

THE OLLI

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

INSIDER

MAY 2021 ISSUE



Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at **UAH**

MAY – JUNE 2021

Sign up for each event by clicking “online.” All bonuses/events are through Zoom video conferencing. You will receive an email with the Zoom meeting invitation one business day prior. There is a limited capacity per event.

May 5 | Wed | 5:00 pm | [Online](#)
Event: Fiesta Time!

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with fellow OLLI members. We will play trivia and learn how to make your own margarita from home! Join Talina Acklin, Professional Mixologist, and discover the story behind margaritas while having fun making one.

Sign up [online](#) for the event using Zoom.

Presented by Alice Sammon, OLLI Program Coordinator

May 7 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)
Bonus: Explore the Rainbow: Gender and Sexual Minorities

Explore a brief history of the Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSM) community, address common misconceptions, and learn ways to become better allies. Learn key terms and acronyms such as GSM and LGBTQIAA+ to be more comfortable using inclusive language. Discover the resources available in the local area and how to make the program a more welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Katie Greene, UAH Office of Diversity

May 14 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)
Bonus: How’s your Habitat? Co-existing with Nature

Learn how animals, plants and us, among many others, co-exist. Discover the ecological principles about microenvironments, home landscapes, how any landowner can improve the outlook for better local ecology and why we should spread the word about doing so. Take home a few ideas to make living together much more harmonious.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Susan Webb, Landscape Designer and Horticulturist

June 1, 3, 7 & 9 | [Online](#)
Zoom and Google Classroom Trainings

Are you familiar with Zoom and Google Classroom? Whether you are or aren’t, OLLI at UAH will provide complimentary training sessions to get you ready for your summer classes and make sure you feel comfortable using the software. See dates and times:

Tuesday, June 1st at 10:00 am

Thursday, June 3rd at 1:00 pm

Monday, June 7th at 9:00 am

Wednesday, June 9th at 3:00 pm

Sign up [online](#) for the event using Zoom.

June 25th | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)
Coffee Chats: Trivia

Test your knowledge on interesting facts in many subjects while enjoying a morning with fellow OLLI members. The game will be played individually.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Ale Pacheco, OLLI Program Manager

▶▶ **SAVE THE DATE:** ◀◀

Fall Open House

Campus: 8/10 • T • 10:00 am – noon

Come back to campus to register for our fall term! Join us to see fellow OLLI members in-person while learning more about our upcoming courses, bonuses, and events.

OLLI Alabama Day

8/20 • F • More details to come.

Join us to celebrate the 2nd OLLI Alabama Day! Together with the OLLI programs at The University of Alabama and Auburn University, we will have a daylong celebration with many notable speakers.

**KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST
EVENTS AT
[OSHER.UAH.EDU/OLLIEVENTS](https://osher.uah.edu/ollievents)**

NEW SEASON OF HOPE AND LIVE VIRTUAL LEARNING



Dear OLLI at UAH members,

“We stand on the shoulders of giants,” a metaphor whose meaning humbles and astounds me as I reflect on the success of our community to share, educate, and live in a Zoom world during pandemic. To everything there is a season. It is my honor to serve as *The OLLI Insider’s* new editor.

OLLI at UAH is my intellectual food for mental, emotional, and spiritual growth. I’m looking forward to extending those feelings of hope and energy to all members with the help of the editorial team.

In this issue, you’ll find the stories of strong women whose leadership has helped steer, shape and define OLLI at UAH as a world-class learning institution.

Dr. Karen Clanton reflects on her 35 years at UAH as she prepares for retirement and new opportunities.

And former *OLLI Insider* editor and businesswoman, Liz Kocir, reminds us that OLLI at UAH is a brain trust and a family of lifelong learners.

We also share sad news about the passing of Bill McAllister, longtime OLLI instructor, lifelong birder and husband to Linda. Sue Chatham remembers the civic-minded “gentleman and educator.”

We all look forward to seeing each other on campus this summer. Until then, we are Zooming curriculum.

The OLLI Insider will be on hiatus during June and July. But our editorial team will be planning for a new season of hope and hybrid learning.

