



## FAREWELL

Being Chair of Council during the past year has been an enlightening experience. I already knew that activities here at Lifelong Learning did not happen spontaneously, but I have frequently been surprised to realize the extent of creativity, effort and coordination required before a course or event occurs. Kudos to each and every one of you who have contributed your talent and time to support our many successes!

We have been able to enhance our program this past year in many ways. In addition to the fine courses (more than 140 new courses this year, as well as 33 new instructors) a variety of events were open to members of Lifelong Learning. We welcomed Joni Bero and Tim Ward who are making a difference as new members of the University staff. New ceiling-mounted projectors and two wide-screen TVs were added, as well as WiFi upgrades. Advanced audio/visual technology is now available and there is training for those who want to use it. A Guest Speaker Registry was developed to provide a fairer and more effective use of outside speakers and performers. The Delaware Art Museum has offered a series of much-appreciated lectures on Fridays this spring. In April, a Facebook page becomes available for Lifelong Learning members who choose to participate.

The goal of Council continues to be to maximize the learning experience here and we will continue to work to develop and use well all resources available here. We remain committed to implement the good ideas offered by members and staff. Your input is vital – don't hesitate to discuss your thoughts with Council members (red stripe on name tag).

As I leave the Council, I know it will be in good hands during the coming year with Lee Kaser as Chair and Ken Mulholland as Executive Vice Chair. Look for them when you're in Arsht Hall.

Nancy Wolfe, Chair, Council

For online catalogs and more [www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilm](http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilm)

## SPRING LUNCHEON BUFFET

Celebrate the end of the semester with your friends at the Osher Lifelong Learning Spring Luncheon Buffet on Friday, May 11. Look for details in upcoming editions of *Lifelong Learning This Week*.

## WIRELESS ACCESS AT ARSHT HALL



If you plan to take a computer-based course next semester and you do not already have a Username and Password from the University of Delaware, this is an ideal time to make your request. Usernames and Passwords are required for all wireless devices used at Arsht Hall. By making your request for a Username and Password now, you will not have to wait until October 1 to submit your request and then wait up to two weeks (or longer) to get wireless access in the fall semester.

Among the advantages of already having your Username and Password before fall classes begin are:

- ✓ Many computer-based courses require access to the Internet immediately after the start of classes.
- ✓ Some oversubscribed computer courses allow attendance by persons on the wait list who have a wireless laptop.

Information about connection through the University is available at the Reception Desk. The Internet and email accounts also permit members' access to the Morris Library databases.

Your username and password will remain in effect as long as you remain a lifelong learning member.

Kenneth Mulholland  
Computer Coordinating Committee

### ***Lifelong Learning News***

[www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter](http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter)

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Schedule for *Lifelong Learning News***

<u>Submittal deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
Fri., August 10, 2012	Tues., September 4

Submit articles to [rehlich@udel.edu](mailto:rehlich@udel.edu), or place in the newsletter mail box in the Reception Area.

## **POLYSTYRENE CUPS IN OUR CAFETERIA**

Should our cafeteria be using polystyrene coffee cups? This question has been raised by our Health & Wellness people. Their concern is about both the possible toxicity to users and about the long-term ecological impact of the non-degradable plastic. I volunteered to look into this, with Basil Maas' help on UD issues.

The University, by the way, does not run the cafeteria. It contracts with Aramark, a worldwide organization serving universities, school systems, businesses and arenas. We can expect little control over its sources of supplies. However it does pride itself on being environmentally conscious and upon request provided details of its supplier which is Dart Container Corp., also environmentalists. More on that later.

Whether there is a health issue is debatable. I talked with local physicians in and outside Osher Lifelong Learning; none of whom had seen reports of problems. A Google search showed polystyrene uses no plasticizers and, despite early concerns, has subsequently been declared safe by the EPA, an National Science Foundation commission and an expert panel of the Harvard Center for Risk Assessment. Still, activist websites continue to claim toxicity findings, usually undocumented, some just false. But in 2011 an ABC News report (<http://www.udel.edu/001252>) raised a possible link to specific cancer in rodents. The concern was referred to the FDA at the time and apparently dismissed.

