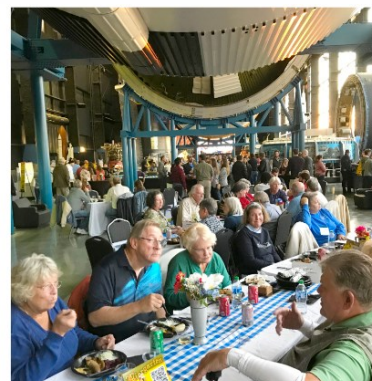


THE OLLI INSIDER

NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE

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



ART, MUSIC, NATURE, SCIENCE AND FRIENDSHIP

Clockwise from top left: Cathedral Caverns; harpist Steven Todd Miller; dining under a Saturn V rocket; OLLI teacher Jennifer Garlen with husband David; hunting for downtown Huntsville art; relaxing during a Flint Creek Nature Trail hike.



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JUST SAYING IT DOESN'T MAKE IT TRUE



Mark Twain memorably warned us about the perils of bad information — or did he?

"It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

Twain is often quoted as saying that, or something like it.

Ironically, one of the things we don't know is whether Twain actually said it.

An internet search turned up no real evidence that he did, as well as much skepticism. But attributing the quote to him gives it credibility and momentum, doesn't it? Most of us think of Mark Twain as not only witty but also a shrewd judge of human nature.

Twain's alleged comment is certainly more quotable than a verified one from former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who employed three times as many words to say much the same thing.

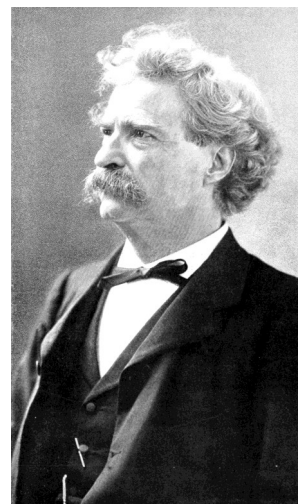
"Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me," Rumsfeld said, "because, as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we now know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we do not know we don't know."

Rumsfeld was speaking at a 2002 news briefing, referring to the evidence or lack of same on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Perhaps he was more interested in obfuscating than explaining.

I thought about the alleged Twain quotation often while taking Bill Confer's recent OLLI course "Psychological Reality & Unwarranted Beliefs." Bill reminded us to seek facts and not base our decisions on what somebody says or what we'd like to believe, but he explained many reasons we can fall victim to misinformation.

Whether Twain said it or not, the advice rings true. I came to that conclusion from experience and from what I learned in Bill's class, among other places. Each of us is entitled to his or her own opinions, but those opinions can lead us astray if not based on facts.

Inside *The Insider*: Glen Adams profiles Jennifer Garlen, a popular teacher of film and literature who is also an



A celebrity such as Mark Twain may or may not have said it, but the essential question is: Is it true?

author and blogger. Betty Koval shares her perpetual enthusiasm about travel, including coming trips to Philadelphia and Canada as well as the tour of Alaska that took place in August.

Jill Stewart reflects on what OLLI members can be grateful for in this Thanksgiving season. We have remembrances of two teachers, Flora Boardman and Carol Edwards.

John Mason notes the eerie similarity between the Nobel Prizes and the OLLI curriculum. And John, with Cliff Lanham's help, passes along an eyewitness account of the exploits of Reckless, the warhorse introduced in our October issue.

Clay Williams breaks news about the OLLI Trolley that will go into service soon, as well as updating us on recent changes and spring semester. Janet Reville describes findings from a member survey and stresses the need for feedback.

Chris Stuhlinger writes about coming events at Beaverdam Boardwalk, Burritt on the Mountain and the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum. You can bring guests to the boardwalk hike.

One more thing: If you know of OLLI members who are involved in interesting celebrations or service projects related to the holiday season, please email us early in November at OLLINewsletter@uah.edu.

Steve Stewart
Public Relations Committee Chair

FROM THE PRESIDENT



THE SEASON FOR AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



Last spring, in the OLLI course “Common Themes in Religious Diversity,” instructor Richard Brooks helped the class explore some of the lesser-known faith traditions and the basic values shared by virtually all the world’s religions.

The premise was that a better understanding of all that the faith communities have in

common — with less emphasis on differences — could be a step toward achieving greater harmony and peace in the world. One fundamental tenet shared by humanity’s religious traditions is gratitude.

As we approach Thanksgiving this year, there is much that we should remember about the role of thankfulness in our lives.

Beyond the spiritual context, we know from science and multiple research studies conducted by the National Institutes of Health, among others, that gratitude is one of the most powerful and healthiest of human emotions. People who express gratitude experience more activity in the brain’s hypothalamus, which regulates sleep, digestion and metabolism, making them less susceptible to anxiety and stress and strengthening the immune system, lowering blood pressure, improving sleep, etc. Don’t we all need that — especially in times like these? So, in the interest of better health, here are just a few things you and I as OLLI members may include on our gratitude lists. I am grateful:

- For the tireless efforts of our UAH staff and leaders — Alice Sammon, Clay Williams, Fathia Hardy, Interim Dean Jason Greene, Provost David Puleo, President Charles Karr, and all the related College of Professional Studies support staff members — who are committed to the quality and success of OLLI at UAH.
- For fellow members who volunteer to serve in various leadership roles on our Board of Directors and committees, as well as by serving as course facilitators, leading member interest groups, coordinating social activities and events, etc. —which all enhance our social connections.
- For all our instructors who donate their time and talents to provide informative, thought-provoking, challenging, and entertaining courses and bonuses that enrich our minds and bodies.

- For all those who make charitable financial contributions to our OLLI Support Fund, scholarship fund, etc. to help sustain the priorities of the organization.

I am grateful to have found OLLI and all it has to offer in this season of my life, and I hope all of you share that sentiment.