The people of OLLI are special, anchoring our community in new ideas, courses and traditions. Many thanks to Steve Stewart, Sue Chatham, and Glen Adams for putting together *The OLLI Insider* publication.

Ad astra,
Kathryn Cataldo
PR Committee Chair



A FAREWELL ARTICLE



As the title indicates, this will be my farewell article as President of your OLLI. You have already elected board members, and the board will elect their executive team at their meeting the second Friday in May.

I have to admit that I have enjoyed serving as the President of OLLI.

Even with COVID, it was an easy job because of the fantastic team members we have in our organization. Our OLLI has been significantly impacted by COVID, but we are still one of the strongest OLLI groups nationwide, in my opinion.

Look at our courses, bonuses, and special events we have enjoyed under COVID times. We have not endured, but rather blossomed, under these circumstances. My thanks go out to each of you for a job well done.

We are deep into our spring term, and I don't know about you, but I am loving it. I am taking courses that pique my interest. In particular, I am enjoying Cliff Lanham and Phil Graham's genealogy course.

I had taken an earlier course of theirs and from that chased my ancestors back to the Civil War in three cases and back to England in another. I also discovered that the family lore about my surname, Styers, is likely not true. I have found out that my great-great-grandfather was married in Madison County before Alabama became a state and my great-great-grandfather migrated from Alabama to Mississippi, then Tennessee. It is interesting chasing down people and so much easier now that I have received a little training.

Most of us have likely either had our COVID vaccinations or decided not to take them. I personally elected to take the vaccine and am relieved to have the protection that it affords.

Our state has had significant improvements in the COVID outbreaks, and for that reason our state is beginning to wake up and return to more normal life. Our OLLI will do the same thing.

If the state trends continue, we will be able to return to campus in the fall under the University's guidelines.

The College of Professional Studies will be sending out information on that as the time approaches.

I will be glad to see each and every one of you again. I have enjoyed the learning we have continued with OLLI, but have missed tremendously the in-person fellowship. It will be great to start the transition back to that.

Dr. Karen Clanton, who has been a part of lifelong learning at UAH from the beginning, is retiring at the end of May. We will miss the leadership and support she has provided through the years.

To honor her long service, OLLI is making a donation of \$1,000 to the Scholarship Fund in her honor. When we return to campus, we will invite her to join us for a more personal thank-you celebration of her service that each of you can participate in.

Thankfully, Dr. Clanton has put together an excellent support team for OLLI, so that even though she will be gone as Dean, OLLI will continue upon the strong path that she has established. We hope that she will return to us as a student as a part of her retirement plans.

With this, I bid you adieu. Thank you for supporting OLLI!

David Styers

President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

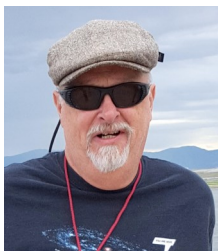
RENEW YOUR OLLI AT UAH MEMBERSHIP

CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE ONLINE COURSES, BONUSES AND SOCIAL EVENTS!

Three ways to renew:

- ONLINE AT OSHER.UAH.EDU
- PHONE US AT 256.824.6010
- MAIL REGISTRATION FORM FOUND ONLINE

SUMMER, FALL PLANS INCLUDE A REUNION



During the warm afternoons this past week, I got to thinking back to this time of year oh, so many years ago, when I was in elementary school and could hardly wait for that last bell of the school year to ring, setting us all free for the summer.

You all remember those times, right? Walking barefoot through the snow for 5 miles uphill every day and all that? That last bell was a godsend. No more classes, no more books, and no more teacher's dirty looks?

And no homework, no getting up early. Heck, no responsibilities in general. Just going down to the beach from morning till night, fishing, swimming, and generally getting into childhood mischief.

Those were some good days. Oh, now I may still get into mischief from time to time, but that's a story for another occasion.

While I'll never forget those days, now I have other things to look forward to, not the least of which is the start of planning for our next OLLI academic year. So I guess that it's a good thing that the beach isn't just a 5-minute walk away anymore. But the next year is going to be a rejuvenation for us OLLI members. And we, in the Curriculum Committee, are looking forward to making it a special one.