Dart Container's website ([www.dart.biz](http://www.dart.biz)) has a substantial section on user safety giving a broad range of specific and stringent tests (leaching with hot liquids, acidic and oily foods, etc.) that have been done to detect toxins or carcinogens. All were reassuringly negative. If there are health risks they would have to be exceedingly low.

The ecologic problem is thornier: I think Dart people are doing their best. They recommend recycling (but our New Castle County system won't handle polystyrene) and they have switched to a "biodegradable polystyrene." Yes, there is such a commodity – but, in my opinion, the name is very deceptive. Its various forms consist of polystyrene particles held together with a biodegradable binder. In its latest form, the biodegradable component – a cellulose product – is added during polymerization, so it's intimately mixed. That component breaks down on weathering, "reducing the polymer structure to a [very fine] powder that should then biodegrade." That part is a wishful fallacy! Known microbes don't eat polystyrene of any size. They can't break its chemical bonds. So you're left with a fine slime or, worse, a dust of micron-size particles. Perhaps it's less an eye-sore than bulky containers but could be even more of a hazard. This seems the best that can be done within present economic constraints, but I think there are valid concerns.

Peter Heytler

## **JUNE LECTURE SERIES**

Registration for the 16th annual June Lecture Series continues in the Office (see Ellen Saienni).

The series runs mornings from June 4-8 and is open to the public with a fee of \$50/person.

## **SUMMER COURSES**

Registrations received or postmarked by May 11 will be included in the computer based random course assignment process. Late registration and drop/add begin June 4.





## Schedule of Events



### SPECIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAYS 12:45-1:45 P.M. IN ROOM 105

Announcements at 12:40 p.m.

These programs are for all members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Wilmington. Feel free to attend each week or select the programs that most interest you. You can buy your lunch, bring your lunch or just come and enjoy.

April 18 – **Current Issues** Ralph Begleiter, Director, Center for Political Communication and Distinguished Journalist in Residence, University of Delaware and David Hoffman, UD Alumnus and 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner

April 25 – **Osher Lifelong Learning Orchestra**, Joseph Zimmerman, Conductor

May 2 – **Osher Lifelong Learning Concert Band**, Paul Hess, Conductor

May 9 – **Osher Lifelong Learning Chorus**, Henry Chisholm, Conductor

### SOCIAL

Take a break and meet fellow members for coffee, tea, cookies and conversation. The last social of the semester is on Thursday, April 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lobby.

### BOOK GROUP

All members of Osher Lifelong Learning are invited to join the extracurricular book group. We read and discuss current and classic books that the group selects each semester.

The book group will discuss *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes on May 2.

In September, to begin the fall semester, the group will read and discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 3:20 p.m. in room 224.

Mary Lew Bergman

### SPRING LECTURE SERIES 12:30-1:45 P.M, ARSHT HALL DIRECTOR'S DELIGHTS



### DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Danielle Rice, director of the Delaware Art Museum takes a personal look at some of the major masterpieces in the museum in this popular and well-received series. Each week's illustrated lecture will examine one work of art in depth and consider the art, history and culture of the time it was made. No registration is required for this series. It is free to all lifelong learning members and the public; so bring a friend!

April 20 – *The Mermaid* by Howard Pyle, 1910

April 27 – *Spring Rain* by John Sloan, 1912

May 4 – *Summertime* by Edward Hopper, 1943

May 11 – *Big Brothers: Another Judgment* by Robert Colescott, 1984

### CALENDAR

#### 2012

Fri., May 11 ..... Spring semester ends

May 29-June 1 ..... OLLI at the Ocean

Week of June 4 ..... June Lecture Series

July 10-August 2 ..... 2012 Summer Session

July 24-26, 30-31, August 1-2 .....

..... Fall semester registration

Mon., July 30..... Open House

Sept. 4..... Fall semester begins

Dec. 7 ..... Fall semester ends

#### 2013

Feb. 4 ..... Spring semester begins

May 10 ..... Spring semester ends