

September 2023

THE OLLI INSIDER

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



LAUNCHING INTO YEAR 31

GREETING:

You are hereby ordered for induction
at _____ Armed Forces Examining and Entrance _____

Clockwise from top left: UAH vs. UA and Auburn in a rocket contest at the 30th anniversary of UAH lifelong learning on Aug. 3; OLLI's Canada travelers; "Rocket Boys" author Homer Hickam speaks at anniversary; Charger Blue visits fall open house and meets Dori Anthony; Ollie, one of Curriculum VP Bob Carroll's favorite lifelong learners; a backstage tour of the Von Braun Center; a "greeting" that few men wanted, as discussed in John Mason's military history column.



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Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at **UAH**

I'M A SCAMMER, AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU



In his pithy and witty daily radio newscast, the late Paul Harvey reported on a man who was addicted to dialing 911.

The police hauled him to jail, where he was told he could make one phone call. Guess what number he called.

Sometimes I feel like the 911 dispatcher in that story. All day long, I receive phone calls

from scammers offering to extend my car warranty, enlarge my Medicare benefits, pay for my burial, or get damages for water contamination at Camp Lejeune or for wreck injuries.

I sometimes play games with these callers. It's fun to see how soon they hang up when I say that my name is Hunter Biden, I live at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, and I was born Feb. 31, 1955.

Hey, can you hang on for a moment? My phone is ringing. ...

That was a guy named Sam. I asked to interview him about the scam business. Sam uttered a four-letter word but didn't hang up right away. Neither did he answer most of my questions. "I love to scam money!" he finally said. Then he was gone.

(I asked another scammer whether it bothered him that what he was doing was wrong. He said no. His name was Stephen. I'm so proud. Another call came from a polite man who asked whether I had tried to call him twice. I hadn't. Maybe scammers spoofed my number.)

But often I just ignore the calls, silently annoyed at the distraction. And that's part of the problem. Scammers have diminished the usefulness of the telephone for legitimate callers. People don't want to answer calls from unfamiliar numbers. Trying to avoid scams, they hesitate to give out their phone numbers.

Worse, these scammers must be bilking a lot of money from their victims. They are not doing it just for fun.

I'm going to vote for the first politician who cuts scam phone calls by at least 90%. And the university researcher who comes up with a workable plan deserves a Nobel Prize. Are you as frustrated as I am?

Paul Quintel, CEO of Sawblade Security Solutions and an OLLI teacher, gave this advice:

1. First of all, don't answer the phone if you don't recognize the number. Scammers can manipulate their number so it appears to look like a local call, hoping you will answer.

Don't worry; if the call is important, the person will leave you a message on your voicemail or answering machine.

2. If you do answer it and realize it is a scam, just be polite and say, "I am sorry, but I am not interested" and hang up. Don't decide to play with them and try to be cute. They are experts at social engineering, and the longer you stay on the phone with them, the more information they will get from you without you even realizing it.

3. If you feel you need to report it, you can report it to the Federal Trade Commission at consumer.ftc.gov.

Uh-oh. I am going to have to change my ways. Being polite to scammers will be the hardest part.

Inside *The Insider*: Sue Chatham — one of UAH's earliest lifelong learners and a peerless source of institutional knowledge — begins a series of articles recounting how OLLI became what it is. We have photos from the recent 30th-anniversary celebration, among many other events.

Board President John Mason writes that "president's column" is an anagram for "littered presents," which describes OLLI. If you are male, do you still have your draft card? In his military history column, John reviews the history of conscription.

Glen Adams profiles Justin Clay, OLLI's new full-time marketing and design specialist, who will be teaching a fall class. Bob Carroll writes about his dog Ollie and other lifelong learners.

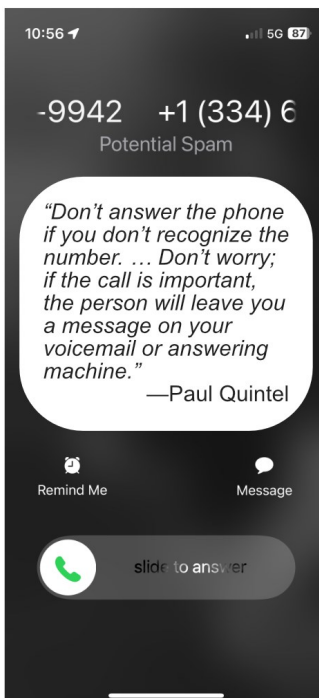
Chris Stuhlinger previews tours, hikes and walks scheduled for the fall, including events this month at weather agencies, a wildlife refuge, a stadium and a new communication technology museum. Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein detail travel plans and possibilities while soliciting your ideas.

Leah Black invites you to enjoy snacks in the OLLI lounge and join a member interest group. Marilynn Szecholda tells about fall social events, including free weekly Early Bird Breakfasts that will start Sept. 19.

Clay Williams reports that our OLLI compares well to others represented at a regional conference. Nancy Darnall reminds us that word of mouth by people like you is OLLI's No. 1 public relations tool.

Don't miss the last page, a 2003 poem by Pat Johns that celebrates our community: "the butcher, the baker, the scented candle maker, the team that sent men to the moon" and many others.

Steve Stewart
Editor, *The OLLI Insider*



LITTERED PRESENTS



So, as is my wont, I was playing around on the computer this morning trying to come up with an appropriate parable for this month's column, and I happened across an anagram generator.

Now, an anagram, as I'm sure you all know, is just a word or phrase formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. And, being easily distracted, when I searched

for one for the phrase "president's letter," lo and behold, the words "littered presents" jumped off the page.

Now I know that my mind sometimes works in mysterious ways, but this phrase, "littered presents," struck me as being entirely appropriate for our OLLI experience.

Why, you might ask? Because everywhere you look — especially in the last month — there our members have been.

There was the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement in Clemson, South Carolina, where our peers from across the country gathered to discuss the challenges we all face in bringing top-flight lifelong learning to our various communities.

There was the end of yet another successful summer session, followed immediately by the introduction to a new and exciting fall schedule soon to be available.

And, of course, there was the joy of sharing our 30th anniversary kickoff with our friends from across Alabama, not to mention having the opportunity to spend the afternoon listening to our own Homer Hickam share stories about his life.

The past month has indeed been a gift — a present if you prefer — to us all.

And as we move ahead into a new academic year, the gifts just keep on giving. Take a look at the new catalog. Besides a broad array of exciting classes, there are bonuses and events and travel, oh my. Literally, there's a gift for everyone. And they just keep on coming.

And so, and I imagine that by now you've noticed, I am finally getting around to my point. The anagram "littered presents" is a perfect definition for our experience as members of an OLLI family.

Do you ever stop to think of all the little things you've gotten from being one of us? And I'm talking about a lot more than just those little annoyances like parking — whether it be at Wilson Hall or on I-565 or the Parkway while trying to *get* to Wilson Hall, though in truth, it's been way easier to find parking spaces for a couple of years now.

Or how about my favorite peeve: that regardless of how many or how few classes I choose to take in any given term, at *least* two of them are going to be scheduled in the same time block? Sigh.

We all whine about those things, don't we? But if you think about it, those are the things — coming to UAH to learn and to share with our friends — that bring us together.

And therein lie the "littered presents." We do that whining, usually in the lounge, surrounded by our friends. Do you see it? The "present" is that we're not sitting at home alone, arguing with the television. (Somebody please tell me that I'm not the only one who does that.) No. Instead, we're out in this big, beautiful world, enjoying every minute of every day this life gives us.

