Now Hear This

Hearing is Learning Initiative

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of California at Berkeley 2014
Facts on Hearing Loss

- 1 of 3 people at 60 experience hearing loss
- 50% who are older than 85 years
Psychological and Cognitive Impact of Hearing Loss

Social isolation
Anger
Fatigue
Clinical depression
Decline in cognitive abilities
Social Impact of hearing loss

Relationships suffer

People stop talking

People talk to you like you are deaf
Public health consequence

Hearing loss and the onset of dementia
OLLII members

- 18.2% of our members report hearing loss
- 11% wear a hearing aid
What happens when our OLLI members can’t hear in class?

THEY DROP OUT!
What OLLI @ Berkeley can do

- Connect to campus resources
  - Educational Technology Services
  - Disabled Students Program
Solutions: OLLI faculty and staff

- Identify classroom practices that can help; make eye contact with class
- Always use a microphone
- Write key words and proper names on the whiteboard in dark colored pen.
Solutions: Members

- Sit in the front of the classroom
- Learn more about what personal device can increase the volume and range of what you can hear
Solution: Classroom Equipment

- Microphones and speakers (i.e., chin mics for faculty; handheld mic for Q & A; multi directional mics for classrooms where crosstalk discussions occur)
- Looping technology for hearing aids
- Other acoustical technology
Solution: Looping tech for classrooms
- 41 B in University Hall has looping technology for those who wear hearing aids that have a T-coil
- Your audiologist can program your T-coil to receive the signal from the looping tech
- Use assistive listening devices at Freight and Salvage and sit upfront
Solution: OLLI members and staff

Monitor class rosters and if someone drops out, find out why and problem solve with member when hearing is the issue.
Solutions: All of us

Individual members
Learning community: create learning environments where everyone can hear
University: research and develop better technology
Public world: wire/loop public buildings with appropriate technology
OLLI’s Fourth Age Salon
Patricia K. Cross and our Fourth Agers

and OLLI’s Annual Fund which underwrites these accessibility measures