



FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to OLLI's Spring 2021 UD OLLI Online

Neil Cullen, Chair, OLLI-Wilmington Council

Though I find it hard to believe, just eleven months ago, we OLLI members had embarked on our 2020 spring terms in Wilmington, Dover and Lewes. We were renewing our friendships and settling into classes. In less than one month, however, we found ourselves in disarray as COVID-19 forced us to stop in-person classes and close our facilities. COVID-19, an acronym that soon tasted acrid on the tongue, dominated the headlines, and a full-blown pandemic began to sweep across the globe. Our staff members began working remotely to facilitate the wind-down and to keep members abreast of OLLI and UD news.

Yet, we soon regrouped. Our OLLI Councils, working closely with staff members and UD's Division of Professional and Continuing Studies, decided to launch a virtual statewide Summer Session from July 7 to July 30 via Zoom. Zoom? Who knew from Zoom? Few of us as it turned out, but we soon learned as we Zoomed meetings, classes and social occasions. And Zoom enabled us to connect with family and friends, all on a platform provided at no cost to each OLLI member by UD, a timely gift that reminded us of our good fortune to have a home at the University of Delaware.

In early May, the OLLI Councils approved an ad hoc task force, the Virtual Learning and Socialization

Committee (VLSC), to work with OLLI staff members to explore ways to enhance distance teaching and learning. They first focused on devising the means to train instructors and members to use platforms such as Zoom in preparation for the Summer 2020 UD OLLI Online. Thanks to these efforts and our intrepid instructors, 700 students enrolled in summer classes, 97% of whom rated them highly.

In late May, the Councils and staff members turned their attention to planning for the 2020 fall term. After consulting with the UD administration, Delaware state authorities and the CDC regarding the health risks associated with COVID, we decided to offer all 2020 Fall classes and activities on-line. Planning ensued immediately. Over the course of the summer, the VLSC members and staff offered Zoom training to all instructors and members. The staff published an online course catalog on August 12. Fall term registration opened on August 18 for over 200 courses including 68 five-week courses and 132 eleven-week courses. Over 1875 students enrolled, and after the term drew to a close on November 24, these students expressed a high level of satisfaction with both the offerings and the instructors.

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January Enrichment Program

As the Fall term ended, a few OLLI members requested OLLI courses and activities during the long interval between the end of Fall Term and the beginning of Spring Term. The VLSC considered the possibilities and recommended that OLLI volunteers plan and implement a January term without staff-member assistance. The Councils concurred, and soon a VLSC subcommittee recruited 40 instructors to offer a free January enrichment program via Zoom. Classes ran on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from January 5 to 28, and the demand far exceeded our expectations with over 3500 enrollments.

What Have We Learned?

We OLLI members proved much faster on our feet than many anticipated. Under the pressure of deadlines, we adapted quickly, learned efficiently and worked effectively with staff members to create virtual curricula. We surprised ourselves. Those who taught and took classes learned to appreciate the particular advantages of Zoom classes. Teachers and

classmates can see one another easily and see everyone's name. Each student has a front-row seat; no one has to look at the back of anyone else's head. Smaller classes offer a rare opportunity to interact freely and to see the facial expressions of speakers and listeners; they provide a surprising and pleasant sense of intimacy. Instructors of large classes can create break-out rooms for small-group discussion. We can hear more easily since we can control the volume. In brief, though we all miss seeing one another, sharing meals and enjoying casual conversations, these virtual classes and activities have enabled us to maintain our connections with one another and to whet our appetites for the joy of reunion.

Spring 2021

And now, we begin anew with a few joining us on Zoom for the first time. We offer 136 eleven-week and 80 five-week courses, and we anticipate 1900 members. The orientation sessions begin on February 15, and classes end on May 7. Please dive in. The water is fine. I think you will enjoy the warmth and comradery.



From the cover of the fall 2020 catalog

January Enrichment Sessions Social Committee Spring Plans

Gerri Sanchez, Co-chair, Social Committee



We hope you enjoyed our January Enrichment Sessions. This was a pilot member-led effort, and our guests received all this programming for free. During the month of January, our dedicated instructors gave us over 65 hours of sessions and engaged over 3,500 participants!

