



# OLLI

*20th Anniversary*

# TIMES

at The University of Georgia

## OLLI@UGA'S ANNUAL MEETING

OLLI@UGA's Annual Meeting was held on May 15 at 1:30 at Central Presbyterian Church. Four officers and five new Board members were elected. The 2015-16 officers are pictured to the right. The new Board members elected were Gary Bertsch, Heidi Davison, Nancy Grayson, Ian Hardin, and Jill Read. There was a tie for the sixth member; thus the OLLI Board selected that member at its meeting on June 8—past the deadline for this newsletter.

President Tom Kenyon gave the State of OLLI@UGA address, which is printed in full on page 3. John Songster gave the Treasurer's report—a summary of which is on p. 2—and Katy Crapo, Executive Director, and Betty Jean Craige, President-elect, gave brief presentations.

In another traditional part of the Annual Meeting, Tom presented the Carol Fisher Award, given each year to a person or persons in recognition for long and significant contributions to OLLI@UGA. The recipients are recommended by the Board and selected by the President. This year there were three recipients: Randall Abney, Dick Lynch, and John Songster. After the meeting, attendees enjoyed a dessert social.

See p. 5. for a summary of President Kenyon's remarks about the Fisher Award recipients and pp. 4-5 for photos of the social.



**OLLI officers 2015-16: Victor Gagliano, Treasurer; Lee Albright, President-Elect; Betty Jean Craige, President; Cheryl Copeland, Secretary; Andy Horne, Vice President** (photo by Pat McAlexander)



**The 2015 Carol Fisher Award winners (l. to r.) John Songster, Randall Abney, and Dick Lynch. Randall is holding the Carol Fisher Memorial Award plaque to which their names will be attached.** (photo by Tom Kenyon)

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

It has been my honor to serve as your President this year. For the past two years, first as president-elect and now as president, I have worked on your behalf to make OLLI@UGA the best it could be. My responsibility and the responsibility of the Board of Directors, first and foremost, is to ensure that OLLI@UGA discusses, deliberates, and then comes to decisions that will ensure its financial sustainability and have a clear understanding for what the future may hold and the will to embrace that vision. I thank you, the membership, for your support, encouragement, and help in moving OLLI@UGA forward.



Tom Kenyon  
(photo by Larry Petroff)

I hope to see you in class!—Tom Kenyon

## TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY: The Latest Look At OLLI@UGA's Finances

As our fiscal year approaches a close on June 30, repeating the recent annual meeting "financial health" theme is worthwhile. First, we expect a modest surplus at the year's end – which is certainly preferable to the alternative. Over the years these surpluses have accumulated, providing a necessary cushion of reserve funds that all businesses, nonprofits included, require. During the same period, membership growth, spurred by OLLI@UGA's appealing programs and the Athens area influx of retirees, has ensured the resources important to continued program quality.

The membership in OLLI@UGA is approaching 1400. Unfettered growth is not sustainable nor, as most of us would agree, desirable. Yet members are the engine of an organization dependent on financial funds and volunteer support. While next year's budget of \$425,000 may be eye-popping to some, everyone should know that over the twenty-year history of this great group, there have been only two increases of dues and class costs. Stripping away the annual Osher Endowment distribution, sponsorships from community businesses, and other special contributions, the budget borne by members reduces to \$254,000 – reported to be among the lowest in the nationwide Osher Institutes network.

Ongoing diligence of the Board and attention by management to the finances of OLLI@UGA will ensure that our classes and other activities remain affordable into the future. Financial reports are available upon request and will soon be online in the "Members Only" section.

—John Songster

**OLLI Times Editor: Pat McAlexander. Editorial Board: Tom Kenyon, John Albright, and Larry Dendy. August issue of the OLLI Times: Material due Thursday, July 23. (Send to Pat McAlexander at patmcalex@gmail.com); issue to be mailed the week of August 3, in time for the New Member Orientation August 12.**

Having the Time of Our Lives With

# OLLI@UGA

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

# 2014-2015 STATE OF OLLI@UGA



**Tom Kenyon delivering State of OLLI address** (photo by Chuck Murphy)

2014-2015 has been a transformational year at OLLI@UGA. Our mission, as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Georgia, is dedicated to meeting the intellectual, social and cultural needs of mature adults through lifelong learning. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Standing Committee Chairs I wish to thank all of the many volunteers, sponsors, instructors and staff whose hard work and

enthusiasm made this possible. It would take more time than we have to list all of the progress and achievements of the past year but I do want to share the highlights.

