Hello, OLLI folks.

PBS is made possible by viewers like you. NPR is made possible by listeners like you. And OLLI is made possible by volunteers like you.

In this issue’s column of the OLLI Times I will tell you about volunteers like you who lead the committees that write OLLI’s bylaws, schedule classes, find class facilitators, safeguard finances, secure sponsors, organize parties, oversee technical support, make plans for the future, develop publicity, build membership, nominate officers and Board members, coordinate SIGs, arrange trips, identify volunteers, recruit facilitators, preserve our history, and edit our newsletter. Whew! What a lot of work!

Let me start with Pat McAlexander, Editor of the OLLI Times. Before her retirement in 2009, Pat taught courses in grammar, business writing, and composition as a professor in UGA’s Division of Academic Enhancement. Since her retirement Pat has edited OLLI’s newsletter, to which she contributes photographs as well as articles. An accomplished photographer, Pat is active in the Picture This! SIG. She is also a member of the Athens Historical Society Board and editor of their newsletter.

Lee Albright, Chair of the Nominating Committee, spent twenty years as Dean of Guidance and College Counseling at Athens Academy until she retired in 2005. She joined OLLI in 2011, and has participated in the OLLI Walks and Lunch Bunch SIGs, and the Bylaws, Finance, and Information Technology committees. Lee chaired the Hospitality Committee before her election as President-elect of OLLI@UGA in 2015.

Bill Alworth, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, taught chemistry at Tulane University for nearly forty years. After Hurricane Katrina forced him and his wife Lois to move to Athens, he joined OLLI (then LIR). Bill has served our organization as a member of the Board of Directors, as chair of the Travel-Study Committee, and as President in the 2012-2013 academic year. He continues to give OLLI classes.

Richard Bouldin, Chair of the Finance Committee, served as professor and head of Mathematics and associate dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Georgia before his retirement. Richard has chaired OLLI’s Finance Committee for three years, chaired OLLI’s first budget committee, chaired the Investment Advisory Panel, and taken, facilitated, and taught classes for OLLI.

Nancy Canolty, Emerita Chair of the Registration Committee, joined the Department of Foods and Nutrition at UGA in 1980. Her research focused on mathematical modeling in nutrition and health. After retiring in 2004, she co-founded SoloSeniors, which became a popular OLLI Special Interest Group. Nancy has served not only as chair of OLLI’s Registration Committee but also as an OLLI Board member and as Vice President.

Sandy Clark, Coordinator of Volunteers, retired after thirty-one action-packed, fun-filled years of teaching middle School and joined OLLI in 2008. She has enjoyed taking classes, participating in numerous SIGs, and serving on the Hospitality, Membership, Nominating, Regional Conference, and Association Management Selection Committees. Sandy is a member of the Board of Directors.

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Having the Time of Our Lives With

OLLI@UGA
River’s Crossing
850 College Station Road
Athens, GA 30602-4811
Telephone: 706.542.7715

OLLI Website Address:
www.olli.uga.edu

OLLI Email Address:
olli@uga.edu

OLLI Staff
Executive Director
Katy Crapo
Manager of Member Services and Technology
Zu Reuter
Office Manager
Shelly Magruder
Coordinator of Social Media
Amy Munnell
Bookkeeper
Sara Williamson
Office Assistant
Rita Healan

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Curriculum Committee
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Facilitator Coordinator
Susan Dougherty
Finance Committee
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Fund Development Committee
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Long-Range Planning Committee
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Membership Committee
Jay Shinn
Registration Committee

Special Interest Groups
Peg Graham
Travel Study Committee
Joan Zitzelman
Volunteer Coordinator
Sandy Clark
Editor of OLLI Times
Pat McAlexander
Historian
Bill Loughner

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OLLI’s LEADERS

Susan Dougherty, Coordinator of Facilitators, received her doctorate in Adult Education from UGA in 1990, after which she created the Center for Effective Power, a consulting firm. She has worked with both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in strategic planning and leadership development. She is originally from New Orleans and claims to make the best gumbo on earth.

Peg Graham, SIG Coordinator, taught high school English for seventeen years in Iowa and Illinois before completing her PhD at the University of Iowa in 1993 and joining the faculty of UGA’s Language and Literacy Education Department. Since her retirement in 2013, Peg has taken numerous OLLI courses and become active in the Enjoying Opera SIG, for which she organized a luncheon.