In closing, here are some other words on gratitude to ponder this month:

***Let us rise up and be thankful,
for if we didn’t learn a lot today,
at least we learned a little,
and if we didn’t learn a little,
at least we didn’t get sick,
and if we got sick,
at least we didn’t die;
so, let us be thankful.***

—The Buddha

Jill Stewart
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



People whom we can be grateful for include teachers such as Mike Ezell (top photo), volunteers such as Rick Heeth and Val Seaquist (bottom left), and staff and leaders such as Alice Sammon and Clay Williams.

(Photos by Glen Adams and Steve Stewart)

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 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.

Nov 4 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Bogart, Nixon, and Sarah Palin

A real-life hostage-taking event results in a best-selling novel, a Broadway play, a movie starring Humphrey Bogart, and a featured article in Life Magazine. The family that was taken hostage sues the magazine leading to a historic Supreme Court case in which Richard Nixon argued on behalf of the family. Just recently, Sarah Palin made the news as a result of her suing the New York Times challenging the same free press issues that were argued in the hostage family's case. This "multi-media" program will explore the unexpected twists and turns in this true story and include clips from the movie, photos from the Life Magazine article, and audio clips from Richard Nixon's argument before the Supreme Court. In addition, we'll take a look at the very recent case Sarah Palin filed against the New York Times. Sign up [online](#). ***Presented by Tom Borchert, retired trial lawyer and current presenter on history, politics, and the court.***

Nov 16 | Wed | 10:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Event: Teacher Appreciation Day

Come celebrate and offer thanks to our wonderful instructors who taught during the fall semester. Special entertainment will be provided and refreshments will be served. **Cost: Free | Sign-up is required.** Open to OLLI Members and Guests

Presented by OLLI Curriculum Committee.

Dec 9 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Wildlife of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

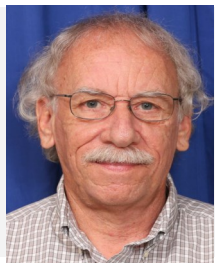
The incredible diversity of wildlife found in the Galapagos makes this group of islands off the coast of Ecuador so special. The islands are home to many unique species of birds, reptiles and mammals. After visiting the Galapagos and experiencing the wildlife, Charles Darwin developed his theory of evolution. Witness this photographic journey through the islands, which includes a vivid look at the wildlife of the islands by exploring the rainforest and wildlife of mainland Ecuador before boarding a boat for a trip through the islands. Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Tom Ress, avid traveler and prolific writer.

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



ENJOY NOVEMBER, AND BRING SOME GUESTS



Fall semester is zooming by, and we are already nearing the end of this year's OLLI event offerings. Join us for an easy walk on the Beaverdam Boardwalk, learn about Dr. Burritt and life 100 years ago, and honor U.S. veterans with a visit to a military history museum.

Members attending the Beaverdam Boardwalk hike and nature walk may bring up to two guests (family, friends, etc.) to introduce the guests to OLLI. Guests must register for the hike, agree to the waiver form at the registration link, and indicate that they are registering as nonmembers. The same guest may attend only one OLLI event as a nonmember. We hope to make the same offer next semester.

Recap of recent events

- **Cathedral Caverns tour** — OLLI members enjoyed a fascinating guided walk Oct. 7 into the caverns to see the huge Goliath stalagmite, a “frozen” waterfall, and a forest of stalagmites. Members crossed the Mystery River, stood in a large room that measured 123 feet from floor to ceiling, and identified several ancient sharks’ teeth embedded in the rock.
- **Flint Creek Nature Trail hike** — Members took a leisurely stroll through the riparian forest at Flint Creek in Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge during a beautiful Saturday afternoon, Oct. 8. Water birds, numerous tree and shrub species, and various fungi and vines were encountered.
- **Biergarten at the Rocket Center** — OLLI members (including the Dining-out Member Interest Group) enjoyed an evening of fellowship and Biergarten bratwurst and schnitzel on Oct. 20 underneath the Saturn V first stage at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center’s Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Twickenham Jazz & Swing provided live music.
- **Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail** — OLLI members were challenged Oct. 21 to find and photograph 19 pieces of public art located within several blocks along the Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail. Several teams of two or three members and guests were given a 60-minute time limit. Nancy and Bob Darnall were the only ones to find all 19 art pieces (murals, sculptures, etc.) and were declared the winners.

Upcoming events

- **Saturday, Nov. 12 — Beaverdam Boardwalk/Blackwell Swamp hike/nature walk**, 10 a.m.-noon, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Huntsville Airport. Meet at the Beaverdam Boardwalk parking area (off County Line Road just south of I-565 and west of the airport). Take a leisurely 1-mile round-trip walk on the recently renovated Beaverdam Boardwalk and see one of the largest tupelo swamps in Alabama, along with the opportunity to see a variety of birds and other small animals. Afterward, we will drive to Blackwell Run Road south of the airport and walk on a gravel road (about 0.5-mile round trip) near Blackwell Swamp through a pine/hardwood stand damaged by a recent tornado. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather (hike will be canceled if there is inclement weather). Bring water and snacks. Requires pre-registration and waiver/release form. Bring your OLLI name tag. Each attending member may bring two guests (guests must also pre-register and agree to the waiver form). forms.gle/4Pi3U1oKa9NYSfM99.
- **Friday, Nov. 18 — Burritt on the Mountain tour**, 1:15-3:15 p.m., 3101 Burritt Drive SE, near the south end of Monte Sano Boulevard. Meet at the gift shop, which is to the right of the mansion from the parking lot. Join us for a guided tour of Dr. Burritt’s mansion and the historic park. At his death in 1955, Dr. William Burritt left his 1930s mansion and 167 acres to the city of Huntsville as a museum and park. The uniquely designed house contains an eclectic collection of Dr. Burritt’s possessions and donated items. Take a walk in the homestead area with six wooden farm cabins, several farm support buildings with farm animals, and working craftspeople demonstrating skills necessary to support their life. Of particular interest is the re-created Rosenwald School, which was part of an effort to provide adequate school buildings for African American children in the South. OLLI members are welcome to stay after the tour to revisit a tour stop or visit Josie’s gift shop. burrittonthemountain.com/explore/dr-burritt-the-mansion. Tour cost is \$10 per person (pay at the door; no charge for Burritt members). Pre-registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 11, at 4 p.m. Bring your OLLI name tag. forms.gle/vxUYVrXNABcRGepGA.

