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ANNOUNCING: NEW OLLI@UGA LEADERSHIP

By Larry Dendy

Despite unexpected challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, OLLI@UGA has concluded another successful year and looks forward to a new year of classes, social gatherings and other activities—albeit with some wrinkles to ensure safety.

Though much is unpredictable for the months ahead, new OLLI president Cher Snyder says members can count on continuing to enjoy OLLI's programs and services thanks to the leadership of a strong board of directors, an experienced and skilled staff and a corps of dedicated volunteers.

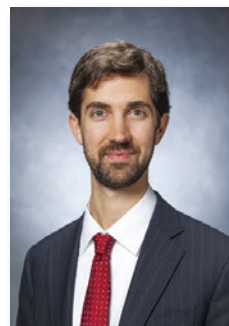
"OLLI will continue to play a key role in our lives by delivering outstanding classes and fostering social connections among our members," says Cher. "We're rapidly learning new skill sets to adapt to our changing environment and re-think how we live as we prepare for a 'new normal.'"

Cher has headed an ad-hoc committee that has put together a first-ever summer curriculum of more than 30 classes from

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OLLI@UGA STAYS ON COURSE

By Tim Meehan, Executive Director



Tim Meehan

This has been a time like no other, a time of change, of fear and possibilities. It is unfortunate that Kennedy's phrase about crisis being danger and opportunity is completely spurious because that is where we find ourselves.

We are being kept apart and online in ways that many of us never expected or necessarily feel comfortable, but this technology still allows us some communal time to continue working together. Indeed, it has been nice getting to know a lot of members that I had only seen briefly in the halls of River's Crossing. Thank you to those of you who persevere with the technology, and for those of you who are unsure about trying it, know that we are here to help.

As you know by now, we are holding classes through the summer to keep you engaged and learning as we see how the pandemic continues to play out across the country. We keep monitoring the situation, checking the Georgia Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines to keep our members, presenters, and staff safe. We will hold classes online in the early part of fall semester and then see where we stand by the end of August to make decisions about later fall.

One of the good things that has come out of this is the possibility of being able to revolutionize our programming to reach more of our members. We're exploring a number of possibilities for coming semesters including having hybrid classes that can minimize waitlists, offering online classes for those who want to remain engaged, and recording classes so that members can catch up if they miss a class. We might not be able to institute all these ideas in the fall, but we will keep you informed as things evolve.

As ever, our main focus is keeping everyone safe. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is anything we can do, and I hope that you will stay with us as we look to keep OLLI moving forward in uncertain times.

TIME TO RENEW!

A new year of OLLI@UGA is starting.

Member Benefits:

Easily participate in online classes.

- Never Zoomed? No problem with tutorials and personal help available.

Stay connected with OLLI friends and fellow members.

- Several SIGs are still meeting virtually.
- Volunteer for committees and leadership roles.
- In-person activities will return.

Sign in to the Members area on the OLLI@UGA website and select "Registration".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Chris Jones

It has been an honor to serve as president of OLLI@UGA. I have learned so much and had the opportunity to meet many of our members and work with a terrific group of volunteers. For that, I am forever grateful.

It has been a year of growth for us but most recently we have experienced some unanticipated challenges. We went, in a matter of days, from a period of providing more classes and registrations than ever to a struggle to keep this wonderful organization afloat.

Within a week, our staff evaluated our remaining 200 classes and programs and determined we could salvage about 30 of them as Zoom presentations. And were we ever thankful that members Peter Balsamo and John Muthe had introduced the possibilities of a video-conference streaming platform to us over the previous year! Coupled with the efforts of our Curriculum Committee, we were able to recruit a few more Zoom classes and our spring semester offering was available for members in a time of isolation and restricted movement.

I must recognize the dedication and wisdom of the Board of Directors. The guidance and patience of this group during the year have been invaluable at a time of unprecedented change. Our officers included: Cher Snyder, president-elect; Ann Shumpert, secretary; Mamie Mierzwak, treasurer; and board members Jim Alberts, Bill Barstow, Richard Bouldin, Susan Dougherty, Victor Gagliano, Sherry Malone, Roy Martin, Penny Oldfather, Barbara Timmons, and Bob Yorczyk. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. Your leadership is deeply appreciated.

Also, thank you to our staff for their many efforts to serve the members of OLLI@UGA. You have shepherded the organization through a period of significant growth, an unimaginable crisis, and moved us toward expanded programming and offerings to members. Thank you Executive Director Tim Meehan, Office Manager Shelly Magruder, Program Services Coordinator Amanda Nix, and Membership Services Coordinator Ryan Robinson for your many contributions.

Our committee chairs must also be recognized. It is volunteers who are the heart and lifeblood of OLLI@UGA. Thank you to our committee leadership for your service: Bylaws - Barbara Timmons; Curriculum - Renny Barnes and Bob Yorczyk; Finance - Denny Beresford; Fund Development - Jan Turner; Hospitality - Sue Flemming and Jeanne Davis Blair; Long Range Planning - Susan Dougherty; Marketing & Communications - Patricia Dixen; Membership - Dawn Torcivia; Nominating - Cher Snyder; Special Interest Groups - Terry Kaley; Travel Study - Joan Zitzelman; Volunteer Coordinator - Sandy Clark; Historian - William Loughner; Parliamentarian - William Loughner; and co-editors of OLLI Times - Ann Allen and Larry Dendy. Thank you!

I also must recognize and thank my wife, Toni, for her support this year. Thank you for giving me a pass on many household duties that allowed me to spend time on OLLI activities and business.

