



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Eugene/Springfield Newsletter

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Est. in 1993 as Learning in Retirement

April 2006

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The Search for a Unified Picture of the Universe

$E = mc^2$

The year-long “World Year of Physics” series is quickly coming to a close. The final installment will feature

Professor **James Isenberg**, from the UO Department of Mathematics, presenting: The Search for a Unified Picture of the Universe.

Dr. Isenberg works on partial differential equations and differential geometry with an emphasis on applications in general relativity and mathematical physics. He is currently focusing on the study of the behavior of solutions of Einstein’s equations, and on the use of geometric heat flows to analyze the relationship between topology and geometry. The author of over 85 papers, he has held visiting positions at Oxford, Paris, Potsdam, Vienna and Canberra, as well as at a number of places in this country.

Mark your calendar for May 17 and come enjoy this final “World Year of Physics” lecture and reception to follow. Look for more information about this event in your May newsletter.

Volunteers Needed

OLLI is again privileged to participate in the annual HEAL Conference put on by the PeaceHealth Center for Senior Health. The event takes place on **Tuesday, April 25** at the Lane County Fairgrounds from **1:30-4:00 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to speak face to face with community seniors and provide them with information about our program. Ideally we need four volunteers to work our booth space, two people for each of two shifts. **If you are interested in volunteering please call the Continuing Education office at 346-0697.**

Did You Know. . .

Continuing Education has **four assisted listening devices available** for lectures held at Baker Downtown Center. If you are interested in using one of these devices please call **346-0697** at least twenty-four hours prior to the lecture you plan to attend to reserve one. When arriving for the lecture your reserved device will be ready for you to pick up at the front desk.

New Biography Book Group

A new book group that will concentrate on biographies is having its first meeting on April 18, 10:00 a.m. At this organizational meeting books will be chosen for the upcoming months. Monthly meetings will be held on the **third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.** For more information and location please call Pat Johnson, 484-3955 or Barbara Davis, 485-4043.

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Upcoming Presentations

40 Years of Life and Work In and Around Russia

Over four decades, Professor **Allen Kimball** conducted library and archival research in Moscow, Saint-Petersburg (Leningrad), and other Russian cultural centers, concentrating on 19th and early 20th century issues, but occasionally venturing into the broader span of Russian history, religion and political theory.

Professor Kimball's years of research in Russia began in the summer after Nikita Khrushchev was ousted from his post as General Secretary and extended through the years of stagnancy under Brezhnev, through Gorbachev's Perestroika and Yeltsin's "katastroika" and into the time of President Putin.

He will share with us his experiences (and slides) and link those experiences to the long-term course of Russian history. He will share some highlights from his notes over the years, particularly those that link his quotidian experience (and that of his family who lived there with him on two occasions) with certain of the big trends that shape the Russian past.

Wednesday, April 5, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Fairy Tale as a Multicultural Event

German fairy tales are rooted in oral pre-Christian traditions and were transferred to pan-European literary cultures starting in the fourteenth century. **Dorothee Ostmeier**, Associate Professor of German, will place the German fairy tale culture exactly in the context of this international heritage. She will decipher the ideological underpinnings of the classical German tradition and develop criteria for distinguishing, for example, the Italian (16/17th centuries) and French versions (18th century) from the German versions (19th century) of the tales. The discussion focuses on gender and class issues and on the psychological impact on tellers, readers and listeners.

Wednesday, April 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

History of the Masonic Cemetery

Fifteen years ago the Masonic Cemetery, Eugene's first incorporated cemetery, was considered "the most endangered non-residential historic site in Eugene." In plain terms, it was a mess. Today it is an urban amenity seen as a model restoration project. It contains Hope Abbey Mausoleum, the largest example in Oregon of the Egyptian Revival Style architecture. It also contains the largest collection of native flowers and plants within the City of Eugene. Recently the Eugene Tree Foundation awarded the cemetery its Big Leaf award for

"outstanding stewardship of the urban forest." Other awards have come from the City of Eugene, United Way of Lane County, the Oregon League of Historic Preservation and the Oregon Historic Cemetery's Association.

How did this happen? A presentation by , OLLI members **Karen Seidel** and **Kay Holbo**, City of Eugene Historic Preservation Specialist **Ken Guzowski**, garden designer **Barbara Cowan**, Eugene Cemetery Manager **Mary Ellen Rodgers** and retired architect **Denny Hellesvig** will answer this question.