(continued on the next page)

EVENTS COMMITTEE

ENJOY NOVEMBER, BRING SOME GUESTS, CONT

- **Friday, Dec. 2 — U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum tour**, 1:15-2:45 p.m., 3650 Alex McAllister Drive in John Hunt Park (turn north from Airport Road onto McAllister Drive). Meet in the museum lobby. Join fellow OLLI members in visiting this labor-of-love small treasure of a museum dedicated to America's military history — almost 250 years of history beginning with the Revolutionary War. Exhibits include rare and important artifacts, memorabilia, and more than 30 items of military equipment. Of particular note is the oldest surviving jeep: the Ford Pygmy. The main

exhibit period is World War I to the present, with the hope that visitors can relate their or family members' military experience to some of the exhibits. Entrance fee is \$3 per person (senior rate; pay at the door). Pre-registration deadline is noon Tuesday, Nov. 29. forms.gle/3Dji2EXvEeBzE8nR8. Bring your OLLI name tag.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



Events in November and early December will include walks and tours at Beaverdam Boardwalk and Blackwell Swamp; Burritt on the Mountain; and the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum.

REGINE NORTHOVER WINS 'REFER A FRIEND'

Congratulations to Regine Northover for winning the October "Refer A Friend" drawing!

Regine wins a gift certificate granting free semester tuition and a free course. Want to be next month's winner? Any OLLI member who refers a friend to become a member will have their name entered into our monthly drawing. Shown here after Regine's name was drawn are Clay Williams, OLLI program manager, and Marilynn Szecholda, board member and Social Committee Chair.



DINING UNDER A SATURN 5 AT THE BIERGARTEN



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)



UNDERGROUND AWE: CATHEDRAL CAVERNS



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

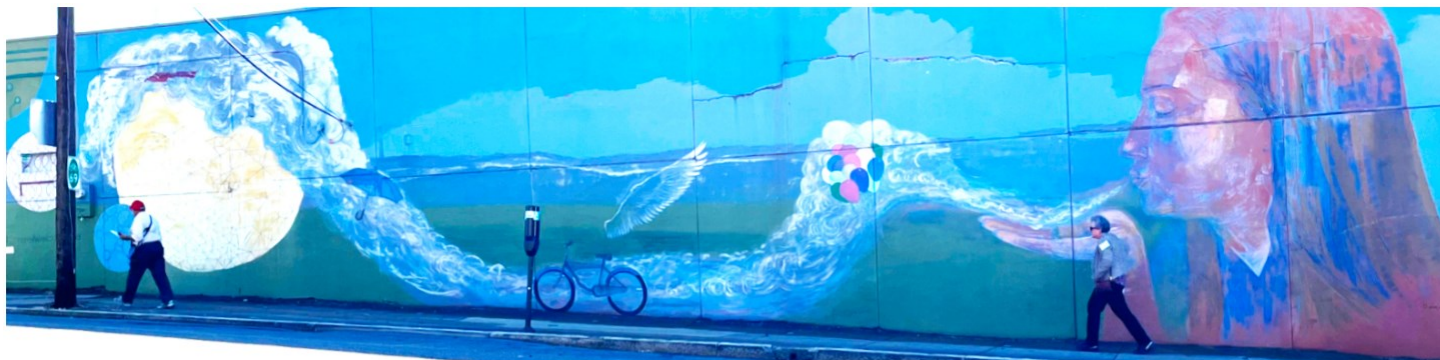
HIKING THE FLINT CREEK NATURE TRAIL



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

FINDING DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE'S ART

OLLI members and guests competed in their own Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail Scavenger Hunt on Oct. 21, breaking up into teams and searching for outdoor pieces of art. You can find the map that guided them at downtownhuntsville.org/secretarttrail. Nancy and Bob Darnall won, finding all 19 artworks.



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

DID NOBEL COMMITTEE BORROW OUR IDEAS?



For two years now in this column, I have talked about the world-class educational opportunities available to all of you by simply signing up to take our OLLI classes. C'mon. I know you remember.

Well, this month, not only will I reiterate that statement, but I am also prepared to offer irrefutable proof to back it up.

Have you followed the news in science during the last few weeks? If you have, then you are aware that the Nobel Prize Committee has recently awarded annual prizes for physiology or medicine, physics, and economics. OK, nothing new there, right? Ahh, but did you notice *what* those prizes were awarded for?

The prize for physiology or medicine went for “discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution”; physics, for “experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science” (i.e., quantum mechanics); and economics, for “significantly improving our understanding of the role of banks in the economy, particularly during financial crises.” So what, you might ask?

Well OLLI-UAH has offered classes in *each and every one* of those topics in the last couple of years!

That's right. We've had classes on human evolution and the human genome, the history of banking and money, and, just this term, quantum mechanics and the Bell inequalities.

Now, I'm not necessarily saying that the Nobel Committee uses our catalog to lead them in the direction of the most important discoveries in science and economics every year, but the evidence certainly seems to point that way. It just can't be denied. And if you don't believe me, then there's Gibbs' Rule No. 39: There is no such thing as a coincidence! Who can argue?

The point is, your OLLI curriculum team is second to none in seeking out and providing classes that not only are fun, but also are on the cutting edge of world achievement. And they do this every single term.

Here's where you come in. We get many of our class ideas by listening to you and by reading your comments in the class evaluations that come out at the end of every term. So your input is key! Keep it coming, and we'll keep trying to find instructors who are knowledgeable and able to provide you with the information you seek. I don't know if Gibbs had a rule for that, but whatever, it's a winning combination!

To keep that level of instruction alive, I'll also go back to what I noted in this column last month: the ever-growing need for new instructors to infuse their new ideas into the program.