The good news is that it is likely we will all be back together on campus come fall. To ensure this happens, I urge all of you to practice public health awareness and safety as you're out and about the next couple of months.

Please wear your masks and social distance where appropriate. I know it gets tiresome, but just remember that we put up with it, not as something we do for ourselves, but because it's something we want to do for each other. And if we're careful, we'll all have a chance to sit down in the OLLI lounge once again come September to catch up over a cup of coffee or two.

Your Curriculum Committee is already at work setting up the fall line of courses. I think they will be back to the robust schedule of the past.

But in the meantime, guess what? There will still be a full slate of OLLI programs running throughout the summer. The CPS staff has done a terrific job of putting together a schedule of lectures and events that are sure to catch your eye. This newsletter contains a breakdown of those activities to get you started. But in addition, stay tuned to the weekly eNews and make sure to sign up and enjoy a summer of fun and learning. I hope to see you all there!

But whether you stay home and learn with us, or take the opportunity to get out on the road once again and go visit family or just explore new places, I hope you all have a wonderful summer! And then I'll look forward to seeing you all back on campus in the fall. First cup in the lounge is on me!

And with that, I shall bid you adieu for the summer. And who knows, maybe a little summer and beach mischief might just be called for after all. Till next time ...

John Mason
VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

A graphic designed to look like a document with a paperclip in the top left corner, a ruler on the left side, and a pencil on the right side. The text is as follows:

**Teach for
OLLI at UAH**

If you are interested in
teaching this fall term,
email John Mason at
jdmason52@gmail.com

Fall term is from 9/13 to 11/5.

AT LONG LAST, READY TO HIT THE ROAD AGAIN



Hello, fellow OLLI members!

This last year has been a “bit” of a challenge in several ways, but here we are, and hopefully we are close to the end of the restrictions we have had to endure.

This is not to say we should not continue to err on the side of caution. As they say, I can see a light at the end of the tunnel. I do hope all continues to be well with you.

The Southwest National Parks trip Aug. 22-Sept. 2, 2021, has 24 OLLI members ready to travel again. We will have a group meeting — if not in person, via Zoom — in late July or early August for the travelers and the tour director.

NOW, FOR FUTURE PLANNING — The OLLI Board of Directors and the College of Professional Studies have been fine-tuning OLLI at UAH’s travel policy procedures, and we are ready to begin planning new trips for late 2021 and for 2022.

I know you are all eager to travel, and the travel companies are now telling me to get a jump on any trips you may want to schedule for 2022 because people are calling and booking *now*. Some European countries are still experiencing border closures, but many are opening their borders and looking forward to travelers again.

We are planning a Travel Committee meeting via Zoom to gather ideas for trips in late 2021 and 2022. The Travel Committee needs OLLI members wanting to travel to suggest destinations they believe to be of interest to a group or a class with similar interests and to submit these ideas to the committee for consideration.

Thank you, and you may contact me at bbkoyal@aol.com.

Betty Koval
Travel Committee Chair



BETTER DAYS AHEAD



Dear OLLI Members,

I hope you are doing well during this beautiful spring season. I also hope that the ones who are taking spring courses are enjoying them! We have seen great topics being discussed during class time and great feedback on the Google Classrooms.

There are still two courses members can register for this spring: *Writing on the Landscape* and *Rhythms of the World*. These two courses are 4-day workshops which means they only last one week and meet from M-Th starting on May 17th. To find more information on them, check out the spring course guide at Osher.uah.edu/CourseGuide

Now, I am sure you have heard the news... OLLI is coming back to campus this summer! We will be having four courses that will meet in-person and online during the summer. The courses are:

- One Hit Wonders
- Fuel Your Body– Plant-Based Nutrition
- Tai Chi (instructor will be online)
- Experiences of the Von Braun Rocket Team Families

These courses have a limited in-person capacity, so if you are planning on joining us on campus, make sure you register soon as spots might run out. Members who register for the in-person option will need to pick up a parking permit for the summer term on **July 12th at 10:00 am to noon**. Please bring the parking permit form filled out to Wilson Hall on that day.

