

# INSIDER

*News for the members of OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville*



Brooks Moore (above) is a rocket engineer who helped U.S. astronauts reach the moon in the 20th century — Page 10

OLLI member Craig Young (right) is a program operations and integration subject matter expert supporting the plan to go back to the moon and Mars — Page 12



**TO THE MOON  
AND BEYOND**



# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 2021

Sign up for each event by clicking "Online/In Person." All bonuses/events with online option are through Zoom video conferencing. You will receive an email with the Zoom meeting invitation one business day prior. There is a limited capacity for in-person events.

**Oct 1 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In Person](#)**

**Bonus: Dance in the Community: What Your Local Ballet Company Can Do for You!**

Explore the educational programs, classes, and performances offered by the Huntsville Ballet Company (HBC) that enrich the Huntsville community. Learn the background and history of ballet and discuss this beautiful art with HBC dancers and the education director. Get to see demonstrations by professional dancers!

*Presented by Cathy Curry*

**Oct 8 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In Person](#)**

**Coffee Chats: Bingo**

Join us to play the game of chance! Game cards will be provided to each member.

*Presented by Alice Sammon, OLLI Program Coordinator*

**Oct 15 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In Person](#)**

**Coffee Chats: Scattergories**

Bring on your creative side as you name objects within a set of categories in a short period of time.

*Presented by Alice Sammon, OLLI Program Coordinator*

**Oct 22 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In Person](#)**

**Bonus: Without a Home: Understanding the Homeless Crisis in Huntsville**

Learn about First Stop, a Huntsville-based, non-profit agency serving the needs of the homeless population in North Alabama with a mission to help individuals exit out of homelessness. Delve into the complex and dynamic factors that result in growing numbers of homeless persons in our region.

*Presented by Jennifer Geist*

**Oct 29 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In Person](#)**

**Bonus: New Orleans and Her Music**

Join us to learn the contrasts of music in New Orleans with much of the Anglo South. Through stories and examples, discover how this contrasting development happened and why, for many of us, New Orleans remains a "Land of Dreams."

*Presented by Dr. Connie Atkinson*

## Coffee Chats: Scattergories



10/15 | F  
11:00 am

Click on the image to register.

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

## FROM THE EDITOR

# SCIENCE NEVER STOPS; LEARNING NEVER ENDS



Dear OLLI at UAH members,

October is always a mysterious and magical month in the Tennessee Valley as autumn changes our view with its spectacular colors.

In the Rocket City, we are celebrating space and science achievements with a desire to inspire OLLI at UAH members and the world.

One of the privileges of working with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center® is the access we are given to extraordinary people and places.

Huntsville is the birthplace of American rocketry and home to NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

In this issue, you will meet Brooks Moore, a charter member of NASA when it formed about 1960. Moore oversaw the design, guidance, control, electrical and computer systems for the Saturn 1, 1B and V rockets and much more. We were lucky to have him as a guest speaker in the *Experiences of the Von Braun Rocket Team Families in the U.S.* course this past summer.

NASA plans to return to the moon by 2024. The biggest rocket Space Launch System (SLS) ever built is now at Kennedy Space Center in the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB).

The mission is called Artemis. Inside, discover an OLLI member and NASA contractor, Craig Young, who is dedicated to getting the rocket to the pad.

As NASA gets closer to the launch of Artemis 1, the annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Symposium is Oct. 12-15 in Huntsville.

In collaboration with The University of Alabama in Huntsville and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, this year's theme — "United: A Foundation Delivered, the Future Enabled" — will focus on the Artemis generation and goals for future space science and exploration.

Science never stops, and learning is unending. And however you celebrate the changes that October brings, I wish you peace and inspiration.

Ad astra,  
**Kathryn Cataldo**  
**OLLI Insider Editor**



## RENEW YOUR OLLI AT UAH MEMBERSHIP

**CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE  
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**

## SHAKESPEARE, THE PLAGUE, AND US



Just before OLLI's fall term officially started, several of us took a deep dive into the words of the Bard in the new course/performance workshop *Shakespeare for Lovers and Haters*, led by instructor Susan Hazen Guthrie. I don't know about the others, but it had been at least 50 years since I had even thought about iambic pentameters.

We struggled to learn or relearn the rhythm of Shakespeare's phrases. We created improvisational performances on silly topics and then converted our spontaneous dialogue into iambic pentameter (which was actually more fun than it sounds). And we tried to hear what the Greatest of All Time was trying to tell us not only by his words but also by his end line pauses and silences.

