

The OLLI Insider

News For Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAHuntsville

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 July-Aug 2013

OLLI HOSTS BACK-to-SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA



Mike Doyle,
Curriculum Chair

On August 8, 2013, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., OLLI at UAHuntsville will host a Back-to-School event for everyone interested in OLLI, its courses, and its activities. The event is a collaboration among the Curriculum, Social, and Member Services Committees.

What you can DO at the Back-to-School event on Thursday, August 8, 2013!

- ◆ **REGISTER FOR CLASSES!** Between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., you may register for the fall term, completing the process by paying tuition of \$85. This feature is available only to those physically present.
- ◆ **Register for more than six (6) classes!** Pay an additional \$10.00 per each class exceeding six.
- ◆ **Pay membership fee!** If you have not yet renewed your OLLI membership, payment will be accepted at the Back-to-School event. These people may also register for fall term classes.
- ◆ **Attend selected class information sessions by the teachers!** From 11:00-11:30 a.m. in Wilson Auditorium, come listen to Craig Reinhart speak on his oceanography class, Ed O'Keefe speak on his acoustics class, and Vanitha Singh speak on her moral dilemmas class.
- ◆ **Attend question and answer sessions!** Between 11:30-12:00 noon, get any questions answered by OLLI representatives. Tables for this function will be set up along one of the long corridors and in the foyer of Wilson Hall.
- ◆ **Discover MORE about OLLI!** Chat with representatives of the Curriculum Committee, some of the Member Interest Groups (MIGs), the Social Committee, and others.
- ◆ **Sign up** for Member Interest Groups, a long-distance trip, and more!
- ◆ **Socialize and snack!** At noon, the Social Committee will serve refreshments in the OLLI lounge. Other OLLI spaces will be open for use.

This event promises to be an unparalleled opportunity for OLLI members, their guests, and others to learn about OLLI as a community institution celebrating 20 years of lifelong education in Huntsville.

Come to the OLLI Back-to-School Extravaganza on August 8, 2013. Bring friends! Campus police will not enforce the parking sticker requirement between 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

PHOTO CONTEST

May 2013 to April 1, 2014

The theme for the 2014 photo contest is "*Nature In and Around Alabama.*" Our beautiful Alabama surroundings offer plenty of excellent opportunities, and to help improve your talent, the newsletter will feature articles on tips for taking photos. See page 6 for this month's article.



President's Message

I would like to address questions that were asked by OLLI member Roger Coupland, who, along with other OLLI members, requested that the OLLI Board of Directors inquire about the member class fee, the limit of six classes, and the Osher endowment from PCS [Professional and Continuing Studies] and UAH.

The OLLI Executive Committee, Dr. Karen Clanton, Director PCS; Maxine Doherty, Outreach Program Manager; and I met with Roger before the end of the Spring Term to discuss the questions he posed.

PCS explained the breakdown of the \$85 term fee for courses, which includes costs for the registration process [mailings, employee time, catalog, etc.], classroom maintenance [utilities, security, cleaning], parking, and staff salaries. The amount may be justified by the purchasing power in today's economy.

An analysis of the numbers of classes taken by OLLI members shows that some 90 per cent or more register for six or fewer classes. It is in the interest of OLLI to serve its members and provide the most attractive program to the most people. Other options for the numbers of classes allowed to be taken are being considered.

Six years ago an endowment from the Osher Foundation to UAHuntsville for one million dollars was provided to support lifelong learning. A second endowment of one million dollars was made from the Osher Foundation a year later, in 2007. Only *earnings* from these endowments may be used; the principal remains invested and is held and managed by the UAH Foundation. The amount of those earnings is variable from year to year.



Jerri McLain,
President

OLLI members have access to this information as well as actions of the OLLI Board, which are recorded in the OLLI Board book, available in the OLLI Office and kept current by OLLI Board Secretary, Leah Black. OLLI Treasurer's reports, which include monthly income, expenses, and annual budgets, are also available in the OLLI Board Book in the OLLI Office.