So if you have a skill or a hobby, or even a subject that you are particularly interested in, why not become an OLLI-UAH instructor and share that expertise with us all? The OLLI family would love it, and you might even find you have a new and very appreciated skill: teacher. And in that regard, who knows? Your class might lead to one of next year's prizes. So don't miss out! Call us!

I'm waiting now to hear that the 2023 Prize for Literature will go to the author of the *OLLI Insider* curriculum column for “quality prose devoured by millions in an educational setting.” Guess I better go work on my acceptance speech. Sue, do we have anyone who teaches Swedish?

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

John Mason

VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



FALL ODDS AND ENDS



Fall has witnessed plenty of new developments with OLLI and UAH.

One was the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees naming Dr. Charles L. "Chuck" Karr as president of UAH on Sept. 16. Karr has been serving as interim president since December 2021 and has

been a vocal supporter of OLLI. There is no doubt he will help drive UAH and OLLI into a brighter tomorrow.

Speaking of driving, it will soon be easier to guide members around for local tours as well as longer field trips with a new OLLI Trolley.

The OLLI at UAH Board of Directors approved in September using support funds to purchase a 12-passenger van for OLLI. This will add much convenience for OLLI as well as serve as another promotional tool to spread the word about our program to the public. Look for the van in the coming months.

OLLI has been gaining many new members this fall, which is encouraging as we emerge from the COVID cloud of the past few years. Our overall numbers continue to rise, but those numbers would be even larger if all our current members would renew their memberships.

Please encourage your OLLI compatriots to renew their memberships to keep us on track in membership recovery. You can even renew for two or three years so you don't have to manage your membership on a yearly basis.

Looking to the future, OLLI staff is fully occupied with developing the spring 2023 course guide. Look for another exciting blend of courses and events.

The semester will start Jan. 30 and run until May 5, with our open house occurring Jan. 6. The course guide should be out in December.

I want to give a special thanks to our instructors, who have taken the time to create very worthwhile courses. A reminder that fall Teacher Appreciation Day is Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Finally, with fall winding down, I want to remind everyone that UAH and the OLLI offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, in observance of Thanksgiving.

With all that has happened over the past few years, I know many of you will join me in expressing thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed. One of those blessings that I am most thankful for is the OLLI family, of which I am very happy to now be a member. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager



Watch for the OLLI Trolley to arrive soon. This illustration includes (from left) Board President Jill Stewart, Immediate Past President David Styers and board member Steve Jones.

ADMIN & FINANCE COMMITTEE

SURVEYS HELP US GROW AND IMPROVE OLLI



Earlier this year, OLLI at UAH sent a survey via email to all of our members (about 650 at the time.) The questions covered a range of topics, including the quality and variety of courses and bonus lectures, communication within our program, fees charged, and the ease of registration.

There were 121 surveys returned, representing only about 18% of the recipients. Perhaps our survey was too lengthy, maybe the questions were too ambiguous, or perhaps it was lost in the email overload we all experience in today's cyber world. Whatever the reason, the low response rate introduces some bias into the results, possibly resulting in skewed analysis.

If we make significant changes based on the few responses, OLLI at UAH may be basing decisions on inaccurate information. However, let's see if we can glean a few conclusions from the completed survey responses.

The variety and number of courses offered by OLLI at UAH were overwhelmingly rated as excellent or good, although it should be noted that not all of our members consistently take courses each term.

A small percentage of our members still work, either part time or full time, and others have physical limitations, either location or personal. For some members, OLLI at UAH is a priority, and others schedule the classes between travel and other activities.

A few of the questions in the survey related to the convenience of the times our courses and bonus lectures are offered. The responses were again primarily in the excellent-to-good range, but a slightly higher percentage chose to rate the times offered as fair.

The variety and number of bonus lectures also received more fair ratings than the other categories, although the vast majority (greater than 80%) chose either excellent or good.

Our fees do not seem to be too high for the vast majority of the members who responded to the survey, including membership fees and course fees. The fees charged for individual courses did receive more fair to poor ratings, but most of the answers rated them excellent. The course fees did fare a bit lower in the ratings, but our low membership fee seems to remain one of our program strengths.

Although the results of this survey remain inconclusive, your voice can be heard in the future by completing the class surveys. A survey is available at the end of each class offered by OLLI at UAH, and questions include your opinions on all OLLI topics.

We actively solicit your ideas relating to class offerings, bonus lectures, group events, etc. Let's all strive to increase our membership and make the program even better!

Janet Reville
Vice President for Administration and Finance
OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

As an OLLI member, you have choices. You can select the courses you want to take, as at this open house in December 2021, but also can influence course offerings and other activities by providing feedback personally and through surveys.



FOND MEMORIES, GREAT EXPECTATIONS



OK, OK, OK — where has this year gone already? I cannot believe that it was not just yesterday when it was August! My mother always told me, “The older you get, the faster time flies.” She was so right, but then aren’t they always right?

Fall term classes will be over soon, and we will be looking to the next term. There are always so many great classes, and I kind of overdid it this last term. I must face the fact: *I am not Super/Wonder Woman!*

No matter how hard I try, my body simply reminds me that I cannot cram 36 hours into 24. I blame the Curriculum Committee for having so many wonderful classes and instructors to choose from. That is my story, and I am sticking to it.

In all seriousness, we are so fortunate to have these volunteers who go out and get these classes and instructors. *Thank you* for all you do.

Speaking of committee members, the Travel Committee has presented two wonderful trips for you to take advantage of another learning experience. Email olli.info@uah.edu for signup information on these trips.

- **The World of Art:** The Barnes Foundation, Murals and More by Road Scholar — May 21-26, 2023, in Philadelphia.
- **The Canadian Maritimes:** Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island by Grand Circle Travel — Aug. 17-29, 2023.

Be prepared to have some patience. There may be a little wait time. These travel companies are very busy now and shorter staffed than before.

