

The OLLI Insider

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville

August 2024



INDOORS AND OUTDOORS, FARAWAY AND CLOSE TO HOME

*Top: Ireland's oldest pub
and a Huntsville sunset.*

Left: Dividing daylilies.

*Below: Chatting with
UAH's president, making
beer in Huntsville, and
spinning at a historic mill
in Tennessee.*



uah.edu/olli

Wilson Hall Room 105

256.824.6183

OLLI.info@uah.edu



From the Editor

'WITHOUT ME YOU'RE NOTHING'



Twice, I took Jeff Delmas' course "What Makes Computers Tick?" No, I did not flunk out. As you know, we don't get grades in OLLI. But we are required neither to study nor to do homework, so a second run was my effort to retain more of Jeff's expert knowledge.

As Jeff was reviewing computer history, I thought about the book that gave me confidence to dabble in programming after buying my first Radio Shack computer.

The book was "Without Me You're Nothing: The Essential Guide to Home Computers" by Frank Herbert with Max Bernard, published in 1981. I bought it thinking that the title meant I couldn't survive without a computer, but what I learned was that the computer could not operate without me.

In other words, a computer is a dumb machine that cannot do anything unless a human gives directions. But together, they can do a lot. Jeff made a similar point in class. "Computers are not truly intelligent — at least not yet," he said while discussing artificial intelligence.

The book also assured me that nothing I could do from the keyboard would permanently screw up the computer — which made learning the computer much less intimidating.

I worked for a weekly newspaper that did job printing, and we regularly had to calculate the most efficient way to cut a small piece of paper from a larger one. We bought paper in sizes such as 17x22 inches. If you cut an 8.5x11 sheet from that size, you get four pieces at 100% efficiency. There's no waste. We called that a straight cut. But if you need an odd size, a straight cut might create large enough scrap to cut out additional pieces. In that case, we made another cut, which we called a swing cut.

I wrote a BASIC computer program to calculate the most efficient cut, whether straight or swing, from any size paper. I took the results to Mike Casey, who operated the paper cutter. I was really proud of my work until, after about 10 seconds, Mike outsmarted both the computer and me. He found an even more efficient cut. Back to the drawing board. I finally figured out how to revise the program to create what I called a "Mike Casey cut."

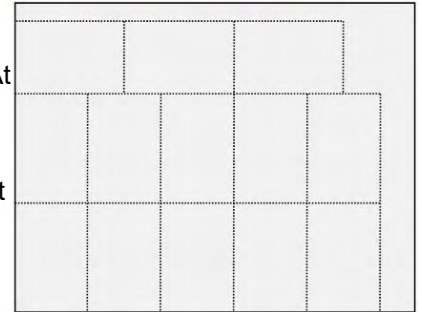
Just as the computer and I needed to help each other, computer algorithms needed help from somebody who held practical knowledge, experience and common sense.

What I learned is that none of us succeed alone. Without one another, we'd be nothing. Which is my comment on this year's Volunteer of the Year choice, defended by Irene Garoppo in her column here.

Inside The Insider. In his military history column, John Mason describes how Albert Einstein influenced the U.S. nuclear program but was kept at arm's length because of



Jeff Delmas explains how people and computers work together. At right is an example of cutting small pieces of paper out of one large sheet — a problem that people and computers can solve together. (Photo and illustration by Steve Stewart)



suspensions about his national loyalty. John's column as OLLI board president is about the value of civil discussion, open-mindedness and critical thinking.

Chris Stuhlinger reports on five recent member events and plans for 10 more during the fall semester, inviting you to take part. Betty Koval tells about the first bonus speaker of the fall semester, who traced the Underground Railroad on his bicycle.

Glen Adams profiles Anelisse Westmeyer, OLLI's registration office coordinator. Clay Williams hits the highlights of OLLI's busy fall schedule and explains recent price hikes and a price cut.

Old and new Travel Committee chairs Jane McBride and David Sayre, respectively, remind us how well-traveled we've been and can be now that the COVID pandemic is in the rearview mirror. Bob Carroll reflects on individual versus group travel and his impending return to Iceland as part of an OLLI group.

Marilynn Szecholda outlines social activities, including many eating occasions, planned in the fall. Leah Black announces the theme for the 2025 photo contest, and we have a page showing the 2024 winning photos.

Jean Krieger updates us about activities and plans of the Artist Studio Member Interest Group. Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones do the same for the Hiking & Biking MIG.

Steve Stewart
Editor, The OLLI Insider

From the President

THE JOY OF BEING EARNEST: HOW CRITICAL THINKING EXPEDITES OPEN CONVERSATIONS



Open and honest discussions that don't develop into a brawl are becoming an endangered species, aren't they? When we sit down with friends or family,

are there some things that we simply can no longer talk about? Have open minds gone the way of the dinosaur? Well, I, for one, certainly hope not.

As our world becomes increasingly polarized, being able leave our individual comfort zones and consider the perspectives and ideas of others becomes more and more essential. If we lose that, we lose dialogue; we lose learning; we lose our humanity.

Learning, you say? How is that, and more importantly, how does it affect us members of OLLI?

Learning begins with critical thinking. Part of the challenge of our curriculum is developing and presenting topics that make us think. Sometimes, they are new ideas. Sometimes, they may just be a new twist on old ones. But the point is to make us think, and thinking is exercise for the brain. The more we exercise, the healthier we become.

Two things power those life-improving neural gymnastics: critical thinking (keeping an open mind about the variety of ideas, arguments, data and information you receive from others) and open-mindedness (the need to be curious about what others think, and the willingness to have your ideas challenged without getting defensive). That's all there is to it. In one fell swoop, we can become healthier and learned, and sit down for Thanksgiving dinner without alienating half the family! What a concept.

Research from the University of Pennsylvania's website Authentic Happiness



Open-mindedness and critical thinking contribute to civil discussions where we just might learn something. (Image by Microsoft Copilot)

now suggests that open-mindedness has three major benefits.

First, open-minded, cognitively complex individuals are less swayed by singular events and are more resistant to suggestion and manipulation. They realize that there may be more than one opinion about something and are willing to listen and critically evaluate it.

Second, open-minded individuals are better able to predict how others will behave and are less prone to projection. They're willing to give grace to opposing ideas.

And finally, open-minded individuals tend to score better on tests of general cognitive ability, although we don't know whether being open-minded makes one smarter or vice versa. It seems to me that the chance to improve my cognitive ability at this point in my life — heck, just maintain it, really — is well worth the effort. I'm in!

So as you sign up for the next round of course offerings, consider that you have the chance to begin a journey of changing perspectives. Think critically about what you hear — in class, in the lounge and elsewhere — and be prepared to challenge yourself and others in an open, respectful manner.

In the end, you might find you've learned something new about yourself, and these new insights can open up new ideas and experiences about the people and the world around you. And having an open mind can inspire those around you to have a positive and optimistic attitude that lets them look toward a brighter future as well. In this, you may find that you're growing intellectually and spiritually and, because you're working those brain cells, you're getting healthier at the same time. How can you lose?

To quote the website Skill Path, "keep your mind open, and you'll explore those differing thoughts, ideas, and experiences and you'll get to know what others know." Or, in the words of Bill Nye the Science Guy, "Everyone you will ever meet knows something that you don't." So sit down and share. And grow. And live."

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

John Mason
President, OLLI at UAH
Board of Directors

People of OLLI

OLLI AT UAH BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2024-25



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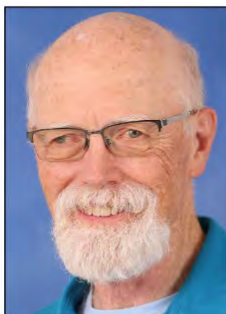
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David Sayre



Valerie Seaquist



Steve Stewart



Chris Stuhlinger



Marilynn Szecholda

Calendar

AUGUST 2024

August 16 | Fri | 10:00 am | In-Person
Event: Fall Open House
Wilson Hall Lobby

OLLI members, family, friends, and the community are invited to join us to kick off the Fall 2024 semester. The open house is an opportunity to learn more about OLLI at UAH and discover upcoming courses, bonuses, events, MIGs, and more! **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

- Meet instructors, OLLI board members, and staff.
- Register for a selection of 60+ fall courses.
- Pick up your parking permit.
- Renew or purchase a new OLLI membership.
- Explore the program and facilities.
- Make connections with people who share the love of lifelong learning.
- Enter to win door prizes.