When revisiting the monologues and dialogues of the GOAT's most famous plays, it is striking to see how often the language and images of plagues, poxes, pestilence and pandemics appears. It is a reminder that the world has been right where we are now — before. As Shakespeare says in "The Tempest," "The past is prologue."

While none of his characters actually died from the plague, it was a familiar experience and theme for both Shakespeare and his audiences. There were waves of the bubonic plague in Elizabethan England during his most productive years, killing many thousands, including Shakespeare's only son.

Though Will was an actor as well as a poet and playwright, he often found himself trying to be productive in a quarantine when the Globe and other London theaters were in lockdown due to widespread disease for a mind-boggling 78 months between 1603 and 1613. For Shakespeare, the pandemic became both a professional and an existential threat.

A quick Google search today turns up an amazing number of articles (mostly from the last year, interestingly enough!) that explore the effect of a pandemic on Shakespeare's inspiration and creativity. And many speculate about what might have been different if the plague had not impacted his life and work so much.

Today we might know only Shakespeare's great poetry and never have known "King Lear," "Romeo and Juliet," "Macbeth," "Hamlet," "Antony and Cleopatra," or his other best works.

So, as reluctant players in another pandemic era, what will we in OLLI have gained or created after our experience this past year? Some of us may pen another chapter in the course "Writing Your Life Story." Others may have picked up new crafting or hobby skills or expanded their interest in genealogy or historical periods. If nothing else, many of us gained some new computer skills using Zoom to connect with friends and family or maybe even for teaching.

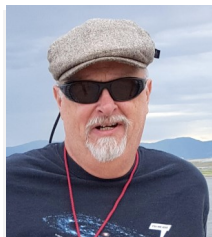
Only time will tell how we and our world will look back on this period and how our lives may have permanently changed. I have been grateful that for now, in OLLI, I have found companions for that journey. "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow ..." ("Macbeth," Act V, Scene V).

**Jill Stewart**  
**President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**



# CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR THE FALL



After a yearlong hiatus, we are *finally* back in class and in person. It was really good to see so many of you in Wilson Hall the last couple of weeks as the fall term got off to such a good start.

But it's not finished! There are another seven classes starting this month, and it's still not too late to register for them.

Here's what we have on tap beginning Oct. 1 and beyond: Introduction to Tai Chi, Conversational French, Gentle Mindful Yoga, Introduction to Landscape Art, The GSM Experience, Exploring Social Issues Through Journalism, and German Stories.

So if you haven't registered yet, take a look at all the good things still to come and take the plunge. You'll have a good time and will learn something to boot. Where I come from, that's what's called a "twofer."

The Shakespeare Theater Workshop's first session, held just before the term started, was a blast. Susan Hazen Guthrie is a professional and nationally known actor and Shakespearean director who brought an entirely new life to the plays of the Bard for those of us who participated. We practiced the soliloquies and dialogues of some of the great characters in his great plays, and learned how he told his stories through rhyme, pauses and expression.

In the second half, we will continue to practice those parts with the goal being a formal presentation on Saturday, Nov. 13. You are all invited to that, and details on the time and place will be forthcoming. We hope you'll all join us!

And with that, I'll bid you adieu. Stay safe. Till next time ...

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

A promotional graphic for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH. It features a smiling woman with short white hair, wearing a light blue tunic and a yellow and green scarf, sitting and reading a book titled "FIRESIDE CHAT'S WITH AUTHORS". The background is a blurred outdoor setting with red flowers. Text on the graphic includes: "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH", "FALL 2021 Course Guide", "Join us back on campus!", "OLLI at UAH is going back to campus this fall. Discover the joy of learning with fellow adults, 50+, through various in-person and virtual activities. Stay intellectually and socially active, while having lots of fun with our vibrant community of lifelong learners.", "Save 20% When you sign up for 4 or more courses at once.", and contact information: "Osher.uah.edu", "OLLI.info@uah.edu | 256.824.6183". The University of Alabama logo is at the bottom left.

Check out the course guide by clicking on the image above.

# FUND DEVELOPEMENT COMMITTEE

## HELP OLLI WHILE YOU SHOP AT AMAZON.COM

Do you shop at Amazon.com? Do you have family members or friends who shop with Amazon? If you do, you can help support OLLI at UAH with every purchase! If you use your desktop computer, a laptop, or even your mobile phone, you can use AmazonSmile to direct charitable funds directly from Amazon to OLLI.