Our instructors covered a wide variety of topics and we are grateful for their volunteer contributions.

- Our enthusiasm was sparked by thought provoking topics and discussions.
- We were kept informed about current events and economic conditions.
- The sounds of music ignited our sessions.
- We explored faraway places together.
- New skills and hobbies were introduced to us.
- We were transported back in time to revisit historic events.
- Excitement was generated in us through movies and TED Talks.
- We fueled our passion for the arts.
- UD graduate students broadened our perspectives with their informative topics.
- We reminisced about popular celebrities and times that we hold fondly in our memories.

Most of all, we had something to look forward to during these challenging times!

Spring session

What's next? The Committee has more online social activities planned for you! Happy Hours will return on selected Thursday and Friday afternoons. Games Galore and Birthday Parties will be back. Don't forget our Question & Comment Zoom Hours, where you can drop in and chat with staff and members. Please check the OLLI Statewide Updates for these future events.

Looking for a Good Book or Popular Magazine? Try the UD Library

Rebecca Worley, Co-chair, UD Collaboration Committee

Are you looking for that article in *The New Yorker* that everyone is talking about? Or maybe this item appeared in the *Smithsonian Magazine*? And what about that informative feature story in *Nature*, or was it *Science*?

And then there's that book you've been searching for. With the constraints on access to libraries these days, is there an e-book available?

Or maybe you're searching for that news report that you'd like to include in your course materials, published in *The New York Times* a couple of months back. And maybe *The Washington Post* published on that same subject? It's worth a look. The University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press can come to your rescue.

Early this past December, Osher instructors were given a personal introduction to the resources available for preparing their courses through UD's Morris Library. Aimee Gee, a librarian in the Reference and Instructional Services Department, provided a guided tour. In fact, she graciously created a research guide especially for Osher members, available at

<https://guides.lib.udel.edu/olli>.

Designed for us, this webpage, with the DELCAT Discovery search bar, is the place to start.

Books

It's easy to find the book you're looking for simply by typing the title or the author's name in this DELCAT Discovery search bar. If the library has the book you're looking for, the results page will give you the various formats, including the availability of an e-book. That way you can read without making a trip to the library or a bookstore.

Magazines

The UD library also provides access to a wide variety of popular magazines without the cost of a subscription. These include *The Atlantic* magazine, *Science*, *The Economist*, and many, many others, especially *The New Yorker*, the topic of one of our consistently popular discussion courses. Just type the name of the magazine or journal into this search bar and the results page will give you options for accessing the most current edition, or searching past issues. For some of these magazines, you will need to set up an account, that is, a name and password for your personal subscription.

If you'd like to browse a bit, the sections below this search bar provide links to information about how to search for materials, including films and video, as well as books, magazines, and newspapers. Another section will link you to the page where you can access the library's many databases for specific subject areas. Just use the drop-down menu on that page to select the topic that interests you.

Aimee created this particular guide specifically for OLLI members, but Morris librarians have also prepared guides for a wide variety of subjects, such as the ancestry and genealogical research guide used in those Osher courses. Other guides cover such topics as art history, agriculture, business & economics, finance, health sciences, and many more. To access this list, just click on the Research Guides heading.

If you'd prefer a Video Tutorial on using the library's many resources, just click on that link.

But there's more. On the left, above Aimee's photograph, there's a link to Popular Resources. If you click on that link, you will find access to newspapers, such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. You will

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University of Delaware Library
DELCAT Discovery

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also find links to Ancestry and Local History sources, as well as resources for financial information and streaming video collections.

On this same Popular Resources page, at the left, you'll find links to Multidisciplinary Databases. These include the Academic OneFile that covers a broad range of topics, the Web of Science with access to the latest articles in that discipline, and JSTOR, my personal favorite, that will give you access to a wide range of articles about subjects in the humanities.

