Meet OLLI’s New Manager Jennifer Merrill  
by J. Harry Feldman

From a search that began in December – drawing 48 applications from near and far and ultimately resulting in seven finalists – the UD Professional & Continuing Studies Search Committee selected Jennifer Zelenke Merrill as the best person to succeed longtime OLLI Manager Carol Bernard. “Using valuable input we received from the OLLI staff, Council members and other OLLI members, we not only looked for a person with the right leadership and administrative experience, but also with the right personality for a job that requires a lot of listening, caring, dedication and foresight,” said Anita Sterling, OLLI Council member who served on the Search Committee along with fellow Council member J. Harry Feldman.

March 20 was Jen’s first day on the job. Since then she has been working daily with Carol for a smooth transition. When you see Jen, introduce yourself and join in welcoming her to OLLI!

“I am excited to transition into the role of OLLI manager and am very much looking forward to getting to know the staff and OLLI members. Supporting and developing partnerships for adult education programming is an excellent application of the variety of roles I have undertaken, both at the University of Delaware and as a founding member of a Delaware non-profit. My background in managing successful committees, volunteers and advisory boards drew me to the Osher team. I found the interviews enjoyable and am looking forward to harnessing even more of UD’s capabilities and resources for OLLI. This organization and its members are valuable contributors to the University of Delaware and I intend to work with the team at Professional & Continuing Studies to increase the recognition of the program on campus,” she said.

Since 2011, Jen has worked in UD’s College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, managing research for the Delaware Sea Grant program, serving as the College’s Chief Diversity Advocate, and representing the College and Sea Grant in the university’s community engagement initiatives. Prior to joining the UD staff, she completed a fellowship on Capitol Hill in the office of U.S. Senator Carl Levin and lectured at the University of Maryland. She was Senior Program Officer at the National Academy of Sciences’ Ocean Studies Board, managing programs that explored topics such as the effects of ocean noise on marine mammals, impacts of oil on natural ecosystems, international ocean exploration

(Continued on page 2)
programs, and biotechnology applications for marine natural products.

On the personal side, Jen is originally from the Hudson Valley in NY, has lived in western New York, Maryland, California, and most recently Washington, DC. She moved to Smyrna, DE, from Washington, DC, in 2005. She has three sons who all attend school in Smyrna. “My preferred habitat is outdoors, in the woods or on the water. I enjoy traveling, cooking, and new adventures of all kinds. I have been fortunate to have been able to rock climb, zip line, hike, camp, and kayak in a number of fantastic locations. I have introduced my boys to these activities through Scouts and on our own. My bucket list includes trips to Thailand, Alaska, Ireland, Switzerland, and returns to Japan and Italy. Trekking through Great Britain is high on my list as well.”

After arriving in Smyrna and before starting to work for UD, Jen organized and led the all-volunteer committee that continues to raise money for the construction and operation of a new regional library for southern New Castle and northern Kent counties.

Jen earned her B.S. at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry and her Ph.D. in Marine & Estuarine Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, and she is completing her MBA at UD. Her research specialty was in geochemistry of tidal marshes of Chesapeake Bay and the Hudson River.

*With input from Anita Sterling and Jennifer Merrill.*

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**2018 Volunteer Appreciation Week**

**April 23–27**

by Ruth Sokolowski and Bill Rowe

Co-Chairs, Volunteer Development Committee

Attention all instructors and committee members! Volunteer Appreciation Week will be held April 23–27. Be sure to stop by the table in the lobby to pick up your 2018 service pin and a coupon for free ice cream at the Moo-Mobile, the UDairy Creamery in Newark or the UDairy Market (815 Market St.). It’s your dedicated service that makes OLLI the outstanding success that it is. This is our small way of thanking you for all that you do!

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**The Best Kept Secret**

by Bobbette Mason

When I signed up as a volunteer at the Academy, I thought I was making an offering of spare time to help out. The offering was valid. As an educator, I not only had some skills that were useful, but also had some insights that resonated with the needs of this community. It felt good to serve, to make a difference, to live into the founders’ vision of a learning cooperative. I was fortunate enough to be elected to serve on the Council, chair a committee and become part of the team that sustains this place. All this is good.