If you are planning on joining us online through Zoom this summer, the courses mentioned above do have an online option. We also have many more courses online. See below:

- Discovering Science in Movies
- Fact or Fiction? Inside Cults & Conspiracies
- Gentle, Mindful Yoga
- Jazz Music through the Years
- Life Beyond Earth: When Chemistry Becomes Biology
- Navigating the Google Platform

- Paint with Your Soul
- Visualizing Honor, Service, and Sacrifice
- Writing Your Life Story

We hope you can join us this summer to learn new topics while enjoying the company of fellow OLLI members.

If you have any questions about summer term, or OLLI, please do not hesitate to contact us at 256.824.6183 or email us at OLLI.info@uah.edu.

Ale Pacheco
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

A Learning Adventure Awaits You
Back On Campus!
Select courses only—
Look inside for details.

Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at UAH

2021 Summer Program
For Adults 50+

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

This summer OLLI at UAH brings many new opportunities to keep you intellectually and socially active! Take a variety of courses, engage in fun events, and socialize with fellow members. All summer courses will be offered online via Zoom, but some courses will also be available on campus! We look forward to seeing you both online and in-person!

Osher.uah.edu | 256.824.6183

Click on the image to learn more about the summer term courses available.

RETIRING CPS DEAN CLANTON IS ‘ONE OF US’

According to Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, “Huntsville, Alabama is a strong city, and one of the reasons we have a strong city is that we have strong women in leadership roles.” And if you look closely at the city, and the constellation of female leadership that exists across its aerospace, defense, technology, government, business, and higher education sectors, it is evident that he knows what he speaks.

When Dr. Karen Clanton, Ed.D., was growing up in Huntsville, she didn't know that one day she would join the ranks of that top-notch leadership and represent The University of Alabama in Huntsville on the world stage.

“I fell into it. I was encouraged by a friend, a mentor, to look at a career in academia,” explained Clanton, who graduated from UAH in 1981 with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a major in marketing. After a few years at IBM and a year of business consulting spent honing her craft, she chose her career path at UAH in 1985.

And she proves that she made the right choice. Now, almost 35 years later, after a distinguished career at UAH, Clanton, Dean of the College of Professional Studies (CPS), is set to retire on May 31.

CPS provides specialized educational opportunities through workforce training programs, lifelong learning, conferences, and bachelor's degrees. Her culmination of decades of hard work has resulted in programs that provide benefits that extend far beyond just the UAH campus, providing support to the city, its business and industry, and its citizens.

Her calm and decisive leadership has guided the UAH community literally through the timeline of Moore's Law, creating college coursework that supports an aerospace, defense, and technology workforce. Moore's Law is the principle that the speed and capability of components on an integrated circuit will double every two years—a prediction that has defined the trajectory of technology.

“Our professional development programs often operate as a proving ground,” Clanton said, noting that academia moves slower than the accelerated needs of a knowledge-based workforce. “Our noncredit certificates in systems engineering, supply chain management, modeling and simulation, and cybersecurity were available to start

providing workforce training long before becoming degree programs at UAH.”

One of her most valued accomplishments is in the area of adult degree completion. In 2017, Dean Clanton recognized the need for UAH to provide a clear pathway for adults who were unable to complete a four-year degree due to juggling work and family commitments. This culminated in the addition of UAH's Bachelor of Arts/ Science in Professional Studies, which provides a well-rounded education through an interdisciplinary curriculum, online and hybrid course options, and five areas of concentration.

Lifelong learning programs have been a part of the college for over 25 years. “OLLI at UAH is special,” Clanton said. “It's an important part of the University and the community. And its success is due to the people in it, the volunteers that believe in the program and support it through their hard work and dedication that have made OLLI at UAH into a valuable resource for our community.”

Clanton's professionalism, project management expertise, and continuous communication echoes across the departments, including OLLI—the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

“One of the things that Dr. Clanton does is to meet one-on-one with the OLLI president at least once a quarter, pre-COVID,” said David Styers, outgoing OLLI president. “The meetings are always very informal and open. She always asks in that meeting what has gone well and what problems have occurred that she can help solve. Her offer to help has always been sincere, and she has helped me work through issues during my time as president.”



