What an exciting time for the UWM Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. With a major gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation, one of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee’s most valuable programs is increasing its position as a national leader in continuing education.

The Osher Institute is by no means being started from scratch. It is being built on a program with a strong reputation. One of the main reasons we received Osher support was because the Guild for Lifelong Learning had a solid foundation of volunteer support and excellent programming. This well-deserved financial support provides an opportunity to further develop and enrich the existing programs while creating new programs and expanding offerings to broader audiences of learners. Signs of the changes are already visible, including a new office in the Hefter Center, marketing plans from the September 29th brainstorming session and new programming ideas.

As the son of a former Guild member, I remember fondly how in the mid 1980s my retired father, who did not have a chance to go to college as a young man, would talk about the classes he took at the University where he learned from some of the “best thinkers” (including himself I might add) in a number of fields. For him, as for many adults, the Guild was a major source of continued learning and fulfillment during years when he also had much wisdom to share. It was also a long awaited opportunity to “go to college” and study and learn alongside professors and many experienced, knowledgeable, and interesting adults. As an avid reader and strong supporter of lifelong learning, I’m sure if he could see it now he would be extremely excited about what it has become, as we are in SCE—a showcase program for lifelong learners.

The program founders had a good idea that has grown into an even better idea today. Shortly, as a lifelong learner, I hope to become a regular participant. Thank you to all those who have helped over the years to make it such a successful place to learn and visit with others.
President’s Message

Greetings of the New Year to each and every one of you—members of Osher—the board—and the staff. It’s a traditional season for looking back and measuring what we’ve accomplished. It’s also a time for acknowledging the challenges of the coming months and of making resolutions to achieve goals. It was on a cold January day in 1961 that JFK said, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” I ask you what can you do for us…for Osher and its programs? We’ve had a dedicated cadre of workers helping us through this transitional time. Some of these individuals have served for many years and deserve a rest. There’s a deep untapped reservoir of talent that we need to identify. Is there a course, program, or lecture topic that you can offer? On which committee would you be willing to serve? Are you leadership material? There are several vacancies on the board. Are there individuals who you know that you could/would nominate for any of these responsibilities? Do you have suggestions for possible course presenters?

Perhaps those of you who read the New York Times noticed a recent article on the benefit to mental health that accompanies lifelong learning. It included this intriguing information, “In 2001, Dr. Scarmeas published a long-term study of cognitively healthy elderly New Yorkers. On average, those who pursued the most leisure activities of an intellectual or social nature had a 38 percent lower risk of developing dementia. The more activities, the lower the risk. Long-term studies in other countries, including Sweden and China, have also found that continued social interactions helped protect against dementia.” The article emphasized that it’s not enough to keep doing the same things over and over. New activities and new challenges are what increase the value of these social and intellectual interactions. Osher offers you the opportunity to diversify your participation.

We all have been getting and responding to the “financial help needed” letters from numerous charitable organizations. We’re asking for a different kind of support from you. We need the active involvement of all of our members to become a more vibrant, contributing and energizing asset to the community. Won’t you join me in resolving to do everything possible to bring this organization to a new level of educational achievement and social success? Your contribution may make the critical difference.

Terry Rozga
Transitions – a Visit with the Executive Director

New Year’s is always a time that prompts reflection on the changes the last year has brought and predictions about the coming days. That makes it a fitting time to profile Osher Executive Director Cathie Sanders and talk to her about the Institute, its past and future.

Cathie is someone who has had to accommodate major transitions in her personal life in the past year. Some have been glorious, like the safe return of son Colin in January from military service in Afghanistan, others bittersweet like the August departure of Colin and his sister Kaila for college (Colin to Stevens Point; Kaila to Eau Claire), and one wrenching – the unexpected death in April of Colin and Kaila’s father, her ex-husband Phil. “Two thousand seven was an emotional roller coaster for our family, but things are leveling off,” notes Cathie. “Colin and Kaila returned from their first college semesters in high spirits – which is great. The house was getting a little too quiet.”

The transitions in her professional life are less stark, but still significant. “The Osher grant has been a great opportunity. It’s also raised expectations for what we can accomplish, but it’s been difficult to move as quickly as many would like,” she points out. “I’m looking forward to 2008 as a time where we can really see change--more members, more activities, more visibility in the community.”

Cathie is anxious to implement some of the best practices she’s learned at the professional conferences she, Osher president Terry Rozga, and others have attended. For instance, she points out that “we can do a much better job of welcoming new members. We should try to get them involved in some volunteer or committee work right away. One thing we decided at the last board meeting was to have low key Coffee and Conversations once a month. These would be very informal gatherings, but ones where long time members could actively engage newer members.”