No one told me that volunteering is a gift hiding in plain sight. As we worked together, I discovered community ... warmth and compassion among the members here, people willing to share bits of their story, both triumphs and tragedy. I also felt valuable, blessed beyond my fondest dreams, at an age when life could have passed me by. But it didn’t.

OLLI . . . What a Gift!

*Reprinted from the February 2010 Newsletter.*
June a la Carte 2018

June A La Carte 2018 will be June 11 through June 14. Arrive around 9 a.m. for coffee and snacks then proceed to Room 108-9 for the two morning sessions. Larry Peterson and John Bullock are co-chairs. Flyers and tickets will be available later in the spring semester.

**Monday (Health and Diet)** Dr. Irfan Hisamuddin, DE Center for Digestive Care discusses gluten versus gluten-free diets.
After a break, award-winning baker Dana Herbert (Desserts by Dana) brings three of his gluten-free desserts to share with you. The cost for Monday is $20 because of the food.

**Tuesday (Multicultural Day)** begins with Steve Gonzer, Chair, Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, Jewish Federation of Delaware, who will share excerpts of some of his documentaries on "The Holocaust and Delawearians."
After the break, Ron Whittington, UD Black Studies Professor, will discuss "The Negro Baseball Leagues and Jackie Robinson."

**Wednesday (500th Anniversary of the Reformation)** Professor James Wetzel, Associate Director of the Augustinian Institute, Augustinian Endowed Chair, Villanova University, will present both sessions:
"St Augustine, Religious Experience, Martin Luther, and the Catholic Augustine."
"St Augustine, Religious Experience, Martin Luther, and the Protestant Augustine."

**Thursday (Innovations Day):** Melanie Ross Levin, Director of the Office of Women’s Advancement & Advocacy for the State of Delaware, will discuss the goals and services related to her office.
A team from the UD Department of Physical Therapy will share "UD Innovations & Research for the Disabled." The team will include Michele Lobo, UD Director of Super Suits Program and Co-Leader, Move to Learn (M2L) Innovation Lab and Cole Galloway, UD Director of Pediatric Mobility Lab and Design Studio. They will share their exciting activities that have generated much local and national attention. Their projects include clothing designed for children who have no use of their arms or legs, toy cars for children who cannot walk, "vibrating" shoes for adults, etc.

Cost for all four days will be $40, or individually by day: Monday $20, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be $10 each.

**Bring-a-Friend Week Gift Card**
Judi Rosenberg was the winner of the $25 WAWA gift card. She brought a friend during the week and was entered in the drawing. Bring a friend next semester and you can be a winner.

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Profiles of New Members of Council

The nominees were approved at the March meeting of Council and will join Council at the April 9 meeting.

Susan Arruda

Susan Arruda received a B.S. from Drexel University and an M.S. from UD. She was a classroom teacher for 28 years and chair of vocational education at North East High School. She has been chair of the Delaware Women’s Conference and state president of the American Association of University Women.

A member since 2007, she has taught Connections and My New Best Friends. As a Council member she has been Academic Vice Chair and chair of the June a la Carte and Member Recognition committees. She is currently on the Curriculum and Newsletter committees.

She has been involved in the community as court-appointed special advocate and educational surrogate parent for children in foster care and is a classroom volunteer at Highlands Elementary School.

Neil Cullen

My wife, Betsey, and I moved to West Chester, PA in 2004 and joined OLLI soon thereafter. We feel blessed to have found this stimulating learning community near our home. Prior to our arrival in Pennsylvania, I served in a variety of academic administrative posts including chief financial officer at Phillips Academy, in Andover, MA.

At OLLI I have enjoyed courses in literature, philosophy, science and religion. I have benefitted particularly from OLLI’s visual arts offerings in which I have been able to improve my drawing.

I have co-taught a poetry course with Betsey and have assisted in Cynthia Miller’s drawing course. Currently I chair the Fundraising Committee.