Now back to the Alaska adventure, picking up from last month’s column:

On Tuesday, Aug. 16, we had breakfast and headed to Denali, but not before stopping at the University of Alaska (Fairbanks) Museum of the North for a quick tour and not even enough time to see all you want to see! But it is one fabulous museum. We departed for Nenana, home of the Nenana Ice Classic.

It is Alaska’s greatest guessing game, a tradition going back to 1917. A group of engineers (who would have ever guessed that?) surveying the Alaska Railroad spent \$800 placing bets to see when the river ice would break up after winter. Now anyone can buy a \$3 ticket (iceclassic@alaska.net) and try your luck. Any takers? Well, our own Chris Stuhlinger came very close in 2018, missing by eight minutes. One of his six guesses was May 1 at 1:26 p.m., and the actual breakup was 1:18 p.m. on that day. Pretty darned close, I would say!

The Nenana Senior Center hosted our lunch with some of the best fish (and I am not a fish lover) I have ever eaten. We even had a bit of moose stew. Moose meat is not for sale, but if someone who has a permit to hunt moose for food serves it, it is allowed. It was quite tasty and was almost identical to beef. This small village depends on this meat to sustain them. Mary Klienschmidt gave a talk and took questions about life in a native village. Wonderfully nice people!

We departed, sadly, and headed to Denali National Park. After checking into the Grande Denali Hotel, we had dinner and another talk from a guide at the Murie Science and Learning Center.

Wednesday saw us up and out early for the Wilderness Access Center to catch a bus for the tour of Denali National Park. We were not allowed to go as far as we had hoped due to a landslide in June. It was disappointing, but that is nature. After lunch, we toured the Denali Kennels and learned about the Denali sled dogs. They are bred differently from the Iditarod racing dogs. The sled dogs must be able to pull a heavy sled and withstand the cold temperatures out in the field camps during the winter. The park is monitored for poachers during the winter months.

These animals are exceptional and begin training at 8 weeks old. By 6 months, they are harnessed in tandem with the actual team to run alongside the sleds. The trainers can then see which type of dog each will be: leader, wheel, or team dog. Most are interchangeable, but some excel in one or two areas. It is a harsh environment, and it takes teamwork to survive.

(continued on the next page)

TRAVEL COMMITTEE



FOND MEMORIES, GREAT EXPECTATIONS, CONT

We witnessed a puppy race of three 8-week-old puppies. They proved to already be good runners. I must admit, they were enticed by a can of kibble being shaken in front of them. I went to the ranger station and picked up booklets for Bill and me to become Junior Rangers. The park ranger said there was no age limit. And the official pin marks the Sled Dog Centennial with paw prints. (We are passing these on to a great niece and nephew.) After that long day, dinner at Prospect Pizza hit the spot! We *never* lacked eating or food.

Thursday, Aug. 18, saw us leaving for Anchorage via Talkeetna. We had a program and lunch at the Talkeetna Historical Society Museum. There was a to-scale replica of Denali and the climbing trails. We learned quite a bit on climbing Denali — enough to know one must be fit and hardy to attempt such a feat. The ranger station in Talkeetna is where one registers to climb Denali. Some 1,200 people had registered in 2022.

While we were talking to the ranger, she saw our Denali Junior Ranger pins. We explained why we had them, and she was nice enough to give us the Denali National Park & Preserve Junior Mountaineering Ranger booklets and patches with crossed ski poles.

After a bit of a stroll around the small village, we were on the road again to Anchorage, and what a dinner we had at the Bear Claw or Paw — we were never sure which one! John and Marsha Langlois celebrated their 49th anniversary. I had the honor to help John surprise Marsha with a carrot cake. We managed to pull it off with the help of Michelle Bartlett at OLLI in Alaska. Marsha was quite surprised. Kudos to John!

Friday, Aug. 19, we had a tour of one of, if not *the*, best museums I have ever visited — the Anchorage Museum. We had a video of the aurora borealis and toured the extensive collections of all the native Alaskan people. The five distinct groups are Northwest Coast Indians, Inupiaqs, Yupiks, Aleuts and Athabascans. The next stop was the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where we had a nice tour and heard the younger generation perform native songs and dances.

This is where I will leave you until next month. Happy traveling, wherever you may wander.

All who wander are not lost.

Betty Koval
Travel Committee Chair



Clockwise from top left: The view from the Grande Denali Lodge; OLLI member Cheryl Heeth (left) and tour guide Sally Smith at a pizza restaurant; a store in Talkeetna; and Bill and Chris Johnson in Denali National Park. (Photos taken or provided by Howard Carr, Bonnie Jane Peterson and Chris Johnson)



INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ALASKA ADVENTURES

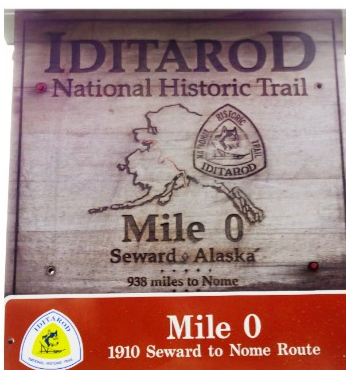
OLLI's Alaska travelers saw live animals in the wild and at a farm, as well as animal art in Anchorage Museum. They photographed scenery from a visitors' center and celebrated a birthday for Carolyn Zelif and a wedding anniversary for John and Marsha Langlois.



(Photos by Howard Carr, Marsha Langlois, Steve Stewart and others)

ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS ON ALASKA TOUR

Animals spotted on the Alaska tour included a sea lion, a bald eagle, a moose cow and calf, a ground squirrel and sled dogs. Visitors from Alabama also saw a mural of a puffin (seabird) in Seward and a bear sculpture in the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. A sign in Seward designates Mile 0 of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.



(Photos by Patrice Stewart, Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

JENNIFER GARLEN LOVES FILM, LITERATURE



Jennifer Garlen with husband David and daughter Cate in London on the River Thames; Jennifer and David at Niagara Falls.



