

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OLLI

TIMES

at The University of Georgia

ANNUAL OLLI@UGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Jay Shinn called the 2014 OLLI@UGA Membership Meeting to order at 1:30 on May 16 at Central Presbyterian Church and gave the “State of OLLI” address. He introduced Jack Parish of the College of Education, then OLLI Board members and committee members and chairs. Executive Director Katy Crapo reported that at the national OLLI conference she recently attended, our OLLI had wide recognition as a national leader.

Tom Kenyon led the voting to accept a wording change in the bylaws and, by secret ballot, to confirm the nominating committees’ candidates for 2014-15 officers and five new Board members. Randall Abney gave the Marketing report, saying that OLLI would become more involved in the community through an alliance with other non-profits in the Greater Athens Area. He also introduced three OLLI sponsors present (see picture p.3). Carolyn Abney gave a report on SIGS (see p.14). Nancy Songster described the Opera SIG’s six scholarships and then presented a seventh to Elizabeth Slaten. (See story p.12).

Richard Lynch gave the Long Range Plan report. Developed in 2012 and approved by the Board in 2013, the three-year plan was designed to carry OLLI@UGA through the spring of 2016. It would seem from the several other reports given at the meeting that the four goals of this plan are being successfully met. Those

goals are 1) to implement an effective and efficient governance structure. (We have recruited, elected, and trained good people for our officers and Board). 2) Enhance the financial sustainability of OLLI@UGA. (We have initiated robust fund-raising and marketing programs and obtained a second Osher Endowment). 3) Research and implement an integrated data collection, data management, and registration system meeting all needs of OLLI@UGA. (Under the guidance of Les Shindelman, we have purchased AVECTRA technology that will serve many of OLLI’s needs—see article p.11. 4) Encourage the growth of membership, committees, programs, services, and volunteer opportunities. The growth in several aspects of Goals 2 and 4 is shown in John Songster’s chart in the following article “OLLI—Then and Now” (p.4).

In the final events of the meeting, Jay awarded the Carol Fisher award to Nancy Canolty, whose service to OLLI@UGA has included serving as Vice President for Curriculum for three years and chairing The Southern Conference for Lifelong Learning last summer. The slate votes having been officially counted, the new officers and Board members were introduced. Finally, Katy gave Jay a certificate of appreciation for his work as President of OLLI for 2013-14. After the meeting was adjourned, OLLI members repaired to the dining room for desserts supplied by Talmage Terrace. More pictures of the Annual Meeting are on p.3.



New officers and Board members l. to r. Tom Kenyon, June Mazur, Betty Jean Craige, John Songster, Margaret Anderson, Randall Abney, Cheryl Copeland, Richard Lynch, Carol Kurtz, Les Shindelman. Photo by Pat McAlexander.

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OLLI'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Learning in Retirement, which became OLLI@UGA, was founded in 1994—so this year is our organization's twentieth anniversary! Historian Bill Loughner has come up with the following timeline of significant dates in our history:

- 1998—Washington, GA chapter established
- 2002—Partnership with the College of Education
- 2004—Incorporation as a charitable not-for-profit
- 2009—Awarded the first of three \$100,000 Osher Foundation grants
- 2011—Received the Carol J. Fisher Trust gift
- 2012—Awarded the first Osher one-million-dollar endowment
- 2013—Awarded the second Osher one-million-dollar endowment

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OLLI Staff

Katy Crapo: Executive Director
Zu Reuter: Administrative Associate
Shelley Magruder: Office Assistant
Amy Munnell: Social Media Coordinator
Sara Williamson: Bookkeeper

OLLI Officers 2013–2014

Jay Shinn: President
Tom Kenyon: President-Elect
Margaret Anderson: Vice President
Carolyn Abney: Secretary
John Songster: Acting Treasurer

OLLI Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Randall Abney | Joseph Harris |
| Rich Cary | Richard Lynch |
| Cheryl Copeland | Jill Read |
| Betty Jean Craige | Don Schneider |
| Helen Epps | Nancy Songster |

OLLI Committee Chairs

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



FALL SEMESTER OLLI TIMES SCHEDULE: CLIP AND SAVE!