And *that*, my friends, is a present beyond worth. And if you think about it, I believe you'll agree that our OLLI has probably littered all of our lives with an abundance of presents just like that for a long, long time. I know it has mine! And, I believe, we can continue to share those gifts, together, for many years to come. In fact, I look forward to it.

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

John Mason
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



Huntsville author Homer Hickam (second from left) spoke and signed books for OLLI members from The University of Alabama, Auburn University and UAH during the 30th anniversary celebration of lifelong learning at UAH on Aug. 3. One of Hickam's best-known books is "Rocket Boys," which became the movie "October Sky." The movie title is an anagram of the book title. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

Sign up for each event by clicking “Online/In Person.” All bonuses/events with online option are through Zoom video conferencing. You will receive an email with the Zoom meeting invitation one business day prior. There is a limited capacity for in-person events.

Sept 8 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Visit the “Wickedest City in America!” Phenix City, Alabama and the Assassination of Albert Patterson — Wilson Hall

On June 18, 1954, Albert Patterson, a candidate for Alabama Attorney General, was shot and killed on the streets of Phenix City. His statewide campaign had included a promise to clean up the city — given the dubious distinction as being labeled the “wickedest city in America.” Tom Borchert spent several days in Phenix City investigating this fascinating story and he’ll share his findings along with excerpts from the movie “The Phenix City Story” and photos of Phenix City — then and now. Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Tom Borchert, a retired trial attorney and White House historian.

Sept 22 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Behind the Silver Screen: Film Production — Wilson Hall

Ever wonder what a gaffer does when looking at movie credits? Learn that answer as well as how movies, TV shows and commercials are made. This presentation will look at the process of film production from script to movie theater and the roles of the people involved. Attendees will see how film production requires problem solving, project management and accounting to support storytelling. Get treated to fascinating stories of the unusual situations presented, like finding hotel rooms for orangutans in Hawaii, quickly sourcing specialized equipment in remote areas and dealing with location restrictions.

Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by OLLI Board Member Nancy Noever, a veteran production manager and line producer.

Oct 6 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Miss Lillian — Wilson Hall

This one-woman play depicts a visit with Lillian Carter at her home in Plains, Georgia, in 1978. Her son Jimmy had been President of the United States for two years. Miss Lillian reflects on her life as the child of supportive, forward-thinking parents in the rural South. Her path took her through a career in nursing, marriage, rearing four children, widowhood, and becoming the oldest person accepted into the Peace Corps in 1966 at age 68. At times humorous and at times poignant, “Miss Lillian” is a keen look at the life of a remarkable woman.

Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Carol Cook Puckett, who wrote this one-woman play, and Elaine Hubbard, who has performed, directed, designed, and choreographed many award-winning shows.

Oct 20 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: The History of the James Webb Telescope: Design, Construction, Testing, and Early Scientific Results — Student Services Building

The James Webb Space Telescope is the world’s premier space science observatory. Learn about the telescope’s creation and design and see images of galaxies formed in the early universe, planets orbiting other stars, and the implications of Webb’s discoveries for deepening our understanding of how stars, planets, galaxies, and the universe as a whole form and evolve.

This Super Bonus is part of OLLI’s Anniversary Celebration of 30 years of lifelong learning.

Open to the public.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Dr. James Hadaway, a Principal Research Scientist at UAH, and Dr. John Fix, UAH Professor and Dean Emeritus.

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

WELCOME, NEW EVENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Our committee membership has doubled! I'd like to welcome two new members to the Events Committee, so we now have a committee of four.

Nancy Noever and Bob Carroll, who are also new members on the OLLI Board of Directors, will be working with Michelle Laverty and me to bring exciting events to the OLLI members.

Although the fall semester is less than a month old, we are already working on setting up a variety of events for spring 2024. We have a long list of ideas, so over the next several weeks we'll be contacting potential event venues to schedule visits for our limited number of available spring dates.

But first we still have several events to look forward to this fall. Although several events with limited tour capacity are already full and registration has closed (or are close to being full as of press time), other events are still available for registration.

Recap of recent events

- **Von Braun Center backstage tour** — OLLI members enjoyed a fascinating tour July 28 of the VBC, which included the Mars Music Hall, Playhouse, Concert Hall, dressing rooms, newly renovated exhibit and meeting spaces, and arena, where we learned how events needing ice (such as ice hockey) can occur within a day of other events (such as basketball).
- **Biergarten at U.S. Space and Rocket Center** — OLLI's 30th anniversary celebration on Aug. 3 was capped by a lively and pleasant evening at Biergarten with OLLI members from UAH, Auburn University and The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa).
- **HudsonAlpha tour** — OLLI members experienced a most informative tour Aug. 18 of the HudsonAlpha flagship facility and greenhouse, where scientists use biotechnology to conduct important genome research about human diseases and also plants and agriculture. HudsonAlpha also encourages entrepreneurship on its campus and provides education to other researchers.

Coming events in September and October (all events require pre-registration and a waiver/release form; bring your OLLI name tag)

- Friday, Sept. 15 — **National Weather Service/SWIRLL Tour**, 320 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville (near UAH campus), 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tour the National Weather Service's Huntsville facility, the newest of the Service's 122 offices nationwide. The office provides weather forecasts and warnings for 14 counties in northern Alabama and southern Tennessee. Also visit the nearby Severe Weather Institute and Radar & Lightning Laboratories

facility, operated by UAH. **Registration has closed due to limited tour capacity.**

- Saturday, Sept. 16 — **Nature walk at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge** off the Visitor Center entrance road in Decatur, 10 a.m. to noon. forms.gle/oxV8rGgB5UB3KKvj8. We will explore a new hiking and biking trail (5.5 miles out and back). The easy trail leads through and by a variety of habitats, including woodlands, farm fields and waterways.
- Friday, Sept. 22 — **Joe Davis Stadium tour**, 3125 Lee-man Ferry Road, Huntsville, 2 to 3 p.m. forms.gle/19VjEQoKfzcnPGom8. Huntsville has a professional soccer club (Huntsville City Football Club), and Joe Davis Stadium has been remodeled, renovated and repurposed. Join us for a tour of the "new" stadium and all the areas that make this multipurpose renovation a significant addition to the expanding Huntsville athletic community. This tour will be approximately one hour of standing and walking approximately one-half mile. Tour capacity is limited.
- Friday, Sept. 29 — **SIGNALS Museum of Information tour**, 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, 1:30 to 3 p.m. forms.gle/CPVE9CVe7ZR3hDEEA. SIGNALS is a brand-new communication technology museum that provides a hands-on, immersive experience where guests can explore, interact, and learn about communication technologies throughout history. Visitors will leave the museum with more appreciation for the business leaders and inventors alike who have paved the way for the digital technologies we rely on today. Museum staff are also looking for volunteers to help with the museum. Tour capacity is limited.
- Friday, Oct. 6 — **Historic Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment tour**, 2211 Seminole Drive, Huntsville, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Rocket City has the largest privately owned arts facility in the nation with an iconic water tower. Learn how a textile mill in Alabama, built by a Massachusetts entrepreneur, became Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment. We will tour the renovated areas of the vast facility and meet and watch some of the various artists and artistic entrepreneurs. This will be another "I had no idea ..." event. The tour will be approximately 90 minutes of standing and walking approximately one-half mile. **Registration has closed due to limited tour capacity.**
- Saturday, Oct. 14 — **Hike at Monte Sano Nature Preserve** off Bankhead Parkway, Huntsville, 10 a.m. to noon. forms.gle/kvEU5EWejAGE91SG7. Hike the Old Railroad Bed Trail (aka the Buttonhole section), and follow the path of one of the country's oldest, and shortest-lived, rail corridors — Monte Sano Railway. As you hike the narrow dirt and stone bed, you will pass waterfalls and the original stone bridge supports. Trail length is about 1.7 miles; a steeper shortcut is available on the return portion of the trail. Parts of the trail are rough.

