



OLLI

20th Anniversary

TIMES

at The University of Georgia

OLLI MEMBERS AND STAFF ENTER THE “OLLI ONLINE” ERA

by John Albright

On December 7, 2014, Zu pushed the “magic button” and plunged OLLI@UGA into the new Avectra era. For some it was like a plunge into unfamiliar—and perhaps a bit scary—waters. But OLLI offered telephone help and many hours of personal tutoring—and most members were becoming familiar with the “Dashboard” as their home page, how to register for classes, and how to navigate for information and SIG communication. In the article below, John Albright commends the new Internet (Web) era and describes an interview with OLLI’s unofficial CTO (Chief Technical Officer), Les Shindelman.—Ed.

“Oh, is that online?” asked Irene Rivers as she finished her meal. She and four dozen others from the OLLI@UGA’s “Lunch Bunch” SIG were lingering over dessert at the new West Athens Transmetropolitan restaurant. Someone had passed around printed schedules of upcoming luncheons. But Irene, a proud representative of the supposedly anachronistic Baby Boom generation, did not want the paper schedule. It would be easier, she said, putting her smartphone in her purse, to download the schedule from the SIG site and then enter the events into her online calendar.



Les Shindelman demonstrating how to post your status photo when registering on the new OLLI Online, powered by “Avectra” software (photo by Chuck Murphy)

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Margaret Anderson introducing Teddy Batzer to OLLI Online. Tutorials were offered regularly at River’s Crossing. (photo by Pat McAlexander)

Inside . . .

This special “experimental” color edition of the *OLLI Times* commemorates OLLI@UGA’s 20th Anniversary.

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And more!

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow OLLI@UGA Members,

Can you believe it is 2015? On behalf of the Board of Directors and OLLI@UGA staff, let me wish you a wonderful new year. The second half of our fiscal year promises to be as exciting as the first half. The IT Committee has rolled out the new OLLI online software. The Curriculum Committee has assembled a first-rate roster of presenters for over 150 classes. OLLI@UGA now has 26 active Special Interest Groups. (SIGs) The newest SIG is PEAKS, VALLEYS, DETOURS, and AND POTHOLE. The purpose of this SIG is to discuss the challenges and opportunities of being between the ages of 60 and 90. The Hospitality Committee has presented the Back to Class Bash and the Newbee orientation. The Fund Development Committee has held auditions for the OLLI Follies. Several 20th Anniversary Celebrations will take place in the next months. Clearly, we all have the opportunity to be a part of OLLI@UGA.



Tom Kenyon
(photo by Larry Petroff)

Less exciting but as important has been the work of the Board of Directors and the Standing Committees. At the December Board of Directors meeting the revised long-range plan was unanimously approved. This plan will take OLLI@UGA through to June 30, 2016. To that end two very important decisions have been made. One, the Board of Directors directed the Executive Committee plus two Board members to “review job expectations, workload, descriptions, assignments, funding and staffing patterns to employment with OLLI@UGA/LIR, Inc. and make adjustments accordingly.” This decision was made in response to the growth of the OLLI@UGA membership, the increase in the budget, the enhanced technology capabilities of our new system, and our responsibilities to the Bernard Osher Foundation.

And two, the Board of Directors and the chairs of the Standing Committees met on January 12, 2015 to determine what objectives from the long-range plan can be achieved by June 30, 2015, the end of this fiscal year. I encourage each of you to read the long range plan to become familiar with the goals and challenges OLLI@UGA leadership will face in the next 18 months.

The nomination process for Officers and Board of Director’s is underway. I would encourage each OLLI@UGA member to consider serving as one of these leaders. Our Bylaws describe the responsibilities of the officers and are on our website, olli.uga.edu. OLLI@UGA is an organization for which you will be proud to work.

To all of the OLLI@UGA leadership and volunteers who made the first half of the year such a success, I know I speak for the entire membership when I say, THANK YOU!

Tom Kenyon

P.S. I encourage every OLLI@UGA member to participate in the OLLI FOLLIES as performers or to be in the audience.

**Next OLLI Times (April issue): Material due by Wednesday, April 1; to be mailed out the week of April 20.
– Pat McAlexander, editor (patmcalex@gmail.com)**

Having the Time of Our Lives With

OLLI @ UGA

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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
Administrative Associate	Zu Reuter
Administrative Assistant	Shelly Magruder
Coordinator of Social Media	Amy Munnell
Bookkeeper	Sara Williamson
Office Assistant	Rita Healan

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	Richard Lynch
Rich Cary	Jill Read
Sandy Clark	Don Schneider
Joseph Harris	Les Shindelman
	Nancy Songster

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	Vacant
Nominating	Betty Jean Craige
Publications	Pat McAlexander
Registration	Nancy Canolty
Special Interest Groups	Karen Kenyon
Travel/Study	Joan Zitzelman
Volunteer Coordinator	Sandy Clark

OLLI FOLLIES WANTS YOU!

On May 1 and May 2, the UGA Fine Arts Auditorium will “rock” with the first production of the not-to-be-missed OLLI Follies—a musical variety show starring (you guessed it) OLLI members. Jill Jayne Read—“Professor J.J. Read” to those familiar with past shows in Athens— will direct the show and music. Bill Loughner, Roger Bailey, and Flo King will write the script and lyrics. Lighting and technical will be directed by Rick Rose—a well known local theater professional. Luther Durham, a former tailor, will supervise costuming. Marilyn Ragatz and Geri Williams—very persuasive gals—will stage manage. In March, rehearsals for the various acts will ensue. Participants will choose their particular schedules for rehearsals to suit their individual schedules; performers onstage will need to reserve all day April 30 for the final “run through” and dress rehearsal.