(Note—The mailing schedule is approximate due to the variables in printing and mailing.)

- August Issue: Material due Wed. July 23 (to be mailed Aug. 8)
- October issue: Material due Fri. Sept. 19 (to be mailed Oct. 8)
- December Issue: Material due Mon. Nov. 13 (to be mailed Dec. 4)

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.

More Pictures of the Annual Meeting



Attending the Annual Meeting were representatives of three OLLI sponsors (l. to r.) Ann Josey (Talmage Terrace/Lanier Gardens), Carolyn Abney (of Keller Williams Realty), and Becky Ford (Wells Fargo). Photo by Pat McAlexander.



Jay Shinn awards Nancy Canolty the Carol Fisher Award. Photo by Bill Flatt.



Katy Crapo presents outgoing President Jay Shinn with a Certificate of Appreciation. Photo by Bill Flatt.

SAVE THE DATES:

NEWBEE'S ORIENTATION – for new members to meet other newbees and to learn about the various aspects and programs of OLLI@UGA from OLLI leaders - *Saturday, August 16 – River's Crossing – 1:00-3:30.*

BACK TO CLASS BASH – for members and potential members to learn about Committee and Special Interest Group activities in an activities fair format – *Friday, September 19 – Central Presbyterian - 1:00-3:30.*

OLLI TAG SALE—Preview Party Friday night, October 24. Sale on Saturday, October 25. Details on right.

HALLOWEEN LUNCHEON – for a *scary good time* for members and their guests - *Friday, October 31 – 11:30-1:00.*

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY –a grand social event for members and their guests for dinner, entertainment, and celebration. **DON'T MISS** this chance to repeat last year's festivities with the Commons all to ourselves! – *Thursday, December 18 – Joe Frank Harris Commons – UGA.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE LUNCHEON – ring out the old year with your OLLI friends and guests - *Wednesday, December 31 – 11:30-1:00.*

OLLI TAG



IN THE FALL

Downsize and organize your home and help OLLI keep OLLI's member costs low. The much-awaited OLLI Tag Sale, which was delayed this Spring, will take place **Saturday, October 25.** with a Preview Party on **Friday night, October 24.** There will be a special "Silent Auction" area where fine things such as jewelry, paintings, and other valuable collectibles will be sold in addition to the regular inventory.

OLLI members will be asked to contribute items for the sale which can be easily carried (lightweight, small pieces of furniture, collectibles, books, etc). The donations will need to be brought to a specified location (TBA) a few days before the event. Volunteers who would like to help with the sale should contact Jill Read (jilljayne@aol.com).

OLLI@UGA – THEN AND NOW

by John Songster

As you see in Bill Loughner's timeline (p.2), our organization formed in 1994 as Learning in Retirement. Thus we are entering our 20th year of continuous service to older adults having a desire to remain intellectually and socially active in the time after their working years. Over these two decades hundreds of members and a number of collaborators have contributed to the organization's growing success – the most notable collaborator being the University of Georgia's College of Education. In 2008, seeking ways to remain sustainably funded and keep the cost of member programs reasonably low, Learning in Retirement, Inc. and the University of Georgia became associated with the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The table below shows the then and now difference between some fundamental measures illustrating the success of pursuing a Bernard Osher Foundation alliance. Among the "now" numbers you see Beneficial Assets of 2+ million dollars. This is the two one-million-dollar endowment gifts from the Osher Foundation to the University of Georgia, with the interest for exclusive use by OLLI@UGA. Each year 50% of the earnings from the endowment is added to the principal, and the other 50% is made available to our organization, constituting a major portion of our budget.

| <u>FY 2007-2008</u> | | <u>FY 2014-2015</u> | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Members | approx. 250 | Members | approx. 1250 |
| Member Dues | \$40 | Member Dues | \$50 |
| Classes (per semester) | 24 | Classes (per semester) | 120 |
| Class cost (average) | \$5 | Class cost (average) | \$6.75 |
| Budget | approx. \$45,000 | Budget | \$384,000 |
| Assets | approx. \$15-20,000 | Assets | \$130,000 |
| Beneficial assets | \$0 | Beneficial assets | \$2+ million |

OLLI@UGA's popularity is evidenced by the remarkable growth in membership the past seven years. Recently, in national publications, Athens has gained recognition as a retirement destination – OLLI@UGA being a plus factor. Continued increase in members and programming should be expected. Systems and procedures are being defined and new management and database software will be implemented during the coming year, tremendously easing the management complexities we face.

