

THE OLLI

News for the members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH

# INSIDER

JANUARY 2020 ISSUE



## JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020

**January 9 | Thu | 10:00 am | Huntsville Museum of Art**

**Event: Orientalism Exhibit at HMA Docent Tour**

*Orientalism: The Allure of North Africa and the Near East – Masterworks from the Dahesh Museum of Art* explores how artists from both Europe and America represented the cultures and peoples of Turkey, the Middle East, and North Africa– both real and imagined – during the 19th century. The group rate fee for admission will be \$8.00 per adult. Museum members will receive free admission. Sign up [online](#) or contact Eleanor Schweinsberg, [eschweinsberg@bellsouth.net](mailto:eschweinsberg@bellsouth.net)

**January 10 | Fri | 10:30 am | WIL 152**

**Popcorn and a Movie: Master & Commander**

During the Napoleonic Wars, a brash British captain pushes his ship and crew to their limits in pursuit of a formidable French war vessel.

**January 13 | Mon | 10:00 am | Decatur, AL**

**Event: Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Visit**

Experience nature while observing the Sandhill Cranes, ducks, and geese at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

POC: Bill McAllister, [billmcallister94@gmail.com](mailto:billmcallister94@gmail.com)

**January 25 | Sat | 2:00 & 4:00 pm | UAH Spragins Hall**

**Event: OLLI Gameday - UAH Basketball**

Cheer for the UAH Women and Men's basketball teams. Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis. Sign up [online](#) or contact

POC: Ale Pacheco, [OLLI.info@uah.edu](mailto:OLLI.info@uah.edu)

**January 31 | Fri | 11:00 am | Location TBA**

**Weekly Bonus: Cuba-The Revisit**

Engage in the fascinating story of how a Cuban native tried to return to their home country. How were they able to go back with all the current restrictions? Find out the details through storytelling and captivating photographs of the before and after journey.

*Presented by Jose Betancourt, UAH Associate Professor*

**February 7 | Fri | 11:00 am | Location TBA**

**Weekly Bonus: In This War Together**

History talks about the brave soldiers and the many battles during the Civil War, but what about the experiences of the civilian women, children, slaves and elderly during this tough time? Using original records, explore the other side of Civil War as seen from the noncombatants of Manassas and Prince William County, Virginia.

*Presented by Charlotte Cain, History Aficionado*

**February 14 | Fri | 11:00 am | Location TBA**

**Weekly Bonus: Sacred Harp-An American Tradition**

No microphones, no amplifiers, only their voices. Sacred Harp, shaped-note religious music sung acappella, enjoyed a revival after being featured in the movie Cold Mountain in 2003. Learn about this jubilant, toe-tapping music and share footage of Alabama "all day singings."

*Presented by David and Karen Ivey, Sacred Harp singers*

**February 21 | Fri | 11:00 am | Location TBA**

**Weekly Bonus: New Mexico-Balloon Fiesta and Culture**

Enjoy an exceptional adventure that spotlights New Mexico's past and present. Discover the beauty of the world's renowned Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque through photographs, and learn about the traditions and history of Native Americans and Spanish culture in Santa Fe.

*Presented by Barbara Staggs, World Traveler*

**February 22 | Sat | 4:00 pm | Campus 805-Stone Center**

**Event: The Mosaic of Love Concert**

Enjoy the Huntsville Master Chorale concert, "Swing With Love". This ticketed event goes on sale Sunday, December 1, 2019. Information available at [hsvmasterchorale.org](http://hsvmasterchorale.org).

POC: Linda Lowe, [llowe38@gmail.com](mailto:l Lowe38@gmail.com)

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST OLLI EVENTS AT:  
[OSHER.UAH.EDU/WEEKLYBONUS](http://OSHER.UAH.EDU/WEEKLYBONUS)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR, OLLI MEMBERS!

OLLI Members, 2020 is going to be an exciting year, with lots of activities and events planned for our members.