The Board of Directors approved an organizational structure that served as a benchmark for the effective management of a growing organization. The structure enabled the Board and staff to govern beyond the day to day tasks and envision what could be and should be in the coming years and what is needed for that to happen.

Financial stability continued and was enhanced to better understand the needs of our members and how they can be supported. The two major funding streams, membership and curriculum grew to all-time highs. Membership reached 1,379 and 216 course offerings and 16 luncheon programs were held. The membership committee, curriculum committee and registration all contributed to this being a banner year.

Fund development and marketing, both important funding streams, provided significant revenue through the annual fund, special events and sponsorships. The hard work by the fund development and marketing committees helped keep our membership costs among the lowest of the 117 OLLI's nationwide. The Treasurer's report will provide the specifics.

In 2014-2015 OLLI@UGA had 26 Special Interest Groups with a total of over 1,479 participants. This is another all-time high. Three new SIG's were started this year. The Special Interest Groups committee and all the SIG leaders make OLLI@UGA unique among the other national OLLIs. Their tireless work on behalf of the membership makes our lives so much more enjoyable and richer.

Publications appointed an *OLLI Times* editorial board to work

with the editor in providing the content and information the membership asked for. A big step forward was taken with the introduction of color to both the *OLLI Times* and the Course Catalog.

The Finance Committee continued to diligently oversee the annual budgets, operational revenue and expenses. It assisted the Treasurer and Executive Director in the preparation of the budget which is becoming more complex with the growing membership and the services required to fulfill our mission. It works closely with the OLLI@UGA Financial Advisory Committee on reserve fund investments. The first ever Annual Report was produced and sent to every member.

The Long Range Planning Committee continued to provide the guidance needed for OLLI@UGA to stay on track and evaluated where we are as an organization, where we need to be with growth and service demands and provide the way we can get there. The current long range plan going into its third year has been actively and enthusiastically implemented by the Board of Directors, standing committees and staff.

The Information Technology Committee, with the assistance of many volunteers and staff, researched, selected, and brought on-line in December of 2014 the association management software, Abila, now known as OLLI Online. This software has the potential to revolutionize how OLLI@UGA is managed at almost every level of its operations.

The Hospitality Committee broke all records for membership participation this year in its many events, especially the Holiday Party, with over 330 members and friends in attendance.

The Travel/Study Committee presented an array of exciting trips over the past two years and went international with the trips to Africa and Cuba. This was a truly historic development.

The Volunteer Committee continues to grow and its members provide the needed care OLLI@UGA members have come to expect, making each and every activity we all enjoy first rate. Without volunteers OLLI@UGA would not be OLLI@UGA.

Several ad hoc committees were approved by the Board of Directors this year. Their work has been invaluable. The communication committee continues to determine how OLLI@UGA can effectively work with Abila, our software, the membership, the College of Education, and the community at large. Their work will be ongoing. The Organizational Committee will present to the Board of Directors at their June meeting the recommendation of the Fanning Institute for the most efficient

*Continued on page 13*

# PHOTOS FROM SOCIAL AF

by Pat Mc



Dan Walton creates his strawberry shortcake at the Talmage Terrace/Lanier Gardens refreshment table.



Why is this man smiling? His presidential duties almost over, Tom Kenyon enjoys the post-meeting social. On the right is Ginny Lynch.



Bayla and Harvey Biskin are new OLLI members from San Antonio, TX. Harvey has proposed the new ROMEO SIG (p. 10).



Lenette Burrell at age 88 (almost--she was born on June 24, 1927) commutes to OLLI activities from Elberton and facilitates many OLLI classes. (See the secret to her good health p. 13).

# FTER THE ANNUAL MEETING

Alexander



Ken and Martha Feinstein and Edward Hon drink water and coffee after finishing their dessert.



Nancy Hirst and Symma Rich chat at the social.

