



LIFELONG LEARNING NEWS in Wilmington

April 2015

Farewell Address by Pam Meitner, Council Chair

Dear Members:

As many of you know, I love hats. Before I finish my term as your Council chair, I'd like to tip mine to the special people who make OLLI tick, starting with you, our members and everyone who serves on Council. Countless volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to make OLLI special. What a privilege to work with each one! Special kudos go to Carol Bernard, the manager of the program, who leads a caring and responsive administrative team with an admirable "can do" attitude. Neil Cullen, who succeeded me as chair of the Fund Raising Committee, has propelled our "Renewing the Dream" campaign to new heights. Almost unflappable, he directs our efforts to make Arsht Hall a better place for us all. Mary Ball Morton and Steve DeMond co-chair the 35th anniversary committee, a committed group organizing activities and events to help celebrate our 35 wonderful years of existence. Lastly, thanks go to Carolyn Stankiewicz and the Summer 2017 committee members, who diligently search for a temporary home for OLLI during our building renovations that summer.



June a la Carte

By Thom Remington and Susan Arruda, co-chairs, June a la carte

"June a la Carte", formerly known as June Lecture Series, will take place from Monday – Thursday, June 8-11. Each day's program will feature a particular theme:

- ◆ Monday, June 8 – **The Art of Food**
- ◆ Tuesday, June 9 – **The Art of Music**
- ◆ Wednesday, June 10 – **Art in Gardens and Gardens in Art**, along with a tour of our very own Goodstay Gardens
- ◆ Thursday, June 11 – **The Art of Beverage**

This series will take place at Arsht Hall and is open to members and non-members alike, so please bring a friend or potential member! The program will run from 9:30 to 12:30 daily, and includes free parking. Registration fees are \$50 for the entire series, which includes daily coffee and snacks. You may also purchase a ticket for each individual session (\$10 each for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and \$20 for Thursday). However, if you wish to attend the Thursday session, you must purchase at least one other session or the whole series. Registration will take place in the Lobby the week of April 27 through May 1.

Noteworthy

- ◆ Interview with Rich Fischer, UD contact, 35 years ago (page 2)
- ◆ Meet Pamela Vari (page 3)
- ◆ Interview with long-term members, the Falks (page 4)
- ◆ 35th Anniversary wine, cheese and jazz celebration (page 6)

Osher office
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more OLLI information

Visit the website:
www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilm

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a campus presence for
over 35 years**



Rich Fischer, Lifelong Learning 35 Years Ago and Today

Condensed from an Interview with Rich Fischer (RBF) by Debbie Haskell (DPH). The full interview is available in the Reading Room

DPH: Rich Fischer, [associate director of statewide programming at UD in 1980], was at the heart of a group of people who started the Academy of Lifelong Learning and is now a member of Osher and a musician. I have asked him to tell a little bit about his remembrances of how this all came about.



RBF: Well, the "Academy," I still call it the Academy, came about as three or four things were happening simultaneously. I will tell you a couple of things as I remember them.

First, an African American gentleman, Charles Blake, had moved to the area. Charles was received by the then UD President, Arthur Trabant, to inquire what the University was doing for older adults. So, that discussion was taking place.

At the same time, a University faculty member in anthropology, Dr. Edwin Buxbaum, who was himself in his late 70s or early 80s was also very interested in what the University was going to do for retired adults. At the same time, the people in the UD Division of Continuing Education, like Jack Murray [assistant provost and head of Continuing Education], and I, had started to look into learning programs for retired adults.

I was working on my doctorate at Temple University in a field called *androgogy*. Androgogy is the study of how adults learn. There was a lot of research coming out then that broke up the myths of adult learning — that as you get older you don't have the capacity to learn and so forth. This was just being disproven all over the place, and so that was of personal interest to me too.

His study resulted in a book with co-authors Henry Lipman and Mark L. Blazey, Students of the Third Age, which won the 1993 Phillip E. Frandson Award for litera-

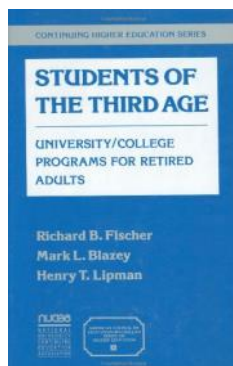
ture from the National University Continuing Education Association.