The Curriculum Committee has assembled some great courses for our Winter Term, which starts January 27.

Bill McAllister has planned another rousing trip to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge on January 13. This event is not to be missed, so contact Bill at [billmcallister94@gmail.com](mailto:billmcallister94@gmail.com).

For all our basketball enthusiasts, don't miss our OLLI Game Day — UAH Basketball, January 25. Sign up online for tickets.

This month's Member Spotlight focuses on a special journey for our member Cliff Lanham. You will find his adventure compelling and will learn how 50 years has made a difference to a far-away, war-torn country.

There's lots more going on at OLLI, so please continue reading future issues of *The OLLI Insider*. And again, Happy 2020. It is going to be interesting.

Content for the February Insider is due on **January 17, 2020** to [OLLINewsletter@uah.edu](mailto:OLLINewsletter@uah.edu).



**The OLLI Insider article submission deadline is the 17th of each month for the following month.**

## GEARING UP FOR 2020



The holidays are over, and I hope you had a great time celebrating with your family and friends. I know that I personally celebrated and enjoyed myself a little too much. I need some recovery time.

We are starting our Winter Term at the end of this month. I hope you have selected some great courses from our many courses available this term. There is still plenty of time to enroll in some classes.

Our Curriculum Committee has done another outstanding job putting together a roster of courses to choose from. I hope to see you in several of them.

By now, you have received letters and emails soliciting support for your OLLI organization by making a donation to the OLLI Support Fund. The OLLI Support Fund is utilized to cover some of the expenses that are generated to support our OLLI organization.

We would like to see each of you, if possible, make a gift to OLLI. Your gifts are private and confidential. I encourage each of you to make a gift to your OLLI, no matter how large or small. Please help us if you will.

We will be beginning the process of recruiting new people to run for the OLLI Board over the next few weeks. We anticipate the need to elect at least seven new Board members for 2020.

Election to the Board is a three-year commitment of your time and energy. Please give it thoughtful consideration. We are a volunteer organization, and our Board is a key part of our organization.

If you are interested in serving, please turn in an application or see one of our Nominating Committee members. We need your help to fill these openings.

You do not have to be a Board member to be one of our many volunteers who support OLLI. We have instructors, facilitators, ambassadors, office volunteers and committee members who serve every day who may or may not be Board members. We need you to make your OLLI a success each and every day.

As a note, our OLLI is currently 1,100 members strong. We thank you for being one of these valuable members. Finally, I would like to thank our instructors for the great courses presented in the fall. The feedback you provided was positive for these courses, so you must have enjoyed them as much as I did!

**David Styers**  
**President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**

## WINTER TERM AND EXCITING NEW COURSES



Winter Term Open House is history, but what a fun day we had in mid-December!

Attendance was high, many teachers participated, new members were welcomed, folks enjoyed making ornaments as well as stuffing packets for the homeless, and everyone seemed to be in a festive mindset. Thanks to all volunteers who contributed to another successful OLLI event.

Winter Term already has record-high enrollment, but if you have not registered yet, there is plenty of time before classes begin January 27. A number of exciting new courses are being offered, and all course descriptions and instructors are listed in our [Winter Term course guide](#).

Word of mouth is always our best marketing tool, so spread the word or give a gift membership to a friend.

As we take stock of 2019 and move into a new year, I am always reminded of cherished relationships I have had for 50-plus years and also of the many new friends I have met in recent years through OLLI.

I feel privileged to be a volunteer and a participant in our vibrant community organization, where I can continue learning and having fun. Won't you come join us in 2020 to widen our circle of friends and broaden your horizons?

**Linda McAllister**  
*VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors*



*Ornament Activity at the Winter Open House*



*Members talking about Winter term courses*



*Winter term instructors sharing course information*

# COURSE SPOTLIGHT

## THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER



### Casino Poker | W | 1:15 - 2:45 pm

Improve your understanding of the two most prevalent types of poker seen in casinos: Texas Hold'em and Video Poker. If you've wanted to play a casino poker game but didn't fully understand how, this course will help you! Learn how to play your favorite game by learning new skills and tricks.

