



AT THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF GEORGIA®

# OLLI TIMES

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT, CAROL COMAN!

*By Larry Dendy*



For Carol Coman, OLLI's new president, being an OLLI member is all about having fun, enjoying friendships and, of course, learning. But Carol and her leadership team also have important work to do and a priority task will be implementing some changes designed to improve OLLI's internal operations.

Carol and her husband, Charlie, moved to Athens from California in 2016 to enjoy the city's retirement attractions and be closer to some of their 11 grandchildren. Carol, who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting from California State University Northridge and was a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and Certified Financial Manager (CFM), had taught accounting and tax law for 30 years at California Lutheran College.

Like many newcomers, she knew no one in Athens. But at the suggestion of the late OLLI member Julie Cashin, whom she met playing tennis, she joined OLLI in 2017 and quickly began "making friends and having fun."

Before long, she was deeply involved in OLLI. Along with attending classes, she joined the Finance Committee, eventually becoming chair, and was recruited to the Long-Range Strategic Plan Committee. After serving as president-elect, she began her term as president this July.

She will be the first president to serve a two-year term, a change implemented when OLLI's bylaws were revised earlier this year. The revision also removed the position of president-elect and added a vice president to the Executive Committee. The vice president, secre-

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## FJORDS AND FRIENDSHIPS: A Norwegian Adventure

*By Tracy Coley*

*Photos by Tracy Coley*

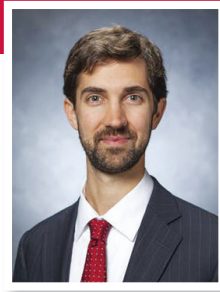


The tour bus edged up a final switchback on the steepest side of the mountain. Day eight of our 10-day trip in June coordinated by Globus around southern Norway was the denouement of picturesque views that included a cable car ride 3,000 feet above the town of Loen for lunch overlooking the Nordfjord, a railway ride to the top of a giant waterfall to watch a woodland nymph dance in the rain, and this unbelievable sight.

More than 4,800 feet below us lay the Geiranger village and the deep blue fjord, from which we had just arrived by ferry. As we topped the crest of the Dalsnibba Mountain, the riders let out a collective gasp. To our right a glacier hung off the side of a giant cliff like ice cream melting from a licked cone, and before us remnants of ice chunks from the winter's thaw floated in the emerald Djupvatnet Lake puddled in the cradle of a small valley.

*Continued on page 3*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

We have started the Fall Semester strong, with around 22 percent more registrations than at this time last year (from the time of writing). It was great to see a lot of new faces at the first Lunch & Learn back in August, and I hope that everyone is finding something new to help on their Lifelong Learning journey.

I want to applaud everyone who has volunteered across the Institute – whether recruiting classes, organizing Travel Study trips, coordinating SIGs, or making new members feel welcome at social events and New Member Orientations. There are many inspiring quotes on volunteering, but I have seen how many individual volunteers have improved the lives of their fellow members, built this community, and had fun enjoying themselves while doing it.

This Institute has always been a member-run and member-led organization. We continue to have around 250 new members a year, and we want to ensure that everyone feels welcome. Whether you're part of a SIG or in a classroom, please talk to your neighbor – especially if you don't recognize them. Try, also, to wear your name tag (if you don't have one, please contact the office).

Our work, however, is never over. Already we are planning for Spring 2025 across the Institute. If you have a good idea for a class (especially if you have a particular presenter in mind), either contact the Curriculum Committee or check out the page on our website: [olli.uga.edu/teach](http://olli.uga.edu/teach). The Travel Study Committee wants ideas for visiting new fascinating areas of Georgia, but that requires more people to step up and take on tasks to enhance the experience for everyone.

On a final note, we had to say goodbye to Amanda Nix back in July, as she moves into a new career in education. We wish her the best with her new students, and hope that she can assist them to see the power of lifelong learning. We will be welcoming a new member of staff soon, and I hope that we will make that person welcome, so please continue to read our communications to keep up to date on all our information.

## NEWEST SIG: ARTS AND CRAFTS

By Cher Snyder

The new Arts and Crafts SIG is a delightful addition to OLLI's growing family of shared interest groups. Led by Marjorie "Mimi" Miller, the group meets twice a month as announced. Meetings alternate between hands-on sessions featuring different craft ideas and techniques, and opportunities to visit local museums, exhibits, galleries and displays. During the inaugural session in July, Mimi provided a hands-on demonstration of Zendoodle, a fascinatingly fun drawing technique that is both riveting and relaxing.