International travel is an extremely popular and successful area for many Wisconsin lifelong learning groups. Cathie’s supervisor, Kim Beck, has a great deal of experience planning such trips and he will be working with Cathie and Osher advisors to create some “local grown” international travel.

As she looks to the challenges of 2008, Cathie is buoyed to be back, at least part-time, in the Hefter Center. She’s been with UWM for over 30 years, in many different roles, and in many different venues. But she remembers the years she spent on the second floor of Hefter (then Marietta House) as the richest. “It’s a beautiful space and a wonderful home for Osher activities.” She also admits to a guilty secret: “I think all of us who have worked in this building have entertained fantasies about living here. It’s nice to be back, even if it’s just two days a week.”

by Mary J. Mulroy

Again the shadow moveth o’er
The dial-plate of time.
from The New Year – John Greenleaf Whittier

Cathie would also like to see short courses and other activities planned year-round. “We tend not to do much in the summer and that’s not the case with other similar groups,” she has discovered. She’d also like to see more members involved in planning activities: “We are unusual in having just one small committee planning most of the courses and other learning experiences. It’s much more typical to have many committees structured around topical areas like literature, history, politics, tours, etc. We do this somewhat through the Special Interest Groups, but many members are more comfortable pursuing their interests in the structured short course and seminar formats.”
**Around UWM**

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) offers area residents a variety of unique educational experiences. For a full schedule of UWM events, you can go to www.uwm.edu. Click on the “Quicklinks” button at the top of the page and go to Event Calendar. In the meantime, here’s a sampling of events to whet your appetite.

**Film: Experimental Tuesdays**

Experimental Tuesdays at the Union Theatre offers free bi-monthly screenings of the most recent and most celebrated in experimental work, in 35mm, 16mm, and video.

*Time: 7 p.m.*

*Location: Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood*

**Tuesday, January 29, 2008 & Tuesday, February 5:** A two-part program of short British avant-garde films from the 1960s and 70s, decades in which independent filmmakers challenged cinematic convention.

**Tuesday, February 12:** This program of recent French experimental film is curated and presented by Film Department alumnus Grant Wiedenfeld. Artists to be featured include Delphine Lest, Philippe Cote, Xavier Baert, and Carole Arcega.

**Tuesday, February 19:** Canadian artist Althea Thauberger shares her video work, much of which involves collaborative projects with young people using the structure of melodrama to invite reflection on self-definition, alienation, and community. Thauberger, who also works in film, photography, and performance, has shown her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions in North America, Europe and Asia.

**Dance**

UWM’s nationally known Dance Department presents four concerts each year:

**Winterdances and Summerrdances**, which showcase the work of faculty and guest artists, performed by students; and **New Dancemakers and Dancemakers**, which feature choreography by undergraduate and graduate students, respectively.

**Winterdances 2008**

*January 31-February 3 (Performances at 7:30 pm except Sunday, 2 pm)*

*Location: Mainstage Theatre, 2400 East Kenwood Blvd.*

*(Cost: $19/$10 seniors, students, alumni)*

*(Special Note: On Friday February 1st at 6:55 pm there will be a pre-show discussion with Professor Simone Ferro who will discuss the Brazilian background of her dance piece, Sotaque (Accent), in which the historical-social time of popular celebration is contrasted with the abstract time of modern dance.)*

**Science Bag**

UWM’s Science Bag lecture series has attracted over 150,000 curious learners since its first presentation in 1973. Designed to make science topics more accessible to the general public, the series features colorful speakers from many disciplines: biology, geology, mathematics, anthropology, meteorology, chemistry, and physics. Shows are presented at 8 p.m. every Friday, with a 2 p.m. matinee one Sunday each month. The family-friendly presentations are held in room 137 of the Physics Building, corner of Kenwood Boulevard and Cramer Street. (Science Bag Online offers Streaming Videos of selected previous offerings: [www.uwm.edu/letsic/sciencebag](http://www.uwm.edu/letsic/sciencebag))

January’s Friday night topic is "Wisconsin’s Green Quilt: Patterns of Native Plant Communities," with Jim Reinartz of the UWM Field Station. February features Jeff Karronof the Department of Biological Sciences who will explore “Bumblebee Buzz: What’s Happening to Our Pollinators?”
UWM Opera Theater:
The Coronation of Poppea
Claudio Monteverdi’s 1642 Coronation of Poppea tells the ancient Roman story of the devious Poppea who, with the support of the all-powerful God of Love, triumphs over her foes, seducing Nero and taking the place of Octavia as Empress of Rome. The fully-staged production, sung in English, will be presented by the students of the UWM Voice program with a student chamber ensemble. Guest Metropolitan Opera bass Ryan Allen plays Seneca.

