

at UAH

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Est. in 1993 as the Academy for Lifetime Learning, Inc. at UAH

P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807 256-824-6959 www.osher.uah.edu Email: OLLI@uah.edu February 2009

## OLLI's Economy and Financial Status

As we are being bombarded daily with news about the global, national, and local economies, this is a good opportunity to look at OLLI's financial health. At the same time, I would like to clear up possible misunderstandings about our sources and uses of funds.

First, our income consists of the \$15 annual dues from approximately 1,000 dues paying members, and is used to defray program and administrative costs under an annual budget. As a general rule, we pay the costs of on-campus programs and special programs off-campus. Committees prepare annual budgets which are vetted through the Treasurer, Administration and Finance Committee, and the Board, who also review the financial statements monthly. Funds are invested in CDs until needed. Our financial records are audited annually, and are available for review in the OLLI office.

Aha, some may say, what about that \$2 million from the Osher Foundation; didn't that come to OLLI? "Everybody knows about that!" That \$2 million went to UAH, not to OLLI, as an endowment fund. Osher has relations with 122 university-related Lifetime Learning Institutes throughout the United States.

Our "Academy" with its large membership and independently governed programs was one element among many in Osher's decision to choose UAH for an endowment. The point is, the \$2 million is not and never was "OLLI's." UAHuntsville has also received grants from the Osher Foundation for the specific purposes of supporting OLLI activities such as Socrates, the Summer Enrichment Series, equipment purchases; these grants will be used to furnish our space when we return to Wilson Hall after renovations. They are under UAH control.

We do benefit from the endowment even though we don't get direct funds. We benefit from UAH Continuing Education (ConEd) through dedicated personnel to OLLI like Outreach Program Director Maxine Doherty. ConEd does our class registrations and picks up the costs of our catalogs. ConEd provides classroom space, and when we return to Wilson Hall, we will have guaranteed space dedicated to our use.

We have one overriding asset, our volunteers who teach, facilitate, man our office, join our committees and serve on our board. This asset is carried on our books at zero, but we know and appreciate that it is priceless!

Chuck Duffy, Vice President

THIS is a Brown Bag.



THESE are OLLI members enjoying lunch.



### BROWN BAG LUNCH

(You bring your lunch, we have drinks and cookies)  
February 25, at Noon, Shelby Center 301

## QE2 Cruise in Your Future?



Stay tuned for future details from the Special Events Committee regarding the inaugural cruise of the Queen Elizabeth2 across the northern Atlantic. Save the date for August 2010.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UAH Fitness Cntr Health Fair	Feb 4
Orfeo ed Euridice	Feb 4
Lucia di Lammermoor	Feb 7
A Romantic Spirit	Feb 14
American Shakespeare Center on Tour	Feb 18 to Feb 20
Brown Bag Lunch	Feb 25
Madama Butterfly	Mar 7
Teacher Appreciation BBQ	Mar 10
Inspiration & Contemplation	Mar 14
Big Read/Thief and the Dogs	Mar 25
Big Read/Egypt/U.S. 2009	Mar 30
Spring Term Begins	Mar 30

## From The President



**Sue Chatham**

The Winter Term has started. Along with the excitement of classes come the problems with parking. Please remember that no parking is allowed along the curbs unless the parking places are

marked. I forgot and had to pay for it. You get a parking permit for the term when you register for classes. If you are not taking classes during a term, there are some other options. You can buy a year's Parking Pass from the Public Safety Office for \$35; - inform them that you are an OLLI student. You can buy a term Parking Permit from Maxine for \$5 - good only for the dates of the current term. There is one other option for those who only come to campus once or twice a year. You can get a Parking Permit for a day from the Public Safety Office located in the UA-Huntsville Intermodal Facility at the new parking garage.

And speaking of the new parking garage, check it out. If you can walk, it is a fairly central location to park and walk to class.

Despite my parking woes, I am enjoying my classes. I have ventured out this term and taken classes in different areas than those I normally take. Because of this I have not only challenged my mind but also met different OLLI members. So think about trying something new next term!

