

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE OLLI TIMES

at The University of Georgia

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



OLLI President Tom Kenyon
(photo by Larry Petroff)

Dear Fellow OLLI@UGA Members,

The coming year marks the 20th Anniversary of LIR/OLLI@UGA! The first Learning in Retirement class was in September 1994. In twenty years we have grown to 1,267 members attending 240 classes and participating in 27 Special Interest Groups. For most of this time we were governed and managed by volunteers. It is truly remarkable how far our OLLI@UGA has come. We have stayed true to our mission: OLLI@UGA is dedicated to meeting the intellectual, social, and cultural needs of mature adults through lifelong learning. This coming year we will celebrate our achievement with an array of activities that will include every part of our organization. The 20th Anniversary Committee, which will be chaired by Katie O’Shea, is working to ensure that every member has an opportunity to participate.

Our theme for this anniversary year is “Volunteerism.” Without volunteers OLLI@UGA could never be the organization it is or offer courses and activities we make available. Betty Jean Craige, our

President elect, has written a moving article for this issue of the OLLI Times on why volunteers are so important to OLLI@UGA. I hope each and every one of us can find some way to volunteer.

I am happy to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors. Carol Kurtz, the new Curriculum Committee Chair; June Mazur; and Les Schindelman, who is the IT Committee Chair. I am also happy to announce several new Standing Committee Chairs. Betty Jean Craige will chair the Nominating Committee; Karen Kenyon will chair the Special Interest Groups; and Jill Read, will chair the Fund Development Committee.

Two important events will be held within the next few weeks. The Fall Newbee orientation will be held on Saturday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m. and the Back to Class Bash will be held on Friday, September 19 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Both of these events are wonderful opportunities for new members to learn more about OLLI@UGA and all members to meet the SIG leaders and ask any questions you might have. I encourage you to attend the Bash and bring a friend.

And last, but not least, is the implementation of the AVECtra Association Management Software program. This effort is being led by Katy Crapo, our Executive Director, and Les Schindelman, Chair of the IT Committee. Every member will benefit from the decision by the Board of Directors to bring state of the art software to OLLI@UGA.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout the coming year.

Tom Kenyon

PS: Sign up for your classes before they are full!



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The State of OLLI@UGA 2013-2014

At the first Board of Directors meeting for the new fiscal year, President Tom Kenyon gave the Directors the State of OLLI@UGA as of June 30, 2014. The great strides made by OLLI@UGA (described below) were due to the efforts and hard work of the leadership, staff, volunteers and our membership.

- OLLI@UGA applied for and received our second \$1,000,000 endowment.
- We approved a long-range plan which set a direction for effective governance.
- We selected and are in the process of installing the Avectra software program that will bring the way OLLI@UGA works with our board, staff, committees, volunteers and members to new a standard.
- We diversified our income reserves to maximize return.
- We reach our goal of 1,250 plus members.
- We have 27 Special Interest Groups in which over 400 members participate.
- We have sponsorship programs that provide revenue and in-kind gifts from Athens businesses.
- We held a successful LIR/OLLI regional conference that sets a high bar for future conferences.

As President Kenyon said, “We are fulfilling our mission.” These accomplishments will serve OLLI@UGA well as we move into the new fiscal year. As we grow in number we must also grow in fiscal oversight, enhanced program services, targeted volunteer recruitment and retention, and meaningful outreach.

THE OLLI TIMES

Editor: Pat McAlexander

Consultants: Katy Crapo, Tom Kenyon

Advertising: Randall Abney

Proofreaders: Susan Curtis, Mark Freeman, Beth Hedrick

Graphic Designer: Burman Printing

The OLLI Times is published six times a year, with news about OLLI, its members, and OLLI events. Send photos, notices, and articles to patmcalex@gmail.com.

Material for the October OLLI Times is due September 19. Mailing date: the week of October 8.

