

FEBRUARY 2026

# From Class to Catalog Cover

*An OLLI student's painting journey*

Fred Hosier

A great way to introduce someone to OLLI-Wilmington is to share each semester's course catalog.

If you share the Spring 2026 catalog, you might mention that an OLLI-W student's class assignment is the cover painting. Rick Crosswell painted "Windswept" in an art class he took during his second semester at OLLI-W. Before coming to OLLI-W, Rick had never painted. He worked in the corporate, financial world. After retiring in 2023, his wife and others encouraged him to look into classes at OLLI-W.

"The first semester I took classes all over the place – I tried a lot of different classes," Rick said. "In the second semester, I primarily focused on painting, music and reading 'classic' books I had not."

Having worked in the financial world for so long, Rick wanted to try something different.

## Second Time Is the Charm

How Rick's painting came about provides a good example of what it's like to come from a non-art discipline and then take an art course at OLLI-W.

He signed up for *Acrylic Painting Made Simple*, taught by Kathy Kelk, in his first semester. Then he took it again. And then a third time. Why did he take the course three times? "To be honest, I'd say I didn't feel like I graduated, I still had a lot to learn."

Despite that feeling, instructor Kathy Kelk and his fellow students played a big part in Rick's foray into painting. Kathy was "very encouraging, helpful and enthusiastic, regarding my paintings," Rick said.

After painting in class for a while, Rick started to paint a bit at home, too. "I found something I really liked," Rick said. "It's relaxing. It's amazing how you can start with a blank [canvas], and nothing turns into something."

"And I love to experiment," Rick added. "So I was always trying to find different ways, and different viewpoints on how to paint."

After showing some of his paintings to the staff, one was chosen to use for the catalog cover.



## It's 'Flower Day'

As an acrylic painting student at OLLI-W, Rick appreciates both the guidance he was given and the freedom to stray a bit from a given assignment.

In *Acrylic Painting Made Simple*, each week students are asked to paint a particular object. Despite being a new pursuit for Rick, he knew he liked painting some things more than others. The second time he took the class, he anticipated what was coming up. "I thought, 'Oh gosh, here comes another flower,'" Rick said. Painting flowers isn't one of his favorites.

"I really never liked the look of my painted flowers at all," Rick said. But he was up for experimenting.

"With Kathy's class, she pushed us a little bit," Rick said. "If you don't want to do (that day's assignment), you can do something else." So Rick took a shot at his own version of painting a flower. In his case, it was a field full of vibrant flowers, not just one.

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# The Art of Vacuuming

Jean Youkers

The least intimidating example of artificial intelligence that I've encountered is Art, the robot vacuum cleaner. He travels the halls of Arsht Hall, heralded by his subtle beep, beep, beep. He's cute and very polite, never running into pedestrians in the hallway or attempting to follow us into the elevator.

Curiosity piqued, I followed Art down the hall on several occasions wondering about his history, how he knew where to go and who handles his care and feeding. I asked Tim Ward and was shown the QR codes affixed at certain points on hallway walls that enable Art to sense his whereabouts without deviating from his path. Tim praised Art for doing a good job and told me the robot is supervised by the housekeeping staff. So, I followed Art to the Facilities Office to talk with Crystal Hayes and Latishia Bowden.

Crystal has been employed at UD for 35 years, including this past year at OLLI-W. She's in charge of programming Art's path. The QR codes guide him to the beginning, middle and ends of the first and second floors. She can alter his route by pushing different buttons.

Art knows how to get around ob-



stacles but if he gets stuck, Crystal receives an alert "Robot needs assistance" on her phone and can go to his rescue.

When Art finishes his work, a checkmark atop his head changes from "Cleaning" to "Cleaning Complete." He wears an official nametag on his face, and his glued-on eyes complete his friendly look.

Art began at Arsht Hall in Fall Se-

mester 2025. He contributes to housekeeping efficiency by allowing the humans to attend to other tasks while he cleans.

"People were scared of Art at first, but now they talk to him," Crystal observed. They smile at him and "it raises their spirits." They even ask, "Where's Art?" if they don't see him.

Art is cleaned daily and he has his own spot in the office to sleep. Crystal revealed that he has a large battery that comes out to be charged, leaving him to sleep in peace. She removes and cleans his brush and dirt catcher with a blower and takes him outdoors for cleaning with a bigger blower. He also has a bag like "normal" vacuum cleaners.

It's hard to think of Art as a vacuum cleaner as he merrily rolls along.