**Sue Chatham**  
**President**



### Big Read News

The Huntsville Library and the OLLI Curriculum Committee are teaming up to bring you a special course to be taught by Dr. Bill Stephens entitled, "The Pharaoh's Library." This course is being offered in conjunction with other activities associated with the "Big Read Egypt/U.S. - 2009" and will be held at the Main Branch of the library in the Jane Grote Roberts Auditorium for six Mondays starting March 30, 10:30 - 12:00 p.m. This course is open to the public, will not be listed in our spring course catalog, and will not require registration. Show up early for good seats.

Dr. Stephen's preliminary outline includes a wide range of topics from hymns, fables and love poems to wills and prenuptial agreements. He plans to address a varied list of texts used by the ancient Egyptians, including mortuary, pyramid, wisdom, historical, religious, medical and mathematical.

Carolyn Taylor is a retired widow who was looking for something, as she says, "to put a bounce back into my life". A friend gave her the OLLI email address to request a catalog, so she signed up for the Creative Writing class. She was surprised to learn that her former workmate at RSA is now the UAH Outreach Program Manager for OLLI, our precious Maxine Doherty. Carolyn feels that "everything just seemed to come together." She hadn't written poetry for years, but was so excited with the prospect of learning; she was motivated to write "A New Beginning". Thank you, Carolyn Taylor, for your contribution to the newsletter. We are very proud to have you as an active member of OLLI.

## A New Beginning

*The catalog came in the mail  
Listing OLLI classes to hale  
A wide range of classes are offered each term  
To train seniors who still want to learn  
The class I chose this time  
Is writing rhyme  
So...come dear friends and sign up yourself  
And join in the fun to better ourselves.*

**Carolyn Taylor**  
**Creative Writing**  
**Pat Clay, Instructor**

# Cultural Events



Pat Lindberg,  
Cultural Committee Chair

Tickets are now available for the American Shakespeare Center on Tour: Performances are **The Comedy of Errors** (Feb 18), **Hamlet** (Feb 19), and **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead** (Feb 20). Ticket locations include The Coffee Tree (7900 Bailey Cove Road), The Arts Council (in the VBC), UAHuntsville English Dept (Morton Hall, Rm 222) and at the door (University Center where performances will be held) each night of the performance. Prices are \$12 for students (bring your OLLI ID badge to receive student rate), \$15 for HLA members, \$15 for seniors (65 and over) and \$20 for the general public. Please note that tickets will not be available at the University Center until 6:00 p.m. on the evening of each performance. Dr. Jerry Mebane will present pre-show lectures each evening in University Center at 6:30 p.m. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance at the “**MET Opera at the Movies**” has increased as word continues to spread of this special opportunity to see and hear operas locally through the special efforts of Hollywood 18. They are shown live from the MET (tickets/\$20), and re-run on a later date(tickets/\$18). **Orfeo ed Euridice** will be re-shown on February 4, at 7:00 p.m. **Lucia di Lammermoor** will be shown live on February 7, at 12:00 p.m; the re-run will be February 18, at 7:00 p.m. **Madama Butterfly** will be shown live on March 7, at 12:00 p.m. with the re-run on March 18, at 7:00 p.m.

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Classical Four series on February 14, will feature “**A Romantic Spirit**” with guest pianist Anne-Marie McDermott.. Conductor will be Mikhail Agrest. On March 14, the HSO (Classical Five) will present “**Inspiration & Contemplation,**” with guest Manuel Barrueco, guitar. Tobias Foskett will conduct. Each performance begins at 7:30 pm. Call the Symphony Office (539-4818) for ticket information.

Remember the dates of March 25 and April 8 for OLLI’s contribution to the Huntsville Library’s “The Big Read–2009” (**The Thief and The Dogs**). This symposium should broaden your knowledge of the book as well as present some history of the country. If you haven’t read the book, you may borrow a copy (534-7148).

*Submitted by Pat Lindberg  
Cultural Committee Chair*

## Curriculum

Thanks to all the volunteers who are helping make the winter term successful. My special thanks to Dave Knepper for his dedication for providing audio-visual equipment to our classrooms and to Maxine Doherty for all the wonderful things she does for us.

Planning for the spring term is finished. Start looking for your catalogs the first week in March. Registration starts around March 9. The term runs from March 30 through May 8. Once you register for courses, volunteer to help out as a facilitator.

Don’t let the fact that you can’t make all the class sessions in the term prevent you from volunteering

There is always someone willing to take over in your absence. Facilitator training will be March 26 at 10:00 a.m. for Classroom Facilitators and 11:00 a.m. for Audio-Visual Facilitators.

