

The OLLI Insider

News For Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH

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 March 2013

OLLI Member Publicized Space Program in Huntsville



From time to time, the newsletter features an OLLI member whose life experience is fascinating. Joseph (Joe) M. Jones, pictured left, was the first news chief of Huntsville's NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center, and enjoyed an extraordinary career. A published author and member of OLLI, he has provided the following text and pictures.

Joe's narrative: Before the recent OLLI showing of the space saga, *The Right Stuff*, a friend of mine unexpectedly pointed to me as one who had worked at the Marshall Center in the early space program, and asked me to say a few words about my space experiences.

It all started in the spring of 1956 when I quit my job as an Alabama news reporter, joining the Redstone Arsenal public information office. I worked for the new Army Ballistic Missile Agency, whose technical director was Wernher von Braun. The space age began in 1957 with Russia's launch of the first Sputnik. The name von Braun, even then, was synonymous with space. He and his army group soon started work on space part-time. Later I started gathering material for the press release issued by the Department of Defense Jan. 31, 1958, announcing the von Braun group's launch of the U.S. first artificial earth satellite, Explorer I. NASA was formed later that year, and soon it was announced that von Braun and company would transfer from the Army to NASA, becoming the agency's largest field installation.

NASA headquarters quickly offered me a job as a NASA public affairs employee assigned to the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. So on Jan. 1, 1960 – six months before the Marshall Space Flight Center was formed as a part of NASA – I began work for von Braun, sitting in his outer office. My job: helping him with news

matters, correspondence and speeches having to do with his coming new job as head of NASA's rocket program. The U. S., of course, was seen as being behind in the "space race," and VB was the man of the hour, much in public demand. This unusual job, like most of the other uncommon aspects of my space agency employment, came simply from my being in the right place at the right time, not signifying any special competence of my own.

Therefore, as the Marshall Center was organized, I became the first employee of the center public affairs office and head of the news branch. Later I became head of public affairs, which included news, speeches, movie-production, guest relations, etc., until my own retirement. The Marshall Center's main function was to develop the large rockets needed for human space travel. Unlike the very earliest space ventures, which were done under a cloak of military secrecy, all of NASA's launchings were open to the public, placing a heavy load on the agency's public affairs workers. We travelled to virtually all launches, hosting the press,—accommodating as



Joe with von Braun, July 1969, day before Saturn V in back-ground was launched, sending a man to the moon for the first time.

**Scholarship
Goal
Reached!**

**Read story on
p. 3.**

Continue reading on p. 7 . . .

From the President

Are You Having Fun Yet?



Chuck Duffy,
President

They say that time flies when you're having fun. Are you having fun? If not, take another look at all the activities on the OLLI schedule; then, join in and have that fun.

OLLI always needs members who will volunteer to do some task that creates mutual satisfaction. Our committees are open to members who volunteer. The OLLI Board is also a place to volunteer. The Social Committee, for example, takes care of all of our OLLI social functions, and they are going to be busy between now and the Annual Meeting on May 16. Please join us there for an evening of fun, food, and enlightenment. Later, Bill Johnson will be giving you more details on that event.

Lastly, have you contributed to the OLLI Scholarship Fund? (See the article on p. 3.) We hope soon to meet the two UAH students currently being aided by this fund. When you hear about that event, come out and meet them.

Curriculum Corner



Change, Change, Change!



Mike Doyle, Chair

I can only think of a few people who desire change. Changes are bothersome. We have to learn new ways of doing what was habit last term. We can't do things the way that we used to do them. Put bluntly, change is a difficult practice. Changes in the OLLI program are not being done to see us squirm, although sometimes it looks as if that is the case. We do not exist in a vacuum. Other people and pressures ping us. Should we just grin and bear it? Not necessarily. Should we rant and rave? Again, not necessarily. We are part of the UAHuntsville system. Specifically, we are a part of the division of Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS). PCS contributes time and talent to the OLLI program. We all need to work together to make the OLLI program one in which we can be justifiably proud. Your suggestions are welcomed. That doesn't mean that the OLLI leadership is going to act immediately, if at all, to respond to your requests. However, we do need to know what you are thinking and what bothers you. If we can solve any problems, we will. Keep your cards and letters coming.

