

Your April edition of All Life is Learning is here.

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All Life is Learning



Happy Easter!

Welcome Dr. Toni Woolfork-Barnes New Director of OLLI at WMU

We are pleased to announce that Western Michigan University has named Dr. Toni Woolfork-Barnes as the next director of OLLI at

April 2019

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WMU.

Dr. Woolfork-Barnes brings more than 30 years of experience in leading various student-focused programs at WMU into her new role with OLLI at WMU, most recently serving as the director of the Office of Student Transitions at WMU. Dr. Woolfork-Barnes will officially transition to her new role with OLLI at WMU May 1.



Woolfork-Barnes replaces Shirley Swanson who is wrapping up a five-year term as director. Swanson's leadership played a key role in the organization earning recognition and support by the Bernard Osher Foundation and becoming OLLI at WMU.

Woolfork-Barnes assisted in the creation and implementation of the infrastructure for WMU's Office of Student Transitions which launched in 2005. During her tenure, she established and enhanced a variety of programs, including new student orientation, fall welcome, first-year seminar, transfer student services and foundation scholars.

Woolfork-Barnes has experience as the director for Upward Bound at WMU and has served as a research associate for science and mathematics program improvement at WMU. She has instructed courses in black women perspectives and statuses, women, multiculturalism and social change, and grant writing for WMU in addition to serving as a faculty facilitator in first-year experience programming.

Woolfork-Barnes has a Bachelor of Science in applied behavioral analysis, a Master of Arts in industrial organizational psychology and a doctorate in educational leadership, all from Western Michigan University.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Woolfork-Barnes to OLLI at WMU, and congratulating her on her new position.

A formal press release by WMU is forthcoming.

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Introduce a Friend

Introduce a friend or neighbor to OLLI by sending us their name and address. We'll mail them out most recent catalog.

OLLI at WMU Vision Statement

To be the leading provider of distinctive lifelong learning opportunities in Southwest Michigan.

Membership

Are you a member?

If you are, you know your membership fee

Coordinator's Corner

There are courses beginning in April still available

Note: "The Beatles Before Ed Sullivan," only has one opening and "The Brass Band of Battle Creek," has four.

Virtue Triumphant in John Milton's "Paradise Regained"	Meghan Decker	Thurs. 4/4, 4/11, 4/18 & 4/25	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	StoryPoint Room
The Beatles Before Ed Sullivan	Randall Schau	Mon. 4/8, 4/15 & 4/22	10 a.m. - 12 noon	Friendship Village
The Brass Band of Battle Creek: A Most Improbable Story	William & James Gray	Thurs. 4/18	2 - 4 p.m.	The Foundry Auditorium

You can register online at wmich.edu/olli or by phone at (269) 387-4200

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Travel Corner

Grab your calendar and get ready to explore! OLLI Travel has put together four diverse and amazing trips for you to enjoy during the summer and early fall. The spring trips sold in a flash and we are most pleased that you are excited about the destinations. We are confident you will find the upcoming schedule as compelling. **Please note: Registrations open May 7 for all OLLI Summer Catalog trips.**

We kick off **July 17** with a trip "next door" to explore **Indiana Gems**. The first stop will be in Auburn with a guided tour of the iconic Cord Duesenberg Auto Museum. We will be shown antique, vintage and special interest cars, especially those unique to the Cord Duesenberg era. This stunning collection of over 100 pristine hand-built cars is housed in an Art Deco-style factory showroom that was once the corporate headquarters of E.L. Cord. The displays will step you back to

includes many benefits, including discounted course fees!

Member Handbook

The [OLLI at WMU Member Handbook](#) is designed to answer questions that you may have about OLLI at WMU, both to members and those considering becoming a member. Visit the [OLLI at WMU membership page](#) to get a copy of the handbook.

Share your Love of Learning

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a time when automobiles were truly a work of art. The stories are too numerous to relate in our newsletter, so just come along and see for yourself! Frank Lloyd Wright even commented on the beauty and design of a Duesenberg!

Our motor coach will ramble on down the road to Fort Wayne where we will enjoy a delightful lunch (included) and then go to the historic Embassy Theatre. We will participate in a guided tour followed by a short performance on the Grande Page Pipe Organ. This organ is grand indeed! Only three of its size were ever built and this one still resides in its original home. It is spectacular and massive. We will hear an amazing story about a vaudeville theatre and spectacular musical instrument which were both saved from the wrecking ball and now, thankfully, proudly reside on the National Register of Historic Places.

The day wraps up with a visit and a guided tour of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. The museum has unique collections and special exhibits which will be an enjoyable closing to our fun-filled day. This museum is a medium-sized cultural jewel in Fort Wayne so we decided to add it to our venue list. Come along and enjoy some Hoosier Hospitality with OLLI!

We plan to highlight our upcoming trips in more detail each month, but here's a guide to round out your travel calendar:

August 6 will find us again in Battle Creek to explore John Harvey Kellogg's legacy expressed in the Adventist Museum and the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center. The afternoon then moves to the future as we have on-site guided tours of WMU's School of Aviation and Duncan Aviation. The scheduled tours are sure to please!

September 10 Experience a unique walking tour of Art Deco architecture in Detroit led by our own Sue Robinson. In June, Lynn Houghton is planning an OLLI course highlighting certain aspects of the Art Deco movement. This would be a great way to prepare for the Detroit trip! Watch for it in the summer catalog.

October 1-3 We will visit CLEVELAND! The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame will be only one of the unique venues we plan to explore. History, art, nature, fine dining and truly beautiful overnight accommodations are all in store for our OLLI travelers, for sure, in THE CLEVE!



kalamazooliteracycouncil



Eric S. Miles, CRPC

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Watch upcoming newsletters and be sure to check out full information in the soon to be released summer catalog. We can hardly wait to share our new trips with you!