Having the Time of Our Lives With

OLLI @ UGA

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Athens, GA 30602-4811
Telephone: 706.542.7715

OLLI Website Address:

www.oli.uga.edu

OLLI Email Address:

oli@uga.edu

OLLI Staff

Executive Director	Katy Crapo
Administrative Associate	Zu Reuter
Administrative Assistant	Shelly Magruder
Coordinator of Social Media	Amy Munnell
Bookkeeper	Sara Williamson

OLLI Officers 2014-2015

President	Tom Kenyon
President Elect	Betty Jean Craige
Vice President	Margaret Anderson
Secretary	Cheryl Copeland
Treasurer	John Songster

OLLI Board of Directors

Randall Abney	June Mazur
Rich Cary	Jill Read
Helen Epps	Don Schneider
Joseph Harris	Les Shindelman
Carol Kurtz	Nancy Songster
Richard Lynch	

OLLI Committee Chairs

Curriculum	Carol Kurtz
Fund Development	Jill Read
Finance	Richard Bouldin
Historian	William Loughner
Hospitality	Lee Albright
Information Technology	Les Shindelman
Long Range Planning	Richard Lynch
Marketing Development	Randall Abney
Membership	Helen Epps
Nominating	Betty Jean Craige
Publications	Pat McAlexander
Registration	Nancy Canolty
Special Interest Groups	Karen Kenyon
Travel/Study	Joan Zitzelman
Volunteer Coordinator	Sandy Clark

HELP WANTED: OLLI@UGA NEEDS YOU!

The Volunteer Committee is looking for members who want to participate in helping OLLI@UGA with classes, events, committees and governance. Each issue of the *OLLI Times* will feature our **HELP WANTED** needs. We encourage the membership to seriously look at these needs and step forward to volunteer when you feel you can. You can also go the OLLI@UGA website to review volunteer opportunities.

Fund Development Committee

- a. Serve on the Fund Development Committee
- b. Help with the "Junque from the Trunk" Sale

When: October 23-24-25

Who: Members with trucks to pick up items

Members to sort the items

Members to act as cashiers

Time required: Would vary from 2 hours to 10 hours over the three-day period.

Contact: Jill Read at jilljayne@aol.com

Marketing Committee

- a. Serve on the Marketing Committee
- b. SCRIP Gift Card Co-coordinator

When: Two hours a week

Who: One volunteer to manage the OLLI@UGA SCRIP Gift Card operation.

Where: OLLI@UGA office or at home

Duties: Work with the SCRIP website to ensure members are informed of opportunities available to them in a timely way. The person who volunteers for this assignment will be trained and would significantly help OLLI@UGA realize the potential revenue available through the purchase of gift cards.

Contact: Randall Abney at rabney@me.com

Communication Ad Hoc Committee

When: Attend 2 to 3 meetings between now and September 9, 2014

Who: Members with public relations experience, writing and editing experience, graphic design experience, and web design experience and corporate communication skills.

Where: River's Crossing

Contact: Tom Kenyon at tkenygroup@gmail.com



Sandy Clark, Volunteer Coordinator (photo by Chuck Murphy)

FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dear fellow members of OLLI,

Whether you are a new member of OLLI@UGA or were a founding member of LIR twenty years ago, we hope you find your life enriched by the opportunities OLLI offers for learning, friendship, and fitness—and for volunteering.



Betty Jean Craig (photo by Chuck Murphy)

When I am asked what OLLI is, I answer: “We are a group of adults twelve hundred strong who are helping each other stay mentally acute, physically active, socially involved, and happy.”

The point is that we are *helping each other*.

OLLI is an organization of volunteers. With the exception of a very small paid staff headed by our executive director Katy Crapo, all the people who lead the organization—president, board of directors, committee chairs—are volunteers. All the people who teach classes, facilitate classes, recruit instructors, organize social events, plan trips, raise funds, and manage finances are volunteers. The people who greet us at luncheons are volunteers. The people who write for the *OLLI Times* are volunteers. The people who take our pictures here, there, and everywhere are volunteers.

So on behalf of everybody in OLLI, let me thank all our volunteers, for we would not have OLLI without them. I suspect that our volunteers would say that the pleasure they get from their involvement in OLLI is compensation enough for their contributions.

