

THE OLLI INSIDER

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Life is Amazing...

Go Explore!



A sign at Cook Museum of Natural Science (top) could well be a slogan for OLLI. Clockwise from top left: Learning about volcanoes and other natural phenomena at Cook Museum; a Huntsville theme park that remained a '60s fantasy; relaxing on Georgia's Jekyll Island; therapy dog Wicklow with his human, Phil Graham, who will also be one of five new OLLI board members; a photography bonus about the Canary Islands; one of hundreds of quilts in a colorful show.



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THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING THE OTHER SIDE



My favorite letters to the editor are (1) the ones I agree with and (2) the ones I disagree with. My least favorites are the ones that express no opinions.

One of the best letters popped up on the internet, apparently published June 22, 2020, in The Times, presumably of London. I have not been able to verify all that information, but the letter's mes-

sage would ring true even if it were an internet hoax.

In that letter, one Alan Hawkes noted that he “profoundly disagreed” with several newspaper articles. But he was not complaining. “Keep up the good work,” he told the editor. An editor friend of mine commented on Facebook: “Found him! The perfect newspaper reader!” I agree.

Why? Because Mr. Hawkes (from what little we can infer about him) welcomes contrary points of view and accepts the possibility that he’s mistaken. Because he is curious and eager to learn. Because he does not blame the messenger (the newspaper) for passing along someone else’s information or opinions. Because he understands that a good newspaper airs all sides of a story.

News reporting should be unbiased. But commentary also is valuable, and it is best served strong and fact-based.

The worst editorial I ever wrote was a presidential endorsement, or lack of same. My father and I were the editorial board of a weekly newspaper. We rarely disagreed on what to write but almost never voted the same way for president. In one particular year, I wrote an editorial that discussed the pros and cons of each candidate and came down squarely astraddle the fence. This editorial was boring and almost useless. Four years later, figuring that my father’s vote was more equal than mine, I wrote an editorial endorsing his candidate. It was a better editorial, but I voted the other way.

In OLLI classes, we often have the privilege of expressing opinions and the equal privilege of listening to others. This works best if we respect everyone’s time and points of view and try not to dance too far afield from the facts. And I hope we have all learned by this point in life not to take ourselves too seriously and to realize that maintaining relationships is more desirable than winning an argument.

Inside The Insider: Jill Stewart introduces a new OLLI at UAH benefit: Nearpeer, a secure online gathering spot where you can connect with other members, especially those who share your passions and interests.

Michelle Laverty describes Renee Kump’s personal connection to the history of Dynetics, an applied science and information technology company that OLLI members toured. In

Agree to disagree

Sir, There were several articles in Saturday’s comment section (Jun 20) with which I profoundly disagreed. Keep up the good work.

Alan Hawkes
Saffron Walden, Essex

other articles, Michelle reviews a quilt show and previews a group trip to Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

Glen Adams profiles Jill Uithoven, who teaches courses about Spanish and Bollywood. You can see pictures and short profiles of the five newly elected members of OLLI’s Board of Directors.

Chris Stuhlinger describes coming events that include tours of a winery, a water-powered 19th-century mill, and a brewery. John Mason enjoyed spring break with OLLI travelers on Georgia’s coastal islands, and his president’s column cites research about travel’s benefits. Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein write about that trip and many coming adventures.

John’s military history column describes a riverboat explosion that killed hundreds, many of whom were freed Civil War prisoners.

Nancy Darnall writes that the next event in the 30th-year celebration of UAH lifelong learning will include music and dinner at Burritt on the Mountain. Sue Chatham concludes her historical series and notes that *Insider* archives are available online. Marilyn Szecholda comments on classes that “open doors you didn’t even know were there,” and Leah Black reports that judging will start soon on the annual photo contest.

Bob Carroll used artificial intelligence to write his column about the benefits of lifelong learning. I once did a similar thing, and both of us made full disclosure upfront. In both cases, AI showed its talent for good insights expressed at great length in platitudes and flawless grammar. In answer to Bob’s final question: I could tell the difference. Bob writes better than ChatGPT.

Clay Williams reveals a host of courses and travels coming during summer semester. He also mentions his two-year anniversary here, poking fun at himself — which is one of the reasons we like him.

Steve Stewart
Editor, The OLLI Insider

TRAVEL IS A GOLDEN LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



As I write this column, I am just returning from a weeklong OLLI trip to Georgia's Golden Isles — Jekyll, St. Simons and Sapelo. I for one have always loved traveling to new destinations,

seeing such trips as opportunities for enriching my life. I think it's safe to say that I am not alone in that.

Travel has long been recognized as an enriching experience that offers the opportunity to explore new places while simultaneously enhancing one's well-being and expanding their knowledge base. But did you know that studies actually show that for older lifelong learners like us, travel holds a particular significance? Did you know OLLI has a vibrant travel program?

So let me point out three basic ways this works by offering you some of the insights from recent studies and research.

First, travel provides us both cognitive stimulation and the opportunity to learn. This is significant because immersing oneself in new environments, cultures and experiences challenges the mind and encourages mental flexibility and adaptability. This stimulation is particularly crucial for us because it helps combat cognitive decline and may even reduce the risk of conditions such as dementia.

Research published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* suggests that engaging in leisure activities like travel is associated with a lower risk of dementia in older adults. Furthermore, a study conducted by the Global Coalition on Aging revealed that travel can improve cognitive health by exposing individuals to diverse cultures, languages and customs, again promoting cognitive reserve and flexibility.



Scenes from an OLLI travel adventure, counterclockwise from top right: Sunset on Jekyll Island, Sapelo Island Lighthouse, Jekyll Island Club and Resort. (Photos by John Mason)

At the same time, travel serves as an extension of our educational pursuits. It offers opportunities to delve deeper into subjects of interest, experience history and culture firsthand, and engage with experts and locals — not to mention friends. Whether it's visiting archaeological sites, attending cultural performances, or participating in language immersion programs, travel becomes a dynamic classroom that enhances learning and intellectual growth.

Second, travel provides us with social connections and leads to increased emotional well-being.

You all know that I believe our OLLI family plays a vital role in fostering social connections and nurturing emotional well-being — factors that are paramount for older adults' overall health.

fellow participants as well as friends and family with whom you might vicariously share your journeys. That sharing strengthens existing relationships and forms new friendships. These social interactions provide a sense of belonging and support, combating feelings of isolation and loneliness, which I think you'll agree we can all feel at some point or another.

Again, studies have shown that social engagement and emotional support are linked to better mental and physical health outcomes in older adults. The *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* reports that maintaining social connections through activities like travel is associated with lower levels of depressive symptoms and improved overall well-being.

(continued on the next page)

Sharing travel experiences with others creates opportunities for bonding with

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TRAVEL IS A GOLDEN LEARNING OPPORTUNITY, CONT

When we embark on educational tours, cultural excursions, or adventure trips, we not only learn from each other, but also derive a shared joy through our discoveries and experiences. These types of activities simply enhance emotional resilience and give us a sense of fulfillment.

Finally, research published in the Journal of Travel Medicine tells us travel can lead to increased physical activity levels, particularly among older adults who may be more sedentary in their daily lives. Whether it's hiking through national parks, strolling along historic streets, or participating in recreational

sports, travel helps us improve our own physical health and active living because those immersive experiences require us to move and physically exert ourselves. In so doing, we maintain our mobility, flexibility and cardiovascular health — all crucial for aging well.

So what this tells us is that travel offers myriad benefits that we members of OLLI simply cannot do without. From cognitive stimulation to lifelong learning to social connection, and to physical health, the act of exploring new horizons can only serve to enrich our lives in multifaceted ways. Embarking on journeys of discovery not only ex-

pands our knowledge but also nurtures our well-being, once again proving that the pursuit of learning knows no age limits, and that the world remains our classroom waiting to be explored.