A number of our subcommittee chairs are looking for new volunteers to serve on their committees and offer fresh new ideas for courses and instructors. As always, OLLI’s success is dependent on members committing their talents and energy to everything we do for our organization. Committee chairpersons are listed on the back of the course catalogs.



Cindy Spratley

Call the office (824-6959) to find out how to volunteer or call me (679-0233).

*Submitted by Cindy Spratley  
Curriculum Chair*

# Greetings from Special Events

We had a wonderful time on our trip to Montgomery to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival! (*Football and Fine Art article below.*) Traveling with a fun-loving, congenial group of OLLI members really lifts one's spirit. Coordinator Claudia Conn packed a wealth of activities into two days, including our thrill ride—driving in the parking garage next to the AllSteak restaurant in Cullman on a Sunday! Our Game Days continued with a good group attending on January 13. Phyllis Varney coordinated with hosting assistance from Paulette Bernstein and Marilyn Walker. By the time you read this, we'll have some interesting baskets to show from our Grapevine Basket Workshop, thanks to Crystal Kitchens and Bob and Mary Lou McNabb. And 110 of us will have attended the UA-Huntsville/Niagara Hockey Game (pictures to follow), thanks to the invitation from UAH President Dave Williams!



Eleanor

Chuck Duffy has agreed to chair our Summer Enrichment Series 09, July-August time-frame. Reserve some time in your busy schedules for that event. He will need lots of assistance to make the SES09 a success, so if you are asked to help, please do. I am constantly amazed at the busy schedule of OLLI members! But they're always ready to pitch in and share the load. Truly inspiring!

On February 25, we'll have a Brown Bag Lunch in Shelby Center 301, and we'll have plenty of time to socialize. Just follow the brown bags!

Bob Jones will have some news for you regarding the August 2010 inaugural trip on the new Queen Elizabeth. He's going and is looking for a few travel companions from OLLI. Watch for word on dinner and a movie, and other travel opportunities!

Our next Special Events Committee meeting will be February 27, at 1:00 p.m. in Madison Hall 215. We're always happy to see new committee members with fresh ideas, so please join us!

**Happy Trails!**

*Eleanor Carter, Chair, Special Events Committee*

## **FOOTBALL AND FINE ART JANUARY 17-18, 2009**

Fifteen members of OLLI participated in the Football and Fine Art trip. As an added feature, those who could arrive in Montgomery by noon had an opportunity, during a Theatre of the Mind" lecture, to hear Michael Vigilant, author of the play "Bear Country", talk about the challenges of writing a script about a much-loved Alabama icon. We had an introductory tour of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art where the architecture is as splendid as the collections, especially the spectacular collection donated by the Blount family.

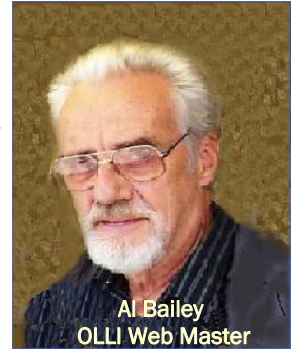


After dinner at a local Chinese restaurant (no pictures—we ate everything!), we sat down in our seats at the Alabama Shakespeare Theater to explore the man behind the legend of Paul "Bear" Bryant. Even those of us who know little about football enjoyed the performance. Sunday morning, we were treated to a wonderful tour backstage at the ASF theater, learned its history, explored the scenery and wardrobe shops, and even got to stand on the Festival Stage to see the theater from the actors' point of view. Wrapping up our weekend adventure, we had Sunday dinner at Cullman's AllSteak Restaurant. Even the weather cooperated!

*Submitted by Claudia Conn, Coordinator*

# A Message From Our Web Master

OLLI's purpose is to provide a learning experience in an academic environment for retirees and seniors. Directed by a staff member at UAH, Olli's management support is provided by member volunteers. Some years ago the OLLI Board of Directors appreciated the value of establishing a presence on the world wide web of the internet. What better way to establish a web site so OLLI could gain notice than on page one of a Google search?