MONEY magazine has noted that one of the best reasons for retiring in Huntsville, Alabama, is the lifelong learning program at UAH.

It is through the partnership and good work of OLLI members, OLLI board members and committee chairmen, and UAHuntsville that we can say *MONEY* magazine knows what it is talking about.

OLLI Board Members Attend Conference



L to R - George Leach, Cathy Bailey, Leah Black, Sue Chatham, Linda McAllister, Jerri McLain, Gratia Mahony and Bill McAllister.

Photo credit: Maxine Doherty

OLLI at UAHuntsville was well represented at the **2013 Southern Conference for Lifelong Learning** at the University of Georgia, Athens campus. Two-hundred nine lifelong learning members from 17 states representing 50 organizations attended. With a theme of "Engaged Minds, Enriched Lives," the Conference featured sessions with such topics as "Marketing Your Organization to the Max," "7000 a Day: Catch the Boomer Wave," "Dancing With Data," "Travel Excursions," "Cyber Seniors," and "Using Google to Organize and Enrich Your Lifelong Learning Program."

Eight OLLI at UAHuntsville board members attended the Conference along with Outreach Program Manager Maxine Doherty. Cathy Bailey and George Leach both won prizes from Road Scholar, one of the sponsors of the Conference.

The University of North Carolina at Asheville will host the Southern Conference in the summer of 2014

Cultural Committee



Jane McBride,
Chairperson

“LET’S PLAY” was the theme of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival for the 2013 season, and forty-five OLLI members took that theme seriously. On Sunday, June 30, we traveled by motor coach from UAHuntsville to the Cumberland Plateau campus of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, to enjoy the afternoon concerts performed by two orchestras. The Cumberland Orchestra, directed by Octavio Mas-Arocas, gave a rousing rendition of Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Procession of the Nobles*, followed by a Mozart violin concerto and Bizet Suite. After intermission, the Sewanee Symphony, conducted by Cristian Macelaru, presented Thomas Sleeper’s *Symphony No. 1*. Mr. Sleeper, seated with the audience, was acknowledged by the conductor.

The *Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47* by Dmitry Shostakovich brought tears to some eyes. The rendition was an especially poignant interpretation of the contrasts of sweet melodies and drumming sounds of war in this work and was enhanced by the excellent acoustics in Guerry Auditorium.

After the concert, our group enjoyed a delightful meal at the **High Point Restaurant** in Monteagle, Tennessee. From the looks on faces returning to Huntsville, **WE HAD A VERY GOOD TIME.**



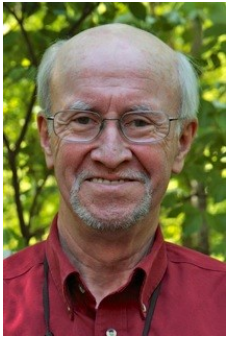
New Board Member



Doris Williams has been appointed to a term on the OLLI Board beginning 2013.

Alaska Bound!!
Experience
The Summer Solstice
And Much More
June 20 - July 1, 2014
With 25 UAHuntsville OLLI Members.
Sign up August 8, at the
OLLI Back-to-School Extravaganza,
if interested in more trip details.

Special Events



Bill McAllister,
Special Events

Green Mountain Soap Company

Two separate groups of OLLI members - a total of 24 - visited the Green Mountain Soap Company on June 20. Owners Elaine and Richard Hamner gave a very informative talk, and the members enjoyed touring the plant and following the process of making various soap



Madison Fire Station #2



Text and photo credit: Bill McAllister

On July 10, sixteen OLLI members toured the Madison Fire Station #2 on Hughes Road. Mr. Russ Kennington, Community Relations Officer, took us on a tour of their living space. Along with his staff, Kennington spent a generous amount of time answering questions, showing their equipment, and informing us about the responsibilities of the modern day firefighter.

