

Interview with Dr. Jan Van Eys

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By Steve Williams

After you retired and came back to Vanderbilt in 1994, the Osher Foundation came along and the OLLI program at Vanderbilt got started in 1995. Your first class in 1995 was "Moral Medicine: A View of Today's Health Care." How did you get involved with OLLI?

When I retired, my wife [a Nashvillian] was very sick. I decided life was too short and moved back here - and my children live here, too. The person who got me involved with OLLI was Billy Bryant. He was on the first Curriculum Committee and asked me to do this. He asked me to make a presentation to OLLI - I think I did it six times.

How did you make the transition from teaching medical students to teaching OLLI members? Was it a big shift?

Well, yes, but not really. It was a group I knew half of already.

You still attend OLLI classes where there are about 1,400 enrolled now.

In the first year there were about 60 members and everybody came to all the lectures.

It's so enjoyable in the OLLI classes to meet such interesting people and get out of the comfort zone of one's own professional background - and you learn something! Now other instructors have stayed a long time - Carole Bucy is wonderful!