



**OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE
AT AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY**

**2018–2019
ANNUAL
REPORT**

OUR HISTORY

Established in 1982 as the Institute for Learning in Retirement as part of the Continuing Education Department of American University, OLLI at AU was invited to become an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in 2005. As a member of the larger Osher Lifelong Learning Institute network, we are one of 124 institutes nationwide funded in part by the Bernard Osher Foundation, which is dedicated to educational opportunities for seasoned learners.

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The 2018-19 year brought many accomplishments for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University.

- Reached our highest enrollment of 1546 members
- Offered a record 243 classes
- Installed hearing assistance devices in Lecture Hall A
- Collaborated with other organizations to increase our diversity
- Launched the Welcomers program to reach out to new members
- Continued to strengthen our ties to American University, including growing our partnership between OLLI members and International Accelerator Program students

Our vantage point in this Annual Report of our small liberal-arts-college-like organization, is primarily quantitative. While the numbers tell us a lot, they can't begin to capture what the study groups mean to members. Some of the testimonials included here speak to the delight year after year in learning something new or revisiting material we have loved and been away from for many years. Other testimonials affirm what this community means to us. For some, the academic experience alone suffices; for others the social interactions, in and out of class, are equally important.

Pausing once a year to reflect on all that has been accomplished is worthwhile. It helps us this year to appreciate what Tony Long in his first year as Executive Director and his dedicated staff—Mary Fran Miklitsch, Lesley Diaz, Jesse Williams, and Terri Greene—along with hundreds of hardworking volunteers have accomplished.

I hope that you will be inspired by what you read in the following pages to get involved in ways that are rewarding for you!

Martha C. Cutts

Chair, Board of Directors

OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BY THE NUMBERS

1546

The number of unique
OLLI at AU members
in 2018–2019

“In my years of teaching at OLLI, I have been impressed by the generosity of my students to one another and to me. From the wealth of their years of experience in family and work, in travel and adventure, in joy and sorrow, **they offer so much to their classmates—questions and insights, memories and discoveries.**

It is a pleasure to share stories, poems, plays in an OLLI class. We all learn from each other.”

— SUE WILLENS

A record of 243 classes were offered in 2018–19, representing a fascinating diversity of topics ranging from “Aristotle” to “Broadway’s Black Divas of the 1920s” and “Other Minds: The Octopus and Origins of Intelligence” to “Understanding Asia.” There was something for every member. The expertise, love of learning, and commitment that our 241 Study Group Leaders brought to bear made our study groups—the heart of our program—a key reason members appreciate and share their enthusiasm for OLLI at AU.

We also ran two pilot programs with an eye toward innovation. To gauge interest in afternoon classes, we offered one February Short from 3:45–5:15 PM. To broaden our outreach and attract greater diversity, three January classes were offered in Wards 1 and 4.



A TRIBUTE TO OLLI AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDER TINA FRIED HELLER



In 1980, three soon-to-be retirees developed a proposal to create a volunteer membership organization which would hold peer-led, academic study groups and which would also encourage a sense of community.

Their proposal was eventually accepted by American University in 1982. The Institute for

Learning in Retirement (ILR) came into being with 80 members and 11 study groups.

One founder, Tina Fried Heller, remains a member today. Tina has been an indefatigable advocate for OLLI at AU. She served as a Board member for six years, recruited the AU Schools of International Service and Public Affairs and the College of Arts and Sciences to offer study groups, encouraged numerous friends and acquaintances to join, and promoted OLLI at virtually every opportunity. Were it not for her, we would not be here today, nor would OLLI at AU be the very successful organization it is, with more than 1500 members and more than 90 study groups each semester. When you see her in the hallway or in class, please say, “Hello!”

