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OLLI ATHLETES: CHAMPIONS AMONG US

By *Larry Dendy*

With all the excitement around the Georgia Bulldogs' second football national championship, and the ongoing success of other UGA sports teams, the *OLLI Times* wondered if there are OLLI members who were involved in athletics in college or in their careers. Here's what we found:

Brothers **Doug and Paul Kleiber**

both played college football in the 1960s. As a linebacker and fullback for the Cornell Big Red Bears, Doug was team captain his senior year, made the All-Ivy League team and was honorable mention All-East. While working on his doctorate in educational psychology at the University of Texas he helped coach freshman football. He joined the UGA College of Education faculty in 1989 and has researched and published in the area of sport psychology. Doug retired in 2017 and is on the OLLI board of directors.

Paul was an outstanding high school athlete and had 16 college scholarship offers. He first played football for Army (U.S Military Academy), then transferred to the University of Buffalo where he was a starting tight end. While in the Air Force he played basketball and volleyball at a military base and later started a community basketball league on Hilton Head Island. In retirement he enjoyed golf, skiing and fly fishing in Utah before moving to Athens.

Bill Barstow had a football scholarship to the University of Bridgeport where he played center and linebacker from 1955-57. After Army service

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By *Mamie Mierzwak*



Mamie Mierzwak

Hello OLLI Members and Happy Spring!

As we begin the last quarter of our fiscal year, I want to highlight the great work carried out by our committees.

Most OLLI members know about the many benefits available to us when we join. We can take classes, join a Shared Interest Group (SIG), attend social events, and participate in travel study. Our committees make all of this happen! OLLI@UGA would not exist without these dedicated volunteers.

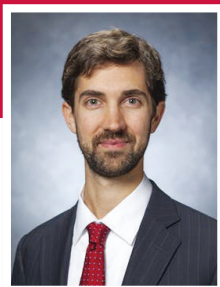
OLLI offers a great selection of classes thanks to the work of the **Curriculum Committee**. Members share ideas and contacts to create a high-quality offering of hundreds of classes. I am always impressed by the quantity and quality of classes available to our members!

Our finances are managed by the **Finance Committee**. This group reviews financial reports each month to ensure our finances are on track with expectations, and develops our yearly budgets. They also review the financial policies and submit updates to the board of directors annually.

The **Hospitality Committee** plans fun social events that allow members to get to know each other in relaxed and casual settings. In the past these gatherings have included a Beerganza at a local brewery, a Halloween celebration, picnics at local parks, OLLI Fest, and a Volunteer Appreciation event.

If you see an advertisement about OLLI in a

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Tim Meehan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is a cause for celebration to see so many members, both new and longer standing. Since January, we have had full classes, two travel study adventures, and social events.

There are so many different ways to become engaged. Not only that, but we have met and exceeded the Board's target of 1,100 members for this fiscal year.

This is just the beginning. In the fall we are looking to add evening classes, specifically designed for our members who are still working or who are semi-retired and find it difficult to participate during the working day. We have new travel opportunities planned throughout 2023 and 2024, both at home and abroad. The Hospitality Committee is continuing to plan more events, ensuring that there are enough social times for members to meet each other.

But we don't have to wait that long to see signs of returning or new events, such as the Writing Memoir event at the Athens Regional Library in March, the

Euchre SIG tournament in May, and the Happy Hikers overnight, also in May.

As much as we can celebrate success, that does not mean that everything is clear sailing. With the economic uncertainty and inflation cutting into income, it becomes harder to make ends meet – and OLLI is not immune to this.

One of the best ways you can help is by taking one or two extra classes. This not only helps the presenters feel good about volunteering to a full class and gives you a chance to learn something new (especially if it's a course you wouldn't usually take), but also helps OLLI to meet our budget for the year.

As we grow, we want to be able to continue to provide services to all of our members. To do that, we need everyone to participate in whatever way they can. Thank you to all the committee chairs and SIG leaders who continue to provide a wonderful array of opportunities for our members.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 1

newspaper or magazine, you're seeing the work of our **Marketing and Communications Committee**. This committee works to get the word out about OLLI to existing members and potential members in the community. They collaborate with other OLLI committees and publish this newsletter, the *OLLI Times*.

We reach out to new and current members via the **Membership Committee**. Volunteers on this committee write welcome notes to new members, distribute OLLI postcards in the community, and reach out to members to renew their OLLI membership.

Our **Travel Study Committee** plans interesting and fun trips for our members. These travel opportunities include a variety of domestic and international trips

– and it's clear that OLLI members are enthusiastic about travel.

Do any of these committees fit with your talents and interests? If so, please consider joining! It's a great way to make new friends and contribute to the long-term success of OLLI. To learn more about each committee, go to the OLLI website (olli.uga.edu), hover over **About** at the top, then click on **Volunteer**. You can request to join a committee by logging into **OLLI COMM** and selecting **Committees** on the menu.

Thank you for considering this, and for being part of OLLI@UGA!

