What a magnificent term we had this winter! Finance and physics, speeches and Shakespeare, French films and American music, Nashville in the decade of the “war to end all wars”. We enjoyed a true feast for our minds.

Spring term is just as varied. There’s religion and science, art and music, medicine and current events, not to mention witches! Our OLLI Steel Drum band members get more proficient every week and will be continuing their classes this spring. The Lunch and Learn series, focusing on entertainment, have drawn delighted crowds to listen to the sounds of Motown and to see how the puppeteers at the Nashville Public Library work with their magic. Progress in our attempt to promote the OLLI Annual Fund giving is mentioned in this newsletter and more on that soon.

For now, let me ask you two things; first, if you have ideas for courses or events you would like to see in the OLLI at Vanderbilt program, please send them on. Planning for the summer and fall terms are well underway already, but as Curriculum Committee chair Paul Gherman says many times over, we always need fresh thinking. Second, if you know interesting folk who are not attending the OLLI programs, please share our brochures with them and urge them to consider joining us. These courses and events are too good not to be enjoyed by as many people as possible. Finally, thank you again for the opportunity to serve and have a great summer!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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OLLI Updates

Follow OLLI on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLLIVanderbilt

OLLI at The Commons!

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OLLI Fundraising

Thank you to all that have contributed to our successful OLLI at VU fundraising campaign! We began with goals of 20% participation and $20,000 and we are well on our way to meeting those goals. All of you continue to amaze me with your intellect, curiosity, and overall zeal for life and learning. My sincere gratitude to you for the many contributions you make to the success of the OLLI program at Vanderbilt!

Norma C. Clippard
Director, OLLI

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OLLI at The Commons!

CURRICULUM CHAIR’S CORNER

Luck, Serendipity and Who You Know

When I assumed the chair of the Curriculum Committee several years ago, I was quite worried how we would find thirty new courses per year to offer to our members. Actually I was panicked. But after a number of semesters I have learned to relax with the knowledge that somehow we will be able to find really interesting and entertaining courses. The easy part is thinking of great topics to offer. We get a lot of great ideas from our members via the class evaluations and casual conversations after class. And the Committee members are very knowledgeable about a wide variety of disciplines.

The most important part is finding a highly qualified person to teach the course. Luckily we have access to the many talented faculty at Vanderbilt, but also Norma gets calls and emails from individuals who hear about the satisfaction of teaching our very engaged and bright members and want to teach for us. Teaching for OLLI is a very different experience than teaching the undergrads our faculty generally interact with. And this exciting experience keeps them wanting to come back and teach again. Finding those thirty classes each year is all about luck, serendipity and who you know. A job that has proved much easier and far more enjoyable than I ever imagined.
NEW OLLI CONNECT, EXPLORE & EXPAND

We are very excited to announce the addition of OLLI Connect, Explore, and Expand (CEE) groups to the OLLI at Vanderbilt program. These groups will be led by OLLI members. The purpose of the OLLI CEE Groups is to offer a wider range of special interest educational opportunities in small group settings to OLLI members. They will be offered in addition to the core curriculum, group events and activities scheduled throughout the year.

Thanks to the hard work of our wonderful CEE committee members we have already piloted two groups and will be announcing more during the spring term! The following groups will be added: Walking and Talking, Hiking and Nature, Senior Friendly Restaurant Review, iPad and iPhone Essentials, "Brazil!" Class Discussion, "Theories of a Good Life" Class Discussion and Great Decisions.

Email us for more information at oshervu@vanderbilt.edu or visit our webpage at www.vanderbilt.edu/olli/olli-peer-led-groups.php

OLLI MEMBER COMMENTS

“Being involved in OLLI classes has widened our horizons on interesting things to do in retirement. Everything we have done through the program has been well organized, worth the time and expenditure, interesting and fun as well! The program trips, and lunch and learn sessions are a wonderful way to make new acquaintances while learning about so many different things.” Pat & Jay Armstrong

“Keep up the wonderful offerings. As a first-timer in OLLI, I am impressed with the experience, instructors, and welcoming atmosphere.”

“The OLLI program gets better every semester.”

“The OLLI program is wonderful. Better than expected!”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the courses offered this winter.”

“Keep doing what you’re doing. You provide a wide selection of topics and I like that!”

“Thank you for all the work behind these OLLI programs!”

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

♦ OLLI at the Opera 3 part series; March 27th, April 1st and April 10th
♦ Lunch & Learn “Nashville Film Festival” March 25th at The Temple
♦ Annual Meeting May 1st Luncheon to be held at Scarritt Bennett 12 pm
♦ OLLI Spring Trip May 6th to Franklin and Smyrna
♦ OLLI Summer Term July 7th – August 15th at Scarritt Bennett
♦ For more information on events visit: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/olli/olli-special-activities-and-events.php

THANK YOU OLLI VOLUNTEERS!

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! Welcome new CEE committee volunteers and thank you Rebecca Abramson, our OLLI intern, on all your hard work and efforts working with the committee in organizing the new CEE program!

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

OLLI 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
Bob Holmes
Bob McNeilly
Mary Pat Silveira

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

Special Events Committee:
Dede Clements
Betty Davies
Fran Free
Betty Lenz
Mildred Tilley
Claire Tschudy

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

CEE Committee:
Doug Burroughs
Beth Gottlieb
Gerry Holzman
Gail Martin
Viv Pocek
Mary Raffety

OLLI Staff:
Norma Clippard, Director
Norma.Clippard@Vanderbilt.edu
615-322-5569

Dottie Rager, Program Coordinator
Dottie.Rager@Vanderbilt.edu
615-343-1130

The OLLI Steel Drum Band Class has been a great success since it began last summer, we have continued through fall, winter and spring!