Ellen Goldstein

Raised in the New York City area and educated at the University of Wisconsin and UD, I spent my working years as a writer, financial advisor and as a teacher. Finding the latter the most rewarding and satisfying, I taught for over 25 years in the Brandywine School District finding my focus in teaching children to write and orally communicate well. I held many leadership roles in the district and particularly enjoyed mentoring new educators and developing a creative, hands-on environment for my students. I continue to seek challenges in learning and teaching others today.

Retired now, I spend my time assisting my husband with his tennis business, tutoring, traveling, learning bridge, biking, exercising, volunteering and taking classes at OLLI. My single most important accomplishment is raising two sons who are now forging their own lives in NYC and Miami as a lawyer and physical therapist, respectively.

Lucie Shader

As anyone who knows me will tell you, I am very fond of saying that when I started my first class at OLLI, my sleeping retired brain woke up. I think the class was Current Events. In any case, my reaction was “Oh, I can still think!”

(Continued on page 5)
Improvements to Arsht Hall Grounds and Parking  
by Carol Bernard

Work plans are in place for replacing the concrete walkways around Arsht Hall and repairing the patio at the back. In addition, progress is being made on adding a new, 100 space parking lot in the field across from Arsht Hall. This may take longer than summer to conclude. Currently, the project for the new parking lot is in the design and permitting phase, which may take longer than anticipated when navigating the requirements of New Castle County.

Originally, plans were being considered for two walkways from Arsht Hall to the parking lot in front of the Goodstay building. While the walkways are still being considered, there may be issues related to wetlands that prevent the installment of the walkways. If this is the case, however, there may be enhancements to the walkway on the other side of the driveway to make it safer. In addition to parking and walkway plans, the white building next to the lot in front of Arsht Hall will be torn down soon. This extra space will also create an opportunity for additional handicap-accessible parking. While staff strives to resolve issues at Arsht Hall related to parking and walking, we appreciate your understanding that some things take a lot of planning and time to implement.

Council (Continued from page 4)

I’ve been thinking ever since.

Although I graduated college with a degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology, because of OLLI, I’ve taken classes in philosophy, science, Chinese, and Italian. I’ve taught a course in acrylic collage, served as chair of the Volunteer Development Committee, and worked on rewriting the bylaws.

The scale still isn’t even. I get so much more from OLLI than I could ever give back. New friendships, new ideas, and new experiences are opportunities that I enjoy every semester. I am thrilled to be on Council and to have the opportunity to help keep OLLI strong.

Boyd Sorenson

Boyd Sorenson is retired and works as a volunteer focused on catalyzing and implementing positive actions leading to cooperation and peace in our communities and the world.

He retired after eight years as the President of The CECON Group, Inc., a technical consulting referral firm. He has worked at importing and marketing titanium dioxide from China, new business development at W. L. Gore & Associates, and 25 years of venture, product, marketing research and sales management at DuPont.

Boyd has served as a director for The Center for Creative Arts, Red Clay Valley Association, Delaware Greenways and GHADA, where he served as president. He was one of the founding members of the Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence. Currently he is a board member of Common Cause Delaware and heads the Membership Committee. Boyd has a B.S. degree in chemistry and an MBA from Brigham Young University. He was born in Utah and raised in California. He has lived in Yorklyn for 43 years, is married, has three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Mentoring 101 by Jim Krum
1. Mentors receive training.
2. Mentors are supported by a mentoring coordinator in the mentoring room.
3. Mentors make a commitment to show up for 45 minutes weekly during the school year.
4. Showing up and being present is the crux of mentoring.
5. Mentors change a child’s life.

More information and application forms are available in the OLLI office.
In Praise of “Amateurs” by Pradip Khaladkar

This month OLLI News in Wilmington is starting a new feature “In Praise of Amateurs” to celebrate a number of instructors who, in retirement, passionately share their avocations through preparing and delivering courses at OLLI. These individuals spend a great deal of their time and resources to create very enlightening and, yes, entertaining products. We begin this new feature with our editor Robert Ehrlich. The following is based on my conversation with him.

Robert Ehrlich

A native of Long Island, NY, Bob has been a member since 1996 and instructor since 1998 at OLLI. A Ph.D. in physics from Rutgers University, Bob did his post-doctoral work in enzymes at the Rutgers Medical School. He joined the University of Delaware as a research associate in enzymology with research also in radiation chemistry. The point of this resume is to show what an amazing “Amateur” Bob is as he took up the teaching of history at OLLI.

