

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
At George Mason University  
March 2015**

## **Microphone Use Policy**

Because many OLLI members have age-related or occupational hearing loss, instructors, class liaisons, and course coordinators are urged to use the microphones available in our classrooms. Our speech amplification / public address systems allow members sitting throughout the room to clearly understand what is being presented. Some of our classrooms are impacted by noisy ventilation systems, and by outside sources of sound interference, such as passing aircraft or landscaping operations. The use of microphones and public address systems help to overcome these audible disturbances to the effective classroom learning environment, and increase the enjoyment of the audience.

Instructors are requested to use the head-worn wireless microphones, which offer the best performance possible in our classrooms, and in our large mega-class locations. The design of these microphones permits the sound receiving element to be placed close to the mouth of the instructor, which allows the volume of the speech amplification system to be increased with reduced potential for feedback.

Lapel or lavalier microphones are available for use by instructors with behind, or over-the-ear, hearing aids. These do not offer the same high level of performance as the head-worn mics, so their use, except as noted for hearing aid wearers, is discouraged.

Warnings on use of Lapel / lavalier microphones: Sound output is reduced if the instructor turns his / her head, such as when answering questions. Breath noises, or 'popping' sounds, can result if the instructor drops their chin to consult note cards or papers held close to the body.

Liaisons and class coordinators should use the hand-held microphones available in each classroom.

Jennifer Disano  
Executive Director

Paul Howard  
Chair, AV Support Committee

