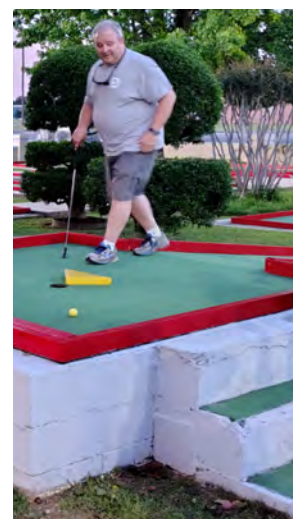


The OLLI INSIDER

August 2026

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



LEARNING, GROWING, SEARCHING, ROVING, STARTING A NEW YEAR

Top to bottom, left to right: Downtown Rescue Mission, Lowe Mill scavenger hunt, membership milestone, new board President Marsha Langlois with husband John, geocaching, putt-putt golf, a boat across Lake Bled in Slovenia, and Constitution Hall Park.



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From the Editor

AS BIG JIM FOLSOM MIGHT SAY, ‘Y’ALL COME’ TO OLLI



*When you live in the country
Everybody is your neighbor
On this one thing you can rely
They'll all come to see you
And never, ever leave you
Sayin' you all come to see us by and by
Y'all come ...*

*—A Bill Monroe song
that became a campaign
theme for Big Jim Folsom*

A giant walked in and showed me what he meant by “Y’all Come.”

Big Jim Folsom was 67, a 6-foot-8 former two-term governor of Alabama. I was a 23-year-old weekly newspaper editor. He showed up at my Monroeville office in 1974 without an entourage, much less a string band. He told me about his campaign for a third term.

“Y’all Come” was more than a folksy slogan. His platform, outlined on a card he gave me, aspired to get people involved and meet their needs. It was specific and bold: abolishing sales tax on all food, providing “cradle-to-grave” free hospital care for all, and blacktopping every mailbox road. He wanted to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment for gender equity. And he proposed a convention to take on the 1901 Alabama constitution, seen by many as unfair to the unprivileged.

Big Jim had been an inclusive governor for the mid-20th century. He sided with little people against “Big Mules.” He invited Adam Clayton Powell, a controversial Black congressman, to the Governor’s Mansion for drinks.

George Wallace defeated Folsom in 1974, but Folsom remains an influence and an inspiration. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (now the U.S. secretary of health and human services) wrote in 1978 that Folsom “could be described as a mentor” for federal Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., who compelled state officials to fulfill some of Big Jim’s ambitions for Alabama.

“Y’all” is a good word. The Word Smarts website says it predates the American South. A 1631 poem by English poet William Lisle includes “this y’all know is true.”

“Y’all Come” could be a recruiting slogan for OLLI. Our group is growing — recently having exceeded 1,000 members — and gaining diversity. We need to spread the word that everyone is welcome here and that we enjoy their company and benefit from it.

Now we know: My column in May about being “elderly” included a photo of bumper stickers in the OLLI parking lot. “There will come a day when I cannot do this,” one said.



Printmaker Erin Hayward’s studio at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment in Huntsville and Gov. Big Jim Folsom, c. 1947. (Photos by Steve Stewart and from Encyclopedia of Alabama via Wikimedia Commons)

“Today is not the day.” Below it, the other sticker said, “10k.” I said I wanted to meet the owner of those stickers, and now I have: Greg Wildman. He is an OLLI member and a runner.

Inside The Insider: Glen Adams profiles Marsha Langlois, new chair of the OLLI Board of Directors. Marsha’s column is about starting the school year, having reached the 1,000-member benchmark. Clay Williams also celebrates that achievement in his column.

Chris Stuhlinger and Alison Toney, co-chairs of the Events Committee, describe eight events scheduled for the fall. John Mason congratulates winners of the annual photo contest and Volunteers of the Year Alison Toney and Peter Finzel. We show you the winning photos.

Anelisse Westmeyer explains the waitlist and the calendar view in the online registration system. David Sayre says a trip to Japan is in the works, and Jane McBride details the itinerary for Arkansas travelers. Steve Goodman describes OLLI’s tour of the Dalmatian coast and Greece.

We have reports from Donna Berger, new chair of the Social Committee, as well as member interest groups for dining, art, reading and hiking. Three writers and several photographers update us about curriculum. Lee Roop marvels at what an iron rebar contributed to the U.S. space program. John Mason writes about how we got our national Bill of Rights and how a college student outsmarted his professor.

Steve Stewart
Editor, The OLLI Insider

From the President

STARTING A SCHOOL YEAR WITH 1,000 FRIENDS



As I begin my term as president of our Board of Directors, I want to express how honored I am to serve in this position.

I am following an exceptional group of past presidents. Our members and OLLI staff make this community a place where curiosity, friendship and lifelong learning thrive.

Late May brought the exciting news that we reached our goal of 1,000 active members. This achievement reflects the enthusiasm and commitment each of you brings to every class, discussion, trip and special event.

Thank you for helping us reach this long-desired goal. Please continue what you have been doing to share OLLI with your friends and in our community.

As I see displays for school supplies start appearing in stores, I always think about the excitement that I felt as a child when it was time to shop for school supplies for the new school year. Was this the year I could talk my mother into buying the Crayola 64 pack with the sharpener? (You can now purchase a box with 152 crayons and a sharpener — I am very tempted!)

I looked forward to a new teacher, a new classroom and seeing my friends that I had not seen over the summer vacation.

I realized that I am experiencing to some extent that same level of excitement as we approach the OLLI fall open house on Aug. 7. The start of a new semester offers opportunities to explore new subjects, develop new skills, meet new people and reconnect with familiar faces.

Whether you're a longtime member or considering joining for the first time, the open house is an opportunity to learn about our coming classes and activities, meet instructors, explore the "MIGs" (member interest groups), visit with friends, and discover all that our organization has to offer. (There will also be snow cones.)

I encourage each of you to invite a neighbor, friend or family member who might enjoy becoming part of our OLLI family.



The new academic year at OLLI brings memories of autumns long past: buying supplies, taking new classes with new teachers, seeing old and new friends.
(Art by [Kurt Baty](#), via Wikimedia Commons)

Every new member brings new experiences, perspectives and friendships that enrich us all.

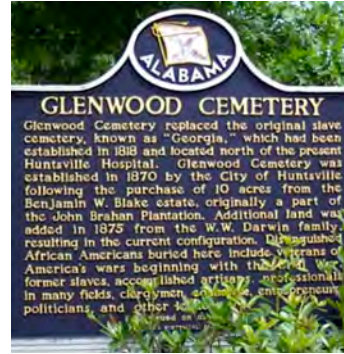
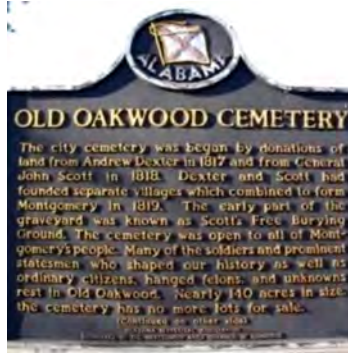
Looking ahead, my goal as board president is to build on the strong foundation established by those who have served before me. I am fortunate that this OLLI "ship" is on a steady course. We are very fortunate to have an OLLI staff that is dedicated to working with us to create a program providing learning opportunities where learning has no age limit.

I look forward to meeting those of you whom I don't know throughout the coming year and sharing in another semester filled with the joy of learning new things and meeting new people.

Thank you for your participation — and your love of lifelong learning.

Marsha Langlois
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

Events Committee



Locations of fall events (left to right, top to bottom): First Solar, Oakwood and Glenwood cemeteries, Hubert Family Farms, U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville Aquatics Center, Guntersville Museum, and Oral Arts Dental Laboratory. (Some photos are from websites.)

EVENTS SURVEY RESULTS AND FALL PREVIEW



Many thanks to all of you who responded to our recent events survey. It will take us a little while to process all the information, as we received more than 100 event ideas to last us for several years!

However, you want to be quite certain that you will be able to attend.

2. Cancel your registration as soon as you know that you cannot attend an event. Many of our events fill up and require a waitlist. If we know that you must cancel, we can move someone from the waitlist to take your place. Some venues need an accurate headcount in advance.

Event recaps

Downtown Rescue Mission, April 24 — OLLI members were treated to a fascinating overview of the Rescue Mission's facilities and programs. Founded in 1975, the facility offers lodging, meals, clothing, help and hope to two-thirds of our local homeless community (up to 400 at a time). The mission is faith-based but open to all. Funding comes from donations and seven thrift stores.

Lowe Mill scavenger hunt, May 29 — Our group formed three teams of four, and each team searched for up to 20 specific items in the studios. The winning team received free ice cream at the Fizzy Flapper Ice Cream Parlor. Attendees had a good time, and the hunt provided an opportunity to see the large variety of arts studios at Lowe Mill.

(continued on the next page)

Note that some of the suggestions are not suitable for events and might be more appropriate as bonus lectures, courses or Travel Committee overnight activities.

The committee has scheduled eight events for the fall semester. See the preview list below.

As you consider which events you might want to attend, please keep in mind two important reminders for event registration:

1. Many of our events fill up, so it pays to register early.

Events Committee

FALL EVENTS PREVIEW, cont from previous page

Putt-putt golf and barbecue, June 3 — After enjoying a delicious dinner at Big Bob Gibson's Bar-B-Q, OLLI members formed two teams to play two rounds of putt-putt golf at Funland Mini Golf. Several members even made a few holes-in-one!

Huntsville Concert Band, June 9 — OLLI members were treated to an educational session by several band members, who explained their instruments and played a brief tune. This community band, formed in 1964, is composed of woodwind, brass and percussion musicians (all volunteers). They rehearsed for their July 4 performance at the celebration in Big Spring Park.

Constitution Hall Park, June 27 — OLLI members visited Alabama Constitution Hall Park, the site of Alabama's first constitutional convention, to learn how the residents of Huntsville lived in 1819. The tour included a visit to the carpenter shop where our guide, Alexander, demonstrated and discussed carpenter tools and several wood projects, including a sugar box, cradle and toys. Emily the blacksmith demonstrated the making of an iron nail and snail. Alexander demonstrated the authentic 19th century Ramage printing press that John Boardman ran in the print shop in his living room. He printed the weekly *Alabama Republican* newspaper and Alabama's constitution.

