



AT THE
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NEW PRESIDENT EXCITED ABOUT OLLI'S FUTURE

Editor's note: Incoming OLLI President Dawn Torcivia was interviewed for this article by OLLI Times writer Roger Allen.



Dawn Torcivia

OLLI is in great shape as the officers begin a new year, and incoming president Dawn Torcivia is very excited to start another term. Outgoing president Mamie Mierzwak, officers, members of the board of directors, instructors, committee members, and volunteers have done a wonderful job in attracting new members by offering plenty of courses, activities, and trips. It's wonderful to finally have the trips back!

Now with a new administrative year comes fresh energy from new board members and officers. OLLI is poised to take off this year as we see members signing up for more courses and committees. OLLI is all about meeting people, participating in activities, and enjoying ourselves.

About three years ago our membership numbers were high, and then we were almost shut down by the pandemic. From our low point, we have grown back to 1,150 members. And we are still growing!

People are so ready to get out, interact with each other, socialize, and make new friends. We all need interaction with people right now. It's great to be involved! OLLI continues to offer plenty of chances for everyone to meet others with picnics, a

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Tim Meehan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning” (Benjamin Franklin). OLLI

always changes as an organization, sometimes in big ways, other times in smaller ones. We welcome new officers, directors, committee volunteers, and members for the 2023-24 year with both small and big changes.

We're refreshing our OLLI@UGA website to help visitors navigate all the different programs we offer. We're providing more classes in the evening for those members who are currently working so that we can grow our community. We're also offering New Member Orientations in the early evening, so if you are new to OLLI or just haven't been able to attend an orientation session yet, then please do register for one. Our Summer Film Series has moved to a new home at Ciné, giving members a chance to have a full cinematic experience in downtown Athens.

We have around 150 classes in the fall, both in-person and online, giving members more choices to continue their lifelong learning journey. We have a range of both new and returning classes, thanks to the hard work of the Curriculum Committee and staff to get all these classes recruited and scheduled.

Growth and progress are not easy. As they say, if you don't know where you're going, you'll never get there. We are at the beginning of a new Long-Range Strategic Plan, which will give us the blueprint for the next few

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EXPLORE EUROPE:

Register now for the 2024 OLLI Travel Study Trips to Scotland and Norway


By Tracy Coley

OLLI@UGA is excited to announce the opening of our next two international trips in 2024 to the picturesque countries of Scotland and Norway.

You'll be drawn to the dramatic scenery, rich cultural heritage, and fascinating history for which Scotland is known. **Scotland: A 2-Week Cultural, Historic and Scenic Tour, May 7-24, 2024**, is a fabulous, customized tour with extraordinary experiences. Land travel by private motorcoach includes expert local guides at each major stop. Play the bagpipes in Glasgow, ride the Jacobite Steam Train in Oban, visit the Culloden Battlefield in Inverness, watch dolphins frolic on the Black Isle, observe a Scottish weavers demonstration on the Isle of Skye, and taste Scottish whiskey in Oban. The trip also includes visits to ancient archaeological sites and a Neolithic village, among other highlights. Trip cost: \$4,570/person.

Experience the land of the midnight sun during the Summer Solstice in **Scenic Norway, June 14-23**, a 10-day motorcoach-and-ferry tour that begins and ends in Oslo. From the deepest fjords of Gerainger and waterfalls at every turn, to the top of Dalsnibba, you'll discover why Norway is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. The trip is also rich with Nordic folklore in Flåm, World War II history in Telemark, the art of Edvard Munch in Oslo and the

music of Edvard Grieg in Bergen. Taste the sweetest strawberries in the Hardangerfjord, explore a life-sized replica of a middle-ages Norwegian village, sit in the pews of 800-year-old stave churches, and ride a ski lift in the Olympic Park at Lillehammer. Trip cost: \$3,699/person.

Go to olli.uga.edu/travel for more details and registration information. We anticipate these trips will fill quickly, so register now! 




NEW PRESIDENT

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volunteer appreciation lunch, new member orientations, hundreds of classes, and Shared Interest Groups (SIGs). It's so important for members to be involved in OLLI as much as possible.