None of this would be possible without the steady stream of member volunteers. While we now have a paid professional staff and contract for other professional services to manage day to day operations, volunteers are the backbone of the planning and governance. Please consider serving as an officer, Board member, or committee member—or just helping with an event or in the office. There is no difference in the need for volunteers between then and now!

OLLI BRIEFS

OLLI's SPELLING TEAM

OLLI has entered a team 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. Follow the link to 2014 Bee and Teams. As the OLLI Times goes to press, The Athens Literacy Council is working to insure that donations can be made via Paypal.

AN OLLI JUNE WEDDING!

Long-time member Bill Flatt will marry Marihope Troutman from Newnan on June 29. Congratulations and best wishes from OLLI!

JUNE MAZUR IS MS. SENIOR ATHENS 2014

At the fourth annual Ms. Senior Athens event on May 4, 2014 at the Athens Country Club, the eight contestants were inspiring! They illustrated so well the Athens Community Council on Aging's motto "Live well, age well"—from the beautiful, graceful 84-year-old who had been a noted ballroom dancer to the sixty-something who still looked like a girl and trained dogs and horses, hiked, and kayaked. But it was particularly exciting to have two OLLI @UGA members—June Mazur and Eileen Summerville—as participants!

The daughter of Irish parents, Eileen Summerville is a retired second-grade teacher and the mother of three daughters. She joined OLLI three years ago after retiring. One of her favorite OLLI activities has been playing Pickleball. Eileen also has taught English in China, is a member of the Athens Wine Society, and enjoys gardening. She lives in Winder.



Eileen Summerville.
Photo by Mary Songster.

June Mazur has lived in Virginia, Texas, and Pennsylvania. A mother of two sons, she has been an English teacher and a Delta flight attendant. June is also an actress: she has appeared in several movies and local theater productions. It was OLLI@UGA that drew her to Athens six years ago, and she has been an active member ever since, attending classes and traveling all over the country on Dr. David Dallmeyer's "geoexcursions." She is a new member of the OLLI Board.

At the Ms. Senior Athens event, the contestants first gave presentations about themselves and their philosophy of life; next, the audience watched a video with photos illustrating the life of each contestant; and finally each contestant gave an impromptu answer to an individual question. Then came the climactic part of the event: the announcement that June Mazur had been selected to be Ms. Senior Athens for 2014. A few years back June had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and given one year to live – but look at her now! As Ms. Senior Athens, June will illustrate not only the ACCA motto, but the spirit of OLLI@UGA as well!



June Mazur (center) after being crowned Ms. Senior Athens, with OLLI friends l. to r. Nancy Canolty, Pat McAlexander, Helen Epps (who nominated her), and Alexis Winger. *Photo by Sally Gustafson.*

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TWO OLLI CLASSES

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM: TWO GRAPHIC NOVELS

Many OLLIs remember the comic books of our childhood: Archie, Jughead, Veronica, and Betty; Little Lulu, Tubby, Ol' Witch Hazel; Uncle Scrooge; the superheroes; the love comics with happily-ever-after romances. Now there is a genre called "graphic novels." It was at the beginning of the 21st century that the Book Industry Study Group added the term as a category in book stores. When some of you first heard "graphic" to describe "novels," you may have thought it referred to works with pornographic details, but no—graphic novels are like extended comic books. However, most are in black and white, and the subjects are mature and serious, as is the art. They are increasingly popular with "young adults," but are read by "old adults" as well.

This semester UGA English Department professor Barbara McCaskill offered a course on two graphic novels that deal with the African-American "struggle for freedom." The first was "Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White" by Lila Quinterro Weaver, the second "March: Book One," the first of a trilogy on the life of Congressman John Lewis, co-written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin and illustrated by Nate Powell.