If you're not familiar with AmazonSmile, it's a way customers can support their favorite charitable organizations every time they shop with Amazon, at no additional cost or effort to you. Customers who shop at smile.amazon.com will find the same Amazon they know and love, with the added bonus that AmazonSmile will donate a portion of the eligible purchase price to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH.

Amazon has donated more than \$215 million globally to charitable organizations through the AmazonSmile program since its launch in 2013. OLLI at UAH has been a participating charity for several years and has been gifted several hundred dollars. We hope to increase our donations with your help.

If you have an Amazon account, just type "Amazon Smile" in the search field and choose smile.amazon, then follow the "Get started" instructions. Be sure to choose "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH" as your chosen charity. Here are the full instructions:

### How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser on your computer:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com.
3. Select "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH" as your charity.
4. Start shopping! Remember to check out at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity.

Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

### How to use AmazonSmile with the Amazon app on your mobile phone:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app.
2. Navigate to the main menu (=).
3. Tap on Settings, and then select "AmazonSmile."
4. Select "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH" as your charity, and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn *on* AmazonSmile in the mobile app.
5. Once AmazonSmile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.

**Janet Reville**  
**Fund Development Committee Chair**



# TRAVEL COMMITTEE

## SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND EXPERIENCES



As I sit here writing this and gathering my thoughts, I am watching 9/11 American remembrances. Oh, how we all knew *our* world had changed that day in 2001 — how travel changed and how we adapted.

Now, 20 years later, we have faced a year of challenges presented by a different enemy - a pandemic — that just keeps on morphing and keeping us at arm's length and even farther distances from our family and friends. I hope you are doing your part to decrease the spread of this vile disease.

Now, on to a happier subject — the Southwest National Parks trip Aug. 22 - Sept. 2.

Everyone who traveled out West has reported it was a wonderful trip. They saw spectacular scenery and learned so much about geology and Native American history.

There were unexpected changes in the itinerary, but these added to the trip experience. The group began in Durango, Colorado, and traveled to Salt Lake City with stops in between.

Here are a few of the highlights: (1) James Ranch tour and dinner; (2) Mesa Verde and the archaeological cliff-dwellers site; (3) Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad ride; (4) Canyonlands National Park; (5) Arches National Park; (6) Monument Valley; (7) in lieu of the Lake Powell cruise, the group had the honor of meeting one of the last Code Talkers from World War II (I am green with envy); (8) some took the optional Antelope Slot Canyon ride; (9) Grand Canyon; (10) Zion National Park; and (11) Bryce Canyon National Park.

A big thank you to Linda McAllister and Nancy Darnall for the photos they took on the trip, some of which you will see in this issue of *The Insider*.

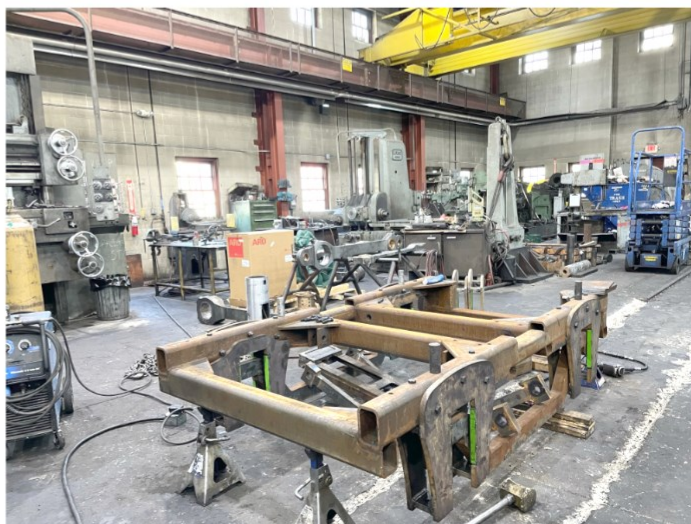
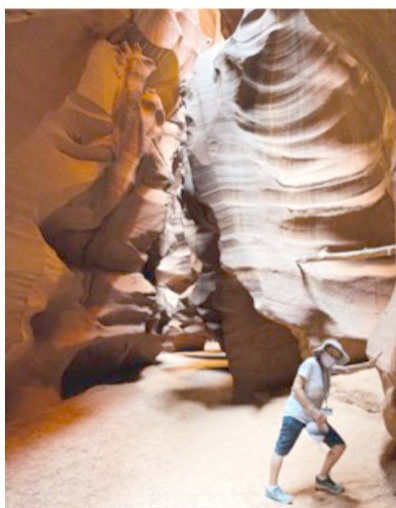
The next trip is to Alaska scheduled for Aug. 12-23, 2022. Chris Stuhlinger is the point of contact, and information about this trip is available in this *Insider*. Information will also be available in the *eNews* and announced in classes.

