



## FROM THE COUNCIL

*Dear Fellow Members,*

I am humbled and honored to be Council chair of such a great organization as we celebrate our fifth anniversary. We owe a great debt to you who are members, our volunteers, staff, members of our committees, founders and instructors for the great success that we have had.

Our spring semester starts in a few weeks and I encourage all members to become more actively involved in the Osher Dover program and join one of our committees. There are currently openings on the Public Relations and Special Events committees. If you have an interest in either, please contact the staff. Summaries of the responsibilities for all of our committees appear on our website.

Classes will start on Tuesday, January 27 and the Curriculum Committee has put together an interesting array of programs. Priority registration ends on January 8. The Member Relations Committee is hosting an Open House on January 13, 2015. Please join us for that event. There will again be instructor forums and light refreshments. The staff will have an orientation for all new members on January 20, 2015. All members are cordially invited to attend if they would like to find more about the Osher Dover program.

The Special Events committee is in the process of finalizing a trip for the spring in addition to putting an exciting five-year anniversary celebration for the end of the spring semester.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to wish all the members and their families a very happy holiday season and hope to see all of you for classes in the New Year.

*Very truly yours,  
Kevin J McGrath  
Council Chair*



## SPRING 2015 CALENDAR

- January 8, Thursday** - Priority registration closes
- January 13, Tuesday** - Open House & Registration – 10:00 a.m. – Noon
- January 15, Thursday** - Class assignment letters sent to registered members
- January 20, Tuesday** - Instructor orientation – 9:00 a.m. – Noon
- January 20, Tuesday** - New member orientation – 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- January 27, Tuesday** - First day of classes – Doors open at 8:30 a.m.
- April 2, Thursday** - Last day of classes

## SPECIAL SPEAKERS ON THURSDAYS

Noon – 12:50 p.m.

Join us on Thursdays for special speakers on a wide array of interesting topics. Participants can bring lunch or just come and enjoy. The name and topic of each week's speaker will be announced at least a week in advance.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Dover is a place where your membership matters.

Members volunteer their wealth of talent and experience in planning and implementing high quality educational experiences to form an educational cooperative. The members are the instructors and students, and through a committee structure guide the operating policies, develop curriculum and help with the daily operations.

All members are encouraged to become actively involved in the Osher Dover program.

## CHECK BULLETIN BOARDS FOR “Happenings”

Don't forget to check our bulletin boards in the hallways for information and many “happenings” in and around Osher Dover.

## IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER



Osher classes are canceled whenever the Modern Maturity Center cancels its activities due to inclement weather. Please visit [www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/dover](http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/dover) for weather updates or cancellations, or call the office at 302-736-7450.

## 2014-2015 COUNCIL ROSTER

Council Chair – Kevin McGrath

Vice Chair – James Brown

Secretary – Caroline Baxter

Council Members:

Peggy Abbott

Ila Beebe

Bob Heifetz

Janice Hess

Betty Ipnar

Liisa Trala

Committee and Chair:

Curriculum – Art McLaughlin

Member Relations – Janice Hess

Public Relations – *Vacant*

Special Events/Travel – *Vacant*

## UPCOMING TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

A Day at the **BARNES**

Barnes Collection, Philadelphia

Monday, March 2

\$50 Members / \$55 Guests

Sign up online or in the office to reserve your seat

Registration will also be available at the Open House, January 13



...and so much more!

## THE REGISTRATION HESITATION

*SETTING: It's a cold December morning at the local market. The newest course catalog has just been released. Three Osher members, Alice, Beth and Chuck, run into each other and begin discussing the registration process with great enthusiasm...*

**Alice:** It's finally time to register for classes!

**Beth:** Yes, I'm excited for the new Shakespeare class.

**Chuck:** I can't wait to start knitting.

**Alice:** Make sure you mark your priorities on the form.

**Beth:** What's a priority?

**Chuck:** I'm pretty sure the doctor told me I was growing one in my left ear.

**Alice:** No, Chuck, by indicating your course priorities on the registration form, you are telling the Osher staff which classes are most important to you.