CPS staff celebrating Dr. Clanton's retirement.

RETIRING CPS DEAN CLANTON IS ‘ONE OF US’ CONTINUED

OLLI board member Janet Reville echoed those sentiments when she said, “Every year our Board of Directors has a training session, usually in the summer. There are brand new members, as well as those who have already started their three-year term. Every year, Dr. Clanton would present the overall hierarchy of CPS and how OLLI fits into the puzzle. Despite the same questions she heard every time, she always showed complete patience and professionalism—even when some of us were cracking jokes and disrupting the presentations. In many ways, she has been one of us—although a bit younger in years.”

In 2006, Clanton had the opportunity to build a partnership between UAH’s lifelong learning program and the Bernard Osher Foundation, which produced a \$2 million endowment that provides long-term annual support for OLLI.

“Although the interest from the endowment fund is always an important part of OLLI’s annual support, during the COVID pandemic it became key to its continued existence,” Clanton said.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the UAH campus was closed. And within days, OLLI online zoomed into reality, transforming from a traditional podium-based educational paradigm to an entirely new, online venue. Giving all the credit to her staff for the ease and success of this transition, Clanton said: “It was Fathia (Hardy), Ale (Pacheco), and Alice (Sammon). They moved as quickly as possible, believing that it was important for the members to be able to stay active within the OLLI community during such a stressful time.”

Always learning while leading, Clanton earned her master’s in business in 1988 at UAH.

In 2002, she completed the Management Development Program at Harvard University Graduate School of Education. “And, finally, after talking about it for years, I completed my doctorate in Higher Education Administration in 2008 at The University of Alabama,” Clanton said.

Clanton’s diligence and tireless pursuit of goals and achieving outcomes has drawn her across the globe. Managing unprecedented opportunities, building programs and people while balancing motherhood and family life,

Clanton found that travel was her escape. It was her travels in 1988 through the Soviet Union to Siberia with NASA Marshall Space Flight Center colleagues to develop the first international conference on biospheres that ignited her passion to explore.

“It was my first trip abroad,” she said, “and it sparked a passion for seeing the world, which to date includes Machu Picchu (Peru), Baikonur (Kazakhstan) and Angkor Wat (Cambodia).” Her husband also likes to travel, so now, Croatia is also on her short list.

The forward-thinking Clanton has had a career networked alongside glitterati of industry and military leaders, musicians, actors and politicians. Now, looking forward, Clanton is clear-eyed, optimistic, and open to new adventures. Her first priorities are to spend quality time with her parents, Joy and Bill Boland, and she has a second grandson due in June. Carving a new path after 35 years of leading at UAH, she’s excited at the idea of retirement.

“It’s time for someone else to come in and provide new ideas and direction,” Clanton said, “and after a year or two, I might be looking at new opportunities.” And there is no doubt that she will find and conquer them.

By Kathryn Cataldo



Dr. Clanton with fellow OLLI members at various OLLI functions.

LIZ KOCIR: SILICON VALLEY TO ROCKET CITY

Elizabeth “Liz” Kocir—who has served as an OLLI instructor, facilitator, board member, public relations committee chair, and editor of *The OLLI Insider*—is stepping away from extra OLLI activities because of family health issues. Her last issue as editor was last month.

She grew up in San Jose, California, in the 1960s surrounded by diversity as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s space program and tech industry fueled the Bay Area’s American dream.

“We were kids living in the Bay Area, and I just became fascinated by our country’s history and the politics of the day. There is and was a heavy military presence in the area. The Vietnam War and the Summer of Love 1969 stand out in my mind, because it touched me and so many things changed.”

“I was fortunate,” Liz said. “My mom was a nurse and my dad a mechanic. My two brothers and I grew up believing that there wasn’t anything you couldn’t do in this great country.”

She became a student of politics at age 10. In her senior high school year, 1971, she met Nancy Reagan and future President Ronald Reagan.

“I studied his and other politicians’ speeches, and it dovetailed nicely when I began working in the insurance industry,” Liz explained.