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

John Mason
President, OLLI at UAH
Board of Directors

CALENDAR

APRIL - MAY 2024

April 5 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In-Person](#)
Bonus: The Albert Einstein 1905 Papers
Wilson Hall

In 1905, 26-year-old Albert Einstein published four revolutionary papers that changed our understanding of space and time, energy and matter. Each of these contributions will be discussed in the context of the scientific thought of the time, with emphasis on how these ideas remain relevant today.

Presented by Dr. Jim Beaupre, OLLI Member with Ph.D. in theoretical physics.

Sign-up is required. Free for OLLI members

April 19 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In-Person](#)
Bonus: Introduction to Contra Dancing
Wilson Hall

Learn the history and development of contra dance, a form of folk dancing made up of long lines of couples. Then join your fellow OLLI members in dancing to live or recorded music. (Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes.)

Sign-up is required. Free for OLLI members

May 14 | Tu | In-Person
OLLI Annual Meeting
Watch the eNews and The OLLI Insider for details.



Gifts That Pay You

You can turn underperforming assets (stock, cash in a savings account, CDs, and savings bonds) into a gift to OLLI that provides income to you.

Your Charitable Gift Annuity will give you quarterly, fixed payments for life and tax benefits, too.

For more info, contact
tammy.eskridge@uah.edu

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST
EVENTS AT
OSHER.UAH.EDU/OLLIEVENTS

NEW MEMBERS OF OLLI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

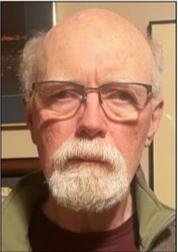
Five new board members — chosen during March in an online election open to all OLLI members — will begin their three-year term when they join other board members at a meeting in May.



Randy Boyette said that after five years enjoying OLLI’s benefits, “I feel that it is time for me to give back.” He has served as a class facilitator. Randy was an engineer and manager in the pulp and paper industry, including technical, environmental, customer relations and operations aspects. His wife and daughter are life members of the Girl Scouts, and he has supported them. As a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, he has participated at several Redstone Arsenal digs. He is local vice president of Mended Hearts, providing peer support for heart patients.



Danye Drake has been an OLLI member for about 18 years, teaching classes on Shakespeare, Huntsville authors and classical mythology and serving on the Public Relations Committee. She is a member of the Huntsville Ballet board, has been active in community theater, and volunteers at Clearview Cancer Institute. She volunteered as the ballet’s props master for three decades. Danye taught public school for 30 years and sponsored the yearbooks at Butler High and Huntsville Middle schools.



Phil Graham, an OLLI member for seven years, has taught or co-taught OLLI courses in genealogy, tai chi and military history. He retired after serving as a U.S. Navy Supply Corps officer and as a federal employee supporting the Missile Defense Agency. He is now the American Red Cross’ regional inventory control lead for disaster response services in Alabama and Mississippi. He is an animal handler certified by the Red Cross and Pet Partners.



Marsha Langlois was active in the medical field for 40 years. As a medical technologist working in hospital and clinic labs and as a technical systems specialist for Roche Diagnostics, she planned and implemented the installation of laboratory equipment, trained lab personnel, and planned continuing education events for them. Marsha has enrolled in OLLI classes for the past eight terms, served as a class facilitator, and participated in activities including a group trip to Alaska in 2022.



David Sayre grew up in Michigan and moved to Madison in 1984. He retired recently after working for The Boeing Co. for 38 years as an engineer and in program management. He has a daughter in Huntsville and one grandchild. “I know that being involved in the community and continuing to learn is the key to a healthy and rewarding life,” David said. “I look forward to using my newfound time to increase my engagement in both. OLLI provides opportunities for these and enriches all who are involved.”

UPCOMING EVENTS



A show of OLLI members' art opened in the Wilson Hall gallery after spring break in connection with the OLLI Art Festival on March 29.

(Photos by Steve Stewart)

NEXT BIRTHDAY EVENT: OLLI ANNUAL MEETING



Wow! And the celebration just gets better. Thanks to Jane McBride, Artist Studio MIG, and all the many OLLI volunteers plus the UAH Art Department for the OLLI Art Festival. Who knew all this talent meets under the roof at Wilson Hall?

To the many OLLI artists, thank you for your generosity of time, talent and effort to make this event wonderful.

Over the years, OLLI members remind me and surprise me with the range of knowledge and talent they graciously share. The photography, the drawings and paintings, the quilts, and the three-dimensional works are astonishing. Thank you all for making our anniversary celebration unique and 100 percent us.

Next on the schedule of the 30th-anniversary events is our annual meeting. At Baron's Bluff on the grounds of Burritt on the Mountain, OLLI members are invited to share an evening of music with dinner and a cash bar. Meet your new board members and officers, as well as UAH representatives.

We are optimistic that we will see a spectacular sunset while we mingle with our friends and meet new people. The date is May 14. Watch your *eNews* and *The OLLI Insider* for details regarding time, menu, cost and registration.

Over the past year, your 30th Anniversary Committee has worked to provide a memorable series of events and activities to commemorate 30 years of lifelong learning at UAH. Along the way, we hope you learned more about our program, our history, our organization, and the people who make it happen.

If you want to expand your own participation in OLLI, volunteer. There are opportunities that require commitments from a single event for a couple of hours to recurring on a regular basis. We need instructors, social committee members, event hosts, travel points of contact, office volunteers. For the events such as the holiday party and the annual meeting, we rely on volunteers to check in registrants, decorate, greet attendees, and help with setup and clean-up. The list goes on.

The committee is Nancy Darnall (chair), Bob Darnall, Betty Koval, Linda McAllister, Jane McBride, Jerry Pang and Janet Reville. Jill Stewart, John Mason, Clay Williams, Justin Clay and David Moore serve as advisers.

These are just the "official" members. At OLLI at UAH, members make things happen. I am so grateful that we have the support from you all.

Nancy Barnett Darnall
Chair of 30th Anniversary Committee

COMING EVENTS AND A DATE CHANGE



Three more events are scheduled for April and early May. Be sure to register soon for your favorite event(s) before they fill up!

Note that the Brown Bear LLC canoe/kayak paddle that was scheduled for April 20 has been postponed until June (summer term). The tentative date is June 15, but we are still waiting

for confirmation from Brown Bear. See the weekly eNews for updates.

Recaps of recent events

For Michelle Laverty's accounts of the **Dynetics** tour and the **Fanfare Quilt Show** tour, see separate pages.

Cook Museum of Natural Science, March 22 — OLLI members enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Cook Museum in Decatur, where they learned about rivers and streams, oceans, forests, caves, our place in the solar system, and more. The tour was enhanced by Beth, a volunteer at this award-winning museum, who gave us additional insights into many of the exhibits. Numerous aquariums and terrariums contained live fish and reptiles, and interactive exhibits provided hands-on learning experiences.

OLLI events for April and May

All events require pre-registration and a completed waiver/release form. Additional event details will be emailed to registered members a few days before each event date. Attendees must have a valid OLLI membership.

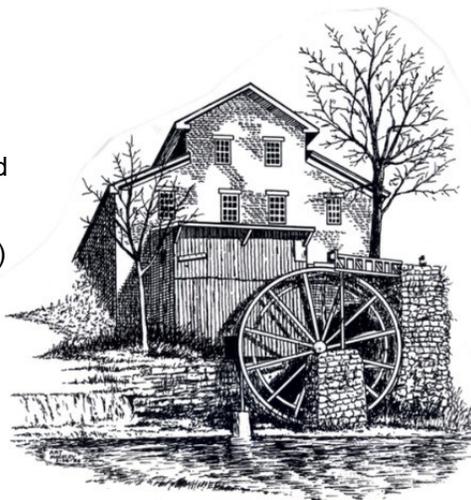
- Saturday, April 6 — **Jules J. Berta Vineyards & Winery** (Albertville), 10:30 a.m. to noon. Tour the vineyard at Jules J. Berta Winery (recent Alabama Winery of the

Year) near Albertville, and learn about the varieties of grapes grown there for making their handcrafted wines. The tour is free, but afterward tour participants are encouraged to purchase a wine-tasting flight (\$12-14), wood-fired pizza (\$14-24), or charcuterie (\$20+). Attendance is limited to 30 participants.