## CAROL FISHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

*(Summary of President Kenyon's remarks)*

**Randall Abney.** As Chair of the Marketing Committee, Randall has been a leader in raising significant sums through OLLI@UGA sponsorships. He spearheaded the Leave a Legacy program that now has eleven donors. He was one of the leaders in supporting the OLLI Southern Regional Conference in Athens

in 2013. Randall is a member of the current Board of Directors, and has taught and facilitated classes, supervised the OLLI gear sales, and served on the Organizational Committee and the CRAM committee, which selected Abila software to power OLLI Online. **(Note: Our software, purchased as Avectra, was purchased by Abila about eighteen months ago and has been rebranded as Abila.—Ed.)**

**Dick Lynch.** Dick has been a member of the OLLI@UGA Board of Directors for three years. He has chaired the OLLI@UGA Long Range Planning Committee for the past two. He also served on the ad hoc Parking committee, which negotiated a new and more favorable agreement with UGA Parking Services, and assisted the Board of Directors in contracting the Fanning Institute to assist OLLI in studying its staffing structure.

**John Songster.** During the past ten years, John has served OLLI as a Board member, standing committee chair, finance committee member, and Treasurer. He was a member of the ad hoc CRAM Committee, the ad hoc Organizational Committee, and the ad hoc Parking Services Committee. He has helped OLLI@UGA attain sustainable fiscal policies and provided valuable documentation to support our applications for the two one-million-dollar endowments from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

photos by

On Friday and Saturday nights May 1 and 2, ninety-nine members of the OLLI Follies cast and crew provided spectacle, music, and humor for a total audience of 743 in the UGA Fine Arts Theater. The show—conceived, organized and directed by Jill Read—was free, but donations are still being accepted to cover costs. (Send checks made out to OLLI@UGA to OLLI@UGA, River’s Crossing, 850 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30602-4811 and designate “OLLI Follies Donation” on the check and envelope.) Videos of the show are now available on sale online at the OLLI website for \$20 each.



**Bill Loughner and Jay Shinn were the loveable, corny Masters of Ceremony. The backdrop was designed by Jill Biskin.**



**A Water Ballet: I. to r. Ron Laughton, Robert Nicholls, Paul Dorsey, Scott Mason, and Scott Higgins.**



**The Mad Men Quartet: Scott Mason, Larry Dendy, Jason Elder, and Paul Dorsey. The identity of the person under the Buffalo’s Cafe costume remains a mystery.**



**“The Mark Wheeler Dancers,” here, I. to r. Kathy Mason, Sally Granados, and Mark Wheeler.**

# ES PHOTOS

Ralph Bakowski



Comedy Tonight Act by “The Company”: I. to r. Sherry Weber, Jason Elder, Bobbi Brandenburg, Kris Bakowski, and Ann Dunn.



Jill Read not only conceived, organized, and directed the Follies, but conducted the OLLI Follies Pit Band.



Finale: God Bless America

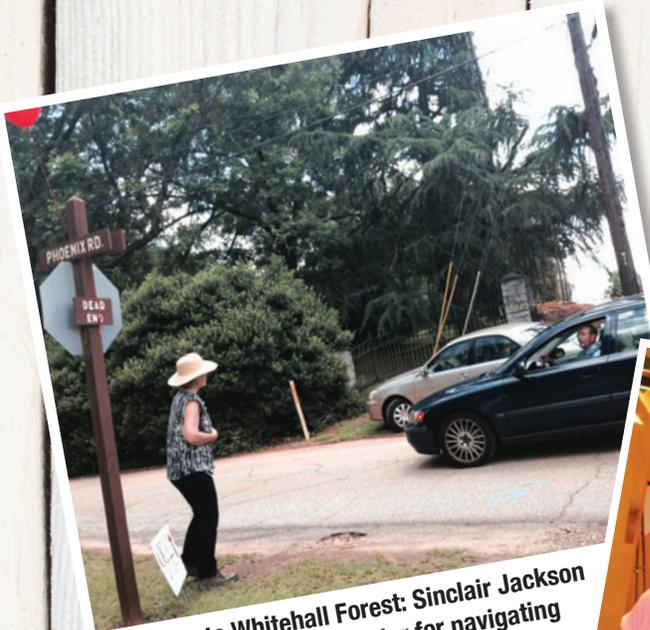
# JUNE 5: ICE CREAM IN THE WOODS

## OLLI's VOLUNTEER AND PRESENTER APPRECIATION SOCIAL & 20th ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT FLINCHUM'S PHOENIX

With the pictures below, OLLI photographers John Albright and Pat McAlexander try to give the "flavor" of the event.



