

# 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.uah.edu/pcs/olli](http://www.uah.edu/pcs/olli) Email: [OLLI@uah.edu](mailto:OLLI@uah.edu) September 2013

## Huntsville: Past, Present, and Future OLLI 20th Year Celebration Speakers' Series!

Join OLLI for an informative and enlightening discussion on our city, from its establishment to its future. **Nancy Rohr, local historian and author**, will introduce you to a few colorful characters that are woven into our city's history. **Mayor Tommy Battle** will provide a fascinating update of Huntsville's present-day accomplishments and plans. **Dennis Madsen, City Manager of Urban and Long Range Planning**, will then lead you into the future on how the city may progress over the next 25 years, anticipating how our landscape could change through various demographic, technological, and economic influences. This event is FREE for OLLI members!



Nancy Rohr



Mayor Thomas Battle



Dennis Madsen

### OLLI Office Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be in the know about what is happening with OLLI? Would you like to meet other OLLI members? You can do both things by volunteering to help in the OLLI office. You'll perform easy tasks such as answering the telephone. The hours are short—only two hours once a week. This is a win-win situation: you'll enjoy meeting OLLI members, and we'll enjoy having you as an OLLI Office Volunteer!

Contact Sue Chatham – 256-461-0262 [chatham@knology.net](mailto:chatham@knology.net) or Hugh Nicholson – 256-830-9279, [Hughnicholson1@aol.com](mailto:Hughnicholson1@aol.com) to become one of our OLLI Office Volunteers.

### 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 for photographers, and to help improve your talent over the coming months, the newsletter will feature articles and tips for taking photos.

Photo contest requirements are listed at <http://www.osher.uah.edu>.



OLLI at UAH  
20  
TWENTY YEARS  
and growing!

# *President's Message*



Jerri McLain,  
President

OLLI at UAH has had a wonderful summer, filled with varied activity and fun travel. The gorgeous Fall Term Catalog foretells more great things, all highlighted at the successful Back-to-School Extravaganza in early August. As always, there are fine choices in classes, many of which are offered for the first time. And new members will be in the classes. I hope that all OLLI members will extend hearty welcomes to our new members and help them find their way around Wilson Hall and the UAHuntsville campus.

Each new term also brings exciting new instructors. Let's also welcome them to the Fall Term. As an OLLI member, show your willingness to help instructors by signing up to be a facilitator or audio-visual assistant. The partnership of volunteer and instructor is invigorating and keeps classes running smoothly.

Although classes have been in recess, the OLLI organization has run in high gear all summer, thanks to Professional and Continuing Education staff, board members, committee chairs, and committee members. Consider volunteering to serve on a committee this year. You'll meet wonderful people and also help make OLLI better and better.

We value you as a member of OLLI at UAH. Thanks for your enthusiasm about classes, your active participation, and your willingness to serve. May this year—our twentieth one—be one of our very best!

## *Curriculum Committee*



Mike Doyle,  
Curriculum Chair

Those of you who missed the Back-to-School event missed a grand time. We do not have a good count of the number of attendees, but we had 100 plus people pre-register for the fall term. Professional and Continuing Services (PCS) was present and involved with registering and helping students with the classes.

We had outstanding representation from committees. The Curriculum Committee and its instructors were highly visible. Craig Reinhart, Ed O'Keefe, and Vanitha Singh gave short synopses of their classes. The Public Relations Committee, chaired by Linda McAllister, decorated the tables and provided distinctive apparel for the greeters—T-shirts and playful cone hats—who welcomed all who entered. Balloons beckoned at each table and created a wonderfully festive atmosphere.

Refreshments — vegetables, cheese and crackers, cookies and ice cream—were prepared and served by the Social Committee, chaired by Leah Black. The Member Services Committee accepted renewals and new memberships. Bill McAllister, chair of Special Events, had over 30 people sign up to receive information about next year's Alaska trip (See information on p. 3). The Hiking Members Interest Group (MIG), guided by Bob Goodwin, acquired twenty-five new hikers. Other MIGs were represented, and many members were seen around their tables seeking information and signing up.

I know that I have left someone or some group out and for that I apologize. Everyone involved did a wonderful job! It was a grand undertaking, and we did it well.

*The Truly Educated Never Graduate!*

# Cultural Committee



Jane McBride, Chairperson

One of the fringe benefits of taking OLLI classes is the inspiration to explore even more. As a result of exposure to the Art of the Northern Renaissance in Debbie West's Tuesday afternoon classes, a few budding art historians wanted to see more. In late spring 2013, some lucky OLLI friends travelled to the Netherlands and Belgium to bask in the picturesque landscapes and quaint settings that are the subjects of those Golden-Age artists. Hopefully, they will share that experience in a future bonus class.