The Truly Educated Never Graduate!

Social Events



Bill Johnson,
Chair

Mark your calendars now for our next social event on Friday, March 22, 2013, from noon until 2:00 p.m. We will be honoring our instructors at the winter End-of-Term Social at Trinity United Methodist Church on Airport Road. These are always enjoyable events with delicious food and your choice of beverages. The cost is \$2.00 per person; please pay at the door with correct change. Current teachers will eat free of charge.

Come out and socialize with old and new friends. But most of all, let your presence show your appreciation for the work and time that OLLI instructors so unselfishly volunteer.

Members Market

Want to see YOUR items listed here next month????
YOU have to submit them!

Members Market is a feature for OLLI members where you may give, donate, or request items. No money is exchanged. Send your requests to OLLInewsletter@msn.com by **March 19, 2013**.

Beverley Marchelos collected the yellow daffodils that she requested last month!

Joyce Pettis listed and gave a box of fabric scraps to an OLLI member, who will use them to make doll clothes with her granddaughters!

OLLI Scholarship Reaches \$50,000 Goal!!

As OLLI entered its twentieth year at UAH, it established a goal of increasing the amount of the OLLI Scholarship to \$50,000. In October 2012, when the campaign began, Pat Lindberg was appointed chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. Other members were Bob Robertson, Linda McAllister, Eleanor Carter (committee's writer) and George Leach (graphics creator).

The committee went to work speaking at OLLI gatherings, staffing a scholarship table at OLLI events, gathering data about the scholarship's past performance, and giving reports as the contributions total grew.

The established scholarship has awarded funds to two UAH students in past years in amounts of \$1,600 and \$900. With additional monies donated to the OLLI Scholarship, future awards will be increased to two at \$1,600 each. OLLI Scholarship recipients will attend future OLLI events, speak to us about their work and their plans, and meet and thank many of us personally.

Reaching the \$50,000 level is a worthy accomplishment! Almost 400 OLLI members have made contributions; if you have not contributed but wish to do so, your donations will still be received and greatly appreciated.

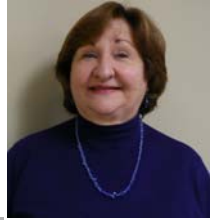
OLLI members are doers and achievers! Thank you!

Submitted by Jerri McClain



Cultural Committee

Eleanor Schweinberg, Chairperson



Schweinberg

For March 2013 the Cultural Committee announces the following:



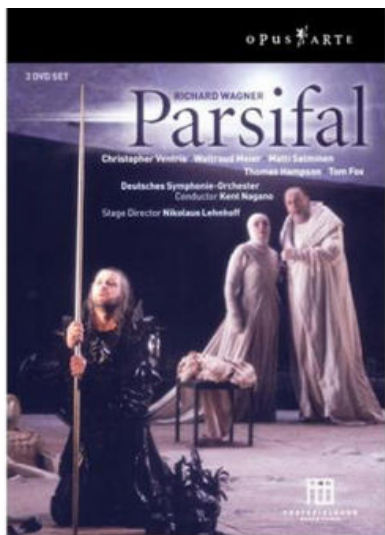
Orchestra Preview Lecture by Taavo Virkhaus

Our next scheduled event organized by your Cultural Committee will be the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra preview lecture given by Taavo Virkhaus, HSO Conductor Emeritus. He will prepare us for the program “Enigmatic Voices” to be performed on Saturday, March 16. This program of music by Mendelssohn, Bartok, and Elgar will be conducted by Gregory Vajda with pianist Katherine Chi. Taavo will speak to us on Thursday, March 14, at 2:45 p.m. in Wilson Hall--Room 152. These lectures are enjoyable and informative, even to those not attending the symphony. Attendees will receive information about obtaining discount symphony tickets. Please plan to attend.