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EVENTS COMMITTEE

EVENTS COMMITTEE, CONT

- Friday, Oct. 27 — **Port of Huntsville tour**, Huntsville International Airport, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn about the Port of Huntsville (Huntsville International Airport and International Intermodal Center) facilities and operations, including its history, present activities and future plans. This fascinating tour will start with a presentation about the port, followed by a van tour of the POH property, including the cargo ramp, fuel farm, control tower (drive-by), Signature Fixed Base Operator, and Intermodal Center. **Registration has closed due to limited tour capacity.**
- Saturday, Oct. 28 — **Maple Hill Cemetery walk**, 203 Maple Hill Drive, Huntsville, 10:30 a.m. to noon. forms.gle/ruW2CMWs5geNdM4u9. Explore a portion of the largest cemetery in Alabama as we discover historic gravesites (local, state and national significance) and notable trees (fall leaf colors?) during this 1- to 1.5-mile leisurely stroll. Maple Hill Cemetery is the oldest and largest municipal cemetery in continuous operation in the South (since 1818). Rain date is one week later (Saturday, Nov. 4).

See you at the events!

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



Coming event venues (clockwise from top left): Monte Sano Nature Preserve, Joe Davis Stadium, Maple Hill Cemetery, National Weather Service, Lowe Mill, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Port of Huntsville (two photos), SIGNALS Museum.

VON BRAUN CENTER BACKSTAGE TOUR, JULY 28



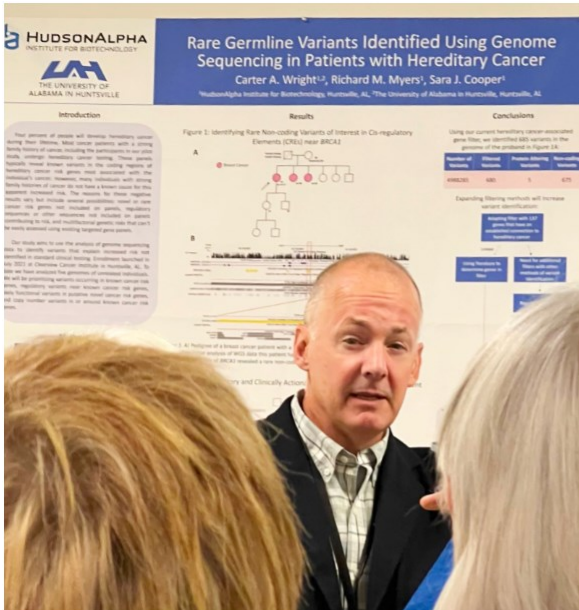
(Photos by Helen Crawford and Chris Stuhlinger)

BIERGARTEN AT THE ROCKET CENTER, AUG. 3



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

HUDSONALPHA BIOTECH FACILITY TOUR, AUG. 18



(Photos by Helen Crawford, Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

SAY HI TO OLLIE, A FELLOW LIFELONG LEARNER



mother that way!"

Ollie is now the unofficial mascot of the Curriculum Committee by executive order. And that suits him to a tee. Ollie is a true rescue canine whom Deb and I adopted in the spring of 2020, and that story is for another time.

Ollie is a quick learner and has a wonderful curiosity. He follows us around the house and parks wherever we land just to see what is going on (even if it's the bathroom!). I guess one could say he is a lifelong learner, just like OLLI members!

And just like us 50-plus humans, Ollie has his idiosyncrasies. We discovered several months into our adoption that he has canine epilepsy. Thus, he takes phenobarbital twice a day, and the seizures are pretty much under control. He also greets anyone at the front door, including our granddaughters but especially the FedEx/UPS delivery person, with a 10-second barking episode and then suddenly quiets and becomes your best friend.

And on longer drives, when we take the dogs with us for a camping trip, Ollie requires a Xanax to calm him down; rides in the car are not his thing. But you can't help but love the guy.

Enough of the rabbit trail; let's talk about curriculum.

The open house Aug. 11 was a grand success. An estimated 150 attended! I thoroughly enjoyed walking around and visiting with you and getting to know the variety of offerings we have. Kudos to Debbie Applegate and the arts table — what a gallery of work on display! I am planning on occasionally

Meet Ollie. Or Oliver, which is what we call him when scolded (rare). Interesting how we do that, use a full name when scolding — "Robert William, don't you ever talk to your

attending the Friday afternoon MIG of artists and working on editing some of my photography with their help.

Another interesting contact I made was M.D. Smith, who is offering a creative writing class. I was in a writers' group back in South Carolina and was progressing well on a fiction piece; then came Covid, and it has been on the back burner. If M.D. offers the course next spring, I'm signing up.

Thanks to all of you for making OLLI at UAH the success it is and bringing us back from the valley of Covid. As you may have heard, the upswing in membership and course offerings has brought with it a predicament: We are running out of classroom space!

This fall my course and Steve Jones and Chris Stuhlinger's course were supposed to be taught in one of the classrooms in the Salmon Library, but that was pulled out from under us by UAH academic classes, which get priority. I jokingly suggested at the executive board meeting that perhaps we need to do like the public schools: rent a couple of portables and put them out in the parking lot in front of Wilson Hall!

The Curriculum Committee discipline leads have been given the spring 2024 course proposal form link, which they will distribute. If you or someone new to OLLI would be interested in proposing a course, let me know, and I'll forward the link via text or email. As I wrote last month, don't be timid! If you think you have a subject that you could present, step up to the plate.

As I contemplated my own lifelong learning path — while pushing my mower on a recent morning — I could think of numerous events and people who were an impetus. Teachers and professors always come to mind, as do family members, including my own two adult children. But something else from 60-plus years ago also comes forward, a structure. "A structure?" one might ask; yes, a building.

I grew up in a quintessential small town in the Midwest, the kind of town where kids rode their bicycles to school, to neighbors, to run an errand for a parent, to most everywhere. Heck, there was even a bicycle rack at the rear entrance of my high school, and we weren't embarrassed to ride our Schwinn's to school at that age. All that to say, I frequently rode my bike to the public library one block from the courthouse square. It was one of the 2,509 Carnegie libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie, and it had three bicycle racks at the side entrance. (Yes, I clearly remember.)

One would walk through the adult book shelving sections that were rather intimidating on the way to the children's section, with its much more friendly atmosphere. My favorite books to check out were the biographies of famous inventors and scientists like Edison, Westinghouse and G.W. Carver.

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Ollie is a quick learner and has a wonderful curiosity.

MEET OLLIE, A FELLOW LIFELONG LEARNER, CONT

The books were probably written at a fifth-grade level and, of course, had black-and-white, hand-drawn illustrations. But, oh, the inspiration that was provided. I still love to read biographies, especially of our founding "natural philosophers" such as Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Sir Isaac Newton and, later in time, Maxwell, Schrödinger and Einstein. I wanted to grow up to be like one of them, delving into the mysteries of creation.

The connection to lifelong learning is this: Just when we think we know it all, more doors to knowledge open up to be entered. Perhaps it is a younger generation than ours that is passing

through those doors, but isn't it wonderful that we can join with them through media and continue our own education?