Bob’s first course was actually in computers in 1998. Computers were a new thing then and there was clearly a need for introductory courses. Later, inspired by a professor of chemistry at UD, Bob taught a course on the environment concurrently with the computer course. However, his other passion – travel now took over. Following a weekend course at Penn on Mayan culture and a trip to Guatemala he taught Mayan culture at OLLI for a couple of semesters. This could be termed his first foray into history.

His next journey was Ostia, a major archeological site near Rome. He collaborated with an instructor on Pompeii and jointly taught a course on Ostia and Pompeii. From this point the logical progression was to Roman, Norman, Medieval, Elizabethan, Stuarts and on through the modern periods in British history each of which he taught for a number of semesters. His courses in Georgian and Victorian Britain naturally led to the history of Ireland and India. His course on Ireland was his first one for me. His even keel approach to history and deep research convinced me that he had Irish ancestry. Turns out that he does not! A guided tour of India led to a summer course on Mughal India. Currently, he is teaching British India Part 2.

Being in a history class can be potentially daunting, particularly if you have very little background in the subject. The challenge for the teacher is to be informative and at the same time keep the student engaged through interesting anecdotal and documentary information. Bob certainly does that and appropriately intersperses the lecture with offerings from “YouTube” and “The Great Courses.” He told me that creating the course is easier now with many resources available online.

History and political science courses can be contentious. I asked Bob if there were situations which required special handling. He responded that disagreements were usually welcome and offer a chance to enhance your own learning. By and large he has not had any real disruptions. In one case, the student just dropped out!

I was particularly interested in Bob’s views on how his professional life enhanced his current teaching at OLLI. He said that research in science was not so different from research into history, except you can’t change anything. So, a common thread is curiosity. Bob indicated that he looks at historical events in terms of economics, social conditions and people, just as his enzymology research involved going back and looking at the same system using multiple methods. Not trusting only one source is also very important.

Bob deserves our recognition and kudos for his 20 years of high caliber contributions to OLLI. We are better for it.

Readers are encouraged to suggest names of other “Amateurs.” Please contact Pradip at khaladkarpr@gmail.com or 302-245-8426.
Spotlight on Osher Poets

These poets are members of the Advanced Poetry Workshop, Betsey Cullen and Pat Goodman, instructors. Members of Helen Griffith’s Poetry Workshop will be featured in the September Newsletter. Interested poets should email poems to Betsey Cullen at betseycullen@me.com by mid-August. Guideline: no more than 30 lines. Include name and phone with your submission.

A Prayer for Better Birds
Lord, we’ve had enough of cuckoos and their early morning tweets, ostentatious peacocks and geese each honking his own horn. Take pity, Lord! Send turtledoves. We could use some love and peace.

This party of jays and quarreling sparrows paralyzes every act. A bellowing of bullfinch would only set us back. We need a parliament of owls, Lord, each one wiser than the last.

Deliver us from unkind ravens and the cries of murderous crows. Keep us safe from avian nightmares as we lie here in the dark. Let us sleep then rise at day break to an ecstasy of larks.

Jane Strobach

Let Poems Come

after Jane Kenyon

Let poems float through like summer’s concert notes of flute and cello wafting the river current.

Let poems slide in, surround me with silken yarn, my hands crafting quilted dreams into warmth.

Let poems flutter down like burnished leaves, revealing the maple’s stark beauty.

Let poems roll in like tsunamis, find me at the deep-rooted tree, my pen digging for truth.

The poems hurtle like snowballs, melt in watery mirrors that sink into soil.

Let poems warm the seedlings below the moistened crust, and like the spring desert after deluge, let poems burst into song and color.