In "Darkroom" (2012), Weaver describes—and illustrates in vivid pencil drawings—her experiences as a young Latina girl who came with her family from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Marion, Alabama in 1961. The novel depicts her as she grows up, realizing and then attempting to deal with the wide gap between the American ideal and the real: the segregated society of Marion, the violence aroused by the civil rights movement, and the unrealistic dreams of wealth, romance, and the blond, blue-eyed feminine ideal.

"March" harks back to the 1958 comic book "Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story" that so inspired the young John Lewis and other activists of the time. With this narrative of Lewis's life, Lewis, his co-author Aydin, and illustrator Powell hope likewise to bring Lewis's story to the new generation. This first volume of "March" covers Lewis's youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and his participation in non-violent lunch counter sit-ins.

Dr. McCaskill hopes to have both Lila Weaver and Nate Powell speak at UGA this fall.



Members of "African-American Freedom Struggle" class. Front: Marilyn Gootman, Professor Barbara McCaskill, Nancy MacNair. Back: Susan Curtis, Bennie Roberson Jr., Inge Whittle. Photo by Pat McAlexander.

OLLI WALKS @ THE MALL

Lew Frazar is the new coordinator of the OLLI Walks SIG. This summer the group is meeting at the Georgia Square Mall each Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. outside of the second floor entrance to Belk's. They will walk in the mall for about an hour. Lew points out the advantages of this plan: "The mall is air conditioned, flat, and carpeted."



SPRING 2014 TRAVEL:



The Cuba travellers on Havana square.

CUBA—April 8-16

Several OLLI@UGA members took part in a Road Scholar trip to Cuba April 8-16. Nancy Canolty and Jane Kelly coordinated the trip with Road Scholar for all the transportation, lodging, and programs. The following article is from an essay by Alexandra Kelly, Jane's granddaughter, who was also on the trip. —Ed.

Cuba, a rather small island only ninety miles from the United States, is an immensely complex country. Although it is still Communist, it is slowly acquiring many capitalist ventures begun by locals, such as “paladars,” home kitchens that have been converted into restaurants or bed and breakfasts. Cubans also profit from tips in restaurants or taxis, or making photos of visitors posing in magnificent reconditioned cars from the 1950s. The capital, Havana, is a kaleidoscope of architecture from old Spanish forts to blocks of fifty-year-old Russian apartment complexes, and everything in between. Many of the buildings are crumbling and falling apart, an array of colors jumbled next to each other, with beautifully remodeled homes or well-preserved antique beauties hugging cement crumbles where houses once were. If the embargo between Cuba and the U.S. were to be lifted, the country would no doubt be overwhelmed by the number of American tourists coming to enjoy the “forbidden fruit.”

Our travel group was made up of OLLI@UGA members along with OLLI friends from Rome, Georgia, Texas, and California. We spent three days in Cienfuegos taking day trips through the narrow cobblestone streets of Trinidad and Santa Clara, and four days in Havana. On our way to the capital city, we stopped at the Che Guevara memorial, had a seafood lunch, and swam in the notorious Bay of Pigs. The Hotel Nacional, where we stayed while we were in Havana, is a grand hotel built by an American architect in the 1930's. Once a meeting center for the Mafia, it maintains much of its architecture and features from the 1930's, including the original elevators and furniture.

Everywhere we went we were warmly welcomed, often with food and drink as well as good company and conversation. The food in Cuba is basic, not spicy, but good. A typical meal consists of black beans, white rice, cucumbers, tomatoes and cabbage, as well as chicken, pork, beef, or



Many of us might recognize the 1950s cars still driven in Cuba. *Photo by Don Schneider.*



Nancy Canolty, Jane Kelly, Bill Flatt, and Marihope Troutman take a dip in the Bay of Pigs. *Photo by Alexandra Kelly.*

TWO AMAZING TRIPS



Many 1930s buildings, like this one in Havana, need renovation.
Photo by Don Schneider.

fish. We explored a local market where people could sell produce from their garden, as well as one of the local ration stores where people could purchase basic food, such as rice and beans, very cheaply and have their ration books signed. We were serenaded by children's choirs and a professional choir, the owner of a bed and breakfast, children enrolled in the Benny More Art School, and members of a senior community. We were enchanted by the performances of an independent dance company, MalPaso.