Gingham Volunteers: Sunflowers, thistles, and roadside blossoms (John)



Welcome to Whitehall Forest: Sinclair Jackson congratulates John Songster for navigating Simonton Bridge detour. (John)



Betsy Bean and Gregg Steinle enjoy refreshments. (Pat)



Heartfelt thanks from President Tom to the core of OLLI — our many dozens of volunteers and class presenters. (John)



President-elect Lee Albright serves the OLLI anniversary cake. (Pat)



Talking Show Biz: Larry Dendy, Paul Dorsey and Jill Read. (John)



Sandy Clark (left) with Erika Lewis, who broke her leg while on an African safari. But Erika shows how to make even a cast look fashionable. (Pat)

## SECOND OLLI CUBA TOUR

By Ann Allen, Cuba Tour participant, March 2015

A front row seat to history in the making was likely not on the minds of 21 OLLI members last fall as they registered for the second “Cuba Today: People and Society” tour. Then on December 17, President Obama announced sweeping changes to U.S. foreign policy aimed at normalizing relations with the island nation. Overnight, the OLLI March 2015 trip to Cuba took on new meaning.

On arrival in the southeastern coastal city of Cienfuegos on March 25, the travelers donned their “flexibility hats” as requested by tour leader Lana Mullen to fully experience the joyful spirit of the Cuban people through an agenda tailored especially for them by the national Road Scholar organization. Hector Aviles joined the group as guide and walking encyclopedia of everything Cuban.

In Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santa Clara, Havana, and other locations, the group not only explored a multitude of sites but engaged with art, music, and dance students, small business owners, professional



**OLLI Cuba travelers enjoy a ride in style on the final evening in Havana.** (photo by Bill Allen)

musicians, and experts in such topics as Cuban architecture, history, economics, environment, religion, and politics – always in the context of what new opportunities and challenges the future may now hold. That will be up to the next OLLI tour to report!



**OLLI members with the energetic Paradiso youth dance group.** (photo by Lana Mullen, group leader)

## FALL 2015 ATLANTA TRIPS

Travel/Study Committee volunteers are planning some fascinating Atlanta day trips and events for this fall. Take an October trip, “Behind the Scenes at Delta Air Lines,” where you can see how pilots and crew train to provide flights. Or visit the special exhibition of Masterpieces from Vienna’s Royal Collections at the High Museum of Art in November, paired with another nearby Atlanta attraction, such as the Atlanta Botanical Garden. And mark December 5 on your calendar for a matinee performance of *Cirque de Symphonie*, when this internationally acclaimed ensemble visits Atlanta. When dates and times, itineraries, and prices are confirmed, you will find more details in the *OLLI Times* or on the OLLI website.

“Today is the youngest day of the rest of your life.”

—Rachelle Ford, 78, metal sculptor

## *In Memoriam*

**Carol Bray**  
**Patricia Cooper**  
**Dev Weeks**  
**Bill Zeitler**

(an organizer of Learning in Retirement)



The Memoir Writers SIG (represented here by Roger Bailey and Chip McDaniel) donated an engraved brick to the Athens-Clarke County Library, which will read OLLI @UGA Memoir Writers (photo by R. Eades)

## MEMOIR WRITERS

The OLLI Memoir Writers presented “The Many Voices of Memoir Writing,” in celebration of OLLI’s 20th Anniversary. The Sunday afternoon event was held at the Athens-Clarke County Library, April 12, 2015. The audience gathered in the small auditorium to the strains of Frank Sinatra singing “My Funny Valentine.” On the stage was a replica of an old phone sitting on a draped table and 33 1/3 rpm albums scattered about.

Facilitator, Roger Bailey, retired English teacher, opened with: *“As we find the perch from which we can observe and narrate our stories, we know that we are voices within voices, within lives, lived at different times in our journeys, with shifting casts of characters . . . What follows today is a chorus of voices celebrating the experience of being human.”*

A marvelous array of memories then unfolded from eleven readers sharing stories with settings from New York to Havana; from a bustling residential street to a dusty road in North Alabama and a neighborhood in St. Louis. These stories left the audience enthralled, sometimes with laughter and more often with quiet moments of tears. “I laughed so hard, because I

could identify with Dan Akin’s “Driving in Ireland” story,” said one OLLI member. “I enjoyed the glimpse into the lives of each memoirist,” said another.