First auditions were held on January 12 and 13, and thirty-nine eager amateur and professional thespians and assorted aspiring “stars” joined the growing crew. Several acts in the show can use more participants to make the Follies an unforgettable evening of hilarious fun and entertainment. No previously identified personal talent is necessary; not all cast members will sing, dance, or even speak onstage. We also need volunteers to help with publicity, ticket sales, and costume, scenery and set construction. This is YOUR chance to be in Show Biz.

If you want to have a great time and meet new people by joining this motley crew, please contact Jill Read at [706.546.4620](tel:706.546.4620) or jilljayne@aol.com as soon as possible.



OLLI Follies group at auditions: left to right in ascending row: Florence King, Becky Galvin, Geri Williams, Rick Rose, Jay Shinn, Robert Nichols, Roger Bailey. Middle seated: Jill Read, Rose Elena Linhart. In front: Bill Loughner (photo by Pat McAlexander)



John Songster and Bill Loughner reading at auditions. (photo by Jill Read)



Checking out “Moves”: (Front) Becky Galvin, Follies Choreographer. (Dance line L-R) Roger Bailey, John Songster, Bill Loughner, Ann Dunn, and Jay Shinn. But Bill may be just watching! (photo by Jill Read)

IMPORTANT OLLI NOTICES

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OLLI OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS MARCH 25.

Don't forget that you have an opportunity this spring to make OLLI's governance even better than it already is! All you have to do is nominate yourself and/or your wise and willing OLLI colleagues **by March 25** for the positions of President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Board of Directors.

Just be sure that your nominee is willing to devote time, energy, and wisdom to making OLLI the best organization it can be. You can find descriptions of the positions online at <http://olli.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Position-Descriptions.pdf>. Thanks for giving some thought to nominating individuals you would like to elect as OLLI's leaders. And remember to do it by March 25—Betty Jean Craige, President-Elect

HOW TO NOMINATE. To nominate yourself or someone else, go to OLLI's home page (olli.uga.edu), hover your mouse over the red "Nominations are open" sentence at the bottom of the page, making it turn blue, click on the sentence, read Betty Jean's recruitment letter, print the nomination form, complete it, and either deliver it to the OLLI office at River's Crossing or scan it and email it to olli@uga.edu. You can also check the new bulletin board in the classroom corridor at River's Crossing, call a current or past board member, or contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Members of the 2015 Nominating Committee are June Ball (juneball@bellsouth.net), Art Crawley (artcraw623@gmail.com), John Songster (john.songsterOlli@gmail.com) [Note: The 0 is a zero], and Ray Watson (grwat@earthlink.net). The chair is Betty Jean Craige (bjcraige@uga.edu).

LEADERSHIP SERVICE IS REWARDING

The December *OLLI Times* featured articles about the upcoming leadership changes which take place each year as we replace outgoing officers and board members. President-elect Betty Jean Craige wrote one explaining the opening of the nomination process, and another explained the importance of volunteer leaders, highlighting the office of Treasurer.

For many years, OLLI@UGA has managed to "find" members with talent and enthusiasm to chair the committees that plan and organize the exceptional programs we all enjoy; and to serve as officers and board members to address member needs, organization funding, and issues of governance. Still growing, the affairs of OLLI have become more complex, necessitating expansion of our paid professional staff. These two components— professional management and volunteer leadership—are critical to effective management and timely and appropriate decisions.

Membership growth has also expanded our inventory of member experiences and skills in education, community involvement, business, technology, finance, non-profit service, government and many other areas of human endeavor. Tapping that inventory to bring forth new faces, new talent, new perspectives, new ideas, and new energy is vital to our ongoing success.

The Nominating Committee is composed of only five people. Their knowledge of the membership now nudging 1300 is insufficient to produce with complete confidence an optimum slate of candidates. So, now is the time for conversations among the many OLLI groups gathering for classes, committee work, travel, interest group fun, or just personal socializing—and to encourage someone to be a candidate. Talk about what you like and what you'd change or hope to enhance in our programs, policies, direction, and service to members. Look into the mirror and say, "I believe I should run."

You will find leadership in OLLI@UGA rewarding and satisfying, knowing that by giving back you have enabled our organization to thrive.

FALL CLASS PROPOSALS DUE APRIL 30th. If you have ideas for a **fall semester 2015** speaker (including you), field trip, or other learning experience, please contact me at cpkurtz@charter.net before April 30th. I, or a member of the curriculum committee, will follow up to recruit the speaker or see that the trip or experience is offered, if at all possible. Alternatively, you or your recruit may go to the OLLI website (Forms) and click on TEACH to find the class proposal form. Please fill this out and submit by April 30. Let me know if you have any questions, and thank you!— Carol Kurtz, chair of the curriculum committee



Facilitator Coordinator Connie Bruce at the Bash (photo by Pat McAlexander)

FACILITATOR INCENTIVE; TRAINING SESSION MARCH 2. The OLLI Board approved on a trial basis an incentive for members who volunteer to facilitate an OLLI class during this fiscal year. That incentive is a free OLLI class the following semester. (Note: This incentive does not include OLLI luncheons or parking tags.) Julie Cashin and I are the Facilitator Coordinators. We will provide training and support to those who volunteer to facilitate a class.