Friday, April 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

A tour of the cemetery has been set for April 21st. See Activities and Travel section for more details.

Downtown Eugene: A Look at Its Changing Face

Dr. Everett Smith, UO Professor Emeritus of Geography, uses slides to show how different locations in downtown Eugene have changed throughout the years. Scenes reveal shifts in thinking about what works in central districts of American cities.

Professor Smith with his students has been observing and studying Eugene as well as other cities in Oregon and beyond since arriving here in 1965. He is a graduate of the University of

Illinois and received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He has served on several city commissions determining street and bridge configurations for the city.

Wednesday, April 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Mongol Imperial Expansion

Why was the Mongol Empire so large, at least four times bigger than any of its predecessors? To answer this question **Tom Allsen** will look at how the Mongols organized conquered territories and how they mobilized human and material resources.

Tom, Department of History, The College of New Jersey, retired, specializes in the study of the Mongol Empire and East-West cultural exchange. His most recent book, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia*, appeared in 2001 and his next, *The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History*, is scheduled out in May, 2006.

Wednesday, April 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.



Albania: Betwixt and Between

Albania is a land of dilapidated 15th century mosques juxtaposed with dilapidated 20th century communist-era collective housing, of horse-drawn carriages sharing streets with Mercedes and SUVs, of archeology and industry, of internet cafes powered by generators—a country making the difficult transi-

tion from communism to democracy, from medieval farming to 21st century global politics and technology.

Rebekah Lambert, former executive director of the Eugene Symphony, spent 26 months in Albania and returned to Eugene in December 2005. She will share her experiences working in local government development, higher education, and anti-trafficking, learning the language and culture, and traveling the country.

Friday, April 28, 1:30-3:30 p.m.



OUR HERITAGE

In 1993 the University of Oregon Department of Continuing Education joined forces with a committee of townspeople and retired UO faculty and administrators to plan a lifelong learning program that would meet the unique needs and interests of the area's retired and semi-retired residents. The plan was introduced at a public meeting and seventy-five people signed up for membership. These dedicated charter members planned classes, activities and an organizational structure; the plan became a reality and Learning in Retirement (LIR) was born.

LIR celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in 2003, the same year Continuing Education and a committee of Central Oregon residents inaugurated a sister program, the Silver Sage Society, in Bend, Oregon.

In 2004 and 2005 Continuing Education applied for and was awarded \$100,000 Osher Foundation grants to enhance the UO lifelong learning programs. The Bernard Osher Foundation supports lifelong learning programs at colleges and universities across the country. The programs have adopted the OLLI moniker in acknowledgement of the Osher Foundation support and their affiliation with the national network.



LIR logo designed by Charter Member A. Dean McKenzie

Future Presentations

Ravenna, A Byzantine Pompeii

Professor emeritus **A. Dean McKenzie**, UO Art History Department, will speak on the Byzantine art of Ravenna. It is said Ravenna "possesses the world's richest heritage of 5th and 6th century mosaics, superior in artistic quality and iconological importance to those of any other city of the ancient and classical worlds both east and west." Don't miss this informative lecture accompanied by a slide presentation.

Monday, May 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For a complete list of future presentations, see "Coming Attractions" on the back of your calendar.



Armchair Traveler



Antarctica

Local naturalist, **Rick Ahrens**, will return to Armchair Traveler on **April 6th at 1:30 p.m.** In October last year, he entertained us with his wonderful pictures of "Birding Hotspots in North America". Now we will travel with him to Antarctica.

Although it occupies about 9% of the earth's land surface and is only slightly less than 1.5 times the size of the United States, Antarctica's existence was not confirmed until the early 1820s. It contains about 70% of the world's water and 90%

of the world's ice. As a whole, it is the coldest, windiest, highest (on average), and driest continent on our planet. But, because it is so out of the ordinary and beautiful, over 60,000 tourists have visited it since 1957. Through Rick, we will now have the opportunity to see and learn about Antarctica as well.

Ongoing Group Spotlight

For a number of years LIR, and now OLLI, has offered a German Conversation session on Monday afternoons. Our main activity in those sessions has been reading, translating German/English and English/German, as well as delving into the finer points of German grammar.