Roger Bailey began the readings with a poem entitled “The Poets.” Caryl Sundland read about growing up in a four room apartment in The Bronx in “Where I’m From.” Sharla Campbell’s “Apologia” was about the challenges in memoir writing. Dan Akin read of a hilarious travel adventure in “Driving in Ireland.” Jeanette Bowers’ story, “Christmas Blendings,” was about Cuban-American Thanksgivings and Christmases. Nancy MacNair read “Life Changing: The Early Times of HIV/AIDS in Athens.” Jim Murdock was next with a poignant story of his family packing everything into one car and driving to Michigan in “Goodbye Alabama.” Peggy Harrington’s story took on the voice of her own mother facing a retirement home in “Don’t Want To Go.” Tom Kenyon read a tender story about a family of Greek displaced persons moving next door in “The Neighbors.” John Bleyle read “Good Enough to Dream,” a story straight from the heart of a boy who loved the Yankees. Chip McDaniel ended with “My Father’s Hobby Was the Dictionary.” OLLI President, Tom Kenyon, announced that the proceeds for the sale of the Memoir Writers Anthology would be used to purchase an engraved paver brick for the Library’s patio (see photo).

Afterwards, OLLI Special Interest Groups Coordinator Karen Kenyon provided a lovely reception table for the crowd who stayed on to browse three tables filled with old photos and memorabilia. In addition to Tom Kenyon’s teddy bear and Roger Bailey’s baby shoes, Sharla Campbell brought a creative genealogy poster.

## POSSIBLE NEW OLLI SIG: ROMEO

Harvey Biskin recently moved to Athens from San Antonio and joined OLLI. He misses a group he had in San Antonio called ROMEO, which (we hasten to explain) stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out. If you are interested in forming a ROMEO here, meeting maybe once a month, contact Harvey Biskin ([baylabiskin@gmail.com](mailto:baylabiskin@gmail.com)) or John Law ([jhlaw@u.arizona.edu](mailto:jhlaw@u.arizona.edu)), using the OLLI website or the old-fashioned email method. Let us know what day would be good for you and places where you like to eat out.

# T GROUPS (SIGS)

AND JUST SOME PHOTOS....



**A Picture This! SIG excursion to Helton Creek Falls: Barbara Denson, Pat McAlexander, Alexis Winger, and leader Jeff Engel.** (photo by Jeff Engel)



**One of the Happy Hikers' Spring Calendar of hikes included Kenney Ridge, hosted by Manita (6<sup>th</sup> from right) and OC Dean (far right) in April. The Fall Calendar of hikes will be sent out in August.** (photo by Patrick Boyle)



**OLLI Valerie Hinesley, a Landscape Architect/Owner of Piccadilly Farm, was the tour guide on the Garden Enthusiasts' 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event—an excursion to Piccadilly Farm.** (photo by Art Crawley)



**The Lunch Bunch and Solo Senior SIGs co-sponsored a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event—a “Tapas with Tim [Dondero]” international dinner at Dondero’s.** (photo by Sandy Clark)

“If you don't move, you won't move.”

—Yvonne Dowlen, 88, figure skater

## EXCELLENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

- Enjoy the classes of your choice
- Meet your favorite instructors
- Interact more with your OLLI classmates and
- Help make learning fun!

**WE**  **VOLUNTEERS**

Become an OLLI Facilitator! The tasks are easy and the major benefits are listed above. We promise to train you and make sure you have everything you need to help the instructor and the class members enjoy the class. The list of classes for Fall 2015 that need facilitators will be available for viewing on the OLLI website by mid - July 2015. Browse the offerings and think about which classes you would like to facilitate. Watch your OLLI Online announcements for complete details.

Remember—Your membership must be current to sign up to facilitate OLLI classes.. Sign up or inquire –by contacting **Susan Dougherty**, OLLI@UGA's new Facilitator Coordinator, at [susandougherty48@gmail.com](mailto:susandougherty48@gmail.com) or 706-207-3517.