Each semester I offer several information sessions of approximately one hour in length at River's Crossing to prepare volunteers for this role. If you are interested in facilitating this semester, there will be another one-hour session on **Monday, March 2nd at 1 PM at River's Crossing.**—Connie Bruce

OLLI'S LONG-RANGE PLAN—A REPORT. OLLI@UGA has grown from around 500 members in 2009 to 1220 as of December 31, 2014. Growth is projected to be 1350 by the end of this fiscal year and 1500 by the end of FY 2016. And, according to the results of a survey conducted in the fall of 2013, OLLI@UGA members highly value the organization's programs and activities — especially its courses, luncheons, special events, SIGS, socials, organized travel, and opportunities for volunteerism. Clearly, OLLI@UGA is fulfilling its mission to meet the intellectual, social, and cultural needs of mature adults through lifelong learning at The University of Georgia.

To manage membership growth and continue to enhance the variety and quality of its programs and activities, the Long-Range Planning Committee has been engaged in a continuous process of strategic and operations planning. The current long-range plan was developed in 2012-13 and approved by the Board of Directors in July of 2013. It is a 3-year plan. An update to the 2013-2016 long-range plan was recently approved by the BOD and committee chairs. Both the original 2013-2016 plan and its update are available for review on the OLLI@UGA website through the link <http://olli.uga.edu/join/documents/long-range-plan/>



Richard Lynch,
Long-Range Planning
Committee Chair

At its January 2015 retreat and based on the LRP update, the BOD and committee chairs determined the following as key areas of attention for the next 6 months:

- **Improve communications, provide for leadership development, and adapt and modernize governance and leadership practices.**
- **Provide financial resources** necessary to meet mission commitment and affordable programs for members, recognizing that a satisfied and loyal member base is the best assurance of sustainability.
- **Implement OLLI@UGA's new AVECTRA registration and data system** by promoting usability, functionality, accessibility, and data management.
- **Develop a membership plan** that addresses outreach and recruitment, retention, satellite development, and member support, engagement, and communication.
- **Increase volunteer contribution and commitment.**

The Board of Directors is now looking for a few good men and women to join in planning for OLLI's future at UGA as members of the Long-Range Planning Committee. In brief, the LRP engages in a continuing process of strategic and operation planning in consultation with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, OLLI@UGA committees, and membership. It sets long-range goals and objectives, assists the BOD and committees with implementation of the long-range plan, checks on progress periodically, and provides feedback to the Board of Directors. To sign on to the LRP Committee, provide comments, and or obtain further information, contact the current LRP chair, Richard Lynch, through e-mail at rlynch@uga.edu.

IMPORTANT OLLI NOTICES *(continued)*

NEW OLLI BULLETIN BOARD. Thanks to the efforts of Nancy Songster, OLLIs have a new way to communicate with each other: a new 8' x 4' fabric-covered bulletin board on the wall by RC room 136, across the hall from the existing COE bulletin board. This bulletin board is for notices from/about OLLI Committees, SIGs, Events, Travel Opportunities, Volunteer Opportunities. If it is OLLI related....this is the place!

Nancy writes, "We want to have a professional rather than a school or grocery store look...Initially there will be a banner-type list of OLLI groups across the top, but that does not limit committees or SIGs to the space below it...Let's begin with a flexible space rather than a defined space for each group. The purpose is to communicate with our members."

Here are early guidelines that may change as OLLIs begin to use the board.

- Anything posted must be about internal OLLI or OLLI related matters
- Your contact information, *name + phone + email* must be on the back of the item you post
- No sponsor postings
- Out-of-date items must be removed as they become out of date.
- Color is good, it catches the eye.
- Fonts should be 20 or larger.
- Photos always attract attention.
- Event posters are limited to 8 ½ x 14".
- Keep the postings neat – always.
- No handwritten postings.
- No tear off postings...they go on the COE board.
- Play nice & share with others.



RITA HEALAN is OLLI@UGA's new staff member. She is a temp, working 10-15 hours per week, depending on the time of year. She assists members on the phone and in person, acts as our "concierge" at the beginning of the semester, and provides general office support. Stop by and chat with her briefly to get acquainted. She is usually in the OLLI auxiliary office.

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN is off to a good start. To date we have raised over \$9,000! Our goal for this fiscal year is \$15,000. If you haven't contributed, please consider doing so. Your donation will show that we support OLLI@UGA. Thanks to all of the OLLI@UGA members who have so generously supported this effort.—The Fund Development Committee

OLLI MEMBERS AND STAFF ENTER THE “OLLI ONLINE” ERA

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According to OLLI board member Les Shindelman, Irene is like most OLLI members, especially our newest arrivals who have swelled our numbers and expanded everyone’s expectations for OLLI@UGA. They use the Web.

“It’s a new era,” said Les recently over coffee in Five Points. “Gaining comfort with a few basic Web tools and with concepts of information technology and security can be just as important to our retirement years as health care and financial planning.” And he added, it’s important for keeping the wheels of OLLI rolling smoothly, too.

Even as a visionary with one foot in tomorrow, Les was quick to add that it’s not essential that everyone jump online immediately. Paper and pens, post office and phones, and face-to-face meetings will all still work. But the increasing simplicity, efficiency and convenience of the twenty-five-year-old World Wide Web is making life easier in amazing—if not bewildering—ways. Information Age technology is no longer limited to Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Forget yesterday’s arguments over Mac vs. PC computer systems. Don’t obsess over the merits of laptops vs. desktops vs. tablets vs. notebooks vs. free computers at the Regional Library.

Instead, Les advises that technically-challenged OLLI members focus just on the Web and smartphone/tablet applications. Appreciate their advantages for basic needs, like shopping for appliances, uncovering options for your next vacation, and communicating with your family and friends. Start simple. If you’re a novice, begin by asking more savvy acquaintances or, especially, your children or grandchildren for advice to get you going. They can also help when you stumble—as many people do at first.