January 25-27
(Performances at 7:30 pm except Sunday, 2 pm)
Location: Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.; Box Office: (414) 229-4308;
Cost: $19/$10 seniors, students, alumni

Theater Lab/Works Series
Twelfth Night: In the Rough
by William Shakespeare, directed by Jim Tasse. Shakespeare’s delightful tale of love and mischief will be presented in this studio production with special emphasis on the Bard’s powerful language and wonderful characters.

February 20-24,
(Performances at 7:30 pm except Sunday, 2 pm)
Location: Studio Theatre, Arts Center; Cost: $5

Of Mice and Men
by John Steinbeck tells the story of George and Lennie, two migrant workers sharing a dream of one day owning their own farm. Steinbeck sets the play against the backdrop of the Great Depression, with George and Lennie’s innocence a stark contrast with the greed and materialism of the world around them.

February 26-March 2
(Performances at 7:30 pm except Sunday, 2 pm)

Visual Art
Exhibit: UWM’s Institute of Visual Arts is mounting an exhibit titled “Large Narrative Drawing Featuring Deb Sokolow.” Sokolow is a Chicago artist who mixes politics, popular culture, conspiracy theory, and social anxiety into sweeping, intricate tales.

January 27-March 14, 2008
Location: Inova/Kenilworth Gallery, 2155 North Prospect Ave.
(Gallery hours: Wednesday & Friday-Sunday, 12 noon-5 pm; Thursday, 12 noon-8 pm.)

Lecture #1: Sokolow will also inaugurate the spring Visual Arts Lecture Series with a talk on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 7 pm, Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Sokolow is a recipient of a 2007 Frankel Anderson Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center and a 2005 Visual Arts Fellowship Grant from the Illinois Arts Council. Her work has been included in exhibitions at Northern Illinois University Art Museum, Rudolph Projects in Houston, Texas, and in Chicago at 40000, Hyde Park Art Center, and at the Museum of Contemporary Art, where her 48 foot-long drawing, “Someone tell Mayor Daley the pirates are coming” was recently on view.

Lecture #2: The second lecture in the spring visual arts series features Claire Pentecost on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Bd. Pentecost will discuss her photography and drawing practice in conjunction with the current exhibition in Inova/Kenilworth.
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**January 2008**

- **February 2008**

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**Sunday 17**
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**Sunday 18**
10:30 Potpourri - (C)

**Sunday 24**
2:00 Next Act Theater Matinee - (C)

**Sunday 25**
10:30 Potpourri - (C)
12:15 Next Act Theater - (C)

**February 2008**
Special Interest Group Notes
January-February, 2008

For complete information about SIG groups, call the Osher Office at 414-227-3222.
Unless stated otherwise, all SIG meetings will be held at the Hefter Center – First Floor Library

LANGUAGE:

FRENCH: Prof. Martine Meyer 414-964-3717
Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

ITALIAN: Silvana Kukuljan 414-332-4427
Every Tuesday, 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m.

SPANISH: Tony LoBue 414-962-2395
Every Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

SPANISH CONVERSATION:
Pat Ulman 414-332-2956
Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

BOOKS:
Cathy Morris-Nelson 414-352-2839
Third Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Meet at Shorewood Library

JAN. 15: “White Dog of the Night” by Terry Kay
FEB. 19: “Memory Keeper’s Daughter” by Kim Edwards

PLAY READING:
Second and Fourth Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

POETRY:
Ruth Allschwang 414-223-4986
First and Third Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

GOLD STAR MYSTERIES:
Beverly DeWeese 414-332-7306
First Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Meet at Shorewood Library - Lower Level

JAN. 3: “Hollywood Station” by Joseph Wambaugh
“Third Person Singular” by K.J. Erickson

FEB. 7: “Proof Positive” by Philip Margolin
“Last Witness” by Julianne Hoffman

MAR. 6: “Chemistry of Death” by Simon Beckett
“Deaty” by Arianna Franklin

HISTORY:
Susan Comstock 414-291-9436
Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

“China: Its History and Culture” by W. Scott Morton
and Charlton M. Lewis

JAN. 9: Chapters 1-4
JAN. 23: Chapters 5-7
FEB. 13: Chapters 8-11
FEB. 27: Chapters 12-13

THE WRITERS’ ROUNDTABLE:
Rosalie Robison 414-383-3427
Second and Fourth Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
New members are welcome.
Bring your writings to read.
Volunteers Needed for Lake Sturgeon Bowl

On February 23, 2008, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will host the sixth annual Lake Sturgeon Bowl, an academic tournament in ocean sciences for high school students. You could help support budding scientists and gain an appreciation for the knowledge of the teen competitors by signing on to volunteer.