Iva King, Chair of the Hospitality Committee, worked as a school speech language pathologist for twenty-five years and then as a trainer of public school teachers and administrators with the Georgia Regional Educational Services Agency. Over the years she has engaged in volunteer work with the PTA, the Cancer Society, her church, other non-profits, and now OLLI. Note to readers: Iva can sing.

Vicki Krugman, Chair of the Fund Development Committee, spent twenty-eight years in K-12 education, during which time she won many awards, including a Georgia Center of Advanced Telecommunication Technology Award for “Innovative Teaching with Technology.” She served as President of the Georgia Association for Gifted Children. In OLLI she takes and facilitates classes, serves on the Membership Committee, and enjoys the Enthusiastic Gardening SIG.

Ed Levine, Chair of the IT Committee, held a number of administrative positions in the field of information technology before moving to Athens, including those of Deputy Director of Medicaid Management Information System and Fiscal Account Organization for Georgia and Director of the Office of Strategic Projects and Planning for Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection. Ed joined OLLI in 2014.

Bill Loughner, Historian, served in the Peace Corps, earned an MS in library science and an MS in mathematics, retired from the University of Georgia after many years as a science librarian, volunteered on seven archaeological digs in the Middle East, joined OLLI, served on the Board of Directors, and taught many Great Books classes for our organization.

Richard Lynch, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, is completing his second term on the OLLI Board of Directors. Dick was Director of the School of Leadership and Lifelong Learning and Co-Director of the Occupational Research Group in UGA’s College of Education. In 1996-97 he orchestrated the renovation of the River’s Crossing building which is OLLI’s present home. Dick serves on the Board of Directors and the Membership Steering Committee.

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Once again the December OLLI Holiday Party was a success, with multiple generations attending; members brought children, grandchildren, and co-workers as their guests. At the entrance downstairs, in spite of the crowds all arriving about the same time, registration was very organized, with different lines for the letters of the alphabet and name tags for everyone. Upstairs, we enjoyed wine from the Healthy Gourmet, appetizers, and time to mingle; then came the delicious food and desserts. These pictures give a sample of the atmosphere and the fun.

At the entrance (Bill Flatt)

Tom Kenyon, Sonja Pemberton, and Marty Thomas socializing before the meal (Bill Flatt)

John and Lee Albright, Jay and Cathi Shinn at their table (Pat McAlexander)

Katherine Winslow, Mary Straub, and Victor Gagliano (yes, he’s wearing antlers) getting desserts—each one SAID for their whole table. (Pat McAlexander)

And our party-loving organization held another, if smaller, gathering on New Year’s Eve: a luncheon at Porterhouse Grill in downtown Athens. About 45 OLLI members celebrated the coming of the New Year with friends, food, laughter, and door prizes. It was a great way to say goodbye to 2015 and welcome 2016. (from Nancy Walton, front row center)
by John Albright

Our day started with a Georgia winter monsoon. It ended, to our surprise, in warm sunshine.

And what a Bash we had! Several hundred OLLI@UGA members and guests arrived in droves, easing our Hospitality, Membership and other committees’ concerns about the weather. Central Presbyterian Church’s spacious halls were quickly packed. With laughter and warm greetings between old friends and newly met acquaintances, everyone leisurely made their way around the displays. They paused only for treats from faithful OLLI sponsor Talmage Terrace/Lanier Gardens and for delicious hot coffee that was a last-minute donation from Wade Woolbright at Jittery Joes.

Volunteers at tables ringing the hall introduced a cross section of this Spring’s (170+ classes) travel offerings, the happy zealotry of our many Special Interest Groups, and the generous sponsors which our
SPRING BASH LIVES UP TO NAME

Randall Abney and Ed Levine seem to be having fun at the Tech table. (Chuck Murphy)

Pat McAlexander, Kathy Parker, Robert Nicholls at the PictureThis table. (Chuck Murphy)

20-year-old organization has attracted. Perhaps the most notable sight: two members in authentic kilt and tartan but questionable brogue. They were promoting the annual dinner celebration of Scottish poet Robert Burns (friends call him Robbie).