Next, the group visited the "New Beginnings" grand opening exhibition at the Winterville Art Gallery. Mimi asked us each to choose our favorite work of art on display and share why we found it so compelling. It was a delightful way to expand our appreciation by learning what caught each person's eye.

More recently, SIG members attended a workshop presented by Barbara Odil. Barbara explained how she took found pieces of wood and painstakingly transformed each one into a unique work of art, based on how the piece "spoke" to her. Mimi notes, "This wonderful workshop wasn't only about creating beautiful artwork with wood, but also how to find your creative 'spark.'"

Mimi has a treasure trove of ideas for upcoming meetings and events. She invites you to join the Arts and Crafts SIG to see what's in store – and to share any ideas you may have about crafts and venues you'd like the group to explore.



(Photo/C. Snyder)

# NORWAY

Continued from page 1

In addition to the amazing scenery, the history, culture and art we experienced every day was made more meaningful by our Norwegian tour director who provided background and personal stories while we sat back on the luxury bus and enjoyed the view. And we ate more yummy food than we probably should have. But perhaps the best part of the trip was the lasting friendships the 11 of us OLLI members made with each other and with our tour group mates from across the U.S. and around the world. On our morning departure to home, the comment I heard the most: "I am so glad I came on this trip."



## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL TRIPS:

**Mexico: Mezcale, Molé and More** March 10-19, 2025

**A Tour of England's Gardens** May 13-23, 2025



## SIGN UP FOR THESE LUNCH & LEARNS!

**The New NEW Demographics** **SEPT. 17**  
Martha Farnsworth

**Creating Photos with Impact** **OCT. 1**  
Chris Greer

**Chatbots and Chuck** **OCT. 15**  
Chuck Murphy

**Frida Kahlo: A Life Well Painted** **OCT. 29**  
Janice Simon

**James Oglethorpe: Slave Trader to Abolitionist?** **NOV. 19**  
Michael Thurmond



**Tomb in the form of a pyramid, Frida Kahlo Museum Mexico City**  
(Photo/Abagoria-Own work, CC by 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=30547357>)



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**Lunch Bunch SIG**  
*(M. McFerron)*

# OLLI STAY-CATIONERS

By Malcolm Richardson

When I moved to Athens last year, I wondered what would happen in May after the last dust settled from the last outgoing student car. Well, I now have some answers, with the help of some members of our OLLI Board of Directors.

Not that OLLI events stop in summers, of course. There's the Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series, for example, and the Summer Film Series. SIGs never sleep; most continue their regular meetings, walks, hikes, etc.

Given Athens's daytime temperatures, some board members prefer indoor activities, especially the many local museums and galleries. Carol Kurtz and her husband, for example, enjoy the Georgia Museum of Art, where museum parking is easy in the summer. Carolyn Schneider likes the spacious Athens-Clarke County Library, a cool place on hot days for events, activities, and books, books, books.

Another cherished indoor activity is dining out, as local reservations are definitely easier in summer. Lisa Chafin likes the excellent but normally frenetic Last Resort and its short summer wait time. She also likes The Expat, ZZ & Simone's, Five & Ten, Bar Bruno for cocktails and snacks, and the newcomer to the Athens dining scene, Osteria Olio.

But most board members I heard from still like taking advantage of Athens's many outdoor amenities, especially its parks and quiet walks. Harry and Brenda Hayes enjoy Lake Chapman at Sandy Creek Park, for



**OLLI board members enjoyed local nature this summer, including Sandy Creek Park's Lake Chapman.** (Photo/T.Coley)

instance, where admission is free for the mature set. Don Smith likes peaceful walks around Lake Herrick, just off the UGA campus. And Don suggests a stroll through the historic and park-like Oconee Hill Cemetery, with its decorative funerary markers, distinctive cast iron fencing, a rare through-truss bridge, and a Sexton's House of architectural significance. The State Botanical Garden early in the morning is among Carolyn Schneider's favorite spots for walking and taking photos of nature – and no ghosts!