Free. Open to the Public.

OLLI members, please wear your OLLI member badge.

August 30 | Fri | 11:00 am | In-Person
Bonus: "Cycling Out of Dixie"
Wilson Hall, Room 168

Scott Morris will share with us his memoir about his account of bicycling 2,229 miles solo from Mobile, Alabama, to Owen Sound, Ontario, to visit sites connected to the Underground Railroad.

Presented by Scott Morris, an award-winning journalist who spent most of his career as city editor and managing editor at The Decatur Daily and executive editor at the Times Daily in Florence.
Free for OLLI members

REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KENTUCKY

Bob Carroll, Phil Graham and Alice Sammon (left to right) attended the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement on July 22-24 at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Bob is curriculum vice president for OLLI at UAH; Phil is a board member; and Alice is program coordinator on the OLLI staff. The keynote speaker was Linda J. Van Eldik, professor at UK's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging.



(Photos from Bob Carroll)

Events Committee

NEW EVENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER



Fall semester is just around the corner, and with it comes another slate of interesting events. You'll find a variety of topics, including the arts, sports, astronomy, a charity project, and history. Once again, we hope you select the events that pique your curiosity!

Important: If you sign up for an event and later realize that you cannot attend, please let me or OLLI staff know as soon as possible to cancel your event registration. Many events reach capacity, and we start waiting lists. By notifying us that you cannot attend, you give another OLLI member the opportunity.

Also, when you sign up, make sure your name is spelled correctly, your email address is correct, you agree to the release/waiver form, and you enter your emergency contact information.

We look forward to seeing you at our fall events!

Recap of recent events

Falls Mill tour, April 26 — OLLI members visited the 150-year-old facility in southern Tennessee and were treated to an informative tour by the husband-and-wife owners, who have restored the facilities over a 40-year period. Included in the tour were the blacksmith shop, old schoolhouse and mill building, which still operates with the largest mill wheel in Alabama. Machinery on each of the mill's three floors is still powered by the water wheel.

Yellowhammer Brewing tour, May 3 — Our group toured one of Alabama's original craft breweries and learned about the ingredients that are used for beer-making, along with the process that turns those ingredients into different types of beer. Members sampled several types of beer.

Brown Bear paddle, June 15 — Members enjoyed a leisurely kayak and canoe paddle along the flow of a 5-mile section of the Flint River. Sunny skies, a series of mild rapids, and interesting scenery were offered.

Trash Pandas baseball, June 23 — Baseball fans watched a disappointing loss as the Biloxi Shuckers defeated the Trash Pandas 4-2.

HudsonAlpha tour, July 12 — We experienced another fascinating tour of the world-class research labs and greenhouse facilities at this institute for biotechnology in Research Park. Genomic advances with both human and plant applications help scientists to better understand a wide range of diseases and disorders. Education and economic development are also important components of HudsonAlpha's mission.



The HudsonAlpha tour on July 12 was one of several summer events. At least 10 more events are scheduled for the fall. (Photo by Patricia Haag)

Fall events preview

Mark your calendars and watch the weekly eNews for more details about these fall events, including registration and payment details.

- Friday, Sept. 20 — **Huntsville Museum of Art** (downtown Huntsville), 2-3 p.m. Attend a docent-led tour of the exhibit "A Journey into Imagination: 100 Years of Animation Artwork." The exhibit will feature cartoons such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Mighty Mouse, Tom & Jerry, Woody Woodpecker and much more.
- Sunday, Sept. 22 — **Huntsville Football Club soccer game** (Huntsville). Game time 6 p.m. Watch the Huntsville FC versus Cincinnati at the recently renovated Joe Davis Stadium. The Huntsville FC, our professional soccer club, is in its second season.
- Friday, Sept. 27 — **Historic Decatur Train Depot tour** (Decatur), 2:30-4 p.m. Learn about the long history of the train depot and railroading in Decatur. Inside, see several exhibits and model train layouts.
- Saturday, Sept. 28 — **Mosaic art class** (Huntsville), 10 a.m.-noon. Come design a work of art using the tiles from the famous historic refinished tile mosaic at First Baptist Church on Governors Drive. Bring your own item to decorate, or you can purchase a jewelry mold or other decorative items to create.

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Events Committee

NEW EVENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER, CONT

- Friday, Oct. 4 — **Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail**, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Have your cellphones charged and your walking shoes on for a bit of competitive fun with the Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail Scavenger Hunt. We will pair up at Moe's Original BBQ downtown and receive the clue map for the 21 outdoor artworks the Arts Council has currently included on the trail. Each team will have one hour to find and photograph as many of the items as you can find.
- Friday, Oct. 11 — **VBAS Planetarium and Observatory tour** (Monte Sano), 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join us for a fascinating tour of the Von Braun Astronomical Society's facility in Monte Sano State Park. Participate in a brief planetarium show, and tour the observatory with its 21-inch reflecting telescope (telescope-gazing is included if skies are clear).
- Saturdays, Oct. 12 and 19 — **Mobility Worldwide tour** (Huntsville), 9 a.m.-noon. Take a tour of this international charity project facility that creates mobility carts for the handicapped. The carts are shipped all over the world. Learn the history of the project, and help build a cart. Choose one of the two dates to attend.
- Friday, Oct. 25 — **Huntsville Revisited Museum tour** (Huntsville), 10:30 a.m.-noon. Visit this fascinating museum dedicated to telling the stories of many of Huntsville's lesser-known men and women who helped build our community. Learn from founder, director and curator William Hampton, who has developed a national and international reputation for this museum.
- Sunday, Oct. 27 — **Harrison Brothers Hardware Store tour** (downtown Huntsville), 2-3 p.m. Tour the store, founded in 1897 on the courthouse square. It operated as a family-owned business until 1983. The Historic Huntsville Foundation purchased the store and retained many of the original furnishings and fixtures. Learn about the store's architecture, and see original photos, ledgers and other mementos.
- Saturday, Nov. 9 — **Irons One Distillery tour** (Lowe Mill, Huntsville), 1-2:30 p.m. Visit Huntsville's first bourbon distillery — one man, one whiskey, one batch at a time. Join master distiller Jeff Irons to learn about the process used to make this unique local whiskey.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



PADDLING FLINT RIVER JUNE 15



(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

FALLS MILL, BELVIDERE, TENNESSEE, APRIL 26



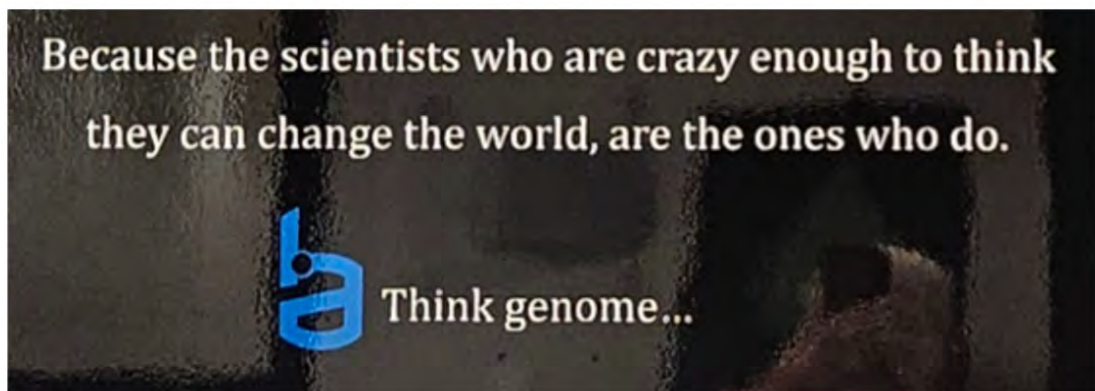
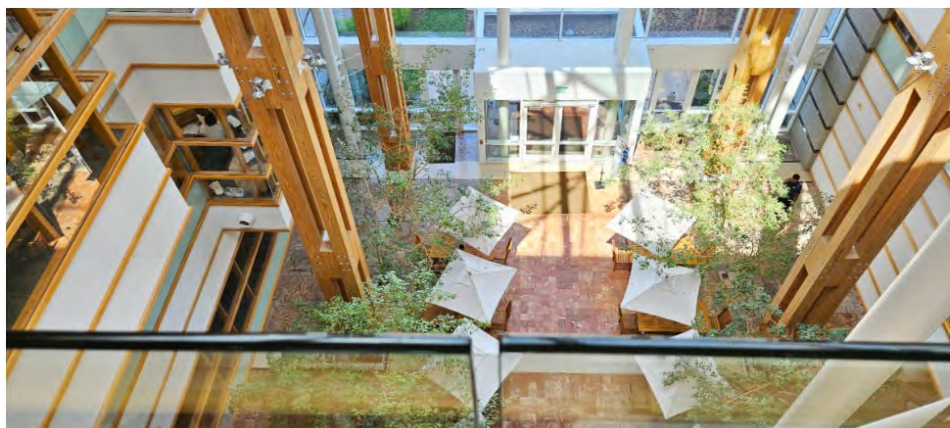
(Photos by Patricia Haag, Marsha Langlois and Chris Stuhlinger)

