

INSIDER

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



**SEEING NEW
HORIZONS
OPENS THE
WORLD OF OLLI**



Left to right: Top row, hiking Chapman Mountain; Glacier Bay, Alaska. Second row, nutrition (two photos); TV weather technology. Third row, Alexander Duck II (right), who teaches "The History and Character of Don Juan," talks with Steven Keiser, a teacher and incoming board member, at open house; watching a hockey game; gardens tour. See details inside.

CALENDAR

MAY - AUGUST 2022

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.

May 6 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: Southwest National Parks and Native American Heritage Tour

In the summer of 2021, 36 OLLI members and friends took a twelve-day tour of the sandstone canyons, primeval rock formations, and historic rivers of the American Southwest. Members experienced 21 attractions, including six National Parks, a state park, a National Recreation Area, and a National Monument. Members traveled on foot and by bus, boat, train, and some by small plane. Throughout, members learned Native American and early settler history of the Southwest. This presentation will show unforgettable highlights of this adventure-filled trip.

Presented by Ed and Paulette Bernstein, OLLI Members and Travelers

May 13 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Event: Coffee Chats: Trivia

Test your knowledge on interesting facts while enjoying a morning with fellow OLLI members. The game will be played individually and will be available in person and online. Members who register to attend online will receive the Zoom link one day prior to the event.

Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

May 14 | Sat | 10:00 am | [In-Person](#)
Event: Hike at Green Mountain Nature Preserve

Hike the approximate two mile, mostly level, Alum Hollow Trail. Bring water, snacks, and wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Pre-registration and waiver required.

Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

May 17 | Tue | 6:00 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: OLLI Annual Meeting

Join OLLI members at Conference Training Center - Exhibit Hall for the OLLI Annual Meeting. More details on page 22 of the *Insider*.

May 20 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: Going Beyond Religious and Social Tolerance

Science and faith enrich, in a complementary fashion, our understanding of the truth. Both disciplines require us to investigate reality without preconceived notions and biases. With an unbiased eye, join the presenter to explore how religions share the same divine attributes but differ in their social teachings, adapted to their age's needs.

Presented by Lameh Fananapazir, Retired Cardiovascular Doctor

Jun 4 | Sat | 5:30 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: Huntsville Master Chorale

Free public concert. "Lift Every Voice and Sing!" with guest clinician Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand. Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road SW, Huntsville
Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

Jun 11 | Sat | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: Richard Martin Trail

Hike Richard Martin Trail from Elkmont south to the Sulphur Creek Trestle Civil War battle site. Join us for this hike along an easy 1.5 mile, mostly wooded section (3 miles total hike) of this gravel trail to learn about local nature, wetlands and Civil War history. The trail follows the route of a former rail line (Rails to Trails).

Watch eNews for Pre-registration. Waiver required.

Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

Jun 17 | Fri | 1:15 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: Huntsville Museum of Art

Beauty, Passion & Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks from the Dahesh Museum of Art (New Your City).

Pre-registration required by 4 pm on June 10; museum members free, nonmembers pay at the door.

Watch eNews for Pre-registration.

Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

Jul 22 | Fri | 6:35 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: Trash Pandas Baseball Game

Watch the Trash Pandas versus the Birmingham Barons. Fireworks after the game. We need at least 20 attendees to qualify for OLLI group perks. Watch ENews for Pre-registration. Pre-payment required (deadline June 22, ticket cost \$17.44).

Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

Jul 29 | Fri | 10:00 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: Scottsboro Trials and Morgan County Archives

Join us for a walking tour of sites related to the famous Scottsboro Boys trial in Decatur. End the journey at the Morgan County Archives, where you can see an exhibit, photos and the actual court records. Free event!

Watch eNews for Pre-registration.

Presented by the OLLI Events Committee

FROM THE EDITOR

COLLEGE LIFE 'WITH A TASTE OF THE RAFFISH'



Now I know the story behind a wall sign that intrigued me in a college newspaper office. The tale is even better than I expected. It involves more than one generation of uppity students.

"Trojans don't cut corners," the sign declares. Three of its corners are cut.

I noticed it after arriving in 2009 as the faculty adviser for the *Tropolitan*, the newspaper for the Troy University Trojans.

The sign reflects an outlook on life best described by Russell Baker in his memoir "The Good Times." Baker, who became a *New York Times* columnist, was writing about the first time he entered the student newspaper office at Johns Hopkins University as a student.

"Like all the newspaper offices I would later know," he wrote, "the *News-Letter's* attracted people whose minds were open and interesting, people who were curious instead of preachy, people who distrusted people who had all the answers, people with a taste of the raffish, people who wanted life to be interesting rather than safe."

I had to look up "raffish." It means "unconventional and slightly disreputable, especially in an attractive manner: his raffish air."

Baker's appraisal of newspaper offices is certainly true in my experience. And it could also apply to many college groups, especially OLLI.

Whether in classrooms, online, in the OLLI lounge of Wilson Hall, during events and travel, or in off-campus homes, restaurants and watering holes where our members gather, we are curious and interested, whatever the subject. We want to learn. We befriend people who are different from us and learn from them. We laugh.

