The Spring Quarter at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was an exciting one. There were so many quality choices that many of us felt like full-time students, needing to be present in classes and lectures every day, and sometimes twice a day. Peer presenters such as Phyllis Rosenbaum, John Staude and Neil Heymann continued to share their wisdom and skill in leading exciting and interesting sessions. The popular Barbara Greer once again facilitated a short story class to a full house. (More about Barbara later.)

The Law and Society series and the Global Justice series both touched on important issues that concern us as world citizens and as senior adults. (Read more about Mark Evans, coordinator of Law and Society series later in this issue.)

Science played a leading role in our course choices. Making Sense of Science enlightened us about clinical trials, how to read articles about new medicines and how to determine the reliability of what we read. Maureen Curran, Executive Director of the Stein Research Center on Aging coordinated this series along with our energetic Jack Holtzman. On Thursdays Lynn Russell turned our lecture room into a science lab and we will never again look at clouds the same way. Her lecture notes are posted on the Osher web site.

Theater World continued with outstanding performances from a dedicated cast and tireless directors. The Friday Live Music programs continued to enchant us. The Marilyn Heikoff Arts and Humanities series honored her memory and love of the arts. Bruno Leone lectured to SRO classes. Space does not permit us to continue with all the accolades of those who shared their knowledge and energy with us. Let us just say kudos to the Curriculum Committee for their outstanding selection of interesting and exciting courses, lectures and peer presentations.

Now the summer is upon us with more excitement. Our favorite home grown talent, Gustavo Romero will be with us once again. Linda Blair returns with a series of lectures on Baroque art and we can continue to go to the movies on Wednesday afternoons, among other things. Enjoy!

As we go to press for this issue of the Osher Observer we are reminded once again of our good fortune, and good judgment, to be residing here in San Diego. Much of the country is sweltering under record heat, millions of people have lost power and more unfortunately the State of Colorado is being devastated by fires only partially contained. We will continue to keep all of these people who have suffered so much in our hearts and prayers and help them in any way we can.

Enjoy!
SOME OF THE SPRING SPEAKERS

Anita Raj, Ph.D.  Gerry Mackie, Ph.D.  Giacomo Rondini, Ph.D.  Kraig Kavanagh, MFA

Lynn Russell, Ph.D.  Nancy Stimpson, Karen Haskett  Biomedical Librarians  Tom Karlo  General Manager  KPBS

OSHER CALENDAR

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www.Olli.ucsd.edu
One of the highlights of the Spring quarter at the Osher Lifelong Learning institute was the special ten week series, *Making Sense of Science*. Every week a team of people from the UCSD Clinical and Translational Research Institute’s (CTRI) Education Division presented topics to help us understand the medical and scientific breakthroughs we learn about almost daily. CTRI is an interdisciplinary resource at the University that spans many departments in educating the community about these particular events.

Perusing the list of distinguished professionals who made presentations one notices among them a number of individuals who have impressive credentials in medicine, social science, science and library science. Not appearing on the list however, is the one person who made all of this possible for members of the OLLI, Maureen Curran.

Maureen, who is the Executive Director of the Stein Institute for Research on Aging, was the constant presence at each session. She introduced the speakers, reminded us to evaluate the presentations, and was generally available for feedback and conversation. One might say she was the backbone of the series.

Maureen, who has served in her present position for just seven years, proudly brags that she has worked with Dr. Dilip Jeste, Professor and chair of the Stein Institute, for more than 20 years. When he assumed his place as Chair he invited Maureen to work with him and they are truly a team.

In her capacity as Executive Director of the Institute Maureen has a number of roles. She is responsible for the development and oversight of studies related to successful cognitive and emotional aging and administration of the division's training programs. Another role has been manager of the NIMH-sponsored Summer Research Institute (SRI) in Geriatric Psychiatry. This is a national training program intended to provide the tools necessary to begin, maintain, and succeed in a research career in the mental disorders of late life for postdoctoral trainees and junior faculty members. She also manages national research training programs in aging for undergraduate, graduate, and medical students.

Maureen, however, sees herself primarily as a problem solver. Often many new ideas come across her desk; some of which may be generated directly from the Institute, CTRI, the medical school; or any other related department on campus. It is her job to review these ideas, determine their viability and identify a team with the greatest accuracy which can bring the idea to fruition in the shortest time possible. She does seem to do it all.

The *Making Sense of Science Series* was the result of a grant between CTRI and the Stein Institute. One of the elements was the mandate to bring information to the public about the current state of scientific research. Maureen regards this as consistent with the work she does on a daily basis. She believes in a team approach to educate and provide information in all aspects of her work.

Maureen regards her work as cutting edge. The commitment of the Institute and CTRI to the team approach is a paradigm shift in an academic environment. In many ways, she is helping to change the culture regarding research in the field of successful aging. Maureen does all this work with a minimal support staff. She and Dr. Jeste share an Executive Assistant. There are 135 faculty members of the Institute consisting of MDs and PhDs. There is an operating budget for administration generated from an endowment. Thus grants are necessary to provide funds for new research and education projects.