Fall events preview

- Thursday, Sept. 10 — **First Solar factory tour** (Trinity, near Decatur), 12:30-2:30 p.m. First Solar is America's leading photovoltaic (PV) solar technology and manufacturing company, providing a competitive and responsibly produced alternative to conventional crystalline silicon PV modules. Cost: none.
- Saturday, Sept. 12 — **Oakwood University Cemetery and Glenwood Cemetery** (Huntsville), 9 a.m.-noon. Join William Hampton from Huntsville Revisited as we enjoy a narrated tour of two historic Huntsville cemeteries: Oakwood University Memorial Gardens Cemetery and Glenwood Cemetery. The beautiful grounds honor pioneers and cultural icons, including Little Richard, and preserve sacred spaces such as the Historic Slave Cemetery. Glenwood Cemetery is a historic cemetery for African American burials founded about 1871. Cost: none (tips welcome).
- Friday, Sept. 25 — **Sunflowers at Hubert Family Farms** (New Market), 2-3:30 p.m. Learn about the history of the farm that has been in the Hubert family since 1917, the planting process for crops and flowers,

agriculture and agritourism. Relax and enjoy the beautiful sunflower fields, and have fun picking your own to take home. Cost: \$15 for admission and You-Pick cup of flowers (10 stems), or \$20 for admission and You-Pick bucket of flowers (25 stems).

- Thursday, Oct. 1 — **Biergarten under the Saturn V** (Huntsville), 5-7:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends to an evening of good food, live music, and fun under the Saturn V rocket at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. The beneficiary of this evening's charity fundraiser will be OLLI at UAH! Cost: Varies according to food order.
- Friday, Oct. 2 — **Water Aerobics at Huntsville Aquatics Center**, 1:45-3 p.m. Pool time! Get an easy-on-the-joints workout at the Huntsville Aquatic Center's instructional pool, a heated indoor pool with jets. Admission gets you the swim class and all-day swim, so get your swimsuit ready. Locker rooms are available, and there's a view of the lake you can enjoy afterward. Cost: \$4 (unless you already have a membership).
- Thursday, Oct. 15 — **Twickenham Ghost Walk** (Huntsville), 6-8 p.m. Hear stories from Huntsville's haunted past. The Twickenham Ghost Walk begins at Harrison Brothers and travels through the oldest streets in Huntsville. Stops include Helion Masonic Lodge, the LeRoy Pope mansion and Gov. Bibb's mansion, as well as the birthplace of Gen. John Hunt Morgan, known as "The Thunderbolt of the Confederacy." Cost: \$13 cash.
- Saturday, Oct. 17 — **Lunch, Guntersville Museum and Natural Bridge** (Guntersville), 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Enjoy an optional lunch at Wintzell's Oyster House. Explore the history and culture of the region, including Native American artifacts, Frank Nelson watercolors, and archival photos at the Guntersville Museum, located in the historic Rock Armory. See the Honeycomb Natural Bridge on the drive home. Cost: no charge for the museum; lunch cost varies according to food order.
- Friday, Oct. 23 — **Oral Arts Dental Laboratory** (Huntsville), 2-4 p.m. See firsthand how artistry, engineering and digital innovation come together to create the restorations that dentists use to provide function and appearance for their patients. We will observe both traditional bench techniques and the newest digital systems, including subtractive manufacturing, three-dimensional printing of resin dental models, and the use of lasers to create complex dental components. Cost: none.

Chris Stuhlinger and Alison Toney
Events Committee Co-chairs

Events Committee

DOWNTOWN RESCUE MISSION, APRIL 24



(Photos by Glen Adams and Chris Stuhlinger)

Events Committee

SCAVENGER HUNT AT LOWE MILL, MAY 29



(Photos by Andy Brown, Steve Schneefuss, Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

Events Committee

PUTT-PUTT GOLF AND BARBECUE, JUNE 3



(Photos from Anelisse Westmeyer, Chris Stuhlinger and Betty Koval)

Events Committee

HUNTSVILLE CONCERT BAND, JUNE 9



(Photos by Patrice Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

Events Committee

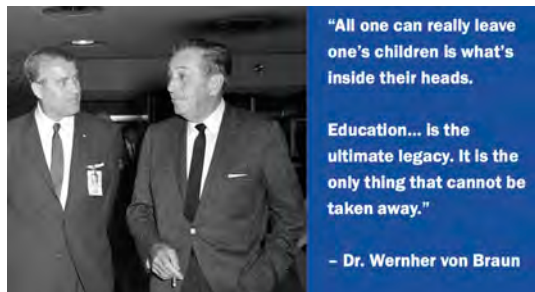
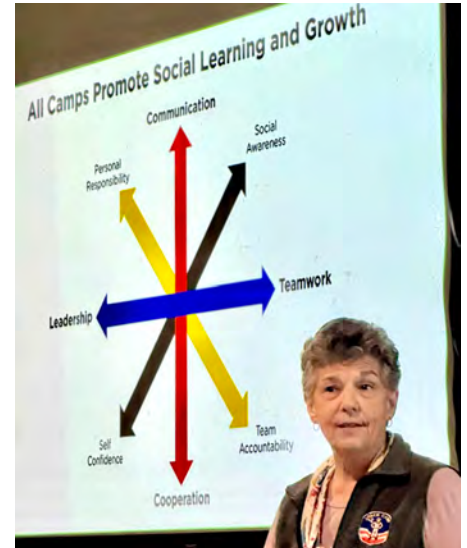
ALABAMA CONSTITUTION HALL PARK, JUNE 27



(Photos by Suezy Proctor, Patricia Haag and Chris Stuhlinger)

THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF SPACE CAMP

Robin Soprano, vice president of Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, presented a bonus lecture titled "Space Camp — Past, Present and Future" on May 1. The two men in the black-and-white photo are Wernher von Braun (left) and Walt Disney.



(Photos by Steve Stewart; other images from the speaker)

Social Committee

PARTAKE OF FOOD AND FUN; JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

The Social Committee is preparing for the OLLI open house and the fall semester.

The committee provides snacks for open house (Aug. 7) and Friday bonus events. Once the fall semester begins, we will continue the Tuesday Leisurely Lunch tradition. Watch the weekly OLLI eNews for announcements about coming lunches.

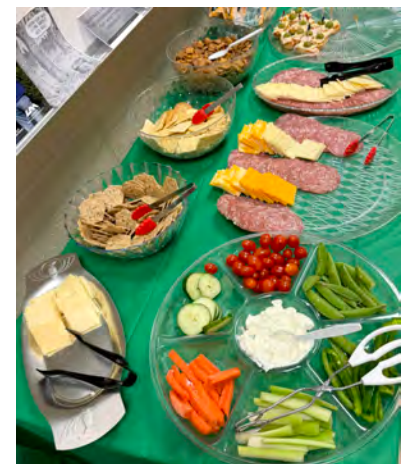
If you enjoy cooking, baking, providing food, helping with setup or cleanup, or creating simple



table decorations, we would love to have you join our committee. It is a fun way to meet fellow OLLI members — nothing brings people together like food!

If you are interested in joining the Social Committee, you can usually find one of us in the OLLI lounge (152D Wilson Hall). We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Donna Berger
Social Committee Chair



Marilynn Szecholda was honored with a cake May 1 as she stepped down after six years as chair of the Social Committee. She will remain a committee member. Members (middle photo, left to right) include Marie Arighi, Donna Berger, Marilynn Szecholda, Silvia Summers, Renee Kump, Leah Black, Dannye Drake and (not pictured) Laurie Lambert. The quotation on the board at left is attributed to Winston Churchill: "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." (Photos from Marie Arighi and Steve Stewart)

Member Services Committee



Volunteers of the Year Alison Toney and Peter Finzel are with John Mason (left photo) at OLLI's annual dinner May 19. Sue Farbman receives first place for the Philip Flowers Memorial Photo Contest (right photo). All the winning photos are on the next page.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBER WINNERS



What's the best thing about being a member of OLLI? It's the quality, friendliness and skills of our members, and I'm eternally grateful to be a part of this wonderful family.

So, as a parting column, let me take the time to congratulate our 2026 Volunteers of the Year and the winners of the 2026 Philip Flowers Memorial Photo Contest. They represent the

best of what OLLI is all about.

Part of the responsibility of being in a family is the realization that sometimes we have to step up in a time of need to do something for the greater good. And that's exactly the kind of unselfish commitment we look for in our Volunteer of the Year.

This year, we had two members who did just that: Alison Toney and Peter Finzel.

They filled the roles of the Board of Directors vice president for administration and finance (Alison) and treasurer (Peter) while those officers were traveling. These are two of the most important jobs in our organization, crucial to its effective operation.

Peter and Alison exemplify the ideal of volunteerism and

deserve our highest accolades. Congratulations to them!

We had 48 submissions for the annual Philip Flowers Memorial Photo Contest this year. The theme was "Nightlights," and I can tell you, we have some absolutely wonderful, artistic photographers out there. So let me also congratulate the five winners.

The two honorable mentions were Dannye Drake for "Sentinel" and Marsha Langlois for "Alabama Northern Lights"; in third place was Jeff Delmas for "M20 Trifid Nebula"; second place went to Alice Searcy for "Bar Harbor"; and this year's winner for her beautiful photograph "Moonlight & Clouds, Owens Crossroads" was Sue Farbman.

Congratulations, all! Your understanding of what makes art is amazing!

Winners' names and the photos they shot have been posted on the wall next to the OLLI volunteer office (151 Wilson Hall). So if you haven't seen them, stop by and take a look.

And next time you see these folks around campus, stop and tell them "Thanks!" for a job well done.

John Mason
Member Services Committee Chair, 2025-26

(Roxanne Pennington is serving as the committee chair for 2026-27.)

Member Services Committee

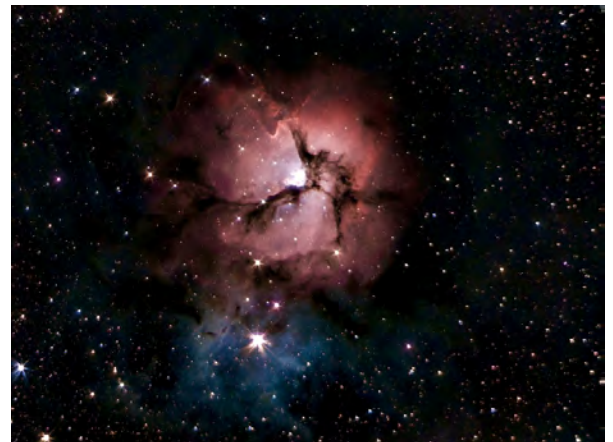
‘NIGHTLIGHTS’: 2026 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



First place: *Moonlight & Clouds, Owens Crossroads — Sue Farbman*

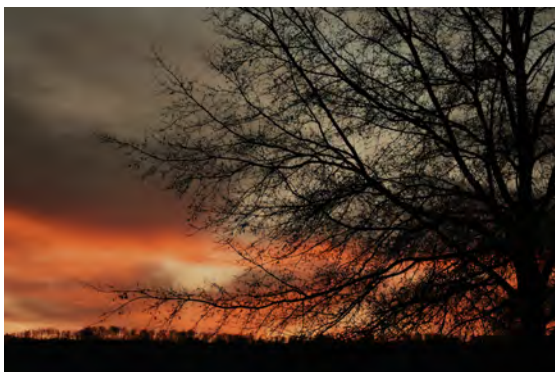


Second place:
Bar Harbor — Alice Searcy

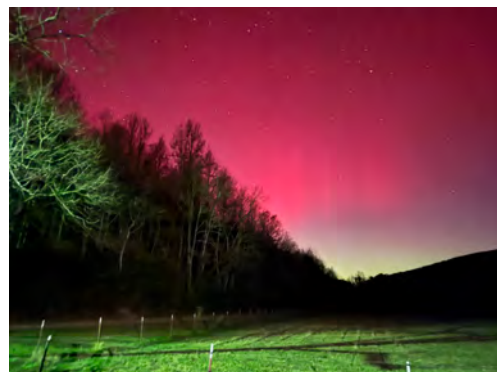


Third place:
M20 Trifid Nebula — Jeff Delmas

Honorable mention:
Sentinel — Danye Drake



Honorable mention:
Alabama Northern Lights — Marsha Langlois



TRANSITIONS, RECOGNITIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Walter Thames was the chef for OLLI's annual meeting and dinner on May 19 at Burritt on the Mountain. The Rocket City Bones Artisan Quartet entertained. Program Manager Clay Williams thanked outgoing board President Phil Graham, who passed the gavel to Marsha Langlois. UAH Provost David Puleo spoke, and Lisa Brunegraff accepted a T-shirt bearing her contest-winning OLLI slogan: "One Adventure after Another." The T-shirt is available at <https://tinyurl.com/olli-store>.