For many OLLI students, the first thing they do when receiving the latest OLLI course catalog is to check whether Jennifer Garlen is teaching one of her popular courses on film or literature.

For 16 years, Jennifer has taught OLLI courses on subjects ranging from Charles Dickens to Sherlock Holmes to Gilbert and Sullivan to film noir. Jennifer is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Jennifer grew up in small-town South Georgia. Her interest in literature and film started early, very early.

"Even as a kindergartner, I wanted to be a novelist and an artist when I grew up," Jennifer recalled. "Science fiction and fantasy were huge comforts to me, both as books and movies, but I read pretty much everything in our small local library and my school libraries. And I loved watching old movies that aired on PBS or on regular channels late at night."

College for Jennifer was a freeing experience.

"When I left home for Agnes Scott College, I felt like I had really found my place in the world," said Jennifer. "I majored in English literature and creative writing, but I would have majored in film studies if that had been an option."

"A great professor introduced me to 18th century British literature, which became my focus in graduate school. My master's thesis at Georgia Southern and my dissertation at Auburn were both about women in 18th-century British novels.

"I loved working in that field because the novels are so exciting and earthy compared to Victorian literature. I especially loved the 'virago' characters seen in many 18th-century narratives. That's why my blog is called 'Virtual Virago!'" (Virago: A domineering, violent, or bad-tempered woman.)

Eventually, Jennifer would end up in Huntsville and working at UAH.

"I taught English at UAH for 14 years," said Jennifer. "As an adjunct and instructor, I taught a wide variety of lower-level classes, but I particularly enjoyed teaching the British literature surveys. I found ways to incorporate film studies into a lot of my classes.

"I spent a few years as a visiting assistant professor at UAH right before I left teaching. That was wonderful because I got to teach 18th-century English literature, the Gothic, and other upper-level material to graduate students. I'm so proud that some of my former students have gone on to full-time careers teaching those subjects. I still keep up with them and love hearing from them."

JENNIFER GARLEN, CONT

Leaving UAH gave Jennifer more time to devote herself to film scholarship.

"I've been writing about film for some time," she said, "first as part of my academic career and then more for my own benefit because I feel happiest when I'm learning and writing. I co-edited two books about Jim Henson's films and TV shows: 'Kermit Culture' (2009) and 'The Wider Worlds of Jim Henson' (2012). My classic movie guide, 'Beyond Casablanca: 100 Classic Movies Worth Watching,' was a labor of love that came out in 2012.

"I'm currently co-editing an essay anthology about 'Star Trek,' and I hope that will come out sometime in 2023. I have my own personal blog, 'Virtual Virago,' where I write about literature, film and popular culture, and I write the Silver Screen Standards column for Classic Movie Hub."

For several years Jennifer has done LearningQUEST film series at the downtown library that often fill the auditorium. Her current series focuses on the films of Robert Mitchum, and next semester's will feature Joan Crawford. Jennifer is also a volunteer film presenter and guest speaker at Magnolia Trace Retirement Community.

OLLI and Jennifer were a perfect fit when they came together 16 years ago. Besides the OLLI courses already mentioned, Jennifer has taught courses on Lewis Carroll,

detective fiction, pirates in popular culture, the Gothic novel, Arthurian mythology, "Jane Eyre," Romantic poetry, Edgar Allan Poe, "Tom Jones" and Westerns.

"I always enjoy getting to share the subjects I love, and I appreciate all of the friends I have made over the years," said Jennifer. "I also really enjoy getting to teach without having to grade tests or papers!"

Jennifer's husband, David, who works for the Missile Defense Agency, also loves books and movies and supports their extensive collection of both. Their daughter, Cate, is a senior illustration and visual development major at Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida.

For more of Jennifer's work, visit these pages:

- Amazon author page: [amazon.com/Jennifer-C-Garlen/e/B009BHNAVE/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_book_1](https://www.amazon.com/Jennifer-C-Garlen/e/B009BHNAVE/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_book_1)
- Virtual Virago: virtualvirago.blogspot.com
- Classic Movie Hub, Silver Screen Standards: classicmoviehub.com/blog/category/silver-screen-standards

Thanks, Jennifer, for all you do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams

AGING IN YOUR OWN HOME

Jacqueline Horton, safety net health care services manager for Enable Madison County, spoke in a bonus session Oct. 14 about aging gracefully in your home. Her agency provides assistance in living safely, independently and with dignity. No-cost services include transportation, building and repairing wheelchair ramps, installing grab bars, and weatherizing.



(Photo by Jill Stewart)

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

November 2022: Some horse sense about the Korean War and two degrees of separation

So, you might remember that last month, I told you about the Korean War-horse Sgt. Reckless.

Horses are amazing animals. They are highly intelligent and can even be sympathetic to our frail human needs. Reckless exemplified those traits and more.

Bought by members of the United States Marine Corps and trained to be a pack horse to carry the 24-pound rounds for the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Reckless quickly came to be much more to her platoon mates. And, as the story related, in the heat of battle in March 1953, she made 51 solo trips in a single day, carrying a total of 386 recoilless rounds (over 9,000 pounds, carrying four to eight 24-pound shells on each trip) resupplying her comrades.

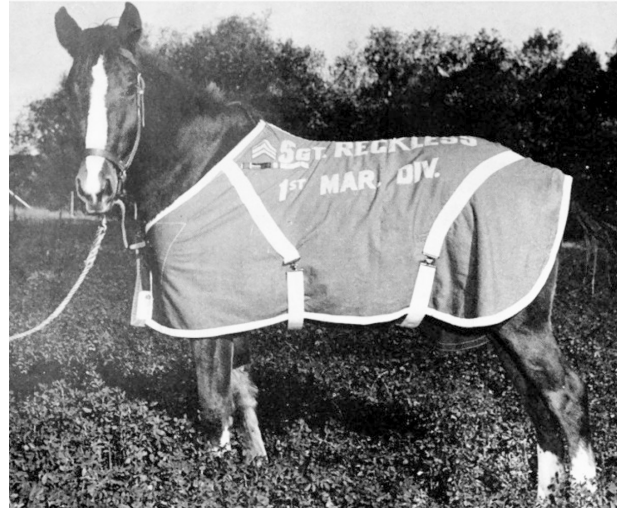
All in all, she covered over 35 miles that day, going back and forth from the front lines to the rear without having to be coaxed to do her duty. That, my friends, is an unusual display of heroism and devotion. It's no wonder that the Marines held her in such esteem.