The overall positivity of the group and everyone's open minds and inquisitive nature helped make the trip absolutely fantastic. The tour guides, one Cuban and one American, possessed an in-depth knowledge of the history and culture of Cuba. Overall, it was a delightful combination of education, interaction with locals in the different cities, food, drink, and fun. We felt fortunate to visit Cuba at the cusp of its "gradual but relentless change."

FRANCE—May 1-11

Six OLLI members (Joan Zitzelman, Lee and Emily Boyle, Marilyn and Rich Carey, and Don Schneider) went to France in mid-May with tour guide Benedicte Milward. The following description of that trip is by Don Schneider, who also took the photographs.—Ed.

Our trip to France was an unforgettable experience. Even before we unpacked, we spent our first day on the go in Paris, beginning with visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral, then walking in the nearby gardens and other areas, then finding an "underground" commercial area for lunch before heading on to Ste Chappelle. Later, as we headed "home" to Benedicte's old family house southwest of Paris in Les Mesnuls in the rented vehicle driven by Benedicte, we experienced heavy Paris traffic, much like a traffic jam back in Atlanta. We stopped in Montfort l'Aumary to get groceries and some other supplies for our home stay.

In succeeding days we would come back to Paris, but we also saw other parts of northern France as we drove over major highways and through small towns to Versailles, Montfort l'Aumary, Chartres, Honfleur, Arromanches and the Normandy beaches as well as the nearby American cemetery. Then we went on to St Mere Eglise, Bayeux, Rouen (where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake) before heading back to Paris and beyond to Belleau Wood and Chateau Thierry and the World War I American and German cemeteries.

Along the way during these trips we saw beautiful landscapes, interesting buildings in small towns, farmland filled with various grains and other crops; old but still operating cathedrals with beautiful stained glass windows, sculptures and other inspiring items; and museums with wonderful art work. We also saw and visited small shops, bakeries and food stores. Needless to say, we enjoyed some delightful French food and beverages—as well as one another's company and conversation as we shared this memorable experience.



Eiffel Tower



World War I Asine-Maine American Cemetery and Memorial at Belleau Wood

JULY FREEBIES – FOUR DOCUMENTARIES

If you are here in July and eager to resume contact with your OLLI friends during the one month of the year when OLLI offers no classes, then take advantage of our “July Freebies.” This year OLLI will kick off its 20th Anniversary celebration with the showing free of charge of four documentary films. You may see them at River’s Crossing at **1:30 p.m.** on the following dates.

.....

Tuesday, July 8 *Human Footprint*

What impact do you have on the world around you? More than you might think, according to this humorous and fascinating National Geographic program which explores the many ways in which each person has a substantial effect on their environment and on other people. How many words will you speak? How much waste will you produce? How many people will you know? Get a sense of the staggering numbers with this intriguing documentary. 90 min.

.....

Wednesday, July 16 *Walt Whitman and D. H. Lawrence*

Leaves of Grass author Walt Whitman articulated American transcendentalism in verse. This fascinating documentary offers a profile of the 19th-century poet, journalist, and humanist, reviewing Whitman’s life and the vastly influential works that secured his place in the pantheon of the world’s greatest writers. 30 min.

The English author of *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* and *Sons and Lovers* expressed in his many novels and short stories the conflict between human instincts and emotions and the dehumanizing effects of industrialism. This program revisits the 20th-century author’s life and works. 60 min.

.....

Thursday, July 24 *Harlem Globetrotters*

For over 75 years the Harlem Globetrotters have brought laughter and delight to millions with their ball-handling wizardry and wacky stunts. Yet the team has a surprisingly serious history, being instrumental in breaking down racial barriers and establishing the fledgling NBA. See rare archival footage and interviews with players and experts including Jerry Saperstein and Bill Cosby. Learn about the ongoing conflict between players and coach; follow the careers of some of the most famous Trotters including Meadowlark Lemon; and witness their early games and ‘round-the-globe touring.