(Photos by Steve Stewart)

Course Spotlight

It's time to register for fall 2026 courses. You can register here: <https://olli.uah.edu/olliatuah/category/category.aspx>



TEXAS — FACT, FICTION AND FASCINATION

9/14 – 10/19 • M • 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. • 6 sessions • In person • H. Caughey • \$40

This course will examine the so-called “Texas Mystique” by reviewing the state’s gritty history and questionable legends, spiced with tales of bigger-than-life, legendary figures such as Sam Houston, Quanah Parker and Lyndon Baines Johnson. Additionally, we’ll consider why Texas retains such a global reputation to this day, as immortalized in part by movie and TV classics such as *Giant*, *Dallas*, *Lonesome Dove*, *No Country for Old Men* and *Friday Night Lights*.



LIFE’S COLLAGE

9/15 – 10/6 • Tu • 10:30 a.m. – noon • 4 sessions • Live virtual • S. Proctor • \$40

Every photograph tells two stories — the one in the frame and the one behind the lens. In this engaging course, we’ll explore compelling images by famous and lesser-known photographers, uncovering the lives, motivations, adventures, and sometimes surprising circumstances that shaped their work. Through story, discussion and visual discovery, you’ll see how photography becomes more than art — it becomes a collage of human experience, history and perspective.



INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

9/15 – 10/6 • Tu • 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. • 4 sessions • Online • H. Ahmad • \$40

In Introduction to Islam, you will explore the full sweep of the religion of Islam and answer your critiques and most essential questions about the second-largest and fastest-growing religion in the world. Ideal for beginners, this course answers questions of particular concern to Americans who care about the West’s relations with Islam. Listening to and discussing the topics will broaden your capacity for inter-religious dialogue and understanding of Abrahamic religions.



PERFORMANCE LAB: IMPROVISATION & RECITATION

9/17 – 10/22 • Th • 1:15 – 2:45 pm • 6 sessions • In person, off campus • K. Burkhardt • \$40

Explore creativity, confidence, and connection through the art of performance. This course combines improvisation basics, public speaking exercises, and oral recitation in a welcoming and supportive environment. Participants will experiment with theater games, storytelling, poetry, historical speeches and monologues while building communication skills, stage presence and self-expression. No previous theater experience is required — just a willingness to learn, play, and share your voice.

Save 20%

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

Curriculum Committee

LOOK BEYOND OUR BORDERS ... AND INTO THE MIRROR



By Suezy Proctor

One of the joys of OLLI is discovering just how much lifelong learners still want to learn. As we think about future curriculum at OLLI at UAH, one question naturally arises: *What are*

other OLLIs teaching that we are not? That question led me on a little road trip — without ever leaving my chair.

I reviewed selected course offerings from OLLI programs in 13 states, looking for ideas that might be a good fit for our members in Huntsville. The variety was impressive. Courses ranged from history, science, and current events to art, travel, wellness and technology.

A sampling included topics such as *The Power of Documentary Film*, *A History of American Fashion*, *Order in the Court: Demystifying the Judicial System*, *Sleep as Sacred Practice*, *Modern Money and Its Consequences*, *Landscape Photographers in the U.S. and Their Work*, and even member-led “armchair travel” sessions. The takeaway? There is no shortage of possibilities!

Scouring OLLI programs across the country is a wonderful place to start when searching for fresh ideas. But OLLI isn't the only place to look.

Right here in the greater Huntsville area, other organizations serving adults 50-plus are also offering learning, enrichment and connection. Programs such as LearningQUEST, Meetup groups, Alabama A&M's Center for Extended Studies, community and senior centers, Studio 60, Steady for Life, and GetSetUp all offer experiences that may spark ideas for future classes, workshops or discussions.



ChatGPT selected a few course titles offered by other OLLIs from Suezy Proctor's list and used its imagination to generate this cartoon.

But perhaps the most overlooked source of inspiration is much closer. The mirror.

For those of us over 50, life experience is not a limitation, it's a curriculum library.

Careers, travel, military service, hobbies, volunteer work, collecting, family history, creative pursuits, lessons learned the hard way, passions pursued for decades — these are all fertile ground for meaningful four- to six-week classes.

Some of my own classes grew directly from personal interests and experiences. This fall, I'll be teaching *Self-Publishing*, drawn from my own writing and publishing journey. Another class, *Life's Collage*, explores how photographers tell personal stories through their collected images and visual perspective. Using books from my own collection — along with some of my own photography — we'll look at how images become biography, memory and story.

Neither class began with a textbook. They began with lived experience. That may be the hidden invitation for many of us at OLLI.

You do not need to be a professor to teach an engaging class. Sometimes you simply need curiosity, enthusiasm, and a willingness to share what you know.

Have you restored antique cars? Traveled Route 66? Raised orchids? Navigated military life? Studied genealogy? Built furniture? Learned a craft? Managed a business? Volunteered in a fascinating role? Survived an unusual chapter of life that taught you something worth sharing? Someone in this community would probably love to learn from you.

So yes — let's continue looking outward, borrowing bright ideas, and seeing what's working elsewhere. But let's also look inward.

The next great OLLI course idea may be closer than you think. It may be looking right back at you.

Curriculum Committee

3D PRINTING AVAILABLE IN UAH LIBRARY



By Roxanne Pennington

Anna Kate Tippet is the lab coordinator for the MultiMaker Lab at the Salmon Library at UAH. She holds a master's degree in library and information science.

She taught an OLLI class on 3D printing on June 18. 3D printing is the process of making a three-dimensional object from a digital file by building it up

one layer at a time, known as additive manufacturing.

3D printing technology is used to create parts and tools across various industries. There's even a 3D printer on the International Space Station.

The concept was first developed in 1977, and 10 years later, the first 3D printer, SLA-1, was created. Today, 3D printing is used in manufacturing, automotive, dentistry, architecture, the medical industry (example: joint support), etc.

I asked Anna Kate what she'd seen the 3D printers used for, and she said, "Costumes, a Batman helmet, a mini-suitcase for traveling, skull pieces, engineer prototypes, a box for a chess set for an escape room, a light box to slide photos in for backlight, lamps, and tools."



Some 3D printers use plastic filament, while others use metal or concrete filament. The six 3D printers at the Salmon Library use plastic filament. There are three types of

filament: PLA, TPU and PETG. PLA is the easiest to print with but not heat-resistant. If you leave it in your car, it will warp. TPU is more flexible but harder to print with. PETG is stronger than PLA and heat-resistant.

1. The first step for an OLLI member interested in 3D printing is to set up a library account at the Salmon Library. This requires your OLLI name tag and a photo ID. This account can be set up during library hours. Appointments are required only during the summer.
2. Next, you will need to provide a file using .STL format. You can download a premade model in .STL using resources such as Thingiverse, Printables, Etsy, YouMagine, or [MyMiniFactory.com](https://myminifactory.com). Another option is to create a file using digital computer-aided design software (CAD) such as Tinkercad and FreeCAD. To



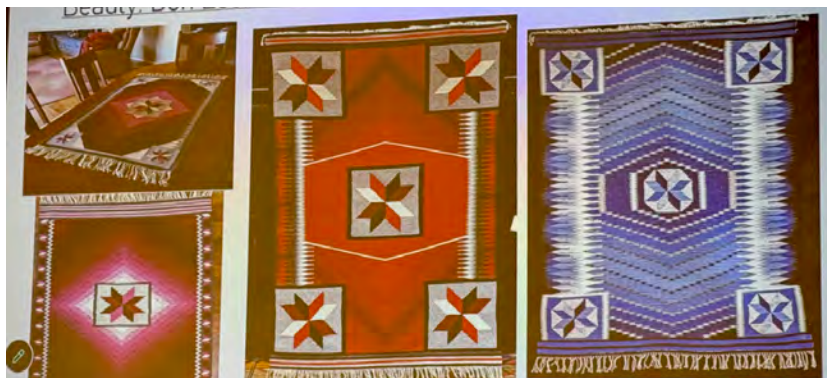
Anna Kate Tippet (right) teaches OLLI members 3D printing in the MultiMaker Lab (top). At left is one product of a 3D printer. (Photos by Roxanne Pennington)

convert photos or objects to models, Anna Kate recommended Terrain2STL, a photo-to-STL converter, or a 3D scanner.

3. Schedule an appointment with the MultiMaker Lab. For assistance in using one of the six 3D printers, the cost is 12 cents per gram for the plastic filament plus a \$1 start fee. The price would vary depending on the size of the project and amount of filament used. They will help you determine the heat required and all settings and instructions where layers should start and stop. If you have experience with 3D printing, you can use one of the do-it-yourself 3D printers and bring your own plastic filament. DIY 3D printers are available during open library hours.

For more information, contact the MultiMaker Lab at 256-824-6130 or <https://libguides.uah.edu/multimakerlab>.

Curriculum Committee



Master weaver Don Sandoval's Vallero Star tapestries: The madder root and cochineal red-to-orange gradient Vallero Star weaving (center) won Best in Weaving Award at the 2025 Traditional Spanish Market. At right is a Vallero Star woven using nine shades of hand-dyed indigo, 2026. Sandoval joined the class from New Mexico. He discussed the different traditional styles of New Mexico weaving: simple banded pattern, Rio Grande style with more complex designs, and the eight-pointed Vallero star. (Photos by Alison Toney)

NEW MEXICO: THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

By Alison Toney

Suezy Proctor treated class participants to a beautiful photo presentation of some of New Mexico's stunning landscapes, colorful festivals, regional architecture and traditional culture, as well as Maria Martinez's internationally known blackware pottery.