(Continued on page 4)
Maureen Curran is well suited for her job. This native of Chicago has BS and MS degrees in gerontology so she fully understands the need to know more about successful aging. With all of this she is the mother of two bright children and manages to maintain a smile and a great disposition.

To learn more about The Stein Institute for Research on Aging log onto www.aging.ucsd.edu
For more information about CTRI www.ctri.ucsd.edu

Contributors: Elaine Olds, Marsha Janger, Marcia Wyrtzen, Jim Wyrtzen, Janice Alper

We all have stories to tell. This is most evident in the Memoirs Class coordinated by Aurora and Bob King. For many years participants have written about their life experiences and shared them in a candid and non-judgmental format in the class. This year a new opportunity was presented to members of the class. We were invited to engage young people from the Preuss School UCSD who also participate in the Access Youth Academy to write and share their life experiences with us.

The Preuss School is a Charter school which selects its students from an underserved and under-represented population. Its mission is to prepare their students to gain entrance to and attend a four-year university. The Access Youth Academy is an independent arm of the Preuss School where students play squash in lieu of physical education. But it is also much more.

A meeting facilitated by Aurora and Bob King and Marsha Janger was held with Alison Friedel, Academic Coordinator of the Access Youth Academy. A subsequent meeting was held with some of the students to measure their level of acceptance of this unique idea. The students were excited and enthusiastic about the concept and several were eager to participate. On the Osher side Elaine Olds, Marsha Wyrtzen, Jim Wyrtzen and Janice Alper accepted the challenge of working with the students in this capacity. Rick Seidenwurm, a member of the larger San Diego community, also agreed to participate. And so Project Brave New Voices was born.

Michael Kalichman, Maureen Curran, and Michael Caligiuri

Lisa Eyler, Ph. D. and Colin Depp, Ph. D.

Janice Alper and Reyna Pacheco
Alison assigned the students to each of the ‘mentor-facilitators’ in small groups of three and four. What emerged over the course of this academic year was remarkable. While the focus was on writing and mentoring, warm friendships and new insights emerged on both sides. For many of the students English is not their first language and the desire to express themselves in writing was a challenge and an inspiration. We gained perspectives on the lives of students from Ethiopia, Vietnam, Mexico, China, and other parts of the world. As an aside, at the recent graduation of Preuss, greetings were expressed to the audience in thirteen different languages.

A number of participants were seniors and we had the opportunity to see them through their college essays and the tension of acceptance to academic universities, such as Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Amherst, San Diego State, UC San Diego among others. For those of us who served as mentors it was the kind of experience one gains from getting more than one gives. It is probably best summed up in the words of Marcia Wyrtzen, “For me personally, working with my group has been exciting, creatively satisfying, and inspirational. Making the transition from Ethiopia and China has provided my group members with a special resilience to conquer formidable challenges that leaves me breathless with admiration.”

At the Access Youth Academy all the students have to qualify to play squash. Some are currently nationally ranked. One student, Reyna Pacheco, received a scholarship to play for Columbia University (She subsequently received a Gates Millenium Scholarship as well). Some younger students are coming up the ranks. But it is not all squash, since one hour of the two hours spent at the squash courts are devoted to academic tutoring. We, as mentor-facilitators, met with the students at the squash courts and shared our writings and ideas with each other amidst the cacophony of balls thumping against the walls. It was exciting and exhilarating.

Every year 10 students are recruited to the Access Youth Academy. This was the first year that ten students, who have been competing for four years graduated from Access Youth Academy (and the Preuss School). They were so proud of their accomplishments with Brave New Voices that the Osher mentors were selected to receive the Student Choice Award for Volunteer(s) of the Year.

These are truly Brave New Voices, representative of the future of our country and the whole world. If you are interested in learning more about this program and the Access Youth Academy you may log onto www.accessyouthacademy.org or ask any one of us who has been involved. If you are interested in participating as a mentor contact Alison Friedel at alison@accessyouthacademy.org or speak to one of us.

A few of the students in Brave New Voices
MARK EVANS, MAN OF MYSTERY AND GRUMPMEISTER!

We all know Mark Evans as the Osher coordinator of the Law and Society Series. As he makes the introductions for the outstanding people he recruits, he appears cool, quiet and unassuming. However, like many of us, Mark has many different sides that do not appear on the surface. For instance, he reads two books at a time, usually mysteries and thrillers alongside more serious books; he likes violent movies; and if you really want to know what is on his mind, log onto his blog, grumpmeister.wordpress.com, where he vents about his minor irritations.

For us at Osher, Mark has taken his experience as a practicing attorney and made it his avocation in this volunteer capacity. He is a native New Yorker who graduated from Cornell Law School, practicing law in a number of capacities prior to retiring here in La Jolla. His career spans the spectrum from private practice to publicly held positions, primarily with the Solicitor General’s office of the United States, and then as general counsel at the Interstate Commerce Commission. In his private practice, he focused on telecommunications, representing primarily the “Baby Bells.”