**Betty Koval**  
**Travel Committee Chair**





## OLLI MEMBERS TOUR PARKS IN SOUTHWEST AUGUST 22 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2021



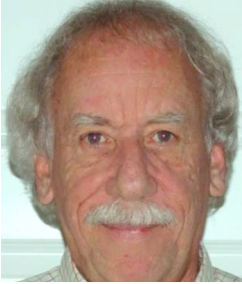
*Pictures provided by Linda McAllister and Nancy Darnall.*

*Durango-Silverton Railroad Shop*



# TRAVEL COMMITTEE

## TOUR ALASKA WITH OLLI FRIENDS FOR 12 DAYS



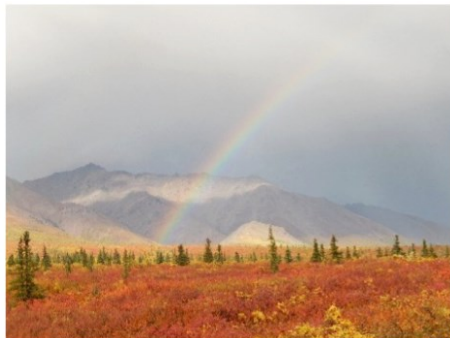
OLLI at UAH members are invited to participate in a 12-day tour of Alaska (August 12-23, 2022), organized by the *University of Alaska-Fairbanks Summer Sessions*. Visit Fairbanks, Nenana, Denali National Park, Talkeetna, Anchorage, Seward, and get to meet OLLI members

from this university.

For more details about the tour and registration information, contact fellow member Chris Stuhlinger at [cstuhlinger@gmail.com](mailto:cstuhlinger@gmail.com).

**Chris Stuhlinger**  
**POC for Trip**

All lodging and meals are included. Trip cost is \$4,500 per person, with a \$1,300 single supplement. Modes of transportation will include bus/motor coach, railroad, and boat. Airfare to Alaska is not included. Registration is now open, but the number of available spaces is limited.



*Pictures from Alaska*

## FROM HEIBERGER, AL, TO THE MOON: LEGACY OF ENGINEER BROOKS MOORE

"What do you see?" asked the 95-year-old American rocket engineer, guiding my eyes toward an outstanding window view visible from inside his Huntsville home.

"Oh! I see engine test stands of the Saturn V and SLS (Space Launch System)," I said, entranced by the view.

Brooks Moore smiled and pivoted to sit down at the dining table where we would interview for the next 2½ hours. It was a gorgeous summer day in southeast Huntsville, and Brooks with his close friend and assistant Samantha Hereford had invited Chris Stuhlinger and me to talk about his life's work in rocketry.

I smiled inwardly, thinking about how many times he and his family and friends experienced the vibration of the mighty engines that shook the windowpanes and rattled the tables and chairs in the 1950s and 1960s.

Brooks is NASA emeritus at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center®, the largest space museum in the world.

He enthalls schoolchildren, space campers, dignitaries and space enthusiasts from around the world who are excited about space and want to travel to the moon, Mars and beyond.

"We're known as the 'Rocket City' because Huntsville, Alabama, is where rockets were developed that put men on the moon," Brooks said. What visitors may not realize is that Brooks was responsible for developing the computer hardware and software known as the "brain" of the Saturn V rocket's instrument unit that allowed humans to travel from Earth to the moon.

"Some people think that the astronauts did the piloting. They did not; it was the computers on the instrument unit. The instrument unit was key in landing man on the moon, and my mind was not at ease about the missions until I saw the parachutes open on the capsule and return man back to Earth safely."

As a young 25-year-old engineer, working alongside Wernher von Braun and a team of Germans and Americans, Brooks never imagined that his career path and projects would include milestones such as Redstone, Jupiter, Pershing, Jupiter C/Explorer 1, Redstone-Mercury, Saturn 1B, Saturn V, Skylab, Hubble Telescope, Shuttle and Spacelab.