Although they are free to OLLI members, you must register for these films now on www.oli.uga.edu. The purchase of a parking tag is still required. If you have not renewed your membership, you will want to do so now! If you have not yet joined, you will want to join now!



OLLI ROCKS AT CLARKS HILL

Drs. David and Dorinda Dallmeyer provided a very informative and enjoyable excursion for the OLLI Rocks Interest Group on April 10, 2014. Trip participants examined rocks from the Piedmont and Carolina Terrane in the vicinity of Clarks Hill Reservoir. The types of rocks present and the amount of deformation they showed provided insight into their origin and history. An important feature that they demonstrated was the accretion of exotic intra-ocean volcanic arc complexes onto the North American continent about 350 million years ago.—Parley Winger

OLLIs at Clarks Hill Reservoir dam, South Carolina. Photo by Dorinda Dallmeyer.

GET READY FOR OLLI'S GREAT NEW SOFTWARE!



The OLLI Times recently sat down with Katy Crapo to talk about Avectra, OLLI's new registration and association management software.

OLLI Times: Why do we want to change to new software?

KC: Although our current software does a good job of course registration, our needs have changed and we have outgrown it. The software we have purchased will better accommodate the core activities of OLLI@UGA—course registration and our varied events. In addition, it will more effectively support the management of our finances and membership, the sale of merchandise, and our fund development efforts.

OLLI Times: Who was involved in the selection process?

KC: Les Shindelman led a team of nineteen (OLLI volunteers and staff members) through a step-by-step process to reach a decision. A significant cross-section of our leadership was involved. It was an intense, collaborative initiative.

OLLI Times: What software did OLLI select?

KC: The Selection Team unanimously recommended that we purchase Avectra association management software. Avectra is an industry leader, with over 1600 clients. The purchase was approved by the OLLI Board of Directors on May 12, 2014. For more information on Avectra, visit Avectra's website at www.avectra.com.

OLLI Times: What can our members expect from the new software?

KC: We anticipate a better online user experience. We will still have the OLLI@UGA homepage where events, photos, and travel plans will be displayed, as we do now, but each Committee and each SIG will have its own page to communicate with its members. And each of us will have our own page where we can see what classes we are registered for, view OLLI announcements, view and respond to communications from the committees and groups we are involved in, and check to see if we have a balance on our account. Having this personal page will do away with many of the listserv announcements. Also, an updated OLLI directory will be available in a secure location. Members will be able to easily access the software from their desktops and laptops as well as their mobile devices (smartphones and tablets).

OLLI Times: When will we switch over to the new software?

KC: Our plan is to begin the implementation process in June, with a goal of having Avectra up and running for Spring 2015 registration. Fall Registration will be accomplished using our current software. We will update our members as we move forward. The Implementation Team is still looking for volunteers. We need beta testers—members that will try out the software before we go “live.” They will make suggestions on how we can improve the software, with a focus on ease of use. We also need communications specialists and individuals who might help with training. If you would be willing to help, please contact Les Shindelman at lshindel2@gmail.com or Katy Crapo at kcrapo@uga.edu.



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OPERA SIG SCHOLARSHIPS

On May 8, 2014, the first of the OLLI Opera SIG's scholarships were presented to six students at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music Graduation and Awards Convocation. Benjamin Boskoff, Joseph Brent, Marisan Corsino, Avery Draut, Kelsey Fredriksen and Mauro Ronca each received \$1,000. As each student was given the grant, the OLLI@UGA Opera Special Interest Group was announced as the donor of the scholarship. At the OLLI@UGA Annual Membership Meeting on May 16, 2014, a seventh student, Elizabeth Slaten, received her grant for \$1,000.

The Opera Special Interest Group was formed in May 2008 by John Rudy and Nancy Songster. It meets prior to the Met Opera Live HD broadcast for lunch at Buffalo's, where participants learn more about the opera and its cast from graduate students in the Hugh Hodgson School of Music. Frederick Burchinal, Director of Opera at UGA, serves as student liaison and advisor.



