

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.uah.edu/pcs/olli Email: OLLI@uah.edu November/December 2013

OLLI Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 10, 2013; 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.



Mark your calendar with the date of the OLLI Holiday Party! It is sure to be a memorable, festive event to start your holiday season on the right note. The party will be held at the Summit, which is located at the north end of Big Spring Park. The sparkling lights of Huntsville, the skating rink at the park, and the Christmas Tree Walk will be lovely sights from the Summit.

Carrabba's is catering a delicious dinner for this event; music, dancing, games, and activities for everyone will complete the evening. Tickets are \$30 and parking is included. For ticket purchases, please contact, Sue Chatham at 256-461-0262 or chatham@knology.net, Joe Cremin at 256-886-6161 or buzweiser@comcast.net, Bill Johnson at 256-701-6490 or billnchris7@yahoo.com, or Leah Black at leahblack01@comcast.net. Save the date!

The OLLI Holiday Party, planned by the Social Events Committee, will be a special evening! Plan to attend.

Holiday Sing-a-Long at Historic Lowe House

Kicking off the holiday season on December 5, OLLI members are invited to Dr. and Mrs. Robert Altenkirch's beautiful home on Williams Avenue in Historic Twickenham for a Sing-a-Long led by our very own professional choral director, Linda McAllister. Dr. Patricia Hacker, Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, is joining us and presenting a special gift of music. We'll celebrate the season by joining hands, singing together, raising our cups in good wishes, and enjoying the festive surroundings of our hosts. It doesn't get better than this on a Thursday afternoon in early December.



Due to overwhelming response, we cannot confirm additional reservations. Please contact janemcbride@knology.net if you wish to be added to the list.

Would You Like Free Tuition for the OLLI Spring Term?

From now until the winter term ends, bring in a new member to OLLI and you will be entered in a drawing to receive free tuition for the spring term. An OLLI membership makes a great gift for a friend. Membership provides many opportunities for learning new subjects and meeting new people. Share your enjoyment and enthusiasm for OLLI with someone else. They will receive so much from the membership, and you might be the lucky one to win the free tuition.



Jerri McLain, OLLI President; Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle; and Dr. Karen Clanton, Director of Professional and Continuing Studies, 20th Anniversary Speakers' Series, November 8, 2013.

The fall term, just concluded, has been an especially productive time for us. OLLI members have enjoyed a variety of classes, taken site visits with the Cultural Committee, made area trips with the Special Events Committee, and fraternized during activities planned by the Social Committee. The remaining months of 2013 are also well planned to keep OLLI members active.

OLLI welcomed Mayor Tommy Battle, Huntsville historian and author Nancy Rohr, and city planner Dennis Madsen on November 8, for the second

The President's Message

program in the 20th Anniversary Speakers' Series. Mayor Battle presented a 20th Anniversary Proclamation to our organization, which will be framed and displayed in OLLI space. Please see it on the next page.

Looking ahead, OLLI has learned that the campus master plan foretells a move in 2016 for the organization. As presently planned, OLLI space will relocate with the Professional and Continuing Studies office and class space to the building that is now the Student University Center (UC). The UC will be renovated to accommodate facility requirements for PCS, which includes OLLI. UAH President Robert Altenkirsch will speak to OLLI on January 29, 2014, with further details.

OLLI members are productive students and volunteers. Thanks to each one of you for doing anything and everything that needs to be done to help us grow and continue our education. We're enjoying growth and learning, and for that a big THANKS to each of you.



Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle proclaims 2013 as "The Twentieth Anniversary of Lifelong Learning at the University of Alabama, Huntsville."

L to R, OLLI President Jerri McLain, Mayor Tommy Battle, former presidents Etta Mae Swaim, Mary Compton, Jim Lindberg, Hugh Nicholson, Bob Ward, Sue Chatham, and Chuck Duffy.