If Art could talk, Crystal knows he would say "he's happy to be here at Arsht Hall because everybody is so nice here."



Crystal Hayes

## Catalog Cover

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Rick didn't have a particular location in mind for his painting. "It started with the sky," Rick said. "That's the way I paint – starting with a swoop of some sort and then looking at the canvas and continuing."

You can see Rick's swoops on the OLLI catalog cover. He painted the scene mostly in one class period.

### In the Zone

"I get in a zone when I start to paint," Rick said. "I don't look around (the classroom). But what I really love at the end of the class is to look at everybody else's work. It's just amazing to me to see that while everyone mostly paints the same thing, none of them look the

same. ... I've seen a lot of fantastic painters in my limited time there ... It's impressive."

Rick also appreciates that Kathy gives feedback while they're painting. "Kathy would come around and say, 'This is good, you should darken this,' or 'Think about adding this color here.' It was very helpful."

### The Full OLLI Experience

Rick's time at OLLI-W hasn't been limited to Art. He's signed up for a range, including literature, *The Three Stooges*, *Dark Shadows*, and *American Sign Language*.

"That's the beauty of OLLI. There's so much that's offered. It gives you the ability to try something different that you don't know anything about. There are so many great courses here to try."

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## Volunteer Spotlight

Mary Pat Elmlinger

### ROBERT VIOLETTE

In the fifth grade, Bob Violette found his voice, and it led him on a path that he would follow through his entire life

A self-described Air Force brat, Bob was born in Waco, Texas, and he and his family followed his dad all over the U.S., moving every two years.

During that fifth-grade year in Oregon, his music teacher discovered that Bob liked to sing, and recognizing the star quality of his treble voice, he cast Bob as Hansel in the school production of *Hansel and Gretel*. His co-star was the daughter of the principal, and she was a senior in high school. As Bob says, "OMG! I'm in fifth grade, she's a senior, it was very strange, but I was hooked. The whole thing, the rehearsals, you have to memorize it. You got an hour, an hour and a half of fun onstage, but what about the months, the hours and hours every day of hard work. But it was worth it."

After that, Bob continued doing musical roles wherever his peripatetic family went, eventually landing in Germany, where the Saarbrücken Opera wanted to stage the German premiere of Giancarlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. They cast then-14-year-old Bob as Amahl and he showed up for the first day of rehearsals, opened his mouth and ... his voice had changed. "And that was the end of that," he says.

With his family still in Germany, Bob went away to prep school in the U.S. and only saw his family at Christmas and summer vacations. But he didn't leave behind the music. He was in a prep school in Miami where he had a chance to study organ at the University of Miami and began playing as a church organist until his new bass/baritone voice stabilized.

He went to college at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

While there, Bob instigated a project for the school to arrange with Andrew Lloyd Webber's publishers to do the world premiere of his *Jesus Christ*



Bob Violette performs at the Assisi Performing Arts Festival, with harpist Anne Eisfeller.



*Superstar* as a "semi-stage production" – no costumes, no scenery, just standing. He directed the production as well as singing in it. Webber's publishers sent people to see the performance, and obviously they liked what they saw. As Bob says, "Basically, they copied from my production when they took it on the road for the national tour."

His next career step came when, after Bob finished a concert in Palm Beach, a gentleman came backstage and said to him, "I will teach you." After a puzzled moment, the man introduced himself as Giuseppe Campora, an Italian operatic tenor who sang in all the major theatres in Italy as well as the Metropolitan Opera in New York in the 1950s. Campora was living part-time in Palm Beach and he told Bob, "For two years, you will live here. You will have a lesson every day." With his expenses paid by an Italian-American club, it was an offer Bob couldn't refuse.

At the end of the two years, Campora sent Bob off with letters of introduction to New York, where he had multiple auditions. While the Metropolitan Opera didn't hire him for the main stage, they did send him out on a tour along the East Coast. He then secured a five-year contract as lead baritone with the Piccola Opera in Philadelphia, where he sang several operas a year, many of them new works with major international credits.

His next serendipitous contact was a composer from Rome who heard Bob performing and asked if he would sing a lead role in a new work he had just finished on the story of Saint Francis of Assisi. Bob accepted the role and several months later he got a phone call from Gregory Scimé, the founder of the Assisi Performing Arts Festival, inviting him to Assisi, no auditions needed. And so began Bob's four-year term as the organization's guest artist, and eventually serving for 13 years on its board of directors. Every year he spent a couple of months in the beautiful town of Assisi, coming early and staying late. His charity work there earned him the title of Cavalier with the Knights of Malta.