**Beth:** Why do they care about that?

**Chuck:** Maybe they have nothing better to do.

**Alice:** [*sighs*] Of course they do, Chuck.

**Beth:** So why do I need to choose between my classes?

**Alice:** This is how we manage our classroom space at Osher. Rather than relying upon the competitive "first-come first-served" system, our automated registration system takes into account which class is your first priority, your second priority, etc. In the first round of scheduling, everyone is assigned to their first priority class.

**Beth:** That's great!

**Chuck:** How many first priorities can I have?

**Alice:** [*rolls eyes*] One, Chuck. Only one.

**Beth:** There has to be a catch! What if a class has only fifteen seats available and sixteen people choose that class as their first priority?

**Alice:** That's when we use a computerized lottery. The available seats are assigned randomly to the students in the pool of registrants.

**Beth:** But shouldn't the person who registered earliest get the seat?

**Alice:** Although we are used to that way of thinking, the Osher philosophy promotes a community that is willing to share the learning experience among the membership and not compete for seats in the classroom.

**Chuck:** Compete...lottery...pool...is there a new gambling class that I missed?

**Alice:** [*ignoring Chuck*] As a matter of fact, this automated system was created specifically for the University's lifelong learning programs in Delaware, made possible by our grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

**Beth:** What if I am an eternally unlucky person and never get into the class that I want?

**Alice:** We do have a special provision for members who were waitlisted for a course in the previous semester and who sign up for that same course as their first priority. Just make a note on your registration form and you will be given extra priority over the rest of the first priority registrants for that course.

**Beth:** Well, that makes sense.

**Alice:** Once all of the first priority classes are processed, the registration system moves on to everyone's second priority class, using the remaining seats in each section and resolving space conflicts by lottery. This continues until every priority registration has been processed.

**Chuck:** That's a lot of information. Can't they just tell me what classes to show up for and when?

**Alice:** Of course, when you submit your registration during the priority period, you will receive a preliminary confirmation very soon after your form is received. You will then be notified within a week after the priority deadline of your exact course assignments, including any for which you ended up on the waitlist.

**Beth:** Waitlist? This is starting to sound like college again!

**Alice:** Yes, well much like a college and any other school, there are limitations to the number of seats we can have in each classroom, and sometimes at the request of the instructor. Some instructors rely on a more intimate discussion environment to help provide an enriching experience to their students.

**Beth:** That's my favorite part about some of the classes here.

**Chuck:** Mine too. Well, it's a close second to the delicious cookies.

**Beth:** Alice, thank you for explaining this to us. I think I really understand much better how our registration system works, and most importantly, why I should take the time to prioritize my course selections.

**Alice:** You're quite welcome. I look forward to seeing you at the Open House!

## MEMBER VOICES

Several friends mentioned to me how much they were enjoying the courses they were taking at the Osher program offered at the Modern Maturity Center, so the notice for the five, one-session classes offered last January prompted me to sign up for them. I was very impressed with the interesting presentations by very enthusiastic speakers, so when the Fall sessions were announced, I selected three of them that met on Thursdays. A retired mathematics teacher who loves to read, I had never experienced an in-depth study of a classic American novel until our group delved into “The Great Gatsby” under the leadership of Bob Heifetz. I also learned a great deal from the course on short stories by young contemporary immigrant authors and another that dealt with the first years of the Vietnam War.

These courses were a great opportunity to stretch mentally in the company of others who had much to contribute to our discussions. I encountered several fellow learners that I met over the years in a variety of situations and enjoyed being with them again. The courses had none of the stresses we all remember from our school days – tests, grades, and the like – but did offer the opportunity to have the joy of shared learning with other “mature” students and our class facilitators who brought much to us from their own experiences. I am very glad that I seized the opportunity and look forward to the next session.

*Submitted by Judy Goldhammer*



The Special Events committee, hard at work checking in members and guests for the end of semester event at the Biggs Museum



Patti Papineau's American Sign Language class at Gallaudet University, November 9, 2014



Art McLaughlin and Kevin McGrath present awards of appreciation to our volunteer instructors



Members enjoy lunch together at the Biggs Museum end of semester event, November 5, 2014

Photos – Larry Klepner, Deano Nicolo  
Editor – Caroline Baxter

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Dover offers opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation, personal growth and social interaction for people age 50+ in an educational cooperative. Membership is open to all and is in compliance with the University's Equal Opportunity Policy.