Welcome back to the 27th spring semester of OLLI. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and has been enjoying their time off from OLLI classes.

While I’m eager to return to OLLI, as I sit here writing my first presidential message of the spring semester watching the snow fall, I have to admit I’m glad I’m not driving to campus this morning.

The Executive Board, Committee members, and Volunteers have taken a well-deserved break for the holidays, but now that it’s back to OLLI time, things are going full speed ahead.

Despite the fact that room availability still remains one of the most difficult pieces of the equation to complete, Wayne worked hard to successfully get as many workshops as possible into the times and rooms that were requested. I know this was not an easy task considering we have more than 100 workshops for the spring semester.

The registration process for the spring semester was completed smoothly with minimal technical issues. Wayne and the office staff worked very hard to make sure that everyone would be able to register without any problems. I want to thank them for all the time they put into making the process easy for all of our members.

Our Fundraising Committee program is starting to show results, and I want to thank those members who have already donated to OLLI and ask all members to consider giving to our fundraising efforts.

We don’t know what the weather will bring once OLLI begins, but we can only hope for minimum snow and mild temperatures. As Long Islanders, we know that’s probably not going to be the case, so with that in mind, if the weather looks bad, think about maybe taking the day off.

If you are not sure about classes being conducted due to poor weather, check your e-mail, and the OLLI Web site for closing updates.

I’m looking forward to my final semester as President, leading my workshop, and enjoying the wonderful workshops that I plan to attend.

Steve
The Chronicles

From the Director

The OLLI Office is looking forward to the start of Spring Semester on February 16, 2015. Once again OLLI’s volunteer workshop leaders will be offering a broad assortment of interesting and fun workshops for our members. Those offerings will include close to 100 workshops in categories such as Arts, Computers, Current Events, Finance & Business, Game Theory & Sports, History & Politics, Languages, Literature & Writing, Music, Philosophy & Psychology, Photography, Religion, and Science.

The workshop registration process is almost complete as I write this. So far, registration has gone very well this semester with considerably fewer trouble calls than our last two registrations. I am very proud of our office staff and OLLI member volunteers who have done a terrific job answering those calls and helping members to answer their questions and resolve their registration issues. The registration help labs also went very well, offering on-site help to those who don’t use computers at home or just needed a little hands-on help with the online registration process.

As we get ready to begin Spring 2015 at OLLI, here is a short list of some of the things going on at OLLI in February. If you have a computer, tablet or smart phone, be sure to visit the OLLI Events Calendar on our website for more information. Be sure to also watch your email inbox for updates from OLLI.

- **Monday, February 9** - Budget Committee Meeting, 10:00 AM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Wednesday, February 11** - Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Wednesday, February 11** - Fund-raising Committee, 12:30 PM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Friday, February 13** - Special Events Committee Meeting, 10:00 AM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Monday, February 16** - OLLI Spring Semester Begins (12 weeks, no spring break)
- **Wednesday, February 25** – OLLI General Meeting, 2:30 PM, Wang Center – Lecture Hall 1

Wayne

Member Relations Committee
Pat Breslauer

New OLLI members joining our organization for the Spring Semester will find helpful volunteers from the Member Relations Committee or Executive Board outside SBS S-102 the first week of the term. They will provide directions or answer questions you may have about your new venture. Welcome to new courses, discussions, hobbies, associates, friendships and more!
Welcome to the Spring 2015 semester of OLLI at Stony Brook. By now you have already registered for your workshops. When you were perusing the member bulletin to review the offerings this semester, did you come across any workshops that had never been offered before at OLLI? There were a number of workshops that offered new material … a new book or a new topic, but were you able to identify the ones that had never been offered before at OLLI?

The three listed below are brand new to OLLI. Welcome and a big thank you to the new leaders who stepped up to offer these. They join the 100+ current leaders who year after year volunteer to lead the workshops you enjoy.

**Movie Musicals**

With the coming of sound, American film companies abandoned the silent movie and entered the era of the "talkies." The earliest experiments were musicals: at first, short vaudeville acts, then full-length narratives with music. This workshop will explore the development of the musical film from its beginning to its final flowering. The centerpiece will be a comparison of the films of Fred Astaire and Busby Berkeley who, in contrasting ways, laid the foundation of the American movie musical.

**George Rystar** leads this workshop on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 in SBS S102. 7 sessions are scheduled, starting March 17, 2015 and ending May 5, 2015.