A retired business consultant, Les helped transition “Mac Fanatics” to the “DawgBytes” SIG two years ago. Mac Fanatics had helped zealous Apple Macintosh users with their machine and software issues. And DawgBytes is now evolving into an open forum for Web users of all experience levels and equipment, he says. After you reach a level of comfort with the basics of the Web and/or Smartphone or Tablet use, you can dip your toes into other currently popular novelties: shopping on Amazon, finding Jeopardy answers on Google or Wikipedia, podcasting for on-demand radio, streaming favorite music genres with Pandora, joining social media like Facebook, YouTube and Pinterest, sending quick text notes to friends—even weighing the options

to cut free from your cable TV and telephone cords. Or not. It’s up to you. “For me it’s worth a million dollars,” Les added, “to look at my grandson’s face in Chattanooga after he’s come home from school all excited, both of us using Facetime on our handheld iPhones.”

In his role on the OLLI Board, Les has also been instrumental in helping OLLI select the new, social media-based administrative services system, AVECTRA. OLLI ONLINE utilizes AVECtra software, which, being Web-based, has the efficiencies and security of cloud software and data storage. It has the potential to allow automated credit card processing, printing out event tickets, and accepting online OLLI donations as well as sales of OLLI merchandise. OLLI ONLINE is also social. It will allow old and new OLLI members to get to know each other better and find common interests. Just as important, it will make OLLI more welcoming for new members and life easier for our many volunteers, our committees planning events, and our wonderful but overburdened staff.

Les explains, “This modern system ... [Avecetra], a ‘best practices’ leader in the field (1600+ customers)], replaces what had been sufficient for OLLI when it had only 500 members. It will easily support the diverse needs of our 1,200+ members today and be adaptable to prepare us for the challenges, opportunities and growth—to 2,000 members?—in the last half of this decade.”

SAVE THE DATE!

Lee Albright, chair of THE OLLI@UGA HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE, has sent us the dates for the following events in Winter/Spring 2015:

St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon
Tuesday, March 17 – 11:30-1:00

Dutch Treat - Buffalo’s Cafe, Beechwood Shopping Center, Athens (chairs: Bobbi Shindelman and Nancy Walton)

Cinco de Mayo Luncheon
Tuesday, May 5 – 11:30-1:00

Details TBA.

Annual Meeting & Social
Friday, May 15

Central Presbyterian Church, 380 Alps Road, Athens.

OLLIS IN THE NEWS

UGA's Department of Comparative Literature is sponsoring an annual lecture in honor of **Betty Jean Craige**, University Professor Emerita of that department, a former director of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and now our OLLI president-elect. Speaking of Betty Jean, UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. "Few have contributed more to the academic life of the University of Georgia than Betty Jean Craige. ... I am pleased that her long and distinguished career at UGA is being recognized through this lecture series." The inaugural lecture was given on January 29 by Loung Ung, an author and human rights activist who as a child in the 1970s survived the genocide by the Khmer Rouge in her native Cambodia. According to Peter O'Neill, Chair of the Comparative Literature Department's annual lectures committee, Ung's work "touche[s] on some of Betty Jean's lifelong interests: global citizenship, environmental and ecological concerns, and high-quality writing."



Susie Haggard's front garden

The gardens of two OLLI members--**Susie Haggard** and **Shirley Baker** – will be among the five on the Piedmont Gardeners' 22nd Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Funds from the Tour support the Piedmont Gardeners' Scholarship for a UGA student in Landscape Architecture. For information about tickets and descriptions of the gardens on the Tour, visit www.piedmontgardeners.org.

Connie Bruce is Mentor of the Year at Chase Street Elementary School, and **Dortha Jacobson** is Mentor of the Year at Winterville Elementary School. Both Connie and Dortha visit with their mentee regularly, help them with academic tasks, and are friends and role models for them. Information on the program is available at mentor@athensga.com.

Doris Kadish's personal essay entitled "A Young Communist in Love: Philip Rahv, *Partisan Review*, and My Mother" appears in the current issue of the *Georgia Review*: <http://garev.uga.edu/current.html> (print and digital copies available). Digging into the family papers of her mother, Doris unraveled a mystery that began in Savannah, Georgia in 1928 and ended in the heady intellectual world of left-leaning New York City at the time of the Great Depression. The *Georgia Review* will hold a reading and discussion of the essay on March 2 at the Special Collections Library at 4:00 p.m.

Martha Phillips' poem "The Music Made Her Smile" won First Place in the Georgia Poetry Society's Langston Hughes Award contest. She read her poem and received a cash award with a certificate on Saturday, January 24 at the GPS meeting at the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College. The judge commented that the poem "outdistanced the field due to its subject, its situation, and its wit."

Larry Dendy and **Pat McAlexander** have been elected to the Board of the Athens Historical Society.

Valerie Fagan won the first prize, an IPAD Mini, in OLLI's Online Contest – a random drawing on January 6 of names from those who had registered on the new Online OLLI. Second Prize (2)—a \$50 gift card for The National—was won by **Steve Kassay** and **Diane Carroll**. Third Prize (4), a \$25 OLLI gift card, was won by **John Law**, **Janet Martin**, **Renee Feldman** and **Bill Alworth**.

ROBERT BURNS DINNER

The Robert Burns Dinner was held on January 24, one of hundreds held worldwide commemorating the Scottish poet's birthday (January 25th). The event was organized by **Ian Hardin**, with the help of fellow OLLIs **Smith Wilson, Alex Patterson, Dorothy Harnish, and Dan Wilson**. More than 220 people attended, many in kilts or other Scotch-themed attire, to enjoy pipers, Scottish dances, Scottish food, readings of Burns' poems, and singing of his songs.