Eleanore Morrow

Would You

Jump from A minibus Slosh through Black mud Black flies Probably no-see-ums Just to Shoot one Little video Of two Giant tortoises Doing it? David Weiss

Japanese maple faded in winter’s chill gloom waiting ... waiting Jean Youkers
Spotlight on the Benefits of OLLI Wilmington by Susan Arruda

I want everyone to know how lucky we are to belong to OLLI Wilmington! My children and grandchildren live in Denver, Colorado. We visit there often, and have thought about a move there (not quite yet!). In January, I had the opportunity to attend an Open House for OLLI Denver, which is in partnership with the University of Denver (DU). I spent about 1 ½ hours on the “campus” near my daughter’s home, toured the building, talked to members and staff, and looked at class offerings in the catalog. Realizing that each OLLI is different and it’s probably not fair to compare programs, I wanted to share with you what I observed.

OLLI Denver is composed of five different “campuses” (ON-Campus, OLLI Central, OLLI South, OLLI West and OLLI East). Each “campus” has its own programs, catalog and manager. OLLI Denver doesn’t have any buildings of its own, and classes are mostly held in churches in diverse neighborhoods. OLLI Denver has about 1,500 members.

I attended the Open House for OLLI Central, which is housed in three churches in the area. Members meet in the common room for coffee and bring their own lunches; there is no café like we have here.

At each campus, the program year consists of three semesters – fall, winter and spring. There is a summer program somewhat like our OLLI at the Ocean, only in the mountains. Classes run four to eight weeks and meet once a week. There is one set of classes in the morning and another in the afternoon. Membership fees are $130 per semester, and members can take an unlimited number of courses at any or all of the campuses. For the spring semester, there were about 60 courses at OLLI Central, 40 at OLLI West, 42 at OLLI South, 16 at the “new” OLLI East and 12 ON-Campus. At OLLI Wilmington, we offered about 280 courses this spring.

At OLLI Denver, there are no language courses and very few participatory art or music courses. Interactive art courses such as watercolors and courses such as Tai Chi and yoga are an additional $75 per course per semester. Members may take classes at “DU On-Campus” at the DU Campus. This is on a space-available basis, taught by DU professors, and there is an extra $20 fee per class. Instructors in courses such as watercolor painting and yoga, and professors who teach at DU ON-Campus receive a stipend. Our 200+ instructors don’t get paid, but get a small reduction in their membership fees for the semester(s) they teach. Classes at OLLI Denver are taught by “facilitators” and “master facilitators,” similar to our instructors. While we are fortunate to have the services of an experienced UD staff to work with registration, catalog planning, finances, programming, food service, room set-up, AV, computers, etc., they must rely on each campus’ manager, clerical assistant and members to help with set-up and AV.

Membership “perks” in Denver include summer seminars, member newsletters, DU campus events, entrance to DU athletic events, and even a gym membership! There is a speakers’ series called “Open Minds.” As this is Colorado, where there are lots of outdoor activities for every age group, they have a program called “WELLaware” which includes WELLaware Hiking, WELLaware Walking and WELLaware Snowshoeing.

What do we have that they don’t? I have been coming to OLLI Wilmington for over ten years and have been teaching for nine. While I can’t claim to know all 2,500 of you (but I meet a lot of you at registration), one of the benefits of having our own building is that I have gotten to know many people who may not be in the classes I take or teach.

While we do come to OLLI for the knowledge gained in classes, many of us are also here for the social aspects. We can come early in the morning, have coffee in the lobby, go to classes, eat lunch in the café, listen to a lobby concert or Wednesday and Friday presentation, go to more classes, take a stroll through the Goodstay Gardens, stay for an extracurricular activity, take a class in the community or mentor a student, almost all of these without ever leaving our campus. And, if you are unable to attend a class, many are videotaped for viewing at a time that’s convenient for you.

(Continued on page 9)
So, if you are thinking about relocating (for grandchildren or better weather or whatever), remember to explore the OLLI opportunities in that area. Be flexible and open in your thinking. And, most of all, be thankful for all that we’ve got here at OLLI Wilmington!

Earth Week, April 1623  
Caring for the Earth
The ECOTEAM has prepared a full week of activities for Earth Week. Watch for posters in the Lobby and the electronic board for the full list.

Thursday April 12, Yoga in the Lobby  
11:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Yoga practitioners celebrate the earth and its creatures, demonstrating yoga poses and speaking to a deep desire to care for the earth.