Among memorable performances over the years, he sang in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Halévy's *La Juive*, Puccini's *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, and Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. He has also sung at Carnegie Hall and on NPR.

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## Nora Zelluk extends UD career into retirement with OLLI

### Jean Youkers

OLLI-W welcomed an enthusiastic new staff member last semester – Nora Zelluk. But Nora is by no means “new” to OLLI, because she worked on many OLLI projects, including editing articles, catalogs and other communications while employed at the University of Delaware. She worked in the marketing and communications office within the Division of Professional and Continuing Studies.

Nora has been a loyal Blue Hen for decades. UD is her alma mater, as well as her employer for more than 25 years. Now retired from full-time work at UD, Nora joined OLLI part-time and works remotely plus in person one day each week, normally on Wednesdays.

Nora grew up in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. She earned a BA in History and English and an MA in American History. Between graduate school and beginning her UD career, Nora experienced adventures on several jobs. Among them was her year teaching English in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The country



Nora Zelluk has decades of connections to the University of Delaware, including as a student, a full-time employee in the marketing and communications office and now as a part-time staff member at OLLI.

split into two nations — the Czech Republic and Slovakia — in the middle of her time working there. She’s also traveled to Germany a number of times to visit family members in her mother’s native country.

Besides traveling, her interests include cooking, knitting and spending time with family. Her favorite vacation destination is the

“Northeast Kingdom” of Vermont. Nora and her husband live in Newark.

She recently got interested in genealogy and is using Ancestry.com to research both her and her husband’s families. “I’ll soon have to sign up for one of OLLI’s genealogy classes to help in my search for our more elusive ancestors,” she says.

Over the years, Nora became familiar with the OLLI program, going back to when it was the Academy of Lifelong Learning. While editing and working on the OLLI catalogs and website, she was “in the background,” Nora says. “But now it’s exciting to be part of the program hands on, working with the staff and members, participating in the energy.”

“A few years before retiring, I had started wondering if I might be able to work at OLLI part-time after retirement,” she says. “I’m thrilled that it worked out.” So are we!

If you haven’t met Nora yet, stop by the Arsht Hall office (on a Wednesday) to say hello.

## Bob Violette

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Bob also worked with a major international law firm and taught middle and high school music and history, but music was always his top priority. He has produced and directed for a variety of school, community and professional theaters and concert halls. Former positions include Adjunct Faculty of Holy Cross College and Nicholls State University. He also earned a Masters of Divinity from Notre Dame Graduate School of Theology.

When the pandemic hit, the Assisi festival suspended operations, his opera contracts in the U.S. went on hold, and eventually, Bob said, “It all just kind of dried up and I got to the point where I’m thinking, ‘You know what? I’m old. Yeah, I’ll retire.’ And then I ended up here.”

With his husband Jack, Bob lived in a 212-year-old house in Bordentown, N.J., for about 20 years. After retiring from singing he wanted to be near the I-95 cor-

ridor due to continuing work from Montreal to Virginia. “And Delaware saved me a heck of a lot of money in property taxes,” he adds. He lives now in Westminster.

Bob took his first class at OLLI in 2019 and has been teaching courses ever since. This semester he is directing the Chorus, teaching I Think I’m Ready to Learn About Opera and co-teaching Delaware Arts Scene.

OLLI’s value for the community impresses Bob. “I remember when we closed down, we all went to Zoom for teaching and I’m going, ‘This is not for me.’ But I said, ‘OK, I’ll try it.’ ... I did it and I got to enjoy it.” Then after one Zoom class, a woman stayed on camera after everyone else had logged off to tell him that this was the only social outlet she had.

“After the pandemic, I threw a ... party at my house for all my students and about 50 showed up. The line then was ‘Oh, there’s more to you than just your face!’”

Bob’s advice to everyone about OLLI?

**“Do yourself a favor and get here.”**

# Sustaining and Strengthening OLLI

## *A Message from Your Fundraising Committee*

While the curiosity of our members is the spark that ignites OLLI, it is your dedicated financial support that provides the fuel to keep our community's flame burning bright. The OLLI-Wilmington Fundraising Committee is dedicated to sustaining and strengthening our community. By developing financial resources, we ensure that OLLI can remain vibrant, accessible, and forward-looking for current and future members.