Similarly, responding to interests in Dutch and Flemish art, the Cultural Committee arranged a visit to the High Museum of Art in Atlanta for thirty-two OLLI members on July 30. The occasion was the exhibit of Dutch Masters and the Southeastern U.S. premiere of Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* on loan from the Mauritshuis in The Hague. Very knowledgeable docents gave the OLLI group an in-depth and personalized tour of the collection. Several enjoyed other exhibits, including African Textiles, Civil Rights



Photography, and art created in Atlanta, as well as the beautiful gift shops. We have treasured photographs of our own OLLI "girls" faces in life-sized cutouts of Vermeer's 'girl.'

A very delicious luncheon was prepared for us at the Swan Coach House in the Atlanta History Center in Buckhead prior to our tour at the High. This non-profit restaurant, gift-shop and art gallery, located in a beautiful setting, is run by volunteers for the benefit of the civic art venues in Atlanta. A stop for dinner in Rome, Georgia, enroute home, concluded our excursion. It was a long day with very happy memories and new friendships.



## Board Members Win Cash!

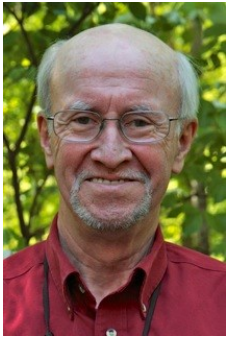
Board members Cathy Bailey and George Leach (pictured left) both won cash prizes from Road Scholar, one of the sponsors of the 2013 Southern Conference for Lifelong Learning held in

July at the University of Georgia, Athens campus. Cathy will use her \$500 to fund a trip in March 2014, to St. Simon island in Georgia. George won \$100.

**Alaska Bound!!**  
**Experience**  
**The Summer Solstice**  
**and Much More**  
**June 20 - July 1, 2014**  
**With 25 OLLI at UAH Members.**  
**Email Bill McAllister at**  
[billmcallister94@gmail.com](mailto:billmcallister94@gmail.com),  
**if interested in more trip details.**



# Special Events



Bill McAllister,  
Special Events

## Dr. Sherrie Squyres to Speak

Dr. Sherrie Squyres, a Board Certified Emergency Physician in the Emergency Room of Huntsville Hospital since 1988, will present a program entitled *When Seconds Count: Emergency/Trauma Care*. Dr. Squyres has also served as HEMSI's Medical Director. The

presentation will be at the Huntsville Hospital Dowdle Center, Room 131, on the corner of Governors Drive and Gallatin Street at 10:00 on Thursday, September 5. Reserve your spot today, and receive details by contacting Bill McAllister at [billmcallister94@gmail.com](mailto:billmcallister94@gmail.com). The event is limited to 30 members.

## Bernie Screened for OLLI

OLLI members enjoyed popcorn, drinks, and the 2010 movie *Bernie* on Friday, August 2. *Bernie*, starring Jack Black, Shirley MacLaine, and Matthew McConaughey, was based on a true story in Carthage, Texas. Some of the funnier characters in the movie were the actual townspeople. The next movie will be screened during the term break on Friday, November 15. Mark your calendars now.

## First Game Day Held

Participants shared two of their favorite games at our first Game Day on August 20. We look forward to another game day when we can have fun getting to know one another while playing games that challenge our brains. The ladies playing (right) appear to be beating the challenge.



L-R: Linda McAllister, Sheila Scruggs, and Susan Kersch

## Upcoming Special Events! Add these to your Fall 2013 Calendar!

### November 6: Tour and Special Tasting, Fromagerie Belle Chevre, Elkmont, Alabama

Tasia Malakasis went from tending a small goat herd to producing award-winning goat cheeses that have gained the acclaim of the gourmet food industry, and she has two gold Specialty Outstanding Food Innovation (SOFI) awards to prove it! A true success story for a small north Alabama business! In October, Tasia will open her brand new creamery, and on November 6, OLLI members are invited to take a look at it and taste some of her delicious specialty foods. We'll meet in Elkmont (about 45 minutes from Huntsville) to start our tour. Estimated cost: \$12. No payment is due now. Details are being finalized, but if you'd like to participate, contact Eleanor Carter at [carterer@aol.com](mailto:carterer@aol.com) with *Belle Chevre* in the subject line. That will put you on the contact list for final details and last call. Because Belle Chevre is a small business, it is likely that attendance will be limited to 30.