OLLI ATHLETES

Continued from page 1

he coached high school football. In 1974, he joined the UGA botany department and taught introductory biology classes to more than 35,000 students before retiring in 2016. He served nine years as faculty representative on the UGA Athletic Association board of directors and is an Emeritus Member. In 2018, Bill conceived the idea of a corps of people who would provide hospitality to sports fans visiting UGA. He joined with the UGA Athletic Department to create the Silver Dawgs program, which has more than 100 participants including many OLLI members. Bill has taught many OLLI classes and served two terms on the board of directors.

Tom Keene played football and basketball in high school and was a tight end on the Dickinson College football team from 1963-1967. He was a faculty member at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta for 42 years and chaired the KSU Athletics Association board of directors when the school upgraded its football program to the NCAA level in 2009. He worked closely on that effort with former UGA coach and athletic director Vince Dooley, who was a consultant. Tom joined OLLI in 2017 and is a frequent OLLI instructor.



Peter Smagorinsky, at 6 feet 5 inches tall, played basketball in high school and was a center and forward for Kenyon College his freshman year 1970-71. Deciding “my heart wasn’t in it” to continue playing, he joined with a friend on the sidelines to broadcast Kenyon games over radio for the next three years. He coached high school basketball and track before joining the faculties of the University of Oklahoma in 1990 and the UGA College of Education in 1998. At both schools he served on the Faculty Athletics Committee, and he was chair of the UGA committee. Peter retired in 2020 and has taught OLLI classes.

Steve Horton had a lengthy career in the field of college athletics compliance. He played soccer for one year at North Georgia College before transferring to UGA where he graduated in 1971. He returned in 1978 to work in the university computer center and pursue a degree in sport management while



working part time in the athletic department’s ticket and sports information offices. After graduation, he joined the NCAA office in Kansas City, working with schools on rules and regulations. From 1988-1996 he was at Virginia Tech as assistant director of athletics for compliance, and in 1996-1997 he assisted the University of Texas (El Paso) with NCAA

infractions response and appeals. In 1998, he joined the University of South Florida as associate director of athletics for compliance. In that role he helped move the school’s Division 1-AA football program into Division 1-A and the Big East Conference. He retired in 2012 and joined OLLI when he moved back to Athens in 2019.

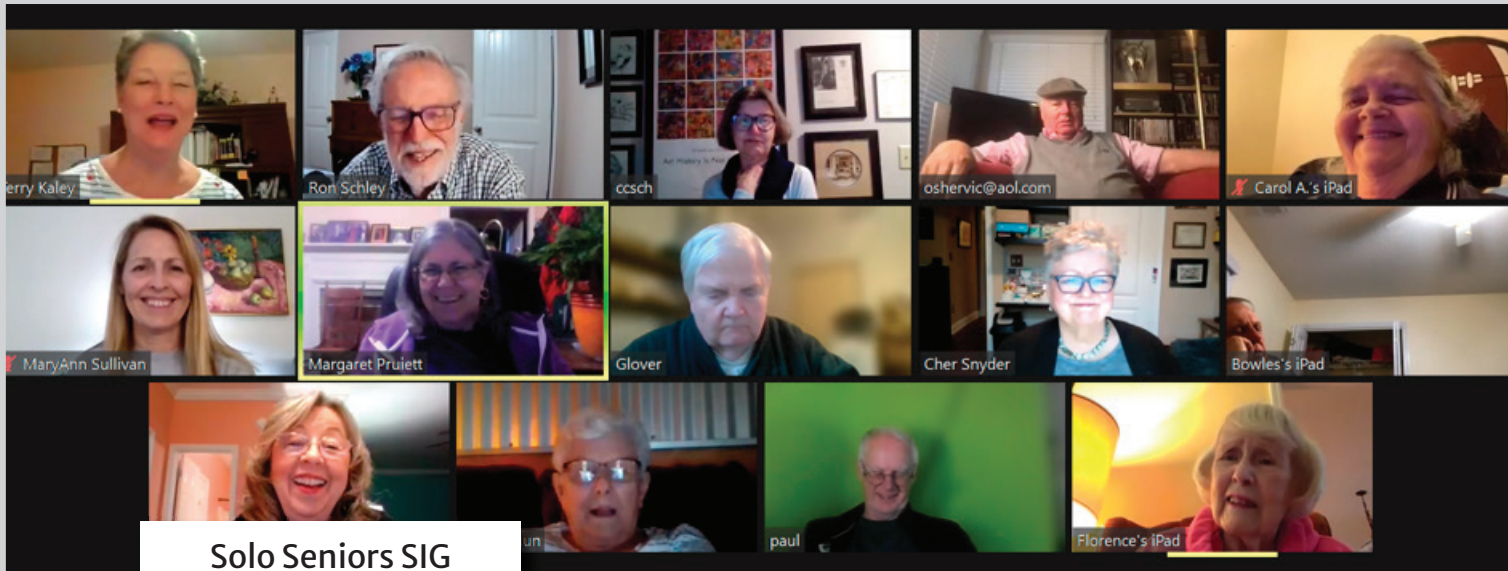
Karlene Lawrence began working in the UGA sports information office in 1982 when she came to Athens after marrying former Bulldog football star Kent Lawrence. She managed publications and helped lead the office into the internet age, creating and maintaining the georgiadogs.com website. She travelled with the gymnastics team to meets around the country and installed the first-in-the-nation system to publish meet scores electronically. Her husband Kent, who died in 2020, played tailback and punter for the Bulldogs from 1965-68 and played professionally with the Atlanta Falcons and