Yet we are aware that a number of members of OLLI have wider knowledge of the German language, but may not be able to use it for lack of opportunity in daily life. We would like to provide one opportunity by designating the fourth Monday of every month as "German-Conversation-Only." These sessions will appear on our monthly schedule as "German Conversation," while the other Monday sessions will now be entitled "Exploring German."

We would be delighted to welcome you to our sessions and would appreciate your contribution to keeping the German Muttersprache alive.

—Christa Grant

Ongoing Groups

Armchair Traveler

Meets first Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. **For April:** Antarctica, by Rick Ahrens. Contact: Gary Chenkin, 344-0292

Board Games

Meets second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. Contact: Carolyn Carney, 485-1677

Books, Classics/Philosophy

Meets fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. **For April:** *Village in the Vaucluse*, by Laurence Wylie. Contact: Paul Holbo, 344-0959

Books, Historical

Meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. **For April:** *Spring Moon*, by Bette Bao Lord. **For May:** *Tule Lake*, by Edward Miykawa. For location and information contact: Jack Gelineau, 687-7760 or Pat Johnson, 484-3955

Creative Writing

Meets on the first Thursday of every month at Noon. Contact: Vern Barkhurst, 434-4109

International Relations

Discussion Group

Meets first and third Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. **For April 5:** What are American National Interests? **For April 19:** What are the Positive and Negative Aspects of U.S. World Primacy? Contact John Attig, 686-1027

Music Appreciation

Meets second and fourth Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. **For April:** The Symphony. Contact: Reno Del Grande, 345-4987

News and Views

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Discuss local, national and international current events. Contact: Gary Carter, 342-3059

Playreading

Meets first and third Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. Contact: Vern Barkhurst, 434-4109.

Poetry Writing

Meets third Thursday at Noon. Contact: June Wyant, 344-0079

Thinking Allowed

Meets first and third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. **For April 6:** The Growing Disparity of U.S. Wealth. **For April 20:** Would Universal Health Care Cure All Our Problems? Contact: Chuck Adams, 343-1442

Understanding Science

Meets first and third Tuesday of every month.

Session I at 10:30 a.m. Video lecture series and discussion

Session II at 1:00 p.m. Discussion of specific issues in science

In the morning session we will finish the "Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum

Revolution." on April 4. **Starting April 18** our next topic will be "The Joy of Thinking: The Beauty and Power of Classical Mathematical Ideas" by Professor Edward B. Burger, Williams College, and Professor Michael Starbird, the University of Texas at Austin.

On **April 4**, Klaus Galda will lead a discussion on Mayan Archaeology for the afternoon session.

Please consider signing up for a topic or inviting someone to lead a discussion. Dates are available starting April 18. Subject areas should be related to physics, archaeology, genetics, biology, astronomy, medicine, geology, chemistry, or psychology. Please contact Beate if you have questions or wish to sign up. Contact: Beate Galda, 484-3958

Visual Artists Group

Meets fourth Wednesday at 10:00. Contact: Martin Sage, 342-3174

Foreign Language

Conversation Groups

Spanish: Meets weekly Thursday, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Contact: Eleanor Ryan, 684-8973

German: Meets weekly Monday, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Contact: Susanne Ettinger, 349-9299

Activities and Travel News



The Romance of the Vine Tour

On **April 8** a visit to Pfeiffer Vineyards, with a tour of the vineyard by the winemaker and grape grower has been planned. The deadline for registration has past. If you are registered and have questions **call Pat Bitner, trip coordinator, 485-3971.**

April Garden Tours

Portland Garden Tour

Tuesday, April 18

We are planning a tour of three important gardens in Portland which includes a guided tour of the Japanese Garden in Washington Park, the Classical Chinese Garden in "China Town" and a guided tour of Crystal Springs near Reed College. Lunch is at a Chinese Restaurant before going to the Chinese Garden. Crystal Springs is the larger sister of our Henricks Park Rhododendron garden.

There will be extensive walking, sometimes on narrow gravel paths. Be prepared for rain and wear sturdy walking shoes. We will be getting on and off the bus frequently. It would be wise not to plan an evening activity in case of unexpected delays, although we will drive directly to Eugene perhaps taking a rest stop south of Salem, arriving about 7:00 or 7:30 p.m. You may want to bring a snack for the return trip.