If you're having problems, there's a button just below Aimee's photograph so that you can send her an email (gee@udel.edu) to get an answer to a specific question or solve a particular problem.

To use the library, you must have a valid University of Delaware ID; basically that's your UD email name and password. Access to library resources also requires two-factor authentication, or 2FA, which is the six-digit number sent to your phone to complete the login process. If you need help with that, contact Brian Medina (bmedina@udel.edu).

The University of Delaware library provides a vast collection of academic and popular resources available for those who want to improve their education, explore their personal interests in a subject area, or just find a good book or magazine to read. And remember, if you have a question or need some help, just click on the icon to Ask the Library, and one of their many exceptionally knowledgeable librarians will reply.



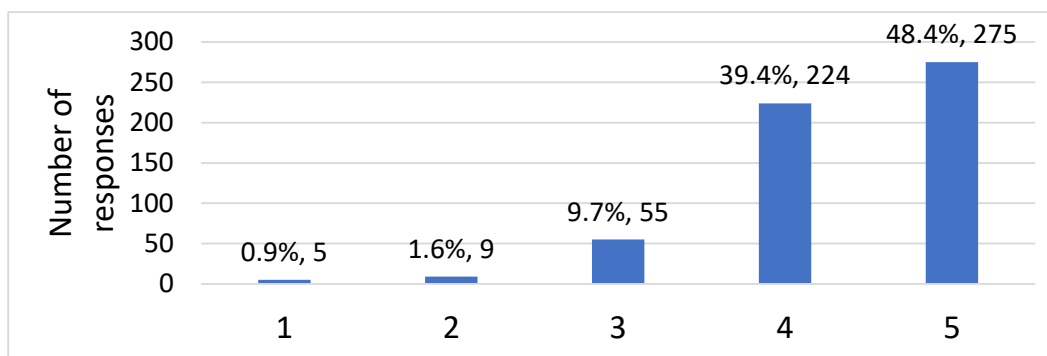
UD OLLI Online: Fall 2020 in Retrospect

How did it go?

Extremely well.

At the end of the fall session, participants received two surveys. One was from the Osher National Resource Center with four Delaware specific questions added by the OLLI Delaware managers, Jen Merrill and Anna Moshier. The other was designed to evaluate the UD OLLI Online program. About two-thirds of respondents had previously attended OLLI in Wilmington, 21% had attended in Kent or Sussex and close to 12% did not attend a UD OLLI in fall 2019.

Out of 568 respondents, 48% gave the program a top mark of 5 ("I loved it and can't wait till spring.") Only 5 of the 568 respondents gave it a 1 ("I didn't like at all.") A total of 88% gave it high marks (4 and 5). The distribution of responses is shown below.



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The selection of courses was given the highest marks by 88% of participants and over 90% gave the courses they selected the highest marks. An equally high number had positive experiences adapting to the Zoom technology.

Most fall participants (87%) planned to enroll this spring and an additional 11% would enroll if they found the selection of classes still compelling. An impressive 93% of fall participants would recommend UD OLLI Online to a friend.

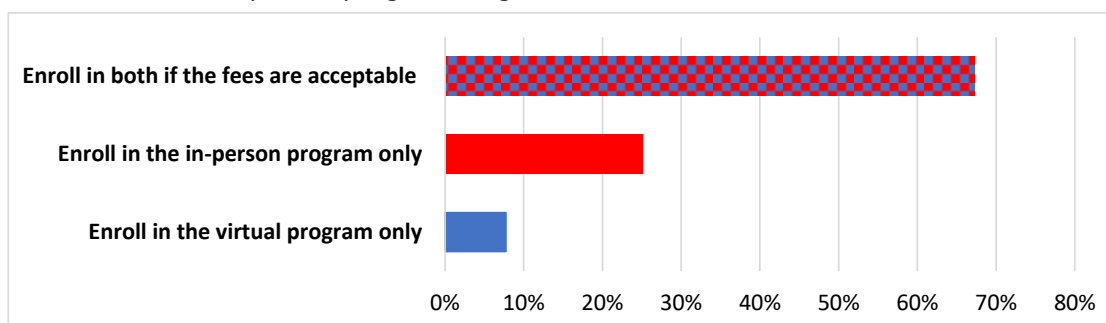
An OLLI-Sussex member appreciated the opportunity to take three courses with Wilmington instructors and Wilmington classmates. An OLLI-W member noted the advantage of being able to take a Dover class. Many Wilmington, Kent and Sussex members have noted the expanded opportunities of the online connections.