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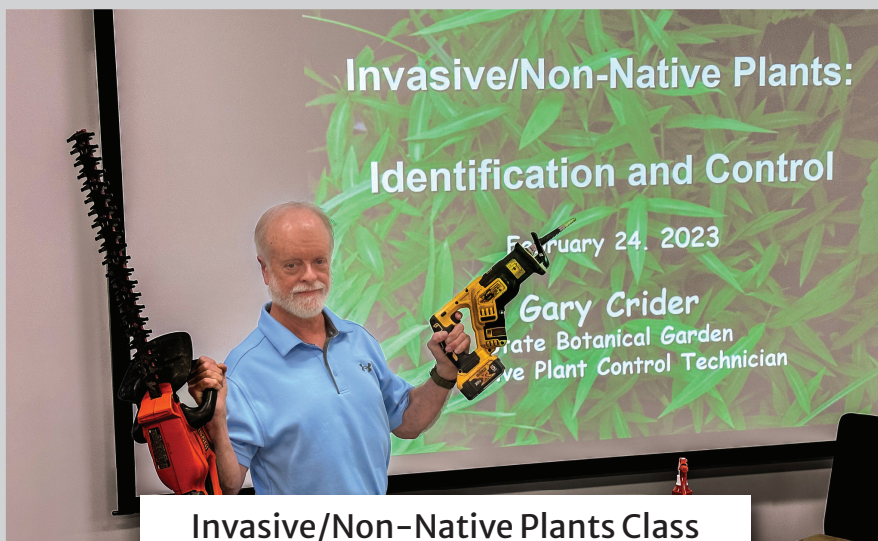
SAVE THE DATE!



OLLI@UGA Annual Meeting May 18, 1:00 p.m.



Solo Seniors SIG
(P. Dixen)



Invasive/Non-Native Plants Class
(C. Murphy)



New Member Orientation
(P. Dixen)



Wearing O' the Green
(C. Murphy)



Pollinator Garden Class
(C. Murphy)



**What in the World
is Happening Class**
(T. Meehan)



Euchre SIG
(L. Beckner)



We are

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Wisemen SIG
(P. Dixen)



Curriculum Committee
(P. Dixen)

OLLI ATHLETES

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Philadelphia Eagles. After retiring from football, he earned a law degree, was chief of the Clarke County Police Department, and served from 1985-2011 as judge of Clarke County State Court. Karlene retired in 2011 and joined OLLI last November. She stays busy with 16 grandchildren and a small skin care business from which she donates profits to a scholarship fund she established to honor Kent.

As a UGA student in the 1970s, **Chris Jones** worked alongside Larry Munson calling Bulldog football games, assisted with radio broadcasts of UGA basketball games, and was sports director of Athens radio station WRFC. He was a sports contributor to WSB radio in Atlanta and covered the Master's golf tournament for ABC radio. Chris is a past president of OLLI.

Sharron Hannon was a Purdue University band majorette and performed in the 1967 Rose Bowl Parade and the pregame and halftime shows. Her



husband **Kent Hannon** covered the game as a writer for the Purdue student newspaper. He became a staff writer for *Sports Illustrated* and later teamed with Sonny Seiler, owner of UGA's line of English Bulldog mascots, to write the book *Damn Good Dogs*.

None of these folks is now actively involved in collegiate athletics, and most did not graduate from UGA. But as Athens residents and OLLI members, they all agree on one cheer: GO DAWGS! 🍷

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: UGA SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC

By Greg Mitsoff

Serving the Athens community for 60 years with innovative hearing and speech-language services, the UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic is also dedicated to supporting lifelong learning – as a sponsor of OLLI@UGA.

Director T. J. Ragan represented the clinic at OLLI Fest 2023 and remarked, “We enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people at UGA’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute’s OLLI Fest today!”

The clinic, which is a research-and-outreach unit of the Mary Frances Early College of Education, provides state-of-the-art hearing, speech and language evaluation and treatment for children and adults. Services are provided by UGA faculty or student clinicians under the supervision of faculty.



Director T.J. Ragan at the UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic information table, OLLI Fest 2023. The clinic was voted “Best Hearing Aid Center of Athens” for 2022.

Specific services offered by the clinic include hearing evaluations, hearing aid selection and fitting, speech-language therapy, speech therapy for people with Parkinson’s disease, and tinnitus seminars. Anyone in Georgia is eligible for these services.

For more information, visit the UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic website: <https://coe.uga.edu/directory/speech-and-hearing-clinic> 🍷



Join Us May 25
OLLI ANNUAL PICNIC
 Harris Shoals Park, Watkinsville

**THANK YOU TO THIS
 ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS:**

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 Tim Meehan
 Mamie Mierzwak
 Greg Mitsoff

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

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WUGA Radio



Unitarian Universalist Hall
 780 Timothy Road

April 27 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PRESENTED BY:





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