The bowl is an academic tournament that provides a forum for students who excel in math and science. The rapid-fire question and answer format includes categories in physics, chemistry, biology, and geology of the oceans and Great Lakes. Other topics include geography, social science, ocean-related technology and current events.

The bowl is a regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) and is coordinated by the UWM School of Continuing Education, UWM Great Lakes WATER Institute and UW Sea Grant Advisory Services.

Volunteer positions include moderators, science judges, timekeepers, scorekeepers, and rules judges. In addition to the volunteers in the competition rooms, the NOSB also needs individuals to help in staffing Ocean Bowl Central, help with set up and registration.

For further information and/or to volunteer, contact the Lake Sturgeon Bowl office at sturgeonbowl@uwm.edu or (414) 227-3365 or visit the website at glwi.uwm.edu/sturgeonbowl.

Join Us for Coffee & Conversation

“Come and Meet the President” is the theme of the Osher Institute’s first Coffee & Conversation, set for Tuesday, February 12th from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Hefter Center. Designed to boost membership and welcome new members, Coffee & Conversation is the first step in offering more programs that provide opportunities for informal relationship building among members.

For now the event will be scheduled monthly on varying days to accommodate the varying schedules of participants. Join Osher President Terry Rozga and the rest of the Osher Board and celebrate another President’s birthday. Come armed with some arcane trivia about Lincoln to get the conversation going. (Maybe some of you even have arcane trivia about Terry R. to share!)
Jody Michael Armata, owner of the multi-use Northshore Funeral Home, and Andrew, his 11-year-old Kerry blue terrier, were the gracious hosts to Osber’s December 13th holiday party.
OFFICERS 2007-2008

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Terry Rozga ..............414-332-4052

President Elect ..........Open Position

Secretary .................Open Position

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Betty White ..............414-962-0810

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Ruth Kuresky ..........414-961-0427

Special Interest Group Representatives
Ruth Allschwang .......414-223-4986
Catherine Morris-Nelson
........................................414-352-2839

UWM SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION STAFF

Executive Director
Cathie Sanders........414-227-3366
csanders@uwm.edu

Program Support
Kathy Czerniakowski....414-227-3222
kathycz@uwm.edu
Spring Computer Classes Offered at Washington Park Senior Center

For those of you who expressed interest in computer classes, we’re including the spring schedule of classes offered through the Washington Park Senior Center which offers classes appropriate for both novice and experienced computer users. Prices for the classes are $11.26 for those aged 62 and older $94.26 for those 50-61, with the exception of Special Projects which costs $120 for everyone.

The Spring Schedule is as follows:

- **Computer Basics:** Wed. 1/23-4/16, 12:30-3pm
- **Internet:** Mon. & Wed., 1/23-3/3, 9-11:30 am
- **Microsoft Office Word/Excel:** Tue., 1/22-4/15, 9-11:30 am
- **Publisher/Powerpoint:** Thu., 1/24-4/17
- **Computer Questions & Answers:** Fri, 1/25-4/25, 9-11:30 am & 12:30-3 pm
- **Computer Basics:** Tue. & Thu., 3/4-4/17, 12:30-3pm
- **Internet:** Mon. & Wed., 3/5-4/21, 9-11:30 am
- **Special Projects** Wed., 1/2-3/12, 11:45 am-2:45pm & Wed., 3/26-5-28, 11:45 am-2:45 pm

Call 414-933-2332 for information on how to register.

Audit Courses at UWM for Free

One of the perks of local Wisconsin residency for seniors aged 60 is the right to audit courses for free at University of Wisconsin System institutions, including the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Osher lifelong learners are encouraged to register for these courses that are open to auditors and special students on a space available basis. According to UWM’s University Relations, popular course topics with the 60-and-over crowd include meditation or yoga instruction, history classes examining World War II or the Vietnam War, and Hebrew Studies.

**To register:**
Visit the web for course listings and times at www.schedule.uwm.edu

Complete a University Special Student application; provide proof of date of birth (driver’s license or birth certificate) and meet the state residency requirements. This is done at the Office of Adult and Returning Student Services (OARSS), Room 212, Mellencamp Hall, 2442 E. Kenwood Blvd.

On or before the first day of classes (Jan. 22 for the Spring 2008 semester), auditors can pick up an ADD/DROP form at the OARSS office. This form should be taken to the first class session, signed by the course’s instructor, then returned to the OARSS office. Registration will be completed at that time.

For more information, contact the Office of Adult and Returning Student Services at 414-229-5932 and press 2 at the prompt.