We had learned of a program at the New School for Social Research in New York, called the Institute for Retired Professionals. So we got a vanload of people together and went up to see what it was all about. We spent the day there talking to their administrators, and more importantly going to some of the classes. Their classes were mixed in with undergraduate classes in a big classroom building. They had no dedicated space. I remember distinctly (this is 30 years ago, so I was sort of a young pup) sitting in this one class and they were talking as I recall about the playwright and director (I think his name was Max Reinhardt), and someone had done research on him, and they were halfway through the class and this gentleman raised his hand, and the instructor called upon him. And he said he'd like to add some things to this story. As a young man he worked as a stagehand for this director and he went on to tell these fabulous stories (behind the scenes stories) of working for this director. So that really brought that class to life.

The group that went up to the New School (which became a de facto planning group, the Steering Committee) came back and we said, "Well what should we do that's like that program? What did we learn from that trip?"

We started by defining [what we wanted] and I believe it's the definition still used today, an *academic cooperative*. This was the pure form of androgogy, adults taking responsibility for their own learning. They would decide what they wanted to learn, what they wanted to teach. We knew that being a teacher had just as much learning involved with it as the students in the class. So, we decided it needed to be an all-volunteer organization, even the teachers. No one would be paid to teach. Learning for the love of learning..

(Continued on page 3)



(35 Years Ago, Continued from page 2)

This was not university faculty coming to teach older adults; that wasn't the right model at all.

DPH: Some people at the University don't think they should have to pay to take classes. You didn't feel that way?

RBF: We felt from the very beginning that teachers and learners were all the same, and so everybody paid. If you wanted to teach, that was something you volunteered to do as part of the learning you wanted to do.

35 Years Later

DPH: I want to jump to you. Have you been playing the trumpet for years?

RBF: I had played my trumpet up through high school then I put my horn away when I went to college. I just didn't have time for it. I was working full-time and going to school full-time. About fifteen years later, I was working at the University and my wife said, "you need to do something other than work twenty-four-seven. Why don't you get your horn out and have something to do other than work." She told me about the group called the Newark Community Band. So she really pushed me out of the house. I went down there and I was terrible, but I remember how much I enjoyed it. And I played many years with the Newark Community Band and a friend of mine in New Jersey called and said there's a group starting up in Jersey that I think they'd be very interested in you. They're very different. It's a British brass band. And I went up there and I really like this and I played with them (Atlantic Brass Band) for 12-13 years. But that was just getting to be too much. During all this time I was having a very nice career in the University of Delaware. I got promoted to associate provost and that was taking too much time. I couldn't do it. So, I finally said to my wife I just don't have the time to make these trips up to New Jersey and attend all the concerts they're playing. I just couldn't do it. So, I dropped out. A year later, my wife said to me again: "What are you moping around the house for." I said I really miss playing. She said, "Well start a band of your own." So . . . we started the Chesapeake Brass Band here in Delaware. That's been sort of the love of my life musically. But I wanted to play more and I thought, well, I

could go up and play with the Academy band. It's daytime so it didn't take up another evening.

DPH: The players are not professionally trained as the Brass Band.

RBF: It's different though and the people are wonderful. I think Paul [Hess] is just great with the band. I'm very impressed with the music they make. I mean, you're talking about some of these people have never played an instrument before, and there are some in there who have played for years like myself, so it's a range of people. I really enjoy it, the people I'm with and it's a lot of fun and we play some good music.

Welcome Pamela Vari

Pamela Vari joined the Osher staff in March as an administrative assistant. She is a Delawarean through and through. Born and raised here, she received an associate degree at Delaware Technical Community College. After working as a dental assistant she moved to Astra-Zeneca. Pam worked at Astra-Zeneca for 22 years starting out as receptionist and ending as an assistant to a vice president.



She comes to OLLI from a part-time position in UD Biological Sciences.

Pam and her husband, an investment banker at PNC, have a son who is in the army reserve and is a physics major at UD. Asked about hobbies she said her German shepherd puppy is keeping her busy. In line with her love of Delaware, a favorite vacation spot is Bethany Beach.

Art Museum Docents Wanted

The Delaware Art Museum is currently accepting applicants for its September docent training program. If you are seeking a rewarding volunteer experience, enjoy learning and working with the public, and have an interest in art, you are invited to attend the open house and apply.

OPEN HOUSE May 7, 3–4:30 pm at the Delaware Art Museum(2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington).

Interview with the Falks by Susan Arruda

I had the pleasure of interviewing Eleanor and Lloyd Falk, who have been attending Osher Lifelong Learning, and its predecessor, the Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) for close to 35 years!