Al Bailey  
OLLI Web Master

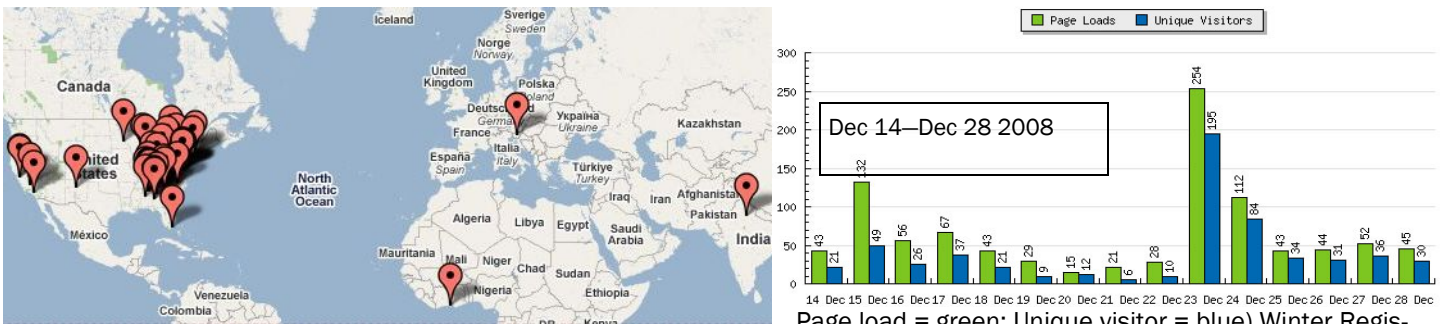
The OLLI web site is hosted on the Continuing Education internet server and is managed by co-webmasters and an ad hoc sub committee of the Public Relations Committee (PRC). The content is supervised by the PRC, and primary focus is on public information. However, the choice of content of the site spans a range of services to the membership and staff volunteers. World-wide exposure of our message and method carries a responsibility for accuracy, clarity and integrity, lest we misrepresent our public obligation.

We've been visited from countries world wide, states nation wide, innumerable and diverse agencies, and all search engines. Search queries, literally world wide, have sought our teachers, our album photos and newsletter articles as well as our products and services.

Pages most frequently sought (or found) in addition to the **Home**, include **About, Newsletter, Course-schedule, Calendar, How-to-join, Registration, Benefits, Cameras-&-computers** and **Contact-us**, but all pages are found occasionally and so provide an opening to meet potential new friends and members.

We need your help to nurture our web site development by using it freely, and offering feedback, (suggestions and criticism) to the PR committee and webmasters at [olliwweaver@gmail.com](mailto:olliwweaver@gmail.com). There is plenty of room for improvement. The webmasters will be offering new insights into the web we weave with monthly newsletter information. Get caught up in our web!

Contributed by Al Bailey



OLLI's Web Site distribution of hits from US and world-wide visitors

Page load = green; Unique visitor = blue) Winter Registration opened Dec 15; The Newsletter was posted Dec 23.

## Health Fair Special Offer

The University Fitness Center would like to offer you the opportunity to pursue improved health and fitness in 2009! Join them for the annual Health Fair and qualify for many door prizes and giveaways.

February 4, 2009  
10:00 a.m.—2 p.m.

University Fitness Center  
500 John Wright Drive  
(on UAHuntsville Campus)

Senior Special: Will draw for a three month senior special membership



# Hockey 101: An Ice Breaker



Chris Luongo



John McCabe

An enthusiastic group assembled for the Hockey 101 Bonus Class on January 14. Two entertaining guest speakers, Coaches Luongo and McCabe outlined the history of the UAH Chargers and wound up answering a barrage of questions from their inquisitive audience. A fact learned is that the UAH team has a very heavy schedule and works extremely hard during the season. Keeping up with the long practices while maintaining a good GPA is no easy feat. They need support from the school, the community and from OLLI members.. If you want to see the game schedule, check out <http://www.uahchargers.com>.



Article: Lorrie White



Barbara and Willie Staggs

Barbara & Willie Staggs gave a special treat at the January 29 Wednesday Bonus class with an excellent presentation of their Star Flyer cruise sailing the islands of Tahiti. They gave charming descriptions of the islanders' way of life and of the beautiful natural environment which were complemented with their lovely photographs. By the end of the program, we all wanted to be there.