BY THE NUMBERS

243

The number of study groups offered in 2018–2019, including **117** new ones

“As a lover of American history, I have taken great courses on the Civil War, the American Revolution, Famous American Trials, and the Gilded Age. But I also appreciate the opportunity to expand my areas of knowledge: science—the Big Bang theory and the Cloud, music—19th Century Romantic Composers, and the arts—a great course on American architecture. **OLLI is the complete package.**”

— CHUCK EDSON



LECTURES

The Lecture Committee presented 28 speakers in 2018–19. These titles are just a sampling of the enlightening talks:

- “Chocolate City,” George Derek Musgrove
- “Investigative Journalism: The Best and Worst of Times,” Charles Lewis
- “China’s War on Terrorism,” Justin Jacobs
- “Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II,” Liza Mundy
- “A Museum for African Americans: 100 Years in the Making,” Robert Wilkins
- “How Are American Elections Changing?,” Ron Elving
- “Prisoner: 544 Days in Evin Prison,” Jason Rezaian
- “Mandela and deKlerk: The Miracle,” William Lucas

SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to academic programs, OLLI offered numerous special events in 2018–19, including:

- “Live & About” Music-Theatre Group
- Free Minds Poetry Workshop
- Lecture on health care by AU President Sylvia M. Burwell
- 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Conference
- Special lecture by the Washington Ballet
- James Joyce Birthday Celebration
- French Music for Piano and Strings, sponsored by OLLI at AU and The Palmer Project
- Arlington National Cemetery Tour

BY THE NUMBERS

241

The number of study group leaders in 2018–2019, including **31** new ones

“I have been a member of OLLI at AU for about nine years and have found it a wonderful opportunity to explore a variety of classes and to meet interesting people. I have taken and thoroughly enjoyed many literature, history, and (surprise to me) science classes, as well as art history and music classes. ... I have enjoyed the classes so much that I have been **raving about them to friends over the years** and a number have signed up.”

— DIANE RENFROE



STUDY GROUP LEADER SERVICE AWARDS



25+ YEARS

Sandra Levenbook

20-24 YEARS

Linda Freeman
Irwin Lebow
Arnold Leibowitz
Jenny Pierson

15-19 YEARS

Larry Heilman
Lois Steinitz

10-14 YEARS

Mary Bullock
Bob Coe
Barbara Coleman
Leslie Frantz
Dave Freeman
Susan Goodman
Bob Hausman
Eleanor Heginbotham
Jaleh Labib
Iris Lipkowitz
Virginia Newmyer
Dave Palmeter
John D. Peterson
Mary Poole
Helen Schwartz
Nancy Jo Snider
Karuna Srimati
Andrew White
Susan Willens
Peter Wolfe
Michael Yahuda

5-9 YEARS

Ahmed Achrati
Roberta Benor
Josh Berman
Don Bliss
Barry Bortnick
John Bowen
Hanne Caraher
F.T. Clark
Lewis Cohen
Bruce Eisen
Stephen Elkin
Solomon Glass
Elly Greene

Susan Greif
Rita Hadden
Penny Hansen
Carol Hausman
David Hurwitz
Arthur Katz
Erich Keel
Karen Gail Lewis
Carol Light
Jack Lipson
Stephen Litwin
Ellen Moody
Daniel Moskowitz
Rose Mosner
Mark Nadel
Louis Nevins
Stan Newman
Charles O'Connor
Van Ooms
Ronald Parlato
Judith Plotz
John Poole
Jacques Read
Ronald Ridker
Markley Roberts
Mary Schwartz
Betsy Seastrum
Arthur Siebens
Ellen Siegler
Marilyn Smith
Ray Squitieri
Diane Swan
Wendel Swan
John Vorhes
Sarah Whitener
Mark Zweig

UP TO 5 YEARS

Judy Alden
Graham Atkinson
Joe Belden
Brad Bickford
Barbara Bird
Richard Boardman
Evelyne Bonhomme
Monroe Brett
Shelley Brody
Paul Brown