Pat Cooper (second from left) leads a 2010 OLLI class tour through the boxwood garden of the Wray-Nicholson house. (photo by Pat McAlexander)

### PATRICIA COOPER HONORED WITH AHS CRYSTAL BOOK AWARD.

On May 26, at a reception at the UGA College of Environment and Design, OLLI member Patricia Irvin Cooper was awarded the Athens Historical Society's highest honor—the Augustus Longstreet Hull “Crystal Book”—for her significant contributions to knowledge of Athens history. There is not enough room here to list all of Pat’s contributions, but she is one of the foremost experts on log buildings in the Southeast. She has mentored area historians, and in Athens specifically, she is largely responsible for increasing knowledge of historic houses, for galvanizing the effort to save the Old Athens Cemetery, and for securing the publication of the 1874 map of the city. Most importantly, Pat has shared her knowledge with area residents—and one way she did so was by teaching OLLI classes. Her daughter, Alice Cooper, accepted the Hull award on Pat’s behalf. Pat passed away June 5.

**FALL FILM SERIES ON CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT** The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has been in conversation with the Bernard Osher Foundation to encourage the use of NEH-funded educational resources for Osher Institute programming. OLLI@UGA was one of a handful of Osher Institutes invited to participate in this initiative.

Our first application of these resources has resulted in a partnership with the Athens-Clarke County Library to show four nationally acclaimed documentary films on the long civil rights movement: *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and

*The Loving Story.* These films, which span the period from the 1830s to the 1960s, are part of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) “Created Equal” initiative to inspire public conversation about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America. The screenings will take place in the library’s Appleton auditorium in late summer and early fall 2015 and will be free and open to the public. Discussions led by local specialists will follow the individual films. Watch your OLLI Online announcements for further information, including dates, times and discussion leaders.

**ALICE MOHOR’S SPECIAL DAYS.** Alice Mohor has recently published a book, *Special Days*, a collection of illustrated rhyming poetry that celebrates religious and secular holidays, cultural observances, and ordinary special days. Alice hopes to have a reading at Avid bookstore on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14.

**BOB WOODALL, ANOTHER LYNDON HOUSE ARTIST.** OLLI Bob Woodhall’s photograph “Boiling Mud” was one of 14 photos (and 194 items) accepted into the Lyndon House Juried Art show. Bob writes, “The photo was taken in the Wai-O-Tapu geothermal area 20 miles south of the city of Rotorua on the North Island of New Zealand. In the Māori language Wai-O-Tapu means ‘sacred waters.’ The Wai-O-Tapu area is similar to the geothermal areas of our Yellowstone National Park.”



“Boiling Mud” by Bob Woodhall

**LENETTE BURRELL’S ADVICE FOR GOOD HEALTH.** One of our most remarkable members, Lenette Burrell, turns 88 on June 24. She continues to attend OLLI classes and activities, even though she has to commute from Elberton. Many of us have expressed surprise at her age. She writes, “My career has been in nursing. I have read in the medical and nursing journals about what elders can do to preserve their health. The first recommendation for improved health is *always* to exercise. I have consistently attended exercise classes at our Elbert Memorial Hospital Wellness Center since retiring in 1998 at age 71. My current routine is to attend aerobic exercises on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. I attend an exercise and strength training program on Tuesday from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. [and] . . . on Thursday from 2:00 to 2:45 p.m. I readily give credit to attendance at these classes for my current good health.”

## 2014-2015 STATE OF OLLI@UGA

*Continued from page 3*

and effective way OLLI@UGA can be both governed and managed. Six months of work went into fulfilling the Board of Directors request, as recommended in the Long Range Plan, that the organizational committee “review job expectations, workload, descriptions, assignments, funding, and staffing patterns related to employment at OLLI@UGA/LIR Inc., and make adjustments.” The Parking Committee, in response to membership concerns about parking fees, worked to secure an agreement with Parking Services that benefits both members and staff.

OLLI@UGA outreach to UGA and the Athens Community accelerated this past year. Both Board members and staff presented OLLI@UGA to church groups, civic organizations and university groups. OLLI@UGA takes pride in the Opera in Athens SIG which raised \$13,500 this past year and awarded seven UGA opera program students scholarships for their summer study programs. Working with the UGA Opera Department, the

Opera in Athens SIG has benefited students and enriched the lives of OLLI@UGA members and the Athens Community. OLLI@UGA was recognized at this year’s UGA School of Music spring convocation.

And, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization, 10 standing committees and 19 SIG’s presented events for the membership and Athens community. I hope to see you all on June 5, 2015 at the OLLI@UGA 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and Appreciation event at Flinchum’s Phoenix.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and membership, I want to sincerely thank each and every committee chair, SIG leader, course presenter, facilitator, volunteer, sponsor and donor who made this year so memorable.