### Advanced Investment Strategies | W | 3:00—4:30 pm

Do you wish you had a better understanding of your investment options? Join financial planner Lacey Scott as she teaches you strategies to help you reach your goals in the current investment environment. Learn how to plan for your family's future, protect what you worked for, and pass on your legacy.



### The Course of True Love | Th | 10:30 am—noon

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, one of Shakespeare's most endearing plays, mixes romantic love, magic, and moonlight to create an enchanting story. After reading and discussing this comedy, members will get to watch a performance of the captivating play on film. Discover the worlds of moonstruck lovers, mischievous woodland fairies, and bumbling amateur actors as they collide through this fascinating play.

### Navigating the Google Platform | Th | 5:15—6:45 pm

Did you know Google is more than just a search engine? You can also store, sync, and share files with ease! Keep all your work in one place, view different file formats without buying extra software, and access your files from any device. Learn to use the Google platform to enhance your skills with email, spreadsheets, documents, and forms. Gmail account required for course, but can be set up on first day of class. Course will be held in a computer lab.



### The Path of Genetic Engineering | Th | 5:15—6:45 pm

Gain an understanding of DNA's role in supporting heredity and guiding the synthesis of RNA and proteins. The physical-chemical properties of DNA will be discussed to understand restriction enzymes, sequencing and cloning. Participate in the discussion about the effects of DNA in aging, antibiotic resistance, and forensics.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## VIETNAM — 50 YEARS LATER

*Cliff Lanham has been an OLLI member since 2011, having chaired several committees. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors and is one of OLLI's instructors. He is retired military, having served three tours in Vietnam. He was a captain in the Army. His first two tours, 1967-68 and 1969, were as an adviser to the Vietnamese Army Infantry Battalion. In 1971 he returned to Vietnam as a commander of a maintenance battalion. Recently he and his son returned to Vietnam for what Cliff calls his "trip of a lifetime." This is his story.*



*Cliff Lanham (right) and tour guide Thu-yen Nguyen (left) speaking with a local near Hoi An, Vietnam, in October 2019.*

My son, Mike, and I arrived in Hanoi on October 18 and met the other six members of the Road Scholar Walking Tour that would consume us until November 3. Our tour guide would be Van Thuyen Nguyen. Thuyen had a superb command of the English language and a wealth of knowledge on the history of Vietnam.

We saw all the locations on our itinerary, including Mai Chau, Ninh Binh, Halong Bay, Da Nang, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) and Long An. It was unbelievable.

Mike and I did make time to have a quick drive out toward the Cambodian border to the small town of Duc Hoa, Vietnam. Duc Hoa was my first paid trip as an infantry officer to Vietnam in 1967.

Duc Hoa was no longer a sleepy little town of 3,000 people. It was now a major city of some 35,000-plus people. As with many places in the old South Vietnam, nothing is left to see or visit that was once part of the old Republic of South Vietnam.

Where the old 25th Army of the Republic of South Viet Nam (ARVN) and the American Advisor Compound was located is now a massive People's War Memorial to the warriors of North Vietnam and the

Communist Party. Even the old base camp where I was an adviser three kilometers outside of town was gone.

The ARVN Cemetery on the edge of town was also gone. We did find the old divisional airfield just behind the People's War Memorial. The runway was now a road, with many old and discarded ARVN soldiers and families trying to make a living and reside in substandard housing.

Fifty years and acceptance of capitalism have changed Vietnam to a vibrant and healthy nation. Even the lowly farmer now has electricity. Honda has made a fortune selling motorcycles in-country. Every individual (16 and above) seems to have a motorcycle. At least 30 percent of the population have automobiles.