In closing, it is my pleasure to recognize our award winners this year. Peter Balsamo and John Muthe are recipients of the President's Award given annually for recognition of special contributions during a year. Their leadership on moving OLLI@UGA into the Zoom video conferencing era has provided us additional class options and actually was a life-saver for the organization in a time of crisis. Thank you!

Our Carol Fisher Award for long and significant service is presented to three long-time members: Lee Albright, OLLI@UGA president in 2016/17, who continued serving on the Hospitality Committee and led the Annual Meeting work for several years (her husband, John, has been an active volunteer for years as well); Andy Horne, whose service on multiple committees and offices over the years, and wise counsel when called on, has been helpful to so many; and Penny Oldfather, long-time Curriculum Committee leader, recruiter, board member and volunteer who worked on many worthwhile projects. Congratulations and thanks to each of you for your many contributions! OLLI@UGA is better because of you.

In the meantime, FY 2021 promises to be an exciting year. You have elected an exceptional slate of officers to lead us. Cher Snyder and the new Board of Directors are already engaged and the future is bright.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president. See you at OLLI@UGA when we are able to meet in person.

HOSPITALITY NEWS

Lois Alworth and Julie Cashin

The OLLI Luck of the Irish St. Patrick's Day Luncheon took on a little different meaning this year. The event, scheduled down to the final details for March 13 at Akademia, fell victim to the cancellation of all in-person OLLI events due to the coronavirus. Thanks to quick action (and a bit of luck) on the part of OLLI volunteers and Akademia staff, the food was donated to the Salvation Army hot and ready to serve for their dinner that evening.

The Hospitality Committee is working with other committees to encourage continued participation in OLLI. We meet monthly via Zoom on the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join us, contact Sue Flemming, flemmism@ptd.net.

ANNOUNCING: NEW OLLI@UGA LEADERSHIP *Continued from page 1*

July 6 to August 6 (see Cher's article below). Meanwhile, the Curriculum Committee is planning for about 150 classes for fall semester, an intentional reduction in the number of classes from previous semesters to accommodate expected social distancing and other corona-related limitations. The summer classes and most classes in the first part of fall semester will probably be presented via Zoom, but the hope is that some off-site classes can be held in the latter part of fall semester.

Cher also says the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee, which is developing a plan to guide OLLI for the next three years, will take a break until circumstances become clearer.

"Our focus now is on near-term planning to get past the current crisis," she says. "We'll continue to adjust and adapt. And even if we can't get together in person, we'll connect remotely via Zoom classes and meetings, online chats and other technology platforms. Lifelong learning never stops and neither will OLLI."

Cher heads a slate of new officers and board members chosen in an online election after OLLI's May 15 annual meeting fell victim to the corona lockdown. The daughter of a former University of Georgia administrator, Cher holds three UGA degrees and a law degree from Western States University. She spent nearly 30 years in Southern California as an executive with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, an agency that ensures compliance with local, state and federal air quality regulations.

Returning to Athens in 2017, she quickly joined OLLI and has chaired the Membership Committee, served on many other committees and was on the Board of Directors before serving this

year as president-elect. She led OLLI's transition to a new social communication network (OLLI@UGA Communications, powered by Mighty Networks).

In addition to Cher, other new officers are:

President-elect: Dawn Torcivia, who has more than 30 years of experience in education including teaching at Gwinnett Technical College and serving as a middle school assistant principal. She is chair of the OLLI Membership Committee and is on the Curriculum and Hospitality committees.

Secretary: Linda DiPietro, who was in the Women's Army Corps (now part of the regular Army) and later had a long career as a federal civilian employee including a stint working for Vice President Al Gore on a team streamlining government operations. She has chaired the OLLI Hospitality Committee, served on the Fund Development Committee and been a class host and trainer for hosts.

Treasurer: Gregg Mitsoff, a former career Navy intelligence officer who later had a career as an IT project manager. He is on the OLLI Marketing and Communications Committee and the Finance Committee.

New members of the Board of Directors are Freda Scott Giles, a retired UGA professor of theatre and associate director of the Institute for African American Studies, and Laura Carter, retired director of the Heritage Room in the Athens-Clarke County Library and popular instructor for many OLLI genealogy classes. Three incumbent board members were re-elected—Bill Barstow, Susan Dougherty and Penny Oldfather.

SUMMER ZOOMING

By Cher Snyder

What are you doing this summer? Come ZOOM with OLLI!

For the first time, OLLI@UGA is offering a program of online summer classes. Scheduled between July 6 and Aug. 6, more than 30 classes will be presented via ZOOM Mondays through Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and/or 2 p.m.

An online catalog became available June 1 and online registration will begin July 1.

The classes were recruited in less than a week by a committee of OLLI members including Bill Barstow, Nancy Grayson, Sherry Malone, Penny Oldfather and Cher Snyder. They cover a wide range of topics and include many of OLLI's most popular presenters. Here's a sampling of classes and presenters:

"History of Pandemics", Nan McMurray; "When Things Go Viral: How Vaccines Keep Us Safe", Mark Farmer; "Diversity and Inclusion in a Post-COVID-19 World: Does It Still Matter?", Dawn Bennett Alexander; *Casablanca*, Richard Neupert; "What Is Politics?", Lief Carter; "Two Tales for Times Like These: Albert Camus's *The Plague* and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*", Tom



Ryan Robinson

Buchanan; "History of the Stone Mountain Confederate Carving", Wendy Venet.

OLLI Executive Director Tim Meehan notes that the summer classes will help replenish some revenue lost by the cancellation of many spring semester classes. "Our members will enjoy an array of stimulating classes covering many topical and fascinating subjects while helping provide important support for OLLI," says Tim.



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President	Chris Jones
President-Elect	Cher Snyder
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