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LACE UP YOUR TRAVELLING SHOES, OLLI MEMBERS, IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD AGAIN

By Larry Dendy

The Travel-Study Committee, which has arranged dozens of trips in the U.S. and abroad over the past 10 years, is up and running after a two-year hiatus and has big plans for the coming months.

“Travel-study expands and enhances OLLI’s core educational mission by enabling members to learn about and enjoy the history, culture, cuisine and beauty of nearby places as well as international sites,” says Jeanne Davis-Blair, who became committee chair this year. “We’re thrilled to revive this popular program with excursions to some very exciting and desirable destinations.”

The committee’s first offering was an October day trip to Georgia wineries that quickly sold out. Reservations are being taken for a February 16 day trip to Atlanta to visit the Martin Luther King Historic Site and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum, with lunch at historic Mary Mac’s Tea Room (registration deadline: Jan. 19). And a committee member is researching a possible trip to Norway in 2024.

The 2023 trip to Wales and Southeast England is sold out, with a waitlist available. Those who registered for the original 2020 cancelled trip had first dibs to sign up. “All trips are first suggested and planned by committee members,” Jeanne explains. The committee planner and leader then use transportation or travel services approved by OLLI. “Trips are filled on a first-come first-served basis so early registration is encouraged,” she adds.

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PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

By Mamie Mierzwak



Mamie Mierzwak

Happy Holidays everyone! As we move into the holiday season, I have been thinking about how much I am thankful for. During the past few years, we have all been reminded to make the most of our time with family and friends, and not take anything for granted. And, while I couldn’t have imagined saying this a few years ago, I am thankful for the technology that enabled us to stay connected, even if we couldn’t be in the same room!

Starting in January, the Nominating Committee will begin the process to fill the following board member and officer positions that will be vacant as of June 30:

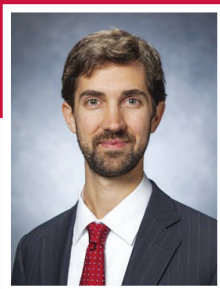
- Up to 5 board members
- Secretary
- President-Elect
- President

This is an important process for the future of OLLI@UGA, especially as we continue to rebound from the past few years. We have heard feedback from potential board members and officers that they were concerned about the amount of time these positions required. Understandably, many OLLI members were ready to travel again this year and didn’t want to be constrained by a volunteer role.

The current officers have taken steps to address this. During the past several months, we have streamlined the responsibilities of the officer positions, and we have continued to have our meetings via Zoom. This has allowed for more flexibility and a reduced time commitment, and we hope this will encourage others to volunteer for one of these positions. I really enjoy

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

When I was in London, there used to be a practice where four or five fundraisers would stand on a sidewalk and try to catch people's eye as they walked down the street. Some

were more voluble than others, but because there was always a gaggle, a simple "no thank you" had to be repeated more times than was comfortable, or you had to resolutely stare at the sidewalk in front of you with your earphones in and your music turned up. Their causes were worthy, but it was exhausting.

One of the good things you could do was give a small amount per month, rather than giving one lump sum. This is something I would ask our members to consider. It might be easier to give \$10 a month rather than \$100 in one go. Not only might it assist you, but it would also enable OLLI to have a steady stream of income throughout the year, rather than just at campaign season. If you visit our giving page, you will see that there are recurring options per month and per quarter for you to take advantage of.

Thank you to all who have contributed over the years. This is a member organization, and it cannot operate or be as inclusive without the help of its membership. A list of donors for the 2021-22 year can be found on our website (olli.uga.edu/giving)

It is wonderful to see so many people at our programs, whether they be classes, SIGs, Lunch & Learns, travel or socials. We have welcomed more than 150 new members since June and have been delighted at the return of members whom we had not seen for a while. All this activity is a great testament to what we have all built as an organization, whether behind a desk, a podium or the scenes.