- Friday, April 26 — **Falls Mill** tour (Belvidere, Tennessee), 10:30 a.m. to noon. We will tour Falls Mill, which includes a water-powered mill (built in 1873) and now contains the Museum of Power and Industry Inc. The mill building is four stories tall and is filled with antique machinery, etc., powered by the 32-foot waterwheel. Admission cost at the door is \$7 (\$6 for seniors). Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy it on the scenic mill grounds after our tour. Falls Mill is about 35 miles north-east of Huntsville. Attendance is limited to 25 participants.
- Friday, May 3 — **Yellowhammer Brewing** tour (Campus 805, Huntsville), 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Join us for a brewery tour for OLLI members only. We'll meet at Yellowhammer, one of the original Alabama craft breweries. Yellowhammer Brewing was opened in West Huntsville in 2010 by four men who wanted to bring good, traditional beer to Alabama. Five years later, they relocated to a larger facility at Campus 805. Do the details of this tour really matter? OLLI members will pay the \$10 tour fee upon arrival — we're all about supporting local crafts, especially local beer. In 2012, according to the Brewers Association, Alabama ranked 49th with 10 craft breweries in the state (including Yellowhammer). By 2022, Huntsville had 10 breweries of its own. OLLI member participation is limited to 20 participants.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair

Tours in April and May will take place at Falls Mill, Yellowhammer Brewing, and Jules J. Berta Vineyards & Winery. (Images by Chris Stuhlinger and from venues)



DYNETICS: INSIDE LOOK, PERSONAL HISTORY

OLLI members toured two facilities on the Dynetics World Headquarters campus in Cummings Research Park — the Solutions Complex and the Gilbert Advanced Manufacturing Facility — on Feb. 23.

The Solutions Complex tour guide highlighted Dynetics’ unclassified history and accomplishments. The Gilbert facility tour highlighted Dynetics’ ... advanced manufacturing capabilities!

As boring as that overview reads, this was a “Wow! Just wow” tour. It was a “pull back the curtain and let us tell you, show you” tour.

The architecture of the buildings and what the architecture accomplishes are stunning. The tour guides were senior employees, not part of the public relations or recruitment team, and therefore experientially knowledgeable and fascinating.

Though no pictures inside the facilities were allowed, OLLI members were able to touch and examine a number of Dynetics’ unique advanced research and production accomplishments. This was a tour decades in the making.

Speaking of “decades in the making,” OLLI board member Renee Kump was a significant part of that journey.

Imagine 1971: You’re married, living in New Jersey, raising two daughters, ages 4 and 6. Your husband comes home from a “business interview” trip and says: “Honey, we’re moving to Huntsville, Alabama. Oh, and I’ve already bought our house.”

Marvelous Renee, with their two young girls and her adventurous spirit, is all in. Her mother, not so much.

Now imagine just three years later, and your husband comes home from work and says, “Honey, I’m quitting my job and helping start a new company.”



Renee Kump’s husband, Leo, was a founder and Employee 06 of Dynetics. (Photos by Patricia Haag and Chris Stuhlinger)

In 1974 Renee’s husband, Leo, and a few others left Teledyne Brown to start Dynetics. The “company” had a small office space (the front door hit the receptionist’s desk) on Governors Drive between the Parkway and Triana Boulevard. Through all the growth of Dynetics, the only access Renee had was to a conference room for Goodie Day.

Now imagine 50 years later. You get to tour two buildings of an international corporation that occupies one of the three largest footprints by floor space in the second-largest research park in the country and the fourth-largest in the world that your husband helped start (he was Employee 06) while you were hand-typing his master’s thesis on radars.

Maybe the best part of the Dynetics tour was witnessing the way in which Dynetics honored Renee’s husband, Leo. Before the “official” tour began, the second most senior employee on

campus came to the reception area to meet Renee and speak about Leo’s contributions growing the company (he was Badge 256). The Solutions Complex tour guide started with telling Renee of the impact her husband had on his engineering career.

The Dynetics tour was a class act from the reception to the snacks and water on the shuttle ride back to the parking lot. Yes, the Dynetics Cummings Research Park campus is large enough to require shuttles between buildings!

Michelle Laverty
Events Committee Member



The Fanfare Quilt Show included more than 240 quilts, and OLLI members took tours on two days. See more pictures on the next page.
(The two photos above are by Michelle Laverty. Val Seaquist provided the photo below.)

FANFARE QUILT SHOW DOCENT-LED TOUR

On Friday evening, March 15, or Saturday morning, March 16, OLLI members were treated to an enjoyable and insightful walk-through of this year's Fanfare Quilt Show in the South Hall of the Von Braun Center.

The expert guides, OLLI's very own Kari Hawkins and Cheryl Heath, were the chairs for this amazing show of over 240 quilts of all sizes and disciplines in the judged portion of the show.

OLLI tour participants declared this a breathtaking art exhibit of the highest caliber. It was fascinating to learn the different techniques that can be used to make a quilt.

We saw quilts from the same pattern that were strikingly different due to material selection or stitching (the actual "quilting") pattern. And we saw the award-winning quilts that Kari and Cheryl had made.

A very heartfelt thank-you to Kari, Cheryl, and the Heritage Quilters of Huntsville for allowing us special access after the show ended Friday and before the show began Saturday. Oh! And Friday evening, we had a police escort for the after-hours portion of the tour.



Closing thought: Can you imagine going to sleep every night under, or curling up with, a piece of art? Most of the large quilts will be on beds. Many of the medium-sized quilts will be on sofas.

Michelle Laverty
Events Committee Member

HUNDREDS OF COLORFUL QUILTS AT THE VBC

The Fanfare Quilt Show in the South Hall of the Von Braun Center on March 15-16 included more than 240 quilts. The two arranged vertically at top left came from OLLI members Kari Hawkins (top) and Cheryl Heeth, who were chairs for the show and gave tours for OLLI members.



(Photos by Marsha Langlois)

COOK NATURE MUSEUM TOUR, MARCH 22



Life is Amazing... Go Explore!



(Photos from Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

CHATGPT KNOWS WHAT OLLI IS ALL ABOUT



Our esteemed editor, Steve Stewart, is a patient man. I am two days behind the deadline for article submission — I spent most of last week preparing for teaching my latest OLLI course, and the Insider article got lost between the cracks. I am at a loss for words.

Maybe if I opened up ChatGPT ... Whoa! There's an idea. I've never

used artificial intelligence. Uh-oh, moral dilemma arrives — am I cheating? Will Steve know? Will karma come back and bite? What the heck; let's see what it comes up with.

In a world where knowledge evolves at a rapid pace and industries undergo constant transformation, the concept of life-long learning has never been more relevant. Embracing the journey of continuous education offers not only personal enrichment but also professional growth and adaptability in an ever-changing landscape.

