage of Discovery and The Cathedral.

OLLI Widener

From 2005 to 2016 OLLI at Widener University was at the Exton, PA campus. In mid 2016 Widener relocated its OLLI to its main Chester campus. Many former members created a new home—the LifeLong Learning Institute at Immaculata University. OLLI Widener also offers a number of courses at partner senior organizations such as Maris Grove.

Teaching and Learning at OLLI Widener by Linda Sivilich

OLLI Widener has brought me warm friendships, laughter, thought-provoking discussions, and the opportunity to get to know many highly talented individuals. I have been teaching a class called “Crafty Classes with Linda.” This is a five week class where we complete a project each week. At Widener there is a School of Hospitality. My husband and I have enjoyed a variety of different fine dining theme experiences. I like that OLLI is continually evolving. Since it is of the senior students, for the senior students, and by the senior students, it transforms according to the interests and needs of its members. OLLI helps fill gaps left in earlier learning and personal loss. It provides a place to rekindle past interests or activities. Or it invites you to try something new that you have always wanted to do. I like being a student and teacher of this evolving learning experience.
National Park Rangers Visit the National Parks Class by Joan Miller

Wednesday, November 16, Lorin Felter and Samantha Zielinski came to the National Parks course to share information about our new First State National Historic Park, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, and the future direction of our National Parks. Lorin and Samantha shared their experiences in other National Parks like Hawaii Volcanoes and how they came to Delaware. The program presented the history of our First State National Park with slides on each of the seven sites throughout Delaware. Starting in northern Wilmington, we have the Beaver Valley site along the Brandywine, and Fort Christina and Old Swede’s Church in Wilmington, then the New Castle Courthouse, The Green, and The Sheriff’s House in New Castle, followed by the Dover Green with the original state capital and the John Dickinson Plantation outside Dover, and finally the Ryves Holt House in Lewes.

For information on visiting the park, go to their website: www.nps.gov/frst and click on Plan Your Visit. Hours are usually Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Since the park is just starting up, it is suggested you call (302)544-6363 before your trip for specific details. Lorin mentioned that a new guide for the First State Park is in publication and should be ready early next year. Samantha is in charge of volunteer services. There are many volunteer opportunities from a special event once a year to special projects. To view all volunteer opportunities for the First State National Historic Park visit the website: www.volunteer.gov. The park’s address is 211 Delaware St., New Castle, Delaware 19720.

The rangers also talked about the need to develop a greater interest in urban parks for younger generations to enjoy our diverse heritage from the Liberty Bell to the Freedom Trail. There are 80 parks and programs here in the northeast from Maine to Virginia. The National Parks Service in the 21st century is looking to uncover the underrepresented communities and their stories. We enjoyed a YouTube presentation on the role of the Buffalo Soldiers as the first guardians of our parks.

It was delightful to have the rangers share their enthusiasm and knowledge about Delaware’s first National Park.

The First State’s First National Park

Joan Miller (instructor), Lorin Felter (Interpretation & Education Coordinator), Samantha Zielinski (Volunteer Coordinator) and Barbara Siegel (instructor)
**Lobby Concerts**

By Carol Hughes, Lobby Concert Coordinator
This semester is one week shorter than normal, so your performance is early as well.
Please fill out a form, found in my slot behind the Reception Desk, even though your date is prescheduled. Tim and his crew need to know how to set up your equipment.
Concerts other than those related to a class can be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.
Anticipating many hours of fine music!

**Remembering Phoebe Mont from her friends**

Phoebe Ann Mont was a graphics designer by profession and a special lady. At OLLI, she was a talented artist and art instructor. Anyone who knew her could testify to her warmth and friendliness, her quirky New York sense of humor and her love for her family, her Italian Greyhounds (Topo and Bella) and New York. The bold techniques of her dramatic floral and abstract paintings tell you how she viewed herself and her world. Some of her paintings seemed larger than Phoebe herself; she was that pint-sized. Phoebe said of her 4-hour/day, 3-day/week dialysis regimen, "Dialysis and art, that's my life." When Phoebe passed on December 20, we lost a great friend, artist and contributor to OLLI. We will miss her.

**Metropolitan Opera Trips**

The UD Department of Music runs bus trips to select performances of the Metropolitan Opera. Buses leave from Clayton Hall in Newark at 7 a.m. and from Arsht Hall at 7:30 a.m.
*Roméo et Juliette*, Saturday, March 18, 2017
*Cyrano de Bergerac*, Saturday, May 6, 2017
Further information: www.udel.edu/002636.

**REP Theatre**

The Resident Ensemble Players will put on two more plays at the Roselle Arts Center in Newark.:
*The Elephant Man* by Bernard Pomerance, March 2–March 19, 2017
*Tartuffe* by Molière, April 20–May 2, 2017

More information and purchases are available at: www.rep.udel.edu or call 302-831-2204.

Painting by Phoebe Ann Mont
Special Events Wednesdays
12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 105
Announcements at 12:40 p.m.

These programs are a benefit for members only of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Wilmington. Feel free to attend each week or select the programs that most interest you.

**February 8—Finding Amelia Earhart**
Richard Gillespie, Executive Director, The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery

**February 15—Greenland: Not the End of the Earth**
Tom Pankratz, Delaware Mineralogical Society

**February 22—Delaware Corporate Governance and its Future Therein**
Charles Elson, Director, Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance, University of Delaware

**March 1—Musical Performance**
Newark Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition Winners

**March 8—Pluto: Saving the Best for Last**
Harry Shipman, Professor, Physics and Astronomy, University of Delaware

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**First Social on Tuesday, February 21**
Free to members. Take a break and meet fellow members and friends for coffee, tea, conversation plus homemade cookies. Can’t make this social? There will be two more socials this semester on Wednesday, March 15 and Thursday, April 6. Gather in the Lobby at 1:30 p.m.

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**Lifelong Learning News**
http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/

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