Monday April 16, 2 p.m. Room 108-9. Celebrate Earth Week with the Drum Circle

Tuesday April 17, 9 a.m. and Thursday April 19, 2 p.m. Nature Walks on the OLLI Campus
Joe Sebastiani, Ashland Nature Center manager, will guide you through OLLI’s campus, identifying stately trees, blooming flowers, and birds. Meet at the front door.

Wednesday, April 18, Special Events, Youth Caring for the Earth see p. 10.

Thursday April 19, 12:30 p.m. Room 215
The Politics of Nature—Environmentalism

Thursday April 19, 2 p.m. Room 108
Green Travel Conservation service travel to Galápagos and Machu Picchu and green travel ideas

Statewide OLLI Art Show  
The Statewide OLLI Juried Art Exhibit at Dover Public Library runs from March 19 to April 14. There were 14 Wilmington members who participated.

Prize winners from OLLI, Wilmington are:

Oil and acrylic
- Marilyn Bauman, 3rd; Rolf Erickssen, 4th

Mixed Media
- Mary Cannon, 3rd

Pastel
- Paul Simon, 1st

Oil Pastel
- Thomas Mammen, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Poetry
- Pat Goodman, Honorable Mention

Film Festival
Friday, 12:30 p.m., Room 108/109

The Story of Stuff: From a Movie to a Movement
We have a problem with stuff. We use too much, too much of it is toxic and we don’t share it very well. But that’s not the way things have to be. Together, we can build a society based on better, not more; sharing not selfishness; community, not division. (21 minutes)

Straws
A short documentary about plastic straw litter and how we can make a sea of change — one straw at a time. (31 minutes)

Climate Change: The Crisis. Part one
This is the first in a series which examines climate change. It examines the causes, impact and possible solutions to the crisis. (30 minutes)
Special Events Wednesdays
12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 105
Announcements at 12:40 p.m.

April 11 — 2018 Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography — Karl Leck
April 18 — Youth Caring for the Earth — Lisa Locke, Executive Director of Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, will lead an engagement in which youth and OLLI members will compare and contrast their perspectives, concerns, and actions around climate change.
April 25 — UD OLLI Orchestra, Allen Tweddle, conductor
May 2 — UD OLLI Concert Band, Paul Hess, conductor
May 9 — UD OLLI Chorus, Janet Taylor Miller, OLLI Chorus director

Friday Programs
Fridays, 12:30 p.m., Room 108/109
Free and Open to the Public

April 13 Bill Jones Lewis and Clark, final lecture
April 20 Earth Week film festival and environmental information. See page 9.
April 27 The Investigation and Prosecution of Opiate Drug Cases Jennifer Welsh, Assist. U.S. Attorney for the District of Delaware, and David Hughes, Resident Agent in Charge of the DEA’s Wilmington Office.
May 4 Surviving an Active Shooter Situation or Similar Emergency Master Corporal Brian Thomas, UD Police Community Resource Unit.

Social on Wednesday, April 25
Meet fellow members for coffee, tea and conversation plus homemade cookies from our many bakers at the last social of the semester.
Gather in the Lobby at 1:30 p.m.
Thank the many volunteer bakers and the social committee members who set out the cookies and decorate the tables for their delicious and attractive creations. Join them and bake for one of the fall socials, check the box on the back of the registration form.

OLLI News in Wilmington
http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Wilmington
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Submittal deadline Friday, August 17, 2018
Issue date Tuesday, September 4, 2018
Submit articles to rehrlich@udel.edu, or place in the editor’s mailbox in the Reception Area.

Calendar 2018
Fri., May 11..................End of spring semester
Tues., May 29 to Fri., June 1 ........OLLI at the Ocean
Mon., June 11 to Thurs., June 14........June a la Carte
Tues., Wed., Thurs., July 10 to August 2 .................
..........................Summer classes, mornings only
Tues., Sept. 4 ...................Start of fall semester
Tues., Nov. 6 ...................Election Day, No Classes
Thurs., Fri., Nov. 22, 23 ........Thanksgiving, No Classes
Fri., Dec. 7 ...................End of fall semester