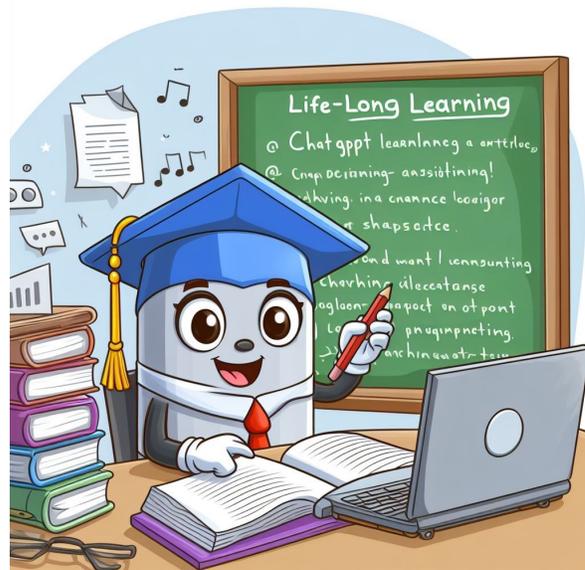
Life-long learning extends far beyond the confines of formal education. **It is a mindset, a commitment to curiosity, growth, and development that persists throughout one's lifetime.** Whether through formal education, online courses, workshops, or self-directed learning, the avenues for acquiring knowledge are endless.

One of the most compelling aspects of life-long learning is its ability to foster adaptability. In today's dynamic world, the skills and knowledge that are valuable today may become obsolete tomorrow. By continuously seeking to expand our knowledge base and skill set, we position ourselves to navigate through shifting landscapes with agility and resilience.

Moreover, **life-long learning fuels personal growth and fulfillment.** It allows individuals to explore new interests, discover hidden talents, and pursue passions outside of their primary field of expertise. The process of learning itself becomes a source of joy and satisfaction, enriching our lives in ways that extend far beyond the professional realm.

Additionally, life-long learning promotes innovation and creativity. By exposing ourselves to new ideas, perspectives, and experiences, we cultivate the fertile ground from which groundbreaking innovations emerge. The cross-pollination of knowledge from diverse fields often sparks innovative solutions to complex problems, driving progress and advancement in society

Furthermore, **life-long learning fosters a culture of collaboration and knowledge sharing.** As individuals engage in continuous learning, they contribute to a community of like-minded individuals who are passionate about growth and development. Through collaboration and knowledge exchange, individuals can leverage collective



ChatGPT writes an article — as envisioned by Microsoft's Copilot, an AI competitor of ChatGpt.

expertise to tackle challenges and pursue ambitious goals.

In today's knowledge-based economy, the value of life-long learning cannot be overstated. It is not only a means to remain competitive in the workforce but also a pathway to personal fulfillment and societal advancement. **By embracing the journey of continuous education, individuals empower themselves to thrive in an ever-evolving world, enriching their lives and contributing to the greater good.** As the saying goes, "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" — and the journey of life-long learning begins with a commitment to curiosity, growth, and never-ending discovery.

Not bad! Actually, what I would have written when I got over the writer's block. If you have read this far, go back and read it again. This is truly what OLLI is all about! I highlighted some key phrases with bold font.

I especially like and agree with the last highlight in the final paragraph, "... enriching their lives and contributing to the greater good." That's us and is why I truly love the OLLI community here at UAH.

Next month I'll repent and write a real article, or maybe not. Could you tell the difference?

Veni, vidi, vici.

Bob Carroll
Vice President of Curriculum
OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

SUMMER IS COMING



I assume many of you watched the hit series “Game of Thrones” and saw its first episode, which was titled “Winter Is Coming.” Well, for OLLI, “summer is coming,” and I sincerely hope this upcoming season will be less traumatic than it was for the people of Westeros.

Our summer session occurs in June and July. Because many of our members travel and are occupied with other things, we offer courses that are either one, two, or four sessions long to shorten the time. And although not as many courses are offered as in the fall and spring, we are excited to showcase almost an entire new batch of courses that have not been done before.

We think we have something for everyone.

History buffs can learn about Civil War causes and tactics and the amazing experience of a World War I ambulance driver.

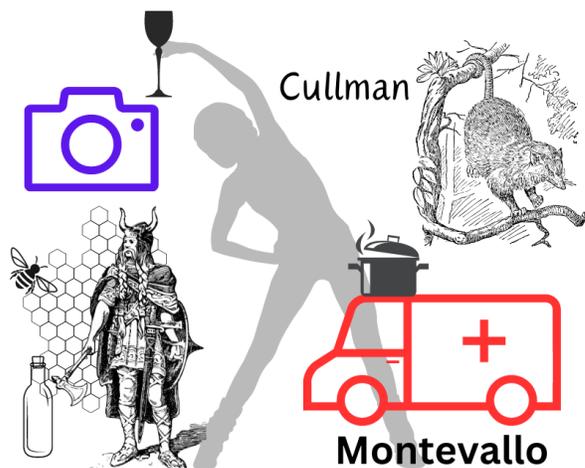
For fitness enthusiasts, we offer Pilates and more dance from Traci Romine at Madison Ballroom. For those who like to try new drinks, we offer another wine class and you can drink like the Vikings with a class on making mead.

Other offerings include topics such as dealing with chronic pain, photo editing, healthy cooking, and mysterious creatures of the South. Our members will have over 20 courses to choose from.

We are also offering two day trips. First, we will journey to Montevallo and learn about our government’s founding at the American Village, as well as visiting the Alabama National Cemetery. Our other day trip will take us just down the road to Cullman, where we will visit the world-famous Ava Marie Grotto and other interesting sites.

Finally, I also want to hype a free event for members this summer.

UAH President Dr. Charles Karr will be joined by Provost Dr. David Puleo and Vice President for Research and Development Dr. Charles Lindquist to provide a status update on UAH. Each presenter will provide an overview from different perspectives of the many facets of the university’s mission to explore, discover, create and transfer knowledge. Here is your chance to learn more about our host university and have an opportunity to ask questions to our university’s leaders.



Summer semester offers a variety of study, activity, drinking and travel options.
(Illustration by Susan Lucille Davis)

Final details on our OLLI summer term will be available later this month or early in May.

I also want to take a second to plug Nearpeer, a new social engagement application that OLLI is launching this month.

Nearpeer will provide our members another way to connect with each other over shared interests and will help foster community within our organization. We are proud of the courses and events we offer to our members, but it has been proven that members are likely to stay with OLLI if they make connections with other members. Nearpeer provides another avenue.

See Jill Stewart’s article in this newsletter and our OLLI website (tinyurl.com/nearpeer-olli) for more details.

And in closing, it occurred to me that I just hit my two-year anniversary in March. It has been a pleasure to become a part of the OLLI community.

Thanks to all of you who have made me feel so welcome here. And for those who bet that I would not make it, you can drop by my office anytime and pay up.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

A NEW WAY TO NETWORK AND FIND FRIENDS



Have you ever wanted to reach out to another member whom you met in an OLLI class but just didn't know very well yet?

Imagine a platform where OLLI at UAH members can easily add their interests and hobbies, creating a mosaic of passions and pursuits. Then, with just a few clicks, members can find kindred spirits in the ranks who share their love for literature, history,

art, or any other topic under the sun.

This month we are excited to introduce a new benefit for all OLLI at UAH members that we hope will enhance the sense of belonging we have in this organization as well as facilitate communication between members: Nearpeer. And accessing it can be as simple as downloading an app on your cellphone.

Nearpeer is more than just a Rolodex of interests. It's a virtual gathering place where groups come alive with lively discussions fueled by shared passions. Whether it is debating the nuances of a favorite author or a favorite class, or swapping travel tips for exploring distant lands, these groups become fertile ground for intellectual exchange and camaraderie.

And let's not forget the power of one-on-one connections. With Nearpeer's messaging feature, members can engage in private conversations, forging deeper bonds and expanding their social circles. A name on a screen can transform into a face, a voice and a friend.

Privacy and security are paramount in the digital age, and Nearpeer delivers on both fronts. As a completely private and closed network, it's a safe space where OLLI members and staff can connect without fear or intrusion or data mining. No ads, no information sharing — just a community coming together to learn, grow and belong.



