

Loudoun OLLI Call for Presenters

George Mason University sponsors an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program at the Loudoun campus in Sterling, Virginia. OLLI is a well established volunteer program that offers daytime courses, lectures, special events and other activities for retired people interested in active learning. Courses are designed for and by its members. The classes are intended to be at the upper undergraduate level. You can learn more about OLLI at <http://www.oli.gmu.edu/>. The Loudoun campus is located at 21641 Ridgetop Circle, Suite 210, Sterling, VA 20166 near the intersection of Route 7 and Route 28. There is easy parking and the lecture facilities are excellent.

As the chair of the Loudoun OLLI History resource group, I am planning to begin a series of classes that will focus on one or two centuries each term with in-depth looks at civilizations, nations, political systems, and significant events in that century. We plan to begin the series in the OLLI Winter term (January 24 – February 18, 2011) with a look at the 16th Century.

We picked that time because it is a period rich in familiar events to pique the interests of many OLLI members. Countries of particular interest in that time period include England, Japan, Spain, China, France, Korea, Germany, and Italy. I am describing the series in this way to prospective OLLI students.

From England with Henry VIII and the eventual Church of England, Queen Elizabeth, Shakespeare's life, Sir Francis Drake, and Mary Queen of Scots to

Japan in the Genroku period (the time of almost all "samurai" movies and the three most famous Shoguns - Nobunaga, Hideyoshi and Tokugawa), Battle of Sekigahara; Portuguese traders making contact with Japan, and St. Francis Xavier.

In Spain Francisco Pizarro led the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire; Ferdinand Magellan sailed around the world, Hernán Cortés led the Spanish conquest of Mexico, Hernando de Soto explored inland North America - Spain even became the first sovereign nation in history to declare bankruptcy.

An earthquake in China killed over 800,000 people, the long lasting Ming dynasty is started and the Great Wall was under restoration.

In France, we find Nostradamus, Ignatius Loyola, Jacques Cartier, John Calvin, Copernicus, and Wars of Religion between Catholics and Huguenots.

The Mughal empire in India and of course the Tatars are most active.

This was the time of Martin Luther and Johannes Kepler in Germany.

Korea, with the help of Ming Dynasty China, repelled two Japanese invasions;

In Italy it was the time of Michelangelo, da Vinci, Machiavelli, Galileo, and the Gregorian calendar;

If you are interested in teaching one or more of the sessions, please contact me by email at kriddle1@gmu.edu or by phone at 703.724.0083.