“Lockheed Martin, Hewlett-Packard, Atari, Intel, and others were creating a new economy in California based on technology, rather than agriculture,” Liz said.

As an administrative assistant at an insurance brokerage firm in San Francisco, she networked with politicians across California and the country for the next 30 years. When the Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress, Liz decided, in her mid-50s, that it was time to leave Silicon Valley and change lifestyle.

Her two brothers lived in Huntsville, and despite naysayers she moved to the Rocket City. “I fell in love with the people and the beauty of the Tennessee Valley’s mountains and lakes.”

Liz also found love and married Dean Butler in 2013. The same year, she discovered OLLI at UAH.

“I wanted to keep on learning, but I didn’t want to be a college student stressing about grades or deadlines. It’s so important to be around people our own age and form relationships.

Let’s not forget there are 70 million baby boomers, and OLLI at UAH is where learning and Zooming are at.”

“We’ll get back to campus. Don’t underestimate its value. We’ve got to let others know that we exist, even in a pandemic. We need to talk about our experiences. Take the opportunity to learn from each other and look at both sides because things are ever evolving.”

Thank you, Liz, for evolving *The OLLI Insider*.

By Kathryn Cataldo



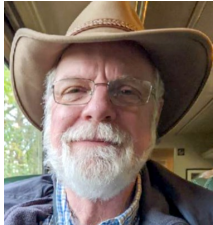
Liz speaking to Kiwanis Club



Liz Kocir, Dori Anthony, and Linda McAllister

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS 4 NEW MEMBERS

Four new members are joining the Board of Directors of OLLI at UAH: Rick Heeth, Hilda Dublin Lee, Steve Stewart, and Chris Stuhlinger. They were elected by OLLI members.



Rick Heeth

Rick, an OLLI member since 2016, served as a facilitator for the past three years and as facilitator coordinator for the past two years. Rick has a B.S. degree in chemical engineering with 38-plus years of professional experience. He worked at 3M in Decatur. He has served 40-plus years as an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and worked with Boy Scouts for more than 40 years at the troop and district levels.



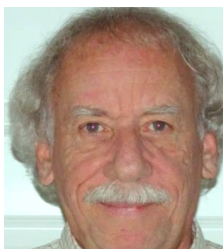
Dr. Hilda Dublin Lee

Hilda has been an OLLI member since 2017. She has taken courses, served as a facilitator, and taught three courses. She owned and managed her dental practice for more than 30 years. She also taught dental practice management seminars at the School of Dentistry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She says she loves research, and she has written and published two books: *In the Labyrinth of Binge Eating* and *Injustice: The 1918 Alabama Murder of Little Jim Turner*.



Steve Stewart

Steve Stewart joined OLLI in 2019 and became copy editor of *The OLLI Insider* that fall. Steve was a newspaper reporter and editor (most recently at The Decatur Daily), and he ran a weekly newspaper and printing shop in Monroeville. He retired in 2019 after 10 years as an assistant professor of journalism at Troy University — teaching classes on campus in Malaysia, in China, and online; advising the student newspaper staff; organizing events; and serving as a liaison to the newspaper industry. He lives in Decatur.



Chris Stuhlinger

In slightly more than a year as an OLLI member, Chris has been both student and instructor. He co-presented a course about Alaska in spring 2021. He wants to help rebuild membership and participation after the pandemic and has experience working with volunteers, teaching extension courses, and managing budgets. A certified arborist and retired forester, he volunteers for the Huntsville Botanical Garden. When he worked for the Maryland Forest Service, he was secretary for the Baltimore City Forestry Board. In Arkansas, Chris was an officer of the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council and a member or chair of local tree boards.

Returning board members are Leah Black, Richard Brooks, Kathryn Cataldo, Jennifer Humiston, Barbara Johnson, Dr. Steve Jones, Judy Oljey, David Rabb, Jill Stewart, Dr. Harriett Somerville, Marilyn Szecholda, Rexanne Warfel and Jan Williamson. **Current executive officers** are David Styers, President; John Mason, Vice President of Curriculum; Allan Williamson, Vice President of Administration and Finance; Betty Koval, Secretary; Linda Lowe, Treasurer; and Janet Reville, Executive Emerita.