One of the biggest hits of the evening was Dottie Harnish's "A Toast to the Laddies," in which she read this passage about women from Burns' "Green Grow the Rashes, O": "Auld Nature swears, the lovely dears/ Her noblest work she classes, O:/ Her prentice han' she try'd on man./ An' then she made the lasses, O." Dottie thinks this poem was the basis for the 1960's feminist slogan "Adam was a rough draft."

The evening ended with—of course—the singing of Burns' "Auld Lang Syne."



Janet and Alex Patterson at the Robert Burns dinner (photo by Pat McAlexander)



Smith "Braveheart" Wilson with a claymore, a large, heavy broad-bladed sword used by Scotland regiments into the 1800s (photo by Bill Flatt)

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ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER AND NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

It still may not be too late to register for this February 25 trip, which features a 20-30 minute personal tour of a special Civil War exhibition at the Atlanta History Center, guided by AHC historian Gordon Jones. Participants will then have time to view other permanent and temporary exhibitions at the History Center, demonstrations at an onsite 1850s-era farm, or the historic Swan House. After lunch the tour will continue to the

new National Center for Civil and Human Rights, which opened in downtown Atlanta in 2014.

The cost of the trip is \$77.50 per person, which includes all transportation expenses, admissions to both attractions, refreshments on the bus, and tip for the driver. Participants will pay their own lunch expenses, and will have an opportunity to make reservations for a full lunch at the Swan Coach House, or select from vending areas or provide their own snacks. Check online for possible openings.

EXPLORE GEORGIA'S GREAT SOUTHWEST

Join OLLI friends to explore the unique landscape and heritage of Georgia's great Southwest on an overnight trip Thursday - Friday, March 5 - 6, 2015. After a picnic lunch, we will begin our exploration at Providence Canyon State Park, where massive gullies as deep as 150 feet were caused by poor farming practices during the 1800s, yet today the canyon soil's pink, orange, red and purple hues make some of the most beautiful photographs in the state. There will be a park guide to explain the trails and views.

We will overnight a few miles away at George T. Bagby State Park, which features enjoyable lakeside walks and trails. On Friday we will travel to Westville, a village restored to the appearance and uses of the mid 1800s, displaying crafts and stories of a pioneer past.

Your OLLI registration cost of \$174 per person will include all transportation, refreshments on the bus, a picnic meal at Providence Canyon State Park, and park and heritage site admissions. When you register for the trip, we will provide contact information for you to make your own room reservation. Single room cost is \$65, plus 13% tax, for a total of \$73.45 until February 5. After this date,

Providence Canyon State Park - Georgia



the room cost will increase to \$75 plus tax. Your dinner and breakfast at Bagby State Park will be on your own, as will your lunch that day.

The trip offers hiking opportunities for hiking enthusiasts; however, there are sitting places around all venues and shorter walks available. Much of the trail at the canyon is paved or well-maintained, although the path does go down (and what goes down must come up). George Bagby State Park offers opportunities for walks or relaxing. Westville will require some walking.

The deadline for registration is Friday, February 20. The trip is limited to 35 registrants.

www.51centadventures.com

GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST: OLLI@UGA Geological Field Excursion

Dr. David Dallmeyer has organized an eight-day field excursion to examine the geologically active northwest coast of the United States. The trip will begin on September 21, 2015 in San Francisco, California and terminate on September 28 in Portland, Oregon. The excursion will visit a variety of sites, including the Marin Headlands, the San Andreas Fault System, the Petrified Forest and the Geyser Field near Santa Rosa, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lava Beds National Monument, Crater Lake National Park, the Oregon coast and Columbia River shore and the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Transport will be in mini-vans. Stops will include roadside exposures and overviews and will require minimum walking. Group lodging has been arranged in advance and when advised, participants will provide their personal credit card information for each location. Participation in a pre-excursion OLLI course (Geological Hazards: Living with a Restless Planet, September 14-18) is required unless explicitly waived by the instructor. The excursion will be limited to 20 participants.

The registration fee for the excursion is \$725. This will include staff costs, van rental, fuel, the OLLI daily class fee, guidebook printing and registration for the required pre-excursion course. The excursion registration does not cover individual air travel, lodging, meals and entrance fees. The deadline for payment of an initial, non-refundable registration fee of \$350 is March 15, 2015. The \$375 balance must be paid prior to May 15, 2015. For more information and a detailed excursion itinerary contact dallmeyr@uga.edu.

ITALY! TUSCANY AND CORTONA, UGA AND OLLI STYLE

Join OLLI friends in a unique tour of Tuscany custom designed for us by the UGA Cortona program. Dr. Chris Robinson, Director of the UGA Cortona Program, will be our guide and tour leader for a nine-day exploration of culture, art, agriculture, food and wine, from September 15-24.

After pickup at the Rome Airport on Tuesday, September 15, participants will travel to Cortona for a nine-night stay in a hotel conveniently located in this delightful village. There will be tours and classes in the UGA buildings and facilities. There will be excursions to area farms and vineyards for a deeper experience of wine and food of the region. There will also be full-day excursions to Siena and to Florence, so that participants

Marin Headlands



can see the treasures of architecture and art in these two great cities of Tuscany.

Exact costs are being determined and will be published when available in the Travel Study section of the OLLI website, with deadlines for registration and payments. Program costs, including all transportation, tours, classes, demonstrations, some lunches and dinners which will be specified, are estimated at approximately \$1,550. Nine nights of lodging, which will include breakfast, are estimated at approximately \$1,350. Some lunch and dinner meals will be at the discretion of the registrant. Each participant will be responsible for international airfare to Rome, and participants will be transported back to Rome on the morning of Thursday, September 24.