The Bernard Osher Foundation, which has provided OLLI with its \$2 million endowment, requires OLLI@UGA and all the other OLLIs to provide many opportunities for *significant* volunteer engagement. That is, volunteer engagement that keeps us mentally acute, physically active, socially involved, and happy! Volunteer engagement that is fun!

And that is the point that President Tom Kenyon made at OLLI’s annual meeting in May when he announced that volunteer recruitment and retention would be his primary goal in OLLI’s twentieth anniversary year. Tom said, “In OLLI we are having the time of our lives, and we do this by helping each other make a great organization. I hope you will consider becoming a volunteer.”

Betty Jean Craig

NEW TO OLLI@UGA? NOW WHAT?

It’s called “**Newbees Orientation.**” If you have joined OLLI@UGA since January 2014 or have never attended a full Newbees Orientation, reserve your spot for orientation on **Saturday, August 16, at 1 pm at River’s Crossing** (850 College Station Road, Athens). You will hear from OLLI leaders about the many ways to be involved, our two decades of fun, how the curriculum is developed, how to register for classes, all our social activities and Special Interest Groups, opportunities to facilitate classes and participate in travel study, ways you can volunteer, the scope of our budget, marketing and development programs, and many other benefits of membership. Just as important, you will also meet other new members as well as veteran members during the meetings and at the social afterwards.

Reservations are required. Contact Lois Alworth (706-549-5510 or wilo59@charter.net). For more information you can also contact Lee Albright (706-353-0419 or leealbright207@gmail.com).

It’s Saturday so parking at River’s Crossing is free. See you there!

“ We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. ”

FIND YOUR OLLI CALLING AT THE FALL BACK TO CLASS BASH!

OLLI@UGA has evolved into a veritable cornucopia of activities and opportunities for learning, enrichment, service, travel, and *FUN*. Here’s how to find out more: come to the **Back to Class Bash!** In an activity fair format with dozens of booths, OLLI@UGA members will answer your questions about their activities, sign you up for participation in your particular interest area, and share their experiences in OLLI. Material on membership will be available as well as information our committees, Special Interest Groups, and UGA departments sponsoring research and physical fitness studies.

Come find out all about OLLI@UGA, enjoy refreshments, and visit with the people who make this organization run. Get involved in your own lifelong learning!

See p.6 for more information.

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20th ANNIVERSARY BACK TO CLASS BASH!!!!

Friday, September 19, 2014

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

380 Alps Road, Athens

Enjoy refreshments by our sponsor Talmage Terrace/Lanier Gardens.

Visit the tables displaying information about Special Interest Groups and OLLI Committees.

Donate school supplies to support area schools – drop them in the colorful marked bags on the tables*

*Pencils, pens, paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, construction paper,
safety scissors, notebooks, folders, glue sticks, small hand sanitizers, etc.

This event is for current members and prospective members. ENJOY!

Looking Back



OLLI members at the September 13, 2010 “walk-in registration” at Trumps. Such walk-in class registrations, held at the beginning of each semester, were the prototype of the Back to Class Bash. After registration was moved totally to mail in January 2011, the event became the Bash. Online registration began in Fall 2011.

FUND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

The Fund Development Committee is happy to report that it not only reached its goal for the past fiscal year but exceeded it. The goal was \$14,300. The amount raised was \$21,913.

The Annual Fund raised	\$10,568.
Special Events raised	\$11,122.
The SCRIP Gift Card raised	\$ 223.
Total	\$21,913.

The Fund Development Committee thanks all those who so generously contributed to OLLI@UGA.

“JUNQUE FROM THE TRUNK” SALE COMING UP

Now is the time to weed out closets, attics, drawers and garages and donate your treasures to OLLI for our “hoity-toity” “Junque From the Trunk” sale which will take place October 24 and 25th at Central Presbyterian Church. For first pick of purchases there will be an “early bird” preview of the sale on Friday, October 24 (admission \$10, and all goods that evening will be double the marked price). Saturday, admission is free. Profits from the sale will help us keep all costs low for OLLI@UGA members.