The OLLI Board of Directors will be electing its new executive committee at their May meeting. We thank all of our former and new members for volunteering to be on the OLLI Board of Directors.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER IN FAMILY OF SCHOLARS

Education is a tradition in the family of this year’s OLLI Scholarship recipient, Eric Lyon. Six of seven members of his family are in college, and five of them are attending The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

It was a long road to Eric’s college study. He grew up in Haleyville, Alabama, and was the youngest of nine children. His parents never finished high school. His father was an auto mechanic and his mother a homemaker.

“After high school, college was not an economic possibility,” Eric said, “so I joined the U.S. Navy in 1988. Ten years later, I came home to bury my mother and did not re-enlist. I stayed to take care of my elderly father.”

“I started my own company, Jen-Eric Computer. In 2006, I was offered a job maintaining the IT department in the Haleyville City School System. I have been their IT department supervisor/system administrator for 15 years.”

Eric decided it was time to pursue a college degree: “It’s hard to motivate your children if you’re not willing to do it yourself,” he said.

He began his college career at Beville State Community College in Hamilton, Alabama. He transferred in the fall of 2019 to UAH, where he’s majoring in professional studies with a focus on leadership strategies and dynamics. He’s scheduled to graduate this fall.

His wife, Jeannie, is finishing a master’s to become a nurse practitioner. His son Brandon is a senior in mechanical engineering. His daughter Samantha is a senior in physics. His son Tristan is a freshman in computer science. All are at UAH.

His oldest son Seth is working on a Ph.D. at Yale in biochemistry with a focus on RNA.

His oldest daughter Chelsea is a general manager for a national food chain. She and her husband, Richard, have provided the first two members of the next generation.

What has the OLLI scholarship meant to Eric? “This scholarship has been a lifesaver for me,” he said, “as we have been barely staying afloat with so many in school and the off-time from the pandemic.”

Congratulations, Eric, on your and your family’s academic success.