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Transitions

Tom Vance, chair of the OLLI Development Committee, recently spoke with Marilyn Vineyard, former executive director of the American Red Cross in Southwest Michigan for more than 20 years, who recently completed her tenure as a member of the OLLI Advisory Board and as chair of the Volunteer Committee.

You've been active with OLLI for seven and a half years now. How did you get involved?

I attended the August 2011 open house of the Academy of Lifelong Learning at WMU (one of OLLI's prior names) at the prodding of a friend who thought I might like the program. Indeed, after listening to instructors who were presenting classes that fall, I was hooked, signing up for some classes right away. In September, Josephine Arnold, currently chair of the Advisory Board for OLLI, sat next to me in a class about peak oil production. From our past work lives, she knew that I had worked extensively with volunteers and asked me if I would consider helping the fledgling lifelong learning program, helping to guide new volunteers to work areas they would enjoy.

What do you tell people when you introduce them to OLLI?

I tell folks OLLI is a great way to keep their minds open and active by learning new "stuff," traveling to places you might not think about on your own and updating old information about a subject we haven't studied since our high school/college/early adulthood years. Another plus is you meet curious and receptive people from varied backgrounds whom you otherwise would never meet and gain some new friends who are here for the same reasons...to learn. Also, I emphasize the program is totally dependent upon volunteer instructors and other volunteers doing things that aren't overly demanding and many of which can be done on their own time.

Can you share a few highlights of your leadership time, on the advisory board and at the committee level?

A highlight, for sure, has been getting acquainted with so many people: hands-on volunteers, instructors, staff and students at WMU, and colleagues in classes and on trips. With the advisory board and committees, we have streamlined some processes so that we can focus more on topics that will have a long-term impact on OLLI, while still struggling with some that may warrant a re-do, not unlike any other organization that operates with a board and committees.

It looks like a smooth transition with Arlene Brislen coming onboard.

Yes, with succession planning as one of our ongoing goals, when Arlene and I first met, it was obvious that rolling into this position would be of interest to her; she wants to be in a “boots-on-the-ground” position working with people. She has shadowed me for close to a year, attending individual get-acquainted sessions with potential volunteers, participating in several committee meetings, helping recruit course liaisons, and overseeing aspects of a couple of the annual events OLLI sponsors. In addition, we openly share ideas, questions and concerns, and she’s inheriting my historical “files” and knows if she needs to tap other history that might be in my head and not in a file, she’s welcome to ask me.

So, Marilyn, what’s next?

Real retirement! I plan on concentrating on my personal life and the new set of joys and challenges that it may bring. Having said that, I do plan to continue taking OLLI courses as my schedule allows. I very much enjoy learning and keeping in contact with the many friends I’ve made through this organization! And, even though I will not be part of the OLLI board anymore, I will always keep my antenna up for potential instructors and will help at our events that just require showing up!

NOTE: From the staff and all of us who volunteer at OLLI, thank you, Marilyn, for your years of wonderful service to this organization. You will always will be one of the building blocks who helped put this organization on solid ground. We are thrilled that you still want to be part of us and look forward to seeing you

in class and on the bus!

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WMU School of Music

Concerts in April

WMU Drum Choir

Monday, April 1, 5 p.m. – Free

Gold Company II

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. – Free

Bullock Performance Institute: Voice Faculty Showcase

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

Pre-concert talk at 7:00. Senior ticket \$10

51st Annual Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music - Carter Pann*, Guest Artist and Conductor

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. – Free

* Carter Pann currently teaches composition and theory at the University of Colorado, Boulder

Guest Artist and Student Recital: The Music of Carter Pann

Saturday, April 6, 2 p.m. - Free

Student Composers IV

Saturday, April 6, 8 p.m. - Free

University Symphonic Band and University Concert Band

Sunday, April 7, 3 p.m. - Free

Advanced Jazz Ensemble and Gold Company

Sunday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. - Free

University Jazz Lab Band

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. - Free

Bullock Performance Institute: Martha Cuncell-Vargas* - Flute

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

Pre-concert talk at 7:00. Senior ticket \$10

* Martha Councell-Vargas is an associate professor of flute at Western Michigan University

Choral Showcase: Collegiate Singers, Cantus Femina and University Chorale

Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m. – Free

Faculty Recital: Lori Sims, Piano

Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m. – Free

60th Annual Concerto Concert: University Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m. - Free

39th Annual Music Therapy Clinic Concert

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m. – Free

University Jazz Orchestra and Kalamazoo Youth Jazz Orchestra

Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. – Charge

Venues: The April 4 Spring Conference Concert, the April 7 Symphonic and Concert Band Concert and the April 14 Symphony Orchestra Concert all will take place in Miller Auditorium. All other concerts will take place in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

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What is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute? The program was initiated under the auspices of the WMU Emeriti Council and WMU's Extended University Programs. OLLI offers intellectually lively and culturally appealing learning experiences. We accomplish this by focusing on intellectual stimulation, personal growth, social engagement and enrichment.

What do we do? We offer short courses for one to four weeks. Sessions are usually two hours long. Travel programs are also a part of our offerings. There are no tests and no required homework, just exploring lots of interesting topics.

In the near future we will offer courses in different formats -- noon hour discussions, several sessions in one week, and more evening courses. OLLI courses and activities are developed and produced by its members with the support of the staff of Extended University Programs.

We need your ideas for course topics and instructors. Let us know your suggestions. Call the OLLI office at (269) 387-4200 or [send an email](#). The curriculum committee will review all suggestions.

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Our mailing address is:

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU

1903 W Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5230

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