### December 11: Mooresville Guided Holiday Tour, Mooresville, Alabama

Join us for a brisk stroll back in time. Mooresville residents decorate with traditional materials, and the entire town, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be all decked out for the holidays! Mooresville has the oldest operational post office in the state of Alabama, a history full of interesting stories, and alligators at the end of the street! What's not to like? We will meet at Mooresville to start our tour. Estimated tour cost: \$5. No payment is due now. Details are still being ironed out, but if you think you'd like to participate, contact Eleanor Carter at [carterer@aol.com](mailto:carterer@aol.com) with *Mooresville* in the subject line. That will put you on the contact list for final details and last call. It is likely that attendance will be limited to 30.

# Lecture on Wearable Robotics Kicks Off 20th Anniversary Celebration Speakers' Series

Dr. Michael Goldfarb (right), Vanderbilt professor and researcher with a Ph.D. from MIT, had a spellbound audience of OLLI members and visitors on August 15, 2013. Using PowerPoint and film, he explained and illustrated his advanced research in wearable robotics or 'bionic' prosthetic devices.



The presentation also emphasized the extreme differences between his motorized devices, designed more naturally to approximate the way our neurological systems allow natural movement, and non-motorized devices that provide assistance but rely heavily on the body's muscles and cause frequent falling of the wearer.

Dr. Goldfarb's illustrations were extremely impressive in showing the levels of testing, emphasizing the robotics' ability to perform daily tasks to enhance normal living, and demonstrating the agility of whole-hand robotics and of the lower extremity exoskeleton for paraplegics.

The Goldfarb lecture kicked off the recognition of OLLI's 20th Anniversary Celebration Speakers' Series. It was therefore fitting to 'see' the OLLI organization; seeing it was accomplished through Lorrie White's wonderfully inclusive slide show of OLLI classes, committees, volunteers, and activities. Dr. Karen M. Clanton, Director of Professional and Continuing Studies, welcomed everyone, and OLLI President Jerri McLain spoke briefly about OLLI's twenty-year milestone. Goldfarb was introduced by Dr. Charles Richard Chappell, a Research Professor of Physics at Vanderbilt University. Chappell pioneered a program for the local PBS station in Nashville with the concept of introducing present-day explorers to viewers. Goldfarb and his research were included.

Goldfarb and other researchers, including graduate students working toward the Ph.D degree, have developed and are testing devices for one limb missing, the bilateral amputee (both arms missing) and for paraplegia. His slides illustrated the devices being tested on human models in varied motion.



Much of the testing is carried out at the Shepard Center in Atlanta.

This promising technology is on the path from research to the marketplace. Dr. Goldfarb said that the leg has been licensed and the process is underway to make the device available for use "at least in a limited way." The same process is also underway for the exoskeleton for the paraplegic. In part, funding for the projects has come from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Army.

Dr. Goldfarb engaged numerous questions from the audience at his conclusion, and was kept in the auditorium afterwards by more discussion. He was missing a scrumptious reception in the auditorium lobby! Tables decorated with magnificent hydrangeas from Jerri McLain's yard were laden with all manner of delicious tidbits.

Much thanks and hats off to the Cultural, Social, Member Services, and Publicity Committees for a fine program and an exceptional reception!

Text by Joyce Pettis

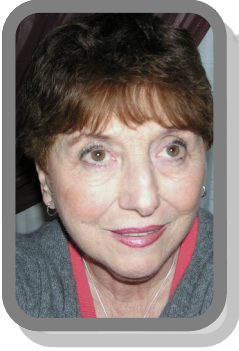


Left: Sue Chatham, Jerri McLain, and Dr. Karen Clanton.

Far right: Goldfarb, McLain, Rick Chappel,

Right: Members gather at one of the reception tables.





Leah Black,  
Social Events  
Chair

# Social Events

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**DECEMBER 10—SUMMIT**

**Caterer: Carrabba's Restaurant**

**Ticket information forthcoming!**

## Call for Research Subjects

The Lifelong Learning Lab (LLL) at The University of Alabama in Huntsville conducts research examining how memory and learning change across the lifespan. The LLL is currently looking for individuals 60 to 85 years of age to participate in a new experiment. The one session experiment will take approximately 90-120 minutes to complete and involves several paper-based tasks as well as a computerized task where you will be asked to study word pairs (e.g., paperclip – yarn) presented in different sized fonts and to predict how likely you will be to remember them on a recall test. No prerequisite skills are needed other than normal (or corrected to normal) vision, but we need your help! We can test up to six people at a time. Participants will receive \$10 compensation for their time.