YELLOWHAMMER BREWERY TOUR, MAY 3



(Photos by Patricia Haag, Nancy Darnall and Chris Stuhlinger)

HUDSONALPHA LABS, GREENHOUSES, JULY 12



(Photos by Patricia Haag and Chris Stuhlinger)

REVISITING ICELAND AFTER 17 YEARS



Deb and I have never traveled via an organized group tour. When our two children were of school age, most of our vacations were to destinations in the U.S. where we

exchanged a time-share unit close to a venue such as a beach, a historical site or the mountains.

In the summer of 1998, the kids were 16 and 17, and we took the bold step of going on a road trip by ourselves, leaving the two of them at home. We felt they were mature enough to stay on their own, especially since grandparents were in close proximity. It worked out well.

Our trip was a 17-day adventure starting in eastern Pennsylvania, going through the Northeast into Maritime Canada, crossing Quebec and Ontario to the Great Lakes, and returning southward via Michigan and Interstate 75. I spent quite a bit of time on the web researching locales and destinations and piecing together the trip. The idea was to alternate nights staying at a bed-and-breakfast with tent camping at a state or provincial park. I made reservations over the phone or internet and put together a spreadsheet of the plan — I was my own agent and guide.

The adventure was a success, with the only glitch being setting up camp and spending the night in our tent on the south shore of Prince Edward Island while a tropical storm passed over and drenched us. Tim Horton's coffee and doughnuts never tasted so good that morning! There were many highlights and memories from that trip — too many to cover in this article. But one of the benefits of the excursion was proving to ourselves that we could plan and carry out a road trip on our own and stay within budget.

Thus began a series of road trips after the kiddos went off to college. We often returned to the Great Lakes region and the Northeast.



Scenes from the Carrolls' trip to Iceland in June 2007, including a fish market and downtown.

Interjected into the scheme of things was our first European adventure. Son Ryan was studying in Germany for the '03-04 academic year, so we visited during Christmas holidays. Again, we researched and planned our trip on our own, booking overnight stays at pensions and using rail service for travel. Because it was the Christmas season, the Weihnachtsmarkts were in full pagentry and the glühwein was to be had. Ryan was our tour guide and ticket agent.

In the summer of 2007, Ryan was residing in Austria, having just ended a one-year Fulbright exchange, and once again we plotted a two-week adventure across Europe.

We flew to Frankfurt, Germany, via Icelandic Air, which included a first-leg flight from Baltimore to Reykjavik, Iceland, with a layover. Not just a short layover, but a purposeful six-hour daytime layover — great marketing by the Iceland Tourism Board. A complimentary bus ride from the airport to Reykjavik and several hours of touring the city to whet one's travel appetite just enough to plant the seed to return to Iceland.

You can see where this is going.

After years of tent-camping road trips and flights to the Grand Canyon in 2016, Yellowstone in 2017, Europe again in 2018, and Alaska in 2019, all self-planned and -guided, the opportunity finally arrived to return to Iceland — this time via a guided tour group through OLLI! Many of you have been on one (or more) of OLLI's guided tours and rave about them. My late in-laws went on many tours of the United States and Canada with tour groups and had upbeat adventures.

Personally, we avoided guided group trips. The idea of being cooped up on a bus day after day and no freedom to venture "off the trail" was not appealing, but after conversations with many of you, our errant thoughts have been assuaged and we have bitten the bullet for the OLLI-sponsored trip to Iceland! We will return, this time for 10 days!

(continued on the next page)

Curriculum Committee

REVISITING ICELAND AFTER 17 YEARS, CONT

Thus far, the tour company has been thorough in preparing us with information and recommendations. The tour itinerary includes most if not all of the destinations I would have chosen on my own: waterfalls, black-sand beaches, quaint fishing villages, gorgeous landscapes, you name it. As a photography enthusiast who especially enjoys landscape imagery, I find that the tour includes time to negotiate and compose some majestic scenes without worrying about rushing to get back to the bus. I can't wait to walk the villages in the evening and take images of street scenes.

When I joined OLLI three years ago, I did so for the classes — and ended up teaching, also — and soon discovered

many other facets of the organization, one being group travel. Traveling the states or across the pond(s) should be an educational/learning experience. When I think back to the many, many trips the Carrolls made, with or without children, only a very few were non-educational, such as our trip to Orlando when the children were in middle school. Otherwise, we proudly “tortured” our children with tours of museums, monuments and historical sites. In their adult years, they have expressed appreciation for our parenting style.

We are looking forward to learning the lifestyle of another culture, to taking nothing but memories, and to encountering the vastness and beauty of our

world geography. I am looking forward to photographing the same. In fact, my highest hurdle in planning is choosing what gear to pack and keeping it light and sensible. I am looking forward to sharing the images I take with the rest of you.

OLLI provides many opportunities of lifelong learning beyond the classroom. Hopefully you are taking advantage of them and continuing your journey of learning.

Veni, vidi, vici.

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

Upcoming Bonus

BICYCLING ALONG UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



I cannot believe it is August already! Many of us have chosen from the more than 60 classes offered this term. Many of us will have already signed up for those *popular* classes we know fill fast!

I always look forward to participating in the fall term open house, beginning at 10 a.m. on Aug. 16. Please mark your calendars and attend this event. Some of the advantages are getting your parking

pass, meeting and talking with class instructors and committee chairs, and seeing friends again. Oh, and lest I forget: the snacks in the lounge.

I am also going to suggest you mark your calendar for the first bonus for fall term on Friday, Aug. 30, at 11 a.m. We will be in Wilson Hall, Room 168.

The speaker will be Scott Morris, an award-winning journalist who spent most of his career as city editor and managing editor at The Decatur Daily and executive editor at the TimesDaily in Florence. He also served as a college student media adviser and journalism instructor, and now co-publishes a blog called “Riding the South” (scottandjennymorris.com) with his wife, Dr. Jennifer Morris.

We will hear about the memoir he is writing: “Cycling Out of Dixie,” his account of bicycling 2,229 miles solo from Mobile,



Scott Morris at the northern-most terminus of the Underground Railroad. He will speak Aug. 30 during an OLLI bonus.

Alabama, to Owen Sound, Ontario, to visit sites connected to the Underground Railroad. This was the metaphorical name of a secret network of routes and safe houses that helped African Americans escape from slavery in the 19th century.

I hope to see you at this bonus as we begin another exciting year of learning, socializing and just plain having fun.

I also have a new motto: “Be the sun, not the salt.” It is from Dr. Harry D. Cohen’s book and podcast by the same title.

Betty Koval
Bonus Coordinator

FALL IS ALMOST HERE!



Summer is winding down, the fall season is rapidly approaching, and registration has now opened for the upcoming semester. Over 60 courses await you on a variety of topics such as history, literature, science, foreign languages, health and fitness, and pop culture.

We feature favorites like Fireside Chats with Authors, Tai Chi, and

Bridge, but we also are thrilled to present new courses such as Healthy Longevity, Positive Psychology, and Page to Screen: Frankenstein.