We have lived long enough not to take ourselves or others too seriously, and we poke fun at the sanctimonious, absurd and ironic. Some describe OLLI as "a vibrant community." That adjective is accurate but tame. Better words might be "lively" or "sassy" — maybe even "raffish."

Now, here's what I learned about the *Tropolitan* sign from comments by ex-students after I posted a memory of it on Facebook:



Sometime in the '00s, Troy University was using signs in a keep-off-the-grass campaign. A student or students "acquired" this sign (to borrow a verb from one of the young suspects) and brought it to the *Trop* office. Years later, a *Trop* staff member amused himself by clipping the corners.

The sign was removed from the office a few years later amid a redecorating. I'm hoping it was "acquired" by someone who is treating it with respect.

This May edition of *The Insider* is our last one until August. May you have a raffish summer. But first ...

In this issue, Glen Adams profiles Clay Williams, our new program manager, and David Styers introduces our new and returning board members. Clay gives a preview of the summer term. John Mason writes about our health and fitness curriculum.

Betty Koval writes about travel adventures ahead, and Chris Stuhlinger invites you to participate in coming events and actually help plan them. Look for yourself, your friends and memorable scenery in our pictures of recent events.

Jill Stewart writes about coping with today's bad world news and putting it into perspective. John puts on one of his other hats, as a military historian, and tells the story of a U.S. warship that had two lives.

Steve Stewart
Chair, Public Relations Committee

FROM THE PRESIDENT

PERSEVERING WHEN THE STRUGGLE IS REAL



A brave group of OLLI members gathered in the spring-term class Exploring Social Issues through Journalism and Film. We were to discuss the news articles that had been posted for our review on Google Classroom dealing with the topic of the week — the war in Ukraine.

Before we got started, several of us commented about what a discouraging and demoralizing experience it had been reading those columns. Our instructor, Steve Keiser, agreed.

I suddenly had a flashback to a *New Yorker* cartoon I had seen recently. (You will have to imagine this because I haven't paid for permission to reprint it.) A couple is walking down a city street. The woman is speaking to the man and says:

"My desire to be well-informed is currently at odds with my desire to remain sane."

News in our world these days has been, to say the least, a *lot*. A lot to absorb, a lot to process and live with. It's hard to imagine what the news from Ukraine might be by the time you read this.

In almost every gathering, conversations eventually include some reference to one of the major news stories, whether that be Ukraine, the pandemic, environmental threats, inflated prices, controversial legislative actions, and on and on. I suspect we are often looking for others who share our concerns and anxieties and maybe for someone who might offer a new insight or reassurance that "this too shall pass."

OLLI is the place where we not only explore and evaluate challenging subjects, but we may also acquire tools to manage them in our lives. Several years ago in a class on healthy aging, the instructor discussed the power of habits, routines and rituals in a healthy life. The routine I adopted and continue to maintain is a daily time of meditation around sunrise. It has really helped, particularly these days.

However, I've also adopted some not-so-Zen practices. I keep my finger on the TV remote while watching the news to mute all the vitriolic campaign ads. The news is enough on its own. After the news, I have the need to

take a deep dive into Netflix or BritBox or even Disney+. It's all about finding balance, right?

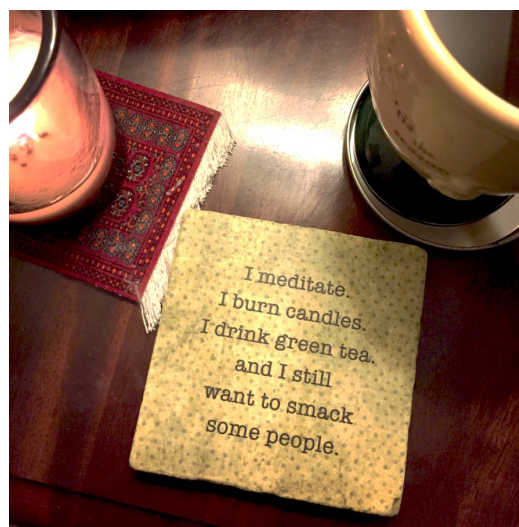
Sometimes we can't help but wonder how the human species has survived. On a recent "TED Radio Hour," this question was posed: If a newspaper came out only once a century, what would the banner headline be? What is the most important story on that scale?

Author Steven Johnson claims it is not the moon landing or the birth of computers, smartphones or the internet. It is the story of life expectancy. In just 100 years, the average global life expectancy of humans has doubled. While many factors contributed to that shift, our species has found ways to persevere through the worst episodes of history.

It is now May 2022. In our demographic, we are living on that "doubled" side of life expectancy. OLLI at UAH has also persevered through the initial shutdowns of the pandemic and has even navigated through the uncertainty of this past year back on campus with no major setbacks. We can only hope that circumstances allow that progress to continue.

But for now, I feel nothing but gratitude that we are where we are and with others who share our interests and our hopes. Let's persevere together.