Suezy was the instructor for a one-day summer OLLI course called "The Land of Enchantment" on June 23.

The presentation also included descriptions of carne adovada (pork marinated in sauce of New Mexican Chimayo or Hatch chilis), enchiladas montadas (stacked enchiladas), and bizcochito (New Mexican anise-flavored cookie). Suezy shared a table display of her personal collection of New Mexican retablos, fetishes, pottery, books and a woven table runner.

Don Sandoval, a native New Mexican of Pueblo origin, joined the class via Zoom and gave a presentation on traditional New Mexican weaving. Don is a sixth-generation master weaver. He weaves traditional Rio Grande Valley, Saltillo and Vallero Star tapestries using authentic churro wool, which he hand-dyes with natural dyes. Don won the Best in Weaving Award in 2025 at Traditional Spanish Market. Don shared the history and types of traditional weaving in New Mexico.

He explained that the Spanish brought the Churro sheep to the New World in the 16th century. The Churro have a unique double fleece providing two kinds of wool. The long fibers of the upper coat are suitable for spinning, and the soft undercoat absorbs pigments. The undyed natural wool is durable and exists in many shades.

Natural dyes can be used on the undercoat. Natural dyes include sage (yellow), cota (golds and ochres), onion skin and lichen (green), walnut hulls (brown), madder root (red and orange), and logwood tree (purple and shades of gray). Cochineal, a cactus beetle, can be used for red, pink and purple, and indigo for blue. Various shades can be obtained by adjusting the pH of the water with lemon juice or soda ash.

Don has taught his daughter to weave and continue this traditional art form.

The class ended with a sing-along of "Route 66" to celebrate the 100th anniversary of U.S. Highway 66 this November. For our OLLI travelers participating in the Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos trip, remember the lyrics: "When you take that [New Mexico] trip, get your kicks on Route 66."

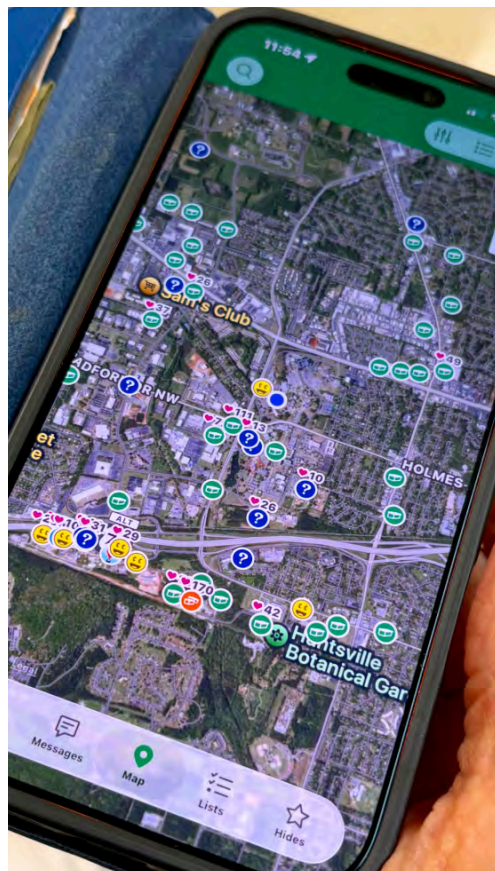


Suezy Proctor's personal collection of New Mexican retablos (traditional paintings of Catholic Saints) painted by Don Sandoval, fetishes, pottery, books, and a woven piece by Don's daughter, Maya.

Curriculum Committee

GEOCACHING: A HIGH-TECH TREASURE HUNT

Anelisse Westmeyer taught the summer course “A Huntsville Geocaching Odyssey” on June 2-23. A geocache is an item (or a container holding items) hidden at a location whose coordinates have been posted on the internet. Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt where finding the caches requires navigation skills and sometimes puzzle-cracking. Geocaches come in all shapes and sizes and are usually hiding in plain sight. Class members discovered different types of caches while exploring the Huntsville area. They created a three-part cache that is now findable on the UAH campus.



(Photos from Jill Stewart and Anelisse Westmeyer)

Curriculum Committee

EXPLORING FRENCH FOOD, CULTURE, LANGUAGE

A spring semester course provided “A Taste of France,” organized by Michele and Pascal Aubertin and taught April 7-28 at Le Macaron French Pastries. The course included authentic recipes, insights into French culture and travel language.

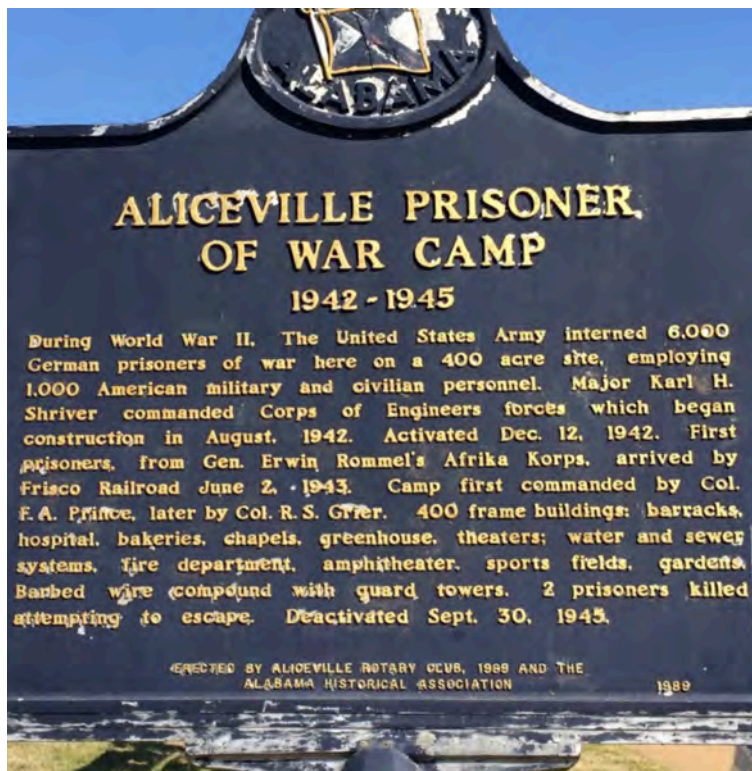


(Photos by Jill Stewart)

Curriculum Committee

WELLPOINT OFFERS PREVIEWS OF 2 OLLI COURSES

This marker at Aliceville notes German POWs' experiences in Alabama. It is one of two topics of fall OLLI course previews at Wellpoint. The other topic is Alaska.



Two previews of fall OLLI courses will be offered at Wellpoint Community Center, 2940 Mill Run Road SE in Hampton Cove.

- On Thursday, Aug. 6, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Phil Graham will present "The Enemy among Us: The World War II Nazi German Prisoner of War (POW) Experience in Alabama." This class is one of the five in the course "History of the Relationship between Alabama and Germany," which Lisa Brunegraff will be facilitating beginning Sept. 17.
- On the following Thursday, Aug. 13, also from 10 to 11:30, Steve Jones and Chris Stuhlinger will tag-team for a similar presentation: "A Sneak Preview of 'Alaska — America's Last Frontier.'" This course will start Sept. 16.

Both events are free to OLLI members, Wellpoint residents and community members interested in OLLI.

Looking for your next great adventure?
Don't miss the annual

OLLI Fall Open House!

Friday, August 7, 2026

9 a.m. to noon — UAH Wilson Hall

Whether you are a returning member or completely new to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, this is the perfect chance to kick off the fall season.

What you can expect:

- Meet great people.
- Check out all fall course offerings.
- Enjoy a fun and engaged environment.
- Eat refreshing snow cones!

OLLI — One Adventure After Another

We are looking forward to meeting you!

At right: Scenes from OLLI's last open house, Jan. 9, 2026



News From UAH

OLLI HITS A MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE!



This past May, OLLI at UAH achieved its long-term goal of reaching 1,000 members.

Membership dropped dramatically during the COVID pandemic in 2019, but since then, it has steadily risen. We finally got back to our Osher-required number at the end of May.

Special thanks to all those who helped spread the word about OLLI. Whether it was distributing course guides around

town or simply telling neighbors and friends about OLLI, the personal touch is the key to attracting new members. And let's not stop there; keep spreading the word about the value of OLLI!

The fall season is rapidly approaching, and registration has now opened for the coming semester. We are excited to offer more than 70 courses on a variety of topics such as history, literature, science, foreign languages, health and fitness. We feature favorites like Tai Chi, Writing Your Life Story, and Beer Class but are thrilled to present new courses such as The Milky Way and Beyond, The Iron Curtain, Self-Publishing 101, There Is Nothing Wrong with Finishing Second, Off-the-Cuff Philosophy, Studying Popular Culture, and many more.

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. With membership over 1,000, courses fill up quickly, so register today. Classes start in September.

Mark your calendars for our fall open house, which will be Friday, Aug. 7, from 9 a.m. to 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.

Before summer completely slips away, I do want to point out two fun events in August. On Aug. 11, test your knowledge with Trivia Tizzy from 1 to 3 p.m. Two days later on Aug. 13, let's check out your puzzle-solving skills with OLLI Puzzlemania from 9 a.m. to noon. These events are free but require registration.



OLLI members and staff partied with cake on May 26 in Wilson Hall, celebrating the growth that brought total membership back above 1,000. (Photos by Justin Clay and Steve Stewart)

A reminder that OLLI offices will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. We hope everyone had a great summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

FIRST FALL BONUS: ALA. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

The first bonus lecture of fall semester will take place Aug. 28, featuring the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Sinead Lounmala, Madison County Extension coordinator, will discuss the system's educational programs and partnership opportunities. All bonuses are at 11 a.m. on Fridays and are free to members.

A 2-PARTER: WAITLIST AND CALENDAR VIEW

Part 1: The waitlist in review

It's time to register for classes. You've waited a little too long, but that's OK — you know which classes you want and planned out your schedule. You log into your account on the OLLI registration website and start scrolling to the class you want. But wait, what is this? The waitlist? Oh, no. The class is full? What now?!

No need to panic. The waitlist is actually a better option than you might think. We here at the OLLI office are constantly checking class numbers and adjusting things to the best of our abilities to benefit OLLI members.

That second Beginning French class last semester? That's thanks to the waitlist. Extra seats in the class appearing? Waitlist. That discount you thought you weren't going to get? That's the waitlist, too!



Let's erase the anxiety of the waitlist and discuss benefits.

The higher on the waitlist you are, the more likely it is that you can get into the class as space becomes available — but what if you're the last one on the waitlist? Was there enough interest from other OLLI members, and is the

instructor available to teach a second class? We'll do our best to create another session of the class so members don't have to miss the opportunity. (We'll also try to squeeze you into your waitlisted class of choice if we can without breaking the fire code.)