It may be February, but we still have



A Christmasy Melinda Thomas and Vic Armstrong



OLLI Cheryl Frazier on a Bot Garden bench



Director of the Garden Wilf Nicholls and OLLI President Tom Kenyon



The next morning: Picture This members Chuck Murphy, Warren Flick, and Jack Hagarman in the Garden

MEMBERSHIP EVENT AT THE BOT GARDEN

(first 3 photos and story by Chuck Murphy; 4th photo by Wilf Nichols)

At the membership event at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia on December 8, OLLI members and members of Friends of the Garden mingled as they enjoyed wine and appetizers. Membership booths for both organizations provided information to prospective members, and the featured speaker, Wilf Nicholls, the Garden's Director, gave a talk with the theme "Meet Me in the Garden." The talk included a wonderful photo tour of our local garden, other gardens worldwide, and famous and non-famous people who like gardens.

The next morning, the Picture This! photography SIG, of which I am the leader, had scheduled an early (chilly!) photo walk at the Garden. Before the three of us who showed up started off on our tour, I wanted to get a photo of our little group. I didn't want to make a self-timer shot, so I snagged the first person who came along, and that happened to be Wilf! Following up on his theme of Meet Me in the Garden, I reminded him of his request last night, told him we were there following instructions, and asked him to take the group shot. He did a great job as you can see from the shot above.

HOLIDAYS

the great memories of OLLI Holidays!



Newly engaged couple Julie Cashin and Don Schneider



Thomas and Norma Steiner, Grace Jenkins



Sinclair and Calvin Jackson



Carol and Craig Smith and Becky Hutton



Richard Bouldin, pausing briefly for this picture before heading back to his table to eat.



Bob Sedlock, Karen Lange, Diane and Ron Carroll

20th ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY PARTY

(first 5 photos by Pat McAlexander; 6th by Bill Flatt)

President Tom Kenyon called it “the biggest event in OLLI history.” The 2014 holiday party on Thursday evening, December 18th at The Village Summit in Joe Frank Harris Commons was complete with delicious food, wine provided by The Healthy Gourmet, singing by the UGA’s accapella group, The Accidentals, and lots of socializing by over 300 guests.

2015 JANUARY BASH IN PICTURES

(photos by Pat McAlexander)



Gina Reed, Donnatella Alexander, and Cindy Karp explore the Bash.

Toni Hagerman gives husband Jack a dose of dessert.



At the Pickleball table Vic Gagliano shows off the SIG tee shirt and Frank Marlowe holds a pickleball racquet.



Geri Williams (in character) recruits for OLLI Follies.

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NEWS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

SIG SPOTLIGHT: THE PLAY READERS CLUB

The Play Readers Club brings together a group of enthusiastic, articulate, theater-loving OLLI members who meet at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Although the exact number is still in flux, about 25 have participated so far, with almost double that number enrolled. The performances take place on the second Monday of the month. Readers volunteer; others make up the audience. Guests are invited, but anyone can attend; Holy Cross Lutheran Church has a lot of space

Prior to the performance, the readers meet with the director for a read-through. Following the performance, readers and audience discuss the play. The choice of the play is made by the volunteer director. So far the choices have come from the American theater repertory, although we anticipate drawing more broadly on plays from other countries in the future. The first selection was Thornton Wilder's 1942 *The Skin of Our Teeth*, directed by Freda Scott Giles. As our group's artistic leader, she set a standard for how to produce a pleasing and polished reading. The second play, directed by Sudy Leavy, was Susan Glaspell's 1916 *Trifles* (see picture). The third, January 12, was William Inge's 1953 *Picnic*, directed by Lee Feathers. The next play, directed by Doris Kadish, was a French farce entitled "Going to Pot" by Georges Feydeau. It was performed at 5:00 pm on February 9.

--Doris Y. Kadish



Members of the Play Readers Club presenting Susan Glaspell's 1916 play *Trifles*.



Mahjongg SIG members at Talmage Terrace

MAHJONGG

In December 2014 the Mahjongg Special Interest Group presented a check to Talmage Terrace. When the Mahjongg players needed a permanent place to play, they sought a space at Talmage Terrace. A room was available for the day and time needed but there were no card tables or chairs. Talmage Terrace purchased the items needed so the group was able to start playing in February 2014. The Mahjongg players decided to collect \$1.00 per person each time they played. At the end of the year a check for \$386.00 was donated to Talmage Terrace to buy a sound bar for the TV room for the residents--another terrific example of community outreach by an OLLI@UGA SIG.

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: PEAKS, VALLEYS, DETOURS AND POTHOLES

The idea for this group stems from the recognition that we are traveling through uncharted territory (the “bonus years,” roughly age 60-90), where the absence of established wisdom requires each person to make his or her own path. This group will discuss, in monthly meetings, the opportunities and challenges that can raise or lower the quality of our lives during these years. Contact Chuck Brodie bonusyrs@charter.net, 706.202.7286

PICKLEBALL

Warning: Playing pickleball can become addictive!

Pickleball was invented 50 years ago, but recently its popularity has taken off like a rocket. In the United States, There are now well over 100,000 active pickleball players and over 2,000 courts. In Athens, we began less than two years ago with six players and now we have over 200 that play weekly! The 6 original players had 3 hours of court time every other week. There are now 14 different courts with available total court time of 41 hours per week and we definitely need more! If pickleball were just great exercise, it probably would not have seen this rapid growth in Athens, but it also is a wonderfully social activity.