We will accept donations of goods from the following categories: Antiques and Collectables; Books; Vintage, “After Five”, Clothing, and coats and sweaters; Ladies Purses; costume and real jewelry; Artworks; Small Appliances; Technology tools (computers, phones, calculators, etc); Yard and Gardening Tools; Artworks; Linens and tableware; Kitchenware; Decorative objects (pictures, figurines, lamps, frames, mirrors, vases, etc.); CD’s and LP Recordings; Seasonal Decorations; unused Gifts; and Other Household Goods. We will not be able to accept large furniture and appliances.

Many volunteers are needed to help with the sale. Remember, volunteers get the first choices of the inventory! A volunteer sign up sheet will be outside the OLLI office in the hall near the classrooms, or you can email Jill Read at jilljayne@aol.com. to help out. There will be one brief meeting of all volunteers near the time of the sale.

Delivery instructions will be printed in the next edition of the *OLLI Times*.

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OLLI ARTISTS EXHIBIT, TEACH

Silk painter Margaret Agner will exhibit several pieces in the fashion show and gallery show at the Silk Painters International Fest in Santa Fe, August, 2014. Her quilted jacket is currently in the exhibit “Women’s Work” at Brenau University in Gainesville through September 12, 2014, as are quilts by Elizabeth Barton. In June Elizabeth had a “fabulous time” teaching a short workshop in Paris on “le quilting” (pronounced “kiltin,” so, she says, “I kept thinking about Scotsmen in patchwork kilts.”)

Margaret Agner's quilted jacket

Phantom of the Opera matinee at the Fox, Saturday, October 25 (not a game day!) For over 25 years, *Phantom* has been the Broadway musical all others are measured against, with its unforgettable score by Andrew Lloyd Webber and its story of an undeniable obsession that could never die. The cost for a trip to this award-winning musical at the Fabulous Fox is \$108, which includes worry-free transportation, driver gratuity, snacks on the bus and your theatre ticket. The coach will leave at 10:00 a.m. from Jack Turner Sports Complex, 2330 S. Milledge Avenue; and arrive at the front door of the Fox by 11:30. You will have two hours for lunch in one of the nearby restaurants. (Your tour leader will provide you with information about restaurants in advance of the matinee.) The performance begins at 2:00, and the bus will return to Athens about 6:00 p.m.

Register online at www.lli@uga.edu with a credit card or at the River's Crossing OLLI administrative office with Shelly. The tickets cost more for this performance than we usually pay and we were limited to 40. Register immediately.

And for planning further ahead, consider:

Cuba, People and Society March 24-April 1, 2015. (Road Scholar trip). The cost is \$3,395 per person, double occupancy; \$3,720 per person single occupancy. This includes 8 nights of accommodations; 21 meals (8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners); 3 expert-led lectures, 9 field trips; 13 hands-on experiences; round trip airfare from Miami to Cuba; required visa to Cuba; group travel and transfers throughout the tour; a group leader to travel with you throughout the program and to handle all logistics; modest gratuities, taxes and destination fees; and the Road Scholar Emergency Travel Assistance Plan, including 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies. **Activity Rating:** Walking up to two miles per day, with some walking on uneven cobblestone streets.

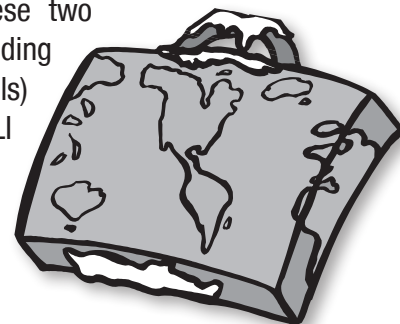
To register, telephone Road Scholar toll free at (800) 322-5315 and reference Program #20437: "Cuba Today: People and Society", from **Tuesday, March 24, to Wednesday, April 1, 2015**, and say that you are an OLLI member at the University of

Georgia. Pay an initial deposit of \$250, with final payment due January 6, 2015. When OLLI is notified of your registration, you will be notified to register with OLLI and pay a \$40 class fee for this program and tour.