OLLI members view fire vehicles and equipment at the Madison Fire Station as part of their tour.

Text and photo credit: Mable Gordon



Special Events

Waste to Energy Plant

On July 16, twenty-eight OLLI members toured the Waste to Energy facility or "Steam Plant," the only "waste to energy" plant in the state. Denise Taylor from the "Operation Green Team" conducted the tour. Taylor discussed the plant's history, its daily operation, and explained the key role Redstone Arsenal played in its development. The products of the waste disposal process are ash (used as a cover for landfill) and steam (used by the Arsenal as an energy source). The group was taken to the control room where it watched the technician operate the crane that picked up the trash from the collection pit and transferred it to the burn-furnace.

Photo and text credit: Mable Gordon



Social Events

Annual OLLI Picnic on Green Mountain



The Annual OLLI Picnic was a resounding success with wonderful food and perfect weather. About 70 people attended, including several new members and renewals. Joe Cremin, as usual, ran The OLLI Survivor game, which was a lot of fun.



Leah Black,
Social Events

Volunteer Opportunity to Read Aloud

If you enjoy reading aloud, perhaps you might consider volunteering to read the local news and stories one day a week for the visually impaired on radio station WLRH's Radio Reading Service. A few reliable readers are always welcome. Call Brett Tannahill at 256-895-9574.

Hints for OLLI Photographers from a Professional

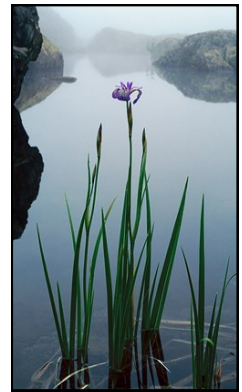


Eddie Soloway

Eddie Soloway of Santa Fe has graciously agreed to share several hints with our OLLI amateur photographers. Mr. Soloway has a keen passion for nature and is an amazing photographer. He is also a writer and an award winning teacher of photography.

Mr. Soloway advises us to **change our perspective when photographing nature**; by this, he means to lie down, peer through, look up, look under . . . by changing your physical perspective you can bring freshness to the photograph. Even everyday subjects take on new energy when they are presented from different angles and viewpoints.

There are many ways to make a successful composition. People get confused about how to best compose a photograph. Simplify your thinking about composition by creating a beautiful way for the eye to move through the image. Graceful lines, retreating horizons, a swirling of color can take the eye on a beautiful journey through a photograph. Check to make sure that nothing is getting in the way. Things poking in from the sides, big areas of washed out sky, and a jumble of competing objects can take the eye in other directions.



Hang out with a wow, and it will get better. It can be tempting, especially in great light, to take a picture and run off to the next. He explains that even though you may have a good photo, wait around. When you find a moment of magic or light that makes you stop, honor it by hanging around and working it.

Distracting backgrounds (move your feet to control what the viewer sees). You are excited about the subject, so excited you forget to look behind it, and there, coming right out of the top of a friend's head is a telephone pole. The same thing happens in nature all the time, though sometimes in such subtle ways we don't see a problem until after the fact. A good photographic habit is to move your feet. Remember that you are in charge of how the subject relates to the background, and you do not have to take the photograph from the first place you see it.

Creative backgrounds (surround the subject with beauty). Sometimes the background in a photograph is a much larger area than the subject, and if used well can create the atmosphere for the entire image.

Check your edges (move your eye around all four sides). It can seem like a lot to remember, but so much of the working part of photography becomes intuitive with time. That's the way it is with moving your eyes around the four edges of the photograph to make sure what is inside is thoughtful, and what is outside stays outside. It is also common for many cameras to capture more of a scene than you can see through the viewfinder.

Visit

http://www.kodak.com/ek/US/en/Tips_Projects_Center/Tips_from_the_Professionals/Travel_Nature_Photo_graphy/Nature_Photography.htm or Mr. Soloway's web site for more great ideas and wonderful photographs: www.eddiesoloway.com.