Fundraising works to develop financial resources enabling OLLI-Wilmington to execute and expand on its mission to provide an exceptional, member-led, educational cooperative where "curiosity never retires." Our goals include increasing member giving programs and events, accessing a variety of grant opportunities, and promoting Delaware-wide financial support by increasing awareness about OLLI-Wilmington's mission.

### **Building a Legacy of Success**

Our committee's current momentum began in January 2013, rooted in the transformative "Renewing the Dream" campaign. Faced with a major HVAC renovation in Arsht Hall that threatened to significantly increase membership dues, a dedicated group of volunteers and University of Delaware staff stepped forward to protect OLLI's accessibility. The goal was to raise \$1,000,000 for the HVAC system and other building improvements.

Far exceeding goals, the campaign achieved an unparalleled 90% participation rate and raised \$1,760,000. This secured the future of Arsht Hall for generations of learners and forestalled all tuition increases from 2013 to 2017. We are very happy to say that two of the original volunteers, Ruth Flexman and Pam Meitner, are still committee members today!

### **2025-2026 Fundraising Events**

To keep OLLI at the forefront of lifelong learning, we focus on two primary fundraising milestones each year – one in the fall and one in the spring semester – alongside year-round grant research and educational seminars.

We kicked off a new tradition this fall by participating in *Giving Tuesday*, known across the University of Delaware community as the HenFunder campaign. Giving Tuesday is not just about UDEL or OLLI. It is a global, annual day of action, occurring the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, encouraging people, organizations,

and businesses to give back by donating, volunteering, or supporting their communities and causes. The concept began in 2012.

Our specific focus was to support OLLI's scholarship program, which assists members with tuition. We are incredibly proud to share that we surpassed our \$2,500 goal for this campaign and raised \$10,249 from 64 donors. Across the university, OLLI-Wilmington was fourth overall in money raised, and second overall in the number of donors.

OLLI scholarship funds ensure that financial barriers never prevent a curious mind from joining our classrooms. As one recipient shared, "Being part of OLLI has given me a new lease on life; the scholarship made it possible for me to stay connected when I thought I'd have to leave."

With the new year and the start of the spring semester, the Fundraising Committee's focus shifts to *I Heart UD Day*. This high-energy event has historically achieved a high participation rate and remains a highlight of our spring activities. We are currently finalizing our game plan, which includes donor outreach and an exciting Arsht Hall presence. We hope to see you there for giveaways, the ever-popular appearance of the MooMobile, and a (new for this year) photo booth.

Stay tuned for announcements in the OLLI weekly newsletter and around the Arsht Hall Lobby.

### **Education**

In addition to these major events, the Fundraising Committee is committed to providing value back to our members through education. Our Tax and Health Seminar, held yearly in November, provides vital information on changes to laws that affect our members.

This year, our speakers were Bryce Schelhaas (from Belfint, Lyons and Shuman, P.A.), Elle Van Dahlgren (from Elle Van Dahlgren Law, LLC), Nathana Jackson (from the University's Development and Alumni Relations) and Mike Rominger (one of our committee members). The seminar covered charitable giving and changes to the 2025 tax laws, as well as providing overviews of the Delaware Uniform Healthcare Decisions Act (and its new mental health provisions), the End-of-Life Options Act and the Transfer on Death Act. All of

## Sustaining and Strengthening OLLI

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these were important topics for our members to understand and were discussed with great clarity and care.

Regarding charitable giving, Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) were explained and how they can be used to support OLLI in tax-efficient ways. Mike Rominger discussed why he contributes a portion of his (and his wife Julie's) RMD to OLLI. He said, "Olli provides a place where people can be seen, and recognized, and known. And, there is nothing more important, especially for older people, than to feel that way."

### How to Donate

It's simple to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) or other, out-of-pocket donation to OLLI.

If you are over 73 and must take a distribution from your retirement plan, please consider making a gift to OLLI-Wilmington through a QCD. If you did so for 2025, thank you! If not, please think of us in 2026!

For a QCD, call your plan administrator and ask them to send the amount you choose to the University of Delaware for OLLI-Wilmington. You only need the university's legal address (University of Delaware, 83 E. Main Street – 3rd FL, Newark, DE 19716) and tax ID (51-6000297). Because your donation goes directly from your IRA to OLLI-Wilmington, it counts toward your RMD without being included in your taxable income.

Other donations can also be sent directly to the address above with the designation: "The University of Delaware for OLLI-Wilmington." If you want to make a non-cash donation, call the University of Delaware at 1-302-831-4333 or email them ([gift-updates@udel.edu](mailto:gift-updates@udel.edu)) for assistance.