Some board members preferred to get away, though. Tracy Coley spent 11 glorious days in beautiful Norway with an OLLI group (see p. 1). And Bill Loughner made the ultimate sacrifice for OLLI. To prepare for the fall class he's teaching, he journeyed to Italy to attend the famous Venice Biennale art festival.

That's the OLLI spirit!

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## NEW PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 1*

tary and treasurer will also serve two years and the four officers, along with selected appointees, will comprise a "nominating committee" to fill officer and board vacancies as they occur.

Carol explained that the new arrangement will give the leadership team continuity to carry out plans and projects.

As a member of the Long-Range Strategic Plan Committee, Carol helped create a new three-year plan adopted this year by the OLLI Board of Directors. The plan sets specific, data-based goals and benchmarks for several areas critical to OLLI's future. These areas include

building and sustaining membership; ensuring financial stability; offering a robust curriculum of relevant, engaging classes; and strengthening the new Gwinnett County program.

Carol and OLLI Executive Director Tim Meehan will offer an OLLI class each semester to detail OLLI@UGA's place in the national Osher Foundation and to update progress in achieving goals in the long-range plan.

While Carol and the other officers will oversee implementing the plan, she emphasizes that teamwork with OLLI committees and staff is crucial to success. "I can't thank enough all the volunteers on our committees, and Tim Meehan and our outstanding staff, for their work and support," she says. "We couldn't do it without them."

# A NEW SPONSOR: Service Corps of Retired Executives

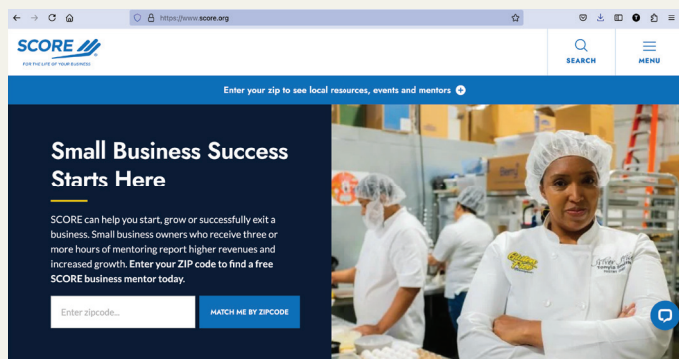
By Martha McFerron

SCORE is one of OLLI's newest sponsors. Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) provides free mentoring, workshops, webinars, and education programs to small businesses through a network of more than 10,000 business experts. It is a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration offering financial, technical and management assistance to Americans who want to plan, launch, manage and grow their small businesses.

Mentors give confidential business advice to business owners by phone, video, email and in-person meetings with an emphasis on the importance of inclusion, equity and diversity. SCORE offers four types of volunteering opportunities: (1) business mentors (2) subject matter experts (3) workshop presenters and (4) chapter support roles. Additionally, free online event topics ranging from startup strategies to marketing and finance are regularly offered by SCORE.

The average age of SCORE volunteers is between 60 and 70 years but there is no age limit. Mentors are certified, trained and qualified to offer business guidance basics to start-up clients and existing businesses by answering questions and offering solutions and resources that will lead to sound business decisions. The primary role of a mentor is to encourage, support and guide SCORE clients. "Be part of something greater than yourself" by volunteering with SCORE.

Visit [www.score.org](http://www.score.org) to learn more about opportunities in Northeast Georgia.



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## **THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS ISSUE:**

*Tracy Coley*

*Larry Dendy*

*Martha McFerron*

*Tim Meehan*

*Malcolm Richardson*

*Cher Snyder*



OLLI@UGA  
River's Crossing  
850 College Station Rd.  
Athens, Georgia 30602

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Mary Frances Early  
College of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



River's Crossing  
850 College Station Road  
Athens, GA 30602-4811  
Telephone: 706-542-7715

✉ EMAIL: [olli@uga.edu](mailto:olli@uga.edu)

📷 INSTAGRAM: [olliatuga](https://www.instagram.com/olliatuga)

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

🌐 WEBSITE: [www.olli.uga.edu](http://www.olli.uga.edu)

Executive Director.....	Tim Meehan
President.....	Carol Coman
Co-editors, OLLI Times.....	Malcolm Richardson
	Larry Dendy
Designer, OLLI Times.....	Tracy Coley