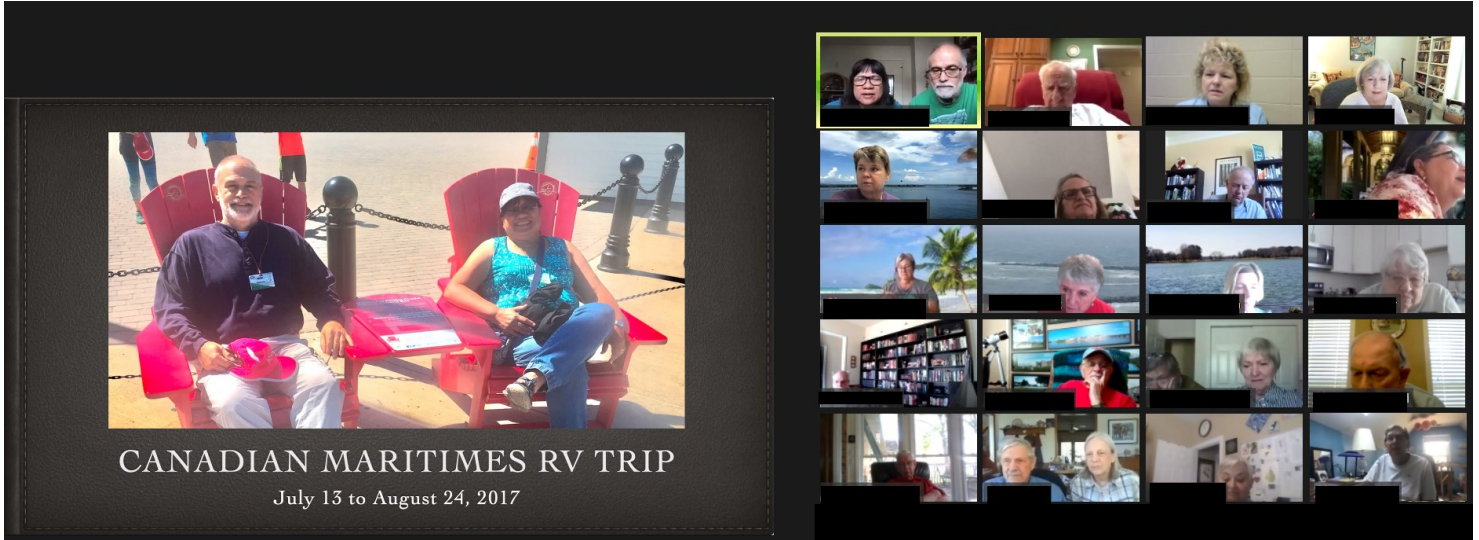
By Glen Adams



Eric Lyon with one of his grandchildren.

SUPPORT THE OLLI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- 1
VISIT [OSHER.UAH.EDU/DONATEOLLI](https://osher.uah.edu/donateolli)
- 2
CLICK ON "GIVE TO OLLI AT UAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND"
- 3
FILL OUT YOUR INFORMATION AND CLICK ON "DONATE"



CANADIAN MARITIMES RV TRIP
July 13 to August 24, 2017

Online bonus topics during April included experiencing the Canadian maritime provinces in a recreational vehicle .



OLLI members tested their knowledge on random subjects by playing a trivia game during the April 16 coffee chat.

BILL MCALLISTER: GENTLEMAN AND EDUCATOR

William Knox “Bill” McAllister
March 6, 1941-April 18, 2021

Bill McAllister led an active, happy and extremely healthy life until a surprise heart attack confronted him while on vacation last month.

He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and educated primarily in New England but moved south to pursue his career in community planning in the 1970s. He worked as a city planner in Sumter, South Carolina, and briefly in Florida before joining the faculty at Alabama A&M University.

After teaching and mentoring numerous successful planners, he retired in 2006 and spent many hours pursuing his passion of birding and bird photography. Bill was a lifelong birder and nature enthusiast, often led bird walks, and worked on perfecting his bird photography. Other pursuits included teaching and participating in courses with OLLI at UAH, traveling domestically and abroad, contradancing (where he met Linda, his wife), and enjoying Linda’s numerous concerts as well as gatherings with family and friends.

Bill’s brother, Doug, lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, and son Cliff McAllister lives in Atlanta. Bill’s daughter Suzie Bittmann died in 2017 and is survived by her husband, Henry, and two college-age sons, Drew and Blake.

In 1993 Linda’s larger family embraced the kind, mild-mannered Bill. He took great delight in each of Linda’s children, Melanie and Brett, and her mother and four siblings with their extended families. There was never a dull moment when families gathered, and recently it was concluded that Bill’s legacy will be that he was a true gentleman and always an educator—whether it was in his professional planning roles or as a grandfather encouraging the love and respect of the natural world, especially birds.

Bill was civic-minded and active in his professional world, as well as birding groups. He and Linda have been active

members of First Presbyterian Church for 25 years, and Linda said that the entire family appreciates the love and support of family and friends during these days of mourning.

Bill was active in OLLI, teaching classes, leading trips and participating in all the activities. I always looked forward to seeing Bill in the lounge or hallways and spending time discussing the latest adventure he had been on. I will miss him.

Val Seaquist remembers Bill: “When I take a mental snapshot of Bill McAllister, I see him walking down the hall at OLLI with a big smile on his face. I hear him talking in his slow, deliberate way. I see him sitting with his buddies in the lounge and sitting in class listening closely to the instructor. I’ll miss him.”

By Sue Chatham



*Bill and Linda McAllister.
Bill was never
without his camera.*

THE LAST WORD

Celebrate CINCO DE MAYO



*Play trivia and learn how
to make a margarita!*

5/5 | W | 5:00 PM

CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO REGISTER

VIRTUAL BONUS

EXPLORE THE RAINBOW: GENDER AND SEXUAL MINORITIES

**PRESENTED BY
KATIE GREENE,
UAH OFFICE OF DIVERSITY,
EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

5/7 | F

11:00 am

CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO REGISTER

Virtual Bonus

How's Your Habitat? Go-Existing with Nature

presented by Susan Webb

**5/14 | F |
11:00 am**



CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO REGISTER