But history and stories of bravery like this one don't occur in vacuums or only between the dusty covers of forgotten books. No. History involves people — sometimes, even people we might know. And in Reckless' case, that is the rest of the story.

A couple of days after last month's *Insider* hit the streets, I received an email from my good friend Cliff Lanham.

Cliff told me that as he read the story, he kept thinking he had heard that name "Reckless" somewhere before. Finally the answer came to him.

As it turned out, Cliff had a longstanding friendship with a man named Rich, who served in the Marines back in 1953 at outposts of Vegas, Reno and Carson during the Korean Conflict. Over the years and countless cups of coffee, Rich had told him numerous stories about a donkey the Marines had used to pack ammunition during the Korean War. So Cliff called his friend to see if this might have been the same animal.



Sgt. Reckless in retirement.

The phone went quiet for a long time, Cliff told me. And when Rich finally spoke, he said that it was, and asked if Cliff would send him a copy of the article. I'll let Cliff describe what happened then.

Cliff's account:

When I got the printed story of Reckless from John, I knew this was the recorded history of this fantastic animal that Rich had been trying to remember. I printed a copy and mailed it to him the next day.

Rich called me a few nights later and was emotionally overcome at receiving and reading the story of Reckless. Rich said he had read the story at least six times, and each time, emotions and flashbacks of combat and other events rushed over him. He was so emotionally taken back by the story that I had to slow him down so he could express his thoughts, emotions and events of combat on Vegas.

Almost tangibly, Rich mentally transported himself and his thoughts back to that day on Vegas and the other two hills that had shaped his life. He was reliving 1953 over again. We talked for over an hour.

(continued on the next page)



MILITARY HISTORY, CONT

Reckless, the Mongolian pony (Rich had always thought she was a mule because she was so small) purchased by the Marines, was used as a pack animal to transport six 75mm recoilless rifle rounds at a time up to Outpost Vegas and then pack wounded Marines back down to the aid station for medical treatment. Reckless, as the story recounted, had memorized the trail and made those trips by herself.

Rich then recounted one particular night when the recoilless-rifle team on which he served had run out of ammunition and the Chinese were blowing their horns, preparing for the final assault that could possibly overrun the Marine position. Out of nowhere, Reckless came galloping up the trail, braying loudly to let her Marines know she was inbound. Rich and another Marine rushed down the trail and cut off the six rounds she carried, then made a mad dash back to the recoilless-gun pit. Those six rounds, he said, contributed immensely in breaking the back of the Chinese assault.

Once he had realized the attack was spent, Rich said, he rushed down to the medical station and hugged the pony's neck and proceeded to kiss her. A few days later, the Chinese started negotiations for peace again. Three weeks later, Rich rotated back to the States. He was out of Korea. He had survived.

Rich made it home from Korea. His buddy that faithful night did not.

Rich took advantage of the GI Bill and continued his education, receiving a doctorate (Ph.D.) in radio waves that led him to be integral in the construction of antennas sending radio signals into space from antenna farm sites out West (the SETI project!). Today, Rich is over 90 and retired.

Back to John:

This is how history should be told. We can read about it for what it is, but hearing it firsthand from one who had actually lived it simply makes a profound difference. Much as had happened to Rich as he read the story, we are transported to a place we might otherwise never have known.

Hearing Rich's story brought the emotion of history home to me, but it clearly brought back a time to him that was so significant in shaping his life.

Thank you, Rich, for all you did! And thank you, Cliff, for sharing his story and for allowing us all — for at least one brief moment — to be active participants in the wonder of history.

By John Mason



2023 OLLI PHOTO CONTEST

- The topic for this year is "Light and Shadow."
- Photos must be taken from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.
- The photographer must be a current OLLI member.
- Gentle photo editing is permitted, but keep the original photo.
- Submit the named photo in a standard digital jpg format — at least a 2MP final pixel size is recommended.
- Photographers may submit photos anytime until the April 1, 2023, deadline.
- Submit photos to OLLIPhotoContest@uah.edu.

MILLER PLAYS TUNES, REVIEWS HARP HISTORY

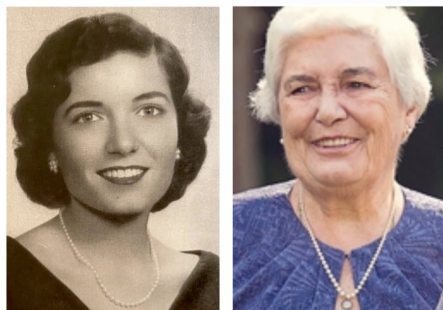
Steven Todd Miller, a full-time musician and retired teacher and curriculum specialist for Huntsville City Schools, used puppets, art and several harps to play music and review the history of the harp during a bonus session Sept. 30.



(Photos by Steve Stewart)

IN MEMORIAM

FLORA BOARDMAN, SPANISH TEACHER



Flora Sarinopoulos Boardman, 95, of Huntsville, who taught 52 Spanish courses for OLLI between 2008 and 2019, died Sept. 19.

Flora's variety of courses included "Absolute Beginners' Spanish," "Spanish Made Simple" and "Spanish Short Stories."

"She really enjoyed OLLI and looked forward to the classes, not only as a teacher but as a student," said son Mark Boardman of Birmingham. "Lifetime learning was her thing." He said she enjoyed studying languages such as Russian and Japanese, as well as lunches and tours with OLLI friends.