It seemed as if every 12-year-old child and above had a cellphone. The internet is open to the world. China is certainly not as open when it comes to the internet.

Televisions are found in at least 90% of the households. Clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators are common in the cities. English is taught as early as the sixth grade, and all the young people desire to speak English.

As a general rule, the younger generation has not dwelled on the past wars, except the French colonial period and the modern-day threat of China. China seems to be a shadow of concern floating over Vietnam. Like many American veterans, the Vietnamese veterans have their remembrances of their wars as good, bad and/or indifferent.

My return to Vietnam was a fantastic adventure. I have seen a nation that has experienced almost continuous war for over a hundred years. They survived at a fearful cost, in excess of 2 million killed.

The country now is a young and hopeful nation seeking to be the best people they can be for themselves, their families and their nation.

*Cliff Lanham (kneeling, right) and his adviser team somewhere in War Zone C near Souri Tri, east of TayNinh III Corps, South Vietnam, 1968*



# MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

## OLLI DVD LIBRARY



Learning and expanding the mind are what OLLI is all about. And that doesn't need to stop in those weeks between semesters.

The OLLI DVD library offers almost 500 DVDs, that can be checked out complimentary, on subjects ranging from history to math to cooking to astronomy to languages.

One of the best benefits of the library is that it contains most of the Great Courses DVDs that many OLLI courses are based on. If you missed classes in those courses or weren't able to take the courses, you can check out the Great Courses DVDs and catch up.

Here is a sample of DVDs available:

- “Masterworks of American Art”
- “Great Masters: Beethoven, His Life and Work”
- “Understanding Investments”
- “Science and Religion”
- “A Brief History of the World”
- “Joy of Mathematics”
- “Everyday Gourmet”

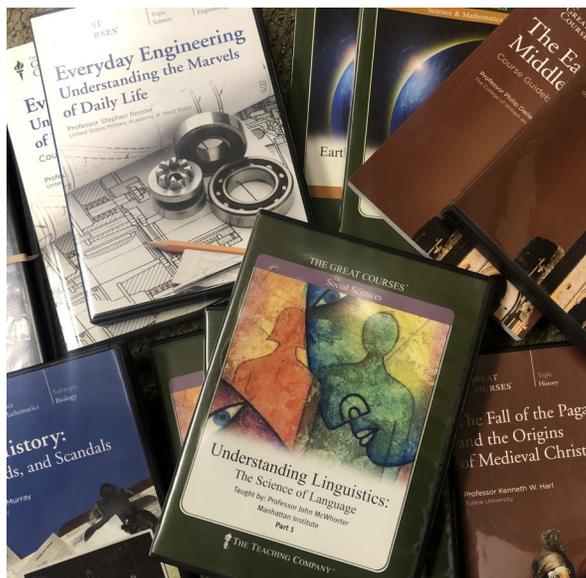
A master list of the library's DVDs can be found on the break room's bulletin board. Eventually the master list will be available online.

The DVD library is in the OLLI Volunteer office around the corner from the break room. It's open 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays during term. The office phone number is 256.824.6959.

Checking out a DVD is as simple as signing a check-out sheet. Normally you should return the DVD in two weeks, but the staff realizes some of the course DVDs require more time.

If you have DVDs collecting dust, donate them to the library. DVDs like the Great Courses series are especially needed.

**Leah Black**  
**Member Services Chair**



*Some of the DVDs offered*

OLLI 2020  
Photo Contest

Deadline:  
**April 1, 2020**

Submit up to  
3 entries!

## Things That Can Fly

- Photos must be taken Apr 1, 2019–Mar 31, 2020
- Photographer must be an OLLI Member
- Gentle editing permitted, but keep original
- No identifying/copyright marks on photo
- Submit named photo via digital jpg format
- Recommend at least 2 MB final size

**Submit entries:**

**[olliphotcontest@gmail.com](mailto:olliphotcontest@gmail.com)**

Include where/when photo was taken, your name, phone number, and e-mail.