Six OLLI scholarship recipients at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music Graduation and Awards Convocation, with l. to r. Nancy Songster, Professor Kathy Wright, Karen and Tom Kenyon, (and on other side of stairs) Professor Frederick Burchinal, and John Rudy. *Photo by Gloria Jackson.*

In September 2013 the OLLI@UGA Board of directors approved the Opera SIG's proposal to raise funds for graduate scholarships for UGA opera students attending summer opera training programs. This was in response to the OLLI@UGA Long Range Plan, which encouraged more cooperation with the University of Georgia. In April 2014, over \$7,000 was raised at two events: an in-home Soiree Musicale hosted by Karen and Tom Kenyon and an Italian Dinner with Opera at La Dolce Vita chaired by Ray Zwaagstra. Ten students provided the musical entertainment for these events.

The Opera Special Interest Group plans to continue its program within the OLLI@UGA membership and the Athens community. For more information, contact Nancy Songster.



Nancy Songster, John Rudy, and the seventh scholarship winner, Elizabeth Slaten, whose award was presented at the OLLI Annual Meeting. *Photo by Pat McAlexander.*

HAPPY HIKERS APRIL HIKE TO HIKE INN

Sixteen enthusiastic hikers took advantage of the Happy Hikers' April hike on Len Foote Trail in Amicalola State Park. After hiking the five miles up to Hike Inn, we were given a warm welcome, delicious meals, ample accommodations, and HOT SHOWERS! We hiked back down the next day carrying with us memories of a "happy hiking" experience.—Iris Miracle

Happy Hikers at Hike Inn



Dorinda Dallmeyer has paddled 500 miles on GA Rivers. Photo by David Dallmeyer.



On May 7, Dr. Dorinda Dallmeyer, Director of the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program in the UGA College of Environment and Design, taught an OLLI class, “Rivers of Georgia: 500 Miles” in which she described her “Paddle Georgia” experiences. With a picture of William Bartram, the noted eighteen-century botanist whose work she has edited, affixed to the front of her kayak, Dr. Dallmeyer joined about 350 other people from all walks of life to paddle the Broad and Savannah Rivers (June 2010), the Oconee River (June 2011), the Altamaha (June 2012) and the Flint River (June 2013). Each trip was about a hundred miles and lasted a week. She humorously noted the deluxe overnight accommodations —usually a high school gymnasium or camping on a football field.

On a more serious note, Dr. Dallmeyer brought to life the beauty of these rivers with her photographs and descriptions. On the Oconee beneath the bypass, she said, the trumpet vines covering the bridge supports they floated under reminded her of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. But perhaps most important, her talk made us realize how much this beauty is endangered. Paddle participants have a cleanup day during their week of travel; one year they picked up seventy tires. But only legislation can address

industrial pollution—for example, the smelly brown sludge that a paper mill near Jesup discharges into the Altamaha, affecting the river many miles downstream. As a result, three generations have not seen the Altamaha as it should be.

Although most of us in the class probably will never paddle the hundred miles of an annual Paddle Georgia event, we left the talk inspired by the beauty of Georgia’s rivers and the sense that this beauty must be restored where it has been lost and preserved where it remains. (For more information, see www.garivers.org.)



Dorinda Dallmeyer talks to Bill Alworth after her class, “500 miles on Georgia’s Rivers.” Photo by Pat McAlexander.

OLLI ROCKS FALL 2014 SCHEDULE: WATER IN GEORGIA

During the Fall 2014 semester the OLLI ROCKS SIG will focus on Georgia water issues. The series will describe the various types of natural water systems available for use in Georgia (surface flow and ground water) and discuss their long-term stability and pollution potential. A variety of conservation and management strategies will be reviewed. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in River’s Crossing. Each presentation will be followed by viewing a related DVD.

September 16 (Tuesday): Dr. David Dallmeyer, Emeritus Professor of Geology – University of Georgia, “Water: What is it? Where is it? How do we get it?”