Photo by Thurman Gordon

Huntsville: Past - Present - Future

Academy/OLLI Past Presidents

Carl Ziemke	1993-1994	Mary Compton	2000-2001	Bob Ward	2006-2007
Rono Prince	1994-95, 1996-97	Bill Huber	2001-2002	Sue Chatham	2007-2008
Bill Hagen	1995-1996	Jim Lindberg	2002-2004	Cindy Spratley	2009-2010
Etta Mae Swaim	1997-1999	Toni Reynolds	2004-2005	Chuck Duffy	2010-2013
Bill Harrison	1999-2000	Hugh Nicholson	2005-2006	Jerri McLain	2013 -

Chart submitted by Lorrie White

Mayor Battle Presents OLLI Proclamation

Proclamation

Be It Proclaimed: that Lifelong Learning at The University of Alabama in Huntsville is to be recognized for excellence on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary.

Whereas, classes were first offered by the Academy for Lifetime Learning at The University of Alabama in Huntsville in August of 1993; and,

Whereas, in the year 2005, the Academy, upon affiliation with the Osher Foundation, became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, continuing to offer enriching classes and diverse learning opportunities to more than one thousand OLLI members; and,

Whereas, OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, one of more than 120 such Institutes located on campuses throughout the United States, combines contributed financial resources with strong volunteer leadership, outstanding volunteer faculty and skilled University staff; and,

Whereas, throughout the years, the vitality, growth and strength of this organization has been credited with enhancing the quality of life in Huntsville and surrounding areas, and OLLI has been acclaimed as an important reason for choosing Huntsville as a preferred city for retirement; and,

Whereas, OLLI takes its place among the notable reasons for Huntsville being an ideal place to live, to learn, and to grow,

Now, Therefore, I, Tommy Battle,

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, do hereby proclaim the Year 2013

As

**“The Twentieth Anniversary of Lifelong Learning at
The University of Alabama in Huntsville”**



L to R: Dennis Madsen, Nancy Rohr, and Mayor Tommy Battle pose for pictures after their appearance on November 8.



Featuring Winning Photos of OLLI's Annual Photo Contests

See p. 9 for instructions on how to purchase the OLLI calendar as a gift or for your personal use.

Curriculum Committee



Mike Doyle,
Curriculum Chair

Get ready for a great winter term! OLLI will offer twenty-one (21) *new classes!* Look for exciting new classes in microwave cooking, elementary Turkish, West Coast swing dancing, wine tasting, and Russian literature (to name just a few), as well as our favorites in science, music, philosophy, literature, languages, history, and health and exercise. There is something for everyone this winter.

Term registration will begin on Wednesday, January 8, and classes will begin on Monday, January 27. Look for your winter-term catalogs in early January, and sign up early to register for your favorite courses.

Talking about registering for classes reminds me that sometimes we see empty seats in a classroom and wonder why, when we tried to register, the class was listed as full. Here's an answer to that wondering. Our instructors tell us the number of students they can accommodate comfortably to make the class a great learning experience for the students. Even when instructors tell us that we may place as many students in the class as the room will allow, we might see some vacant seats. Someone may be away on vacation, absent due to illness, or just unable to attend class that day.

Review your catalog when it arrives, and be ready for registration when it opens on January 8. If you are unable to register for a class you wanted, be sure to have your name placed on the waiting list. Your fellow OLLI members have become very conscientious in notifying the PCS Registration office when they need to "drop" a class, so you may be admitted to that class after all.

In addition, check your weekly e-news for the many activities scheduled between the fall and winter terms. If you missed it, we had over 140 attendees at the last 20th Anniversary Speakers' Series event titled Huntsville: Past, Present, and Future. The next event in the series will be a presentation by the acclaimed naturalist, Dr. Doug Phillips (see APT-Discovering Alabama), on January 21, 2014.

Financial Assistance Available for OLLI Members

Have you heard about OLLI classes and tours, and wished you could participate, but your budget will not accommodate you? Well, here's good news!

The OLLI Membership Assistance Fund is available to cover membership fees, tuition, and lab costs for people who find it financially impossible to participate in classes and other activities. The fund is possible because of the generosity of our members.