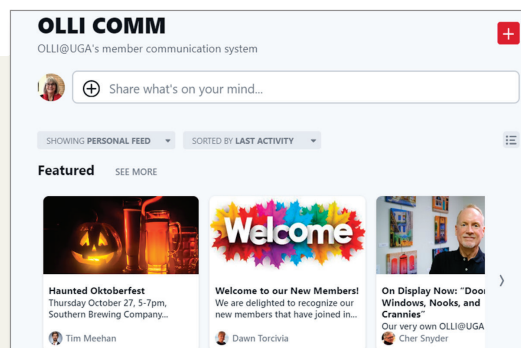
We still need your help to be able to continue delivering our wide range of services that enable people to experience lifelong learning and allow OLLI to flourish. I hope you will consider supporting us this year as we look to engage more potential members, presenters, and volunteers.

NEW OLLI COMM COORDINATOR

We're pleased to announce that Cher Snyder has volunteered to serve as OLLI COMM Coordinator, a new Marketing and Communications Committee position created to enable members to get the most from OLLI COMM. Members use OLLI COMM to chat with each other online and to stay informed about classes, travel-study, Shared Interest Groups (SIGs), Lunch & Learns, social gatherings and events, and all things OLLI@UGA.

One of the primary responsibilities of the OLLI COMM Coordinator is to increase member participation, including OLLI COMM sign-up and use. If ever a person was ideally suited for this responsibility, it's Cher. She has assisted members with OLLI COMM since its implementation in 2018, teaching in-person and online classes and even making "house calls" to coach members on using the system in the comfort of their homes.

OLLI COMM is a secure messaging portal for classes, SIGs, committees, Lunch & Learns, social gatherings and events.



Another key role of the OLLI COMM Coordinator is to serve as OLLI@UGA's liaison to Mighty Networks, the company that created and operates OLLI COMM. Cher's prepared: While on a personal trip in 2019, she set aside time to meet with Mighty Networks representatives at their headquarters in Palo Alto, California, to discuss improvements that would benefit OLLI@UGA members. Cher will continue to stay in contact with Mighty Networks and alert Executive Director Tim Meehan and the Marketing and Communications Committee chair of any changes that will impact the features used by OLLI@UGA.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: a•bridge: AGING LIFE CARE MANAGEMENT

By Greg Mitsoff

“Whether it’s elder care coordination, special needs advocacy or caregiver coaching, we can ‘a•bridge’ the to-do list by outlining steps and developing a professional team of support,” says a•bridge owner and managing director Abbie Vogt.

OLLI@UGA sponsor a•bridge is an Athens-based, nationally certified provider of elder care management. Abbie and her team have extensive experience in the field of aging-care services, including elder care assessment, healthcare planning, advocacy, care coordination, caregiver coaching, assisted living, hospice, solo aging, dementia care, special needs care, aging in place and home care administration.

“Our focus is on improving client outcomes by ensuring high-quality care coordination and monitoring while promoting client autonomy and advocating for our clients’ unique wishes,” Abbie says.

But wait, there’s more! Cher will also serve as a resource for SIG and Committee Hosts, share OLLI COMM updates at meetings of committee chairs and SIG leaders, post monthly features on tips and tricks for using OLLI COMM, create OLLI COMM user guides, staff the OLLI COMM table at Lifelong Learning Fairs, and serve as OLLI COMM liaison with the OLLI staff.

We certainly appreciate the teaching experience, technical expertise, organizational skills, and motivation that Cher brings to the new OLLI COMM Coordinator role!

Cher welcomes your OLLI COMM questions and invites you to contact her via the OLLI COMM chat function, by email (cher.snyder.phd@gmail.com), or by text/phone (909-480-5400) for help and support.



Abbie Vogt is the owner and managing director of a•bridge, an Athens-based provider of elder care management.

For more information, call (706) 810-3203 or check the website at abridgeaginglifecare.com

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

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working with the board members and officers – they’re a great group of people who care about OLLI and are focused on providing a fantastic experience for all members. We get a lot of work done and also have a few laughs along the way!