I once read the anecdote about a widow in her 90s who, though arthritic, painted watercolors in the morning, read The New York Times in the afternoon, and subscribed to Scientific American, from which she read an article a day at bedtime. All this in addition to daily housekeeping, as she was alone in the house she had lived in since her marriage at age 19. The beautiful ending is that her niece who lived across the street came to check on her, as was her daily habit, and

discovered her in bed still sitting up with a peaceful look on her face, deceased. The Scientific American was in her lap, opened to an article on Sally Ride, the pioneering NASA astronaut.

I wonder if she was thinking as she read, "Gee, I would like to do that, launch into space just like Sally Ride." Some of us would say she got her wish.

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend. See you when courses start up. Veni, vidi, vici.

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

OUR BEST P.R. TOOL IS YOUR WORD OF MOUTH

Here I am again, wanting to share ideas and excite our membership about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, or OLLI at UAH.

At the beginning of August, we hosted the open house event to encourage members, new and returning, to register for fall classes, explore member interest groups (MIGs), discover travel opportunities, and, as always, share food and fellowship. The event followed our kickoff for the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning as a component of the university. Our recent and exciting realignment as part of the M. Louis Salmon Library already gives us new avenues to explore and grow.

As the pandemic diminishes in our rearview mirrors, a new energy emerges. I feel it in the corridors of Wilson Hall, in the lounge and classrooms, and, yes, in the off-campus engagements that Chris Stuhlinger, Michelle Laverty and their Events Committee arrange for us. There are so many new courses, travel plans, field trips and social activities. Where else can one do so much for the cost?

Over the years, the OLLI Public Relations Committee has worked so hard to spread the word. Should we buy this ad, attend that event, sponsor that cause, or mail that letter? Cost versus

effectiveness is always at the forefront. Of course, if we could quantitatively pinpoint marketing success, we could simply sell that information and fund every dream our members and leadership imagine. But we can't.

What we can do is utilize the tools we have to achieve the benefits we seek. The one certainty is that the No. 1 most effective marketing tool we have is word of mouth. You tell your friends; you share opportunities for our speakers to talk to your other groups about our OLLI program.

As this celebration year continues, OLLI at UAH will have more events. In October, we will host a "super bonus" featuring the James Webb Space Telescope; sign up as soon as you see the notice in your eNews. This will be *big*! Tell your friends.

The success of OLLI at UAH depends on us, the members. We have

outstanding staff support in David Moore, the director of the library; Clay Williams, our program director; Alice Sammon, program coordinator; Justin Clay, marketing and design specialist; and others. And they are fully engaged in our ongoing achievements. However, there are so many ways we as members support OLLI.

This is not a plea for donations (although they are welcome anytime), but a notice that every member plays a role. You fuel the program with your energy, your participation, and your curiosity. When classes resume later this month and we gather again to learn and teach, be there. As we have said for years, "come for the classes, stay for the fun."

Nancy Darnall
Vice President for Administration & Finance
OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

Open house on Aug. 11. New energy is emerging in the corridors of Wilson Hall, in the classrooms, in the lounge and off campus. (Photo by Justin Clay)



NEWS FROM UAH



Clay Williams with Alabama dignitaries at the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement, hosted by Clemson University in July. From left are Betty Koval, Clay, The Tiger, Jill Stewart, John Mason and Irene Garoppo. According to Wikipedia, Clemson's athletic teams have been nicknamed the Tigers since 1896, when coach Walter Merritt Riggs brought the name from his alma mater, Auburn University. Riggs later served as Clemson's president.

DOING JUST FINE



I recently had the pleasure of joining several OLLI board members in attending the 2023 Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement hosted by OLLI in Clemson, South Carolina.

The conference was a great opportunity to meet other lifelong learning staff and members from across the country and learn what they do and how they do it. We came away

with many new ideas for marketing, courses, and simply making our organization better.

My biggest takeaway, however, was feeling pretty good about our OLLI here at UAH.

We offer a comprehensive curriculum, incorporate technology where needed, and offer great events and member interest groups. Our course guide looks better than anyone's. We have a committed Board of Directors and staff, and I think our price structure is highly competitive.

I look forward to us implementing some new ideas, but after talking with my counterparts from across the country, I am proud of our OLLI and think it stacks up very well compared to others. Could we be better in some ways? Of course. But overall, we are doing just fine.

We had a wonderful kickoff event to celebrate 30 years of lifelong learning on Aug. 3. Homer Hickam told some great stories, and our rocket demonstration was well-received. It was great to have our fellow Yellowhammer

institutions (Auburn University and The University of Alabama) join us in the celebration.

Thanks to everyone who made the event such a great success. Keep an eye on our webpage, *eNews*, and this newsletter for details on future events.

It is hard to believe that this all started back in August 1993 with the Academy for Lifelong Learning. Those individuals laid the groundwork with ideas such as a membership based on an annual fee and that the members themselves should choose the curriculum. Their ideas for initial course offerings included Introduction to Genealogy, Problems in Economics, Playwriting, Introduction to Computers, and (of course, being in Rocket City) Space Exploration History. I like to say 30 years later that we are still reaching for the stars! (Yeah, corny, I know.)

Fall registration continues, and courses and events are filling up fast. Don't hesitate to register *now*! Courses start the week of Sept. 11.

And finally, the OLLI staff has moved. No, we haven't gone far, just closer to the main registration office.

I am now located in Wilson Hall 105, Alice Sammon in Wilson 106 and Justin Clay in Wilson 109. Our phone numbers remain the same. Come by and see us, but don't be surprised if we ask you to unpack a box or two.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Time to register for Fall 2023 courses. Tuition is \$20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration).



ABSOLUTE BEGINNING BRIDGE

9/11 - 10/30 • M • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 8 sessions • In Person • B. Darnall • \$35

This is an opportunity for absolute beginners to learn to play the world's most popular card game. Have fun while you stimulate your mind in a relaxed, congenial social environment. This course is designed for the true beginner, and you'll learn the basics of bridge and become ready to play with friends and relatives. The text, *Bidding in the 21st Century*, will be provided free of charge. This course is ideal for individuals with no or very limited knowledge of the game.



CREATIVE KNITTING

9/11 - 10/30 • M • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 8 sessions • In Person • M. Laverty • \$35

Take your knitting skills to a whole new level. Learn three basic techniques: circular knitting, short rows, and lace — all used in one project. By course's end, each person will have proudly created their own unique piece. Knowledge of basic knitting skills is preferred but not necessary. Students will need to provide their own materials. A list will be provided prior to the first class.



LEARNING SPANISH THROUGH MUSIC

9/12 - 10/31 • Tu • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 8 sessions • In Person • J. Uithoven • \$35

Join us as we employ music to learn more of the Spanish language. Music gives us an opportunity to practice hearing and understanding different accents. Participate in interactive activities that will help you learn from songs. In addition to language skills, you will discover new artists for your listening pleasure.



EXPLORING SOCIAL ISSUES THROUGH JOURNALISM AND FILM

9/13 - 10/4 • W • 1:15 pm - 2:45 • 4 sessions • Live Virtual • S. Keiser • \$25

Using recent magazine and newspaper articles, as well as documentaries and feature films when available, discuss a variety of social issues and problems that currently affect and have affected our world. Delve into important issues that have made an impact in our society through thoughtful conversations with OLLI members.

Save 20%

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

EARLY BIRD BREAKFASTS WILL START SEPT. 19



Being a part of OLLI has given me so many things to look forward to.

As I write this, I'm happily anticipating flying to the Maritime Provinces in northern Canada with OLLI friends. This is my fourth trip sponsored by OLLI, and all have been wonderful experiences. This opportunity to travel is one of my favorite membership benefits.

Soon classes will begin. I always find many classes, bonuses and special events of interest.