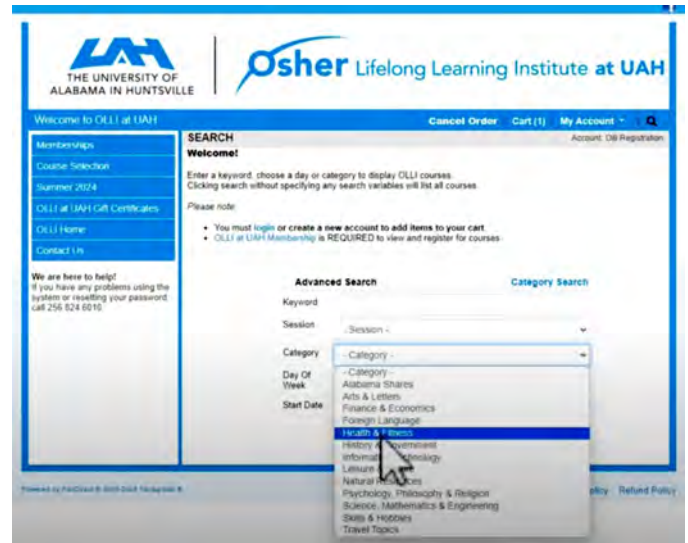
We offer courses in person, online, and as a hybrid of the two. We are convinced there is a course for everyone — in fact, more than one course. Take advantage of our discount when you take four or more courses!

Since our growing membership means courses fill up quickly, we recommend that you register as quickly as possible. Classes start Sept. 16.

We encourage our members to register online, but I know many of you have troubles with our registration system. We have produced some tutorial videos that can help walk you through the process of getting your account in order, updating your membership, and signing up for courses to take. You can find those brief videos at uah.edu/library/olli/faqs.

Mark your calendars for our fall open house, which will be Friday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. until noon in Wilson Hall. This is your chance to update your membership, meet instructors, register for classes, and, of course, acquire the all-important parking permit for the academic year.

You will notice some changes in costs this semester. The addition of new staff plus inflation has necessitated a raise in fees. As we enter our fourth decade of lifelong learning, yearly membership will now cost \$40 and each course is also \$40.



One of several YouTube videos, available on the OLLI website, demonstrates how to search and register for courses online. The voice on the video belongs to Anelisse Westmeyer, the OLLI registration office coordinator.

You can also register by phone or in person.

On a positive note, the previous tuition fee, which will now be called a registration fee, has dropped from \$20 a semester to just \$10. UAH campus has gone cashless, so we can no longer accept cash. We still accept checks.

Reminder that OLLI offices will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2. We hope everyone has had a great summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

Course Spotlight

It is time to register for Fall 2024 courses. You can register for courses at uah.edu/olli/term-registration.



INTRODUCTION TO CHESS OPENINGS

9/16 - 11/4 • Mon • 3:15 - 4:45 pm • 8 sessions • In Person • J. Schweinsberg • \$40

Are you familiar with the basic rules for chess but don't know where to place your pieces? This course is for you! The instructor will present a selection of standard chess openings, explain the reasons for each move, show some opening traps to watch out for, and outline the general strategy for each side after the opening stage is complete. A great opportunity to learn about the game!



PAINT YOUR PET

9/18 - 10/9 • Wed • 10:30 - Noon • 4 sessions • In Person • M. Yother • \$40

Paint your pet in acrylics on canvas. The instructor will sketch your pet's basic features on the canvas, and we will spend each week on painting your pet, working on shading, texture, and details.



STRENGTH BUILDING

9/19 - 10/24 • Th • 8:00 - 9:00 am • 6 sessions • In Person • K. Brown • \$40

Are you interested in a weight-training class with emphasis on upper and lower body strengthening, but not ready to take the full plunge into weightlifting? This introductory course will include working with weights, using correct form to strengthen your upper and lower body. It will include exercises for full body mobility. You will be instructed on how to progress to higher weights and repetitions throughout the course. The instructor offers a gentle entry into an important experience toward a stronger body.



COFFEE FROM A BARISTA'S EYES

9/21 - 10/26 • Sat • 9:00 - 10:30 am • 6 sessions • In Person • N. Spooner • \$40

Coffee is widely recognized as the second most consumed beverage in the world. The insights of a barista are invaluable for understanding the complexities of this popular beverage. This course provides a comprehensive overview of coffee, covering its history, brewing techniques, tastings, and the social and cultural aspects that have transformed coffee consumption into a ritualistic experience. Additional fees may be charged for coffee sampling.

Save 20%

*When you register for 4 or more
term courses at once.*

SUMMER COURSE: WHAT UAH DOES AND WHY

"UAH 101" was a 90-minute course describing the university's role in education and discovery, held June 13 in the Student Services Building near the president's office. Speakers included President Charles Karr; David Puleo, vice president for academic affairs; and Robert Lindquist, vice president for research and economic development.



(Photos by Steve Stewart)

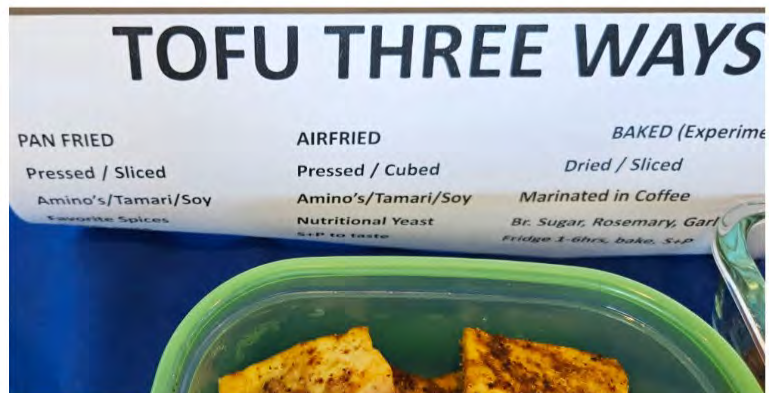
SUMMER COURSE: LUSH LOCAL GARDENS



Green Thumb Garden Tours

(Photos by Patricia Haag and Marsha Langlois)

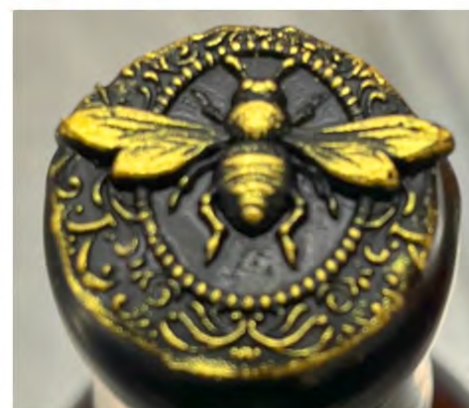
SUMMER COURSE: COOKING WITH PLANTS



Introduction to Plant-Based Cooking

(Photos by Patricia Haag)

SUMMER COURSE: HOW TO PRODUCE MEAD



Introduction to Mead and Mead Making

(Photos by Jill Stewart)



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You can designate your gift to any area(s) meaningful to you, like **OLLI!** Members will receive an exclusive **Blue GEMS lapel pin** and enjoy **recognition** on our website and social media, unless you wish to remain anonymous.

Join the **Blue GEMS** today and see how your steady and reliable support can make a **real impact** in the lives of our students and the shared community we serve! Give online today at www.uah.edu/giving or call 256-UAH-GIVE.

Member Services Committee

2025 PHOTO CONTEST THEME: 'CONTRASTS'



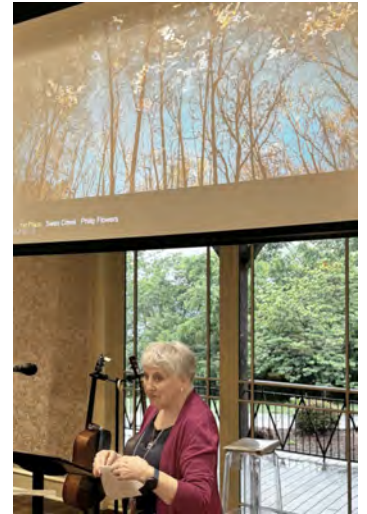
It's time to begin thinking about the beginning of fall term at OLLI. As usual, there will be many exciting and informative classes to sign up for and lots of other activities and events planned to keep members busy and involved. Be sure to check out everything available in the fall catalog and the website.