Travel With the Cultural Committee to Frist Center for the Visual Arts — Nashville

We have learned that the Frist Center in Nashville is currently showing an exhibit of “Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age: Highlights from the Detroit Institute of Arts” until May 19. If you would like to go see it with OLLI members, contact Eleanor Schweinsberg at eschweinsberg@bellsouth.net or call 256-883-0602 to see if we can form groups to travel together.

Frist Center for the Visual Arts,
Nashville, Tennessee



Metropolitan Opera at Regal Hollywood 18

The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD broadcasts at Hollywood 18 on South Memorial Parkway will continue in March with performances of Rigoletto, Parsifal, and Francesca da Rimini. Check the listing at http://www.fandango.com/regalhollywoodstadium18huntsville_aaegz/theaterpage or pick up a schedule on the table in the Hollywood 18 lobby.



Special Events Committee

(in the spotlight)



Jim Will, Chair

The Special Events Committee consists of OLLI members who plan and organize numerous events considered “special.” The focus of the Special Events Committee is to conceptualize and to execute activities that will foster the enjoyment and education of OLLI members in a relaxed, social setting.

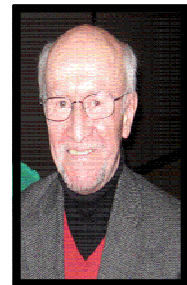
Special Events activities fall outside the realm of repeating OLLI events such as the end-of-term Teacher Appreciation Lunch or OLLI back-to-school events. The work of the Special Events Committee may include visits to manufacturing sites in Huntsville or the immediate community or activities planned for OLLI on campus. Or the event may be a wine tasting or card-playing.

Currently, the committee has organized a very successful series titled ‘Popcorn and a Movie’ (see note to the right) that is a big hit with OLLI members.

The Special Events Committee is chaired by OLLI board member Jim Will, who brings an imaginative edge to his work. Committee members working with Jim (and pictured to the right) are Leah Black, Bill McAllister, and Jim Slate.



Leah Black



B. McAllister

Not Pictured: Jim Slate

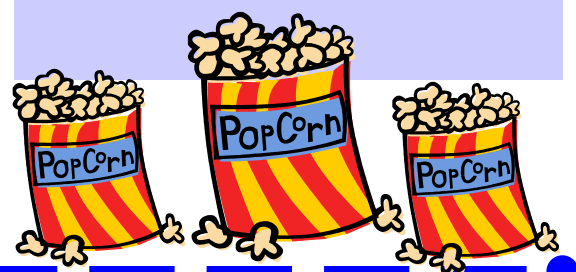
Popcorn and a Movie

The third movie for OLLI members, *The Big Year*, will be shown Friday afternoon, March 8, at 1:00 p.m. *The Big Year* is a comedy about three men in a contest to observe and count the most birds during a period of one year.

Wilson Hall, Room 001, is the location for this film viewing.

You are invited to enjoy this movie and popcorn with your OLLI friends.

Meetings are held monthly unless there is urgent business. Interested in seeing your ideas for special events come to life? Call Jim at 256-722-3002.



What is Due on April 15th? *

Photo Entries for OLLI's 2013 Photo Contest

Spring is in the air along with many opportunities for the contest's theme of reflective photography. Life is a wonder, and there is beauty in reflection everywhere. Look for a rainbow or light behind a dewdrop. You may see an image in a puddle, or a cluster of colorful clouds reflected by the sun. A window, a mirror, a body of water, a sunset, a shadow — keep your camera near so you don't miss the moment.