The Social Committee has been busy planning events for members to look forward to. Our popular, free, weekly Early Bird Breakfasts will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 7:45 in the lounge. So come every Tuesday and enjoy an array of delicious casseroles, muffins, fruit and other goodies.

Mark your calendars for one of OLLI's truly special events. On Nov. 10, we will honor our instructors with a luncheon at Trinity United Methodist Church. This event recognizes the selfless work our teachers do to enrich and inform OLLI members.

Following in December is the holiday party. Ted Cannon will again be our DJ and will keep the dance floor booming. Venue and time will be announced later.

So see you soon as fall semester begins.

Marilynn Szecholda
Chair, Social Committee



Early Bird Breakfast in the OLLI lounge, September 2022. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

EXPLORING CANADA

OLLI's Canada travelers in mid-August on the Cabot Trail, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. (Photo from Jill Stewart)



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL WITH OLLI?



At the OLLI fall open house, the Travel Committee had lots of folks stopping by to investigate trips that are currently planned and new ideas for travel.

There was a signup sheet for members to suggest their bucket-list items, and the most popular spot mentioned was Machu Picchu in Peru, as well as other South American countries. We had some votes for the British Isles, and London in particular.

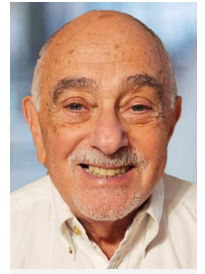
The committee welcomes and solicits your suggestions for travel. Knowing where you want to visit helps us choose where we'll go next.

Take a look at these travel companies' websites for ideas that might interest you (you may have to copy and paste into your internet browser):

- Gate 1 Travel, www.gate1travel.com/small-groups/small-group. We haven't traveled with them, but they have good reviews from travelers. The prices will get your attention, as they seem moderate compared to others. The link shown is small-group travel, and that is described by the company as "an escorted tour with a more intimate experience in a small group of no more than 22 travelers, often including unique and boutique accommodations. These itineraries give you the best opportunity for local immersion and cultural connections." The company offers travel style categories from Deluxe to Value and a variety of land, cruise, hiking and custom options.
- Another company that was recommended for the military and American history buffs among us is Stephen Ambrose Tours, stephenambrosetours.com. Trips are pricey, but according to trip reviews the value is excellent based on the expertise of the guides and the immersive and authentic experience each trip

provides. We are particularly interested in the Lewis and Clark tour, as just such a trip has been discussed in the Travel Committee for several months. See details at stephenambrosetours.com/tour/lewis-and-clark-tour, and read about the 13-day trip via motor coach — just under \$5,000 per person double-occupancy, with most meals

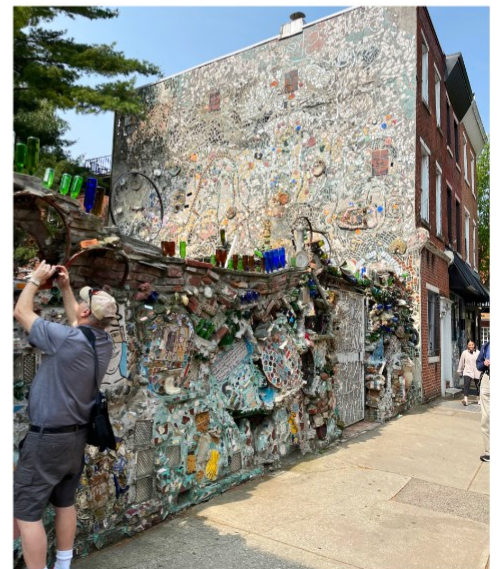
included, air excluded. About as close as you'll get to taking the actual path that Lewis and Clark took!



(continued on the next page)



OLLI travelers found murals and mosaic sculptures in Philadelphia. At top is a building in Magic City. Bottom right, Steve Goodman gets a closeup. Bottom left, bricks are painted to resemble the building behind them.



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL WITH OLLI?, CONT

Companies that we have habitually traveled with are Grand Circle, which also owns O.A.T.; Road Scholar; and Collette. You might Google these, as well as Smithsonian, and make some comparisons on trips to places you hope to visit. Let us know when you find the right trip, and the committee will take a look at it.

Philadelphia and Canada

Thought you might be interested in knowing a little more about what we saw in Philadelphia on the trip in May.

The city council there started a program almost 40 years ago to convert energetic graffiti artists to real artists. This visionary endeavor resulted in Philadelphia's new moniker "Mural Arts Capital of the World." Additionally, it caused civic-minded individuals and corporations to help fund this public enterprise. You can hardly walk a block before encountering an awesome wall of interest.

We visited a part of town known as Magic City, where local artist Isaiah Zagar made an international name for himself as he turned found junk into amazing mosaic sculpture gardens and walls.

OLLI members are on the Canadian Maritimes trip as of this writing, but Ed and Paulette Bernstein and Steve and Lauren Goodman, who took a pre-trip to Quebec province, are already sending photos back. Look for more on this trip in October's OLLI Insider.

Los Angeles and Georgia islands

OLLI members, there are still places as of this writing on Road Scholar's "Art Collectors and Their Art" trip to Los Angeles in mid-January 2024. These collectors were abundantly able to buy in the world market whatever they chose — and they chose the most precious artifacts that money could buy from ancient to modern origins. And of course they housed these col-

lections in magnificent edifices surrounded by equally magnificent gardens.

To be escorted by motor coach to these properties scattered around the suburban areas of LA is in and of itself luxury, if you've ever had to drive in that city! This will be a great trip. To enroll for Program No. 1183, please call Road Scholar at 800-454-5768 and reference Order No. 20148564. If you have questions, please email OLLI.info@uah.edu.

Road Scholar's "St. Simons, Jekyll Island and Sapelo — Island Hopping" trip to Georgia barrier islands in March 2024 is filled as of this writing. The company maintains a wait list, and if you are interested in going on this trip, please call the regular customer service line at 800-454-5768 and reference Program No. 1384 on 3/10/2024. Ask to be added to the wait list.

Update on Iceland trip

Plans are progressing for a tour of "Iceland: Land of Fire, Ice and

Lights!," to be scheduled for Sept. 9-17, 2024. Our tour operator, Nanda Journeys, is working hard to put together a custom, activity-filled adventure that will take us around the entire island country.

During this nine-day tour, OLLI members will visit geothermal lagoons, lava fields, geologic wonders, huge glaciers, spectacular waterfalls, quaint villages, museums and more. Included will be a boat tour or two, and we should have a decent chance to see the Northern Lights.

Tour details and costs are being finalized, but we should have a final itinerary available soon. Pricing is expected to be approximately \$6,500, land only. Contact OLLI trip coordinator Chris Stuhlinger, OLLI.info@uah.edu, if you want to be added to the list to receive email updates.

Happy trails!

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein
Travel Committee Co-Chairs



The Bernsteins and Goodmans in Quebec at Montmorency Falls and Joan of Arc Garden.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

SNACKS, INTEREST GROUPS, CONTEST, DVDS



Members can get an early start to the fall semester by coming to the Friday bonus session Sept 8. The bonus about Phenix City, once considered the wickedest city in America, begins at 11 a.m., but there will be delicious snacks to share by 10:30, before and after the presentation.

This is always a great time to connect with other OLLI members and share good talks and good food. There are some wonderful bonus sessions ahead, so plan on attending.

It was so good to see the great turnout at the open house, and what a beautiful display of artwork by the Artist Studio Member Interest Group. Thanks to Debbie Applegate and her helpers for all her work organizing and setting up the display.