A great new quirk of our new registration system is the fact that if you are enrolled for three classes and had to get on the waitlist for the fourth, as soon as we can get you into that fourth class the discount activates and will apply for your whole ticket! (\$8 class, anyone?)

Bonuses and special events are treated similarly. The more interest we see, the more likely it is that we can adjust to accommodate. Interest in the bonuses this last spring semester outsized our ability to fit everyone in the main lecture hall, so we were able to open a classroom to allow for extra seating, and people could watch comfortably via Zoom. We also were able to plan for snacks accordingly. (Thank you, Social Committee!)

And while special events are sometimes more limited in space, we get to see what the membership's interests are

so we can plan for a revisit in the future. Win/win.

So don't worry if you didn't make it to the pay screen. We'll figure out something, and if we can't get you in this time, we'll try our best to make sure there's a next time. ... There's always a chance of a last-minute dropout, too.

Part 2: The new calendar view

What's this? A new tab has appeared on the OLLI registration site? Yes! Thanks to your input and our ever-growing number of classes, events, bonuses, and needs for clarification, OLLI's software has installed a class calendar on the registration website. Good news all around. It's hard to keep up with what's going on with OLLI in a day, let alone all semester.



Next time you get a chance, go take a look and acquaint yourself with it. The tab for the calendar will show you the dates, times and link to the course to see if this is the course that will work for you and your schedule.

Even better, go to your account tab and find the "My Calendar" link to view what OLLI courses you've already added by date and time. You can view this at any time.

Please let OLLI staff know if you have any questions about the new calendar feature. Hopefully, it and the new waitlist will work for you and make choosing classes for the coming semester easier than ever before. OLLI doesn't give you homework, so signing up shouldn't be a whole assignment, either.

We hope you enjoy this new feature!

Anelisse Westmeyer
OLLI Registration Coordinator

Account Overview

The Account Overview page allows you to review placed and see the classes you've signed up for.

- [My Profile](#)
- [My Membership](#)
- [Username and Password](#)
- [History](#)
- [Class List](#)
- [My Calendar](#)
- [Make a Payment](#)

Travel Committee

NEW MEXICO, ARKANSAS, GERMANY AND JAPAN



Stay tuned for our up-and-coming travel opportunities for 2027 and now 2028.

We have fantastic Travel Committee members who have itchy feet for going to exciting places. Over the next couple of months, we will provide details of new, exciting travel experiences.

How about traveling to one of the most vibrant and exciting countries in the East? We have a trip in the works to Japan. (Aren't these the best travel

people in the world?!)

Check the bulletin boards and the newsletters or the OLLI website (<https://tinyurl.com/olli-travel>) to see the travel adventures.

For 2026

- **The best of New Mexico: Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque** — Nov. 9-16, 2026. Explore the best that New Mexico offers: the cosmopolitan heart of Albuquerque, the state's largest city; the Old World charm of Santa Fe; and the frontier spirit of Taos. From history and culture to cuisine and the arts, compare and contrast these unique cities and see how they evolved into the jewels they are today. To express an interest or request information, contact Jane McBride or go to <https://tinyurl.com/olli-nm-2026>.

For 2027

- **The best of Arkansas: Little Rock, Crystal Bridges and the Ozarks** — May 9-16, 2027. Arkansas is "the Natural State," swathed in vast forests of oak, pine and hickory and adorned with rivers winding down from the Ozark Plateau and Ouachita Mountains to the mighty Mississippi. Discover these and other pristine natural treasures of Arkansas, and encounter the great cultural gifts enshrined in its cities and towns. Experience the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock, and find yourself immersed in Ozark traditions and music. To express an interest or request information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/olli-arkansas-27>. Or contact Jane McBride.



Santa Fe is one of the cities in New Mexico that OLLI members will visit during their tour Nov. 9-16.
(Photo by [dconvertini](#), via Wikimedia Commons)

- **From Alabama to Germany and back again** — May 15-24, 2027. The threads connecting these two places are woven through triumph, innovation and transformation. This curated journey traces the remarkable ties between the Heart of Dixie and modern Germany. Walk through Berlin's Olympic Park, where Oakville's own Jesse Owens defied Nazi ideology with four gold medals. Explore Peenemünde's rocket research facility, birthplace of technology that launched America's space program from Huntsville. Learn about the Berlin Airlift, when Alabama airmen helped save a city. And tour Hamburg's Airbus plant, mirroring Mobile's own operations. Discover how Alabama's story intersects with Germany's across continents and generations. To express an interest or request information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/olli-germany-27> or contact Lisa Brunegraff.

Never let curiosity fade! Contact David Sayre, other members of the Travel Committee, or coordinators for the trips at olli.info@uah.edu. All who wander are not lost!

David Sayre
Travel Committee Chair

Travel Committee

HIDDEN GEMS OF DALMATIAN COAST AND GREECE

This is the first in a series of monthly articles by Steve Goodman, who led this OLLI group tour.

By Steve Goodman

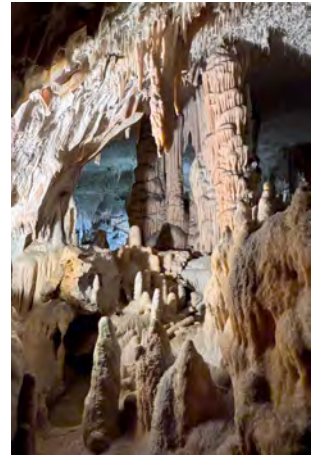
Our OLLI small-ship adventure “Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast and Greece” with Overseas Adventure Travel on the M/V *Athena* 50-passenger ship took place April 25 to May 9. Our 25-day tour on land and sea took us from Slovenia down the Dalmatian coast to Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece.

How did we choose a small-ship adventure with OAT? Croatia was on our Travel Committee short list for several years. Lauren and I had since become fast friends with fellow travelers from Florida, who joined OLLI at UAH for our Grand Circle Travel trip to the Canadian Maritime Provinces in August 2023. They travel multiple times each year with OAT.

I mentioned the proposed trip to Croatia and the Adriatic. They highly recommended this small-ship adventure, which they had recently taken. Smaller-ship cruises have been gaining popularity post-COVID.

The trip was endorsed by our Travel Committee in 2024, and planning began. Because so many people are cruising these days, one needs to book a year or more in advance to get the better-located staterooms near the middle of the ship.

We had 19 UAH OLLI members onboard. The fully booked ship was divided roughly in half for the shore excursions, but we all gathered as one while on the ship. Our OLLI group was assigned a dedicated tour experience leader from Slovenia named Petra Elsayed. She proved to be one of the best, if not the best, all-time tour leaders we have experienced. They have all been fabulous and make for a successful travel experience.



Steve Goodman wearing a T-shirt from the OLLI tour; his wife, Lauren, with Bled Castle in the background; Postojna Cave.

Half of us took the three-day pre-trip excursion to Slovenia (with Petra) and a five-day post-trip excursion in Greece with a different tour leader from Greece assigned to us. Altogether, it was 25 days of fun, interesting adventures and learning as we traveled down the Adriatic Coast.

Most days began with a guided tour in the morning and free time in the afternoon or evening. Meals were excellent and usually on the ship, but also included a few local restaurants

for lunch or dinner. Evening entertainment and introductory port talks on the ship were typically provided by our tour leaders and crew.

Slovenia pre-trip extension

Slovenia is a beautiful and clean country. They plan to have 100% recycling by the end of the year.

Our flights landed in capital city of Ljubljana (the letter *j* is pronounced as a *y*), where we took a shuttle to our home base at Lake Bled near the Austrian Alps. We had an introduction and walking tour of Bled, followed by free time. Several of us took a flatboat ride to Bled Island on the lake and later toured Bled Castle. All were within walking distance of our hotel.

The next day we went on a walk in Triglav National Park, which has the largest alpine lake in Slovenia. We later visited a hay rack (for drying hay) on a nearby farm, where we snacked on cheese, liquor, blueberries and the local version of Coca-Cola, called Cockta Coke. This is a local tradition.

The next day, we toured Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle in southwest Slovenia. The 24-kilometer karst cave system is a major tourist attraction

(continued on the next page)



A bronze dragon at Ljubljana's Dragon Bridge. (More photos are on Pages 28 and 29.)

Travel Committee

WHY TRAVEL TO ARKANSAS?

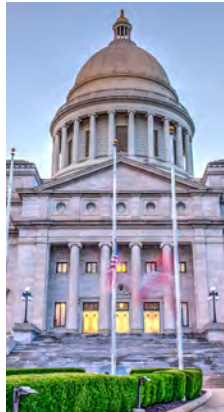
By Jane McBride

Do you know anything about a state that's less than 150 miles west of Alabama called Arkansas? There's a lot to know — even better, a lot to see and experience. The OLLI Travel Committee wants folks at OLLI to take a break, explore this neighbor state, and have an amazing time doing it.

The state's tourism touts Arkansas as "a southern U.S. state bordering the Mississippi River ... known for its abundant park and wilderness areas, with terrain encompassing mountains, caves, rivers and hot springs." That brief description leaves out what people have made happen amidst incredible natural resources.

OLLI at UAH has reserved an exclusive trip to see the wonders of Arkansas with Road Scholar for May 9-16, 2027. Come along to find "the best of Arkansas" on a road trip that starts in its capital of Little Rock. The city, only two hours from Memphis, holds a special place in civil rights history with the "Little Rock Nine" and their test of Brown vs. Board of Education. Years later, a bright and bold new generation of politicians under Bill Clinton led the state. One of many highlights of this trip is touring the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock (<https://tinyurl.com/3xas8u7z>).

Our coach makes a stop at Petit Jean State Park (<https://tinyurl.com/5xd8jm66>), once a mountaintop ranch for breeding prized Santa Gertrudis cattle and home to Winthrop Rockefeller. As entrepreneur and later governor, Rockefeller was a major contributor to the state's prosperity in the middle of the 20th century. Continuing on, we arrive in Bentonville, home of another giant in the annals of Arkansas success stories, Sam Walton.



Arkansas Capitol

The Walton legacy is enhanced by the efforts of Alice Walton and the Walton Family Foundation in establishing Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (<https://tinyurl.com/mu46ak6r>). This recently expanded campus contains over 200,000 square feet of gallery space and showcases five centuries of American art and artifacts. It is situated on a 120-acre ravine in the Ozarks that channels waters of Crystal Spring and is surrounded by walking trails and gardens.

Nearby, we go to Eureka Springs, seeing Thorn-crown Chapel (<https://www.thorncrown.com>), an architectural wonder of glass and steel in a mountain forest. The late 19th-century village has become a haven for artists of all stripes and

affords a charming view of yesteryear in rural America. Spending an overnight at the Ozark Folk Center, we explore mountain crafts and food as well as enjoy an evening of music, dance and storytelling.