How long have you been coming to Osher Lifelong Learning?

Eleanor and Lloyd came to Delaware in 1949; she hated to leave New Jersey, but Lloyd's job with DuPont as a chemist and environmental scientist brought them here. She worked as a teacher and journalist. Eleanor started attending ALL in 1981, and "I haven't looked back once." Lloyd followed her after his retirement and has been here for 33 years!

Why did you start coming?

Eleanor knew a small group of people who were attending ALL; she had just turned 60 and "just made the cut-off." There was a sorority-like, intimate feeling. The program grew by leaps and bounds.

What did it look like back then?

Eleanor noted that there was no Café, but a coffee committee provided the coffee each day. It cost 25¢ and there was an honor system. They remember Dr. Buxbaum, who taught an anthropology course. A travel course was taught by George Anna Theobald, who lived in the Middletown area. She invited the class to her home on the Chesapeake. The atmosphere was "social without trying to be social," and she remembers picnics and refreshments. They didn't know a lot of people in the beginning, but quickly made new friends.

If you ever meet Eleanor and Lloyd, you'll notice their needlepoint nametags. They were custom-made in the mid-1980s by Kay Vernon, cost \$5 and were a fundraiser for ALL. They still wear them for sentimental reasons and don't want to give them up. They both agreed, "I earned it," even when "asked to wear the newer versions of nametags." Who's going to argue with these long-term members?

What changes have you seen, and have they all been positive?

Lloyd noted that "in the old days, the staff consisted of two or three people." When it came time to prepare handouts for a class, the instructor gave the item to a staff member, who typed a mimeograph page (remember them, especially if you were a



teacher?) and then ran it off. He also noted the change in the number of class offerings and the increase in instructors, saying "I never imagined it would come to this!" Many instructors were asked to teach outside of their

field of expertise. For example, someone suggested a course on mythology. Someone said, "OK, I'll give it a try" and it went well. Lloyd thought that many of today's instructors do the same!

They also mentioned the use of DVD's and videos to supplement courses such as "Great Decisions." Eleanor commented that the music program has grown "by leaps and bounds." In the old building, Ruth Lane taught a recorder class for two years (Lloyd learned to play the recorder then). After Ruth left ALL, Lloyd became the instructor and taught or co-taught through Fall 2014. Today's recorder ensemble under Don von Schrititz is the longest-performing musical group at OLLI, much to the delight of the "student body." They are pleased with the loyalty and talent of the many musicians who participate in performances. Eleanor also mentioned the expansion of the art program, especially the art exhibits in the reading room and in the hallways. They both like the Special Events Wednesdays programs and attend as many as possible.



If you had a friend who was thinking about coming here, what would you say to them?

Eleanor immediately jumped in with, "Run, don't walk! This place will keep you culturally and educationally aware." Lloyd added that the social aspect was also important, and you get to know people. He also stressed the need for volunteering as a way of getting to meet people.

I asked for Pearls of Wisdom for the next 35 years.

Lloyd said, "Keep moving however you can." Eleanor said, "Keep smiling."

Thanks to Eleanor and Lloyd Falk for sharing their memories about OLLI!

Calculating Your Home Carbon Footprint

Would you like to know your carbon footprint? Here's what you can do right now: access and use Delmarva's CO₂ calculator.

- ◆ Go to: www.delmarva.com
- ◆ Create an account or login
- ◆ •Go to "Energy Use and Bill Data" on the left-hand side
- ◆ Go to "Live Green" on lower right-hand side
- ◆ Go to "Get Started" on right-hand side
- ◆ Enter data as requested and see the calculations in four areas:
 1. Profile (complete and/or correct their info)
 2. Energy and Water (they will enter your gas and electric consumption automatically) For oil heat, do a separate calculation based on 22.3 pounds CO₂ per gallon fuel oil consumed
 3. Transportation (do only for your autos)
 4. Waste (you will see credits for recycling)
- ◆ You will get CO₂ emissions per area and total.

Do you want to know more about taking actions that can make a cleaner outcome for our world? Join us Friday mornings at 9 a.m. in room 218.

Next time: Let's use those blue containers!