If you or someone you know need this assistance, please contact Bob Robertson at 256-536-2701 or bob.robertson6@knology.net. Your request will be kept strictly confidential.

If you would like to *support* this fund, please send your contribution to the OLLI treasurer, George Leach, and clearly designate that the enclosed amount is for the 'OLLI Membership Assistance Fund,' or contact Bob Robertson, at 256-536-2701.

Thank you for your generosity and support of OLLI and its members.

The Truly Educated Never Graduate!

Forthcoming 20th Anniversary Speakers

Doug Phillips to Speak January 2014; Study Alabama Nature Winter Term



Alabama has a remarkable spectrum of natural beauty which offers an abundance of wildlife, forests, rivers, and wildlands spread across diverse landscapes from the mountains to prairielands and to sandy beaches. Join Doug Phillips, creator and host of the PBS series

Discovering Alabama, as our speaker for the third OLLI 20th Anniversary Speakers' Series event on January 21, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. The presentation will be held in the UAH Wilson Hall auditorium, followed by a social gathering.

Dr. Phillips and *Discovering Alabama* are ready resources for environmental education for Alabama teachers and its citizens. His educational philosophy "emphasizes development of the whole student, academically, personally, and as a productive citizen." This vision is accomplished through the public television show (celebrating its 30th year in 2014), through DVDs of the shows, through talks around the state, and through teaching resources especially integrated into the curriculum of the Alabama Courses of Study.

Dr. Phillips holds a faculty appointment at the University of Alabama, and is affiliated with the university's Museum of Natural History in Anniston, Alabama. He is the author of two books about Alabama's natural ecosystems.

OLLI will also offer a full winter term course entitled Natural Wonders of Alabama, which is inspired by Phillip's work.

Submitted by Bill McAllister

Terry Kay to Speak March 2014; Study Kay's Fiction Winter Term

Award winning novelist Terry Kay will be the fourth speaker in the OLLI 20th Anniversary Speakers' Series. On March 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the Wilson Hall auditorium, the renowned southern author will speak about some of the dozen novels he has written. His



stories illustrate the changes that came to the South from rural electrification through the civil rights movement. Terry Kay builds his characters with warmth and emotion, as he weaves poignant stories based on his intimate knowledge of people in his native South. His writing style is engaging, sensitive, and hauntingly beautiful.

In preparation for Kay's appearance, a survey class of selected Kay fiction will be offered during the OLLI winter term. The class is designed so that students may discuss Terry Kay's writing for fuller enjoyment of his appearance at OLLI.

Gratia Mahony will facilitate the class on Kay's fiction. Guest speakers will talk to the class about their memories of growing up in the rural South and will address components of Terry Kay's narrative style. His intimate knowledge of how rural electrification and the beginnings of the civil rights movement affected the South will also be discussed. Anyone planning to take the class should read at least one of the books to be discussed during the class. The titles are *The Year the Lights Came On*, *To Dance with the White Dog*, *The Valley of Light*, and *The Book of Marie*.

Terry Kay has offered to present a workshop to the class participants in conjunction with his talk on March 19.

Submitted by Gratia Mahoney

Interested in Learning About Gun Safety?

To capture the interest expressed in learning about gun safety and participating in target practice, Bev Marchelos is organizing an outside group to attend a class on gun safety and to target practice. The group will meet at Larry's Gun and Pawn, available Mondays at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Bev Marchelos directly at [256-534-3639](tel:256-534-3639) for details.

Cultural Committee



Jane McBride,
Chairperson

OLLI Tours Church of the Nativity

OLLI members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on October 11, as guests of the Church of the Nativity, Episcopal, in downtown Huntsville. We were hosted by three prominent members and staff of the church-- Andrea Vandervoort, Margaret Belle Crow (top photo), and Lane Tutt. Initially, we were given a tour of the grounds and gardens, including a memorial garden set among elegant plantings and furnishings in a peaceful inner courtyard.