(Illustration by Susan Lucille Davis)

At its core, Nearpeer is about fostering a sense of belonging. In a world where we all crave connection and acceptance, it can be a powerful tool for building bridges and breaking down barriers. Whether you're a lifelong learner embarking on a new adventure or a seasoned scholar seeking fresh perspectives, Nearpeer can help get you there.

Nearpeer orientation sessions will be provided in the coming weeks.

So, to all OLLI at UAH members: Dive in, add your interests, add your photo so others recognize you, join a group, connect with your peers. With Nearpeer, the journey of lifelong learning becomes not just an individual pursuit, but a shared odyssey of discovery and connections. Welcome home.

Jill Stewart
Public Relations Committee Chair



NEARPEER FOR OLLI AT UAH GOES LIVE ON APRIL 1

As an OLLI at UAH member, you're invited to join an exclusive online community to meet other members. The app, Nearpeer, provides you with a quick and convenient way to start to meet other OLLI at UAH members with similar interests, priorities, and backgrounds. Chat one-on-one with friends, discuss your favorite classes, and join a public chat group for your favorite topic or MIG. No ads, no scams, and it's only for OLLI at UAH members!

Info video and signup available under the OLLI at UAH Nearpeer tab on the OLLI website. In-person training session available Friday, 4/5 at 10:15 am in Wilson 212.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES GOING TO JUDGES



Spring has finally arrived and, hopefully, the icy cold weather has gone. Hopefully also, the really hot weather will not arrive for some time.

Some OLLI classes have ended, and others are just beginning and will continue until the end of the term. We still have a number of events and bonuses to keep OLLI members busy.

Many photos have been entered into the annual photo contest and will be sent to the judges soon. The big reveal of the winners will be at the annual dinner, as usual.



Susan Webb's "Making your Native Plants Thrive in a Natural Environment" was one of the spring courses that have now ended, but more courses are starting as the semester continues. (Photo by Patricia Haag)

The OLLI member interest groups are still going strong and will continue through the summer. Please check the OLLI website and the catalog for information on these and other activities.

You are welcome to join a MIG at any time, and it's a great way to stay connected with friends and keep busy during the break from the regular terms.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SERENDIPITY IN OLLI CLASSES, ART AND FOOD



I've put on my detective's hat and made some amazing discoveries this term.

I stumbled into a class taught by Cliff Lanham and Phil Graham. After discovering that I would spend my Monday mornings at Wilson Hall serving breakfast, I enrolled in their genealogy class.

A search of this kind was not on my horizon. But, armed with my laptop, I found a seat in Room 212.

After thinking for a moment about my maternal grandfather, I realized that I didn't even know his first name. He was out of the picture before I was even born. To my surprise, I found his name, his place of birth, and the year he was born on a site called Family Search.

My excitement grew as I made further discoveries of my mother's ancestors back four generations. Never did I think I would find anything, as I knew that all my ancestors were from Germany and Poland. So, by finding the family tree filled up to this point, I know a relative has preceded me in this research. Now my quest is to try and find this person.

OLLI has so many interesting classes that can open doors you didn't even know were there.

OLLI's Art Festival was March 29. The Social Committee served lunch in the OLLI lounge after the lecture. I hope you've seen the members' artwork on display in the gallery across from the lounge.

Marilynn Szecholda
Social Committee Chair

HIKE TO BIG WATERFALL AT BETHEL SPRING

OLLI members are invited to join the new Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group. Activities will include hikes, nature walks and bike rides in the greater Huntsville area.

OLLI members who join this MIG will receive details about planned activities. About 100 members have already joined. If you are also interested in joining, sign up at the link below and agree to the blanket release/waiver form. You must have a valid OLLI membership.

Join the MIG: forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9

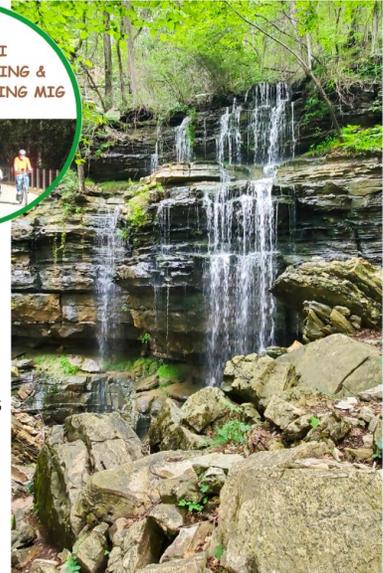
Next MIG activity:

- Saturday, April 13 — **Hike** at Bethel Spring Nature Preserve, 10 a.m. to noon (southeast of Huntsville). Visit one of Madison County's largest waterfalls (after a recent rainfall) on this 2-mile loop trail on Keel Mountain. The trail is rated as moderate to somewhat difficult and includes a change in elevation of about 400 feet with some slippery, muddy, steep and rocky trail sections. The registration link for this hike will be sent soon to all who have joined this MIG. Hike details will then be sent two or three days prior to this activity to all who registered. **NOTE:** In case of unfavorable trail conditions at Bethel Spring due to weather, the alternate hiking site will be Monte Sano State Park.

Future Hiking & Biking MIG activities will be announced and listed in the monthly *Insider* newsletter and via email to everyone who has joined the MIG. Summer term MIG activities will be listed in the May *Insider*.



A 2-mile hiking trail includes this waterfall. (Photo by Chris Stuhlinger)



One more MIG spring semester activity is scheduled for early May:

- Saturday, May 4 — **Nature walk** at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary (east entrance).

See you on the trail!

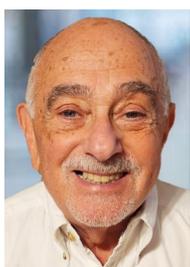
Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones

BIKING ON BIG COVE CREEK AND FLINT RIVER

The Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group rode the Big Cove Creek and Flint River greenways on the morning of March 23. It was sunny and scenic, with striking views of the water. (Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)



TRIP REPORT FROM GEORGIA'S GOLDEN ISLES



Having literally just returned from a fabulous Road Scholar trip with expert trip leader Edith Gross, Jane finds that her “cup runneth over” with accolades about it. It was a trip centered at the Jekyll

Island Club Resort, the hub of the rich in the early 20th century for the high winter season of sporting and social life.

That grand ole building still boasts the charms of the era and spectacular sunsets from the front veranda. Our group of 23 (including 17 OLLI at UAH members) had the Federal Reserve Banquet Rooms for meals and lectures each day, complete with surrounding photographs of the scions of investment banking and regulation since FDR days who met there.

The wall photographs throughout the hotel tell the story of the heyday of elegance when reportedly owners of one-sixth of the world’s wealth assembled to relax and enjoy the warm winter months at the island.

Lectures and tours during the trip (March 10-15) varied from dramatic Driftwood Beach on Jekyll’s north end, to sites on St. Simons and Sapelo islands where there was ample evidence of historic settlements of first peoples, the Gule nation, Spanish missionaries, Oglethorpe’s outpost village and historic Fort Frederica, French Huguenot sugar cane plantations, and West African descendants’ determination to maintain their heritage.

OLLI travelers saw up close the efforts to protect the estuaries in thousands of acres of marsh surrounding the islands that make up one-third of the U.S. Eastern Shore wetlands. An intern at the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve gave a tour of Sapelo Island, which is connected only by ferry to the other islands and mainland.

A highlight of the day was a Sunday-style dinner prepared by a local descendant of the Geechee or Gullah heritage in her own kitchen.

Our group was privileged to travel with marine biologists aboard a former shrimp trawler converted for educational purposes; to see a performance of “Ring-Shout” singers and dancers, who have performed for a U.S. president; to hear an expert lecture on sea turtles; and to visit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on the grounds of our hotel.

Pictures flesh out the full story of this amazing week in the barrier islands of Georgia.