Ending our travels in south central Arkansas, we'll visit the United States' smallest National Park in Hot Springs (<https://tinyurl.com/ysnncury>). Oh, the stories it could tell of its glory days as a gaming mecca! Famed hotels and historic bathhouses are still open for business and great dining. Hot Springs is also home to Arkansas' State Botanical Garden. Garvan Woodland Gardens (<https://tinyurl.com/2nczf4yu>) is situated in a mountain-lake area on the edge of town. Travelers will relish the contrasting environments of these two places.

Be sure to stop by the Travel Committee display at OLLI's open house on Aug. 7. Also visit the OLLI website (<https://tinyurl.com/olli-arkansas-27>) to look further into this great spring travel opportunity.

DALMATIAN COAST AND GREECE, cont from previous page

entered via an electric train. There are stalagmites, stalactites, and formations called curtains or draperies that look like folded curtains. During World War II, German occupying forces used the cave to store aircraft fuel, destroyed by Slovene Partisans. The fire destroyed a large section of the cave, and we can still see the blackened entrance.

Predjama Castle, 9 kilometers from Postojna Cave, sits high in a vertical cliff. The castle is two castle complexes in one (one constructed 700 years ago, one newer) built into the mouth of a cave. We learned about the history of the castle and its former owners in the front tower. In other parts of the castle, there is a selection of original items on display, as well as replicas and models. Later that day, we

visited the town of Radovljica, the sweetest town in Slovenia, where we toured a gingerbread factory and chocolate shops.

Our final day of the pre-trip excursion took us back to Ljubljana for a walking tour and some free time for a canal boat ride or museum visit. Many of us had a gelato snack (before lunch) before we continued to Zagreb, Croatia, to meet up with the other travelers.

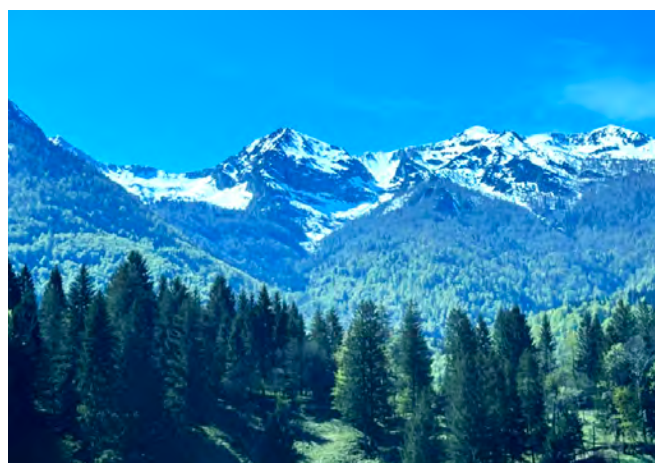
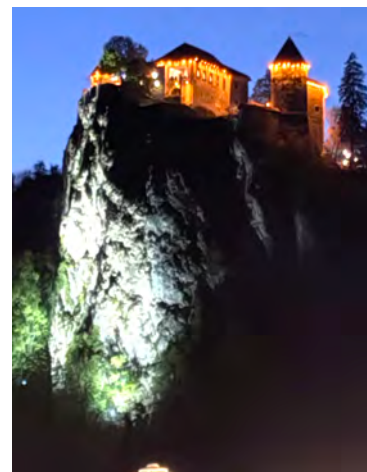
We all agreed Slovenia is a beautiful country, which we knew very little about before the visit.

See more photos on the following pages. Next month's article: Sailing on the Athena, seeing Greece.

Travel Committee

CRUISING THE DALMATIAN COAST IN APRIL AND MAY

Steve Goodman led OLLI members in a cruise along the Dalmatian coast April 24-May 11. Sites included Croatia (Zadar, Zagreb, Plitvice Lakes, Split, Dubrovnik), Montenegro (Kotor), Albania (Saranda, Butrint), and Greece (Corfu, Delphi, Athens). See his article on previous pages. More photos are on the next page.



(Photos on multiple pages contributed by Steve Goodman, Gary Klein, John Shimada, Kerri Geppert and Petra Elsayed)

Travel Committee

ON SHIP AND OFF, DALMATIAN COAST ADVENTURES



(Photos on multiple pages contributed by Steve Goodman, Gary Klein, John Shimada, Kerri Geppert and Petra Elsayed)

Travel Committee

SEE GEORGIA O'KEEFFE FILM ON AUG. 12

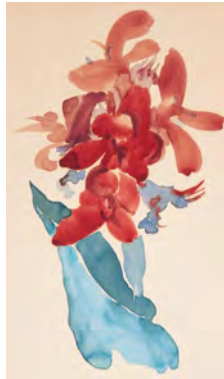
By Jane McBride

The OLLI Travel Committee invites you to enjoy a documentary film about Georgia O'Keeffe on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 1:30 p.m. in 152 Wilson Hall.

We're sharing the excitement of an OLLI at UAH trip to New Mexico (Nov. 9-16) by learning more about its history and treasures.

On Page 19 of this *Insider*, Alison Toney summarizes "Land of Enchantment," an OLLI summer course that Suezy Proctor presented on New Mexican weavers and potters. In October, Jean Krieger will present "The Artistry of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos," which captures the uniqueness of the area's treasures, a valuable segment of American Art. Watch for details in the OLLI eNews.

No one can really see the awesome tapestry that is the high desert of New Mexico without considering how Georgia O'Keeffe represented it on canvas. Once she spent time



"Red Cannas" by Georgia O'Keeffe (1919)

there, first in Taos on a visit, she knew that the wide, wild spaces, not New York, were where she belonged. Eventually establishing a home in Abiquiu west of Santa Fe, she never tired of painting the endless colors she found in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

One might say that her muse was light itself: Her fascination with shapes, colors and fleeting variations made her work stand apart.

The film features the evolution of her artistic expression, as she became the foremost female artist among the modernists shown in the Stieglitz's 291 Gallery in New York City. From her earliest renderings at this gallery, she demonstrated a breakout Modernist style.

She typifies the migration of Eastern painters drawn to New Mexico because of the light that plays across desert landscapes. The proliferation of artists and galleries continues in the area today.

Member Interest Groups



CAJUN DINING IN HUNTSVILLE

The Dine Out Member Interest Group got together at Cajun Roux Bar & Grill on April 23. The restaurant features "true tastes of the Bayou," referring to Louisiana. It is located at 20 Town Center Drive NW. (Photo from Sandra Dabrowski)

Member Interest Groups

FOLK ART OF THE SOUTH

Traditional Southern tinsmithing

refers to the craft of shaping thin sheets of tin into functional and decorative objects.

During Colonial times, tinsmiths (referred to as whitesmiths) shaped imported tinplate into lightweight, durable and rust-resistant household goods. British law banned the production of raw tinplate, so Southern smiths relied on repairing existing wares and creating essentials from scarce imported tinplate.

Traditional tinsmiths produced household utensils such as coffee pots, kettles, dippers and graters. From 1776 to 1783, tinsmithing was a critical military trade for the American Revolution. James Anderson's armory in Williamsburg, Virginia, produced tin canteens, mess cups, buckets and basins.

Many early 18th-century tinsmiths were either English or Scots-Irish immigrants. The craft spread into the South by settlers traveling on the Great Wagon Road. Most Southern tinsmiths were itinerant peddlers. They traveled frontier settlements along the Old Federal Road from St. Stephens, South Carolina, through Georgia to Fort Mitchell, Alabama, to New Orleans.

Tinsmiths did not require massive forges like blacksmiths. Whitesmiths relied on hand tools such as tin snips, wooden mallets, folding bars, soldering irons and decorative punches. Utilitarian objects were embellished lanterns, reflector lamps and wall sconces. Designs were simple geometric motifs, stars and diamond patterns. Punched-tin decoration became a folk-art style across the Southern Appalachian and Southern regions.

In trading centers like Richmond, Charlestown and Savannah, tinsmiths crafted street-lamp reflectors, attractive roof flashings and outdoor sconces. Stamped tin was utilized to embellish rooflines and cornice with modillions and dentil rows. In the humid Low-country (where airflow was crucial), tin



Tinsmithing has produced utensils for households as well as armies.
(Photos from [OttawaAC](#), [Bernd Schwabe](#), [National Park Service](#), and [Kardzhali Museum](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#))

was used structurally for ornate gable vents and attractive window hoods.

During the Antebellum South, patterns of starbursts and pinwheels became classic designs used for pie safes, ventilated cabinet doors and hand-made lanterns.

On large Southern plantations, enslaved craftsmen primarily drove metalworking. Virginian Isaac Granger from Jefferson's Monticello estate mastered tinsmithing of household objects.

In the early 1800s, German immigrants expanded tinsmithing. John Wagener actively recruited German settlers to South Carolina plus another thriving Moravian community in Old Salem, North Carolina. The late 1800s saw a boom in embossed metalwork, such as New Orleans pressed-tin ceiling tiles with intricate patterns of repeating floral, acanthus leaf, and scrollwork to mimic ornate plasterwork.

During the 1800s, there were two famous tinsmiths from Alabama. Formerly enslaved Lewis Adams used his tinsmithing and other artisan skills

to become a highly respected figure in Macon County. (Lewis is best remembered for leveraging his civic influence to secure funding for Tuskegee University.) James Paul was a well-known tinsmith who migrated from Tennessee to Alabama in 1820. Pioneer housewives favored "the Tim Man of Tuscaloosa's" handcrafted wares.

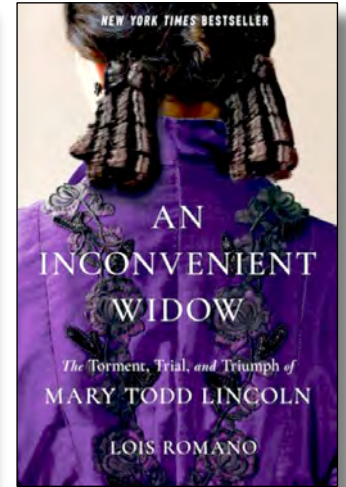
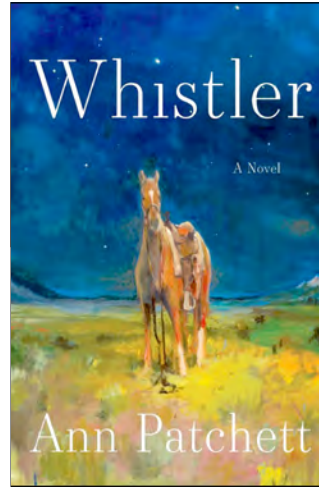
By the 1900s, the growth of industrial manufacturing reduced demand for handmade tinware. Organizations such as the Alabama Folk School, Old Alabama Town History Museum and Alabama Historical Commission support the preservation of tinsmithing techniques.