Look forward to more tips in future newsletters and don't forget to keep your camera handy for that perfect photographic opportunity!

Submitted by Lorrie White

Calendar for 2014 Available in August

With so many wonderful photos amassed since the OLLI Photo Contest began in 2009, Lorrie White had another idea, which was sanctioned by the Member Services Committee: Produce an OLLI calendar for 2014 that will feature all the first, second, and third-place winning photos from the past contests.

From idea to product, the calendar will be finished and for sale in August.



Peter Van Hoff
 "A Cold January Morning"
 1st Place Winner
 2011 Theme:
Seasons of the Tennessee Valley

JANUARY 2014

Happy New Year!
 Review dates in the newsletter, e-News, and throughout the calendar for upcoming events. Check out the catalog and note the courses that interest you. Register for the winter term at www.pcs.uah.edu/olliregistration.

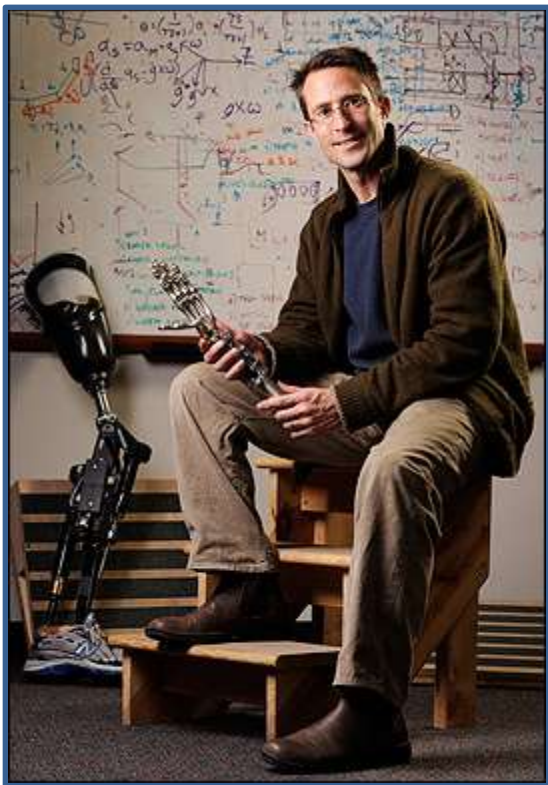
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

2014 Calendar

The calendar, featuring lovely photos of the OLLI photo contests winners, will be available for sale in August. It is priced at \$8.00 for one, \$7.50 for two, and \$7.00 for three or more. Mini photos are posted throughout of members enjoying OLLI's many events, and holidays and term dates are posted.

The calendar will come in handy for OLLI members, and it is a wonderful gift for friends and family.

Wilson Hall Auditorium 001
UAHuntsville Campus



What is Possible with Robotics: *Improving the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities*

Dr. Michael Goldfarb

August 15 | 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Reception Following

Join OLLI for an educational and motivational talk on the latest work in the development of robotic limbs for upper and lower extremity amputees, and the development of lower limb exoskeletons for individuals with spinal cord injury and stroke. Dr. Michael Goldfarb is the director of the Center for Intelligent Mechatronics at Vanderbilt University, which develops intelligent assistive devices to improve quality of life for people with physical disabilities. He has also been featured in a Tennessee PBS series on current day Explorers.

“Within the next one to three years, ‘bionic’ prosthetic devices will be available that are substantially smarter, more capable, more active, and more interactive than those that are currently on the market,” said Dr. Goldfarb. His research is providing remarkable advances in the development of bionic hands, legs, and wearable robotics, which can provide an improved quality of life for amputees. The dream of regaining the ability to stand up and walk has come closer to reality for people paralyzed below the waist who thought they would never take another step. The development of a powered exoskeleton can enable people with severe spinal cord injuries to stand, walk, sit, and climb stairs. This exoskeleton is one of 15 finalists for the 2013 da Vinci Awards, which recognize innovative developments in adaptive and assistive technology.