Jill Stewart
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



Jill Stewart's photo of her favorite coaster with morning coffee.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

LET'S EAT A BURGER AND TALK ABOUT FITNESS



Writing this column generally makes me hungry. Don't know why; it just does.

If I gave in to the temptation, my meal of choice would be a Quarter Pounder with cheese, large fries, and a banana milkshake. But I know better.

So I do that only maybe one day out of four. Or so.

Do you know why I know better? Because we here at OLLI have our own source to better health, aka the health and fitness department. In that particular curriculum discipline, we are lucky to have a couple of professionals who, after they finish castigating me for promoting cheeseburgers and fries, can tell you everything you need to know about buying, preparing, eating and exercising your way to a longer and healthier life.

So, as you have probably guessed by now, health and fitness is going to be the focus of my column this month. And since it's patently obvious that I'm no expert in the field, I have asked our professionals to help me explain why we should all be taking one or more of their courses each and every term.

Now, since some of you might doubt my bona fides talking about nutrition-related subjects, let me give you a quote or two from our discipline expert (and chair), Rexanne Warfel.

When I asked, Rexanne told me:

"We are here to help you take control of your health. 90% of all diseases are related to lifestyle choices. Only 10% [are] due to genetics. But diet and lifestyle pull the trigger.

"This curriculum [health and fitness] offers a wide variety of courses to choose from. Courses are meant to change the way you think about your body, mind and spirit.

"Students will develop knowledge, attitudes and essential skills in a variety of health-related subjects. This includes mental and emotional health, social health, nutrition, physical fitness, disease prevention and safety. Your key to good health is offered right here at OLLI! We would love to have you join us on our journey. So, why not join us?"

That sums it all up pretty nicely, don't you think?

But I'll add just one more small set of information to further whet your interest, and that's a tease of some of the courses that will be offered under the health and fitness umbrella in the near future: Breath-Centered Yoga, Ancient Chinese Exercise, Nutrition, Joy of Herbs, and Total Health, Global Harmony.

And that's not even the whole list. In setting up this list, Rexanne has certainly given us all the tools we need to improve our health. And that means we'll all have a lot more time to spend together.

So as for me, I'm headed to McDonald's for some brain food to help me decide which I will sign up for. And however you decide on choosing your courses, I think you'll find that at least one of these offerings suits your taste. Sorry, but you must know by now that puns are my bread and butter.

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

John Mason

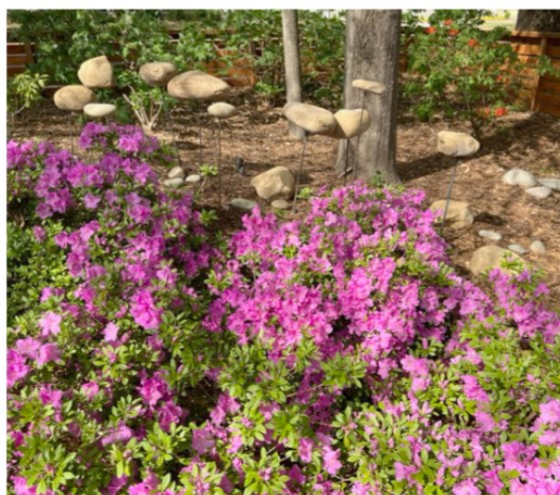
VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



OLLI fitness instructors
Rexanne Warfel (left) and
Barbara Johnson.

RELAX IN A GARDEN — AND/OR WITH A BEER

Two of OLLI's spring courses are "Appreciating the Art of Craft Beer," taught by Brimmer Sherman, and "Spring Small Gardens Tour," taught by Val Seaquist.



(Photos by Janet Reville and Linda McAllister)

SUMMER 2022 OFFERINGS



Just like the weather, OLLI heats up in the summer!

Besides a variety of courses, OLLI is thrilled to get back on the road again with our popular field trips. Whether it is an interest in music, food, Civil War or civil rights, there is a field trip for everyone as we journey to Nashville, Chattanooga, Tusculumbia and Montgomery.

If you'd rather stay closer to home, local visits include a fascinating look at a local Japanese garden or walking tours to learn more about Huntsville's unique culture.

As for normal courses, there is a little something for everyone to keep you engaged over the warm summer months.

Exercise enthusiasts can choose yoga or jazzercise. We have plenty of history courses galore with topics such as plucky women of World War II, the Civil War struggles for Chattanooga, a possible crazy daughter of the Spanish monarchs Isabel and Ferdinand, and a discussion of one of this nation's greatest military victories that has long since been forgotten.

Take a new look at the famous Sistine Chapel, or learn how to take better pictures with your cellphone. Get an introduction to the hot topics of diversity, equity and inclusion. If food and drink is more your interest, we are proud to offer a course on wines.

See our upcoming summer course guide for more information on these and other offerings. Details to register will be coming soon.

We hope everyone keeps OLLI in mind as you make plans for a summer of fun and adventure, and remember: Never Stop Learning!

