



Where Curiosity Never Retires



NOVEMBER 30, 2018 OLLI NEWS

Letter from the Chair



BUILDING THE AU RELATIONSHIP

In early November, OLLI at AU welcomed nearly 400 members and AU students, faculty, and administrators to Kerwin Hall for a lecture by University President Sylvia Burwell followed by a Katzen Center reception. In her remarks, President Burwell reviewed the Past, Present, and Future of the Affordable Care Act, which she shaped as Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services. After her talk and on behalf of the OLLI membership, I was honored to present President Burwell with a \$500 gift for the university's Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars Program.

The event underscored the strong and growing ties between OLLI and American University and highlighted our lifelong learning program as a valued and contributing part of the university community.

It wasn't always so. Perhaps like yours, my introduction to OLLI took place in the basement of the Temple Baptist Church, an inadequate space available to us for only a few months of the year. I knew that OLLI was somehow connected to American University, but apart from one or two excellent courses taught each semester by generous AU faculty, there was little other evidence of the relationship.

In the fall of 2016 we made the long-anticipated move into the Spring Valley Building establishing all our classes, lectures, offices, and social space under one roof. With great classroom technology and fully modern, functional spaces, we were finally in a facility worthy of the OLLI mission.

As we made ourselves at home, we began to realize the benefits of a strong relationship with the university. Additional AU schools and departments are contributing to our academic program. For the first time this fall, faculty from the AU Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Math & Statistics, and Physics led a very well received STEM course. AU interns provide valuable help to our office staff, and twenty-two OLLI members are currently partnering with an equal number of AU international students for English language conversation and cross-cultural exchange.

In the months and years ahead, we look forward to strengthening these OLLI-AU ties, as we find additional ways to collaborate around our shared values of academic excellence, service, and lifelong learning.

Denise Liebowitz,
Chair, Board of Directors

Wanted: Study Group Rep Co-Coordinator

OLLI is looking for an additional volunteer to serve as Study Group Rep (SGR) Coordinator with Ginny DeRoze. For each academic session - Fall/Spring, February and July Shorts, and June Minis - coordinators help to find SGRs for the study groups. (SGRs play a vital role in ensuring classes run smoothly: taking attendance, making announcements, letting the office know of any technology problems in the classroom, and circulating the class thank you card, among other duties.)

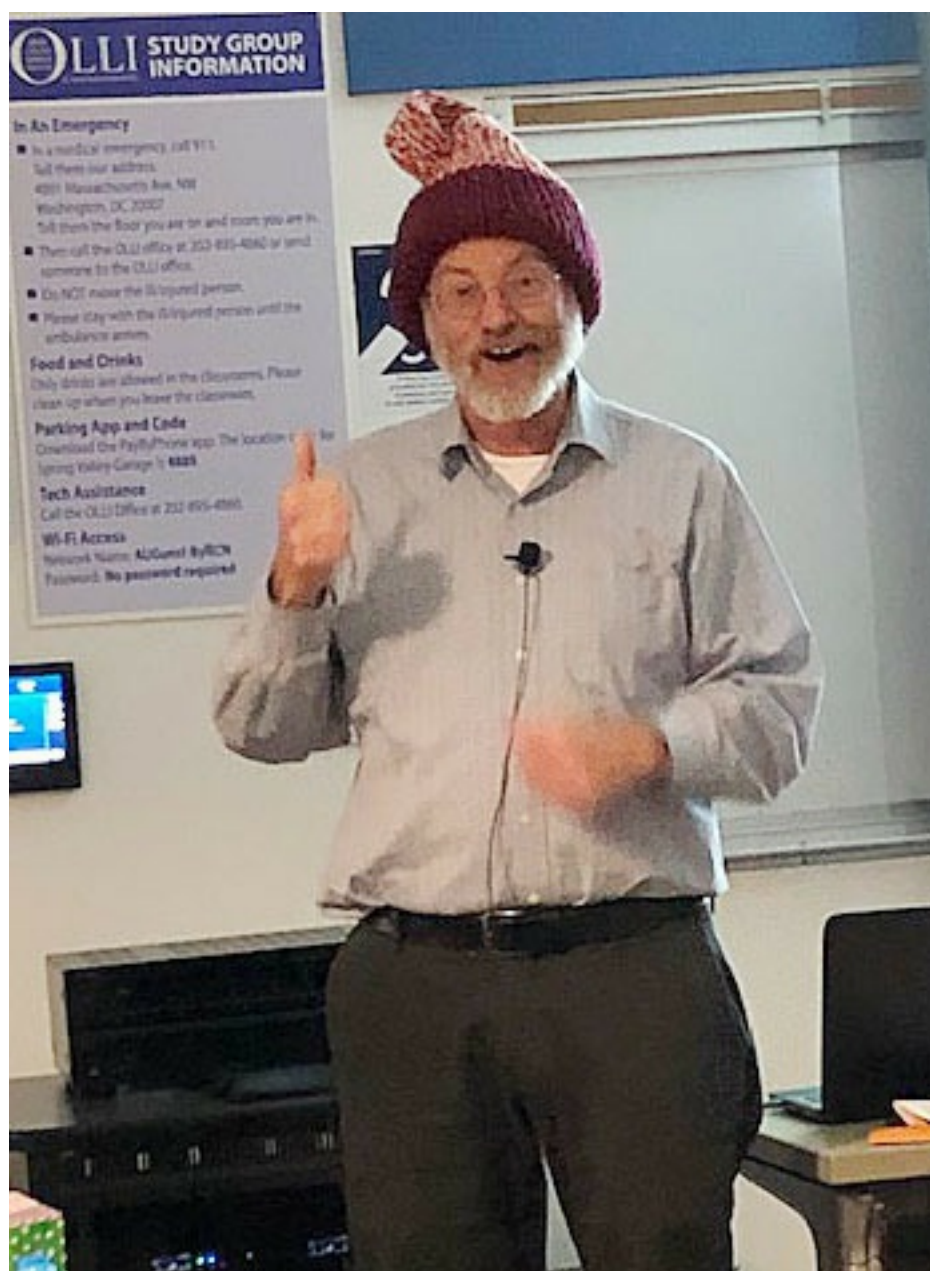
Some study group leaders select their own SGRs directly. Otherwise, SGR Coordinators are provided with a list of members who have expressed interest in being SGR for each study group, or the attendance list if there are no volunteers. Coordinators then call members before classes start in order to find an SGR for each study group.

