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Where Curiosity Never Retires



March 13, 2020 OLLI NEWS

OLLI Spring 2020 Semester

As most of you know by now, OLLI at AU has suspended all in-person classes through our spring semester. Many of our classes will continue online—a list of the status of all classes was emailed to Spring 2020 registrants. We hope you will explore this new online format as we work through this as a community of learners. For those whose classes are cancelled for this semester, we hope that you will consider the [classes being held online](#). **Please be assured that today will not be the last day for refund requests. Only request a refund today via our website if you know you are not going to want any online classes. Thank you for your support during these difficult times for all, and we will be in touch with you at the beginning part of next week.**

Board of Director Elections in the Time of COVID-19

Through wind, rain, sleet, snow, and spreading virus, the OLLI Board of Directors election goes forward.

After inviting recommendations from the OLLI membership, this year's Nominating Committee (Denise Liebowitz, Chair; John Aldock; Bob Kolodney; Sue Edson; and Elly Greene), has developed a list of four candidates to fill the four positions on the Board of Directors becoming vacant in June 2020. The Committee believes these candidates have amply demonstrated the skills, experience, background and energy needed for OLLI at AU leadership. The list, which the Board has approved, will appear on the ballot for the election that is scheduled for April. The Board-approved candidates are:



John Bargeron, an OLLI member since 2014, is currently the Coordinator of the Welcomer program and a member of the Membership and Outreach Committee. He previously served as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2019 Board elections and has served as SGR for multiple classes over the years. John's professional experience includes more than 35 years with the US State Department, specializing in the Middle East and transnational organized crime. He has served in Jerusalem, Cairo, Tel Aviv, and Managua, and as Chief of Civilian Observers with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), the peacekeeping force between Israel and Egypt based in the Sinai. Other foreign affairs experience includes a two-year detail to the Pentagon to work on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Before joining the State Department, John taught modern European history at Cedar Crest College. He has degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (graduate) and Emory University (undergraduate).



Judy Havemann* has been a member of OLLI for six years during which she has coordinated study groups on international policy called the Scholars' World Series, chaired the lecture committee, and served as Board Vice Chair. She is a retired 30-year editor and reporter for The Washington Post, a former deputy editor of the Wilson Quarterly, and is retired from the National Endowment for the Humanities. A former foreign reporter for The Post, she has edited Virginia, Maryland, and national news, and directed newsroom recruiting and hiring. She retired as the food editor and is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland.



Dave Hensler has been an OLLI member for five years, is currently serving on the Finance Committee and the Investment Subcommittee, and was recently asked to join the Lecture Committee. Dave assisted OLLI in getting a substantial increase in its annual payment from the AU Endowment and in improving the investment return on the Friends of OLLI Fund. In Dave's view, the Board's principal responsibilities should be to continue the good work that OLLI's recent leadership has done in strengthening the OLLI staff, rationalizing the budget process, and increasing the classroom space available to OLLI, as well as to prepare OLLI to meet the unexpected challenges that will inevitably occur. Dave is currently on the Board of Directors of the Duke Ellington Fund and is a Trustee of the Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Dave is also the outside General Counsel, on a pro bono basis, for the largest Native American scholarship fund. Dave is a Senior Counsel at Hogan Lovells US LLP.



John Thorner* began his first Board term as a participant in the Strategic Planning process. Concurrently, he worked to align the strategic plan with a financial plan. As part of that plan, he formulated an investment policy for the Friends of OLLI Fund, and now chairs OLLI's Investment Subcommittee. Additionally, John chairs OLLI's Membership and Outreach Committee with an eye to growing membership consistent with the strategic and financial plans. In his early career, John worked as a reporter, government lawyer, and association lobbyist. Later, he began leading associations, including those representing dentists, anesthesiologists, and physicists.

***Current Board Member standing for a second three-year term**

The OLLI Annual Meeting will take place on **Friday, April 3** and will be conducted online with candidates giving brief remarks to introduce themselves. Stay tuned for further information about how to remotely participate in the Annual Meeting. Online balloting will begin at this time and election results will be announced on **April 20**.

Members interested in being placed on the ballot as at-large candidates can do so by filing a self-nomination petition supported by the signatures of 10 OLLI members. Candidates meeting the 10-member signature requirement will automatically appear on the ballot. The deadline for submitting at-large petitions is **Monday, March 30**. As part of the petition, candidates should provide a photo (a smartphone photo will be fine) and a brief bio of no more than 100 words. Interested candidates should contact the OLLI office for the petition form and other details.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY MISSION

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