Recently, Brooks was a special guest speaker in a summer OLLI at UAH course that featured the children of the German and American rocket team families who arrived in Huntsville about 1950, and himself as an American rocket team member. Chris was the lead organizer and a co-instructor for the course.

"It's important that others understand that after World War II, the Germans were far ahead of the Americans in rocketry, so we were learning the skills and trade from them," Brooks said.

Born in 1926 in Heiberger, Alabama, Brooks was in high school when his draft notice arrived, assigning him to the infantry.

"Fortunately, I was in the right place at the right time. The government's requirements changed quickly. In 1944 the Navy needed engineering officers. They went to high schools across the country looking for candidates.

"I took a test and was selected to go to officer training school, instead of combat. So they sent me to Southwestern Louisiana Institute, where we slept in barracks, and to Tulane University, where 500 of us slept on the gymnasium floors. I spent a lot of my time at the library studying engineering courses."



*Brooks Moore (center) with  
Chris Stuhlinger and Kathryn Cataldo.*

continued on next page

# FROM HEIBERGER, AL, TO THE MOON: LEGACY OF ENGINEER BROOKS MOORE, CONT.

After World War II, Brooks would dedicate the next 10 years to the Naval Reserve, earning the rank of lieutenant.

In 1946 Brooks headed to Auburn University for a degree in electrical engineering. He would continue his studies at Georgia Tech and receive his master's in electrical engineering. After graduation from Tech, he was working in Panama City, Florida, for the Navy when the Korean War erupted.

"I was very fortunate to remain stateside," he said. His Navy work involved underwater mines, and the government considered that a priority for him at the time.

Brooks is a self-admitted model airplane fanatic, and his areas of expertise include guidance, navigation and control, electronics, computers and communications.

When he learned that the German rocket team had been relocated to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville from Fort Bliss, Texas, he became curious and visited Redstone Arsenal. Back then, Huntsville was a small Southern town of 16,000, known mainly for its cotton and watercress production. Gen. Holger Toftoy and Sen. John Sparkman were instrumental in relocating 120 German rocket team members and their families, led by von Braun.

The engineers and scientists who had escaped Peenemunde were considered the premier authorities on rocketry, and their expertise was needed.

"Due to competing requirements amongst the Army, Navy and Air Force, the U.S. was not achieving success but failing and falling behind the Soviets," Brooks said. With the Cold War underway, the Americans were mentored by the German lab directors. The Germans were the technical experts.

Brooks focused on guidance and astrionics, aka space electronics. He rotated through the different labs for three to four weeks at a time for several months.

He rose quickly to assume broader responsibilities. His first projects included the Redstone rocket, which was a short-range military missile that also took astronaut Alan Shepard into suborbital flight.

"It was a time of great leadership by von Braun," Brooks said. "I enjoyed serving with all the Germans and Americans who were optimistic about landing on the moon. It was stressful because it was a manned flight, yet it was a joy to work with others who focused on achievement and respect."

The six moon landings, which are lauded as the most important engineering accomplishment since the Pyramids, remain the ultimate highlight of Brooks' career. He is quick to point out that "Explorer 1, the first satellite launched with scientific experiments, orbited Earth for 13 years and discovered the Van Allen Radiation Belt." He considers it also a highlight.

Yet, this American pioneer of systems engineering said that his best accomplishments are his family and friends. He also stated, "And I do believe there was a bit of divine intervention."

***By Kathryn Cataldo***



# PEOPLE OF OLLI

## ‘SPACE GEEK’ WOUND UP WORKING FOR NASA

This month's *OLLI Insider* profiles Craig Young.

Craig is an unusual OLLI member in that he still works full time at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

He's a program operations and integration subject matter expert supporting the Space Launch System. He's spent the last 10 years with the program and is excited that it is being assembled at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in preparation of the first flight.

The Space Launch System Program (SLS) was stood up by Congress in 2011 after the Obama administration canceled the Constellation Program, which would have taken humans back to the moon, Mars and beyond.

The SLS is part of the Artemis Program, which will take humans back to the moon for research and technology development so they can go to Mars.

Craig's road to NASA is a winding one and began in Glendale, Missouri, a small town outside St. Louis. His father, Ed, was vice president of a commodity brokerage firm, and his mother, Kathy, was a homemaker. But more importantly, his grandfather owned a resort and summer camp west of St. Louis.