Was something missing?

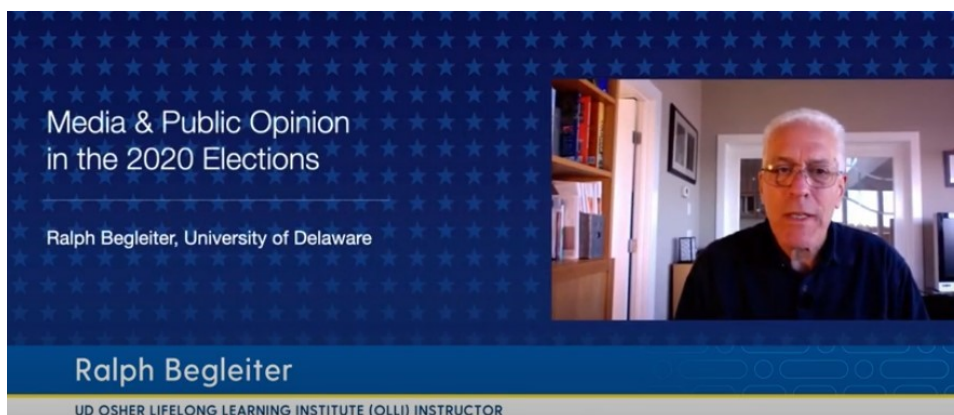
Free form questions indicated that OLLI fall participants most often missed the social interactions that give a sense of community and the participatory music classes.

While many found new community in the smaller classes where everyone could hear and see everyone else, members missed the social interactions in the Lobby and the lunchroom.

Fall members were asked what they were most likely to do “if virtual classes continue when we resume in-person programming.”



Those who took the plunge have seen the advantages of an online supplement to the traditional program. Some who attended online are unable to make it to the in-person locations. However, it should be noted that total fall 2020 enrollment was only about half the total pre-pandemic, in-person enrollments for the three programs.



Watch the video at <https://www.lli.udel.edu/2021/01/21/begleiter-class-video/>

Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers, VDE (Volunteer Development and Engagement)

Sandro Cuccia

Sandro Cuccia, who teaches three sections of Italian from beginner to advanced levels this semester, has developed 42 distinct courses since becoming an OLLI-W instructor in 2007. He was initially recruited by instructor Ron Yabroff to teach a Photoshop class. He went on to teach photography and image editing, helped organize OLLI-W's Macintosh training program, and soon branched out to teach such classes as *Travel to Italy*, *The Food of Italy*, *iPhone and iPad*, and even *Horror Cinema Appreciation*.

Sandro was born in Milano, Italy, and immigrated at age two, living in Houston and Baltimore before Delaware. Homeschooled in Italian by his mother while learning English in school, Sandro spent summers in Italy throughout his childhood. He earned a BS in business administration at UD and worked in IT at DuPont for 21 years, after which he was a consultant in Macintosh and Apple training as well as a commercial photographer.

He continues to visit family in Italy, along with his wife, or "flies there from the comfort of home" through his hobby – computer flight simulation.

Teaching Italian at OLLI has helped him to avoid losing his Italian language skills, and the computer classes enable him to continue his enjoyment of end-user training in the IT area. "I derive much pleasure from helping students widen their horizons – without fear – when using their personal computers and mobile devices."

"The best way to learn something is to teach it," Sandro suggests to others who consider teaching. This multi-talented instructor practices this advice, generously sharing the many fascinating things that he learns.