Pickleball is played on a court the same size as a badminton court, with the net at 34 inches in the center, and a seven-foot “no-volley line on each side of the net. Service is underhand from behind the back of the court to the opposite court. The ball must bounce once before it is returned, and must bounce once in the serving court before it is returned. From then on the ball may be volleyed in the air or hit on one bounce. Only the serving side can score and the games are usually to 11, win by 2 points.

For More Information, see www.usapa.org; www.pickleball.com; www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2KNhlgOkXM; www.pickleballvideos.net

SIGS CELEBRATE OLLI'S 20th ANNIVERSARY

The Special Interests Groups are excited about the OLLI@UGA (LIR)'s 20th Anniversary. Most of the groups have planned or are in the process of planning special events to celebrate. Here are some of the events planned:

Game SIGS including **Chess, Cribbage, Intermediate Bridge, Mahjongg, Novice Bridge and Pinochle will present** Game Day - March 13, 1-4 p.m. at Buffalo's Café . OLLI Members and guests are invited.

The **Writing Memoir** Special Interest Group will be reading their memoirs—prose and poetry— for OLLI members and guests on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 3 p.m. at the Athens-Clarke Public Library on Baxter Street. There will be a reception following the readings. Anthologies will be available for \$5.00. Bring your laughter and tears. These will be wonderful memories!!!

The **Happy Hikers** and **OLLI Walks** are joining forces for a precision march presentation in the OLLI Follies on Saturday evening, May 2, 2015 in the Fine Arts Building. John Phillip Sousa, watch out!

The following groups have already celebrated:

Talkin' Baseball hosted UGA Baseball coach Scott Stricklin in January, 2015. All OLLI members were invited to join the group for this special event. Coach Stricklin updated the group on the team's prospects and took questions from the group.

Lady Dawgs, the UGA women's basketball group hosted their event in December of 2014. Approximately 100 OLLI members and guests attended the game and were invited onto the court at halftime for special mention. OLLI@UGA is a big supporter; over 100 members buy season tickets to the games.

Stitch and Chat members, as their 20th Anniversary event, knitted 20 shawls which were donated to St. Mary's Hospice in October, 2014. The shawls were distributed to the patients of St Mary's Hospice House and the St Mary's Home Program. (See December *OLLI Times*.)

The following Special Interest Groups are in the final stages of planning, but we wanted to whet your appetites for what is on the horizon.

The **OLLI Garden Enthusiasts** are planning expert-led tours of the UGA Horticultural Farm, and Athens Land Trust's Young Urban Farmer Program and their Williams Farm Program in March, April and May.

The **SoloSENIORs** and the **Lunch Bunch** are working with the Athens Food Tours to sponsor a Downtown and a Five Points Food Tour in mid-late April and a Downtown Brew Pub Tour in mid-May.

Enjoy Opera in Athens will be hosting an event at the Athens Country Club.

Supper Club is planning an online cookbook for the Spring.

More to come on **Algonquin Comes to Athens, Dawg Bytes, Picture This!, Pickleball, and Play Reading.**

SIG HOLIDAYS

Some of the Special Interest Groups were not to be outdone with celebrating the holidays. Here are two:



PICTURE THIS members at the December meeting. Back row: Alexis Winger, Carol-Lee Baker, Phil Koehler, Warren Flick, Elizabeth Barton, Jack Hagerman, Pat McAlexander, Jim Crosby, Jan Crosby. Front row: Barbara Densen, Robert Nicholls, Kathy Parker. On floor: Christmas jester aka Chuck Murphy (self-timer shot by Chuck Murphy)



OLLI WALKERS on a December walk by the Christmas tree at City Hall (photo by Lew Frazar)

AT THE NEWBEE'S' ORIENTATION FEBRUARY 7



Dindy Owens, Antha Bennett, Connie Bruce, and John Songster enjoy refreshments (photos by John Albright)



Newbees chat in the breakroom

“ We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. ”

– Will Rogers

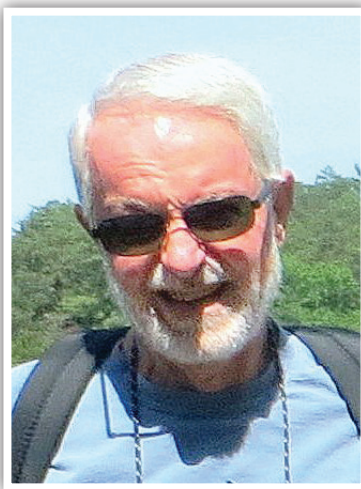
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RAY WATSON

by Larry Dendy

When Ray Watson showed up for his first hike with the OLLI Happy Hikers, he didn't expect to come away as co-leader of the group.

Because of an e-mail miscommunication, Ray and a couple of others arrived at 9 a.m. for a hike that began at 8:30. When they caught up with the other hikers, Ray and Iris Miracle, the group's founder and leader, had a laugh about the mix-up and Ray offered to help with future hikes. Iris jumped at the offer, especially since Ray could lead hikes on Saturdays for people who weren't free on weekdays. Since then he and Iris have led two hikes to the same destination—one during the week and one on Saturday.

Leading hikes is just one way Ray has volunteered for OLLI. A veteran educator, he taught a class on contemporary issues in American education in fall semester of 2014. He helps at the Happy Hikers information table at the Back-to-Class Bash and has also helped with the OLLI Nominating Committee.



OLLI has been important in Ray's life since he joined two years ago following his wife's death after a long illness. "OLLI was a door through which I could put together the rest of my life," he says. "I've found intellectual stimulation through classes, and enjoyed camaraderie with people who have similar interests. I wanted to make a contribution to help the organization. It's the whole idea of giving back."