**[Osher.uah.edu/OLLIPhotoContest](http://Osher.uah.edu/OLLIPhotoContest)**



# OLLI VOLUNTEERS

## COMING SOON — VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday; now it's time to start thinking about OLLI again.

Last year we started a new recognition program — **Volunteer of the Year**. The award will be presented to a recipient of *your* nominations each May at the OLLI Annual Dinner. The first winner was Jerry

Pang, and his award was presented during the OLLI Annual Dinner last May.

It's time now to start looking for the 2020 recipient. All members of OLLI are invited to participate in this venture. A little about the program first so you'll know how you can help.

Candidates are selected based on nominations received by the OLLI membership at large. You can nominate any volunteer you'd like, as long as they're an OLLI member and actually volunteered — hence the name Volunteer of the Year.

You can submit as many nominations as you'd like; we just hope that you'll not nominate the same person multiple times. Generally, a nominated member would be a person who was an instructor, facilitator, committee/board member, office worker/ambassador, Member Interest Group leader or bonus snack provider, or someone who worked in another area that you'll include in the nomination.

If they volunteered anytime during spring, summer or fall 2019 or winter 2020, they're eligible. In case you're wondering, spring 2020 is too late for the nomination process and will be included in next year's group.

If you want to nominate someone, but you know they've already been nominated by someone else, do it anyway. To narrow down the final four or five, we'll be looking at the number of nominations each person received.

The request for nominations will be posted in the weekly eNews and mentioned by class facilitators for the two weeks before the window opens. A day before the window opens, an email will be sent to all OLLI members with a link to the automated form.

Manual nominations will be accepted; forms and the collection box will be available in the OLLI Volunteer Office.

Nominations will be accepted from mid-February to mid-March. Nominees will be validated for eligibility and narrowed down to a list of five finalists, from which a "winner" will be selected.

In addition to being announced at the Annual Dinner, the recipient will receive a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the OLLI Board President, a small trophy, and a registration certificate for the following fall term.

This year's nomination process will open February 16 and close March 13.

More information will be included in next month's *OLLI Insider*. Be sure to start thinking today about whom you may want to nominate.

**Irene Garappo**  
**Volunteer Support Chair**



*2019 Volunteer of the Year*

*Jerry Pang and his wife*

## CRUISING THE DANUBE - PART 1

*DISCLAIMER: Val Seaquist does a wonderful job of capturing daily trip notes; so most of this article was composed based on "Val's Log" of the trip.*

A small group of OLLI members ventured out on cold December days to cruise the Danube and enjoy the Christmas markets.

The trip was led by Grand Circle Tours, a company our OLLI uses a lot for tours within the States as well as abroad.

There is so much to cover, I'm going to do this article in three parts. Part 1 will be just a general overview; Part 2 will touch on all the sights and on-board information lectures; Part 3 will tell all about the people stuff we did — dance contest, karaoke, dining experiences, etc. Part 3 will definitely be *the* one! Hopefully, you'll enjoy these articles as much as we enjoyed the trip.

The trip was labeled *Christmas on the Danube*. The base trip started as we left the USA on Monday, December 2, arriving in Nuremberg on Tuesday, December 3.

Pre- and post-trip options were offered on each end of the base trip. Pre-trip was five days in Munich; post-trip was an additional three days in Vienna. Several members of our groups went on one or both of these. (*Pre- and post-trips are not covered in these articles.*)

Those of you who have traveled overseas know the nightmare of connecting airports. I connected in Paris — but will never do so again if I can help it. Several went through Amsterdam and hit problems with construction. A few were lucky enough not to see either of these.

We were picked up at the airport by Grand Circle reps and taken directly to the ship — *MS River Adagio*.