The Best of Croatia: A Coastal Voyage by Yacht September 26 – October 8, 2015 (Road Scholar trip). The cost for main deck cabins is \$3,547 per person, double occupancy, \$5,002 per person, single occupancy; lower deck cabins are \$3,347 per person, double occupancy, and \$4,802, per person, single occupancy. Road Scholar can make air reservations, or participants can make their own air reservations. Price includes: 11 nights of accommodation; 28 meals (11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 9 dinners); 4 expert-led lectures and 12 field trips; one hands-on experience; group travel and transfers throughout the program; a Road Scholar group leader to accompany you throughout the program and handle logistics; modest gratuities, taxes and destination fees; the Road Scholar Emergency and Travel Assistance Plan, including 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies. No visa is required. Road Scholar estimates the round trip airfare from Atlanta to Croatia and return at approximately \$1,350 per person extra. **Activity Rating:** Moderately challenging; walking up to 5 miles a day over varied terrain; stairs without railings.

To register, telephone Road Scholar toll free at (800) 322-5315 and reference Program #20118, "The Best of Croatia: A Coastal Voyage by Yacht," **starting on September 26, 2015** and say that you are an OLLI member at the University of Georgia. A deposit of \$500 per person is due upon enrollment, with final payment due June 18, 2015. When OLLI is notified of your registration, you will be notified to register with OLLI and pay a \$50 class fee for the program and tour.

More information about these two Road Scholar trips (including tempting descriptive details) will be available on the OLLI website and in future issues of the *OLLI Times*.



OLLI BRIEFS

OLLI BIKERS ON RAIL-TO-TRAIL RIDE

OLLI members Heidi Davison and Jeff Engel were among the biking group that traveled five days and more than 190 miles June 22 to 27 along three rail-to-trail greenways: the Panhandle Trail, the Montour Trail and the Great Allegheny Passage. Out of their tents by 8:00 a.m. each morning and on the trail by 9:00 a.m., they enjoyed breathtaking views from trestles and viaducts. Heidi Davison writes, “Gorgeous vistas, tunnels of trees, wildflowers, waterfalls, massive rock formations and critters of many varieties . . . were a part of every day’s ride” (Flagpole, July 30, 2014). So were trains—the tracks often ran parallel to the trails. The following pictures are by Jeff Engel.



Bikers ride through a tunnel.



This is the first selfie Jeff has ever taken and he promises it will be the last. Note his rear view mirror! Pennsylvania hills are in the background.



Trains were often part of the scenery.

AUGUST 18: FACILITATOR TRAINING

The first facilitator training/refresher session will be held on Monday, August 18 at 9 a.m. at River’s Crossing. Please check the bulletin board for the assigned classroom. UGA parking tags must be used. A replacement parking tag will be given to those who attend the one-hour session. Contact Connie Bruce for more information at [706-254-7822](tel:706-254-7822).

AUGUST 24: OLLI’s SPELLING TEAM COMPETES

Reminder: OLLI has entered a team—“OLLI-OLLI-In-Free”—in the Athens Literacy Council Spelling Bee, a fundraiser to help local literacy efforts. Team members are Bill Loughner, Heather Reed, and Mark Freeman. The contest will be held August 24 at the Holiday Inn Georgian Room at 3:00 p.m. Support the team and Athens literacy—be a team sponsor by donating; and come to the bee! Tickets are \$10 and you can donate on the Athens Literacy Council website at www.athensliteracy.org. The team had to pay \$100 to enter, and must raise at least \$400 from sponsors. Many teams raise much more than that from sponsors. The four teams that raise the most money will get a “mulligan,” which means they can misspell once and not be kicked out.

OLLI AUTHOR WINS AWARD

OLLI Carol Dolson’s new book *The Heebie Jeebies* has been awarded the Mom’s Choice Silver Medal Award in the Children’s Picture Book category.