**Photography before Photoshop**

A basic course in the fundamentals of photography including understanding basic camera operations, exposure controls, lighting, color, and other techniques. The purpose of the course is to understand how the new digital, "auto everything" cameras function so that the photographer can exercise control over the final project. The course will include topics that cover all types of modern photography, including the use of smart phones, "point and shoot" cameras, as well as more professional equipment, such as SLRs and other cameras with manual controls.

**Frank DeRubeis** is offering this workshop on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:15 in SBS S104. 12 sessions are scheduled starting February 16, 2015 and ending May 4, 2015.

**The Weekly Economist Publication**

In an "Age of Information overload," with so many so called experts in their "field of expertise," there is the "Economist," a weekly publication written in Great Britain and sold mostly in the U.S. We will use this publication as a source for weekly discussion.

**Herb Laub** will lead this discussion workshop on Mondays from 8:30 to 9:45 in SBS N114B. 12 sessions are scheduled starting February 16, 2015 and ending May 4, 2015.
Hidden on rooftops and around corners at SBU are gardens full of organically grown lettuce, spinach, zucchini, squash, string beans, eggplants, tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, and cilantro. You just have to know where to look.

Look up. Since summer 2011 an organic rooftop farm at the Hospital has grown vegetables that are used to supplement meals for the approximately 600 patients. It sprouted from a 800-square-foot space on a fourth-floor deck at the Hospital three years ago before relocating to a 2,200-square-foot space on level 3 by the Galleria. This year repairs to the space have temporarily curtailed plant production.

Look out. The Simons Center has a Café on the second floor that focuses on organically inspired French, Italian, and American cuisines. Through the café’s windows you can see their patio vegetable garden. Dine outside amidst the vegetables, where, just hours earlier, the zucchini on your plate was growing.

Look around. Adjacent to the Research and Development Park Greenhouse are 13 raised planting beds, which are 8 feet by 4 feet wooden rectangles with 2 neat rows of plantings in each bed. The vegetables are used to craft delicious meals for the University community to enjoy. The plants first arrive as seedlings and mature in the greenhouse, before being planted outside. There is another greenhouse in the Life Sciences Building.

On average, food in the United States travels 1,500 miles to get from the farm to the consumers’ plate. By growing food locally on campus, the University reduces the distance produce has to travel, leading to fresher and better tasting vegetables - which do not require transportation, thus eliminating related carbon emissions. Another benefit to these vegetables is the absence of preservatives and refrigerant that is necessary when transporting food thousands of miles.

These are a few of the many projects of Stony Brook University’s Office of Sustainability that keep our campus green.

Text and information excerpted from:
http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/cafe
http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/features-greenhouse.html?marquee1#.VLQkYWTF80o
http://www.stonybrook.edu/sustainability/stories/content/organic-vegetable-garden.shtml#
I am an addict and I need help - badly. So, let me explain. After many years teaching undergraduates, my time had come to retire. Not that I did not enjoy the company of young people with their great enthusiasm for life, their genuine goodness of heart, and the confidence they placed in me by seeking help for their problems. For, in spite of their apparent silliness, college students are no different from us with their struggles. No, I enjoyed teaching immensely. I was going to retire. It was just the time to do so. Retire permanently. So many other pursuits available.

Since Kate, my wife, and I taught French, every summer we spent a few weeks in France to use the spoken language, to study the culture first-hand, and to take photographs. We planned to travel widely during September and October when we were both free. Since Kate would not retire for two more years, we were willing to wait. And now that I had so much free time - retired from teaching permanently - I was going to have two years to indulge my passion for photography. I would photograph the Long Island seashore. I would read the twenty or so books on my shelf that I never had time to read. Maybe I would write a few articles for college journals. The future looked so pleasant.

One morning in late August – two months after my permanent retirement - the phone rang. It was my friend Peggy who speaks Latin fluently, and whose high school Latin classrooms are always filled to capacity. She is so enthusiastic in all she does!

“Would you teach Latin to three small sixth grade classes?” she said. “You must be kidding”, I answered. “I have absolutely no experience in teaching children at that age. And besides, I have no certification to teach in public schools.” “Please don’t say no” she continued, “we are desperate, and you are our last, our only, hope.”

She introduced me to the Superintendent who received me in a most gracious manner. He told me that there would be twelve children in each class, that I could teach anything I wanted, since the purpose of the course was to give the students a good feeling about Latin. The principal of the school arrived, added his pleadings. I succumbed. The future did not look as bright as the day before.

