SUMMER FILM INSTITUTE 2015: FILM! The Moving Image and How It Shapes Our Lives
Still from "To Sleep with Anger," a film viewed as part of Summer Institute 2015, starring Danny Glover as a folksy sinister Southern trickster.

Murder! Romance! Race-ing the Stars! Our 4th Annual Summer Institute devoted to the moving image returned with an eclectic mix of topics, featuring three day-long special events with guest speakers who explored in depth some aspect of the moving image, followed by viewing and discussing a complementary film:

- **Murder at the Movies: Mysteries, Mobsters, Monsters, and Miscellaneous Miscreants**, by speaker Paul McComas, followed by the film *Crimes & Misdemeanors*.

- **Shut Up and Deal: How the Romantic Comedy grew into the Comedy of Romance**, by Ron Falzone, followed by the film *Groundhog Day*.

- **Stealing the Show, Race-ing the Stars: African-American Performers and Audiences in the 1930s**, by speaker Miriam Petty, followed by the film *To Sleep with Anger*.

Want to explore more films on these topics? Click here for a list of films suggested by our speakers. Missed Miriam Petty’s lecture and want to know more about African-American performers in films of the thirties and how they were perceived by Black audiences of the day? Click below for the lecture notes:

- [Slides 1-15](#)
- [Slides 16-30](#)
OLLI members met with Smithsonian docents via a series of interactive video conferences for an unique perspective on American life from the 19th century lure of the West through the World War II era, viewing and discussing works of art in the Smithsonian collection that reflect the cultural, social, and political times in which they were made. "Lure of the West" featured depictions of people, lifestyles, and landscape of the 19th century American West, including the effect of westward expansion on the lives of settlers and Native Americans as well as depictions of Manifest Destiny. "Civil War" featured photographs of the day as well as paintings and sculpture that depicted the effect of the Civil War on soldiers, families, and African Americans during the conflict and the reconstruction period that followed. "The 1930s and the World War II Era" featured works from the Great Depression, including those funded by the federal government's Public Works of Art Project, as well as later works that reflected the hopes and motivations of Americans during the WWII period.

Missed "Picturing American History at the Smithsonian" but want to learn more some of these themes? Click here for images of the works of art and related notes from "The 1930s and the World War II Era." To see the images in greater detail
OLLI in ACTION 2015:
Experiential Summer Study Groups

BEHIND THE SCENES AT GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Coordinators: Marcia Lazar and Olga Weiss

OLLI Members receive a briefing on the history of the Grant Park Music Festival

OLLI study group participants spent a fantastic four weeks experiencing Grant Park Music Festival behind the scenes. Members had a rare opportunity to learn about the inner workings of this world-class music festival from the Festival staff,
and a memorable visit from Grant Park violinist Rika Seko, who played for the class in Wiebold Hall! The first session focused on the history, culture, and programming philosophy that make this festival unique; the second and third sessions offered an insight into what goes into producing a concert. The fourth session was a day to remember - a tour of Pritzker Pavilion and then on-stage seating which provided an unobstructed view of conductor Carlos Kalmar, as he worked with the orchestra to perfect the music. It is truly one of Chicago's most valued musical treasures!

Carlos Kalmer, Music Director, leads the orchestra at the August 5 rehearsal

IMMIGRATION: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Coordinators: Sid Mitchell and Rae Jedel

The final session for Immigration: Up Close and Personal was held in the multicultural community of Devon Avenue. The group first visited the Indo-American Cultural Center and Heritage Museum, where they learned about the center, the varied waves of Indian immigration, and the entrepreneurial spirit of the Devon Avenue community. A highlight of the visit was the instruction on how
to wrap the beautiful 6 foot Indian fabric into a sari.

Shown here our lovely OLLI member Janet Lang models varied “looks” achieved by wrapping the fabric in different ways.