Your ECO-TEAM at work

OLLI Chorus

Our program theme is **Music: Our Inspiration**. The choral selections include a hymn tune with brass quintet, an Ellington jazz piece, an original piece by John Rutter, British composer, a fast, mixed meter piece named *Come to the Music* with piccolo and drums, two ballads, an a cappella piece called *Sing Me to Heaven*, and a Quaker tune named *How Can I Help from Singing?*

In addition to our May 13 performance at Special Events Wednesdays we are performing:

Sunday, May 3 at 4 p.m. at St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 1301 N. Broom Street, Wilmington, DE

Monday, May 11 at 3 p.m. at Cokesbury Village, Loveville Rd., Hockessin, DE

All performances are free and open to the public.



Wed., May 27 A day in Amish Country, Lancaster, PA

Sat., June 20 Oklahoma Dutch Apple Theatre, Lancaster, PA

Wed., Aug. 5 to Sat., Aug. 15 Norwegian Fjords Cruise and Copenhagen

Tues., Aug. 25 to Thurs., Aug. 27 Hudson River Valley, FDR's Hyde Park and Rockefeller's Kykuit

Sun., Jan. 17 to Fri., Jan. 29, 2016 Southern Caribbean Cruise, Holland-American

Visit the Travel Desk in the Lobby, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Computers! Computers! Peeping Tom

By Kenneth Mulholland, Curriculum Committee

While there is an argument within Congress whether or not to permit the NSA and CIA to be able to access computers through a "back door," it is not only U.S. spy agencies which can "peep" into your computers. An Israeli software company developed a spyware program called Superfish that was installed on some Lenovo computers built in China.

Normal virus and spyware programs infect the top levels of a computer's operating system. Superfish was installed in the core of the Lenovo operating system and could not be detected by standard malware programs. Microsoft had to develop a special program to expand their Windows Defender antivirus program to remove it from the core of the computer's operating system.

Superfish and similar programs root through the entire computer, circumvent any data encryption systems, intercept secure web servers and make computers more vulnerable to hackers. The acquired information is sent to the server run by the Israeli company that developed the spyware program.

Save the Date

35th Anniversary Luncheon
Friday, September 25

Special Events Wednesdays
12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 105
Announcements at 12:40 p.m.

These programs are open to all members.

April 22 The Road To and Through Impressionism

Fred Dixon, author and art collector

April 29 UD Lifelong Learning Orchestra, Allen

Tweddle, conductor

May 6 UD Lifelong Learning Concert Band, Paul

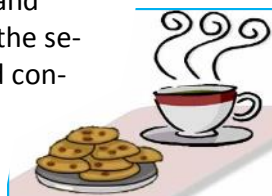
Hess, conductor

May 13 UD Lifelong Learning Chorus

Janet Miller, director (See page 5 for program and other venues)

Social on Thursday, April 23

Meet fellow members and friends at the last social of the semester with coffee, tea and conversation. The cookies are yummy with or without fat, gluten and sugar.



Lifelong Learning News

www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter

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Submit articles to rehlich@udel.edu, or place in the editor's mailbox in the Reception Area.

WHYY Documentary
Friday, May 8, 12:30 p.m.

WHYY will be bringing the thought-provoking documentary, *Limited Partnership* which explores the love story between Filipino-American Richard Adams and Australian Tony Sullivan, who, in 1975, became one of the first same-sex couples in the United States to be legally married.

Wine, Cheese and Jazz Party
Friday May 15



Mark your calendars for the social event of this very special 35th anniversary year. Raise a toast to OLLI. A wine, cheese and jazz party will be held on the Arsht patio area on Friday May 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. A variety of wines, cheeses and crudités will be offered by the UD catering staff with advice given by our own wine expert, Ray Walsh.

Steve DeMond and his OLLI Dixieland musical ensemble will supply the entertainment. Tickets are a mere \$20. Volunteers are needed to help sell tickets in the lobby starting April 27 for what is expected to be a grand time for all. Contact Mary Ball Morton if you can help (mamorton@msn.com).

Calendar 2015

Mon., April 20 ..Summer session registration begins
Fri., May 15 End of spring semester
Tues., May 26 to Fri., May 29 OLLI at the Ocean
Mon., June 8 to Thurs., June 11 June Lecture Series
Tues., July 7 to Thurs., July 30 Summer Session
Tues., Aug. 4 to Fri., Aug. 7 Fall registration
Wed., Aug. 5 Open House
Tues., Sept. 8 Fall semester starts
Thurs., Nov. 26 to Fri., Nov. 27 . Thanksgiving break
Fri., Dec. 11 End of fall semester