Tom Kenyon, President

OLLI@UGA 2014-2015

# CLASSES

Chuck Murphy offered “Digital Photography Fun: Capture and Critique at the Bot Garden,” a class limited to ten students. After an initial lecture, Chuck and the ten students set out into the garden to photograph flowers. Upon their return, Chuck downloaded the photos (including his) and he and the class critiqued them. See two of the photos below left.



Chuck (fourth from right) and his class in the Bot Garden conservatory before they set out to photograph. (photo by Hugh Nourse, who happened by)



Two photos taken on the photo shoot: left, “The Inside Story,” a flower close-up by Debbie Hardigree; right, “Ring around the Posy” by June Mazur, using the whirl-the-camera-while-shooting technique described by a past Picture This! speaker, Tim Rogan.



Students who had taken or were taking Dr. David Dallmeyer’s course “Coastal Processes and Conservation: What Will Be Left for Future Generations?” traveled to Jekyll and St. Simon’s islands on April 28-30 to see those coastal processes firsthand.

“Down and Dirty.” First stop on the Coastal Processes & Conservation Tour of Georgia in April was at the Brunswick DNR’s self-guided Earth Day Nature Trail. Tour participants were introduced to our tidal salt marshes, some of the most biologically productive natural systems on Earth.



“Natural Wonder.” OLLI explorers, a bit overwhelmed at the growth of Jekyll Island’s southern tip, received a cacophonous surfside welcome from a thousand birds and several gamboling dolphins. In the distance on the right is Cumberland’s wilderness. (photos and captions by John Albright)

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at The University of Georgia

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BILL LOUGHNER

by Larry Dendy

“Somebody’s got to do it.”

That’s Bill Loughner’s response when asked why he’s taken on nearly a dozen volunteer tasks for OLLI in the past seven years, ranging from historian to SIG moderator to amateur comedian.

“We’re all volunteers in OLLI,” he elaborates. “I’ve done these things because somebody asked me and I feel it’s important to give back.”

Bill joined OLLI in 2008 after retiring two years earlier from a 34-year-career as a science librarian at UGA. In 2010, then-OLLI President Anita Brannen asked him to become the organization’s historian, a position he still holds. He spends many hours in the Richard Russell Special Collections Library archives and in front of a computer, trolling through 20 years of printed records and electronic documents that cover the history of OLLI and its predecessor, Learning in Retirement.

He has created an OLLI history file on Google drive, and compiled a list of OLLI and LIR officers, board members, committee chairs and SIG chairs that will be invaluable for future OLLI leaders.

A former member of the OLLI Board of Directors, Bill is on the OLLI Spelling Bee team that competes in an annual contest to raise money for the Athens-Clarke County Literacy Council. With his keen computer skills, he serves on the OLLI Technology

Committee and helps the Class Registration Committee create computer files of class information that go into the class catalog.

For five years he’s coordinated a popular Great Books class and this fall will start a spin-off Great Books Economics class. He has also taught and facilitated classes and is moderator for the Chess SIG.



In May, on the stage of UGA’s Fine Arts Theater, Bill—dapper in a tuxedo and top hat-- cracked corny jokes and traded bad puns with Jay Shinn as co-emcee of the OLLI Follies variety show. He took the role because Follies director Jill Read asked him.

“Bill does so many things nobody else sees,” says OLLI President Tom Kenyon. “He’s a wonderful volunteer.”

Sharing his talents through volunteering is nothing new to Bill. He served in the Peace Corps in Afghanistan before beginning his library career. He now also volunteers in the local Red Cross office and tutors students studying for the GED through the Action Ministries program.

“What I enjoy most about OLLI is the classes and the people I get to know,” Bill says. “And it’s also nice to help. If somebody asks you to do something, either you do it or it might not get done. Somebody’s got to do it.”

## NEXT YEAR’S OLLI EVENTS

- August 12** New Member Orientation
- September 11** Back to Class Bash OLLI@UGA Activity Fair
- October 30** Halloween Luncheon, Dutch Treat, 11:30-1:00
- December 16** Holiday Party, dinner and entertainment at the Cook’s Holiday, UGA Food Services.
- December 31** New Year’s Eve Luncheon, Dutch Treat, 11:30-1:00

**This schedule is current as of May 2015. Listserv announcements, website updates, future issues of the *OLLI Times*, and social media outlets will contain updates and details. Come Join the Fun!**



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