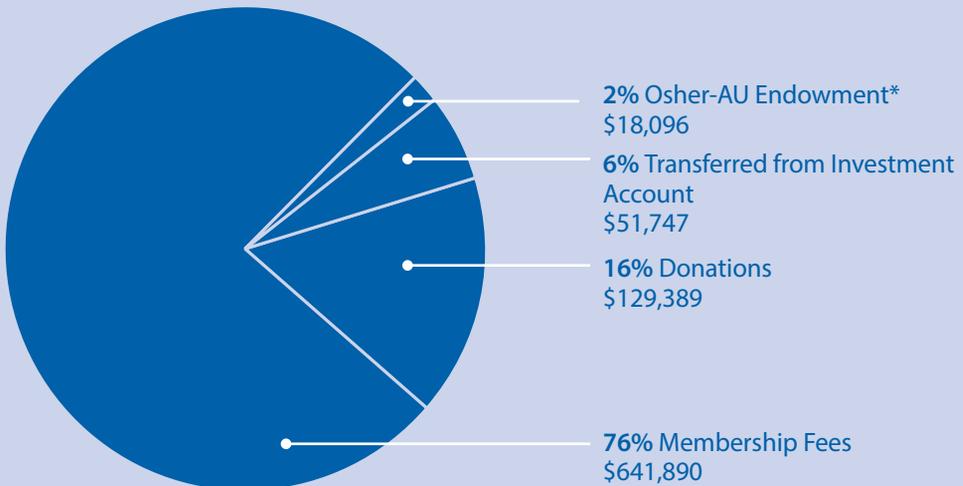
Karen Buglass
Ralph Buglass
Ilsa Bush
Gary Cahn
Joseph Casazza
Albert Cheh
Richard Chipkin
Fredric Clarke
Marion Connell
Joseph Cotruvo
Dan Coyle
Robert Croog
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Susan Drobis
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Robert Feldhuhn
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P. Lance Graef
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Frances Grigsby
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Heather Heckel
Kenneth Hinga
James Holman
Edward Ingebretsen
Miriam Isaacs
Sarah Kass
Eric Kearsley
Catharine Keatley
Minerva Keller
Al Kilborne
Leonard King
Stephen Klatsky
Alan Kogan
Robert Kolodney
Chuck Lefton
Lisa Leinberger
Arthur Levine
Lynn Lewis
Raymond Maxwell
William Metler
Caroline Mindel

Arrigo Mongini
Betty Monkman
James Nathan
Elsa Newmyer
Harrison Owen
Richard R. Palmer
John Parascondola
John F. Peterson
Stuart Pierson
Frederick Pollack
David Pomerantz
Joseph Reo
Victor Rezmovic
Richard Ringell
Don Ross
Catherine Sandifer
Gene Schaefer
Susan Schneider
Dennis Shaw
Elizabeth Shelton
Dan Sherman
Elaine Showalter
Martin Silfen
Robert Somers
Patricia Spector
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Karen Stewart
James Stone
Susan Strasser
Jonathan Sunshine
Al Taran
Susan Urofsky
Barton Veret
Judith Wagner
Edward Ward
Joan Weber
Carl Weichel
Kimberly Weichel
Vera Wilhelm
Xenia Wilkinson
Peter Wilson
Anders Zeijlon

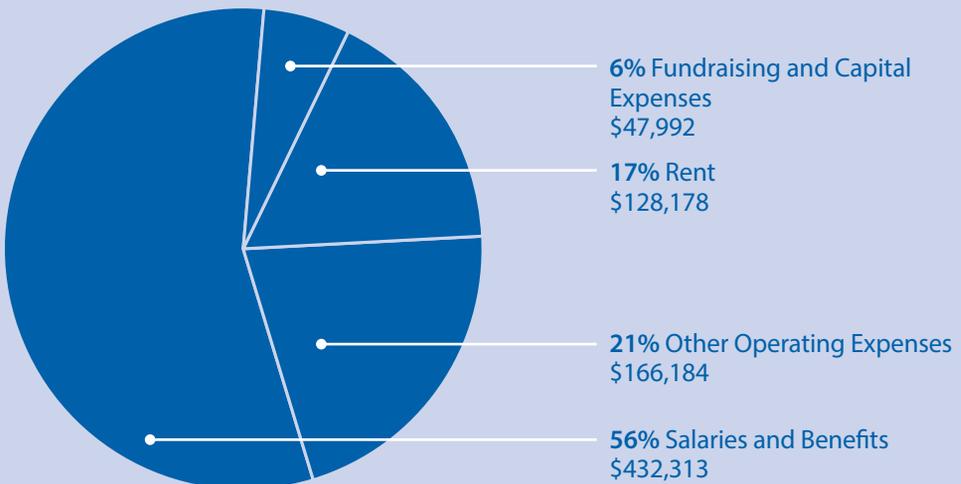
FINANCIAL REPORT

Developing a budget that is heavily dependent on enrollment numbers can be challenging, but the hard work of the Board Finance Committee and the Executive Director produced a budget that served us well. We completed the fiscal year with a small surplus and a clean audit. Donations from 351 members and friends of OLLI at AU provided \$129,389. We continue to have as a primary financial goal keeping tuition reasonable and affordable.

