



AT THE
UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA®

OLLI TIMES

VOL. 23, NO. 1

JULY 2024

www.lli.uga.edu

706-542-7715

[olliatuga](https://www.facebook.com/olliatuga)

OLLI CLASSES COMING YOUR WAY!

By Malcolm Richardson

OLLI classes for Fall 2024 step off in some dazzling new directions and revitalize some popular, long-running topics. And they're expanding in both variety and depth.

Sometimes the new directions are literal, because OLLI will be offering several great travel study trips with classes on related topics to prep the travelers. Since Mexico is one of the sites next March, for example, classes will ease you into Mexico's history and culture, film culture, and cuisine, including a fun evening about Mexican cocktails. The trip includes five days in Mexico City followed by four in Oaxaca. It includes major archaeological sites, a tour of the home of artist Frida Kahlo, arts, and mole.

"A Tour of England's Gardens" in May, 2025 takes OLLI to England to tour famous estate gardens such as Kew and Sissinghurst. Travelers have the option to attend the Chelsea Flower Show, too. OLLI classes on Jane Austen, Shakespeare, and of course on gardening itself should whet the appetite.

And there's fun travel/class combinations on 20th Century topics closer to home. There's a class on the Freedom Riders to enhance the Feb. 25 trip to major Alabama civil rights sites. There are classes on Flannery O'Connor and the Georgia governor's

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LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OLLI@UGA: FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

By Patricia Dixen

At its June meeting, the OLLI Board of Directors approved the proposed Long Range Strategic Plan presented by the LRSP committee (Tim Meehan, Carol Coman, Norm Baldwin, and Patricia Dixen). The three-year plan, 2026-2028, serves to provide strategic direction for the coming years without altering our core policies and bylaws. It aims to support and enhance our current operations while fostering growth and inclusivity. It includes specific metrics and benchmarks to enable us to track our progress.

The complete plan can be viewed online at olli.uga.edu/lrsp. Below are a few of the highlights.

Long-Term Goals and Objectives

Our overarching goals include achieving a break-even membership of 1,628 within three years, reducing budget shortfalls annually, and mitigating the impact of inflation through strategic fee adjustments. Specific objectives include sustaining a growth rate of 10 percent annually, improving member retention rates, and maintaining a minimum average revenue per member of \$211.

Strategic Initiatives

By integrating the overall plan with annual committee plans, we want to: promote inclusivity and accessibility, expand OLLI's presence at the Gwinnett campus, enhance fund-development efforts through built-out plans for sponsors and planned giving, and establish a leadership pipeline.

Resource Allocation

To support growth, we plan to allocate additional administrative support personnel based on membership

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

At OLLI@UGA, our mission is to be “dedicated to engaging members in lifelong learning through opportunities for intellectual, social, and cultural enrichment.” This mission gives us a lot of possibilities to give our members different styles of programs. We want to be able to connect our members to each other, to lots of learning opportunities, and to the world around them.

We have had two new game SIGs start up this year—“Get on Board” (game) and “Dots and Dragons” (mah-jong)—as well as a discussion SIG in “Socrates Café” and a German conversation SIG. You can find out about these and many other SIGs at the OLLI Fest in July or on OLLI Comm. These groups are a great way to enhance your engagement with fellow OLLI members in addition to classes, travel, and social events.

Talking of travel, we have a lot of different opportunities coming up that offer you a wide range of choices from local trips to international destinations. Although it’s possible to travel on your own, we hope that travelling with a group of OLLI members will give you that extra connection for your experience.

This is not to forget the classes and Lunch and Learns that are the mainstay of our program. Every registration gives you a host of new connections: between you and the material, you and the presenter, and you and those taking the class. Oftentimes it is the unusual class—the class outside your comfort zone—that provides the best chance for new engagement. We recommend around five classes a semester to give yourself a chance to delve into topics you know as well as the weird and wonderful.

I hope, as we move toward a new academic year, you will think about getting more involved, either by getting more involved in the programming, or being among the many volunteers who offer their time and talents to get these programs produced for all of our members to enjoy.

SAVE THE DATE! **OLLI Fest**
July 31, 1-3 p.m.

“SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?” JA!

By Cher Snyder



Members of the new SIG Sprechen Sie Deutsch meet to practice German conversation skills every Thursday at 1:30 p.m at River's Crossing.

One of OLLI’s newest SIGs, “Sprechen Sie Deutsch,” has been created by one of OLLI’s newest members, Malcolm Richardson. Since relocating to Athens from New Orleans, Malcolm has missed practicing German conversation skills with friends. Reaching out to fellow OLLI members, he was delighted to find enough interested people to form a German conversation SIG!

Because frequent practice is the key to language enjoyment, the group now meets for an hour at River’s Crossing every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Meetings include opportunities to read prepared translations aloud, to engage in spontaneous conversations about topics of shared interest, and to share ideas for further study and enrichment both during and between meetings. Members often view YouTube channels featuring conversational German, follow German news broadcasts online, and take advantage of other useful resources on the side.

Whether you have spoken German all your life, can read German but have little experience speaking it, took German classes in college but haven’t followed up, have German ancestry and want to improve your language skills to help your research, or are a relative novice, Malcolm says *Willkommen!* to one and all!

