



AT THE
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SUMMER PROGRAMMING: Dartmouth Lectures and Summer Film Series

By Larry Dendy

If you're distressed that OLLI doesn't have regular classes during its summer break, take heart. Two special programs that have proven popular with OLLI members in past summers will be offered again this year.

The Dartmouth University Summer Lecture Series, presented by the university's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, will include six lectures around the theme "America's Role in Preserving Peace and Prosperity." And OLLI's Summer Film Series, this year featuring five movies directed by women, will again be held at Cine'.

The Dartmouth lectures will be streamed at River's Crossing and UGA's Gwinnett campus and will be available on Zoom. The dates and topics are: July 10, "U.S. Global Leadership Challenged by Political Dysfunction;" July 17, "Authoritarianism—A World-wide Threat;" July 24, "Climate Change—Its Impact on Prosperity;" July 31, "Population Crisis—Immigration, Migration, Refugees;" Aug. 7, "Disinformation, Misinformation—Finding the Truth;" and Aug. 14, "The Way Forward." All lectures are 9-11:30 a.m., and speakers will be announced later. The fee for the entire series is \$72; the fee for one lecture is \$13. Registration information will be announced soon.

Dates for the film series titled "Women Behind the Camera" are July 9, 16, 23, 30, and Aug. 9, with showings at 1:45 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 (maximum of 50 people per showing). Titles of films will be announced soon.

OLLI MEMBER EXPLORES AMAZON BIODIVERSITY

By Roger Allen

When Patricia Dixen rode a riverboat into Peru's Amazon rain forest in January, it was as if time stood still. The dense jungle is just as it was hundreds of years ago. As probably the most biodiverse place on the planet, the Amazon rain forest teems with more than 2,500 tree species – one-third of all trees on earth. The parakeets, toucans, macaws, and parrots are just some of the 1,300 species of birds that roam freely across the dense canopy. They feast on some of the 2.5 million insect species that live in the forest.



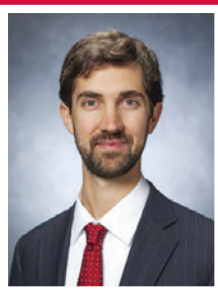
OLLI Marketing and Communications Chair Patricia Dixen recently visited Peru's Amazon rain forest where she saw unique species of land, air, and water wildlife and lots of mosquitos.

As she rode down the river and some of its tributaries, Patricia was clothed in long pants, long sleeves, long socks and a hoodie pulled tightly. She had been vaccinated for yellow fever, typhoid and other diseases, used plenty of insect repellent, and had taken pills for malaria. At the end of the day, everyone's layers of clothes were completely drenched with perspiration. But they were treated to a bounty of fresh fruit and fish for dinner.

"They had fans on the riverboat to keep the mosquitos away," Patricia recalls. "One time I moved away from the fan, I got 20 mosquito bites within three minutes."

Continued on page 3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

Four years ago we were shutting down for COVID. Thanks to some enterprising members, we were (organizationally) already familiar with Zoom. Now, we can reach out to members who live, or spend some of their time, in different parts of the country – from the Rockies to the Great Lakes to the Everglades. We are always looking for ways to engage more people in our lifelong learning community.

We are delighted to welcome Susan Carley as chair of the Travel Study Committee. We are looking at different ways of increasing the number of trips available, from old favorites to new locations. Keep an eye out over the coming months for trips heading into 2025. If you have ever considered assisting your fellow members by planning trips, we would love to see you at the next Travel Study meeting.

With more travel comes more opportunities in the classroom. As Col. Saul has done for many years, we are going to combine the travel opportunities with additional (and new) classes surrounding the trips. Thank you to all those who sit on the Curriculum Committee and especially the chairs (Angela Greene and Lisa Myers) and staff (Amanda Nix and Rita Healan) for producing such a great curriculum each term.

Back in February, we welcomed a new member to our staff, Michelle Horton-Caricofe, who will be supporting classes and working with the Hospitality and Membership committees. We look forward to working with her throughout the year.