Please consider joining us! Watch for more information at the end of January about how you can nominate someone (including yourself) for one of the positions above. If you would like more details about being a member of our board, please contact me via OLLI COMM, or by email at mmmierzwak@gmail.com.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and thank you for being part of OLLI@UGA!



Autumn Tour Class
(G. Whiting)

We are
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Pic



Joy of Metalsmithing Class
(P. Dixen)



Memoir W
(A. Bl)



Lewis Grizzard Class
(R. Allen)



Splashdo
(G. Wh)



Picture This SIG
(G. Whiting)



Supper Club SIG
(C. Karp)



Writing SIG
(ack)



Mah Jong SIG
(P. Dixen)



Down SIG
(iting)



Mini Art Gallery
(S. Magruder)

HOW ARE OLLI CLASSES MADE?

By Cher Snyder

Every semester OLLI offers its members more than 150 classes, many with multiple sessions. Did you ever wonder how OLLI classes are made?

The process begins with the OLLI volunteers who form the Curriculum Committee. They brainstorm about who and what they know.

Who: Anyone, anywhere, with an interesting story, career, or life experience to share with OLLI members can spark our interests, expand our horizons, teach us new skills, or otherwise enrich our lives by being an OLLI class presenter.

Personal or professional connections with local subject matter experts, including UGA faculty and graduate students, can often be counted on to generate compelling classes. But neighbors, friends, family members, members of civic and nonprofit organizations, service and health care providers, local government representatives, artists, musicians, authors, creators, performers – and, of course, fellow OLLI members – can teach wonderful OLLI classes as well.

What: Surveys about preferred class topics and formats help ensure that classes match member interests. For example, previously offered classes may be offered again because of popular demand. Requests for more in-depth treatment of a given subject may lead to an entire series of classes. Interests in contemporary or emerging issues or areas not yet covered help ensure that new classes offer novel, fresh perspectives.

Guided by the who and what, Curriculum Committee members invite prospective presenters to teach one or more classes. Relationships are developed. Those who agree to teach submit a class title and description, along with a brief biographical sketch, to the OLLI office. OLLI staff develop a schedule of classes and enter details into OLLI's class registration system. A class list and class catalog are then created. The class list is mailed to OLLI members and the class catalog is made available online.

If you're interested in joining a collaborative, energetic team to develop classes for OLLI@UGA, contact one of the Curriculum Committee co-chairs, Angela Greene or Elizabeth Kraft, via OLLI COMM.

OLLI TRAVEL

Continued from page 1

The travel-study program began when OLLI's predecessor, Learning in Retirement, included day trips as part of the curriculum for LIR classes, according to Joan Zitzelman, who was on a LIR travel committee led by Bill Alworth. When LIR transitioned to OLLI around 2013, Joan became chair of the Travel-Study Committee and held the position until this year.

Bill, a military history buff, remained on the committee and organized trips to Revolutionary and Civil War sites. Other U.S. trips included Fox Theater shows in Atlanta, visits to public gardens and historic sites in Georgia and nearby states, and a Washington, D.C. tour. Memorable international destinations included Cuba, France, Scotland, and England.

"Trips were developed either by looking at scheduled OLLI classes and finding places and experiences that would enhance the curriculum, or by committee members' interest in events or places they were willing to research and plan for," Joan says. "The committee has worked closely on organizing trips with OLLI instructors and UGA faculty, travel organizations such as Road Scholar and professional travel guides like Tracy Elder, who is arranging the Wales-England trip."

The Travel-Study Committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday except in July and December. The committee roster lists about 60 people but not all are active, and Jeanne says new members are welcome. She also encourages OLLI members to suggest future trips. To join the committee, or to offer trip ideas, contact Jeanne at davisblair2@gmail.com.

"The Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement" Trip to Atlanta February 16, 2023

For more information and to register, go to olli.uga.edu/travel





2018 Scotland

Photo/Tracy Elder



2024 Norway

Photo/Tracy Coley

Thank you OLLI partner and sponsors for your continued support.

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National Center for Civil and Human Rights

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