Other SIGsters shared their love of Poker or Mahjong. One group is exploring life’s peaks and valleys as they adjust to their now trendy “bonus years.” Actual peaks are part of our Travel-Study group, encouraging interest in their Fall ecology tour of parks and monuments in Colorado. A veteran OLLI teacher known for classes that always fill early described the joy that comes from discovering the easy, incredible possibilities of—click—that smart phone in your purse or pocket. Then there was the like-minded group learning to write and share memoirs. And the New Horizons Music Ensemble for beginning—or lapsed but returning—musicians; they partner with UGA’s Hodgson School of Music. And there were Happy Hikers! And the Lunch Bunch! You couldn’t miss You Gotta Have Art!! And there was...there’s no room to list it all.

Throughout the afternoon, the room was alive with inquiring minds exploring how a “lifelong learning institute” could fit into their lives. One result was that almost fifty had either signed up for membership or renewed their lapsed membership, and many others left willing to consider OLLI membership or promote it to their friends.
by Pat McAlexander

On January 23 from 6:30 to 10:00, the Cotton Press in the Chase Street Warehouse looked almost like a scene from Outlander, as 140 Athenians, many dressed in kilts, gathered for a dinner to celebrate the life and work of Scottish poet Robert Burns.

The event, sponsored by OLLI@UGA and catered by Lee Epting, opened with socializing and drinks from a cash bar. The dinner itself began with music from the Thistle and Kudzu pipers and a welcome from Master of Ceremonies and man behind the dinner, Ian Hardin. After a first course of Cock a Leekie Soup (we assume chicken and leek), everyone stood as the haggis, a traditional Scottish dish (people say we don’t want to know what it is), was solemnly brought in by Dottie Harnish, accompanied by bagpiper Dan Wilson and honor guard (armed with claymore) Smith Wilson. After Ian Hardin read Burns’ “Address to a Haggis” and Selkirk Grace, attendees filed in turn to the buffet table for shepherd’s pie, real haggis and the preferable mock haggis, “tatties and neeps,” and “mushy peas.” Dessert was “typsy laird” (a sherry trifle). After dinner UGA English professor Elizabeth Kraft gave a tribute to Robert Burns, piper Gabrielle Helmick provided music for highland dancer Gabrielle Rosenthal, and Harry Rice and Ann Davis read Robert Burns poems.

Tom Kenyon gave the traditional “address to the Lassies” (an amusing speech covering the male speaker’s view on women) and Karen Kenyon, appropriately, gave the “reply to the Laddies” (the female speaker’s view on men). See excerpts below. At the end of the event, the diners sang Burns songs, with everyone standing and joining hands for the last and most famous, “Auld Lang Syne.”

GPB reporter Sam Whitehead attended the dinner. His coverage of the event, which made the national news on NPR’s Here and Now program, can be heard or read at http://hereandnow.wbur.org/2016/01/26/robert-burns-supper.
Excerpts from Tom Kenyon’s “A Toast to the Lassies”

I have been asked this evening to give the toast to the lassies. This is a daunting thing to do. To most of us Laddies, the Lassies in our life are a mystery to us.

Laddies, we have driven for years. We drove to work, our children to school, to the movie theatre. At some point in time, the Lassies have found they no longer trust our driving and our decision on the route to drive. You start the car, pull out of garage and if lucky make it to the end of the driveway and you hear “How are you going to go?” You knew it was coming. Wisely you reply, “How would you like me to go?” She sweetly responds, “Oh, go anyway you like.” “OK,” you say sweetly. You then turn right. You know what is coming next. “Why are you going this way? It would be faster if you go left.”

Oh, Laddies, how well Burns knew of our capacities to endure this. He knew men, for all our faults, would forever be enthralled with and love our women. … His declarations of love are still some of the most famous ever written: “O, my luv’s like a red, red rose. That’s newly sprung in June. O, my love’s like the melodies that’s sweetly played in tune. As fair art thou, my bonnie lass, so deep in luv as I, and still will love thee still, my dear, till … all the seas go dry. …” Good Laddies, that is a long, long time! …

Let us stand to toast the Lassies. May they continue to guide us and love us! To the Lassies!