### Facility Support

Looking ahead to 2026, the OLLI-Wilmington facility remains a top priority. Beyond our fundraising events, we are also applying for grants to support interior and exterior improvements. These goals include continuing to upgrade classroom and computer technology, further purchase of new chairs, replacement of worn carpeting, providing additional funding to offset the installation of an on-site kiln, and much more.

Focusing on the grounds surrounding Arsht Hall, the Fundraising Committee is proud to highlight our growing collaboration with the OLLI-Wilmington Eco Team and their vital work in the Goodstay Gardens. Our community extends well beyond the classroom, flourishing in our historic landscapes and surrounding property.

Our partnership is a natural extension of our commitment to stewardship, as OLLI itself must fund 75% of all landscaping costs for the campus! By working alongside the Eco Team, the Fundraising Committee ensures that we support the sustainable maintenance and beautification of the Goodstay Gardens, preserving them as a peaceful retreat for every OLLI member.

Beyond the gardens, we will be applying for grants to improve our exterior, which could include installing weather-resistant, accessible tables, benches, and shade structures. Currently, our social interactions are often confined to Arsht Hall's lobby and hallways. By improving the exterior, we can create a safe, visible 'third place' for members to gather before and after class. This isn't just about furniture; it's about mental health and community building.

### Join Us as a Volunteer

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help to secure the financial resources that sustain OLLI's mission of lifelong learning and ensure its vitality for future generations. Committee members actively support fundraising efforts by assisting with event planning and implementation, aiding in donor communications, helping to identify grant opportunities, and serving as ambassadors for OLLI. All members share responsibility for advancing fundraising initiatives, contributing ideas, and promoting OLLI's values of education, fellowship, and community engagement.

The approximate time commitment is only 10-12 hours per semester.

### Contact the Committee

For questions, ideas, or to learn more about our upcoming spring initiatives, please contact our Committee Chair:

**Andrea Westerinen** *Chair, OLLI Fundraising Committee* [[arwesterinen@gmail.com](mailto:arwesterinen@gmail.com)]

## Open House 2026

Open House on Jan. 6 was a big success. 120 new members signed in, and there were more than 350 people in the building.

The Spring Open House is usually smaller than the Fall event, but we nearly matched it.

Last August Open House attracted 125 new members and there were more than 300 people attending. In January 2025 there were 125 new members signed in, and more than 300 people in the building.

# New Member Profile – Jane L. Mitchell

Jean Youkers

Meet Jane L. Mitchell, an enthusiastic OLLI-W member who is among the 300 new members who joined us for Fall Semester 2025.

Jane grew up in Maryland and graduated from pharmacy school at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. For 32 years, she was a pharmacist and co-owner of an independent pharmacy in Cecil County, Md. Next, she worked for a pharmacy chain and was part of a traveling vaccination team that administered COVID vaccines during the pandemic. Traveling to schools, workplaces, and other venues throughout Delaware, she became familiar with the Wilmington area and beyond.

When she retired, Jane researched opportunities to learn new things, including fun courses that she didn't have time for when she was working. **She found OLLI.** After viewing the website and brochures that she requested, Jane attended Open House and signed up that same day. She was glad there were volunteers available to assist with registration, and she also attended



Jane Mitchell (right, front) works on her ceramic project at the “Newbie Table” in Ceramic Techniques for All Workshop. Seated beside her are Susan Lake and Lisette Bryant. On the left are Karla Saffos (front), instructor Linda Simon (standing) and Lynne Kaplan.

the Meet and Greet for new members early in the semester.

Jane chose three courses for her first semester — chorus, ceramics, and cartooning. She enjoyed working on projects in Ceramic Techniques for All Workshop, sitting at the “Newbie Table,” where everyone was new to ceramics. She em-

braced the variety of lovely music in Chorus, noting that director Bob Violette helped her to strengthen her voice. Becky Varlas's Cartoon Art class was a source of more new challenges, as well as laughter.

After finding that she has “a smidgen of artistic talent” from taking Cartoon Art, Jane plans to expand her drawing skills in future classes. She'll continue with her ceramics classes this semester, as well as joining the Solid Gold Singers and taking a fun sounding five-week magic course. She also looks forward to volunteering for committees, including the social committee.