The deadline for registration is April 4. Feel free to invite a friend to join you. For more information call **Mary Jane Battin at 343-2366.** For reservations call **Experience Oregon at 342-2662.**

Masonic Cemetery Tour

Friday, April 21

The Masonic Cemetery has the largest collection of native flowers and plants within the City of Eugene. A tour of this beautiful sight has been planned for **April 21.** The cemetery is located on the corner of 25th and South University Streets. **Plan to arrive fifteen to twenty minutes prior to the scheduled start time of 1:30.** Wear comfortable walking shoes. Transportation to the top of the hill will be provided for those who do not wish to walk into the cemetery. No registration for this tour is necessary. All interested in participating are welcome. **For more information contact tour coordinator, Kay Holbo at 344-0959.**

Lewis and Clark Exploration Cruise

Thursday, June 8, 2006

We'll cruise the Willamette to the Columbia river and through the Multnomah Channel with narration by local historians. The cost of \$83 includes the cruise, continental breakfast and lunch buffet on the ship. The cruise will be from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Our departure time from Eugene will be 7:00 a.m. The deadline for registration has past. If you are registered and have questions **call Meribeth Olsen at 342-5190.**

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

May 10 and 11

Eugene/Springfield and Central Oregon OLLI members will be coming together again in Ashland for three plays, a lecture and social activities. Deadline for reservations was March 31, 2006. If you missed the sign-up and are wishing to go, please call the UO Continuing Education Office at 346-0697 to see if there are any spaces still available. For those who are signed up, you will be receiving more information about the trip arrangements soon.

<http://osher.uoregon.edu>

OLLI Committee Leadership

The membership elects a representative Council with responsibility to manage various aspects of the program with the support and direction of the UO Continuing Education staff.

Governing Council, 2005-2006

At present, the Council consists of the following:

- Flo Alvergue
- Robert Baechtold
- Jim Branvold
- Jim Brooks
- Mary Jane Battin
- Mary "Pat" Hennelly
- Arnold Ismach
- Joanne McAdam
- James Paschall
- Norma Ragsdale
- Sally Smith
- Louise Wade

Other committees include Curriculum, Finance, Membership, Promotion and Awards, and Activities and Travel. Membership on any committee is open to all members of the OLLI program.

Curriculum Committee

Ray Staton, Chair

Membership, Promotions and Awards Committee

Corinne Hunt, Chair

Activities and Travel Committee

Carolyn Carney, Chair

Budget and Finance Committee

Lynda Hain, Chair

Newsletter Contributors

Thank you to the following for their contribution to the December newsletter:

Margie Hanna

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OLLI National Resource Center

Have you had a chance to visit the OLLI National Resource Center website? The OLLI at the University of Southern Maine serves as the national center for the current network of 73 lifelong learning institutes throughout the nation. This sight features links to each of the 73 OLLI websites, Trips & Travel available to members, and a number of other ways for OLLIs to connect with one another. Visit this website at: <http://usm.maine.edu/olli/national/index.jsp>



NEWS ITEMS

Car Pool Network

If you can bring a non-driving member to some of our programs, please sign up on the clipboard in the large classroom. AND, if you need a ride, please sign up for that also or call the OLLI office at 346-0697.

Introduce a Friend to OLLI

You can help us meet our membership goals for 2005-06 by telling your friends about OLLI. Better yet, invite a friend to join you at one of the lectures or ongoing groups so that they can become better acquainted with OLLI.

Renewals and New Memberships

Renewals and membership applications may be sent to:

OLLI Eugene/Springfield
1277 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1277

Or you may drop them by the OLLI office at 975 High Street in Eugene.

Questions?

Call our friendly staff at 346-0697 or (800) 824-2714.

E-mail us at

olli@continue.uoregon.edu

Or visit our website at

<http://osher.uoregon.edu>, where you can always find the latest newsletter, calendar, and information on OLLI.



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Calendar of Committee Meetings

(All members are welcome to attend)

Activities and Travel

Monday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.
Chair: Carolyn Carney,
485-1677

Membership, Promotion and Awards

Tuesday, April 4, 9:30 a.m.
Chair: Corinne Hunt,
465-1860

Curriculum and Development

Friday, April 7, 9:30 a.m.
Chair: Ray Staton, 344-8221

Governing Council Meeting

Friday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.
President: Louise Wade,
687-0829

Town Meeting

Wednesday, May 24,
10:00 a.m. Program: Backstage
at the Oregon Bach Festival,
by George Evano

Hospitality Committee

To volunteer call: Norma Jones,
484-1055

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