Excerpts from Karen Kenyon’s “Response: A Toast to the Laddies”

Scottish folks, to whom this ritual is familiar, and the rest of us Lassies and Laddies, who are still trying to figure out what is in haggis, it is my pleasure to attempt to deliver what is known as “the reply to the toast to the Lassies.” …

I don’t know about any of you married Lassies, but I gave my husband a list of do’s and don’ts right after we returned from the honeymoon. To be fair, I gave him fifty years to work on the dos and shed the don’ts. In November his fifty years will be up. Will he stay or will he go? Keep them guessing. Boys love games.

Burns wrote something all Lassies should remember: “Had we never loved so kindly, had we never loved so blindly, never met or never parted, we had ne’er be broken hearted.”

So Lassies, I invite you to stand and raise your glasses to those “boys” in the room without whom we would never be brokenhearted, and without whom we would also never love or be loved so kindly! To the Laddies!
OLLI@UGA GETS A+ ON FINANCIAL AUDIT

On December 7, 2015, The Finance Committee met at River’s Crossing to hear the report of the recently completed audit of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 (the two most recent years for which there was a completed tax return). Eddie Patat, representing auditing firm Turner & Patat, distributed copies of the eight-page report to the members of the Finance Committee and members of the Board who were present. The key sentence appears on the first page: “In our opinion, the financial statements . . . present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Learning in Retirement, Inc.”

This extremely favorable audit report culminates five years of work by a subcommittee of the Finance Committee to construct a first-draft budget. The Treasurer (John Songster) and the Finance Committee worked together to collect the data necessary to project budget needs. In two and a half years they completed the first study of OLLI@UGA’s cash flow, allowing a more accurate determination of reserve resources available to the organization. The reserve funds created a safety net for the organization and allowed for capital improvements such as upgrading the software system. The Finance Committee also provided a study of the long-term adequacy of our parking and classroom facilities. The Investment Advisory Panel, another subcommittee of the Finance Committee, constructed guidelines for investing.

Chair Richard Bouldin wrote, “The current members of the Finance Committee, as well as the past members and past Treasurers, can take pride in all of the good work that has been accomplished over the past five years.” President Betty Jean Craige wrote to them, “You all deserve an A+ for your diligence—and time, energy, and wisdom.”

Note: Copies of the audit report are available upon request.

ASK THE TREASURER

Question: What does the interest from the Osher Endowment—the amount we can spend—pay for?

Answer: It pays 2/3 of the salaries and benefits for OLLI’s full-time UGA staff.

OLLI CHOOSEN FOR UGA STUDENT PR PROJECT

OLLI@UGA has been given a rare opportunity to be the “client” of a select team of senior-level public relations students in UGA’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Under the guidance of Associate Professor Dr. Carolina Acosta-Alzuru, thirteen students will conduct an extensive PR campaign project with the focus on OLLI@UGA.

The students will spend their spring semester studying our organization and creating a detailed public relations plan with these goals in mind:

• Identify methods of increasing OLLI@UGA membership throughout the greater Athens area,
• Suggest ways to retain current members, and
• Develop ideas for improving our fundraising efforts.

The team’s findings will be presented in late April. At that time, OLLI@UGA will receive a comprehensive printed campaign book that will provide goals, objectives, tactics, budget and social media recommendations, an action plan for each goal, and suggestions for measuring the success of the overall plan.

A public relations review of this type is extremely valuable to PR students because they will gain the experience of applying public relations principles, strategies and techniques to a real-world client before they graduate. The advantage for OLLI@UGA is remarkable as well. Our organization can benefit from having an analysis performed and detailed recommendations provided at no cost to us. In the real world, a project of this type would be extremely expensive if conducted by a public relations or advertising agency. Dr. Acosta-Alzuru was already familiar with OLLI@UGA because she recently taught one of our courses, and she graciously accepted our organization as one of only two PR clients for her students this semester.
Jim Marshall, Co-chair of the Curriculum Committee, taught English Education at the University of Iowa for twenty years, serving as department head and associate dean, before joining the faculty of the College of Education at the University of Georgia. Here he served as associate dean for four years before retiring in 2013 and joining OLLI. He is active in the Enjoying Opera SIG.