Ray moved to Athens after retiring from a lengthy career in Fairfax County, VA, where he was a high school and middle school principal and director of secondary curriculum for the school system. An ardent outdoorsman and bird hunter, he was naturally drawn to the Happy Hikers. He is also a member of the local TORCH Club, which puts him in contact with many current and retired educators.

Ray says he looks forward to continued active participation in OLLI and other possible volunteer opportunities.

CLASSES



Nov 18: Judge Lawton Stephens (right), OLLI Lunch and Learn speaker at Trumps, with retired UGA law school professor Paul Kurtz. Stephens' talk was "Judging: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Courthouse." Professor Kurtz is teaching "Books That Mattered: A Reader's Memoir" in four brown-bag lunch sessions this semester. (photo by Bill Flatt)



December 1: Jim Porter, UGA Meigs Professor of Ecology, in front of his slide of a luna moth. His one-session class, "Garden of Eden at Night," discussed "moths, pollination services, and climate change." (photo by Chuck Murphy)

Danger: Motorcycling in the Coal Country of Virginia at Age 70

by Warren Flick

Reprinted (slightly condensed) with permission from Warren's blog "Later Living" (<http://www.laterlivingblog.com>)

The road was sharply crowned, narrow and steep, and suddenly the Gold Wing starting misfiring, the light panel on the dashboard flashed wildly and then the engine just quit. The motorcycle stopped in the middle of the lane, and I was stuck, really stuck. The bike weighs about 1,000 pounds, and at 70 years old, I could not push it around to get it headed downhill.

Big Red, my Honda Gold Wing motorcycle, and I were about 300 miles from home heading up VA160, a narrow, twisty state highway that crosses the Cumberland Mountains from Appalachia, VA to Lynch, KY. I wanted to see the fall colors and tour Portal 31, a coal mine where tourists can take tours deep into a recently active underground mine.

Coasting Off The Mountain

But all the pleasures of biking vanished as soon as the engine quit. Alone on a rugged, isolated, mountain highway, I couldn't even turn the bike around. There were two choices: let the bike roll backward into the ditch, or stay put until someone came along.

About 10 minutes later a fellow in a pickup came along and stopped. He helped me push Big Red over the crown of the road and get it facing downhill. I thanked him and he wished me luck. I mounted, folded up the side stand and coasted downhill about three miles until the road leveled out and the bike slowly rolled to a stop. Then I dismounted, walked along side and pushed. The bike still weighed about 1,000 pounds.

There was a trucking company ahead—Stanley Trucking—with a large parking lot, and I hoped to get that far. A police prowler happened along with Ms. Ison driving. We talked about my emergency, and she pulled up behind with flashing lights to protect me from traffic.

Once in the parking lot, I told her I had no idea what to do. She recommended a towing company, and she said the men at Stanley Trucking were "good people." But their garage was closed and no one was there. I called Lou, my motorcycle mechanic in South Carolina, and talked things over with him. Meanwhile the men who owned Stanley Trucking drove up. Again more talk. I called Barbara, my wife, and asked if she could help.

Plan

Eventually a plan developed: Adam and Randy Stanley would let me store Big Red in their garage as long as needed, and they

offered to drive me to a Comfort Inn in Big Stone Gap, about five miles away. The next day, Wednesday, Barbara would drive to get me and take me home. Then I could return with my truck and trailer, pick up Big Red and drive it to Lou's in South Carolina where he would repair the bike.

I got to know Adam Stanley through all this. A young man in his thirties, he, along with his dad and brother, started the trucking company a few years ago after they lost their jobs in coal mines that closed. Now they trucked coal from still-operating deep mines to coal cleaning plants that readied the coal for rail shipment. They had four tractor-trailer rigs, and they tried to keep two or three running most of the time. Besides hauling coal, they maintained and repaired their trucks.

The manager at the Comfort Inn offered a late checkout and some ideas for finding more local help if I needed. My room was excellent.

The plan worked well. Barbara picked me up on Wednesday at about 2 p.m. and we drove home. On Thursday I took my truck and trailer to get the trailer's hubs greased and one tire replaced, and the truck's oil changed. By noon I was heading up the Interstate toward

Appalachia Virginia, window down, arm out, listening to country music on the radio.

The Truck

I made it to Stanley Trucking near dark. Adam, his brother Andy, and another friend were there to help me push Big Red up on the trailer. [After] another night at the Comfort Inn., I headed out at daylight, full of . . . worry. I drove slowly and stopped often to check the oil and made it home without a hitch. Lou took the motorcycle and diagnosed a failed alternator. Gary looked the truck over and said he saw no oil leaks. We decided that when I had the oil changed, the Rapid Lube mechanic left dirty oil in a guard pan under the engine that must have dumped out. . . . accounting for the large splash under the engine on I26.

Adventure

Someone once said that you know you're having an adventure when you're facing danger, your senses are fully alert, adrenaline is nearly or actually pumping, and you wish with all your powers of wishing that you were someplace else. Young people seem to think that after 70 we're in a recliner in front of the TV with no real adventures left. I can tell you that's wrong, dead wrong. . . .



Big Red—Warren's Gold Wing motorcycle

The Coming of Light

by Mark Strand, 1934 - 2014

Even this late it happens:
the coming of love, the coming of light.
You wake and the candles are lit as if by
themselves,
stars gather, dreams pour into your pillows,
sending up warm bouquets of air.
Even this late the bones of the body shine
and tomorrow's dust flares into breath.

From *New Selected Poems*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2007.
Strand was named poet laureate of the United States in
1990 and awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1999
for his collection "Blizzard of One."



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— Abraham Lincoln

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