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DONORS ATTEND SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

Janet Reville (left), scholarship committee chair, and Fathia Hardy, director of outreach and support services, attended the UAH scholarship breakfast March 31 on behalf of OLLI at UAH. The breakfast recognized scholarship donors, including OLLI, for their contributions and provided them the opportunity to meet and engage with the recipients of their scholarships.



TRAVEL COMMITTEE

TAKE A CHANCE, AND ENJOY AN ADVENTURE



Here we are again with another term almost over and summer to begin.

Summer — always the time for visions of longer travel plans and adventures. Yes, adventures! The reason I say this is, just about every time, *if not* every time, Bill and I seem to have some sort of

adventure when we travel. Some are planned, and others maybe not so much.

We used to say, send us to California when it is fire season, and we could guarantee it would rain. Realistically we knew it would not, but we felt that way because every trip involved rain. On other trips, we would find some sort of entertainment to add to the adventure we had not planned.

One of my favorites was a hot air balloon ride over the Sonora Desert in Arizona. It just so happened to be close to my birthday, and the company did a birthday breakfast for me. What a surprise!

Another time, we decided to try zip-lining in New Hampshire. *Talk about nervous!* But what a thrill it was, and that was only a few years ago. Now I want to do more.

Are we getting braver or more stupid in our advanced age? Not sure which, but it sure was fun to take a chance and have those adventures.

I do know the College of Professional Studies has four road trips coming up this summer. Travel along, and explore more of Alabama and a bit of Tennessee with OLLI.

On that note, the Alaska trip is full now! Twenty-five of us will have a grand adventure in Alaska this August. We will have a full report after we return.

At this writing, the travel committee has not met to determine the next trip, but there are a couple of ideas, and one of the most popular is in Nova Scotia. If you are interested, please stop by the volunteer office beside Room 152 in Wilson Hall. Add your name, phone number and email address to a list, and I will keep you informed. Also, if you have any travel ideas, add those to the list.

Keep traveling by wandering and just all around *being adventurous!* There are so many ways to have fun and learn a little as you go along. We are inquisitive creatures, and that is one of the things that keeps us young at heart and mind.

Happy wandering, and I hope to see you along the way!

Betty Koval
Travel Committee Chair

MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

DINING OUT MIG IS BACK

The Dining Out Member Interest Group met April 21 at Wahlburgers to resume the tradition of getting together for food. For information, email Dabros1@comcast.net. Other OLLI MIGs include Let's Play Bridge, Mah Jongg and Tennis for All. (Photo courtesy of Sandra Dabrowski)



EVENTS COMMITTEE

PLANNING SPRING, SUMMER, FALL EVENTS



Spring term is flying by and will be coming to a close in just a few weeks. We have a couple of May events scheduled — see below. Several summer events are also planned; see below for activities scheduled for June to August.

Check the OLLI website, the summer course guide, and the weekly *eNews* for additional events and information.

And we are already thinking about events for fall term. We have been trying out several different types of events these past months to see what kinds of activities are most appealing to OLLI members.

Although we have around 650 OLLI members, attendance at some events has been very low (fewer than 10). Many events are free, but some of the paid activities we would like to offer provide a group discount. If we meet the minimum number of attendees (which varies by event), we can save money and sometimes get additional perks.

We want to offer events and activities that interest members, so please provide us some feedback: What types of events are you looking for?

If you have questions about a scheduled event, have suggestions for a new event, or would like to join the events committee, please contact Chris Stuhlinger (cstuhlinger@gmail.com).

Recap of recent events

Huntsville Havoc Ice Hockey: They lost their April 1 game to the Fayetteville Marksmen, but the Havoc made it to the playoffs.

UAH Chargers baseball, softball and lacrosse games: The UAH Chargers had a great day. They won all five of their games on April 2 (baseball and softball doubleheaders vs. Mississippi College, lacrosse vs. Shorter).

National Weather Service: The tour was postponed but will be rescheduled for this summer.

Baron Critical Weather Intelligence: OLLI members had an interesting tour at the Baron facility located near UAH. We visited their Operations Center, where weather conditions are monitored and forecasts are developed. We learned about several forecasting tools developed (and patented) by Baron that we see every day in our weather forecasts.

Chapman Mountain Nature Preserve hike: A nice hike through the woods to view some very large trees, including oaks, maples, tulip poplars, Osage orange, black walnuts and hickories. Several colorful wildflowers were also in bloom.

Upcoming May events

1. Coffee chats: trivia game, Friday, May 13, 11 a.m., in person (152 Wilson Hall) and online (Zoom)

Test your knowledge of interesting facts while enjoying a morning with fellow OLLI members.

Sign up at <https://forms.gle/B2cGnCAC6cwrftcC9>.

2. Hike at Green Mountain Nature Preserve, Saturday, May 14. Meet at 10 a.m. at Land Trust parking lot (Green Mountain, Southeast Shawnee Road, about 0.5 mile past entrance to Madison County Nature Trail), [Green Mountain Nature Preserve, Land Trust of North Alabama \(landtrustna.org\)](https://www.landtrustna.org).