“2ND ATTEMPT; CONFIRM 200 PIECE TOOL SET!(#-508)”

By Greg Mitsoff

The title of this article is the subject line of an email I recently received. The clumsy phrasing exposes the email as a phishing attempt, in which scammers use email to steal passwords, bank account numbers or Social Security numbers by enticing you to click on a link to a counterfeit website or open an attachment containing malicious software.

Anyone who uses email is vulnerable to phishing attacks. OLLI@UGA members Joe Beckner, Mamie Mierzwak, and Bob Torcivia have all received phishing email, and they offered to share their insights on how to recognize phishing—in addition to spotting stilted language—and how to protect against it.

Joe mentioned that he had received an email with a click-here button to accept a “friend” invitation on Facebook. The “friend” was his wife Laureen, who hadn’t had a Facebook account for years. The obvious disconnect between the invitation and the Facebook-usage habits of Laureen immediately led him to identify the email as a phishing attack.

Sometimes recognizing a phishing expedition is like solving a puzzle. Mamie shared this story: “When I served on the OLLI Board of Directors, I received a few emails from a sender whose name appeared to be that of another OLLI board member. The emails contained an unfamiliar link with a short message encouraging me to ‘check it out.’ Because I had never received an email from this person, and the language in the email wasn’t consistent with how this person usually communicated, I was suspicious. I looked at the actual ‘from’ email address and then realized the emails were not legitimate.”

Whereas Mamie received emails from a sender who appeared to be a fellow OLLI member, Bob noted that “you also may get an email from a person or organization you don’t recognize. Often it will be about an ‘order’ that you placed, an ‘invoice’ for renewing a software subscription, or even an ‘official notice’ about a government refund.” Bob advised that if you don’t recognize the sender or the product, someone is phishing.

Now that you know how to recognize some phishing tactics, here’s what to do when you receive a phishing



email: DON’T click on any links or buttons, including Unsubscribe and Reply. Instead, delete the email, mark it as spam, or move it to the junk folder. If you would like to actively fight phishing, report offending email to [ReportFraud.FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/idthelp/report-fraud).

Learn more at [consumer.ftc.gov](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov).

STRATEGIC PLAN

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growth and account for the costs of new members to maintain fiscal responsibility.

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Communicating Results

We will monitor key performance indicators such as membership, participation, revenue, and expenses. Biannual and annual assessments will be conducted to evaluate member renewal rates, revenue, and diversification. We will communicate updates to members every six months.

Monitoring Mechanisms

Annual surveys, membership registration forms, and database systems will be utilized for data collection. Tools like Qualtrics will facilitate class evaluations and ongoing feedback mechanisms.

In conclusion, this strategic plan outlines our commitment to sustaining OLLI@UGA’s growth trajectory while upholding our dedication to lifelong learning and community engagement. It includes specific metrics and accomplishments to enable us to track our progress. With careful planning and diligent execution, we are confident in our ability to navigate the future successfully.



Scrap Metal Class
(T. Meehan)

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By Ann Allen

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Thank you, Fortson, Bentley, and Griffin, for supporting OLLI@UGA.

CLASSES

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mansion in preparation for a trip to Milledgeville. And there's a class on FDR in preparation for the May trip to the Little White House.

Sometimes the travel is more in the mind. Fast-changing India gets an in-depth look, as does increasingly popular Indian cuisine. And Vietnam gets three then-and-now classes. Our national park system, one of America's great treasures, as well as local parks and art centers, get some close looks. There's world history from the Fall of Rome to the Fall of Saigon.

The OLLI schedule doesn't neglect evergreen and popular topics, though, and you only have to travel as far as River's Crossing. From photography to philosophy, from football to food (and vino), from gardens to gadgets, and, for political masochists, the presidential election! Also returning will be favorite OLLI topics about health, World War II, genealogy, Athens and Georgia, personal writing (poetry, memoirs) and literary writing (Shakespeare, Austen, Frost, Millay, Swift, plus comics), the local music scene, parks, lots and lots on health and aging, estate planning, the mysterious artificial intelligence, cyberscams,

FALL CLASSES START AUGUST 12!



Check out the exciting new class offerings in the 2024 Fall Catalog. ► olli.uga.edu/catalog

even a personal, harrowing escape from the Nazis. Finally, some of the classes are literally fun and games: mahjong, pétanque, bridge, biking and hiking.

Do you have the "True Grit" to go the course(s)? (We've got a class on that classic, too.) The complete schedule is available in the class catalog at olli.uga.edu/catalog. Registration opening day is Thursday, July 18, at 10 a.m. Classes start on August 12.



“GET ON BOARD” SIG

By Cher Snyder

Let the games begin! SIG co-leaders Linda Groarke and Vicki Bettis invite you to “Get On Board!” every third Monday of the month for face-to-face fun with fellow board game enthusiasts. Bring one or more of your favorite games (board or otherwise) to the River’s Crossing break room at 5 p.m. and we’ll choose which one(s) to play. Recent selections included word-nerd games like Yahtzee and Banagrams, but the possibilities are endless—and completely up to you! You can bring a snack to share while gaming; occasional post-game outings at nearby venues celebrate the victors over a beverage and snacks. A special invitation goes out to all former Board Game Social members to come back to the table for more fun and games. We look forward to seeing you soon!

UPCOMING TRIPS:

Landscapes and Lighthouses of Maine:
August 10-16, 2024

Cartersville II: Indian Mounds and Booth Western Art Museum: September 19, 2024



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