For info, 256.824-6183 or www.PCS.uah.edu/WeeklyBonus.

Free to OLLI at UAH Members! Only \$15 per year.

Sign-up at the event or join now at www.pcs.uah.edu/JoinOLLI.



Brian Shaffer testing the Vanderbilt exoskeleton. (Joe Howell/Vanderbilt)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH Membership Form for June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014

Name _____ Preferred Name on Badge _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

If referred by an individual, please list their name _____

Newsletters are sent via Email . Need a printed copy? Check this box []

Send Email updates about OLLI activities: Yes [] No []

Join OLLI at UAH by mailing this form and your check, payable to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH.

MAIL TO: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH
P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807
PHONE: 256-824-6959

OLLI at UAH is not responsible for any damage or personal injury sustained when a member is participating in any OLLI sponsored activities on or off the UAH Campus.

Membership implies permission to use your photo for OLLI publicity. If you do not want your photo used, please notify the instructor/photographer in advance.

Membership: 1-year (\$15) [] 2-year (\$30) []

Type: New [] Renewal [] Gift* []

*Gift From: _____

OLLI Scholarship Fund:** \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

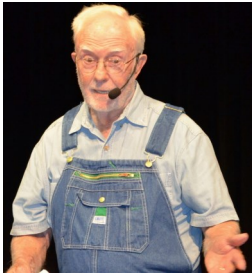
** Contributions to the Scholarship provide financial support for a UAHuntsville student. Please include the additional amount of your donation in your check.

10/2012

Joe Berry on the “Stolen Election”

More than 100 OLLI members gathered in Wilson Hall Auditorium on July 23, 2013, to hear Joe Berry’s entertaining presentation on stolen elections in the United States. Berry focused on the lost election of 1948 in Alice, Texas, between Coke Stevenson and Lyndon Baines Johnson. What began as an ordinary election spiraled into an episode of cheating, investigations, intrigue, concealment, armed confrontation (but no guns drawn), and a lawsuit over the 200 strange votes that gave the election to Johnson. Thirty years after the event, a major player in it, Luis Salas, who had kept a written account of the shenanigans, was interviewed by Johnson’s biographer, Robert A. Caro. And that’s how the cheating was finally, irrefutably confirmed. Joe Berry kept the audience spellbound with his direct presentation method and sprinkles of humor. At his conclusion, the audience felt as Berry had told them how to feel: no one was depressed and everyone was more knowledgeable about election possibilities.

Text and photos by Joyce Pettis



Osher Foundation Official Visits OLLI UAHuntsville

David Blazeovich, Senior Program Officer, The Bernard Osher Foundation, visited OLLI at UAHuntsville on July 23, 2013. While here, he met with Dr. Karen Clanton, Director of PCS; Maxine Doherty, Outreach Program Manager; the UAHuntsville Development Office; and UAHuntsville President Robert Altenkirch.

Over lunch with the OLLI at UAHuntsville Executive Committee and Member Services Committee Chairman Sue Chatham, Mr. Blazeovich discussed ways to increase membership. He also spoke briefly to the audience gathered for Joe Berry's talk.


The following day, Mr. Blazeovich attended the 2013 Southern Conference for Lifelong Learning at UGA, Athens, GA. This is the first time that a Bernard Osher Foundation official has visited OLLI at UAHuntsville.



L-R: Joe Berry, Blazeovich, and Gratia Mahony, who introduced Joe at his presentation. (See p. 7.)

Important Notice: Inputs for the September newsletter are due by August 20, 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.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH is proud to be part of the national Osher Institute.



An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH
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 Huntsville, AL 35899

Division of Professional and Continuing Studies



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