October 14 (Tuesday): Ms. Pam Knox – Program Specialist, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – University of Georgia, “The Water Cycle and Droughts In Georgia”

November 11 (Tuesday): Dr. Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network, “Law and Politics of Water In Georgia”

December 9 (Tuesday): Gordon Rogers – Flint Riverkeeper, “Managing Georgia Rivers for Everyone”

OLLI ROCKS FALL 2014 EXCURSION --November 13 (Thursday). Destination: Athens/Clarke County North Oconee Waste Treatment Center

OLLI@UGA MEMBERS' STUDENT ID CARD NOW AVAILABLE

by Randall Abney

DO YOU LIKE TO SAVE MONEY? I do. And OLLI@UGA has a way to help you do that. UGA now allows members of OLLI@UGA to acquire an OLLI@UGA Student ID Card. This ID card is accepted all over town for student discounts. Carolyn and I have been using ours and have never been turned down. Vic Armstrong and I have both used it at Peachmac, saving 10% on a \$1500 computer. Saving \$150 is not bad for a \$10 investment.

All you have to do is go to the OLLI@UGA office at River's Crossing and get the application, which must be signed by Katy Crapo. Take this document, along with \$10, to the Tate Center downstairs where you get your photo taken, pay your \$10 and leave with a wonderful OLLI@UGA ID Card.

Our ID is NOT a full-fledged UGA My ID. Since we don't pay student fees to UGA, some of the benefits are not available to us. You can't use it to access the UGA database or swipe it to get a free NY Times. But you can ride the UGA buses for free. If this is of interest, download the UGA app on your smartphone and, wherever you are on campus, you can check to see when and where the next bus close to your location will arrive.

Don't delay - go by the OLLI@UGA office at River's Crossing, pick up the paperwork, obtain your ID at Tate and begin enjoying the benefits. The OLLI@UGA Student ID Card is just one more benefit of being a member of OLLI@UGA.

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

Carolyn Abney gave some interesting statistics on OLLI SIGS at the Annual Meeting. She said that the four largest SIGs are Happy Hikers, OLLI Rocks, Opera, and Picture This! The smallest SIG is bonsai. The SIGs with the highest percent of participation are the Supper Club and Novice Bridge. Some SIGs will meet during the summer. They include Book Discussion, Chess, Novice and Intermediate Bridge, Mahjonn, Writing Memoir, Hand Quilting, OLLI Walks, Stitch & Chat, Pickleball, Lunch Bunch, Solo Seniors, and Supper Club. Remember: You must be a member of OLLI to participate in Special Interest Groups.

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NEW REWARDS FOR CLASS FACILITATORS!

The OLLI Board has approved an incentive for members who volunteer to facilitate an OLLI course during the fall semester of 2014 and/or the spring semester of 2015 on a **one year trial** basis. **The incentive is one free OLLI course the following semester for each course a member facilitates.** Note: it does not include OLLI luncheons or parking tags.

What is the role of a facilitator? The facilitator contacts the instructor (contact information provided) two weeks before a course starts. One week before the first class, the facilitator sends an email reminder to those on the class roster (contact information provided). On the first day of class, the facilitator picks up the attendance sheet, meets the instructor approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the session to make sure any needed equipment is working, to get the lapel microphone and amplifier from the OLLI Administrative office, and to rearrange the classroom, if requested by the instructor. The facilitator generally asks attendees to check off their name on the attendance sheet, and briefly introduces the instructor using the information printed in the OLLI Course Catalog. At the last session, the facilitator thanks the instructor on behalf of OLLI and gives him/her a certificate for a free OLLI course or luncheon. After the last class, the facilitator records the daily total of attendees on the form and leaves it in the hanging file folder outside room 134 at River's Crossing.

Connie Bruce will be the Facilitator Coordinator during this trial period. She will provide training and support to those who volunteer. Each semester Connie will offer several training sessions of approximately one hour in length to prepare volunteers for this role (parking tag provided). A handout used in the training will include detailed descriptions. For example, it will tell where to pick up the attendance sheet and the thank you card/certificate and will give step-by-step visual instructions for the use of UGA technology. Since many people are unfamiliar with the equipment, individual practice is given during the training session.

If you are interested in facilitating this fall, you will have the opportunity to **register early** for the **one slot** in each class reserved for the facilitator. Be on the lookout for more information about registration from OLLI during the summer.

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