



AT THE
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Dawn Torcivia



Dawn Torcivia

In July I was finally able to attend several OLLI functions in person. After meeting with everyone, I came away both energized and excited over what the coming year holds for us at OLLI.

When many think of OLLI, they often only consider the multitude of classes and outstanding learning opportunities offered. However, another vital part of OLLI are the Shared Interest Groups (SIGs). These groups provide an opportunity for members to meet up with others who have similar interests. We have more than 30 groups whose topics include physical activities, scholarly endeavors, interactive games, the arts, and social and support groups. The entire list of SIGs can be found on OLLI COMM under SIGs/Committees. You can easily sign up for any SIG by going to OLLI COMM, and there is no additional fee to join a SIG.

This past year of social isolation has reminded us how important it is to make connections with others. Joining a SIG is a great opportunity to meet others with similar interests and develop some wonderful friendships.

For the next few months we will be featuring our SIGs in the "Spotlight" piece that comes out each Tuesday on OLLI COMM.

On another note, I would like to recognize the OLLI members and staff who participated in the Sponsorship program: Bill Barstow, Nancy Grayson, Shelly Magruder, Sherry Malone, Cher Snyder, and Catharine Tyson. For a minimum donation of \$150, these members sponsored one or more summer classes in honor or in memory of a special person or event of their choice. Thanks also to Bill Barstow and Shelly Magruder who came up with the idea for the Sponsorship program and to the Fund Development Committee for their support. Please consider participating in this program for the fall classes by clicking on the link "Sponsor Classes" on the OLLI website.

OLLI MEMBER BENEFITS UPDATE

by Cher Snyder

Are you taking full advantage of the benefits available to all members of OLLI@UGA? Your annual OLLI membership fee of \$60 (that's just 17 cents a day!) provides you with access to the following UGA bargains:

- **UGA Student ID Card:** Many OLLI members have received discounts on food, lodging, travel, and other goods and services by presenting their UGA student ID card to participating vendors.
- **Special affiliate membership rate at the Ramsey Student Center for Physical Activities:** Offering gyms, swimming pools, climbing walls, sports courts, and weight training, the Ramsey Center is currently open Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday 3 p.m.-9 p.m. (closed on home football game days and holidays). OLLI members are advised to check on and follow requirements for masking and physical distancing to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

For more information about obtaining a UGA Student ID or applying for an affiliate membership at the Ramsey Center, please contact Shelly Magruder, OLLI's Office Manager, at shellygm@uga.edu.

In addition, OLLI members are eligible for the following perks, all at no additional charge:

- **UGA Library Card:** The UGA Libraries provide access to a staggering array of resources, many of which are accessible online. Please contact Shelly Magruder (shellygm@uga.edu) for details.
- **OLLI COMM:** OLLI members use OLLI COMM, our internal communications network, to post articles of interest, chat with individual members, and keep abreast of SIG events and activities.

Continued on page 3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

Are we nearly there yet?

We all want to get back to a normal life. We miss seeing everyone discussing their classes, preparing to travel, or planning on getting together with their OLLI friends. As I write, we are preparing for the Late Fall term, when we hope to have some classes in person. I have included some information below to help you prepare for returning to River's Crossing, though as circumstances change, please look out for emails and notifications.

Parking Passes

When attending classes at River's Crossing, each member or household will need to purchase a parking tag from the OLLI office. Tags cost \$20 and will last until July 2022. When purchasing, please allow 24 hours for turnaround. If you are only attending a couple of classes, you can use the ParkMobile app, which enables you to pay by the hour.

Local Tours

Tours will be offered in Late Fall. However, as high demand is expected, registration for these classes will

be conducted by lottery. The lottery will be open from Sept. 14- 26, and successful members will be notified before general registration opens on September 28.

Hybrid Classes

We will continue to run classes via Zoom as well as onsite. When registering, either by paper or online, ensure that you register for either the Zoom or In-Person section. We will also indicate whether the presenter is remote or at River's Crossing.

Illness

If you are not feeling well, please stay at home. Whenever possible, we will transfer you to a Zoom course so you don't miss out, but for the safety of your fellow members, please do not come on site.

We hope these changes will allow us to have a good Late Fall semester, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back to classes. While situations may change and nothing may be perfect, we will soon be back on the road to getting there.



New members getting together at an OLLI orientation.

Patricia Dixen

OLLI MEMBER BENEFITS UPDATE

Continued from page 1

- **Shared Interest Groups (SIGs):** SIGs are an OLLI@UGA mainstay, providing our members with opportunities for social interaction in the pursuit of common interests. While some that formerly met at local restaurants (Lunch Bunch, SoloSeniors), Wesley Woods (Book Discussion, MahJongg, Pinochle Posse, Poker) or the great outdoors (Happy Hikers, OLLI Walks) have cautiously resumed their in-person activities, many others (Aging & Longevity, Algonquin in Athens, All Things Chautauqua, Doc Buffs, Picture This!, Poetry Writing, SoloSeniors, Wisemen, Writing Memoir)

have maintained an online presence, some meeting as frequently as once a week! Friendships have flourished, and online meetings have also provided a welcome connection for those unable to attend in-person events. To join a SIG and receive information about its upcoming activities, please select the SIGs/Committees menu option in OLLI COMM, scroll down the list, and click the **Request to Join** button to be welcomed to the group. For more information, please contact Terry Kaley, OLLI's SIG Coordinator, at tkaley@uga.edu.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

by Julie Cashin

*Welcome to OLLI, we'd like to review
Opportunities for members, especially YOU.
Each month we meet and invite you to join
With others to learn, it won't cost a coin.*

*About 90 minutes is all it will take
To get you started, what a difference it makes!
There'll be staff and others to answer your questions,
Please let us know if you have suggestions.*

*You will learn how to use our OLLI website
To sign up for classes, and set your course right.
Learn about SIGs, socials, committees and such
We'll show you the ropes, you'll learn so much!*

*You have joined a dynamic, interesting group
So get involved and stay in the loop!
If you've just retired or recently moved,
There are friends to make, activities to choose.*

*The next orientation is just weeks away
October 15th on the third Friday.
The one after that takes place in November
On Monday the 22nd, a date to remember.*

*Please let us know if you plan to attend
Just answer the email our staff will send.
We look forward to seeing you at many events
Are we glad you joined? One hundred percent!*

***Thank you OLLI partners
and sponsors for your
continued support.***

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