Diana Stevens

When Diana Stevens learned that the *Current Events* class, later renamed *Current Issues*, needed an instructor in 2009, the year after she joined OLLI-W, she stepped up and hasn't

stopped since, bringing her energy and enthusiasm to researching and scheduling speakers for the class. With co-instructors Nancy Hannigan and Jeff Ostroff, Diana seeks input from a planning committee to choose programs on regional, national, and international issues. In some cases, it can take months to secure a knowledgeable speaker on a new subject and coordinate schedules, but Diana persists. "It's like putting together a big picture puzzle," she says.

Diana grew up in Connecticut, and has lived in Delaware, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. She was employed in non-profit organizations, most recently at the YMCA Resource Center of Delaware. She earned her BA in political science and international relations at Swarthmore College.

She and husband, Paul, live at Crosslands in Kennett Square where she enjoys hiking the many wooded trails. She also enjoys being involved in the community. Her interests in travel and yoga are on hold until the pandemic ends. She has two children and two grandchildren.

What Diana enjoys about volunteering at OLLI is learning and "getting to work with a wonderful group of people." She encourages others to "take advantage of the opportunity to meet people, to learn and have fun."

Current Issues is so popular that a 198-seat classroom in Arsht has been filled each semester, with a waiting list! Diana's skills in organizing excellent presentations, with lively discussions, benefit hundreds of OLLI members.

Now is the time to destroy spotted lantern fly egg masses before they hatch

Hanna Zyruk, Tree Club

The Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF), an invasive species, is problematic for local flora. SLFs are currently of concern in New Castle and Kent counties. The SLF feeds on the sap of roughly 65 species of trees and plants and also poops all over it. The feces attract a type of mold that will slowly weaken and kill the plant.

SLFs aren't active in winter and spring, but their egg masses are still living, and will begin hatching in May.

Destruction of SLF egg masses helps reduce the population levels going into the spring. The egg masses contain 30-50 eggs and are protected with a mud-like covering, giving them their white, grey, or tan/brown color that, over time, takes on a cracked-mortar appearance.

Eggs can be laid on any hard surface, including plastic, wood and metal. Trees, automobiles, wood, fence posts, playground equipment and more can harbor egg masses. Look on the surface as well as on the underside of branches/items.



Since we are quarantined, we're eager for something to keep ourselves occupied.

We know we're allowed to go outside so long as we keep our social distance. While there, you might as well use the time to do something positive for our environment: Destroy spotted lanternflies.

If you find egg masses:

- Using scraper cards, or anything else that is hard, tapered and/or flat, scrape egg masses into doubled bags/containers coated with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer or
- Smash using the tool mentioned above.

So when you are out in your yard or out walking on public property, including the OLLI campus, take along a scraper tool and look for those egg masses. Remember, the more eggs you destroy now, the fewer SLFs there will be in the future.

Special Events on Fridays

All events at 12:30 p.m.

February 26, TBA

March 5 **International Photo Exhibition** Patrick Litle

March 12 **"They Belong to the Ages: Abraham Lincoln & JFK"** Daniel Pritchett

March 19 **Finding Amelia Earhart** Ric Gillespie

March 26 **Bellanca Museum, DE Aviation History** Frank Ianni

April 2 **No Program Good Friday**

April 9 **The Operation of a Modern Organic Dairy Farm** Edwin R. Fry, Fairhill Farms, Chestertown, MD

April 16 **DAM's new painting acquisition: Robert Duncanson's: *On the Banks of the Doune, Scotland***
Lyn Groves

April 23 **The OLLI Tree Club**

April 30 **Newark Symphony Orchestra: Vivaldi *The Seasons*** Simeone Tartaglione

May 7 **The Air Mobility Command Museum, Dover Air Force Base** Michael Hurlburt

Look for updates and links to these member-only events in the Statewide OLLI Updates.

OLLI Monthly News in Wilmington

<http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/>

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Submit articles to rehlich@udel.edu.

UD OLLI Online Calendar

2021

February 15–19 .. Orientation week, spring semester

February 22 Start of classes, spring semester

March 29 Orientation week, 2nd 5-week classes

April 5 Start of 2nd 5-week classes

May 7 End of spring semester