*MS River Adagio*

The first night was one of relaxation — which we all needed after the long trans-Atlantic flights. We did have a ship briefing about the cruise and an introduction of crew members — surprisingly, none from Germany or Austria. We then had dinner and started getting acquainted with our program directors, ship crew and other passengers — 125 total passengers and a crew of fewer than 50. And the food? *Wonderful!* More about this in the next articles.

Unlike larger cruises, we all ate lunch and dinner at the same time, so you got acquainted with a lot of people. There were 14 of us from OLLI at UAH, and we met several people from the OLLI group at Penn State and one couple from a small college in New Hampshire — can't remember which one (*you know that comes with age*).



*Cruise Route*

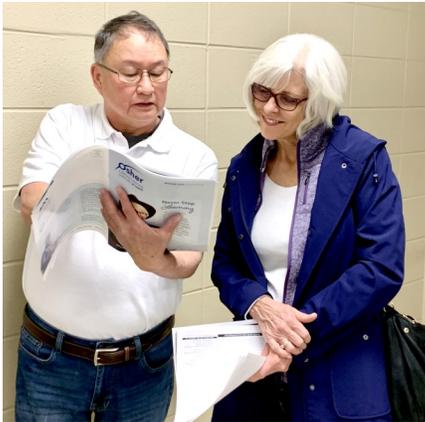
We spent the first full day in Nuremberg, then traveled to Regensburg, Passau, Linz, Melk and the Wachau Valley before ending in Vienna to face the long trip home. Saw a *lot* of locks. Seems like every day or night, we went through several.

We got an on-board presentation, and one thing they said *not* to do was touch the walls of the locks. Well, that note came a day too late. Guess who touched it the day before?

Next month, I'll talk about the individual ports, the Christmas markets and on-board presentations — interesting; we even had a glass-blower one day who did a demonstration with fire and all, and an unscheduled visit from a children's choir who sang several songs for us. Stay tuned ...

***Irene Garappo***

## WINTER OPEN HOUSE - DECEMBER 13



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY 2020



More than 100 OLLI members and guests celebrated the season at the Annual Holiday Party, held at the Hudson Alpha Jackson Center on December 17.

Attendees enjoyed cocktails, dinner and dancing to music provided by our favorite DJ, Ted Cannon. Door prizes were given to a few lucky members, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful collection of oldies and Christmas songs.

The many people who danced and sang into the night demonstrate that OLLI is a place for all ages to enjoy life.

**Bob Darnall**  
**Social Chair**



## OLLI AT UAH

### HOCKEY GAME DAY

2/28/2020, 7:07 PM, VBC ARENA

POC: JANET REVILLE  
JREV1988@GMAIL.COM



## GRAND OLE NASHVILLE

**DAY TRIP** MARCH 18 | \$140\*  
8 AM – 7 PM\*\* | C72W2068

- Visit the Country Music Hall of Fame
- Snap a picture with wax figures at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum
- Visit the replica of the Parthenon in Athens and its museum

*\* Trip fee includes: transportation, museum admissions, and lunch. Day trip is NOT included as one of the three courses in the \$99 term fee.*

*\*\* Approximate times*

# Validate Your OLLI Commuter Parking Permit for Winter Term

As the new term approaches, please stop by the CPCS Registration Office, Wilson Hall 103, to validate your 19-20 OLLI Commuter Parking Permit for Winter term.

### NEW GUIDELINES FOR HANDICAP PARKING

Members who have a state DMV- issued Disability Access hang tag or license plate, please visit the Parking Management Office to have it validated. The office is located on the first floor of the Intermodal Facility (IMF). Please bring the following items:

- Disability Access Placard
- Driver's License
- Copy of the DMV-issued - Disability Access paperwork

Don't forget to hang both your OLLI Commuter Parking Permit and Disability Access placard on your vehicle's rear view mirror. When locating a parking spot, if all Handicap spaces in a lot are full, members with a Disability Access placard may park in any regular space in the Commuter or Faculty/Staff zones. This is not applicable for Residential (yellow dot) or Service Vehicle Zones.