To learn more about famous Southern artwork, register for OLLI's Art of the South course, to be taught at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays, Sept. 14-Oct. 19. This six-week history course explores Southern art from ancient Mississippian culture to modern contemporary artists.

Jean Krieger
Leader, Artist Studio MIG

Member Interest Groups

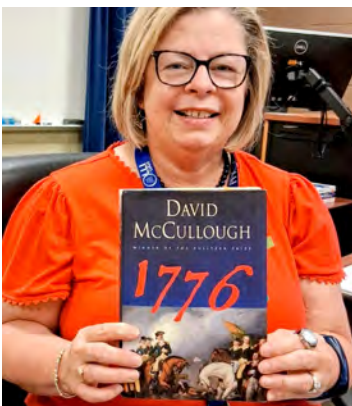
OLLI READS THROUGH THE SUMMER OF 2026



On May 20, OLLI member Mark Tenhundfeld (top right) led the OLLI Reads MIG's discussion of his own book, *State of Segregation: America's Freedom Rights Struggles as Told by Alabama*. *Whistler* by Ann Patchett will be discussed Aug. 12; on Sept. 9, the topic will be *An Inconvenient Widow: The Torment, Trial, and Triumph of Mary Todd Lincoln* by Lois Romano. OLLI Reads meets at noon in Wilson Hall.



The conversation June 17 was about *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans (above). On July 15, the book was *1776* by David McCullough (below).



(Photos by Glen Adams and Steve Stewart)

Member Interest Groups



Coming up (clockwise from left): Wheeler Wildlife Refuge (Nov. 7), Madison County Nature Trail, Monte Sano Nature Preserve, Monte Sano State Park, and Wheeler (Dec. 8).



FALL PREVIEW FOR WALKS, HIKES AND A BIKE RIDE

Our summer MIG activities were abbreviated due to the heat and travel plans, so now it's time to look forward to our fall semester nature walks, hikes and bike ride.

See our schedule below, which includes a December visit to see the cranes at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

Join the Hiking & Biking MIG to receive details about coming activities. Sign up at the link below, and agree to the blanket release/waiver form. A valid OLLI membership is required to join the MIG and its activities.

Join the MIG: <https://tinyurl.com/hike-bike-mig>

Fall MIG activities

- Sunday, Sept. 27 — **Madison County Nature Trail nature walk** (Green Mountain, southeast Huntsville), 1-3 p.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.
- Saturday, Oct. 10 — **Monte Sano Nature Preserve hike** (Huntsville), 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet at the Oak Park Trailhead off Oakwood Avenue, and hike to Buzzards Roost and back (just over 2 miles total, with an elevation change of 200-plus feet). See a nice stream and interesting rock features along the way.



- Sunday, Oct. 25 — **Monte Sano State Park extended nature walk** (Sinks and Wells Memorial trails), 1-4 p.m. Meet at the bikers' parking area (Scoble Pavilion behind the cabins). See the towering hardwood trees growing in this cove forest. We'll take a more in-depth look at the trees and other vegetation, and also measure some of the trees. Trail length is about 1.75 to 2 miles, with an elevation change of about 250 feet.

- Saturday, Nov. 7 — **Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge hike and bike trail, nature walk and bike ride** (Decatur), 10 a.m.-noon. We will explore the hiking and biking trail near the entrance to the refuge visitor center. The easy trail leads through and by a variety of habitats, including woodlands, farm fields and waterways. Choose to walk or ride a bike.
- Tuesday, Dec. 8 — **Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge visitor center and nature walk** (Decatur), 1-3 p.m. Stroll through the visitor center to learn about the refuge and its wildlife. Then view the annual gathering of wintering waterfowl, including thousands of sandhill cranes and rare whooping cranes. Various blinds allow visitors to get a closer view of the birds. Afterward, enjoy a short walk on the nearby Atkeson Cypress Trail and boardwalk. The date is subject to change in case of bad weather.

See you on the trail!

Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones
Co-Leaders, Hiking & Biking MIG

Member Interest Groups

HIKING & BIKING EXCURSIONS IN APRIL AND JUNE

WADE MOUNTAIN NATURE PRESERVE, APRIL 25



FLINT CREEK NATURE TRAIL, JUNE 13



(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger, Steve Jones, David Moore and Cynthia Turner)

People of OLLI

MARSHA LANGLOIS ENJOYS HER 'FARM BUBBLE' BUT SAYS OLLI 'EXPANDED MY RETIREMENT WORLD'

By Glen Adams

Marsha Langlois is our new OLLI board president and is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Marsha grew up in what is probably the most famous small town in Alabama. Monroeville has produced writers like Harper Lee and Truman Capote and was the setting, fictional or real, for Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Capote's short story *A Christmas Memory*.

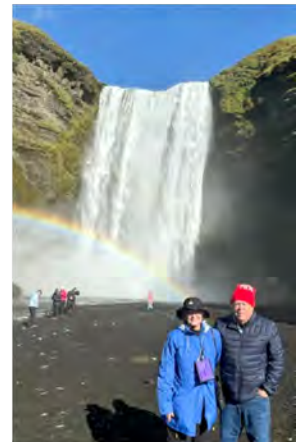
Marsha's father, Cecil Dollihite, owned the Dooley Co. and worked in air conditioning and refrigeration. Later he taught at and retired from Ed Reid State Technical College. Her mother, Sara, was the treasurer for the local board of education and later for Patrick Henry State Junior College. Her brother, David, is eight years younger.

"I think that my childhood was typical for a small-town Southern child," said Marsha. "Activities revolved around family, church and school. My grandparents and parents always had large vegetable gardens, so I spent a large part of summer vacation picking peas and butterbeans, shucking corn and playing with cousins and attending several vacation Bible schools.

"I always loved to read, so the local library was a favorite place. My favorite books were Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mysteries.

"I started piano lessons in the third grade and continued until my junior year in high school. I was the pianist for my church during my last few years in high school."

Growing up, Marsha planned to become a doctor. But after taking her first college microbiology course, she decided she would rather be a medical technologist. She spent her first three semesters at Baylor University. She



Marsha and John Langlois at their home waterfall (top), another waterfall in Iceland, and a hanging bridge in Costa Rica. The second and third photos were made during OLLI group travels. At lower left are their grandchildren, starting at 12 o'clock and going clockwise: Aidan Coffey, Lennox Coffey, Hudson Mickler, Cole Casey and Logan Mickler.

then transferred to The University of Alabama and married another product of Monroeville, John Langlois.

"John lived around the corner from me until we were 5 years old," said Marsha. "My first dog was a puppy from John's family dog's litter. John's family was transferred from Monroeville when we were 5, and then they transferred back when we were sophomores. We both worked on the school annual when we were seniors and started dating then.

"We got engaged at Thanksgiving our

freshman year in college and got married about two years later. We lived in married student housing in the same building John's dad stayed in during college." (The building was later blown up in the movie *Hooper*.) John majored in broadcast and film and English literature.

After they both graduated from Alabama, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, so that John could attend graduate school. With a degree in biology, Marsha worked for a dentist while John was in graduate school. In

(continued on the next page)

People of OLLI

Rain increases the volume of the waterfall and stream on the Langloises' farmland in Jackson County. This is an autumn scene.



MARSHA LANGLOIS, cont from previous page

1978 she earned her second B.S., in medical technology, through Harris Hospital and Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Their first daughter, Rebecca, was born in January 1979, and the next month they moved to Milton, Wisconsin, for John's job. Their second daughter, Jennifer, was born there in December 1980.

They lived in Wisconsin until 1985, when they moved to Dallas. Marsha worked in the laboratory at Parkland Hospital until 1992, when she took a position as a technical specialist for Roche Diagnostics.

"I provided technical expertise on Roche hospital laboratory equipment," said Marsha. "I installed the equipment, trained laboratory staff, and then assisted with troubleshooting ... The job involved a lot of traveling around the U.S. I found that I really enjoyed visiting new places."

Later Marsha began working from home on a Roche technical support hotline.

Because they wanted to be closer to their Alabama families, in 1994 they moved to Atlanta. Marsha continued to work for Roche, while John took a position with Raymond James Financial Services.

Marsha retired from Roche in 2018 after 26 years. John retired in 2004 when they moved to the Huntsville area. He immediately began building websites, which he continues to do.

Why did they move to the Huntsville area? Because they found their mountain paradise. A friend told them about property available in Paint Rock Valley in Jackson County. They visited in 2002, gave the owner a check that day, and moved there for good two years later.

"The property is 77 acres with a waterfall," said Marsha. "We had Dexter cattle for several years and sold the last of them in 2018. We currently have about 20 chickens, a dog and a cat."

Marsha continues to read mysteries and loves British TV. Other interests are yard work, gardening, photography, quilting and collecting seashells.

Rebecca has an architecture degree and owns a design studio in Wilmington, North Carolina. She has two sons, 15 and 12. Jennifer lives in Scottsboro and has three sons, 25, 18 and 15. She works for Arnold Landscaping.

How did Marsha end up as OLLI president? "Steve and Patrice Stewart gifted us OLLI memberships in 2021," said Marsha (Steve grew up with John and Marsha in Monroeville). "I took my first OLLI class in the winter of 2022. I have been a facilitator for several classes, helped plan the fourth-quarter decisions class, and was secretary for the Curriculum Committee.

"I found I still love learning new things. OLLI has given me the opportunity to explore new things and find out if I like them.

"Since we live rather far out, it would be easy to stay in our farm bubble. I am so very glad I was introduced to OLLI. It has expanded my retirement world."

How does Marsha approach her new job? "My goal as president is to keep OLLI moving in the same positive direction," said Marsha. "Someone told me that I just need to continue to steer the ship in the right direction."

Best wishes, Marsha, as you steer the OLLI ship, and thanks for all you do for OLLI.

Constitutional Corner

HOW THE BILL OF RIGHTS CAME TO BE

"Constitutional Corner" columns are written in different months by John Mason and Mark Tenhundfeld.