Friday bonuses will be accompanied by delicious snacks, as usual, and there is always coffee or tea available in the lounge during the day. Sometimes folks even bring goodies to share there, and these are always appreciated.

The new topic for the OLLI Photo Contest is "Contrasts." You can check more information on this in the catalog and online. Last year's first-, second- and third-place winners are hanging outside the OLLI volunteer office (151 Wilson Hall). We had so many wonderful submissions last year. You have until April 1, 2025, to take some great photos to enter next year.

Some MIGs (member interest groups) have been meeting throughout the summer, and a few new ones are on the

Leah Black announces winners of the 2024 photo contest during the OLLI annual meeting May 14 at Burritt on the Mountain. On the screen behind her is Philip Flowers' first-place winner, "Swan Creek."



way. More information on these will be available at the open house. Be sure to attend this event to find out more about classes and get to know all the great instructors. OLLI is a great place to learn and meet new friends.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair

Social Committee

SEMESTER OF SOCIALIZING WILL START AUG. 16



Fall term is right around the corner, and the Social Committee is at work making plans.

We are looking forward to open house on Aug. 16. Meet the teachers, and explore the new classes and events in store for the term that begins Sept. 16. Be sure to stop by the lounge and enjoy the treats set out by Social Committee members.

Plans are underway for the new-member social on Sept. 11. New members are invited to a luncheon in the lounge. So if you are new to OLLI this year, stop by and learn what OLLI is all about. Watch for the time of this event in the eNews.

Free, weekly Early Bird Breakfasts will continue this term on whatever day of the week that most members have 8:30 classes. Social Committee members provide delicious casseroles, pastries, fruit and other breakfast goodies. You are invited to come to breakfast before your morning classes.

The end of November is the time for Teacher Appreciation Day at Trinity United Methodist Church. This is our opportunity to thank our instructors for the great classes this term. The Social Committee will provide a lunch.



The OLLI lounge (152D Wilson Hall), with refreshments provided by the Social Committee, was busy during open house on Aug. 11, 2023. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

December features the ever-popular holiday party at the Conference Training Center on campus. We will have a buffet dinner and dancing with our favorite DJ. Details will follow as we get closer to the date.

OLLI will have many worthwhile classes and chances to meet members, share ideas, and become lifelong learners. See you in the fall!

Marilynn Szecholda
Social Committee Chair

‘REFLECTIONS’: 2024 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



First place:
*Philip Flowers,
Swan Creek*



Second place:
*Kevin Riggs,
January Dusk
on the Flint*



Third place:
*Jill Stewart,
Oh Canada*



Honorable mention:
*Sam Campbell,
Christmas on Campus*



Honorable mention: *Pam Emmerich,
Riverwalk Royal Albert Walk*



Honorable mention:
*Kathy Riggs,
A Winter's Day*

Member Interest Groups



The next hiking or biking event will be a nature walk Aug. 24 at the Madison County Nature Trail on Green Mountain. (Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

SUMMER RECAPS AND FALL PREVIEW

Many of you have joined our Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group and participated in our hikes, nature walks and bike rides in the greater Huntsville area.

If you have not yet joined this MIG and want to receive details about coming activities, sign up at the link below and agree to the blanket release/waiver form. You must have a valid OLLI membership to join the MIG and participate in its activities.

Join the MIG: forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9.

Below is a list of MIG activities planned for this fall. After joining, mark your calendar for the activities that interest you.

Each activity registration link will be sent to MIG members two or three weeks before the activity. These outings are perfect opportunities to be physically active, enjoy the outdoors, explore and learn about your environment, and interact with your fellow OLLI and MIG members!

Recaps of summer events

Nature walk at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, May 4 — MIG members strolled along the Flint River to discover and learn about wildflowers, trees, cicadas, Indian shell mounds, a small tupelo swamp and more.

Hike at Monte Sano State Park, June 2 — Hikers explored the South Plateau Loop on a sunny afternoon.

Sunset hike at Blevins Gap Nature Preserve, June 21 — Our hiking group explored the Varnedoe trail before watching a beautiful sunset over Huntsville.

Nature walk at Indian Creek Greenway, June 29 — Members enjoyed a leisurely walk while seeing and hearing many birds pointed out by Dr. Ken Ward, a local birding expert.

Nature walk and bike ride at Redstone Arsenal trail/greenway, July 13 — Walkers explored the flora and other natural features along the trail, while bikers rode about 15 miles and visited several outdoor displays of military and space hardware.

Next MIG activity

- Saturday, Aug. 24 — **Nature walk at Madison County Nature Trail** (Green Mountain), 9-11 a.m. Look for waterfowl on the lake, discover the covered bridge and old cabin, and explore the woods during this 1.5-mile easy walk along a mostly flat, mostly shaded crushed gravel trail.

Fall semester MIG activities

- Sunday, Sept. 29 — **Nature walk at Point Mallard Park** (Decatur), 3-5 p.m. Walk the Bill Sims/Chief Black Fox Trail, an easy, flat trail along the shoreline (2 to 3 miles out and back). Watch for waterfowl.
- Sunday, Oct. 13 — **Hike at Rainbow Mountain** (Madison), 1-3 p.m. Hike the Rainbolt Trail and a portion of the Rainbow Loop Trail, about 2 miles round trip. Gain just over 200 feet in elevation (switchbacks) to the top of Rainbow Mountain; see Balanced Rock.
- Saturday, Oct. 26 — **Bike ride at Bradford Creek and Mill Creek Greenways** (Madison), 10 a.m.-noon. Ride on paved paths along the creeks. Total ride length is about 7 miles.
- Saturday, Nov. 23. **Hike at Hickory Cove Nature Preserve** (Huntsville), 10 a.m.-noon. Trail length is about 2 miles, with some rocky terrain and an elevation gain of about 200 feet.

See you on the trail!

Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones

Member Interest Groups

HIKING & BIKING MIG'S SPRING AND SUMMER



Nature walk at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, May 4



Hike at Monte Sano State Park, June 2



Nature walk at Indian Creek Greenway, June 29

(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

Member Interest Groups

MORE ADVENTURES OF HIKING & BIKING MIG



Sunset hike at Blevins Gap Nature Preserve, June 21



Nature walk and bike ride at Redstone Arsenal trail/greenway, July 13

(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger, Randy Boyette and Steve Stewart)

Member Interest Groups

EXPLORE ART WITH THE ARTIST STUDIO MIG

The Artist Studio Member Interest Group made Huntsville field trips in April, May and June and is planning a program Aug. 30 about art nouveau and art deco. All OLLI members are welcome at these events.

A field trip is arranged on the third Friday of every month. We meet around 11 a.m. somewhere, have lunch, and then proceed about 1:30 to our weekly 2 p.m. meeting in Wilson Hall.

In April, our MIG visited Closet of the Spiderweb Lady, a tiny studio of Anne Clopton, the world's foremost "cobweb artist" for 30 years. Cobweb art, also known as gossamer painting, is a lost art form that involves painting on cobwebs that are stretched over a mat. The painstaking process began around the 16th century with monks and peasant artists.

In May, a docent led us on a tour of the Huntsville Museum of Art exhibition "American Made — Two Centuries of American Creativity."

The DeMell-Jacobsen exhibition was organized in 2022 and is recognized as one of the top privately held collections of American art in the world. The exhibition began with Colonial-era portraits by masters, such as Benjamin West, Thomas Sully and Sarah Peale. The exhibit then highlighted mid-19th-century landscape painting by artists including Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, Childe Hassam and William Bradford. The show included still-life and genre scenes, with masterpieces by Elizabeth Jane Gardner, Seymour Guy and Daniel Huntington. The American experience in Europe was represented by Childe Hassam, Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent.