Along the walk we were reminded of the enormous undertaking by the congregation for the complete restoration of the historic buildings.

Before entering the sanctuary, we were asked to observe the high Gothic features of the main structure, complete with the 151-foot tall spire, nine-foot gilded cross, and copper roof tiles. One hostess, a dedicated church historian, explained the significance of the primary building that was constructed before the War Between the States and supervised by a foremost American architect. In 1992 this building, located at 208 Eustis Avenue, was accepted as a National Historic Landmark. Much history and mystery are woven into the architecture and artifacts inside this magnificent church.

Following our tours, we were entertained and instructed in the art of English country floral arranging by Andrea Vandervoort, experienced designer and owner of Queen Anne's Lace florist (See third photo). Guests left with brilliant dahlia blossoms from the arrangement. The Cultural Committee arranged this outing for twenty-five OLLI members.



Special Events Tour: Alaska Bound Update

We have made the minimum number for this exciting trip June 20-July 1, 2014. It is a "go" but there are still a few spaces left before we reach the maximum trip size of 25. This is a land-based trip starting in Fairbanks, Alaska and finishing in Anchorage. In between, we take two boat rides, two bus trips, and one train ride. The itinerary includes wildlife watching, cultural events, museums, a Summer Solstice festival, a meal with OLLI Alaska families, a fresh salmon meal with locals, and two nights and a bus ride within Denali National Park. Contact Bill McAllister at billmcallister94@gmail.com for more information.

Cultural Committee

OLLI Members Tour Lowe Mill

OLLI members were invited to tour Lowe Mill by Executive Director Marcia Freeland, as a result of her speaking to the Friday Focus class during fall term. The Cultural Committee teamed with Friday Focus to sponsor this private tour, including various venues for musical, theatrical, and artistic productions. The thirty-two OLLI attendees heard Ms. Freeland's story of the salvaging of the historic textile mill and its conversion into the exceptional and unique arts destination it is now. Demonstrations by and conversations with local artists at work in their studios and retail shops were highlights. Some members enjoyed delicious luncheon treats at the Happy Tummy restaurant prior to the tour. Lowe Mill should be on your "must-do" list for shopping and entertainment. See photos of the tour below.



OLLI members talk with a potter in the first picture. In last two pictures, they observe a glass blower produce a multicolored vase on the end of the blowpipe

Social Events

Teacher Appreciation Pizza Luncheon

OLLI instructors were warmly greeted; class and A/V facilitators were applauded for their support work to instructors; and office volunteers were recognized and applauded—all on Friday, November 1, at the annual Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon, held at Trinity United Methodist Church.



Leah Black,
Social Events Chair

Social Committee Chairman Leah Black and the Social Committee welcomed everyone and encouraged them to fill their plate with hot pizza and other goodies. Committee member Joe Cremin announced Maureen Sumera as the OLLI Survivor Contest winner. Karen Clanton, Director, Professional and Continuing Studies, awarded complimentary tickets to a VBC event to two lucky winners.

OLLI members gather for the Teachers Appreciation Luncheon and prepare to dine in the first two photos. Teachers for the fall term pose in the third photo below.





Bill McAllister, Chair

Special Events

Joe Berry Entertains on Halloween Afternoon

Renowned storyteller Joe Berry again did not disappoint us. Over 100 persons listened intently to his scary tale appropriately delivered to OLLI-UAH on Halloween Day. Joe, a local retired lawyer, told of British writer H. G. Wells' book, *The War of the Worlds*, as adapted and cleverly retold by young American actor Orson Wells on Halloween Day in 1938. Clearly designed to capture radio listenership, Orson Wells accomplished personal acclaim and CBS increased its audience share. Joe finished with a story of a local "haunted house" in the Paint Rock Valley. Special Events Committee members and others dressed for the occasion, and the UAH PCS staff worked the audiovisuals to perfection.