It took me about a week to feel comfortable standing before sixth graders. They were delightful children. I taught them 12-line dialogues which they acted out in class time after time, until it sounded as if they were speaking Latin. I took the dialogues from an eighth grade Latin book. Here is a shortened sample:

“Quid est nomen tuum?”
“Nomen meum est.........”
“Quis est Cornelia?”
“Cornelia est puella romana”
“Cornelia est sub arbore.”
“Etiam sub arbore est altera puella.”
“Puellae sunt laetae et cantant.”

(What is your name?)
(My name is.....)
(Who is Cornelia?)
(Cornelia is a Roman girl)
(Cornelia is sitting under a tree)
(Also under the tree is another girl)
(The girls are happy and they are singing)

Continued on next page
I Am An Addict, continued

Whenever I met one of the children outside the classroom, both of us would recite a dialogue. One day I was chatting in the hallway with three teachers and along came a little girl from the class. With absolute perfection she recited a dialogue with me. “They are speaking Latin”, said one of the teachers in total astonishment. “I can’t believe my ears. They learned to speak Latin in such a short time.” The word spread all over the school. At lunch that day I received congratulations from the faculty members. I never revealed the truth. It took the school district two years to find a replacement. I could now retire permanently. Ten years later a waitress – one of my delightful sixth graders - said to me in a restaurant, “Quid est nomen tuum?” She could recite the entire dialogue by herself.

Kate retired from Patchogue-Medford, and announced she was going to accept a position teaching French and Latin in a local private school. A friend told me about the Round Table. I joined, strictly as a student. What an experience! The retirees were full of fun and laughter. The Instructors were enjoying themselves immensely. This was a teacher’s paradise: no exams, no grades, no students complaining about all the work they had to do. I was bitten, so I approached Lenore Janoff who was head of the Curriculum Committee, and told her I would like to teach a course entitled the “Magic of Words”. Lenore said she would arrange everything. That was twelve years ago. I am still teaching the same course – with a different title - and Lenore is my student. A few years ago, Kate retired for the second time, and joined me in teaching an intermediate French course.

I am enjoying the retirees just as much as the sixth graders, maybe more so. And how much knowledge one gains in these classrooms! Qui docet discit is so true. One does learn by teaching. The rich background of the OLLI members is a great source of information for all of us.

In my classes I encourage the students to join in a discussion of the topic at hand, to be lighthearted, to cause laughter, to enjoy themselves. I love to see and hear people laughing. It is joy personified for me. “Laughter”, said Bertrand Russell, “is the most inexpensive and the most effective wonder drug; it is the universal medicine.” And to see that joyful look when a student learns something new! Better than a piano concerto of Mozart; better than the captivating Italian aria “Una furtiva lagrima” sung by Pavarotti.

“Margaret,” I said to one of my students in the Language and Culture Class, “with all the nonsense that goes on in this room, are you learning anything?”

“Oh, yes I am,” she answered, “but to tell you the truth, at my age laughter is more important than learning.” That was so encouraging to hear.

It is time once again to retire - permanently - and to take several of the wonderful courses at OLLI. But, I can’t! I’m addicted to teaching! I am an addict. I need help. I want to quit. I am in desperate need of help, because I really am an addict. I am bound by mental chains. But, sometimes I wonder if Franz Kafka was right: “It’s often safer to be in chains than to be free.” No matter, I don’t care. I want to rip apart my chains. Help! Every one of you who reads my plea.. Be kind and gentle. Help!

Cornelius McDonnell
In The Spotlight

This is a bouquet for the Memoir writing workshop.

Family Business

Sheila Bieber and Dorothy Schiff Shannon conduct the family business every Friday at 10 AM in SBS room 102. When I say family I mean just that. The forty or fifty people in the Memoir Writing Workshop have become a loving, supportive and encouraging family group. Sheila and Dorothy make sure that everyone is comfortable in the reading of their individual memoirs. Not only are the members friendly in class but when one of them meets another either in other workshops or off campus, the mutual camaraderie is evident. This workshop has become a place where one relives past or present, happy or sad, nostalgic memories. I know that for me personally, this workshop has made my life begin again. Thank you OLLI for including this special meeting place for not only the mind but for the heart.

Barbara Golub

From Overseas Adventure Travel

Congratulations to our 2014 Traveler Photo Contest Winners!