Guidelines:

- ◆ **Theme:** Reflections (Tennessee Valley only)
- ◆ **Specs:**
 - * Gentle photo editing is permitted but keep the original photo
 - * Photo must not have identifying/copyright marks
 - * Photos must be submitted in digital jpg/jpeg format
 - * Recommend at least 2 Megapixels (MP) final pixel size
 - * Color photos are preferred
 - * Name your photo
 - * Email as an attachment
- ◆ **Submit to:** ollinewsletter@msn.com. You can submit up to three entries; include your name, phone number, and email address. Give some information about the photo, where you took it and the date
- ◆ **Submission deadline:** April 15, 2013

Please note that entering your photo gives Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH and UAHuntsville permission to use your name and photo for the OLLI web site, catalog, newsletter, or any publications pertaining to the photo contest. You will be emailed a release form after your photograph is submitted and your photo will not be eligible for judging until the signed release form is received. For questions regarding requirements or uploading or resizing problems, please call Lorrie White at 256-520-4455 or email to ollinewsletter@msn.com, subject: photo contest.

* And you thought it was taxes?

Joe's narrative, continued from p. 1

an extreme example, 3,497 media people at the first launching of men to the lunar surface--and other elements of the public. This meant that we travelled a lot. I worked at almost all launchings, manned and unmanned, whether or not MSFC was in charge. In those days when space was new it attracted hordes of people and banner headlines. For example, I witnessed--worked at--the launchings of all 32 of Huntsville's Saturn rockets.

The pinnacle of my travelling fortunes came in the 1970s when I was assigned to two, around-the-world trips, rare experiences. In early 1970 I was named, with several others, to accompany the Apollo 12 moon-exploring astronauts and their wives on a worldwide Presidential Goodwill Tour, in a White House 707, visiting 21 nations on five continents during six weeks. My role was as astronaut speech writer and scheduling assistant. In each country visited we were guests of the head-of-state, had parades, press conferences, and banquets.

Secondly, when the Skylab space station, the world's first, ended its six years of orbit by returning to earth in 1979 over the Australian outback, I and three others from Marshall, flew hastily to Western Australia to sort of quell the populace, a few of whom felt they were being dumped on, and to trace the Skylab's reentry path over the outback, finding and studying the condition of reentry pieces and returning samplings to Huntsville. That was an interesting two week trip. All told, I had an enjoyable, busy NASA career.

Reminders!

OLLI Members in Photography Exhibit

OLLI members Diana Davidson, Tom Bryant, Barbara Hitt, David McGuinness, Henry Smith, Barbara Staggs, and Sam Tumminello are included in the Huntsville Photographic Society exhibit at the Huntsville Museum of Art in the Prozan Cummunity Gallery. This free exhibition features a juried selection of 50 photographs in a range of subjects and styles. The exhibit can be viewed through March 24, 2013.



DVD Lending Library

OLLI members may check out all kinds of informative and interesting DVDs from the OLLI DVD Lending Library that is maintained in the OLLI office. If you missed a class taught through the use of DVDs, you don't have to wait until that class is taught again. You can do an independent study just by going to the office and checking out the DVDs.

Find OLLI on Facebook!

Did you know that there's more than one way to see all the great events and happenings of OLLI at UAH? Effective this year, OLLI at UAH is on Facebook! Look for the big, blue button in your weekly e-news to view our page, or go directly to www.facebook.com/OLLlatUAH, and like our page to stay up-to-date with recent pictures and announcements. We've also changed the set-up of our weekly e-news for easy viewing of all the upcoming events. Simply click the title of the event that catches your eye, and you'll be directed to a page full of information -- complete with descriptions, directions, times, and locations! You may also go directly to www.pcs.uah.edu/weeklybonus for a comprehensive list of all upcoming events for the current term. These events are updated weekly, so be sure to closely watch your e-news and check the web.

click here to
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Important Notice: Inputs for the April 2013 newsletter are due by March 19, 2013.
Please send articles and ideas to Joyce Pettis, Editor; Lorrie White, Co-editor, at OLLInewsletter@msn.com.
Please understand that due to cost and space constraints, articles may be edited for length.

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