For more information about being an SGR Coordinator, or to volunteer, please e-mail olli@american.edu.

Summer Curriculum Coordinators

OLLI is looking for several enthusiastic volunteers to help coordinate its summer academic programming for the June Minis and July Shorts. These programs run four weeks and one week, respectively. Summer Curriculum Coordinators will work closely with OLLI staff and be responsible for soliciting proposals, acknowledging receipt of proposals, and communicating with potential study group leaders. Interest and/or experience in at least one of the subject areas is preferable but not necessary. A love of OLLI's academic programming and a desire to help it grow is necessary. If you're interested in learning more about this position, please contact Lesley Diaz at ldiaz@american.edu.

Klein Bottle Hat



Eric Kearsley, Study Group Leader of Great Moments in 20th Century Physics, is moving to Pennsylvania. In honor of him, Martha Cutts knitted a hat in the shape of a [Klein Bottle](#), a single-sided shape similar to a [Möbius Strip](#). As you can see from the photo, Eric was delighted with the gift, certainly a unique reminder of his days with OLLI at American University.

Upcoming Events at OLLI at AU

HOLIDAY PARTY & ART SHOW

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

6th Floor, Spring Valley Building, 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Remember! You can register for the annual OLLI Holiday Party through Wed., Dec. 5. There will be wine and hors d'oeuvres. The cost is \$30 per person. [Register online](#) or pick up a paper form outside the OLLI office.

Upcoming Events at American University

FILMS ACROSS BORDERS: STORIES OF WOMEN -- SCREENING OF FACES PLACES

School of Communications

Wed, December 5, 2018

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST (6:30 pm Reception; 7 pm Film Screening)

Free, but reservations recommended. Seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

RSVP <https://facesplacesfilmsacrossborders.eventbrite.com>

In Faces Places legendary filmmaker Agnès Varda Director and photographer/muralist J.R. enjoy a series of meandering road trips through rural France in this poignant and charming documentary.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Our Mission

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University is an association of, by, and for the people in the Washington, DC area who wish to continue to study and learn. OLLI at AU is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that curiosity never retires.

Website www.oli-dc.org | Phone **202-895-4860** | E-mail oli@american.edu
Study Group Location **4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW**

Mailing Address 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016
Tony Long, *Executive Director* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Director of Planning*
Lesley Diaz, *Academic Programs Coordinator*
Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*
Terri Greene, *Administrative Coordinator*

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