Hike the Alum Hollow Trail about 1 mile each way, mostly easy and level with a very short, steeper section at the end to access Alum Cave. There will be interpretive stops on the way to Alum Cave. Return at your pace.

Bring water and snacks. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather (hike will be canceled if the weather is bad). Parts of the trail may be muddy. Leashed dogs are welcome. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/QuxaCWH2EYdA1vdGA>.

Coming soon (check the OLLI website or *eNews* for more details and for pre-registration/payment links where needed)

Saturday, June 4: Huntsville Master Chorale; free concert for OLLI and the public, 5:30 p.m.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing!” with guest clinician Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand. He is the head of the Oakwood University Music Department and conductor of the internationally acclaimed Aeolians. The Huntsville Master Chorale, an auditioned chamber choir, has been offering quality choral music to the community for 23 years. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road SW, Huntsville.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

PLANNING SPRING, SUMMER, FALL EVENTS (CONT)

Saturday, June 11: Second Saturday hike; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Elkmont

Richard Martin Trail from Elkmont south to the Sulphur Creek Trestle Civil War battle site. Join us for this hike along an easy 1.5-mile, mostly wooded section (3 miles total hike) of this crushed gravel trail to learn about local nature, wetlands and Civil War history. Sulphur Creek is the site of Alabama's bloodiest Civil War conflict in 1864. The trail follows the route of a former rail line (Rails to Trails). Pre-registration and waiver/release form required.

Friday, June 17: Huntsville Museum of Art; 1:15 p.m., 300 Church St. S.

Beauty, Passion & Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks from the Dahesh Museum of Art (New York City). This one-hour-plus docent-led tour will highlight an outstanding selection of paintings and sculptures. Tour participants are welcome to view the entire exhibit at their leisure after the tour. Pre-registration required by 4 p.m. on June 10; museum members free, nonmembers pay admission at the door.

Friday, July 22: Trash Pandas baseball game; 6:35 p.m., Toyota Field, Madison

Watch the Trash Pandas versus the Birmingham Barons. First pitch at 6:35 p.m., fireworks after the game. We need at least 20 attendees to qualify for OLLI group perks (bring your family).

The sooner we have at least 20 registrants, the better chance that we will be able to get block seats and the group perks, so please sign up soon. Pre-registration and pre-payment required (deadline June 22, ticket cost \$17.44).

Friday, July 29: Scottsboro trials and Morgan County Archives; 10 a.m., Morgan County Courthouse, Decatur

Join us for a walking tour of sites related to the famous Scottsboro Boys trial in Decatur. End journey at the Morgan County Archives, where you can see an exhibit, photos and the actual court records. Free! Pre-registration required.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



Join fellow OLLI members for a hike at Green Mountain Nature Preserve on May 14.
(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

NEW OLLI PROGRAM MANAGER CLAY WILLIAMS IS A HISTORIAN, BOOK AUTHOR AND BLOGGER

Clay Williams with wife Kimberly and daughter Sarah at Perdido Key on the Alabama-Florida Gulf Coast and in Charleston, South Carolina



Clay Williams is the new OLLI program manager and the subject of this month's *Insider* profile. He assumed his duties March 1.

Although Clay lived most of his life in Mississippi, his new job brings him back to the state where he was born. And although born in Mobile, he did not live in Alabama long, moving as a child to several places across the South, including Memphis and Atlanta. His father worked as a salesman, and his mother taught and did a variety of other jobs. They live now in Tupelo, Mississippi.

But he was always destined for Mississippi: "Both my parents were native Mississippians who attended and met at Mississippi State," said Clay. "They brainwashed me to be a fan, so I attended school there." It was there he met his future wife, Kimberly.

Clay's mother helped him develop an interest in history, which he has maintained all of his life. After finishing a B.A. in political science, he earned an M.A. in history and did his thesis on the Civil War. And that interest led him to a 20-plus-year career in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"Over the years, I expanded my interest in history to include a general study of Mississippi and Southern history from colonization to the Civil War," said Clay. This background made him ideal for his work with the Archives.

"I served several roles in the years there," said Clay. "I

was the exhibits curator for the State History Museum, project manager for restoration of the Old Capitol Building, and museum director of the Old Capitol Building. My last job was as the state's sites administrator. I oversaw activities at several historic locations, including two Indian mound sites, the Eudora Welty House and Garden, the Old Capitol (I can't get away from that place), and Historic Jefferson College, Mississippi's oldest institute of higher learning."

Clay's work didn't stop when he left the office. He has written numerous articles about the Civil War and more recently Mississippi's territorial period and early statehood. His first book, "Battle for the Southern Frontier, the Creek War and the War of 1812," co-written with Mike Bunn, covered a period neglected in history books. He is planning a second book on frontier Mississippi, 1800-1840.

He and Bunn even have their own blog, "The Historians Manifesto" (thehistoriansmanifesto.wordpress.com).