I am also looking forward to our summer programs—the Summer Film Series and the Summer Lecture Series hosted by the Osher Institute at Dartmouth. As Athens calms down through the summer months, we will continue to give our members ways of staying engaged through these opportunities and through SIGs as well.

FLASH MOB COFFEE SIG: Off to a Great Start!

By Cher Snyder



The Flash Mob Coffee SIG meets two-three times a month at various coffee houses in Athens for coffee (or favorite beverage), conversation, and camaraderie. (Photo/C. Snyder)

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a “flash mob” as “a group of people summoned (as by email or text message) to a designated location at a specified time to perform an indicated action before dispersing.”

OLLI’s newest SIG, Flash Mob Coffee, invites members to gather at local coffee shops or restaurants for lively conversation and camaraderie over morning coffee or a favorite beverage.

Two to three times a month, SIG leader Cher Snyder announces the date, time, and location of each upcoming event, typically with 48-72 hours advance notice. These semi-spontaneous gatherings offer wonderful opportunities to connect with fellow OLLI members and get acquainted with the many coffee-friendly venues in the Athens-Watkinsville area.

To date, Flash Mob SIG members have met at Panera, Foxglove Plant Bar, the Bulldog Bistro at UGA’s Georgia Center, Hendershot’s, J Christopher’s, Jittery Joe’s, and Sam & Joe’s, among other locations. Suggestions for other locales—especially those with outdoor seating—are always welcome. Look for our announcements and join us for a cup of fun!

SAVE THE DATE!
ANNUAL MEETING
May 15, 1-2 p.m., Zoom



AMAZON EXPEDITION

Continued from page 1

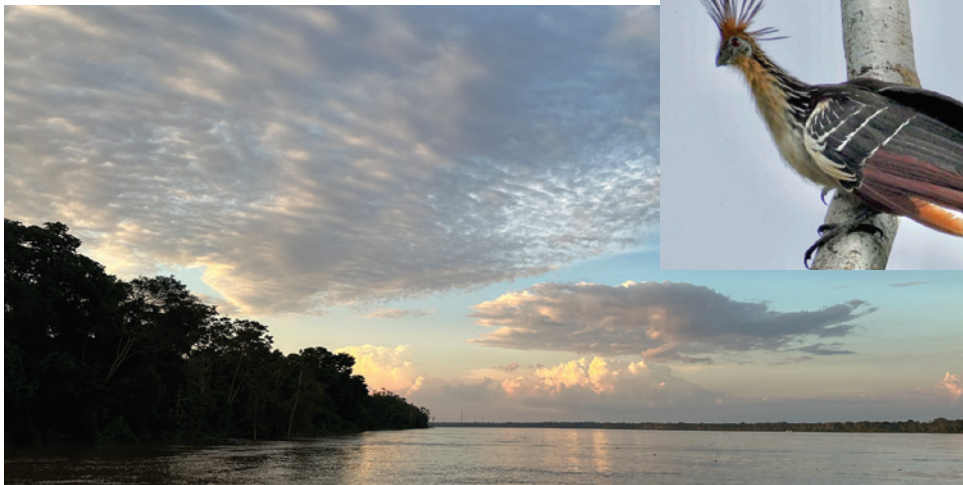
Through the hot, humid air the 26 passengers on the National Geographic Exhibition riverboat explored miles of the Amazon and its tributaries. They were struck by the incredible diversity. Sloths clung to trees though half asleep. Troops of up to 100 squirrel monkeys flew between trees –along with spider, howler, tamarin, pygmy and other varieties of monkeys.

As the ecotourists quietly glided along, the naturalist on board called specific birds as everyone listened for responses. The calls of the birds and chatter of the monkeys would chart the course of their slender skiffs, enabling them to see dozens of different birds and animals as they maneuvered into smaller streams. Sometimes they would get off the large riverboat and get into small skiffs that could maneuver into smaller streams. The visitors had to trust their naturalists completely because the river could rise 24 feet during the rainy season, and its tributaries would push new paths along the jungle.