OLLI Tours Belle Chevre Production Facility

Article submitted by Eleanor Carter



On November 6, forty OLLI members took a 45-minute jaunt to Fromagerie Belle Chevre goat cheese creamery in Elkmont, Alabama. They tasted breakfast cheeses with fig, honey or cinnamon and pimienta goat cheese. But even after enjoying cheese, petting the baby goats (the owner purchases goats' milk), and chatting with most of the Belle Chevre family workers, the real treat was meeting owner Tasia Malakasis (left, in corner), who left a high-powered New York marketing job and tried a few other food-related paths before falling in love with

an Alabama goat cheese. After heading to Alabama (her home state) and spending "quality time" cleaning stalls as part of learning the goat cheese process, Tasia convinced original owner Liz Parnell to retire and let her take the creamery into the next generation. And her cheese is successful; a wall of awards attests to that! What an inspiring day spent in the company of a great bunch of people!



OLLI Members Enjoy Movie

On Friday, November 15, members were treated to the 1998 British produced movie, *Waking Ned Devine*, a good comedy set in a rural Irish community. Actor David Kelly won Best Supporting Actor from the Screen Actors Guild.

Holiday Tour of Historic Mooresville, Alabama

Coming up December 11, is an OLLI tour of the town of Mooresville, Alabama, with a population of about sixty persons living among some of the oldest structures in the Tennessee Valley. This popular holiday attraction will be a candidate for a future tour, since reservations are closed and there is a waiting list.

Greek Revival Style church in Mooresville, built 1854.



Photo Contest

All It Takes is a Good Eye

The photo contest, which began in May, 2013, is well underway, but there is still plenty of time until the due date of April 1, 2014. The theme “Nature in Alabama and the Tennessee Valley” is peaking now with the change of seasons. In the coming months, you may witness snow on a limb, or a hint of a tree on a foggy morning, or a rainbow after a rain. You don’t have to be an experienced photographer, just use your eyes and imagination, and keep your camera handy so you don’t miss the perfect moment.



First place prize is an \$85.00 paid tuition for OLLI classes and catalog display; second place prize is a \$50.00 restaurant gift card; and third place prize is a \$15.00 OLLI membership for 2014-2015.

Guidelines:

Specs: Photo must not have identifying/copyright marks
 Gentle photo editing is permitted but keep the original photo
 Photos must be submitted in digital jpeg format
 Recommend at least 2 Megapixels (MP) final pixel size
 (Winning photos need to be enlarged to 11X14)
 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 1, 2014

Upon receipt of the photo, a consent form will be emailed to you asking your permission to allow UAH or OLLI to use your photo for media purposes. If you have 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.

Still Undecided About Choices for a Few Holiday Gifts?

The OLLI calendar is your answer!! It consists of beautiful and varied photographs; it will keep your family members and friends informed of special OLLI events; it may introduce your friends to OLLI activities; and it is affordable at \$8 for one, \$15 for two, or \$7 each for three or more.

Stop by Wilson Hall 113 between 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. weekdays to pick up a few of these beautiful works of art, designed by OLLI member Lorrie White, for gifts or for yourself! An OLLI membership is a great gift, too!

Photos from Past OLLI Photo Contests on Display


An exhibition of past OLLI Photo Contest winners is now on display in Wilson Hall. Thanks to OLLI member Beth Altenkirch and Art Department Director Dr. Lillian Joyce, you can enjoy the photos of your fellow OLLI members in the Art Department's display case, located in Wilson Hall across from the OLLI lounge. The display contains photographs by Mike Bilinski, Tom Bryant, Dannye Drake, Bob Goodwin, Elaine Leach, Mary Maiorano, Bill McAllister, Frances Ruiz, Henry Smith, Peter Van Hoff, and Peter Viot. The display may be viewed through the end of January 2014.



Dr. Lillian Joyce, Sue Chatham, Beth Altenkirch,
Lorrie White, Marilyn Coffey

Important Notice: Inputs for the January newsletter are due by December 30, 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.



Division of Professional and Continuing Studies
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