"Mike and I wanted a place to gather our thoughts and work," said Clay. "Many of our early blogs contain our thoughts on the current field of history. Lately, it has been mainly a place to publish book reviews. We also feature lots of information on our historical travels, as we are very passionate about preservation and the power of the place — you can't truly understand past events until you walk the grounds where they took place."

(continued on the next page)

PEOPLE OF OLLI

NEW OLLI PROGRAM MANAGER CLAY WILLIAMS IS HISTORIAN, BOOK AUTHOR, BLOGGER (CONT)

So what led Clay to OLLI?

"After living in Jackson for nearly 30 years, we were looking for a change of scenery," said Clay. "Huntsville was one of the places that interested us. Thankfully, a job search uncovered the OLLI position. Finding employment on a college campus attracted me, and OLLI's mission of continuing education seemed to fit my skills set.

"I am so impressed with Fathia [Hardy] and Alice [Sammon] and the work they do day in and day out. OLLI members should be thankful for them and their high level of commitment. They humble me.

"All the OLLI members I have met have been extremely

kind and welcoming, and for that I'm extremely grateful. Moving forward, I can only hope to match everyone's level of professionalism as we strive to move past the challenges of the past two years to move OLLI ahead into the future."

On the home front, wife Kimberly has begun a new job at Hexagon as a marketing manager. Daughter Sarah is a freshman at The University of Alabama at Birmingham majoring in kinesiology with plans to become a physical therapist.

Thanks, Clay, for all you will do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams

NEWS FROM UAH

OLLI SCHOLARSHIP HONORS NEW PRESIDENT



Jill Stewart, OLLI board president, presents a \$1,000 scholarship check from the OLLI Board of Directors to honor UAH's new interim president, Charles L. Karr, to him March 28. In the top right photo are (from left) Clay Williams, OLLI program manager; Fathia Hardy, director of outreach and support services for the College of Professional Studies; Karr; Jason Greene, interim dean of the College of Professional Studies; and Alice Sammon, OLLI program coordinator. In the bottom right photo, Greene talks with Allan Williamson, vice president of administration and finance for the OLLI board, and Jan Williamson. (Photos by Mike Mercier)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

THE RESULTS ARE IN



Congratulations! The OLLI board election is complete, and you have elected five excellent board members to serve for the next three years.

I would like to introduce you to the new members who will be representing you on the board: Irene Garoppo, Nancy Darnall, Valerie

Seaquist, Christi Parker and Steven Keiser.

Irene Garoppo

Irene lives in Madison and has been a member of OLLI for seven years. She has taken courses in 21 terms. Irene has served the board previously but feels that she can give back to an organization that she thoroughly enjoys. Many of you may have seen her around the volunteer office because she has chaired the volunteer committee as both a board member and a nonmember. The volunteer committee is responsible for opening up in the morning, dispensing the elixir of life (coffee), and selecting our annual Volunteer of the Year. Irene and her committee have done a great job of making our facilities a comfortable place to meet and enjoy. Irene has also served our OLLI as an instructor.

Nancy Darnall

Nancy has been a member of our OLLI for 10 years. Nancy served on the board for five years previously but wants to rejoin the board to utilize her leadership skills supporting OLLI. She is a regular instructor and has taught many classes. She has been editor of *The OLLI Insider* and served on numerous committees. Nancy has a long history of serving as a volunteer in our local community and wishes to use her skills honed there to support OLLI. You will enjoy working with Nancy.

Valerie Seaquist

Valerie lives in Meridianville and has been a member for 16 years. She has served the board previously and as the

secretary of the board. Valerie is a regular instructor of OLLI and has taught "Writing Your Life Story" multiple times. She is excited about rejoining the board and helping OLLI recover from COVID's impact on our membership. Even when not a board member, Val has served many committees within OLLI as a volunteer. If you do not know Val, take the time to introduce yourself.

Christi Parker

Christi joined OLLI in 2019 and has taken more than 10 classes. She is new to the OLLI board but is not new to serving and supporting OLLI. While enjoying the learning experiences of our classes, she has also served on our fund development and events committees. Christi brings to our organization the talents she has developed serving on other nonprofit boards and has already helped in UAH's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program for young girls. She will be a great new voice on the OLLI board.

Steven Keiser

Steve has been a part of our OLLI since 2017. He is a resident of Fayetteville, Tennessee, but has enjoyed our program and taken more than a dozen classes since joining our OLLI. He has enjoyed his OLLI experience and wants to be able to give back by serving on the board. Since joining OLLI he has taught five classes, and he is teaching one during the spring term. Steve was a long-term civilian employee of the Army, using leadership skills to support his teams. He looks forward to using those skills to support OLLI.

Please join me in welcoming these new board members to our OLLI, and offer them your support as they go forward in serving our members.