DR. DALLMEYER AT HIGHLANDS

OLLI member Dr. David Dallmeyer offered a two-hour class on “Building the Appalachians” at the Center For Life Enrichment in Highlands, N.C. on July 16. In the afternoon he led a geoexcursion of 20 participants from Highlands, N.C. to Tallulah Gorge, GA, focusing on the “Geology of the Eastern Blue Ridge: Georgia and North Carolina.”

THE MAN BEHIND THE “O”

The Bernard Osher Story

By Pat McAlexander

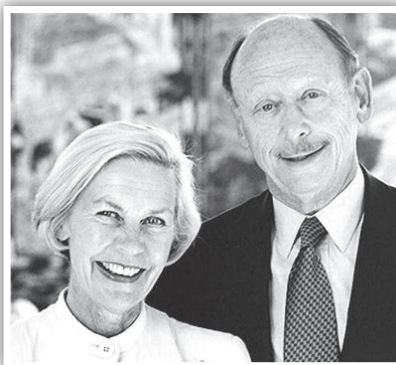
In 2009 our organization, at that time “Learning in Retirement,” received the first of three \$100,000 grants from The Bernard Osher Foundation. And so we became “The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Georgia.” Some of our members were a little apprehensive about the change, but that mouthful of a name is most often now informally referred to by the easy and “fun” acronym “OLLI.” We play with it: our spelling team is “OLLI-OLLI-In-Free,” a singing group was called the “OLLI-Pops,” and members are referred to often as “OLLIs.” (pronounced “ollies.”) And the OLLI name has growing recognition. We no longer have to explain it, as people from other parts of the country often respond proudly with “Oh yes, we have an OLLI too.” After receiving the grants, as you all know, our organization went through an amazing adolescent-like growth spurt, and in 2011 the Osher Foundation awarded us a million-dollar endowment— then a second in 2013. Of course we now all know that the “O” in OLLI stands for “Osher,” but we still may wonder about the man behind the name, the Bernard Osher who has helped to transform our organization and so many others.

Bernard Osher is a native of Biddeford, Maine, the son of immigrants—his mother from Lithuania, his father from Ukraine. He graduated in 1948 from Bowdoin College, a small, prestigious liberal-arts college in Brunswick, Maine. (Its famous alumni include Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.) Osher spent his early years in his hometown managing the family hardware and plumbing supply business and running a big summer amusement park, Palace Playland, in nearby Old Orchard Beach. With a clear talent for finances and business, however, he moved to New York to work at Oppenheimer & Company, which provided financial services for large institutional clients. Then he moved to California to become a founding director of World Savings, which became the second largest savings institution in the United States, and was ultimately acquired by the Wachovia Corporation. An avid art collector, Osher also purchased the auction house Butterfield & Butterfield, which became the fourth-largest auction house in the world. In 1999, he sold the company to eBay. In 2006 Forbes listed Osher as the 746th richest man in the world.

Throughout these years Osher became a notable but “quiet” philanthropist. In 1977 he founded The Bernard Osher Foundation, which has very generously supported postsecondary scholarships and selected integrative medicine programs across the country along with specific arts organizations and social service programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Mr. Osher’s native state of Maine. In 2006 when he gave his fund \$732 million, he was ranked as America’s third most-generous donor in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy’s* annual survey.

Nearly 80 percent of the Foundation’s grants have gone to support educational programs. It was in the 1990s that Bernard Osher and

his wife Barbro, a native of Sweden and Honorary Consul General of Sweden in California, became increasingly interested in the period of life known to Mrs. Osher, with her European background, as “the third age”—the ten to twenty usually healthy years following working adulthood. Influenced by the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning in California and the Maine Senior College Network, the Oshers began giving Foundation support to non-credit continuing education programs for adults over fifty. Its first endowment was given in 2001 to the Senior College Program at the University of Southern Maine, which became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USM.