“I'm glad that I found OLLI,” Jane says. “It has allowed me extra opportunities to keep busy, meet like-minded people and enjoy the courses that I've wanted to take for a while. And I've met a lot of new and creative people at OLLI – members, volunteers and instructors.”

Jane has encouraged friends to join OLLI-W. “I told them I found the best thing to keep me busy,” she says. “I'm doing my bucket list!”

## Catalog Cover

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### Art in the Mind's Eye

Rick says when he would visit art museums, he would admire all the works of art he was looking at.

Through his classes at OLLI, Rick says he has discovered that painting “looks very simple, but it's not.”

“It's humbling that this painting has been chosen for the catalog cover,” Rick said. “I don't think this is one of my best paintings.”

When he brought the painting home, Rick says his wife loved the bottom half (the flowers) but didn't like the sky as much.

“That's something else I've learned,” Rick said. “Art is in the mind's eye. Either you like it or you don't like it.

“And that's OK. It's like when I go to a museum.

There are paintings that I look at, that I appreciate the painting, but it doesn't appeal to me.”

When Rick talked about his painting and his experiences at OLLI-W, it was during the unusually cold December we had this year.

Even though the second OLLI-W semester is called “Spring,” it begins the first week in February.

For me, Rick's painting on the OLLI-W Spring 2026 catalog cover provides a reminder that Spring is just around the corner. The gray Winter sky and cold will give way to warmth, leading to greenery and blooming flowers, just like in Rick's painting – including the swoopy clouds.

A reminder: Works by students in OLLI-W Fine Arts courses are featured in Arsht Hall. Take time to look at them. Maybe they'll inspire you to sign up for a course even if you've never created that type of art before.

## Three New OLLI Scholars Debut Courses This Spring

Rebecca Worley

Last fall, we introduced our first two OLLI Scholars to the community, and they got rave reviews. Pamela Ahern introduced us to the history of Scotland, focusing particularly on Mary Queen of Scots, who battled with her cousin Elizabeth for the British throne. She gave us an “insider’s perspective” on the politics of the time. And Mackenzie Ninness taught us all about the Delaware prison system, particularly its impact on women, reasons for their incarceration, and its effect on their lives and families. She even brought in a former inmate as a guest speaker, a surgical nurse in fact, who told us her specific story. Three OLLI Scholars return this spring.



The first is Sydney Dyck who will share with us her considerable “on the ground” experience with the aftermath of such disasters as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and tornadoes in *The Sociology of Disasters*. Recovering from these events takes time, and help for victims to cope with the problems of acquiring food and water, obtaining prescription medications, and finding housing. Renters and people living in mobile or manufactured homes are most vulnerable. She will share with us case studies about specific disasters, including the Haitian earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, and the repeat storms in North Carolina and Texas. She’s been there and will give us first-hand insight, as well as tips about preparing for disasters. Her course is scheduled for the first 5-week session, on Wednesdays, from 12:45 to 2:00 in Arsht Hall.

During the second 5-week session, we will welcome two more OLLI Scholars. Tristan Mabee, a Ph.D. student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is offering a course on *Chemistry in the Kitchen*. Did you know that cooking, especially baking, is a lesson in chemistry? His topics will include water, salts, acids and bases, and the Maillard Reaction (non-enzymatic browning). By the end of the course, members will take home useful recipes based on the ingredients discussed in each topic and information about the chemical processes behind cooking that grandparents can share with their grandchildren while teaching them to cook. There are no prerequisites required, and the course runs on Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:15, in Arsht Hall.



The last of the OLLI Scholars for this spring, Ayham Ghith, a graduate student in Medical and Molecular Biology, will offer a course on *Medicine Beyond Earth* during the second 5-week session. He has been intrigued for some time with the impact of space exploration on human physiology. He will talk about how space travel affects the human body and how medicine has adapted to the risks associated with spaceflight. This is an interdisciplinary course that integrates biology, medicine, engineering, physics and chemistry, but it does not require any prior knowledge. Class members will also learn how health is maintained aboard the International Space Station and will get a glimpse into the future of human spaceflight plans, including the NASA Artemis program missions. His course is offered on Thursdays, from 10:45 to 12:00, again in Arsht Hall.

If one of these topics piques your interest, please register and attend the course.

**UD by the Sea**  
**May 19-22, 2026**  
**Rehoboth Beach, Del.**  
 Visit [olli.udel.edu/ud-by-the-sea](http://olli.udel.edu/ud-by-the-sea) for details

**OLLI Monthly News in Wilmington**  
<http://www.olli.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/>

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