Please note that those who recently participated in the other “font study” in the last few months are *not* eligible to participate in this study, given the similar nature of the tasks. If you would like to schedule an appointment to participate in this study or want additional information, please contact the LLL at (256) 824-4590.

Finally, over the last few years we have lost contact with many of our faithful participants due to changed phone numbers. So that we may contact you for future studies, please call the LLL at (256) 824-4590 at your earliest convenience. Providing your contact information in no way obligates you to participate, but insures that we have the ability to reach you when new studies begin. Thank you OLLI Members for your continued support of our research!

## *New Member Interest Group: Civil War Round Table*

The Civil War Member Interest Group is being formed to explore a range of topics--civilian life, military personalities, and cultural and political issues before, during and after the war. This group is not only for "military guys;" women are especially welcome to offer their unique perspectives on the study of persons and passions surrounding the war.

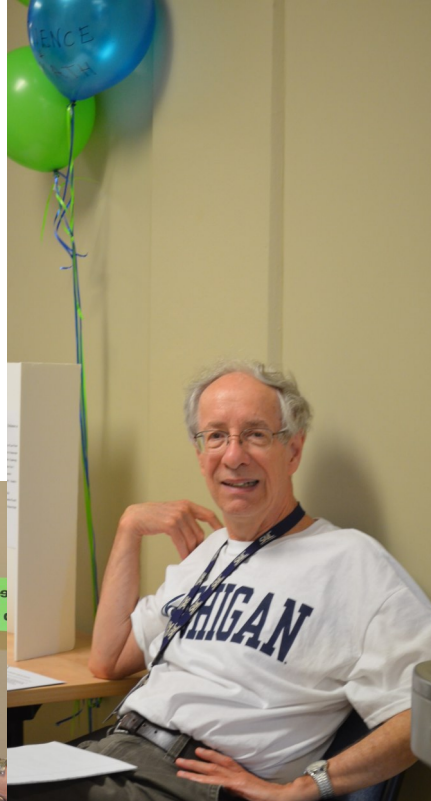
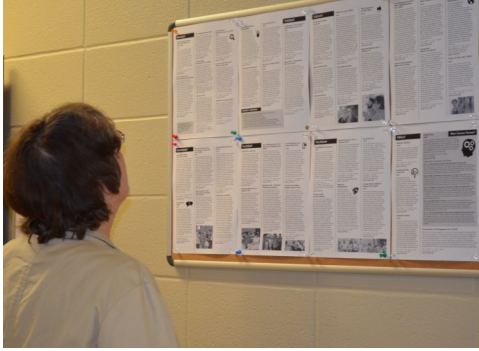
OLLI members already have indicated interest. One catalyst is the 2011-2015 Sesquicentennial; another is last year's popular three-term class taught by Jim Slate. The group will continue learning through informal discussions--perhaps sharing a favorite book or movie with a civil war theme--at a convenient time and place on campus that is to be decided.

Also, members of this group are invited to sit together for supper and monthly speakers on the second Thursday evening, 5:30-8:00PM, at the Elks Club of Huntsville, 725 Franklin Street, courtesy of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table. **MARK THE DATE** November 2, on your calendars for a commemorative civil war symposium and social hosted by your coordinator, Carol Codori, with free speakers and music.

If interested in this group, contact Carol Codori at [carolcodori@charter.net](mailto:carolcodori@charter.net) or call 256-293-0075.



# Capturing the Back-to-School Extravaganza



## 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 me 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

**Or ONLINE:** [www.pcs.uah.edu/JoinOLLI](http://www.pcs.uah.edu/JoinOLLI)

*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.

# 2014 OLLI Calendar for Sale



Calendars:  
\$8 for 1;  
\$15 for 2;  
3 or more \$7 each


The 2014 OLLI Calendar is available for sale. To purchase, go to the OLLI office during its operating hours of 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you have prepaid, you may pick up your calendar(s) as well.

Kudos to Lorrie White for a beautifully designed calendar, featuring the striking photos of the OLLI Photo Contest winners, The calendar is perfect for gift-giving or for one's own desk.

**Left:** Gratia Mahony accepts orders and payment for calendars on August 15.

**Important Notice:** Inputs for the October newsletter are due by September 20, 2013. Please send articles and ideas to Joyce Pettis, Editor; Lorrie White, 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.

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



*An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution*  
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 Wilson Hall, Room 113  
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**Division of Professional  
and Continuing Studies**



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