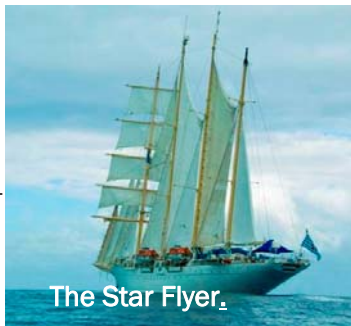
## A Peek at the Tahitian Islands



One of the small islands where Barbara and Willie kayaked.

Article: Lorrie White

Both Barbara and Willie climbed the mast to the top of the ship!. On their last day aboard, a storm blew in making the deck hazardous; but otherwise, they were blessed with excellent weather.



The Star Flyer.



Moorea Island between Opunahu Bay and Cooks Bay is one of the islands where the remake of South Pacific was filmed.

# Back on Track

Soon after OLLI member Elaine Lowe was widowed, she noticed that her phone didn't ring very often and calendar dates were mostly empty. She realized she needed to make some important choices in her life for the future. She could either spend the long, lonely days watching TV and reading books, or she could find ways to create a fresh start. She chose to make a new life.

One of the ways she connected was to learn the sport of tennis. Playing regularly offered her social contacts and an extra benefit of keeping fit. In addition, she began attending Elderhostel events, and that's how she met Harriet Lawrence, while kayaking in Georgia. As their friendship blossomed, Harriet became a role model of how a person alone could explore the country safely while attaining a full, rich and involved life.



Elaine Lowe  
 Myrtle Beach, SC

Elaine and Harriet kept in touch via email and saw each other on occasion. When Elaine learned that Harriet would be teaching an OLLI course, *Puzzle Mania*, she decided to come to Huntsville (from her home in Myrtle Beach) to visit her friend and take some classes. She will be returning home after classes end in March.

Currently, she is taking – would you believe? – EIGHT classes! She also exercises at the UAH Fitness Center, attends social events and, depending on the weather, plays tennis. To top it off, she reads a library book a day. When asked who her favorite author is, she stated, “I don't have a favorite, I choose a shelf and read all the books from the beginning to the end of the shelf, then I start on another shelf.”

Elaine, as well as Harriet Lawrence, is a wonderful example of how seniors can enhance their existence by doing things they truly enjoy. She is not afraid of risk, she finds it stimulating to meet new people, and she embraces new experiences. We, at OLLI, are so fortunate that our learning organization attracts such interesting people from whom we can learn so much about the human spirit.

*Article: Lorrie White; Photo: Elaine Leach*



Pictured from left to right are: Mike Bilinski & Lorrie White, Elaine & George Leach, Barbara & Bob Ward, Jane & Rono Prince.

For the January 21 Wednesday Bonus Class, eight mariners had a terrific time rehashing some of their cruise experiences through the Panama Canal. The group focused not so much on describing the Ports of Call but on giving hints of how a few zany people can make an unforgettable cruise by keeping an open mind and trying new things.

A Power Point presentation, edited and assembled by Bob Ward, helped to guide the demonstration. Then a few comical movie scenes, filmed and edited by Lorrie White, were inserted to highlight key entertaining events, such as a talent show featuring one of Bob's magic tricks.

As the class ended Elaine Leach, dressed as a bag-lady, sang Karaoke to “Crazy” while she passed out candy. This was a spoof on her Karaoke contest-winning fame on the Holland America.

*Article: Lorrie White*

**Note: 2010 Cruises are in the planning stages by OLLI's Special Events Committee. Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements. Be sure to signup, then plan to enjoy an extraordinary cruise!**

# Teacher Appreciation BBQ



Tuesday, March 10  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
607 Airport Road SE

Join us for the  
end of winter term  
Teacher Appreciation  
BBQ. You can thank the  
volunteer OLLI teachers  
personally, socialize with  
your fellow students,  
and enjoy Smokey's  
BBQ for lunch.

*Contributed by Sandra Lyons*

# Mark your calendars

*Friday, May 8*

**Annual Membership Meeting**

2009 May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



*Friday, June 19*

**Green Mountain Potluck Picnic**

2009 Jun						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



**Important Notice:** Newsletter inputs for the March Newsletter are due by February 24. Please send articles and ideas to:  
Lorrie White, Editor, Joyce Pettis, Co-editor, at [ollinewsletter@msn.com](mailto:ollinewsletter@msn.com)  
Please understand that due to cost and space constraints, articles may be edited for length.



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