David Styers

Immediate Past President

OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



Irene Garoppo



Nancy Darnall



Valerie Seaquist



Christi Parker



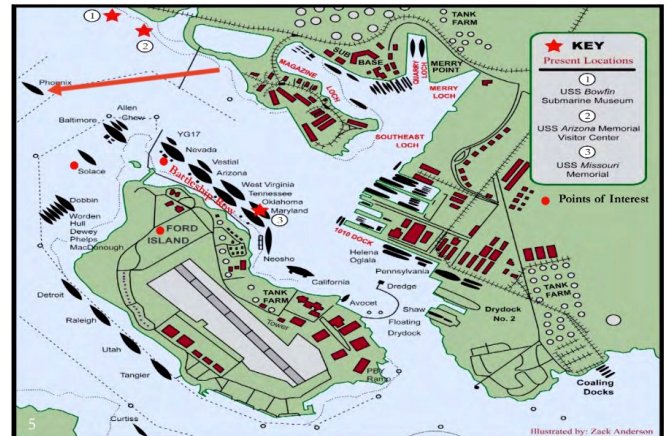
Steven Keiser

THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW...? AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY



The ARA *General Belgrano* sinks during the 1982 Falklands War. (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.)



The red arrow shows where the USS *Phoenix* was anchored when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1945. (Map courtesy of the National Park Service, npsmaps.com.)

This is the fourth in a series of articles, each giving a highlight of the month from military history.

May: What goes around ...

The USS *Phoenix* (CL-46), was a light cruiser laid down on April 15, 1935, and commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on Oct. 3, 1938. Commanded by Capt. John W. Rankin, she was the third *Phoenix* commissioned by the United States Navy.

In March 1939 she transited the Panama Canal for a new home port of San Pedro, California. From June 1939 until April 1940, she toured the West Coast. She left California in March 1940 en route to Lahaina Roads, to Maui and then on to a new home port, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

At 7:55 on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the first of three aerial attacks on the U.S. fleet anchored there began. When the first Japanese planes flew overhead, *Phoenix* was anchored in the east loch of the harbor (red arrow) all by herself.

Observers on board the *Phoenix* sighted the rising sun of Japan on planes coming in low over Ford Island, and a few seconds later the ship's guns took them under fire.

She ultimately escaped the disaster unscathed, and shortly after noon was underway, joining the cruisers *St. Louis* and *Detroit*, along with several destroyers, to comprise an impromptu task force that searched unsuccessfully for the enemy aircraft carriers.

On Jan. 12, 1942, the *Phoenix*, along with two destroyers, departed San Francisco escorting the "Australian-Suva" convoy in the first large convoy to Australia after Pearl Harbor. This convoy carried troops, 50 crated P-40 fighter aircraft intended for the Philippines and Java, munitions, supplies, and officers selected by the War Department to form the core of what was to become Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in the Southwest Pacific Area Command.

For some time thereafter, the cruiser operated in Australian waters escorting troop ships, and once it steamed as far north as Java. She would remain in the South Pacific for the duration of the war, supporting the Army at Cape Gloucester, New Guinea, and finally, the Philippines.

(continued on the next page)

THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW...?

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY (CONT.)

She was en route to Pearl Harbor for overhaul when Japan capitulated. She headed home and, upon reaching the Panama Canal on Sept. 6, joined the Atlantic Fleet. Her status was reduced to "in commission, in reserve" at Philadelphia on Feb. 28, 1946. She was finally decommissioned on July 3, 1946.

Having fought courageously throughout the war and coming home virtually unscathed should certainly be enough to secure a place in history for any ship. But not the USS *Phoenix*, and *that's* the rest of the story.

Fast forward to April 2, 1982, when Argentina invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands. Great Britain, which claimed sovereignty over the islands, dispatched a naval task force to the region on the 5th, and thus began the 74-day Falklands War.

The Argentinians then dispatched their own force to the islands to counter the British fleet. Part of that fleet was Task Group 79.2, consisting of the destroyers ARA *Piedra Buena* and *Hipolito Bouchard*; a tanker, *YPF Puerto Rosales*; and the light cruiser *General Belgrano*.

On May 1, the order was given for all Argentine naval vessels to seek out the British fleet and launch a "massive" attack. The next day, TG 79.2 followed that order and took a course that placed them outside the British-imposed Exclusion Zone — an area some 200 nautical miles in diameter around the islands.

Their arrival posed a threat to the British fleet, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ordered Commander Chris Wreford-Brown, commander of the submarine *Conqueror* (who had been shadowing the Task Group), to attack the *Belgrano*. At 3:57 p.m. Falklands Island time, May 2, 1982, *Conqueror* fired three torpedoes at her target.

The first torpedo blew off *Belgrano's* bow, but her bulkheads held, and for the moment, she stayed in action.

The killing shot, though, came with the second torpedo, which struck about three-quarters of the way along the ship, just to the rear of her side armor plating. It exploded in the main engine room, tearing upward to rip a 20-meter-long hole in the main deck and flooding her holds. It is estimated that 275 of her sailors were killed as a direct result of this explosion alone.

Twenty minutes after the attack, *Belgrano* began to list to port and sink by her bow. Her captain ordered the remainder of the crew to abandon ship. In the end, 323 of her crew lost their lives, but 772 were rescued. The gallant ship went down.

