



October 27, 2017 OLLI News

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Coffee & Conversation

The next **Connect with Coffee & Conversation** will be from **1:15-1:45 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 1**, in the Fifth Floor Social Space. The theme is **Meet Your Neighbors.**

Member Directory

The Member Directory is available to [download online](#). Paper copies are available outside the office.

This is a good time to make sure your information is correct. If anything needs to be corrected, you can update it in your record

From Sylvia M. Burwell Office of the President

Dear AU Family,

There will be lots of firsts for me this year, and I just enjoyed another one — All-American Weekend.

Some of the highlights included our President's Circle Celebration for donors, the annual Alumni Awards Dinner, the presentation of Gabrielle Union by the Kennedy Political Union (KPU), and a very successful Multicultural Alumni Reunion. It was a terrific opportunity to welcome our alumni back to campus and to meet so many parents and families. Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who planned and hosted dozens of events.

But it's not just All-American Weekend. Since the last time I wrote, a lot has happened! All our students have arrived, the faculty is back in full force, and we enjoyed Welcome Week. Stephen and I even brought Helene and Matthew, our children, to see the Capitol Steps — an AU tradition. Though I hope they didn't understand all the jokes. . . .

We kept up another great AU tradition — convocation — as our community welcomed in the Class of 2021 and new transfer students.

In addition, I've had the chance to meet with groups of student leaders, faculty, staff, and leadership. These meetings have been everywhere from the Bridge, to my office, to TDR. (Please keep me away from the chocolate chip cookies!) I continue to learn more about my new campus community and Eagleology.

And we've had a chance to celebrate some proud **AU achievements:**

- Our contributions to the LIGO project, which won this year's Nobel Prize in Physics. Professor Greg Harry and AU senior Maya Kinley-Hanlon led the

by going to https://olli-dc.org/join_mailing_list. Click the link under **Update Account**. If you are not included in the directory, change your settings under **Exclude from Directory** and let the office know. If a box is checked, that information will **not** be included in the directory.

Daniel Sachs' New Book

Daniel Sachs, an OLLI participant and SGL since 2011, has written a biography of Max Windmueller, *During the Holocaust, Max made it his mission to bring Jewish youngsters across three borders from the Netherlands to safety in Spain, and ultimately paid the price for his heroism. The book, entitled *To Save One Life*, is available by contacting the author at sachs11md@gmail.com, or through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Download a [PDF](#) with a full description of the book.*

Upcoming Trips

Two OLLI trips are scheduled for this fall:
1) **Annual Civil War**

only team in the DC area to contribute.

- AU alumna Carmen Maria Machado, class of 2007, was named a finalist for the National Book Award.
- We celebrated the opening of the new Antiracist Research and Policy Center, created and led by Professor Ibram Kendi.
- We welcomed Dr. Fanta Aw to her new role as vice president for campus life.

While we celebrate the great things our campus community has accomplished in just the past few months, our university leadership is always looking ahead.

Learn more about the progress of some of our campus initiatives and programs...:

- **Shaping Strategy.** Faculty, staff, and administrative leaders gathered at the 2017 AU Leadership Retreat to begin conversations about AU's mission, vision, values, and strategy.
- **Diversity and Inclusion.** Based on input that has been gathered from members of the AU campus community, we have begun development of a new diversity and inclusion strategy.
- **New Spaces to Enhance the Student Experience.** From the Hub and the Bridge to our new food pantry, the Market, designed to help alleviate food insecurity, our campus is now home to new gathering spaces and resources for students.
- **Learning from Leaders.** Our students have had special opportunities to learn from some notable guests in the last month, including Malala Yousafzai, our 2017 Wonk of the Year.
- **Support for Those Affected by Disasters.** We reached out beyond our campus to those affected by the hurricanes in Texas, Georgia, Florida, the Caribbean and Puerto Rico, by the wildfires in California, or by the earthquake in Mexico.
- **Title IX.** The Secretary of Education recently announced that the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights would rescind the 2011 guidance to universities about how to prevent and respond to sexual assault. In response, AU affirmed our commitment to fair and equitable processes.
- **Army Corps of Engineers Upcoming Work.** For members of the campus community who are new, like me, we recently provided a history and update on the current work of the Army Corps of

Trip to Gettysburg
Wed., Nov. 8. [Read details and register online.](#)

2) Trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to view **Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China** on Sat., Dec. 2. [Read details and register online.](#)

Engineers.

We're off to an exciting start for the 2017-2018 academic year. I look forward to seeing you all out on campus!

Sylvia M. Burwell

President, American University

The Middle East Institute & OLLI: Partners in Education

The [Middle East Institute](#) (MEI) and OLLI have been collaborating for nearly 10 years, bringing MEI's scholars to OLLI students to share their in-depth knowledge and experience of the region.

MEI is a think tank in the traditional sense: we advise governments, agencies, corporations, and the public through the production of balanced research and analysis. Our public events and published research highlight our experts from the U.S. and the Middle East.

But we're much more than a think tank. We also teach the languages of the Middle East, and maintain a 20,000+ volume library, including some rare works over 300 years old, plus maps, prints, and a collection of 18,500 slides of the entire region taken between the years 1950-2000. MEI has an active internship and professional development program to train the next generation for international careers, and a new and growing arts and culture program that highlights performers, poets, writers, musicians, and visual artists from the Middle East.

MEI is now in the middle of a historic expansion. I'd like to invite each of you to [join MEI](#). Members get invited to private events throughout the year, get a subscription to our flagship *Middle East Journal*, one of the leading academic publications in the world about the Middle East, and discounts to our annual banquet — which is coming up in just a few weeks.

Please join us for our [71st Annual Awards Banquet and Conference](#) on November 14-15, 2017 at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington DC. Every year MEI's gala brings together hundreds of Middle Eastern and American ambassadors and diplomats, Fortune 100 business leaders, and

international policymakers. Banquet tickets can be purchased [here](#). The next day, November 15, is MEI's [2017 Annual Conference: "Conflicts, Costs, and Policy Pathways."](#) The conference is free, but you must register, as seating is very limited. Please feel free to contact Kevin Cowl, Vice President for Development, with questions about MEI membership, the banquet, or any general inquiries at 202.785.1141 x213 or kcowl@mei.edu.



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