If you have any kind of art or craft you enjoy doing, come join the MIG and bring your work. The MIGs are a special way to enhance the OLLI experience and are part of the extra value of OLLI membership. You are more than welcome to join them. Don't forget the other MIGs: Bridge, Tai Chi, Mah Jongg and Dine Out. Be looking out for a new MIG in the works.

Please don't forget about taking pictures while enjoying summer activities and entering them into the OLLI photo contest for 2024. Check online for more information. Remember the topic this time is "Reflections." Winners from last year can be seen outside the OLLI volunteer office (151 Wilson Hall).

The DVD library in that office is ready for your use. There are hundreds of DVDs to choose from on a variety of topics. Take the time to look. A notebook on top of the cabinet lists all the DVDs, and there are directions for checking them out. An office volunteer can assist you.



The Artist Studio Member Interest Group showed some of its work at open house Aug. 11. Other MIGs include Bridge, Tai Chi, Mah Jongg and Dine Out. You can join one or more.

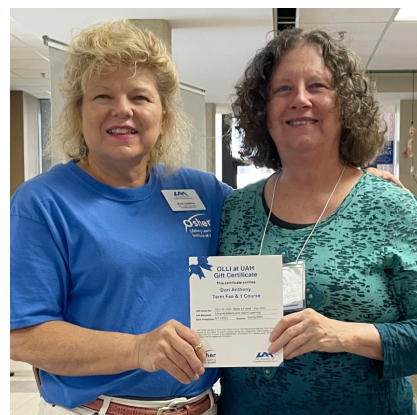
We are looking forward to all the amazing classes and events planned for the fall semester. See you at OLLI at UAH.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair

REFER A FRIEND, AND YOU MAY WIN

Dori Anthony (right) won July's Refer a Friend drawing. For bringing in a new OLLI member, Dori receives a free term tuition and a free course.

Alice Sammon, OLLI program coordinator, presented her certificate.



JUSTIN CLAY: MARKETING, DESIGN SPECIALIST

There is a new face in the OLLI offices. Justin Clay went to work in May as our marketing and design specialist. His job is to raise awareness about OLLI, increase enrollment and retain members. Justin is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Justin was born in Tuscaloosa, but his family moved back to Flatwood, Kentucky, where they were from, when he was 6 months old.

"It's a speck of town where Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia meet," said Justin. The area isn't known for much other than that it's where the Judds and Billy Ray Cyrus are from.

"My dad worked as an industrial finisher/painter. He basically stripped and repainted rail and trucking tankers. Unfortunately, safety regulations in Kentucky during the late '80s and early '90s weren't exactly fantastic and the job destroyed his respiratory functions. He passed away when I was 15. My mom worked as a medical office manager and took on a second and third job to support us after my father died. She's 83 and still works 40 hours a week in medical billing. She's awesome."

As a boy, Justin was drawn to art and books.

"I spent most of my time drawing and picking out books from the library," recalled Justin. "My favorite day of the year was the scholastic book fair in elementary school. I played soccer in high school, but honestly that was just so I could hang out with my friends."

Justin's first stab at college was at the University of Kentucky, where he majored in studio art and illustration. He became heavily involved in a company that was a precursor of Grubhub. He made decent money there and wasn't enjoying college, so he dropped out.

Several years, jobs and states later, Justin decided to give college another try and earned a degree in graphic design at UAH. He next earned a master's at the University of Tennessee. He returned to Huntsville in 2014 to



Justin Clay with the fall OLLI Course Guide, which he designed; his girlfriend, Rachel; and colleagues Clay Williams and Alice Sammon. At bottom left, Justin as a boy.

work in the Office of Marketing and Communications at UAH. Later he taught graphic design at Calhoun Community College and Athens State University. He returned to UAH in 2017 to teach graphic design.

Because it's difficult to live on an adjunct's salary, Justin started looking for a design job, which is how he came to OLLI.

"OLLI was a nice fit for me for a couple of reasons," said Justin. "I wanted to stay in higher education or something adjacent. I love the energy of people actively wanting to learn and foster a community. As a student employee in 2010, I designed an OLLI catalog, so I sort of knew what I was getting into."

"Everyone has been great so far. I think we have a great staff with Clay [Williams], Alice [Sammon], Anelisse

[Westmeyer] and myself. I've met only a fraction of the OLLI members, but everyone has been great. Everyone *wants* to be here, which is a big change from my time teaching traditional college students."

Justin doesn't spend all of his time working. "I do live with my absolutely amazing girlfriend, Rachel," said Justin. "She's a UAH instructor and works at a local print shop. We're both huge geeks and enjoy geek-related things. We play in a long-running Dungeons & Dragons weekly campaign. I would teach a class on D&D in a heartbeat. And I'm teaching a class in Digital Imaging Basics this fall."

Justin, welcome to OLLI. And thanks for all you will do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams



‘TEMPTATIONS’ SHOW AND RECEPTION

An OLLI group attended a matinee of “Ain’t Too Proud: the Life and Times of the Temptations,” as well as a pre-show reception, at the Von Braun Center on Aug. 6. At right, Wil Elrick, director of marketing and development for Broadway Theatre League, speaks with Nancy Darnall, OLLI vice president for administration and finance, who helped set up the events. (Photos by Steve Stewart)



UAH'S EARLY YEARS OF LIFELONG LEARNING: GETTING ORGANIZED, STARTING COURSES

This is the first of several historical articles by Sue Chatham, who joined UAH's Academy for Lifelong Learning 29 years ago. The Academy later became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Sue is a former board president and former Insider editor. She now works with the Insider team as a page designer, contributor, and peerless source of institutional knowledge.

2023 is the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning at UAH. So, what took place 30 years earlier in 1993?

In 1992 Dr. Mike Oliver, director of continuing education, visited The University of Alabama at Birmingham to learn about their program for senior citizens, which had started in 1988. He gathered material and returned to Huntsville and gave the material to Jean Herron, head of the Personal Development Unit, to develop a similar program for UAH. The program was to be member-driven and membership-governed.

Jean put together an ad hoc group of potential members of the new organization to develop a concept for the new program. This group met for the first time on Feb. 23, 1993. The only attendees identified at this meeting are Kay Cornelius, Reese Danley-Kilgo and Jack Dempsey. There must have been several more, but information is lacking on that point.

A second meeting was held on April 6. The following items, among others, were decided on:

- The name was "Academy for Lifelong Learning" (later changed to "Lifetime Learning").
- It was for those 55 and above.
- Courses would be eight weeks long.
- Classes were scheduled initially for Tuesday, optionally to expand to Thursday.
- Class size was 12 to 20 unless otherwise stated by the coordinator.

The next meeting was Aug. 3 in Spragins Hall to expose the Academy concept to the public. A total of 150 people attended; 89 signed up as original members. Seventy-nine registered for classes, and two classrooms were available in Spragins Hall.

The fall 1993 term curriculum was put together after this meeting. It consisted of:

- Great Books Discussion led by Deane Covington
- Huntsville History by Kay Cornelius
- Genealogy by John Godman
- Problems in Economics by Dr. Margaret Bond
- Playwriting by Fred Ashcraft
- Space Exploration History by Konrad Dannenberg
- Conversational French I by Dr. Margaret Bond
- An Introduction to Computers by Lindy Martin



Mike Oliver visited UAB in 1992 and brought back ideas for a senior citizens' program. Jean Herron developed a similar program at UAH.



Kay Cornelius did not want her students falling asleep in their chairs, so she had them visit all over the city. Destinations were Railroad Depot Museum, Constitution Hall Village, Maple Hill Cemetery, Burritt Museum and the Weeden House. She also had Dr. Francis Roberts teach one class on Huntsville in the Civil War.