Penny Oldfather, Co-chair of the Curriculum Committee, is Professor Emerita of Elementary Education at the University of Georgia. As a scholar she studied children’s intrinsic motivations for learning across various classroom cultures. Penny serves lunches at Our Daily Bread, volunteers at her church, follows politics and current events, and attends many, many OLLI classes.

Jay Shinn, Chair of the Membership Committee, served as president of OLLI in the 2013-2014 academic year, having been an active LIR/OLLI member since 2004. Jay is a career pilot. After a tour in the United States Navy, Jay joined Pan Am and then transitioned to Delta Air Lines. After retiring in 2002 Jay taught Business Math and Economics at the junior college level. He has given OLLI programs on “The Zen of Flying.”

Katherine Winslow, Chair of the Marketing Committee, worked in marketing communications in a variety of industries and volunteered as a writer and editor in many community organizations in Texas and Arkansas. Before joining the Marketing Committee, she served on the Hospitality Committee and the Travel-Study Committee. Katherine has recently launched a SIG called Game On!, in which members meet monthly to play board games.

Joan Zitzelman, Chair of the Travel-Study Committee, worked with fellow students to support the desegregation of UGA in 1961 when she was a journalism student. She later worked in broadcasting, advertising, public information and tourism marketing positions in New York, Atlanta, and the northeast Georgia mountains and directed the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau from 1989 through 1996 when Athens prepared to host 1996 Olympic events. Joan has led or taken many OLLI trips.

Dear reader: If you’ve read this far, you may want to put down your goblet of wine or your cup of coffee or your glass of kombucha to give these volunteers a round of applause. Go, team!

Betty Jean Craige
President
PAST TRIP: CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE

On the chilly morning of December 5, 2016, a capacity busload of OLLI members traveled to Atlanta’s Symphony Hall to see professional cirque dancer-acrobats performing to the music of the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. The holiday decorations, the beautiful music, and amazing acrobatic feats made for a wonderful experience. Afterward the performers and executive producer (and Athenian!) Bill Allen met with our group to answer questions—on topics from the performers’ backgrounds to what kind of foods they ate to stay in such great shape. Many thanks to Katherine Winslow for arranging this trip—and for providing such good snacks on the return trip.

UPCOMING TRIPS

April 29. TRIP TO AUGUSTA TO SEE PHILIP JURAS’S LATEST EXHIBITION (Dorinda Dallmeyer, Philip Juras)

Artist Philip Juras leads an exclusive guided tour of his latest exhibition “The Wild Treasury of Nature: A Portrait of Little St. Simons Island” at the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, on Friday, April 29. In more than 50 paintings, Juras reveals the wild beauty of Little St. Simons Island, one of the most pristine barrier islands on the Georgia coast. OLLI member Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, whose essay on the cultural and natural history of the island appears in the exhibition catalog, will accompany Juras on the roundtrip bus excursion.

After the gallery tour, you will enjoy a catered lunch plus hear distinguished UGA art historian Janice Simon discuss Juras’s paintings in the framework of American landscape history. Before departing for Athens, you will have an opportunity to view the Museum’s collection and visit its Museum Shop. The extensively illustrated exhibition catalog published by the University of Georgia Press will be available at the Museum.

The trip registration fee of $65.00 includes roundtrip charter bus transportation, refreshments en route, admission to the Morris Museum, catered lunch, OLLI class fee, and driver gratuity. This excursion is limited to 40 participants; deadline for registration is Monday, March 21.
May 6-15. AUTHENTIC CUBA: PEOPLE & SOCIETY TODAY (Road Scholar)

Cuba has become a popular travel destination for OLLI members, and now a third Travel/Study trip is set for May 6-15, 2016. Once again, Road Scholar® is the host for this exclusive learning adventure. Here’s your chance to delve into the rich history and heritage of Cuba with visits to Havana and Cienfuegos:

• Visit with local residents, community leaders, artists and musicians.
• Explore local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s cultural heritage.
• Learn about conservation and enjoy lunch at a beachfront private enterprise.
• Enjoy four expert-led lectures and 13 field trips.
• Expand your horizons with 10 hands-on experiences and two performances.

The program price starts at $3,695 for double occupancy, and $4,126 for single occupancy. Nine nights of accommodations, 21 meals, and two flights during the program are included.