The Law and Society Series came about because Mark sensed that it was an underserved element of the curriculum. He diligently surveys the courses offered at the law schools in San Diego and sometimes Los Angeles. He peruses the faculty lists to see what people are teaching at their respective schools and identifies topics that appeal to him and that he believes would be of interest to us. From all the reviews about the series, he is batting 1000!

Mark invites the speakers to talk about the subjects they are teaching, thus keeping them in their comfort zone. In every instance, the lecturers have enjoyed the experience and several are anxious to return.

Mark and his wife Janet, also an attorney, who retired long before he did; made a gradual transition to California from their home in Washington, D.C. They bought their La Jolla abode in the 1990’s and moved here permanently in 2004. Janet and Mark have two sons who, like their parents, are quite accomplished. One son is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan and their second son is finishing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Mark has not left the practice of law entirely. He still consults with other lawyers from time to time and follows politics and legal issues on the internet. He is an avid Washington Redskins fan and follows their progress very closely.

Thank you, Mark, for all you do.
Knowing Barbara is like peeling an onion; one must be ready for surprises. Most of all I know Barbara as a team player. She wears many hats at Osher and has the distinction of being a sort of historian. Since joining ICL more than 18 years ago she has embraced many aspects of continued learning by being an active participant, including the potluck luncheons and social gatherings.

Barbara’s outstanding Short Stories class on alternate Tuesday afternoons is a highlight for anyone with a literary passion who thrives on orbited discussion of stories that tweak our imagination, memory and literary long term knowledge. In the many years I have been part of Short Stories there has never been a repeat collection, a truly remarkable feat.

In leading her short story class she delights us when each story is depicted in a chalk sketch on the blackboard. She connects literary “birds-of-a-feather” and surprises her fledglings with delicious baked treats from original recipes. Without too much coaxing she will share them with her hungry friends. Munching doesn't stop at the door when those in the other room join in.

Barbara’s background is eclectic: T.W.U. & Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa; learning Japanese; living in Hawaii & the Philippines with husband # 2; indulging her joy of cooking, drawing and collecting many Chinoiserie treasures that adorn her home in the University City neighborhood. Among her other talents are pastel, crayon, and graphite drawings of faces, people from the far corners in situ & sensitive portrayals of people.

Barbara has been an active Council and Board member. Her historical perspective connecting the past with our present Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on Council is invaluable. She is the best promoter of our Osher community, describing in superlatives how fortunate and stimulating it is to be among friendly, creative, intelligent people. She joins Osher members on frequent bus trips to Museums, Gardens and sites of interest and brings out the social bonding between newcomers and members of longer tenure. Her culinary skills are a regular attraction at Pot Luck gatherings at Osher luncheons.

Come & meet Barbara Greer, aka Leonardo de Greer, busily sketching chalk drawings on Room 129 for Theater World and in the lunchroom when Short Stories meets.
The Aging in America conference will be in Chicago March 12-16, 2013. Proposal deadline is July 2. If anyone would like to collaborate with Kali on a session, drop a line.

The AARP 2012 Life@50+ National Event & Expo will be held on September 20-22 in New Orleans. The National Resource Center will have a booth at the show. Stop by and visit!

OSHER FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BECOMES NEBRASKA NAVY ADMIRAL

On March 19 the honorary title of Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska, Nebraska’s highest honor, was bestowed upon Mary G. F. Bitterman, President of the Bernard Osher Foundation, during her visit to Lincoln, Nebraska. The Governor of Nebraska, a landlocked state, approved the title. It is not a military rank, requires no duties and carries with it no pay or other compensation. “There hasn’t been a single enemy attack by an enemy ship. It’s a great navy,” stated Rod Bates, Director of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and Mary Bitterman’s good friend.

OSHER FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BECOMES NEBRASKA NAVY ADMIRAL

From Stephen Gordon
Phyllis Rosenbaum as a literature and poetry facilitator is insightful, sensitive, intelligent, and a treasure. Her classes are delightful. Gold star A+!

Marcia Wyrtzen
A special treat this Spring Quarter has been the jazz series led so competently and enthusiastically by David Borgo. His passion for the music and knowledge of the history of jazz, showcased through the interweaving of film clips with his own wonderful musicianship as a sax player, has been illustrative, innovative, and just plain fun. May he have many more encore “performances” before Osher audiences.

Marcia Wyrtzen, Josie Burdick, Jim Wyrtzen, Linda Shirer, Reed Sullivan, Katrin Belenky, Al Korobkin, and Ethel Zablow

TIMOTHY G. EVATT, father, lawyer, and mentor to many, passed away in the company of his loving family on April 19, 2012. Tim leaves behind his children Timothy, Stephen, and Anne Marie, and all of his beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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