Many of the same courses are offered today.

The initial Academy officers were elected from the steering committee representatives. These officers were to serve until May 1994, when officers would be elected by the entire Academy membership at the general membership annual meeting.

1993-94 officers were:

- President Carl Ziemke
- Vice President Rono Prince
- Secretary Chuck Higgins
- Treasurer Horace Lowers

Initial committees and chairs were:

- Administration and Finance, Horace Lowers
- Curriculum, Norman Frederick
- Membership/Promotion, Ralph Murphy
- Long-Range Planning (no identified chairperson)
- Steering, Carl Ziemke

Much of the information above came from "The Academy for Lifetime Learning, Inc., A History of the First Ten Years, 1993-2003," with Paul Hays as principal author, editor and coordinator, published in April 2004.

By Sue Chatham

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

September: A 'Greeting' from the president of the United States

This month's article is going to start with a quiz, so everybody go ahead and put your thinking caps on. It's OK. I'll wait.

Public Law 76-783 and 54 Stat. 885 were enacted Sept. 16, 1940, and as a result, young men across the country soon began to receive notices from the president of the United States beginning with the ominous word "Greeting." How many of you remember what this law did? How many of you got that letter?

Here's a hint: My draft card dated Dec. 21, 1971, as shown on this page.

And here's the answer: This was The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, also known as the Burke-Wadsworth Act, and it was the first peacetime conscription in U.S. history.

Initially, it required that men who had reached their 21st birthday but had not yet reached their 36th birthday register with their local draft boards. That changed when the U.S. entered World War II, and it was expanded to make all men from their 18th birthday until the day before their 45th birthday subject to military service. All men from their 18th birthday until the day before their 65th birthday were required to register. You know. Just in case.

How conscription came to be, then, is the rest of the story.

As you might expect, the Constitution gives Congress the power to "raise and support armies" and to "provide and maintain a navy." But even so, our traditions of the citizen soldier have, throughout most of our history, dictated that peacetime military service be voluntary.

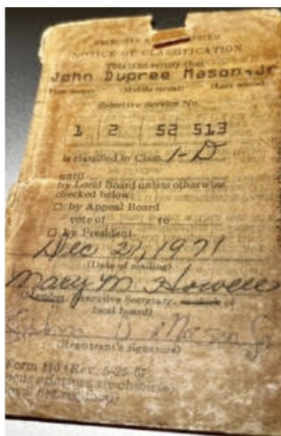
Therefore, in our early years, emergencies were met by first activating those organized state militias. Militiamen, as

an aside, were required to bring their own weapons, thus the creation of the 2nd Amendment, but to quote Wilbur on "The Big World of Little Adam," "That, Little Adam, is another story."

Conscription, drafting men for compulsory military duty, was available, but would be used only in the gravest of emergencies. During the War of 1812, for example, Congress considered but did not adopt a draft bill, and the militia prevailed.

The first federal military draft in American history was authorized during the height of our Civil War by the Conscription Act of 1863. That act required registration of all able-bodied male citizens 18 to 45 years old, but it also provided that whenever a congressional district failed to provide its quota of volunteers, any such deficiencies should be made up by drawing from the pool of registrants, i.e., drafting them.

(continued on the next page)



SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM		Approval Not Required
ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION		
The President of the United States,		Local Board No. 118 Los Angeles County 14911 S. Cranshaw Blvd Gardena, Calif. 90249 (Local Board Stamp)
To	Jeffrey David Schmidt 6601 Springpark #6 Los Angeles, Calif. 90056	SEP 24 1972 (Date of mailing)
GREETING:		SELECTIVE SERVICE NO. 1 118 1 6 132 062
You are hereby ordered for induction into the Armed Forces of the United States, and to report at Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station, 1727 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal. 90056 (Place of reporting)		
on	DEC 27 1971 (Date)	at 6:30 A.M. (Hour)
for forwarding to an Armed Forces Induction Station.		
<p>IMPORTANT NOTICE (Read Each Paragraph Carefully)</p> <p>If you are so far from your own local board that reporting in compliance with this Order will be a serious hardship, go immediately to any local board and make written request for transfer of your delivery for induction, taking this Order with you.</p> <p>IF YOU HAVE HAD PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE, OR ARE NOW A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL</p>		

Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, blindfolded, draws the first number in the draft lottery on July 20, 1917, during World War I. At bottom left is John Mason's draft card, beside another man's "greeting" from President Richard M. Nixon during the Vietnam War. (Photos from John Mason, Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia)

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

The first draft carried out under this act, in July 1863, caused a weeklong riot in New York City, in which over 1,000 people were killed and over \$1.5 million worth of property was destroyed. So apparently, even our third great-grandparents occasionally said, "Hell no, we won't go."

But that act had its problems as well, for it further provided that any draftee could avoid service by providing a substitute or by paying \$300. American entrepreneurship being what it is, this led to an entirely new cottage industry: the bounty jumpers.

The idea was that allowing men to pay others to enlist in their place would result in more soldiers enlisting. What it actually did, though, was to lead some to enlist themselves for other people, take the bounty, desert, and then enlist again somewhere else. New York City was a popular go-to city for anyone seeking someone to serve in their place. At one time, it was estimated that up to 3,000 professional bounty jumpers were operating there alone.

Now, you might think that the two opposing governments would frown on this practice, and you'd be correct. Desertion was punishable by death.

Unfortunately, wars require large numbers of bodies to function properly, and both sides soon realized that they needed soldiers more than they did examples. Thus, it became more expedient to send deserters back to the battlefield rather than to execute them. So executions for that reason were rarely carried out. The jumpers figured this out, too, so the whole process turned into something of a self-perpetuating prophecy.

But once Congress comes up with a good idea (and don't get me started on how often *that* happens!), we can count on seeing it brought up again and again. After the Civil War ended, it would be just over 50 years until the idea resurfaced. World War I was raging in Europe, and when the U.S. was about to enter the fray, a new act — the Selective Service Act of 1917 requiring universal registration and clas-

sification administered by local boards — came into existence.

Then came World War II and Burke-Wadsworth. And by then, Congress had figured out that maybe this was something that needed to remain in place. When the 1940 act expired in 1947, it was replaced by the Universal Military Training and Service Act of 1948, which continued the basic schemes set forth in the 1917 and 1940 statutes.

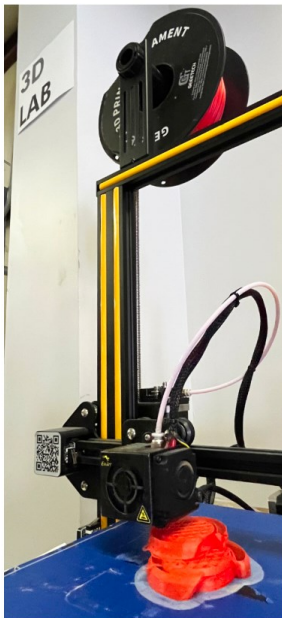
The first draft under this act was in 1950, and later conscriptions for both the Korean and Vietnam wars were carried out under the same act.

The draft would continue for another generation until finally, in the face of mounting dissatisfaction, registration under the act (renamed the Military Selective Service Act in 1967) at last ended in 1975.

There were lots of us who celebrated.