Barbro and Bernard Osher

In the following years, with Mary Bitterman as the Foundation President and David Blazeovich as the Senior Program Officer, the Foundation has funded over 120 institutes located at universities and colleges across the country. The Foundation awards selected programs with annual grants of \$100,000. Upon meeting certain criteria, including a membership exceeding 500 dues-paying members annually, the Foundation considers establishing endowments of \$1 million to provide permanent support for the programs. From time to time the Foundation has also awarded second endowment gifts to exemplary Osher Institutes with more than 1,000 members annually and robust, ongoing fund-raising programs. When an endowment gift is made after the operating-support grant has ended, a bridge grant of \$50,000 is provided to permit continuing operation while income accrues from the investment of endowment funds.

To reinforce the concept of the shared identity of OLLIs across the country, each program awarded a grant is designated by the name **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of _____**, along with the use of a common logo: the words “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute inside a simple circle. This is the logo you see on the masthead of the *OLLI Times*.

In 2004 The Foundation awarded an endowment to the University of Southern Maine to support a National Resource Center for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute network, with Kali Lightfoot as its founding director. Among its other functions, the Center organizes a national conference every eighteen months, where OLLI representatives from all over the country come together to exchange “best practice” ideas and establish a sense of community.

Ten thousand baby boomers in the U.S. turn 65 everyday, most of them living for another two decades. It is vital that they remain, in Mary Bitterman’s words, “vigorous, informed, engaged, healthy, and optimistic.” Given the enthusiastic response of OLLI members for their OLLIs, it is clear that Bernard and Barbro Osher—through The Bernard Osher Foundation—have done much to achieve this goal.

For more information see Mary G.F. Bitterman, “Lifelong Learning,” *Staying the Course: Thirty-Five Years of Osher Philanthropy*, 2013.

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“HOW NOT TO WALK A DOG”



Chuck Murphy shot this picture of Suzanne Murphy with four pups—littermates—that she was fostering last spring. The title above the photo is his. Three of the pups have since been adopted; the second one from the right is still available at Pup and Cat Company.



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BIRDS IN MY YARD

by Pat McAlexander

Although I have the cardinals and the downy woodpeckers
and even once a rose-breasted grosbeak,

Most of the birds crowding the feeder or in my yard

Are neither beautiful nor rare—

Plain grayish-brown female house finches, catbirds,
sparrows.

I remember seeing a woman shooting at the dull ones on her
feeder with a b-b gun,

Hoping, I guess, that would make more room for pretty ones.

But I love them all,

And it's the plain brown wren perched outside her bird house

That, throwing back her head, pours out the most beautiful
song.



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OLLII

at The University of Georgia

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

HAPPY HIKERS SIG GETS NEW CO-LEADER

Iris Miracle is pleased to announce that Happy Hikers has a new co-Leader, Ray Watson. She and Ray are hoping to serve their members even better now. Beginning in the fall two hikes per month will be offered.

OLLI ROCKS: TWO SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

During the 2014 Fall Semester the OLLI ROCKS special interest group will focus on “Water In Georgia.” The first presentation of the semester will be on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM in River’s Crossing. Dr. David Dallmeyer will discuss “Water: What is it? Where is it? How do we get it?” He will also discuss water use in Georgia and the future demands on Georgia water resources.

On Tuesday, September 23, The College of Environment and Design, the Environmental Ethics Program and the Odum School of Ecology will host a significant, water-related talk at 5:15 p.m. in the Odum School of Ecology Auditorium: “The Snail Darter and the Dam: How Pork-Barrel Politics Endangered a Little Fish and Killed a River.” The speaker is Zygmunt Plater of the Boston College Law School and author of the book *The Snail Darter and the Dam*. Plater is the lawyer who with his students fought and won the Supreme Court case TVA vs Hill (1978). Plater’s tale of citizens opposing agents of a powerful national program will be stimulating and educational.