"Every weekend my family would escape city life and head to the country," Craig said. "As a camper I loved horseback riding, swimming, archery and shooting, and by age 14, I was a camp counselor."

From childhood, Craig was intrigued by how things worked.

"I used to take household appliances apart and put them back together," he said. "As I got older, it became lawn mowers and cars. I didn't consider engineering because I did not like math. But I have always been fascinated by technology."

It was also during this time that Craig became interested in the space program: "I was a space geek growing up. As a kid, I would regularly write to NASA asking for photos and mission patches, and they were pretty good about providing them."

When it came time for college, Craig went off to what is now Missouri State University in Springfield. There he earned a B.S. in power systems industrial technology with a minor in industrial management. And it was there his life took a sharp turn.

"In college I became interested in the Campus Entertainment Board, which booked speakers and rock bands and planned events and campus happenings," Craig said. That interest became stronger than his interest in power systems technology, and thus the first half of his career was spent as an event coordinator.

What brought him to Huntsville in 1987 was not NASA and the space program, but the Von Braun Center, where he worked first as the marketing manager and then as the senior event coordinator.

In 2001, he began supporting NASA as an event coordinator, and he would continue that until 2008, when he had the opportunity to put his college training to work as a program operations and integration expert.

Craig primarily works across the program to ensure issues, actions and schedule challenges are resolved so the primary focus can be on the development and operation aspects of the SLS vehicle.



Craig Young in Vehicle Assembly Building

## ‘SPACE GEEK’ WOUND UP WORKING FOR NASA CONTINUED

What has Craig found appealing about NASA?

“As someone who always wants to excel in what I do, the environment at NASA is a perfect fit. The workforce is very receptive to new ideas. Anything I can do to help make their jobs more efficient is always welcome. I am constantly in awe of the amount of knowledge at NASA.”

Craig has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Silver Snoopy during his years at NASA. But the most exciting reward was in 2007, when he was named a Space Flight Honoree and was able to witness a space launch.

What brought him to OLLI?

“My philosophy has always been to keep learning — life is a learning experience. OLLI is the perfect program to keep learning about new things and also about things I know a little about but want to learn more.”

Craig married fellow OLLI member Kathryn Cataldo in 2004. They met while serving on the board of the Food Bank of North Alabama.

From a previous marriage, Craig has a daughter, Hannah, and two grandchildren, Sawyer and Quinn.

Thanks, Craig, for all you do for OLLI.

**By Glen Adams**



*Craig Young at a launch.*

## OLLI BONUS: THE U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER®

Joseph Vick, director of museum education and outreach for the U.S. Space & Rocket Center®, described its goals and history for an OLLI Bonus session Aug. 27. OLLI members attended in person and on Zoom. Topics included the 363-foot Saturn V rocket, astronaut missions to the moon, Space Camp, and how the museum's development dovetailed with that of the space program





## OLLI BONUS: ADVENTURES IN RED ROCK COUNTRY

Barbara Staggs, OLLI member and award-winning photographer, showed scenes captured while trekking through streams, hiking up red rock formations and taking four-wheel-drive excursions into remote areas in Capitol Reef National Park. Her audience for the Sept. 17 Bonus was OLLI members attending on campus and via Zoom.



# THE LAST WORD

## OLLI Bonus:

### **Without a Home: Understanding the Homeless Crisis in Huntsville**

presented by Jennifer Geist

**10/22/21 | F | 11:00 am**  
**WIL 168 & Online**

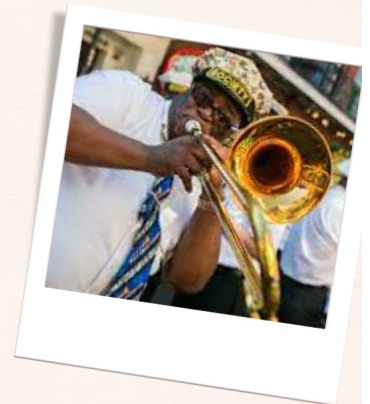


## OLLI Bonus:

### **NEW ORLEANS AND HER MUSIC**

presented by Dr. Connie Atkinson

**10/29/21 | F**  
**11:00 AM**  
**IN PERSON AND  
ONLINE**



PART  
OF THE  **University of  
Alabama System**