By John Mason

MAKER-SPACE



Participants in a single-meeting summer class on July 20 saw three-dimensional printers and other ways to make and fix things. The class was "Introduction to Makerspaces," meeting at The Monkey's Wrench, 1317 Virginia Blvd. NW, Huntsville. A makerspace is a location where people with shared interests, especially in computing or technology, can gather to work on projects while exchanging ideas, equipment and knowledge. The Monkey's Wrench calls it a "communal public workshop." (Photos by Steve Stewart)

SUMMER DAY TRIPS TO ALABAMA SITES



Scottsboro

Aug. 16



Moundville

June 28



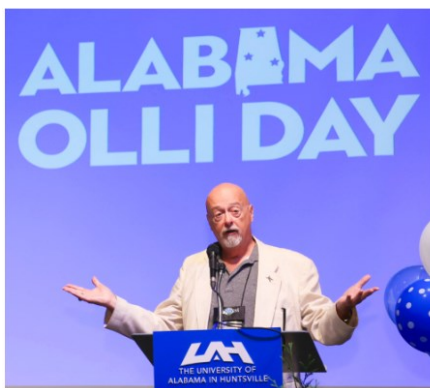
Birmingham

July 13



HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Homer Hickam, author of "Rocket Boys," spoke Aug. 3 on the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning at UAH. "Rocket Boys" became the movie "October Sky." The most recent of his 18 books is "Don't Blow Yourself Up." Other speakers included UAH President Charles Karr. It was also the annual Alabama OLLI Day, with visitors coming from OLLIs at Auburn University and The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa).



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Michael Mercier)

OLLI AT UAH ROCKETS INTO ITS 31ST YEAR

Water rockets representing The University of Alabama, Auburn University and UAH were launched after lunch from the UAH campus on Alabama OLLI Day, Aug. 3, which was also the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning at UAH.

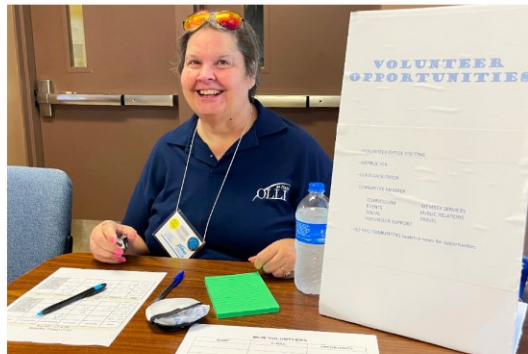
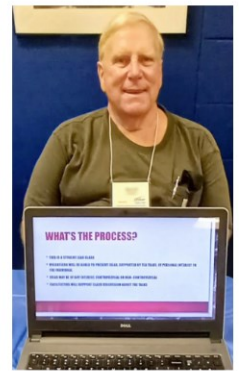
Dr. Robert Frederick, director of UAH's Propulsion Research Center, supervised the launches and a contest to determine the amount of water to put into each rocket to achieve maximum height. In each of two launches, the UAH rocket lifted off first and, according to official observers, flew the highest.



(Photos by Steve Stewart, Glen Adams, Michael Mercier and Chris Stuhlinger)

OPEN HOUSE INTRODUCES FALL SEMESTER

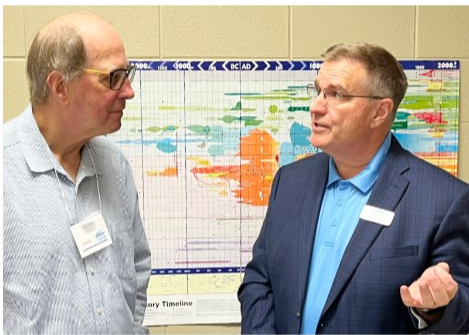
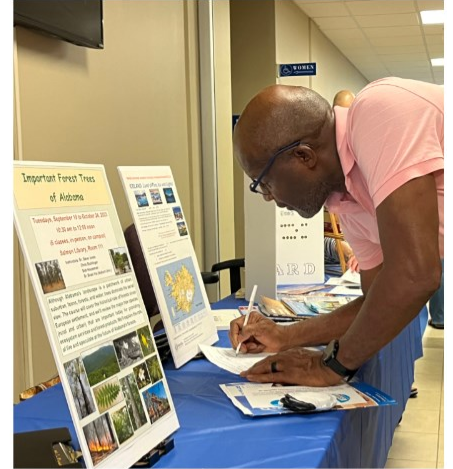
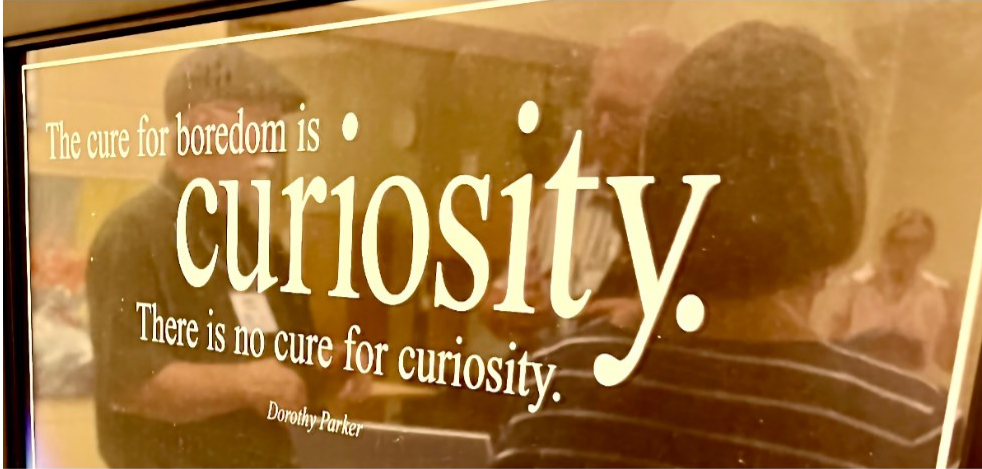
Up to 150 people attended fall semester open house on Aug. 11 in Wilson Hall. They shopped for courses, registered, learned about events and travel, obtained free parking permits for the year, met teachers and friends, and mingled with UAH mascot Charger Blue.



(Photos from Steve Stewart, Glen Adams, Dori Anthony, Sue Chatham and Justin Clay)

OPEN HOUSE: SEEING PEOPLE, WINNING PRIZES

Door prize winners at fall open house included Bill Koval and Betty Pettigrew, who won scarves; Kim Story, an overseas travel bag; John Langlois, a T-shirt; Barbara Johnson, a screen cleaner; Marcia Chesebro, a cooling towel and fan; and Phyllis Turner, a piece of slate shaped like Alabama and usable as a chalkboard.



THE LAST WORD

The following was on the back page of the program for the Academy of Lifetime Learning's 10-year celebration and annual membership meeting. This is still true today for the Academy's successor, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute!

That's ALL

"There is one purpose to life and one only: to bear witness to and understand as much as possible of the complexity of the world — its beauty, its mysteries, its riddles. The more you understand, the more you look, the greater is your enjoyment of life and your sense of peace. That's all there is to it. ... If an activity is not grounded in 'to love' or 'to learn,' it does not have value." — Anne Rice

The butcher, the baker,
the scented candle maker,
the team that sent men to the moon,
the teacher, the preacher,
the financial risk taker,
the musician who plays Claire de Lune,
the actuary, the secretary,
the man from the mortuary,
the dentist who put in my crown,
the physicist, the pharmacist,
the physical therapist,
what a treasure of new friends I've found!

I have practiced my profession
served my family
enriched my community
educated my children
earned my laurels
and now I want to come out to play
with my friends!

I want to learn
for the sheer joy of learning
study
just to sate my curiosity
question
until I quench doubt
I want to
muse ponder meditate
I want to take time to
investigate calculate cogitate
and explore all the different ways
to make the pieces fit.

That's all!

Pat Johns — a member of the Academy
of Lifetime Learning in 2003