Grand Prize Winner—FREE Grand Circle vacation for two

Merrill Heit, 3-time traveler
Massapequa, Park, New York

An unexpected delight appeared across this mighty scene during a walk on our Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe post-trip extension to Highlights of South Africa.

Comments from the Judges: Merrill captured this moment brilliantly by framing with the lush surrounding greenery to draw your eyes to the falls.

With the mist, rainbow, and sunlight all coming together, this photo features beautiful light and wonderful depth and texture.
The Chronicles

So What happened to the Million Dollars?

Some OLLI members wonder why we need a fundraising campaign when we received a one million dollar endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation eight years ago.

An endowment is established in order to generate revenue that will be used for a specific purpose and it is designed to function in perpetuity, making it possible to provide long-term financial support. One distinguishing characteristic of an endowment fund is that the principal amount is not disbursed for any reason. Typically, the principal of the endowment is invested, and the interest is used to fund projects.

Bottom line: We cannot touch the million dollars - we can use only the interest accrued each year. This amounts to a tiny fraction of the endowment, not nearly enough to get us the additional workshop rooms, equipment and computer software we need.

Thank You To Our Donors!

Many thanks to those who, as of January 6, 2015, have responded to our initial fund-raising request.

Your contributions will be put to work to help OLLI@SBU become even better!

Maria Alexander
Anonymous (3)
Ellen Balaban
John Boccio
Patricia Breslauer
Gilda Burack
Jean Callahan
Lorraine Clarken
Roseanne Cole
Jacqueline Day
Karl Demuth
David Emmerich
Helen Emmerich
Morton Epstein
Sheldon Fagen
Leonard Farano
Lawrence Fein
Wendy Feinberg
Richard Firestone
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Catherine Gallagher
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Donna Smosky
Jeanne Sommer
Linda Spahr
Hilary Sperber
H. Mae Sprouse
Ann Stein
Dorothy Sterrett
Frank Tassielli
Carol Tvelia
Stephanie Van Denburg
Jaynee Wall
Lois Weiss
Mary Werner
Stony Brook University has its hidden poor, just like the neighborhoods around us. No matter what, tuition has to be paid. When money gets tight, food is the one area that can be cut. Students may not eat or they may turn to cheap foods. Two years ago the University opened a food pantry to help members of the campus community who face food insecurity. Their goal is not only to provide food, but to provide healthy food.

Last year OLLI sponsored its first food drive and collected over 800 items for the pantry, an amazing response. Monday, March 2 to Friday, March 13, OLLI will be holding its second annual food drive to help members of the Stony Brook campus community who don’t have enough to eat. Donations can be deposited in a box outside the OLLI office, room S-101 in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building.

The food should be nutritional and not contain a lot of sugar or salt. They would prefer healthy food such as:

- Canned beans
- Canned chicken breast
- Canned tuna
- Cereal (under 7 grams of sugar)
- Crackers
- Dried Fruit (no sugar added)
- Fruit canned in water or juice (not syrup)
- Fruit Preserves
- Granola Bars
- Nuts
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- Sauce
- Seeds/trail mixes
- Soup (low sodium)

We can’t accept food whose expiration date has passed.

We can accept help. Please contact me carole.gambrell@gmail.com if you can help with any of the following:

- collect empty cardboard boxes
- check expiration dates of contributions
- pack boxes
I attended my first OLLI Literary Tea last November. Never having attended such an event, I did not know what to expect.

To my delight, not only was coffee served but my fellow OLLI members outdid themselves with their poems and vignettes. From the sublime to the ridiculous, many laughs and choked-back tears were had by all present.

Subjects touched on included love and loss, Indian weddings, nature, knitting, and question marks.

The moderator, Rhoda Spinner, kept the pace lively, and each presenter was unique, enjoyable, and brave to share their creations.

I will look forward to the next Literary Tea in the spring. If you have never attended, look for it on the OLLI calendar.

Ellen Balaban

Seeking OLLI Sponsors

Do you know any individual, professional firm or company that should become a sponsor of OLLI? Sponsors provide financial support for OLLI and help us secure the additional classrooms, updated equipment, and more effective software we need. In turn, sponsors benefit by becoming more visible to our thousand active members. For specifics about sponsorships, please contact Lee Marc Stein, 631 476-5797 or lmstein@optonline.net.
Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not knows no release from little things, knows not the livid loneliness of fear nor mountain heights where bitter joys can hear the sound of wings.

--Amelia Earhart