Two 2024 trips welcome additional travelers

- Don’t miss this opportunity to see Ireland this summer. Enjoy OLLI’s **Ireland in Depth** trip. See tinyurl.com/olli-ireland-in-depth.
- **Nanda Journeys Trip to Iceland**, an OLLI exclusive adventure. See trip details at tinyurl.com/olli-iceland-fire-lights.

Travel opportunities in 2025 and beyond

- **Two Worlds of Peru: The Inca Highlands and the Amazon**, Friday, Feb. 28, to Friday, March 14, 2025. One journey, one country, two amazing worlds. Embark on a private riverboat voyage into the Peruvian Amazon — one of the most biodiverse regions on earth — to discover its incredible natural beauty, intriguing wildlife and tribal villages. Experience a unique and colorful combination of ancient ruins, lively cities, and local craft and culture. Then immerse yourself in the heart of Peru as you journey high into the Andes and deep into the Amazon. Explore Cusco, Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley to learn how the Incas lived, farmed, communicated, worshipped and ruled. Look for information at tinyurl.com/olli-travel. Contact Bob Darnall at olli.info@uah.edu.

(continued on the next page)

Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island was one of many attractions on Georgia’s coastal islands during spring break. See page 19 for more pictures from the trip.



TRIP REPORT FROM GEORGIA'S GOLDEN ISLES, CONT

- **Signature City Pittsburgh**, Sunday, May 25, to Friday, May 30, 2025, with OLLI at UAH-planned options for pre- and post-extensions. Learn how Pittsburgh grew from its humble origins to the great city of today, discovering neoclassical architecture, renowned museums, unique cuisine and the stunning Duquesne Incline. Experience Pittsburgh's revitalized urban landscape and bustling local economy, and find out what makes it "America's Most Livable City." A city once known for its rough edges is now revered for its world-class museums, rich historical narrative and spirited cultural scene. Follow the paths of history as you stroll through the Botanical Gardens and examine brushstrokes from Italian Renaissance masterpieces. Look for information at tinyurl.com/olli-travel. Contact Michelle Laverty at olli.info@uah.edu.
- Special time in New Mexico, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos — early December 2025. Pam Blackwell is researching.
- Adriatic Sea ports by small ship, stops in Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro — August or September 2026. Betty Koval is researching.
- Morocco or South Africa — late winter 2026. Discussions are ongoing between Nanda Journeys and Jane McBride, Chris Stuhlinger and Ed Bernstein.

Contact Jane and Ed through olli.info@uah.edu, and tell us where you want to go next and how you might help OLLI members get there with you.

Ready, set, go!

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein
Travel Committee Co-Chairs

Other travel opportunities in progress are the following:

A BUCKET-LIST TRIP: PITTSBURGH, CLEVELAND

What is required for a destination to be "bucket list" worthy?

A unique panoramic vista? Jaw-dropping architecture? Preservation of hundreds of years of historical impact? Or is it being able to experience the art: not just world-renowned collections on walls, but also the public art of huge stained-glass windows in a train station, cathedral-worthy rotundas in office buildings, gravity-defying cathedrals?

Or, fine dining in Gilded Age opulence, ethnic family dishes, quirky regional "specialties"? Maybe a bucket-list destination must have an element of "nowhere else"? How about a 15-acre site listed on the National Register of Historic Places that also is one of the "greenest" facilities in the world? Or maybe it's experiencing the only aviary accorded honorary "national" status by Congress?

The OLLI Travel Committee is putting together an adventure that meets all of the above, along with plane, train, bus, boat and bike options, and does not require a passport.

Sooooo ... would you have put Pittsburgh on your bucket list, with the additional option of Cleveland? From May 24 to June 5, 2025 (the end date is fluid right now), OLLI members will have the opportunity for a multi-phased or "a la carte" adventure that includes *all* of the above criteria plus some. Information will be available at tinyurl.com/olli-travel. Contact Michelle Laverty at olli.info@uah.edu. The core is the Road Scholar Signature City tour, May 25-30. OLLI will provide members additional opportunities — possibly including brunch, a stadium tour and a river cruise — if they arrive May 24. Options starting May 30 may include an arts festival, a Frank Lloyd Wright house, a



The Phipps Conservatory (above) and the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning's four-story gothic study and event hall will be part of OLLI's trip.

baseball game, dinner on a mountain, and a train ride to Cleveland.

Action required: Road Scholar has temporarily pulled the May 25-30 tour from its public website. In order for this to remain a tour exclusively for OLLI at UAH, at least 18 of our members must make "trustworthy commitments" to this trip by May 1. No financial deposit is required to make such a commitment; but once 18 have committed, enrollment will be limited to OLLI members and a \$100 deposit will be required.

Michelle Laverty
Travel Committee Member

A WEEK EXPLORING GEORGIA COASTAL ISLANDS

Nature and history were rich during a visit to Jekyll, St. Simons and Sapelo islands March 10-15. The spiral staircase shown is a view from under the Sapelo Island Light Station.



(Photos provided by Pam Blackwell, Nancy Darnall, Bill Koval, Jane McBride and Alison Toney)

JILL UITHOVEN LOVES TEACHING BOLLYWOOD, SPANISH: 'I DON'T FIND THIS DIFFICULT AT ALL'

Most of us are justifiably impressed with all the work and study that OLLI instructors put into their classes. To pull together a lecture that lasts 1.5 hours and is also accompanied with slides is a task that is intimidating, to say the least.

Jill Uithoven blows right through those worries. For several years, she has taught courses both on Spanish and on Bollywood, the films of India. Jill is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Jill grew up in a small town in southern Michigan where her dad, Tom, was a middle school teacher and her mom, Shirl, was also a teacher who later went into human relations for a manufacturing firm. Jill had one brother, Tim, who passed away when he was 16.

Spanish was an early love of Jill's. She was part of her high school's Spanish Club and also found time to be a member of the school's Quiz Bowl team, which competed on the radio with other schools.

At Central Michigan University, Jill had a double major in Spanish and marketing.

"My minor was in developing nations with an emphasis on Latin America," recalled Jill. "After college, I was the first bilingual customer service representative in 1990 on the Whirlpool Cool Line 800 number. I was also an interpreter for Michigan's 5th District Court."

For 35 years, Jill has taught Spanish for various college and adult education classes.

Jill and Russ, her husband of 30 years, met almost by divine intervention.

"We were set up by the senior pastor and by the youth pastor at our church," said Jill. "They didn't conspire to do this, but their plans came together on the same night. We believe this was



Jill Uithoven and friends in 2018 during a four-week mission trip to Guatemala. She worked at a preschool and translated documents for a seminary.

God's not-so-gentle nudging to help us figure out we should get together!

"My husband is an engineer who worked in the auto industry for many years. We ended up moving to Huntsville in 2004 when Michigan's economy wasn't doing well."

Jill and her husband have three children, whom they have home-schooled all the way through high school. Their oldest, Nick, is an Army combat medic. Their middle child, Abby, is a nurse. And their youngest, Rachel, will graduate in May with a B.A. in biblical studies.

Jill sees her expertise in Spanish as a tool in her strong Christian faith.

"One of the best things about the ability to speak another language is that it breaks down barriers and enables you

to relate to people from different backgrounds," said Jill. "In 2018 I had the opportunity to go on a four-week mission trip to Guatemala, where I worked at a preschool and did document translation for a seminary."

The photos for this article are of some of the children she worked with. Most of the students' parents worked at a local dump, looking for anything of value they could sell to support their families.

"I've always loved both learning and teaching, so as my youngest was nearing high school graduation and I was facing a looming empty nest, I started getting involved in OLLI," said Jill. "I actually wanted to join sooner, but I hadn't yet achieved enough life experience to qualify for OLLI membership!"

(continued on the next page)

JILL UITHOVEN LOVES TEACHING BOLLYWOOD, SPANISH: 'I DON'T FIND THIS DIFFICULT AT ALL', CONT

Jill joined OLLI about 2015 and started teaching Spanish in 2018.