By John Mason

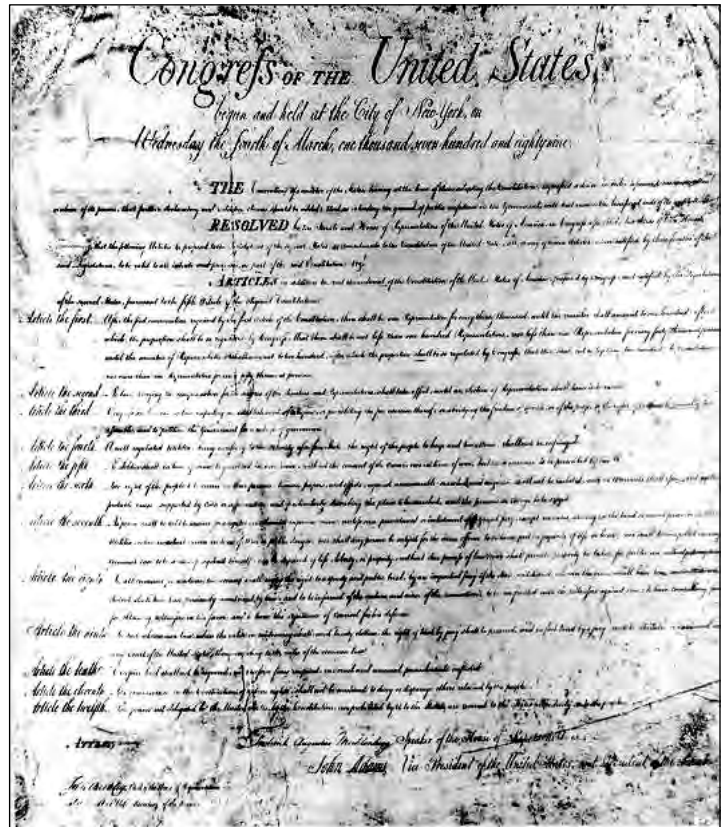
So we all know that our Constitution's "Bill of Rights" has 12 amendments, right? No? Then how about 20? Confused? Then go get another coffee, sit back, and let your Uncle Anti-Federalist tell you the rest of the story.

Our Constitution — the cornerstone of a brand new form of government — didn't just spring from the pen of James Madison (with help from Gouverneur

Morris, Alexander Hamilton and Jacob Shallus), but rather was the result of a three-year debate between those founders who supported a strong central government (known as Federalists) and those who feared centralized power (Anti-Federalists). That debate centered on four core issues:

- 1. The absence of a bill of rights:** Anti-Federalists argued that without an explicit list of protected rights (like freedom of speech, trial by jury, and religion), the new federal government would inevitably trample on individual liberties, while Federalists claimed a bill of rights was unnecessary and dangerous.
- 2. The power of the central government versus state sovereignty:** Anti-Federalists believed a powerful central government would overpower the authority of the states, while Federalists argued that a stronger government was desperately needed to collect taxes, regulate interstate commerce, and defend the nation.
- 3. The power and term of the president:** Anti-Federalists feared that the newly created office of the president would quickly morph into a monarchy, but Federalists maintained that a single, energetic executive was vital to enforce laws quickly and handle foreign crises efficiently, balanced out by checks from Congress and the courts. And ...
- 4. System of representation and taxation:** Anti-Federalists argued that a small national government could never truly represent the diverse interests of a vast continent, while Federalists countered that a large republic would actually protect liberty better because it would prevent any single political faction from gaining total control.

To settle the bitter debate, and to persuade key states like Massachusetts, Virginia and New York to vote for ratification, the Federalists had to promise that a bill of rights would be added immediately after the new government formed. But history has not told us the whole story about the initial



The first draft of the Bill of Rights. (Library of Congress)

form these amendments took.

Actually, there were 12 proposed amendments in the original joint resolution passed by Congress and sent to the states in 1789. The 10 amendments we know today as our Bill of Rights were originally Articles 3 through 12. I won't list them here because we should know them by heart. But what happened to Articles 1 and 2? Why didn't they make the final cut?

The problem was that they failed to deal with the whole reason for which they were crafted: to codify the personal freedoms that the Anti-Federalists were so afraid would disappear under a strong central government. When the First Congress sent the original set of 12 proposed amendments to the states on Sept. 25, 1789, it failed to garner enough votes to become law; for that to happen, three-fourths of the states had to ratify them.

I think that if you see what those two unpopular amendments were, you'll probably agree with the initial conclusions of the states.

Article 1 dealt with congressional apportionment,

(continued on the next page)

Constitutional Corner

BILL OF RIGHTS, cont from previous page

establishing a mathematical formula dictating how many citizens each member of the House of Representatives could represent. It failed because state legislatures found the math overly complicated and worried about long-term sustainability. Had it passed, the modern House of Representatives would have over 6,000 members instead of the current 435 (one shudders to think how little would get done with that gaggle). Still, it fell just short of ratification (garnering nine of the required 11 state votes) and still remains technically pending.

Article 2 concerned congressional pay raises, prohibiting any law changing the salaries of senators and representatives from taking effect until an election of representatives had intervened. Essentially, Congress could not give itself an immediate pay raise without facing voters first. Most states in 1789 simply did not see it as a pressing priority compared to fundamental rights like freedom of speech or trial by jury, and as a result, it received only eight out of the required 11 state votes.

So Madison and the others removed those two articles. Unlike modern amendments, the First Congress did not place an expiration date or time limit on their ratification, Articles 1 and 2 were removed, and the 10 amendments known today as the Bill of Rights were ratified on Dec. 15, 1791.

And that brings us to one of the little quirks that make history so interesting. Because the rules were left open-ended, a Texas university student named Gregory Watson discovered in 1982 that the original Article 2 was still technically alive.

Watson was a 19-year-old sophomore studying political science at the University of Texas, Austin. While researching a term paper on governmental process for an American government and constitutional law course, he noticed that the original Article 2 lacked an expiration date or a ratification time limit. So his paper argued that the amendment was not “dead” and could still be ratified by state legislatures if someone took up the cause.

His instructor gave the paper a C, dismissively telling him that the idea was unrealistic and that the amendment would never become part of the Constitution. Amused, but also frustrated by the grade, Watson decided to prove his professor wrong by launching the self-funded, nationwide letter-writing campaign that successfully pushed the remaining states to vote on it. On May 7, 1992 — 203 years after it was written — the original Article 2 was finally ratified and added to the Constitution, now to be known as the 27th amendment. The instructor belatedly gave him an A-plus.

Ain't history grand? But wait, there's more, and we'll talk about another proposed Bill of Rights next month.



A WARM OLLI SENDOFF AS JUSTIN CLAY MOVES TO A UAH TEACHING JOB

Members and staff treated Justin Clay to a cake, appreciation and best wishes July 17 in the lounge as his years as OLLI's marketing and design specialist wound down. Justin had held the position since 2023. At the end of July, he left it to become a full-time teacher at UAH. He will start teaching graphics and design in the fall semester. He will still be working in Wilson Hall and said he plans to teach an OLLI summer course occasionally. (Photos by Roxanne Pennington and Suezy Proctor)



Huntsville Then and Now

REBAR, ROCKETS, SPACE FLIGHT AND HISTORY



By Lee Roop

The 14-inch iron rebar is dark brown and rusty, but I'm not worried it will crumble anytime soon. Its serpentine shape, round and curved, is still almost as big around as a can of shaving cream, and it weighs almost 10 pounds.

It had to be big because this rebar was made to be sunk into cement to help hold something special in place. Hold it in place until it was time to turn the

special something loose.

The "something" was the first rocket engines designed on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville during our early space program. The "place" was a test stand at Marshall Space Flight Center there.

Today, the rebar is a solid reminder of the city's past and a symbol of its future.

Led by Wernher von Braun, the team of German and American engineers and rocket scientists who developed the engine were always looking for more thrust.

That's no surprise. "What do all men with power want?" asked the oracle sought by Keanu Reeves in the movie *The Matrix Reloaded*. More power.

Sometimes, more power is a good thing, a necessary thing. Engines developed first for missiles fired in war got bigger until they could lift first satellites, then humans and all they needed to go the moon. Some historians say that was always von Braun's true goal, his lifelong obsession.

Today, satellites lifted by rockets watch the weather, guide people on the ground, and make possible networks of information-sharing we could never have imagined. People are going back to the moon, and eyes are on Mars.



A back-porch souvenir once contributed its strength to America's space exploration program.

But back to my bar, whose curves, ridges and size meant stronger base stability against engine exhaust force when a rocket launched into space. Even the early engines of von Braun's team produced more than 50,000 pounds of thrust.

I was taking an escorted reporter's walking tour of a dismantled and closed test pad toward the end of my journalism career. I had covered more topics than I can count in my decades-long job as a newspaper reporter, but my final beat was NASA. My guide, perhaps knowing that milestone and how thrilled I was to cover this amazing work, bent over and picked up the bar, and he handed it to me.

"You can keep it as a souvenir," he said.

The bar is now on our back porch, where we often sit in the evenings. We will be eating dinner or quietly reading, and, suddenly, we will hear the familiar low rumble from rocket engines. This time, they're built by Blue Origin and are being tested on Redstone Arsenal.

We'll look up and listen and never forget to marvel that this is our town, the place that has the power to send us to space and bend bars.



Empower lifelong learners by setting up a recurring gift to OLLI at UAH!

Your recurring donation not only helps sustain engaging programs that inspire curiosity and connection across our community; it also earns you recognition as a member of our **Blue Gems Giving Society**, a special group of donors who shine brightly through their commitment to learning and growth.

[Click here to make your gift today!](https://give2uah.info/OLLI)
give2uah.info/OLLI

The Last Word

NEW OLLI OFFICERS

New officers of the OLLI at UAH Board of Directors, who took office during the summer, are (from left) Bob Darnall, treasurer; Nancy Darnall, vice president for administration and finance; Richard Brooks, vice president for curriculum; Marsha Langlois, president; Randy Boyette, secretary; and Phil Graham, immediate past president.



DONALD LEO TAKES LEADERSHIP OF UAH

Donald J. Leo, Ph.D., is the new president of The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The University of Alabama System's trustees appointed Leo as the university's 11th president, and he took over the job this summer. He succeeded Charles Karr, who retired and moved to Florida.

"Dr. Leo will build on Dr. Karr's momentum in Huntsville," said UA System Chancellor Sid J. Trant. "He has a strong record of establishing quality academic programs, expanding research capacity and fostering impactful partnerships."

"An accomplished administrator with more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Leo is a leader whose career is largely defined by his 11-year tenure at the University of Georgia, where he served as the first permanent dean of the College of Engineering," UAH said when announcing the appointment in May.

"Recruited in 2013 to build the college from the ground up, he oversaw fourfold increases in enrollment and research expenditures, created new academic departments, grew annual giving and external partnerships, and spearheaded major renovations of the College's instructional and research space."



Jeannine and Donald Leo

Just before UAH, Leo was executive vice president and provost at Ohio University. He was the chief academic officer, overseeing nearly 300 academic programs enrolling over 30,000 students.

He spent more than a decade at Virginia Tech, where he was a professor in mechanical engineering and was vice president and executive director of national capital region operations. He was responsible for research partnerships. He served as a program manager for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

He has authored or co-authored over 200 research publications and written an engineering textbook.

"As an aerospace engineer with a deep appreciation for the impact of groundbreaking research, I am excited about the opportunity to lead UAH," Leo said.

He holds a doctorate and a master's in mechanical and aerospace engineering from the University of Buffalo and a bachelor's degree in aeronautics and astronautics engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

He is a native of Park Forest, Illinois. He and wife Jeannine have two sons, Jonathan and Matthew.