So what does this incident some 37 years after the end of World War II have to do with the USS *Phoenix*, you might ask? Well, as the U.S. Navy often did with decommissioned ships at the time, *Phoenix* was sold to the Argentinian Navy on April 9, 1951, and originally commissioned as *Diecisiete de Octubre* (C-4) (17th of October) on Oct. 17, 1951. After serving for nearly six years, she was renamed the ARA *General Belgrano* in 1956.

And now you know the rest of the story. Having spent four years in the Pacific during an all-out war, *Phoenix* — now the *Belgrano* — was sunk in 1982 by the same weapon — a torpedo — that she had years before so successfully avoided time and again. I guess it's true what they say: What goes around, comes around.

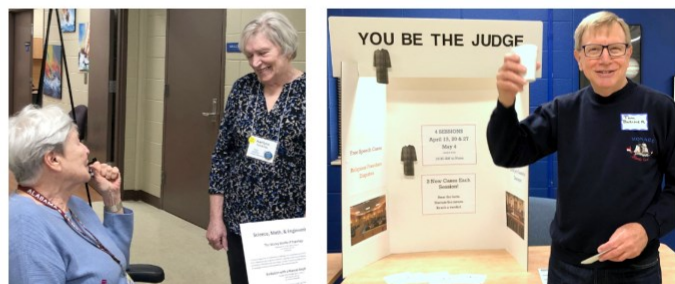
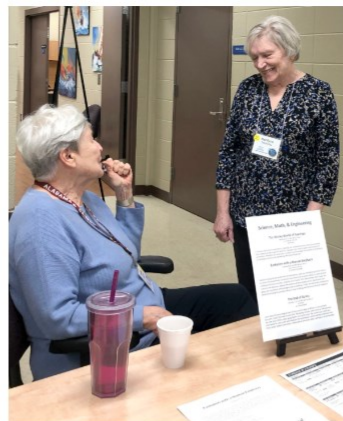
SUGGESTED READING:

"A Brief History of the *General Belgrano*," *Shipping Times*. 2007.

Gavshon, Arthur, and Desmond Rice. *The Sinking of the Belgrano*. Secker & Warburg.

By John Mason

SPRING TERM OPEN HOUSE, MARCH 23



(Photos by Glen Adams and Fathia Hardy)

HOCKEY, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND LACROSSE

OLLI members attended a Huntsville Havoc hockey game April 1 and UAH Chargers baseball, softball and lacrosse competitions April 2.



(Photos by Michelle Lafferty, Janet Reville and Chris Stuhlinger)

BARON WEATHER INTELLIGENCE TOUR, APRIL 7



(Photos by Jill Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

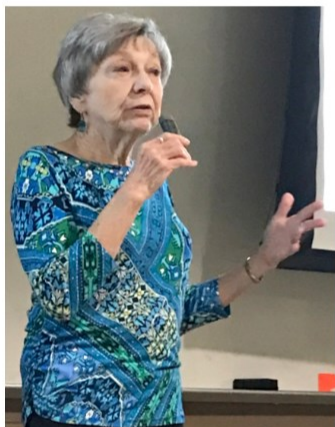
HIKING CHAPMAN MOUNTAIN ON APRIL 9



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

BONUS: ADVENTURES IN GLACIER BAY, ALASKA

Barbara Staggs shared her photos and experiences April 15. She joined five other photographers on a 64-foot boat's summer cruise to view glaciers calving and creatures such as whales, seals and sea lions.



(Photos by Barbara Staggs and Steve Stewart)



HYDROPONIC GARDEN TOUR AT LACEY'S SPRING



(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

OLLI members enjoyed a tour April 22 of the Manna House's Hydroponic Garden at Lacey's Spring. They wore protective suits to avoid carrying bugs into the growing area of the indoor hydroponic facility, which grows a hybrid romaine lettuce, as well as green beans, using carefully measured amounts of water and nutrients. The nutrient mix is in plastic tanks such as the one shown. Blue-red LED lights are used for growing lettuce.

THE LAST WORD

OLLI Annual Meeting



Tuesday, May 17, 2022 | \$25 — Dinner and Meeting 6:00 pm

CONFERENCE TRAINING CENTER - EXHIBIT HALL

MAKE RESERVATIONS TODAY!

Join us to recognize all OLLI has accomplished over the past three academic years.

- Introductions of the newly-elected members of the 2022-2023 OLLI at UAH Board of Directors.
- Recognition of our many volunteers, including the Volunteer of the Year and Legacy Award.
- Recognition of OLLI at UAH Scholarship Recipients.
- Announcement of the winner of our Annual Photo Contest.

Special entertainment will be provided by our OLLI Reader's Theatre course participants.

Cost is \$25 per person for dinner.

Reservations are available by Monday, May 9, 2022, at tinyurl.com/OLLI22-annual-meeting.

OPEN TO OLLI MEMBERS AND GUESTS • For more information, contact ✉ OLLI.info@uah.edu or ☎ 256.824.6183

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