So how did Jill develop such an interest in Bollywood, India's musical films?

"Since childhood, I've enjoyed musicals like 'My Fair Lady,'" said Jill. "I loved the singing and the dancing and the music and the costumes. So when I watched my first Bollywood movie and found it had all of that, I was irrevocably hooked. Now 20 years later, I've seen at least 500 of them."

In 2018, Bollywood's biggest star, Shah Rukh Khan, filmed part of a movie in Huntsville. Jill suggested to OLLI a course explaining why this was so

important. In 2019, OLLI had its first Bollywood course.

"We weren't sure anyone would be interested," said Jill, "so we were thrilled to have a huge turnout. There has been ongoing interest, so we have offered the Bollywood class ever since."

"I think the popularity of the class is due to the fact that OLLI members like learning about new things. This is a culture and history that most Americans would otherwise know very little about. While we watch the movies for the pure enjoyment of it, we also discuss Indian history and culture to enable us to view the films in their proper context."

How does Jill manage teaching two different classes every semester?

"I don't find this difficult at all," said Jill, "because I'm getting the opportunity to share with others subjects that I am passionate about. For me, this is the essence of OLLI: interesting people sharing their passions with others, giving them an opportunity to broaden their horizons."

Thanks, Jill, for all you do for OLLI.

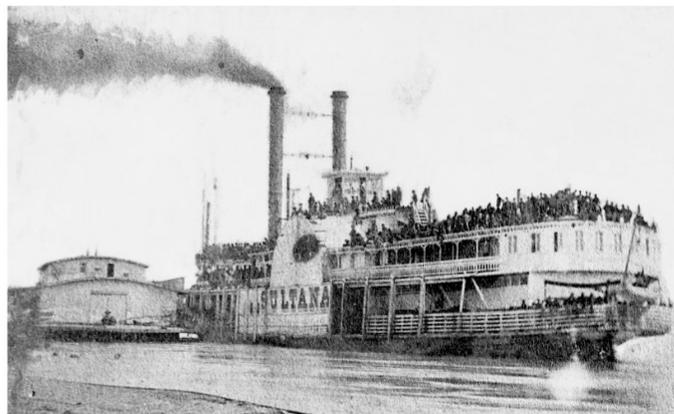
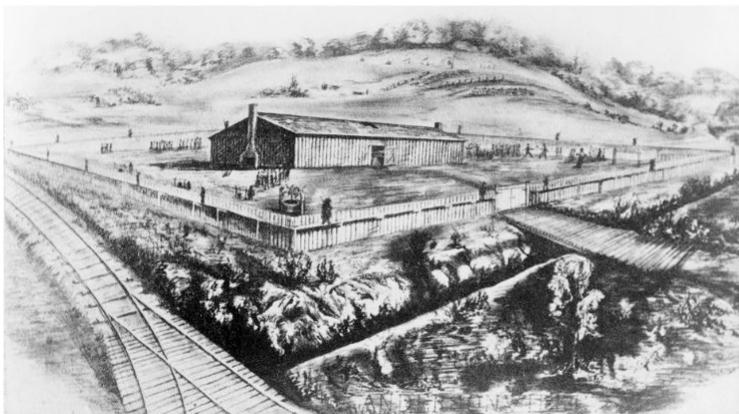
By Glen Adams

FELLOWSHIP, LAKES, SWAMPS



About 40 Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group members completed a 3.5-mile circuit on Elgie's Greenway (south Huntsville) on a sunny Saturday morning, Feb. 24. The walk provided exercise, fellowship, and views of small lakes and bottomland hardwood swamps. (Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)





A Civil War prison in Cahaba, Alabama; the overloaded steamer Sultana on the Mississippi River the day it headed upriver from Vicksburg; and below, the Sultana explodes on the river on April 27, 1865 (illustration from Harper's Weekly, May 20, 1865). (Images from Library of Congress)

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

April: A riverboat on the Mississippi — the Sultana disaster

It was late April 1865, and in the now-defeated Southern states, men who had once been prisoners of war began to congregate at ports and railheads to begin the long journey back home.

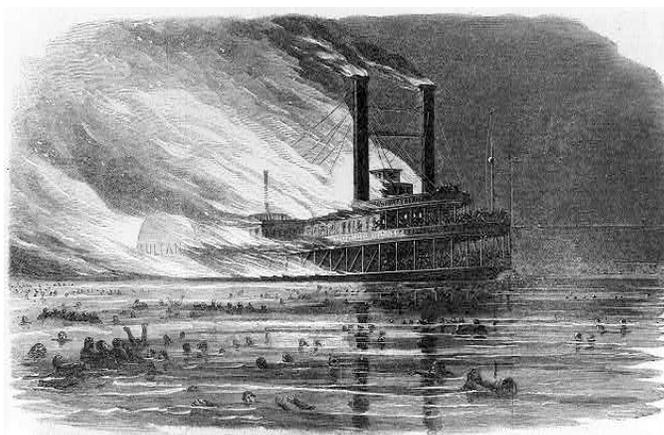
Most of these soldiers were young, some just 14 years old. Many had already been injured in battle by the time they reached the prison camps, and the time spent there had done nothing to improve their conditions.

Prison camps on both sides were dirty, disease-ridden places where food and medicine were in short supply, but life in the Southern camps steadily deteriorated toward the end of the war when the Confederacy couldn't even feed and care for its own soldiers and citizens.

Thousands died in those camps of starvation and disease. At the Alabama camp at Cahaba, for example, the Alabama River jumped its banks and the flood forced the men to stand in waist-deep water for a week in winter.

Many of these newly released men made their way west to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where they had been told steamboats would carry them to their homes in the North, but even then, their plight did not improve. They would be interned in Camp Fisk near the Big Black River about 4 miles from Vicksburg proper. They were given clean clothes and food, but were kept outdoors without tents or blankets while they waited for their numbers to be called.

One reason for the delays was that the owners of the steamboats were competing to see who could cram the most freed prisoners on their boats. Steamboat companies,



you see, were paid as much as \$10 per person to transport soldiers and freed prisoners — a lot of money in 1865 — and some companies bribed army officials in Vicksburg to make sure they got as many passengers as possible.

So on April 26, 1865, once all the payoffs had been made, more than 2,000 tired, sick and injured men, some still wearing dirty and tattered clothes, filed down the bluff from Vicksburg to a steamboat waiting for them at the docks on the Mississippi River. That steamboat was the Sultana, and her fate is the rest of this story.

The Sultana, 260 feet long and 42 feet at its widest point, was designed to carry about 375 passengers and crew. It already had about 180 private passengers and crew on board, but by the time more than 2,000 paroled prisoners, their Union Army guards, a few Confederate soldiers headed home, and members of the U.S. Sanitary Commission boarded (at roughly \$10 a head!), the boat left Vicksburg with about 2,400 people on board — more than six times its capacity.

(continued on the next page)

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

There was standing room only. Still, the men were glad because they were on their way home. Little did they know what awaited them.

The overcrowded Sultana left Vicksburg late that night, traveling up a river at flood stage due to heavy Northern snowfalls that had begun to melt. The overloaded boat struggled against the currents until sometime about 2 a.m., when, while most of the men were sleeping, the Sultana exploded and caught fire about 7 miles upriver from Memphis.

The United States government ultimately concluded that the boilers used to heat water for its steam engines had exploded due to a faulty design and the heavy load of its human cargo.

Apparently, a leak in the tubes that carried that super-heated water caused the explosion of Sultana's boilers, destroying nearby parts of the boat and sending scalding water and burning embers onto the sleeping passengers.

Some were killed instantly by the explosion. Some passengers burned on the boat. Others awoke to find themselves flying through the air, having one minute been sleeping and the next struggling to swim in the very cold Mississippi River. The fortunate ones clung to debris in the river, hoping to make it to a shore they could not see because it was dark and the flooded river was nearly 5 miles wide at that point.