Learning is lifelong and should never stop. Dawn mentioned that someone once told her to sign up for classes that might make her uncomfortable. "Take classes that you think don't interest you," she was told. "You will be surprised by how much you will learn and enjoy the experience." And the advice was true!

It's so important for us at this time of our lives to stay involved and engaged. When Dawn came to Athens, she knew almost no one. OLLI has helped her see all that Athens has to offer, and she has met so many interesting people through OLLI events and classes.

The future of OLLI looks bright. With high participation from members, the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year that begins July 1 promises to be a resounding success. All we need is you! 


REFRESHED OLLI WEBSITE PREMIERES

By Ann Allen

A new look and improved Google search tools are two goals driving the recent OLLI website tune-up.

Marketing Committee members worked with Tim Meehan, executive director, to scan the website and identify items of concern. They also reviewed current industry practices to perform what could be called “behind the scenes” tasks that will increase the likelihood of OLLI@UGA appearing higher on Google searches.

OLLI members will still find the information they need in the same location as before.

“Ensuring that the website information is current and clear, and, in some cases streamlining page formats, is helpful to both OLLI members and first-time site visitors,” Tim explains. An enhanced home page puts more useful information front and center. And adding more key words and phrases throughout the site’s language helps make certain that visitors quickly find OLLI@UGA in a Google search and obtain the information they need to join, he concludes. 



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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years. We will be examining the annual survey results, as well as other metrics, to give the organization a sense of where we need to progress and where there is potential for growth.

Although we have change coming, with new goals and purposes, we will continue to balance the needs of those who already enjoy our programs with additional services for the next generations of Lifelong Learners. 



Splashdown SIG
(G. Whiting)



Lunch & Learn
(T. Meehan)



Lunch & Learn
(T. Meehan)



OLLI Picnic
(H. Hayes)



Book Discussion SIG
(P. Dixen)



Creative Vision Class
(C. Murphy)



& Learn
(P. Dixen)

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Poker SIG
(P. Dixen)



Gibbs Garden Trip
(T. DiPietro)



Through the Valley Class
(P. Dixen)

THEY JOINED THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Patricia Dixen

The Olli Membership Committee is a group of welcoming, engaging and talented OLLI members with a focus on creating programs to recruit, engage and retain OLLI members. When we asked a few of the members why they selected the Membership Committee, here's what they had to say:



Dawn Torcivia

"I became an OLLI member in 2018. Being active in the Membership Committee has provided an opportunity to interact with other members. I enjoy sharing with the community the many benefits of OLLI membership."

find out about OLLI as I did once. And as a former educator, I'm used to committee meetings!! LOL"



Joesi Pascual

"I joined OLLI in 2018. Being active in the Membership Committee has provided an opportunity to interact with other members. I enjoy sharing with the community the many benefits of OLLI membership."

Jane Rattray

"I joined OLLI in 2022. I have enjoyed meeting new people and working together with them to encourage others to become part of this wonderful organization where we can grow and learn together."



Caly DePalma

"I joined OLLI in March of this year when we moved to Athens, as a way to begin getting to know people and places in the community. Being asked to join the Membership Committee was a pleasant surprise and just reinforced how welcoming OLLI is. It has also helped me to learn more about how OLLI works and to find ways to give back." 🍷



Beckie Poole

"I think I joined OLLI in 2017 after moving here in 2015. I have enjoyed being a member of the Membership Committee because I was once in the shoes of those new members and like helping them






**Join us at
OLLI Fest
August 3**

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATION VILLAGE

OLLI welcomes our newest sponsor, Celebration Village Athens, an aging-in-place community under development in Oconee County. The Celebration Village website highlights six neighborhoods including bungalows, cottages, villas, concierge living, assisted living, and memory care; concierge service; a health center; visiting doctors; restaurants; shuttle services; and an art studio.

For more information on Celebration Village Athens, visit their website (<https://celebrationvillageathens.com>) or contact Ronnie Hudak, director of Bungalows and Cottage Sales, by phone (706-765-4756) or email (ronnie@theascgroup.com). 



***Thank you OLLI partner
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