In June, the Artist Studio MIG visited "Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience," a 360-degree digital art exhibition that explored the universe of Vincent van Gogh. The visual reality experience (digital displays, sound effects, atmospheric light) described the artist's life and artworks and gave insights into his paintings. The show opened in 2017, and CNN named it



Top to bottom: Cobweb artist Anne Clopton and her "Four Red Roses" (1953); Gustav Klimt's "The Maiden." Jean Krieger at Huntsville Museum of Art and John F. Francis' "Strawberries and Cakes." Self-portraits of Vincent van Gogh; Lynda Lamitie at the van Gogh exhibit.

one of the 12 best immersive experiences in the world.

Join us at noon on Aug. 30 in Wilson Hall to learn about art nouveau and art deco, including the work of Gustav Klimt. We will offer a 30-minute PowerPoint with discussion on the styles and artists associated with movements.

"The artist must be a mirror of his time," Klimt said. He also observed that "art is a bridge between the soul and the world" and "art is long; life is short."

Klimt's quotes summarize the timeless nature of artistic expression. Art

has the ability to transcend time, allowing ideas, emotions and stories to be preserved and appreciated for generations.

Klimt (1862-1918) was an Austrian painter and founder of the Vienna Secession, a group of avant-garde artists. Klimt is famous for his Golden Phase, displaying intricate mosaics and glittering gold foil effects. He was best known as a painter of women (sensual nudes and femme fatales) and for symbolist paintings.

Jean Krieger
Chair, Artist Studio MIG

Travel Committee

NEW FISCAL YEAR, MORE TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



New fiscal years always offer change and opportunities, and so it is for the OLLI travel program.

First, David Sayre, newly elected OLLI Board of Directors member, is taking on

leadership of the OLLI Travel Committee. David brings a wealth of experience to the travel program, having spent several decades planning and making business and pleasure trips. Welcome, David!

Outgoing co-chairs Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein will remain active on the committee and look forward to making trips and contributing new ideas for venues. All members, new and returning, are encouraged to think about your own wish lists for travel. Make your ideas known to OLLI's Travel Committee — join it, in fact.

For a little recap of the trips we've taken since the pandemic stopped us in our tracks, OLLI-sponsored trips have included national parks Southwestern loop with Grand Circle Travel; Alaska with OLLI at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; Canadian Maritimes with GTC; Philadelphia art tour with Road Scholar; Southern California collections and gardens with RS; Georgia barrier islands with RS; and Ireland in depth with GCT (see below).

We need trip coordinators to make any trip come to fruition, and we need your ideas and experience with traveling to make OLLI travel even better!

Summer 2024 adventures abroad

Several OLLI members left for a pre-trip to Northern Ireland over the July Fourth weekend. Other OLLI members joined them later for the full two-week core trip in the Republic of Ireland. Some of the travelers sent early photographs in time to make this newsletter.

Grand Circle provides excellent educational insights into the history and culture of their featured stops, including home-hosted meals with Irish families. Sue Farbman is the OLLI coordinator for this trip. We look forward to more snapshots from Dublin, Kilkenny, Cork, Kilarney, Ring of Kerry and Galway. Watch for future *Insider* articles.

A large contingent of OLLI folks will travel to Iceland in September. Chris Stuhlinger worked with Nanda Journeys to flesh out the itinerary and accommodations on this exciting 10-day tour of the island. This is our first partnership with Nanda Journeys for OLLI at UAH travel, and we're expecting great results. The trip has reached maximum capacity, having 30 OLLI members registered for the journey of a lifetime. Look for stories and photos from the travelers to Iceland in future *OLLI Insider* editions.



OLLI travelers visited Sean's Bar in Athlone, Westmeath, Ireland, on July 13. Recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as Ireland's oldest pub, it traces its history back to A.D. 900. No older bars have been found anywhere in the world, according to Sean's website.

(Photo from Sam Campbell)

New travel opportunities in 2025

- **Two Worlds of Peru: The Inca Highlands & the Amazon:** Friday, June 13, to Friday, June 27, 2025 (note the change of dates from the first announcement). 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. Investigate this exciting adventure at tinyurl.com/olli-peru2025. Contact Bob Darnall at olli.info@uah.edu if you have questions.
- **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. See details at tinyurl.com/olli-pittsburgh2025. Please contact Michelle Laverty for more information at olli.info@uah.edu.

(continued on the next page)

Travel Committee

MORE TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES, CONT

OLLI Travel Committee — continuing to explore

Several venues have been on the drawing boards for a couple of years now, just waiting for the right trip leader to step forward and search out our best options. We have had good feedback about several of these ideas:

- New Mexico, visiting Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos, Ghost Ranch, Los Alamos; in late fall
- Western Adriatic Sea by small ship with ports of call in Croatia and neighboring countries or land excursion; in late summer or early fall
- New Orleans, Acadiana (Cajun country) or Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay area; spring or fall. Other regional, close-by destinations such as historic and cultural sites in Arkansas, Kentucky and Mississippi; spring or fall
- Pacific Northwest, combining northern California, Oregon and Washington state via coastal ship or inland coach travel

Opportunities for foreign travel abound, and suggestions from members range from Mediterranean countries to Alpine lakes and everything in between. Focused destinations with cooking, vineyards and museum emphases are popular with our travelers. Nanda Journeys presented a trip to South Africa that is comprehensive in nature and at an excellent price point. This latter is under review now. Let us hear from you about any of these ideas.

Did you know that traveling with OLLI means big adventures abroad and nearby excursions on weekends, too? Please, bring your suggestions to the OLLI Travel Committee. Contact David Sayre or other members of the committee at olli.info@uah.edu.

Happy trails!

Jane McBride (outgoing)
David Sayre (incoming)
Travel Committee Chairs

OLLI Life

CONCERT BRINGS ZOOM CLASS TOGETHER IN AUBURN



"What Ever Happened to Folk Music?," an OLLI Alabama Shares class from Auburn University, has been meeting on Zoom since the pandemic. Pat Victor, one of the teachers, was invited to perform at Sundilla Concerts in Auburn. The folk music class took advantage of the concert to hold their first in-person meeting in Auburn. UAH OLLI member David Styers provided these pictures.

Travel Committee

TRAVELERS SEE IRELAND IN DEPTH, JULY 13-27



(Photos from Glen Adams, Sam Campbell and Nancy Darnall)

People of OLLI

ANELISSE IS HERE TO HELP YOU

For the past year, OLLI members who have had trouble enrolling for courses or getting parking passes have been met by the smiling and welcoming Anelisse Westmeyer, the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Originally UAH's noncredit registration office coordinator, Anelisse became the OLLI registration office coordinator on May 1. Anelisse is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Anelisse spent her early years in Castaic, California, where she lived with her parents and two younger brothers until 1995, when her father's job was transferred to Huntsville's Rocketdyne engineering firm. She grew up drawing, writing and playing soccer.

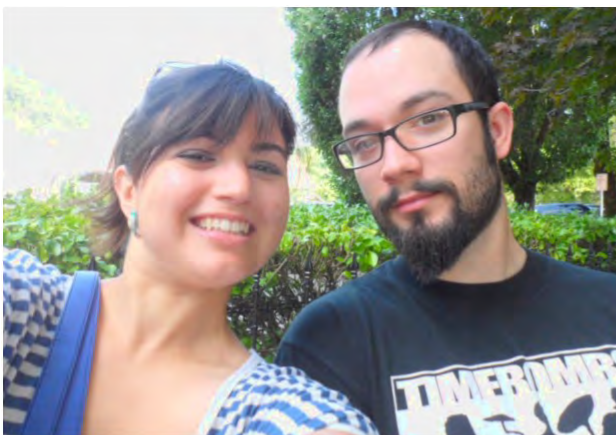
"I started playing soccer in the third grade in the American Youth Soccer Association and kept playing until my junior year in high school," said Anelisse.

When she was ready for college, she hoped to study fashion design, but her father said no. Her second pick was English. After a couple of years at Calhoun Community College, she transferred to The University of Alabama, where she majored in English with a minor in creative writing.

"I worked part time throughout high school and college in the restaurant and retail industries and was able to develop my customer service skills while dealing with a wide variety of customers and complaints," said Anelisse.

After graduation, she returned home to figure out what she wanted to attempt next.