Of the approximately 2,400 people on board, around 1,700 died. The Sultana remains the worst maritime disaster in American history — more people died than with the 1912 sinking of the Titanic.

Word of the disaster would not reach Memphis until a teenage passenger floated up to the waterfront in the early

morning hours of April 27 and told the sentries what had happened. As news spread, numerous boats began to assist in the rescue, sending the survivors to hospitals in Memphis. Once recovered, those survivors were ultimately put on other boats and sent north, where they finally made it home. The Sultana remained at the bottom of the Mississippi River.

Accidents happen. Steam boilers explode. That's simply a fact of technology.

But how often do manufacturing greed and hubris exacerbate the situation?

In this case, had the owners not grossly overloaded their boat's carrying capacity just to make a buck, perhaps the stress on the steam lines might not have been enough to cause them to rupture, killing some 1,700 souls who, God knows, had already suffered enough for one lifetime.

Fast forward to today and to Boeing and its safety record. According to data retrieved from the Aviation Safety Network on Feb. 22, 2024, there have been a total of 529 aviation notable accidents and incidents involving just Boeing 737 aircraft, resulting in a total of 5,779 fatalities and 234 hull losses. And just recently, the National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates these types of things, excoriated Boeing for refusing to turn over manufacturing data that could potentially explain why all these incidents have occurred.

Could it be greed and hubris? Will we never learn, or have we simply reached the point where dollars and power are all that matter? If that's the case, then perhaps this isn't the type of culture in which anyone should wish to live.

By John Mason

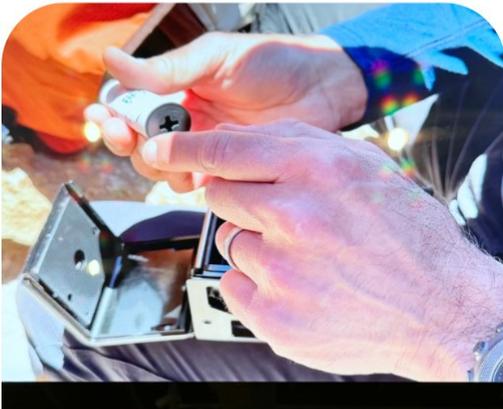
OLD FRIENDS BACKSTAGE

Fathia Hardy (center) portrayed villain Wanda Walliwart in February's "Rapunzel and the Beanstalk," an original production of Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy. Nancy Darnall (left) and Betty Koval (right) attended. All three are OLLI members. Fathia formerly supervised UAH's OLLI staff and is now director of the university's Office of Professional and Continuing Education as well as secretary of the Fantasy Playhouse board. Stephen Tyler Davis wrote the play, directed by Michael Wood.



PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS

Jose Betancourt, associate professor of art and photography at UAH, presented a bonus Feb. 23 that included his exhibit in the Wilson Hall gallery. He traveled to the Canary Islands and duplicated scenes photographed with a stereo camera in 1856 by Charles Piazzi Smyth, Scotland's royal astronomer. Smyth climbed above the clouds to see the skies. Betancourt also researched and documented his family history on the island of Tenerife.



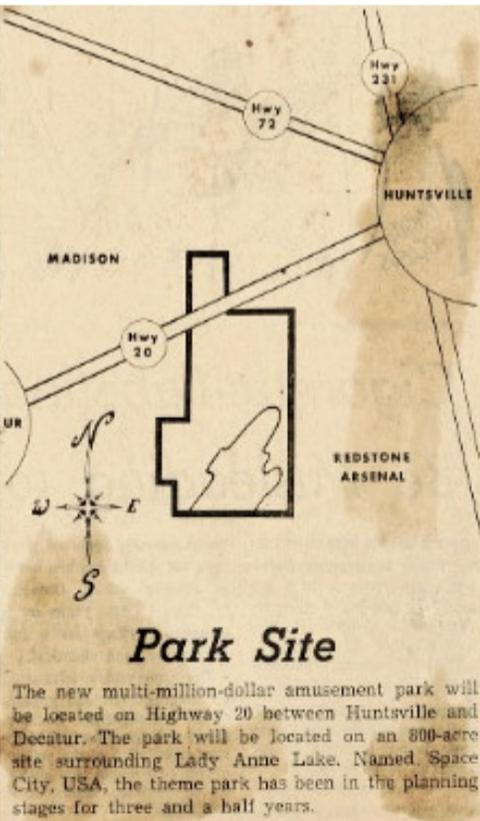
THE SPACE CITY THEME PARK THAT NEVER WAS

In the 1960s, Huntsville developers announced big plans for Space City USA, a theme park on the approximate location of the present Edgewater Subdivision. Construction started, but within a few years the project was bankrupt. Drew Adan, archivist of UAH's M. Louis Salmon Library, told the story in a bonus presentation March 1.



SPACE CITY USA agrees with the authorities!

The planned rides at Space City now number 23. These include: the Caveman Ride, Dinosaur Dark Ride, Stern Wheeler Boat Ride, Antique Car Ride, Flying Saucer Ride, Space Platform Ride, Jet Car Ride, Carousel, and Jack and the Beanstalk Slide. The total rides planned will accommodate over 14,000 people per hour.



THERAPY AND TRAINING TIPS FROM THE DOGS

Four therapy dogs and their human trainers — Wicklow with Phil Graham, Wrigley with Cherie Orcutt, Philip with Lyndsay Coats, and Rumor with Mary Graham — explained dog therapy and dog training during a bonus session March 22. More information about their organization is at [TherapyPartners.org](https://www.therapypartners.org).



(Photos by Steve Stewart)

30 YEARS OF MAKING FRIENDS AND MEMORIES



This is the seventh of seven historical articles by Sue Chatham, who joined UAH's Academy for Lifetime Learning 29 years ago, about a year after its founding. The Academy became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Sue remains an active OLLI member.

OLLI has provided me with the opportunity to learn things, have new experiences, contribute to an ever-evolving program, and, most of all, **make friends**. By writing this column over the past seven months, I have relived many of these experiences.

The "memories of OLLI" column is closing. You can continue the journey from 2019 to the present by going to the OLLI website (tinyurl.com/olli-insider) and reading the past *OLLI Insiders*.

In the previous articles, I touched on the many courses, events, trips, socials, volunteers, etc. that OLLI has had over the past 30 years. Supporting all of these activities were the OLLI Board of Directors, OLLI volunteers and the OLLI support staff at UAH.

During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-21), OLLI would not have survived without the UAH support staff and the volunteer teachers who took on the task of teaching virtually.

I will say goodbye and hope to see you on campus to continue the OLLI journey.

By Sue Chatham

These are just the most recent *Insider* issues available on the OLLI website. They go back to 2007.

I AM A...
ABOUT UAH EVENTS MAP GIVING ALUMNI DIRECTORY



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

LIBRARY
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
OLLI INSIDER NEWSLETTER

The OLLI Insider Newsletter

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

- OLLI Gift Certificates
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OLLI at UAH Member Newsletter

The OLLI Insider is an all-volunteer written and designed publication.

OLLI membership provides you with ten (10) issues of The *OLLI Insider* electronically each year. The most recent issue is available to the right or archived issues can be accessed with the links provided below.

2024						
2024-12	2024-11	2024-10	2024-09	2024-08	N/A	
N/A	2024-05	2024-04	2024-03	2024-02	2024-01	
2023						
2023-12	2023-11	2023-10	2023-09	2023-08	N/A	
N/A	2023-05	2023-04	2023-03	2023-02	2023-01	
2022						
2022-12	2022-11	2022-10	2022-09	2022-08	N/A	
N/A	2022-05	2022-04	2022-03	2022-02	2022-01	
2021						



March 2024 Issue