"She was fluent in, obviously, English, Spanish and Greek. Her parents were native Greeks. She grew up speaking Greek rather than English, and she loved languages. ... I miss her a lot, but I know that she had a very, very full life."

Flora was born in Fairfield, Alabama, on April 13, 1927. She graduated from Birmingham-Southern College at 19 and earned a graduate degree from the University of New Mexico in 1948. Throughout her 20s, Flora taught Spanish at Birmingham-Southern, taught courses at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (later named Auburn University), and taught Sunday school and English as a second language classes at Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

She was an engineering technician at Hayes Aircraft Corp. in Birmingham — the only female professional in the engineering department. In 1956 she met Frank Seymour Boardman, a new hire at Hayes. They were married from 1957 until his death almost 52 years later and had four children.

In 1961 they moved to Huntsville for Frank to begin work at the new NASA. In Huntsville, Flora was a founding and almost 60-year member of the Holy Cross-St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. She served as a translator in the community. In 1971 she began 30 years of teaching Spanish at UAH.

Memories from OLLI members:

Flora Boardman loved sharing her love of Spanish with OLLI students. Because she had taught Spanish for over 30 years at UAH, she was able to use her experience to encourage students from beginner to advanced levels to progress in learning the language. It was not only in teaching Spanish for OLLI that Flora contributed to the community. Because she had traveled extensively in Europe, the Far East and Latin America, she generously shared experiences, both as a dedicated missionary and as a world traveler, enriching the lives of all around her.

—Maxine Doherty

In her retirement, Flora taught beginner Spanish for OLLI. I took several of her classes. She was an outstanding instructor. If you paid attention in class and did your homework, your knowledge of the Spanish language improved considerably.

—Liz Switzer

Seven years ago, at the beginning of the OLLI winter term, I walked into my first OLLI class at 8:30 on a Monday morning — intermediate Spanish. The instructor was Flora Boardman. As class started, Flora looked around the room and noticed I was new and had not taken her beginning Spanish class. She asked about my background in Spanish. I told her I had high school Spanish, worked with the Rosetta Stone Spanish software and spent a couple of years building a manufacturing plant in Mexico. Flora, in her very reserved humor, said, "You'll probably be OK in my Spanish class." I found her to be a great instructor and took other classes in the Spanish series from her. I later had her as a student in a TED Talks class that I taught and found her to be just as attentive as a student as she had been as a teacher. Flora will be greatly missed in OLLI.

—David Styers

Our sons were high school classmates. In satisfying conversations in the halls and lounge, she spoke of her commitment to language instruction. We agreed on its importance. She was calm, disciplined and intelligent, traits that strengthen OLLI. Flora Boardman was a blessing to this world. We'll miss her.

—Jerri McLain

Flora was a brilliant woman who strived to live her life to the fullest to the very end. I appreciate her many years of contributing to our OLLI program as a teacher and active student.

—Linda McAllister

By Steve Stewart

IN MEMORIAM

CAROL EDWARDS, CRAFTS TEACHER



Carol Edwards of Huntsville, 77, a former crafts teacher for OLLI, died Sept. 20.

Carol taught 11 courses between 2008 and 2015. Her subjects included creative crafts, card making, gifts and stamping.

“Carol Edwards uses her creative talents in the making of greeting cards, scrapbooks and unique gifts for friends,” one of her OLLI teacher biographies said. “She finds exercising creative skills to be challenging, stimulating and fun, a way to generate personalized items and, by working with others, a way to learn new techniques. She would love to teach you how to produce a ‘one-of-a-kind’ treasure.”

Her son, Mark Edwards of California, said that she was “adamant” about crafts. She also taught crafts classes at the Magnolia Trace retirement community in Huntsville, where she lived for over 10 years.

“She was always trying to take care of other people,” he said. “She loved being around people. She was always up to the next challenge, never feared anything, always wanted to live her life to the fullest.

“She went skydiving, went cliff rappelling — she was never scared of anything, and she always wanted to do the next adventure.”

Memories from OLLI members:

Carol was one of the first instructors I had when I joined OLLI at UAH. She taught card-making classes and piqued my interest in the craft. She was an excellent instructor and a wonderful person. I could tell she loved sharing her knowledge and experience and also enjoyed learning new techniques and exploring new ideas. She always signed her emails with “Lots of Love,” and that’s how I will remember her!

—Janet Reville

Carol Edwards shared her time and talents with OLLI students for many years. An expert in creating cards, scrapbooks and handmade gifts, she taught with relish, and made her classes challenging, stimulating and fun. She found it rewarding to handcraft and personalize an item for a special someone — to make a “one-of-a-kind” gift or card.

—Maxine Doherty

First, I met Carol at OLLI’s Art of Living Forum. Then I took a course she taught creating greeting cards and making wall art. After that, a few OLLI members met for lunches and birthday celebrations. This stopped when the pandemic hit. We will miss both Flora [Boardman] and Carol. May they rest in peace.

—Liz Switzer

By Steve Stewart



MONEY-SAVING WAYS TO GIVE TO CHARITY

Strategy #1: Appreciated Assets

○ Example:

Charlie would like to give \$1,000 to OLLI. He can give cash or his Apple stock that has appreciated 50%. Charlie is in the 22% federal and 5% state tax brackets.

	CASH	APPLE STOCK
Federal Tax Savings	\$220	\$220
State Tax Savings	\$50	\$50
Bypass on capital gain	\$0	\$100
*Total Tax Savings	\$270	\$370

*Cash donation costs .73 cents/dollar; stock donation costs .63 cents/dollar



Jessica Hovis Smith, president of Longview Financial Advisors Inc., told OLLI members that non-cash charitable contributions — such as appreciated assets, qualified charitable distributions, and donor-advised funds — could save them money. OLLI members offered comments and questions during her bonus presentation Oct. 21. Also noted there was that Amazon Smile is an easy and free way to donate to OLLI automatically when making purchases. Betty Koval (left) and Janet Reville made an Amazon Smile tutorial video, available at tinyurl.com/olli-smile.