"A job opened at the Space and Rocket Center for a Space Camp counselor," said Anelisse. "I had never been able to go to camp as a child, so I decided that's what I should do next. It was generally a great experience. The job changed from week to week. I got to tote around children from all over



Anelisse Westmeyer and husband Tyler; their wedding, where balloons dropped and clung to her dress; and Anelisse with astronaut Hoot Gibson and colleagues during her time at Space Camp. Anelisse is directly to Gibson's left (from the photographer's perspective).

the country and globe and even play an extra in movies shot there."

After trying tutoring and baby-sitting, Anelisse decided it was time to make some real money working at Redstone Title Co., which acts as the middleman for mortgages. The Huntsville market boom and then the pandemic kept her very busy — too busy.

"Burnout is real, and the call of academics was strong," said Anelisse. "So, I decided to apply to UAH for the noncredit registration office coordinator position.

"It's been a great breath of fresh air to work with OLLI and meet all the members and be able to help with registration and other matters. The job is always a challenge, but we all manage to get things done. I look forward to

getting even more involved with OLLI programming."

Her boss Clay Williams says: "We are happy to have Anelisse fully on board as our OLLI registration coordinator. Her energetic personality provides great customer service to our members."

Anelisse has been married to Tyler for 13 years. Tyler works at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center fixing the rides and displays, a much more technical job than Anelisse's old job there. They share the parenting of their 4-year-old puppy, Menchi. Anelisse also enjoys playing aunt to her brother and brother-in-law's kids.

Thanks, Anelisse, for all you do for OLLI!

By Glen Adams

Volunteer of the Year

AND THIS YEAR'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR IS ...



Unless you've been hiding under a basket or ignoring the weekly *eNews*, you know that this year's Volunteer of the Year is Steve Stewart.

Whenever anything is going on, you will usually see Steve, camera in hand, taking pictures. He's covered special outings, bonuses, various classes and our semester open houses.

Steve served as chair of the Public Relations Committee for OLLI before giving up those duties to be editor of *The OLLI Insider*, our monthly newsletter. Steve's continued support of all aspects of OLLI, as well as his tremendous work on *The Insider*, made him the perfect selection for this award.

A current board member, Steve also serves on several committees, facilitates classes, and teaches courses. His dedication is an inspiration to all of us. Driving from Decatur for OLLI events, he is always around.

Steve joined OLLI in 2019 and became copy editor of *The OLLI Insider* that fall. Steve was a newspaper reporter and editor (most recently at *The Decatur Daily*), and he ran a weekly newspaper and a printing shop in Monroeville.



Janet Reville, OLLI's 2022 Volunteer of the Year, congratulates Steve Stewart, the 2024 Volunteer of the Year. (Photo by Justin Clay)

He retired in 2019 after 10 years as an assistant professor of journalism at Troy University — teaching classes on campus, in Malaysia, in China and online. In addition, he advised the student newspaper staff, organized events and served as a liaison to the newspaper industry.

The next time you see Steve in the hallway or at an event with his camera, smile big and say "Hi!" and "Congratulations!"

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair

Member Interest Groups

KOREAN DINING

The Dine Out Member Interest Group met at Garam Korean Restaurant on April 25. Bibimbap, bulgogi and other traditional entrees were on the menu. (Photo from Sandra Dabrowski)



This Moment in History

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

August: Welcome to the Atomic Age

The idea of nuclear fission — splitting the nucleus of an atom — emerged as the result of scientific discoveries that stretched over several centuries, beginning in 1789, when German scientist Martin Klaproth discovered the dense, metallic element he called uranium.

In April 1898, stemming from her doctoral thesis research, Marie Curie found that the element was naturally radioactive. It was she who created the term “radioactive” to describe the emission of electromagnetic particles from disintegrating atoms. That discovery forever changed the nature of atomic science. Building from Curie’s research, in 1911, British physicist Ernest Rutherford formulated a model of the atom in which low-mass electrons orbited a charged nucleus that contained the bulk of the atom’s mass.

The 1930s was a time of international debilitation in the aftermath of World War I, and a rebuilding German state surged to the forefront of scientific study. In 1933, Hungarian-German physicist Leo Szilard conceived the possibility of self-sustaining nuclear fission reactions, known as the nuclear chain reaction. The following year, Italian physicist Enrico Fermi unknowingly split neutrons within uranium while conducting his own experiments.

The actual development of an atomic bomb began in 1938, when nuclear physicists Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner and Fritz Strassman were among the first to achieve the successful fission of uranium in a Berlin laboratory. Nuclear fission is a reaction that occurs when a heavy nucleus of uranium or plutonium splits into smaller nuclei, releasing energy and neutrons in the process.

When news of Hahn and Meitner’s discovery of fission reached Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard in his New York City home in early 1939, he began work to confirm their findings. Szilard found help in collaborator Walter Zinn,



Albert Einstein (left) with Leo Szilard; Otto Hahn with Lise Meitner; a 1945 letter from Einstein to President Franklin Roosevelt.

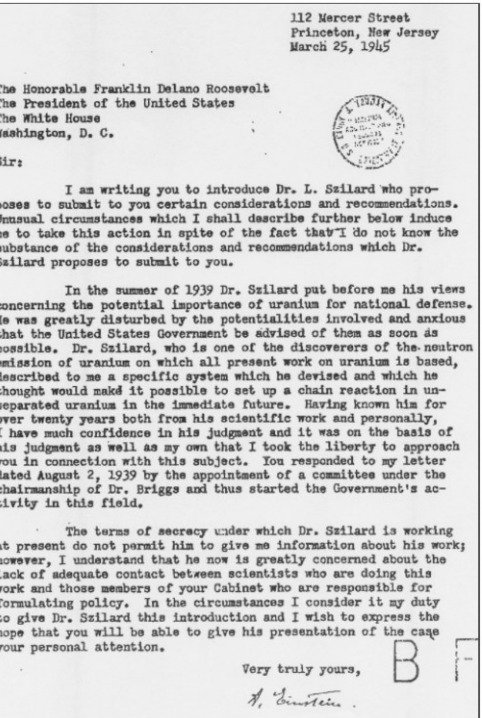


(Photos from Atomic Heritage Foundation, National Archives and Harry S. Truman Presidential Library)

and together they re-created Hahn’s experiment. Recognizing the significance of that moment, Szilard stated, “That night, there was very little doubt in my mind that the world was headed for grief.” Szilard began to work with Fermi to construct a nuclear reactor at Columbia University, but as they did, Szilard feared that scientists in Germany, who were aiding the Nazi war effort, were similarly constructing their own reactors.

Meitner’s findings had become a tipping point in the development of nuclear weapons, and as the world moved yet again into war, it was the Germans who held the potential key to nuclear power. While Hahn chose to remain in Germany and continued to develop his research throughout World War II, scientists across Europe steadily fled.

Szilard, a Jewish man, migrated to the United States in 1938 to avoid persecution. Fermi and his wife, Laura Capon, also left Europe at the end of 1938 to escape growing fascism in



Italy. In July 1939, Szilard contacted the prominent Jewish German theoretical physicist Albert Einstein at his home on Long Island, New York, to discuss German advances in nuclear development.

Initially, the idea had been simply to draft a letter to Belgian authorities warning them of the danger of exporting Congolese uranium ore to Germany. But Hungarian-American theoretical physicist Eugene Paul Wigner suggested that writing the head of a foreign government without approval from the U.S. Department of State might be a bad idea. They contacted Professor Einstein, who wrote the letter in German, planning to send it with a cover letter to Foggy Bottom for consideration. But then they decided to send it instead directly to President Franklin Roosevelt. “It could not do any harm to try this way,” Szilard wrote to Einstein.

(continued on the next page)

This Moment in History

DID YOU KNOW ...?

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY, CONT

Together, Szilard and Einstein drafted their letter, dated Aug. 2, 1939. The warning it held was clear: "This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable — though much less certain — that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed." In essence, the world's most famous scientist was telling the president of the world's most powerful country that he should start to think about creating and unleashing a weapon of unimaginable impact based on the power of the atom.

The letter, delivered by economist Alexander Sachs, did not reach Roosevelt until Oct. 11, but once he learned of the potential risks presented by nuclear weaponry, he responded by forming the Advisory Committee on Uranium, which held its first meeting on Oct. 21, 1939.