OPERA SIG: A TESTIMONIAL

“Make Opera a Part of Your OLLI Life” – by Jim Marshall

When my wife Peg Graham and I retired from UGA’s College of Education last summer, one of the first things we did was join OLLI. Because of OLLI’s deep ties to the COE, we knew a fair amount about it. We knew about its wide range of classes, its luncheon speaker series, and its many community projects and travel opportunities. We didn’t know much, however, about its special interest groups, which provide the chance to work and play over time with people who have common questions, skills, and pleasures. And we certainly didn’t know about the OLLI Opera Group, or even much about opera at all. Neither of us had been to a live opera, and both of us had pretty much resigned ourselves to not knowing about something that it might be good to know.

But one of the best things about OLLI is that it gives its participants a chance to explore areas of interest that are brand new without risk or long-term commitment. And so Peg and I signed up for the Opera Group and attended its opening orientation session in September. It was an eye-opening experience and one of the best decisions we made in our first year of retirement. The orientation brought together the faculty from the UGA opera program and, even better, students from the program, who sang arias for us at the orientation, described the internships they were undertaking, and talked with us over lunch. We found the students to be hard-working, very friendly, and enormously talented, and we kept coming to see them at each of the Opera Group’s monthly meetings.

Every month during the academic year, Opera Group members gather to view a high-definition screened presentation at the Beechwood Theater of a live performance by the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Each of these events is preceded by a luncheon where two or more graduate students give talks on the opera we are about to see, the singers and conductors who are making it happen, and the history of other performances of the same work. Peg and I look forward to these Saturday afternoons, and always feel refreshed and smarter than we were as we make our way home.

I am writing to invite you to join us at this year’s OLLI Opera Group Orientation, which will be held on **Saturday, September 13th from 11:00-2:00 at the Buffalo Café in the Beechwood Shopping Center**. Please save the date. Join us in supporting the talented opera students at UGA. And give yourself the pleasure of entering a rich and colorful musical world. Information about registering for the event will be sent to all OLLI members on the listserv. We hope that you can join us.

WRITING MEMOIR SIG

The Writing Memoir SIG meets on the third Thursday of the month from 9:30 to 12:00 noon to share their prose and poetry. Last spring, selections of their work were incorporated into a book and sold at the OLLI Art Fair. Coordinator Roger Bailey reports that it virtually sold out (only one copy remains). Following is an essay by Bobbie Terry that was included in the book (reprinted with permission).

There Was Once a Chance I Didn't Take

Once upon a time, many, many years ago, when I was a teenager living in Elberton, I loved to visit my sister Margaret and brother-in-law Frank in Americus, Georgia. Margaret was what is now called a stay-at-home mom and Frank worked at a farm implement company. I had such a good time on my visits there, playing with my little niece Phyliss, my cousin Elsie, and her two younger brothers, Dan and Don. Elsie and I were about the same age—14 or 15—and we enjoyed hanging out together. The Philadelphia Phillies had a farm baseball team in Americus, and we went out to the ball park often. . . .

One day Frank came home from work and told me one of his farm customers from Plains, Georgia, had a son and his son wanted to meet me and take me to a movie. I was sure this was something Frank had arranged and I was definitely interested, but I had never been on a blind date. Actually I had never been on many dates of any kind except to church socials. After thinking this over, I decided to decline and go to the ball game with Elsie instead. The next day Frank told me the Carter boy had been disappointed.

When the Carter boy became the governor of Georgia, it was my turn to be disappointed. If I had gone on that blind date, I thought, maybe today I would be the First Lady of Georgia. Everyone in Elberton would be proud of me.

When the Carter boy became President, I was sick for days. By then I was convinced I could have been First Lady of the United States. I could have worn a beautiful designer gown, aquamarine in color, and extremely high heels to the inaugural balls. I could have chosen expensive new china for the White House dining room. I could have flown all over the world in Air Force I. . . .

Recently I was visiting my sister Margaret in her retirement home and we started talking about my summer visits to Americus. I confided in her my long-held regret for not taking the chance Frank had given me to go on a blind date with Jimmy Carter.

“Jimmy!” Margaret exclaimed. “It wasn't Jimmy Carter Frank wanted you to meet. It was his younger brother, Billy!”



Members of the Writing Memoir SIG at a summer gathering at the Kenyons

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