At some point they would tie the riverboat to a tree, and everyone stepped out for a hike. The plants grow quickly during the rainy season, so a guide used a machete to slash growth back for the tourists. One of the wonders they saw was the “walking palm tree.” When the canopy blocks sunlight from one side, the trunk will stop sending nutrients to that part of the tree. On the sunny side, branches send down roots, moving the tree up to six inches a year. Not only was the “walking palm tree” a surprise to Patricia, but so were trees that send down roots from high parallel branches.

“It is just an amazing place, such a visual experience, because of the incredible diversity,” Patricia says. “We saw endangered manatees and frequently spotted grey and pink river dolphins. No one knows why some turn pink. During a hike in the rain forest, a scout showed us a 12-inch tarantula. Another time he identified different frogs, including a small colorful, poisonous frog with venom that natives put on blowgun darts.

“It was just unique. I’m so glad I had the opportunity to go. There is no other place like it.”



Clockwise from top: Macaws flying above the Amazon, a walking palm tree, howler monkey, skiff on a tributary, brown-throated sloth, hoatzin, and sunset on the Amazon River.



Mardi Gras Madness
(C. Murphy)



Travel Study Committee
(P. Dixen)



Understanding the Bible Class
(C. Murphy)



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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: WUGA-FM

By Ann Allen

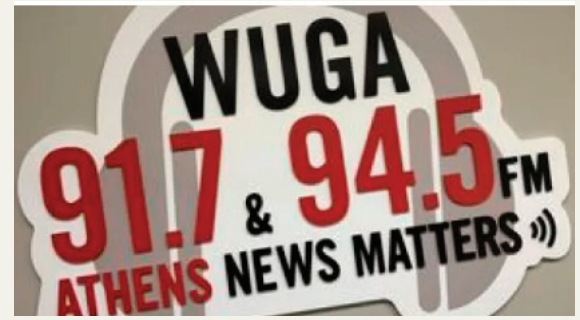
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What began in 1987 in a small radio studio on the UGA campus as part of the Peach State Radio Network has grown into an award-winning “oasis for ideas and the arts” that covers the local, state, national, and international arenas.

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Thank you, WUGA-FM, for being an OLLI sponsor.



WUGA-FM studio. (WUGA.org)

WANT TO TEACH AN OLLI CLASS?



We are now accepting class proposals for Fall 2024. Review the presenter resources document and class information forms at olli.uga.edu/olli_classes_events/teach_for_olli_uga. The proposal deadline is May 13 at 8 a.m.

Scan the QR code at right to go straight to the class resource page.

olli.uga.edu/teach



UPCOMING TRIPS

Let's go! Scan the QR code to find a local, national, or international trip!



OLLI WALKS ON!

By Cher Snyder

OLLI Walks continues to be among OLLI's most popular Shared Interest Groups (SIGs). Created as the OLLI Walkers in 2013 by the late Jill Jayne Read, the OLLI Walks SIG has been led for the past 10 years by Lew Frazar.

Representing the third generation of his family to retire to Athens, Lew has become very familiar with the area while visiting relatives throughout his life. His knowledge of the Athens area has enabled him to compile an extensive library of engaging walks of just the right length and level of challenge for the group.

Near the end of each month, Lew publishes a list of walking sites for the coming month on OLLI COMM. Twelve to 20 people typically meet at the scheduled site at 10 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday for walks of about two miles each.

Recent walks have been held at the UGA Botanical Garden, Oconee River Greenway, Trail Creek Greenway, UGA's North Campus, and the Boulevard, Cedar Creek, and Homewood neighborhoods. On rainy days, the group has met near Belk's on the second floor of the Georgia Square Mall; other rainy day locations will be planned as the mall undergoes redevelopment.

OLLI Walks offers a great way to learn more about the Athens area as you get to know fellow OLLI members. Join the group and walk as often as you like. Getting your steps in has never been more fun!



The OLLI Walks SIG offers a great way to learn more about the Athens area and to get to know fellow OLLI members. (Photo/C. Snyder)



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