A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome! A new year of opportunities is about to get underway. The autumn lecture series spans an amazingly wide range of topics, from the microscopic particles that can cause (or cure) disease, to the stars in the night sky. The Lunch and Learn series will focus on entertainment this year, and some marvelous speakers will be sharing their insights with us. This fall’s special events include a visit to one of Nashville’s treasures, Cheekwood, as well as a chance for a train excursion at the height of fall foliage. This year, we are also offering a large number of programs in partnership with other agencies, both at Vanderbilt and in the broader community.

Where do all the ideas for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt come from? Much of the credit belongs, of course, to our wonderful staff. Our Director, Norma Clippard, and her associate Dottie Rager, are truly a dynamic duo. These opportunities are also the outcome of many hours of work by our three committees, Curriculum, Lunch and Learn and Special Events. The seasoned chairs of those committees, May Dean Eberling and Paul Gherman, have put in dozens and dozens of hours of hard work getting in touch with faculty and evaluating proposals.

Finally, and of particularly great importance in a year when we are trying to expand the range of opportunities we can provide our members, many of our very best offerings are the result of suggestions from individual OLLI at Vanderbilt members who hold no specific office or committee post. Some of those come in the form of suggestions on the evaluation forms we use at the end of each lecture course. Many also come less formally, as ideas expressed in conversations with staff or with members of the Board or of our committees. Please, keep them coming! We need as much participation from every member as we can have. If something occurs to you about a potential topic, or teacher, or activity, please tell Norma, Paul, May Dean or me.

In summary, it looks to be a wonderful fall. To keep things moving this way, we need the fullest participation of every member. Again, welcome and enjoy!

-Bob Covington

CURRICULUM CHAIR’S CORNER

You may have wondered how the Curriculum Committee comes up with the various courses we offer. We attempt to offer a balance of courses across interest areas of our members, including history, literature, music, art, science and medicine. We often return to proven faculty who received high ratings for past classes to see if they have other areas of interest they would like to teach. Another useful way we find interesting classes are by scanning the courses offered to the Freshman Commons. These courses are structured similarly to our needs. The faculty have already put in the effort to develop the class, so they are more willing to teach it again.

Serendipity plays a bit of a role in our offerings. Often faculty approach us with ideas for classes they would like to teach. The Committee often interviews the prospective teacher to explore their ideas to see if they are a match with the interests of our members. At times we have an idea for a class, and we go in search of the right instructor to teach the course, or we create a course ourselves by approaching a number of individuals who might prefer to do one lecture. We are currently working on two classes of this nature: one on the Affordable Care Act and another on the prison system.

We always welcome your ideas and suggestions of exciting faculty we might approach to teach for us.

-Paul Gherman
This excerpt is from the Summer Term Memoir Writing class. Everyone was asked to bring an object or a photo that evoked memories from their past!

The object this author brought in:
A silver trophy/cup about 6 inches high, engraved with:
First Prize
Decorated Boat
Water Carnival
Big Pond, Pa.
August 12, 1911

My father was 4 1/2 years old at that time, and right up to the end of his life at the age of 94 in 2001, he remembered this event vividly. His family enjoyed the cottage on the lake in the foothills of the Pocono Mountains during the summer. I visited there as a child, and it was one of those wonderful Victorian houses with a wrap-around porch with lots of rocking chairs - you could catch the fresh lake breeze wherever you were. Evidently, the Water Carnival was the big event of the summer. The families decorated their rowboats and hoped to close the day with a prize for having “the best decorated”. This was a prize-winning year for his family.

What is remarkable is that 34 years later on August 14, 1945, my family along with all the other lake families, celebrated VJ Day by gathering up all the bells and whistles we could find and threw them into our rowboats. Once we were out in the middle of the lake, we let the world know that WW II had finally come to an end. The next generation of the family was in the same rowboat and very excited once again!

Written by Kay Hall

**Due to space limitations, more submissions from OLLI members can be found at: [http://vanderbilt.edu/olli/class-materials/OLLIMemberStories.pdf](http://vanderbilt.edu/olli/class-materials/OLLIMemberStories.pdf)

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt is truly a member run organization. We’d like to thank all of our members for their participation and a special thank you to all of our volunteers and OLLI board members. Their efforts truly make OLLI at Vanderbilt the wonderful program that it is!

Volunteers for the Fall 2013—Spring 2014 academic year include:

**OLL at VU Board:**
Bob Covington, President
Nancy Adams
Don Bishop
Jim Clapper
May Dean Eberling
Kathy Garthwaite
Paul Gherman
Frank Grace
Betsy Hay
Rich Hohman

**Curriculum Committee:**
Paul Gherman, Chair
Don Bishop
Robert Covington
Paul Elledge
Felicia Gates
Rich Hohman
Stu Miller
Robert Mode
Gene Piontek
Ken Penegar
Bill Schwartz
Patricia Ward

**Special Events Committee:**
Dede Clements
Betty Davies
Fran Free
Betty Lentz

**Lunch & Learn Committee:**
May Dean Eberling, Chair
Adrienne Ames
Karen Davis
Steven Greil
Cynthia Morin
Tim Villager

**OLLI Staff:**
Norma Clippard, Director
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Dottie Rager, Program Coordinator
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Please submit any ideas, photos or suggestions for the spring newsletter. We’d love to hear from you!

“Thank you, Osher program! You have changed my life!”

Lou Outlaw teaching “Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America” at the 1st Amendment Center.