OLLI members walked along Devon Avenue, visited shops and ate an authentic buffet lunch at Tiffin. Lunch was concluded with a visit to an Afghani refugee family, a mother and 11 children who arrived in Chicago 3 years ago. They served OLLI members dessert and shared their poignant stories of their arduous process of getting to Chicago and the daily challenges they face in their new life here. It was a powerful experience.
RAILS TO TRAILS: THE FUTURE OF GREENING IN CHICAGO

Coordinator: Mark Rosenberg

This summer OLLI members learned about - and experienced - the latest trend in bringing green spaces into major urban areas, specifically Chicago's 606, opening in June after a decade in the making. Study group participants started by getting to understand the collaborative urban planning and the engineering involved in the construction of this 2.7 mile, multi-use recreational trail and park along the elevated, disused Bloomingdale railroad tracks in west Chicago. They also looked at other cities' similar ventures - New York City's High Line, a 1.45 mile-long linear park built in Manhattan on an elevated section of a disused railroad, and the park that inspired it, the 3 mile Promenade Plante (tree-lined walkway) in Paris which was completed in 1993, built on top of an obsolete railway. For the last session the group met off-site, and enjoyed Chicago at its best!
Riding the Water Taxi to Chinatown

For more 'Rails to Trails' images click photo albums below
photo album 1
photo album 2

Here's what's coming up next week at OLLI:
The lull before the Fall storm...enjoy your OLLI-free days.....:)  

Monday, August 31
  ● Free Day!

Tuesday, September 1
  ● Free Day!

Wednesday, September 2
  ● Free Day!

Thursday, September 3
Free day!

Friday, September 4

Free day!

OLLI'S NEW LOOK NEW LOOK WEB SITE!
NO MORE BUTTONS WHIZZING UP AND DOWN....

To visit OLLI's web site, click here!

Highlights include:
A live Google calendar containing details of OLLI events, deadlines, and meetings
Copies of past catalogs and information on how to propose a study group
Greater detail on the workings of the Advisory Council, including council member information, how to contact them, and how to volunteer
A volunteer page for those interested in the Advisory Council and other ad-hoc committees
Improved member resources including links to Plan-it Purple, to take advantage of academic offerings at Northwestern University
A donation page with information on OLLI's development campaign
Coordinator information that lists prior coordinators and will highlight the activities of coordinators

Future updates include:

- OLLI Member profiles
- OLLI Coordinator profiles
- Images/descriptions of academic enrichment and social activities
- Documentation on the structure and function of the Advisory Council and its committees to further increase transparency
- 'Listen Up, OLLI!' pages devoted to information on hearing education and technology at OLLI
- Direct links to online registration from the web site
- And much more!

GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO FALL!

Director's Message
Not too boring I hope - please read, I promise you will learn something new about OLLI!

What a fantastic summer session! The highlights in this newsletter barely do it justice. Much thanks should go to the hard-working coordinators of the various study groups and sessions, as well as those who participated with such
enthusiasm. I have heard and learned a great deal from many members over the past few months, and while it is always nice to receive glowing testimony from OLLI members, there is always room for improvement. I have tried to address concerns, particularly ones of communication and transparency, in a thoughtful way. There is certainly still much to do, and many improvements to make, but I hope that some of the modest changes are starting to become apparent to OLLI's members. These include:

- The identification and purchase of online registration software by Lumens-Augusoft
- The completion and assessment of the Technology/hearing survey to identify the needs of the OLLI community
- The launch of a Hearing Initiative
- The completion of a parking survey of Evanston members to assess the impact of potential relocation
- The new coffee room in Evanston
- New academic enrichment programs for the fall
- A appointment of a new temporary staff member to improve operations
- The launch of a new-look OLLI web site
- The identification and request for assistance with handicapped buttons on bathrooms in Wieboldt
- The move to e-study group catalogs
- The production of an evergreen brochure
- The finalization and partial implementation of a plan for coordinator support, including the launch of a dedicated Canvas site for coordinators
- Subscription to Lynda.com for use by all OLLI members
- The creation and launch of OLLI's development campaign

In terms of looking forward, the fall and winter promise to be exciting. You should see the following:

- More technology training for coordinators and members alike
- Implementation of educational and technological hearing initiatives
- High-level speaker series and academic enrichment opportunities
- Improved communication using E-News and Weekly updates
- Town Hall meetings for members to share their concerns with me directly
- Greater coordinator support
- Exciting news about new space at the Evanston location
- The implementation and 'soft' launch of online registration
OLLI has a bright future ahead. Please contact me with your questions or comments. My door is always open.

Warm regards,
Kirsty Montgomery
Director, Osher Lifelong learning Institute
Northwestern University