



# OLLI

at American University Washington DC



## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

### November 2007

#### Mark Your Calendar

##### November

- 2 Board Meeting: 1 pm, Church
- 13 Study Group Proposals due for Spring Semester
- 16 Study Group Leaders Luncheon: noon, Mary Graydon Center
- 16 Curriculum Committee: 1:45 pm, Church

21-23 Thanksgiving Break: No classes

##### December

- 7 Last Scheduled Day of Classes  
Board Meeting: 1 pm, Church
- 11 Holiday Party: Kenwood Country Club, noon

#### Letter from the Chair

For those who missed the recent OLLI Town Meeting, this is a brief report on the status of AU's application for a \$1 million endowment grant from the Osher Foundation and our recent meeting with AU's President.



If the endowment grant is made to AU, a percentage of the earnings from it, on the order of 5%, would be paid out annually to OLLI to use as we see fit. The Foundation would also make a one-time grant of \$50,000 to us to cover the period before there are endowment earnings. After some preliminary fact-finding and consultations with OLLI staff, the Foundation has given AU clearance to file its application, which has been done. The Foundation's Board is expected to act on the application at its December meeting.

We are cautiously optimistic. One of the main requirements for the grant, other than an OLLI membership of 500, is a supportive relationship with the affiliated university. We have always had that kind of bond with AU in the form of office and classroom space and access to the AU library on terms similar to those it offers its students. OLLI members are eligible to use the fitness center at the same cost as AU offers its alumni.

This fall several other forms of support have been obtained. Thanks to the efforts of Tina Fried Heller (an OLLI Board member) we will have four Tuesday lectures from faculty

#### "The People of OLLI"

##### Poul Arendal

When I asked Poul Arendal if he would like to be interviewed for the OLLI newsletter, he said, "Sure, but why me? I'm not a particularly interesting subject".



Poul was born after the occupation in Denmark, grew up there, joined the Danish Air Force and,

at age 20, was sent to Canada to train. During the five years he flew for the air force, he finished his undergraduate work in business and computer science. When he left military duty, he worked in Germany for German air lines, met and married his American wife Rita. Five years later, he came to the United States for his first job with the World Bank. At the Bank, he worked in financial policy in the International Finance Corporation which, among other things, lends money to developing countries. At the same time, he earned a law degree at American University. Through all this, Poul developed a growing interest in American politics and a need to become active in social causes. He took early retirement from the Bank, got a fellowship at the White House and then worked in political campaigns, first for Gore, the DNC and, finally, the Kerry campaign. These were all grueling experiences and hard work, but only intensified Poul's dedication to social issues.

Somehow, Poul has time for skiing, snorkeling, running, and he loves flying for the Civil Air Patrol which is active in rescue missions throughout the country. A fervent OLLI member, one of Poul's favorite classes is *News In Context*. He brings to OLLI his energy, his knowledge of the political system and, throughout it all, his unflinching good humor.

--Jeanne Baron

## Holiday Party

Our Annual Holiday festivities will be held Tuesday, December 11 at noon at the Kenwood Country Club. There will be more information and a sign-up form in a few weeks.

## Donations

Sincere thanks to the 89 new and returning OLLI members who donated to OLLI. We appreciate the funds and your support. You will receive individual thank you letters soon.

## WWII Roundtable

members of the AU School of International Service. And, thanks to Anne Wallace's persuasive discussions with other key AU officials, we are getting unprecedented access to lecture facilities at the Katzen Center and Capital Hall. All this has been made known to the Foundation.

It seemed to us that this grant application process provided a good opportunity to review the entire AU/OLLI relationship with AU's President, Neil Kerwin. At our request a meeting was held on October 30 with him, also attended by Provost Ivy Broder. Anne and I presented them with a list of areas in which a closer relationship should be considered. We emphasized that closer ties were not only desirable in terms of Osher grants, but that they serve our separate purposes. We are both looking at a rapidly changing world in higher education, with much more emphasis on non-traditional students, i.e., those outside the 18 - 30 year, degree-seeking range. The aging population is a big part of it, but only part of it.

The Internet has already led many prestigious universities to make their courses and course materials available to non-traditional students world-wide. On-campus programs for such students are increasing as well. Harvard has 60-70,000 students annually who participate in courses lasting from a week to a year. At AU, OLLI is a core element of non-traditional education. And because of OLLI, AU is clearly first among universities in Washington in lifelong learning programs.

The reception we got from President Kerwin was very forthcoming. He made clear that he recognizes OLLI's importance to AU and wants to work with us wherever practical. We were assured that our access to individual faculty members for lectures and teaching will be facilitated. The same would be true for AU alumni who might be qualified to lecture or teach. With respect to space, AU has already told Osher that it will try to meet up to 15% of our classroom needs. It remains to be seen whether, in practical terms, that can be accomplished - their classroom space is tight. But it was clear that they are prepared to consider our needs sympathetically. As for the

## Calling All WWII Vets

We are considering having a round table discussion with our WWII vets. Please let us know if you are a Vet and if you would be interested in participating.

Email us at: [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu)

## OLLI Authors

### Share your Interests

Let us know what books you have written. We will publish a list of books by OLLI members in a future newsletter. Email us at:

[olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu)

## Inclement Weather

Just a reminder: OLLI classes will be canceled for the entire day if there is a delay or cancellation of school in Montgomery County or DC.

### Quick Links

[OLLI Website](#)

[Fall Catalog](#)

long term, AU will consider partnering with us to fill our space requirements.

We also discussed joint publicity efforts and agreed to seek more coordination in publicizing our individual events and in presenting AU and OLLI as a community-serving entity. AU will also help, to the extent feasible, with our emergency preparedness program.

These are all generalities, I know. How they play out in practice will depend to a large extent on our own initiatives, and on the particular AU personnel we work with. Our main objective at this meeting was to advance practical goals of cooperation and obtain assurances of support for them from the top of the University. We accomplished that. We must now do our best to be sure that message of support (reinforced by subsequent meetings with President Kerwin) makes its way through the entire institution.

--Ray Rasenberger

## Thanks to these Volunteers

As everyone is aware, we are reliant on our volunteers. Occasionally members go above and beyond the call of duty, whether helping put away chairs or preparing a report for the board. We wish to acknowledge these folks who have done exactly that.

Gloria Kreisman  
Selma Rosenthal  
Bob Coe  
Chris Bradley  
Connie Hirshon  
Porscha Reid  
Sidney Steinitz  
Jack Chamberlain  
Robert Gair  
Sam Lawrence  
Barbara Johnson