REGISTER NOW:

• Be sure to say that you are an OLLI member at The University of Georgia.
• $250 deposit due upon enrollment.
• Final payment is due February 19, 2016.
• OLLI members may invite non-members to join them on this trip.

For complete details about this unique trip, pick up a brochure at the OLLI office or access the online brochure at: www.roadscholar.org/UGA_Cuba

September 12-21, THE GEOLOGY OF NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU: ARIZONA AND UTAH (R.D. Dallmeyer)

The Colorado Plateau is a physiographic province that covers more than 130,000 square miles and extends over four states. Its remarkable natural beauty and ecological diversity are highlighted in nine National Parks and fifteen National Monuments. This high, semiarid region is characterized by a variety of landforms ranging from 5,000 to 11,000 feet in elevation. These include rugged plateaus, mesas and buttes, slot canyons, mountains, steep river gorges and the Grand Canyon. Every conceivable type of desert landscape can be observed. This physiographic diversity reflects marked contrasts in bedrock geology.

The geological record on the Colorado Plateau spans more than 1.7 billion years, reflecting a wide variety of environments including volcanic fields, vast shallow inland seas and a Jurassic desert comparable to the modern-day Sahara. Regional uplift during the last 10 million years elevated the Plateau to its present position and resulted in development of a youthful, actively down cutting regional drainage system. The geological evolution of the Plateau is exceptionally well exposed because of low rainfall and lack of extensive vegetation. This results in a panorama of “textbook” geological vistas throughout the region. This OLLI geoexcursion will evaluate the geological evolution of the Colorado Plateau and examine the processes involved in the formation of its unique landforms. A variety of National Parks and National Monuments will be visited.

The excursion will begin in Phoenix, Arizona on the morning of Monday, September 12. The trip will terminate in Salt Lake City, Utah on the evening of Wednesday, September 21. The excursion will visit six National Parks (Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Arches and Canyonlands) and three National Monuments (Sunset Crater, Vermillion Cliffs and Grand Staircase-Escalante). A variety of historical sites also will be included. Field stops will examine overlooks and roadside exposures and will require minimal walking. Transportation will be in six-passenger minivans.

There is a non-refundable $850 registration fee for this excursion. This will cover the costs of van rental and fuel, staff expenses, printing of a comprehensive guidebook, the OLLI daily office charge and the registration fee for a required pre-excursion OLLI course. The excursion registration fee does NOT include participant lodging, meals, entrance fees or airfare. Lodging will be organized in advance to secure adequate accommodations. Online registration for this excursion began January 15, 2016. An initial, non-refundable deposit of $425 is required prior to March 1, 2016. The balance must be submitted prior to April 15. This excursion is limited to 20 participants.
Nominations are now open for the Board and the Executive Committee for OLLI@UGA in 2016-17

Please nominate a fellow member or yourself to run for one of the five open positions on the Board (two-year terms) and for the offices of the Executive Committee: President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (one-year terms). You can contact any of the five members of the Nominating Committee (Ann Darby, Bill Flatt, Louise McElroy, and John Rudy with Lee Albright, as president-elect, serving as chair). Or submit the form on your dashboard: click Resources at the top of the page, then Forms, then Nomination Form for Officers and Board. The Bylaws describe the responsibilities of each office. They can be found online by logging into your dashboard and clicking Resources, then Documents, then Bylaws. (Since the Bylaws Committee is currently revising the Bylaws, with changes to be voted on by the OLLI Board in April, some details may be changed before the next election.)

Event Cancellation

The Junque from the Trunk event, mentioned in the last OLLI Times issue, has been cancelled.

Fund Development News

The Osher Foundation has given OLLI@UGA a $2 million endowment, the interest of which supplements membership dues and class fees to support our 1400-member organization. However, this income does not fully cover OLLI’s operational costs. Consequently, the Fund Development Committee must reach out to the community to bridge the financial gap. OLLI members can help the Fund Development Committee by recommending businesses, organizations, or groups that the Committee may contact to be potential sponsors or underwriters of special events. If you are interested in working with the Fund Development Committee, please contact Vicki Krugman, the new chair of the Fund Development Committee at vkrugman@charter.net or 706.202.9636.