In Walter Isaacson's biography of Einstein, he quotes the conversation:

"Alex, what you're after is to see that the Nazis don't blow us up," the president said.

"Precisely," Sachs replied.

Roosevelt called in his personal assistant. "This requires action," he declared. That evening, plans were made to form an ad hoc committee to provide that action.

Unfortunately, the world's most famous scientist was not to be a part of the program he began. The professor, it seems, had waved a number of red flags in the eyes of the FBI bull because of his support of various pacifist and political groups, including participating in the World Antiwar Congress in Amsterdam in 1932. So, FBI Direc-

tor J. Edgar Hoover, saying Einstein was pro-Soviet, denied his request for a security clearance.

The conclusion of his report read as follows: "In view of his radical background, this office would not recommend the employment of Dr. Einstein on matters of a secret nature, without a very careful investigation, as it seems unlikely that a man of his background could, in such a short time, become a loyal American citizen."

The following year, the Navy gave Dr. Einstein such a clearance, but the Army never could.

Thus, as a result of Einstein's prodding, but eschewing his guiding hand, America introduced the world to the age of nuclear holocaust.

By John Mason

OLLI Life

'SPACE MONKEYS' ON STAGE

Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy presented "Space Monkeys: The Adventures of Baker & Able" on May 9-12. The story is about America's pioneer monkey astronauts. Eisley Yaw played Hans, a monkey handler. Her character is based on Chris Stuhlinger, an OLLI member who worked with the squirrel monkey known as Miss Baker (1957-1984) at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. Several OLLI members and friends were advisers to the production.



People of OLLI

ARTIST DONATES A WATERCOLOR TO OLLI

Diane Hollingshead, a member of the Artist Studio MIG, is a reluctant artist. She has always dabbled in art but didn't believe that she was a worthy artist until the OLLI Art Festival called for entries to be submitted for the Wilson Hall Art Gallery exhibit, held in March and April.

Because she is a member of the Artist Studio MIG, Diane brought a few pieces of her art that had been stored in closets, not framed, and almost forgotten to the MIG for members to see. Everyone who saw her painting "Solitary" thought it was outstanding — they could relate to it, and it was a well-executed watercolor. Yes, we said, it must be entered into the exhibit!

And so Diane submitted "Solitary," along with one other artwork, to the exhibit in Wilson Hall Art Gallery. When the

artworks in the gallery were taken down and artists were picking up their treasures, Diane offered "Solitary" to me because I'd liked it so much. Immediately, I said that "this belongs to OLLI — I only met you through OLLI; you exhibited this painting at an OLLI event; and this will commemorate the OLLI Art Festival of 2024."

I had it framed with an acknowledgment. It now hangs over the bench donated by the Academy of Lifelong Learning in the Wilson Hall registration office.

Stop by to see Diane's beautiful painting when you are in Wilson Hall.

Jane McBride
Chair, OLLI Art Festival

Jane McBride, Diane Hollingshead and Jean Krieger (left to right) are sitting on the bench in the OLLI registration office in front of "Solitary," the painting that Diane donated. Jean is the chair of the Artist Studio MIG.



OLLI Life

TRASH PANDAS BASEBALL GAME, JULY 12



(Photos from Nancy Darnall)

People of OLLI

THEY CONNECTED ON NEARPEER AND FORMED A READING GROUP

The OLLI Reads group met recently to discuss their first book selection, “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick. This new book club evolved from an interest group that began on Nearpeer, the exclusive social network for OLLI at UAH. John Syster is the group facilitator.

If you would like to join these OLLI bibliophiles or other interest groups, then sign up and create your profile on Nearpeer. Join the group(s) that interest you to receive notifications and communicate with other members about upcoming events, meet-ups, etc.

The OLLI Reads group has already selected “Heaven and Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride as the next book for discussion.



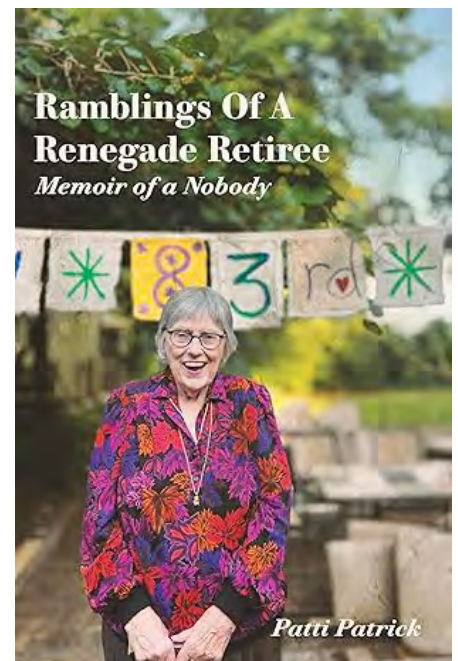
From left are Pam Collopy, Betty Koval, John Syster, Jill Stewart, John Mason and Alison Toney

PATTI PATRICK PUBLISHES MEMOIR

OLLI member Patti Patrick published a book in July: “Ramblings of a Renegade Retiree: Memoir of a Nobody.”

The 229-page book, available in paperback and online at tinyurl.com/patrick-book, “tells her life stories, in that rich southern drawl that comes through even on the printed page, with honesty, humor, and evident love for her people and places,” said clinical psychologist Margaret Bibb. She noted that Patti rebuilt her life after Hurricane Katrina.

Huntsville Times columnist Beth Thames wrote: “Patrick’s memoir reveals her to be an adventuress, a survivor, and a person so involved with living that she forgot to die, even after having cancer and a full cardiac arrest.”



ANNUAL MEETING AT BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Members got together at Burritt on the Mountain on May 14 for food, music, reflections on the past year and the coming one, and awards honoring teachers and volunteers.



(Photos by Steve Stewart, Patrice Stewart and Marsha Langlois)

ROAD TRIPS TO CULLMAN AND MONTEVALLO



Cullman: Renew Your Spirit and Soul, June 5



Beacon of Liberty: The American Village and Montevallo, July 11

(Photos from Clay Williams and Jill Stewart)

The Last Word

HELP TEACH HEALTH CARE BY ROLE PLAYING

The UAH College of Nursing's accredited Simulation and Learning Innovation Center seeks standardized patients (SPs) to enhance health care education through realistic simulations. SPs play a vital role in training future health care professionals by simulating real patient scenarios.

An SP is trained to consistently portray a patient (or the patient's family member) with a specific medical condition, including presenting medical history, physical symptoms, body language and emotional states. This role helps provide students and professionals with realistic, repeatable clinical encounters.

Benefits of being an SP include contributing to students' education, learning about health care, and gaining acting experience. SPs work flexible hours and earn \$15 per hour.

Responsibilities include:

- Accurately portraying medical history, symptoms and emotional states.
- Maintaining consistent portrayals across sessions for uniform learner experience.
- Providing constructive feedback to improve learners' clinical skills.

No prior medical or acting experience is required. Comprehensive training is provided to help SPs understand medical conditions, develop appropriate body language, and fulfill other responsibilities.

A typical simulation experience involves:

1. Reviewing case details with SP trainers.
2. Interacting with learners in a simulated clinical setting at the UAH College of Nursing and presenting the case realistically. Other learners and facilitators may watch from another room.
3. Participating in debriefing sessions to discuss performance and provide feedback.
4. Engaging in multiple simulation sessions to ensure consistency.



By acting as a patient or family member, you can help provide realistic scenarios to train health care students and professionals.

Bookings are arranged at least two to four weeks in advance, based on specific case requirements like age, gender and role complexity. Offers are sent mainly by email.

We seek reliable, punctual and professional individuals with strong communication skills, the ability to follow detailed instructions, and a genuine interest in health care education.

To apply or for more information, contact Mary Deason at mmm0048@uah.edu.

Your contribution can help shape the skills and competencies of future health care providers, ensuring better patient care for all.

Mary Deason, Manager
Simulation and Learning Innovation Center
UAH College of Nursing



Your LEGACY. Our FUTURE.

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) have always been a great way to support OLLI while guaranteeing you another source of income. Rising CGA rates make this savvy gift even better.

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