INCOME

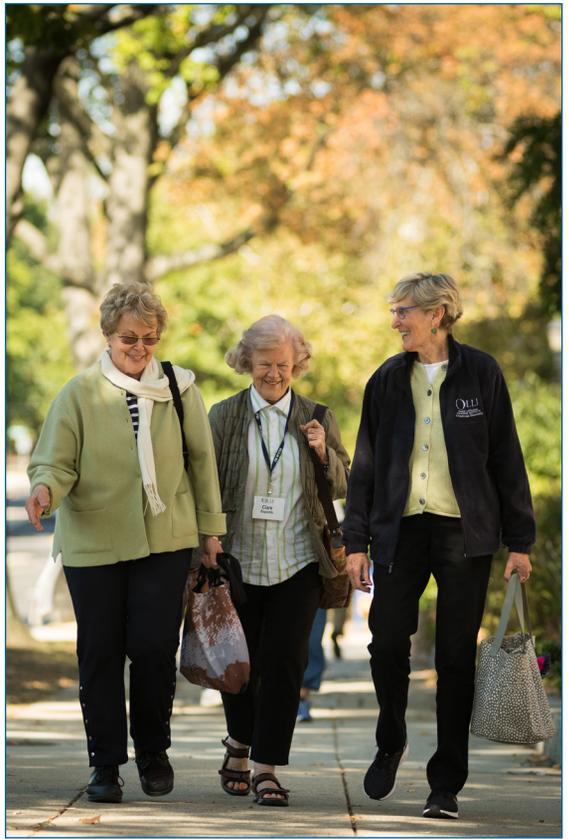


EXPENSES



Net surplus FY 2018–2019: \$44,699.84, which includes net earnings on the OLLI at AU investment account. The balance in the OLLI at AU investment account on June 30, 2019: \$1,059,553.

*This amount reflects only a partial payment as AU changed its fiscal year in 2018–19. The remaining endowment income was received in the new fiscal year.



2018–2019 DONORS

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Mildred Kiefer Wurf
Machiko Yoshinaga
Ellen and Bernard Young
Sally and Anders Zeijlon

BY THE NUMBERS

351

The number of members
and friends who donated
to OLLI at AU
in 2018–2019

RAYMOND J. RASENBERGER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Anonymous
Nancy Rasenberger
Eve and Richard Robins
Ellen Siegler

Margaret Tutwiler
Zuckert, Scoutt &
Rasenberger

ANNE N. WALLACE FUND FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Betsy Loyless
Jennifer and Stuart Pierson
Diane Renfroe

Betsy Seastrum
Marianne Soponis
Machiko Yoshinaga

“OLLI is the continuation
of the amazing journey of
lifelong learning and personal
fulfillment through **belonging**
to a wonderful community.”

— STAN NEWMAN

We have made every effort to ensure all of the above information is correct. We apologize for any errors. Please contact us if a correction is needed.

BY THE NUMBERS

563

The number of volunteer roles filled by members in 2018–2019

“Being part of OLLI takes me back to the spirit of my college days (without the pressure of tests!). I savor the readings and the lively discussions during class times. I’m constantly inspired by fellow life learners and wise, generous teachers.”

— EILEEN KESSLER

SUPPORTING OLLI

The Board of Directors and OLLI at AU staff know that our membership is deeply committed to our program, its offerings, and the vibrant community we all enjoy. This Annual Report provides a detailed overview of the 2018–2019 year. As annual operating expenses increase, please support what you love and help us to:

- Guarantee that we can continue to keep tuition at a level that is affordable to our members,
- Ensure that we can continue to meet our needs for classroom space and technology, and
- Pay for future facility needs, support the development of our staff, and meet unforeseen future expenses.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

OLLI at AU is academically robust, financially stable, and organizationally sound and professional. The strong sense of community provides for social interactions that keep us connected. We have an excellent Executive Director who has developed a strong, collaborative professional staff of five, a Board of Directors committed to responsible oversight, and scores of faithful volunteers who serve on over a dozen committees. We are proud of our success in providing a program dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that curiosity never retires. We have every reason to believe that the future of OLLI at AU is bright. We encourage those who want to learn more and see our program in action to visit our website at olli-dc.org and to schedule a visit to our campus.

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

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