New OLLI SIG: Square Dancing

There are four things that are important in successful old age: physical exercise, mental exercise, socializing, and physical contact with others. Elizabeth Barton, square dancing SIG co-coordinator, writes, “I would also add laughter to that list. And square dancing has it all! I have never had to learn to focus so well, or have laughed so hard as we get all tangled up and have to ‘square our set’ as in Square Dancing! So...Dortha Jacobson and I decided to start a Square Dancing Special Interest Group. There are at least twelve accomplished square dancers in OLLI and we’d love to promote this activity with our fellow OLLIs. You don’t need to be able to dance, you don’t need to have a partner! You do need to be able to walk safely, and to be able to hear the moves or steps that are called out. We’ll be meeting in our homes and using pre-recorded music, so there won’t be any expense and no fancy outfits are required...though you can dress up if you want to!” Contact Elizabeth Barton: ebarton@uga.edu or Dortha Jacobson: pineywoodsart@gmail.com if you’re interested.

OLLI Square dancers Elizabeth Barton and Andy Seila (Pat McAlexander)

Reception for Patricia Bell-Scott

At a special reception on February 4 at the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries, OLLI member Patricia Bell-Scott spoke on her book, The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice (Knopf). Co-sponsored by the Lucy Hargrett Draper Center and Archives and the Institute for African American Studies, the event was part of UGA’s Black History Month observance and launched Bell-Scott’s national book tour. Prior to her presentation, the African American Choral Ensemble presented a moving selection of songs under the direction of Dr. Gregory Broughton. All the books available at the reception were sold, but the book is available from Knopf, Amazon.com, and local booksellers. It has already been reviewed in such publications as The New Yorker, The New York Times, and Time magazine.
AARP Tax-Aide Program
Several OLLI members are again participating in the AARP Tax-Aide Program to help with free FEDERAL and STATE tax preparation and free E-filing. John Bleyle, Bill Burke, Len Feinstein, Gayle Horne, Linda Martin, Regina McAlister, and Don Quinn are participating in the Clarke and Oconee County programs. AARP Tax-Aide is administered through the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. The programs help taxpayers of middle and low income, with special attention to those ages 50 and older. One does not need to be an AARP member to receive service. Those coming to get help should bring identification, 2015 tax documents and supporting information, and a copy of their 2014 tax return. Sites close at the ending times so allow time for tax preparation and review. The schedule for Clarke and Oconee Counties is below; call 706 369-1245 for further information.

- Monday – 1 – 4:30 pm – Oconee County Library (start 2/1/16)
- Tuesday – 12:30 to 4:30 – Athens-Claire Public Library (start 2/2/16)
- Wednesday, Friday, Saturday – 9 am – 1 pm – Kroger’s – Epps Bridge Parkway, upstairs (start 2/3/16)

OLLI Class Facilitators
Become an OLLI Facilitator! It is easy and fun. We still have classes that need facilitators. Contact Susan Dougherty at susandougherty48@gmail.com to sign up. Two more facilitator training classes will be offered at River’s Crossing this semester, one on February 17 and one on March 9, 2016, both at 2:00 pm. Come join in the fun of facilitating. And thank you to the facilitators for January and February, listed below. (We will have March and April facilitators in the April issue of the OLLI Times, and May and June facilitators in the June issue.)

Alexis Winger
Andy Horne
Anita Brannen
Ann Crowley
Ann Darby
Betty Jean Craig
Chris Jones
Connie Bruce
Dave Lunde
Dindy Owens
Donna Conway
Dottie Harnish
Elizabeth Barton
George Dougherty
Ginnie Berg
Ginnie Lynch
Iva King
Jane Kidd
Jim Marshall
JoBeth Allen
John Mize
Julie Cashin-Schneider
Larry Dendy
Lenette Burrell
Linda Dipietro
Linda Grant
Martha Beach
Marty Lawrence
Mary Theilen
Mony Abrol
Nancy Grayson
Nancy Walton
Pat McAlexander
Penny Oldfather
Sally Ross
Sherry Malone
Tina Carlson
Toni Jones
Vickie Krugman

Some of the students in the January 20th facilitators class check out new classroom computer equipment. Left to right: Committee chair Susan Dougherty, Becky McCaskey, Mony Abrol, and Dottie Harnish. (Pat McAleander)
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