

February 2024

THE OLLI INSIDER

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



NEW MEMBERS, OLLI STALWARTS, CREATURE TEACHERS



At the top (two photos), a social event for new members held Jan. 24 in the OLLI lounge; center left, M.D. Smith, the subject of this month's Insider profile, with his wife, Judy; center right, a red-bellied woodpecker, one of the feathered visitors to Bob Carroll's yard during the January ice storm; bottom left, the star of "An Afternoon with Naomi Judd," an OLLI event in 2015; bottom right, Renee Raney and Steve Jones with a nonvenomous golden-morph corn snake — a "creature teacher" who was with them to promote their spring semester course at open house Jan. 5.

Osher.uah.edu

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Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at UAH

‘MOCKINGBIRD’ KEEPS DELIVERING INSIGHTS



I have read and seen “To Kill a Mockingbird” several times. But I am sure I have missed something, and I will probably watch it again.

Aaron Sorkin’s Broadway play based on Nelle Harper Lee’s novel is coming to Huntsville, and OLLI members will get a discount when they attend the performance together at 1 p.m. on Feb. 18.

I use “Nelle” because I’m from Monroeville, her hometown, and people there say she went by that name. I don’t claim to have been on a first-name basis, but once I did sell her a typewriter ribbon.

Her father, A.C. Lee, was editor and owner of The Monroe Journal just before my father. Mr. Lee (a lawyer described by his family and others as the character model for Atticus Finch) was the apparent writer of a parting editorial declaring that “we are unable to recall any position we have previously taken on any important question that we would wish to change.”

Atticus, the hero of the novel, is almost universally viewed as a person of moral certainty and rectitude. The book title comes from the axiom that it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird because these birds harm no one and make beautiful songs. Characters in the book, including Tom Robinson and Boo Radley, are metaphorical mockingbirds. In the final chapter, Atticus’ daughter, Scout, tells Atticus that a man in a book she’s been reading turned out to be a nice guy, after all.

“Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them,” Atticus says.

With my limited ability to analyze literature, I concluded long ago that this was the book’s punchline. But Sorkin’s stage version gives even more prominence than Nelle Lee did to Calpurnia, the Finch family’s cook, housekeeper and nanny. Calpurnia represents the perspective of the town’s Black residents, who understandably are more cynical about the goodness and goodwill of Whites.

I’m a fan of Aaron Sorkin from “The West Wing” and other works, and he’s got a point about Calpurnia. Sorkin raises the possibility that, as good as Atticus was, he did not see the full picture or do enough to put down injustice. Atticus’ vision and options may have been limited by his circumstances as a White man in a segregated society.

One of the marks of great literature is that its message is both timeless and adaptable to new times and new insights. Let’s see what we can learn from the latest version.



Scout, Jem and Dill found a pocket watch, Indian head pennies, string, chewing gum and other items in the knothole of a tree, evidently left for them by the mysterious Boo Radley. This is a detail from Joe Wilson’s mural of “To Kill a Mockingbird” in Monroeville. For information on the Feb. 18 Huntsville performance, see tinyurl.com/olli-mockingbird. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

Inside *The Insider*:

Glen Adams profiles an OLLI teacher who might have been M.D. Smith, M.D., but became a broadcaster and writer. M.D.’s family owned Channel 31.

John Mason writes in his president’s column about the “hero’s journey” that all of us face. In his military history column, John describes the heroic conduct of 1st Lt. Sandy Nininger in the Pacific during World War II.

Bob Carroll reflects on birdwatching, among other subjects that OLLI teaches. He explains how it differs from birding. Clay Williams brings the good news that OLLI membership — still rebuilding after the pandemic — is approaching 900.

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein tell what the Travel Committee has learned and is doing about members’ bucket lists. Chris Stuhlinger previews events, including five in February and March: tours of Dynetics, Cook Museum and Salmon Library, as well as a quilt show and a nature walk.

Sue Chatham recalls the afternoon when the late Naomi Judd drew a crowd of more than 400 OLLI members. Nancy Darnall gives new details on 30th-anniversary events: Inside OLLI in February and art events in March and April.

Marilynn Szecholda invites us to free Early Bird breakfasts and the Souper Bowl. Leah Black reminds us to enter the annual photo contest, and Irene Garoppo seeks our input on who should be named Volunteer of the Year.

Steve Stewart
Editor, The OLLI Insider

WANT A HAPPIER LIFE? BE YOUR OWN HERO



I was doing some reading to re-search my spring class on World Mythology this week when I came across an article in the Oct. 30, 2023, edition of Scientific American titled “To Lead a Meaningful Life, Become Your Own Hero.”

Heroes are an integral part of mythology, but they are also important in each of our everyday lives. As I’ll explain in class, mythologies are cultural touchstones that help us all come to grips with our place, and role, in the cosmos. But, on a personal level, they can offer even more.

We — you, me, all of us — are heroes, and we’ve all undertaken the classic “hero’s journey” at least once in our lives. As it turns out, people who make that journey actually discover that it has the unexpected effect of making their own lives more meaningful.

Don’t believe me? Then check out an article available in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology coming on March 26. Its authors point out at least eight studies that reveal how the hero’s journey predicts, and can even causally increase, our experience of meaning.

We humans are creative by nature. Our innate desire to create comes from a place of curiosity, playfulness, and the desire to learn more. This is why learning, regardless of age or physical or cognitive abilities, has no expiration date.

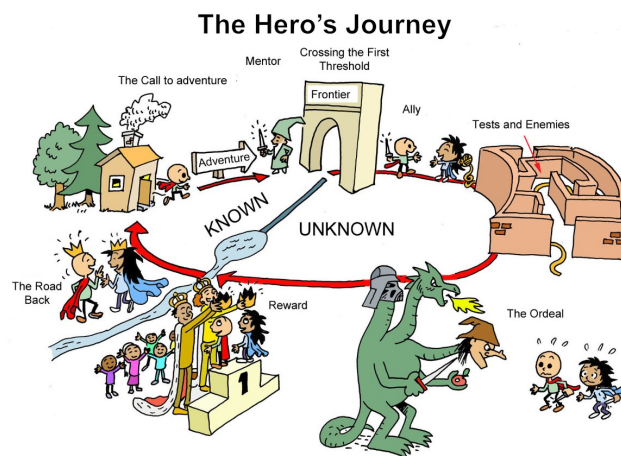
Lifelong learning is a journey that can be enriching and rewarding, especially as we enter our later years — a journey undertaken by heroes, if you will. And that’s why being a hero is relevant to this column!

Older adults and their care partners seek outlets for creativity and learning. And these just happen to be the very things organizations like OLLI can provide by allowing us to rethink our programming options.

Whether you know it or not, you embarked on a hero’s journey when you joined the OLLI family. Follow along on the chart:

First, you felt a call to adventure, and by following that call, you became a member and crossed your first threshold. Along the way, you met new friends (allies) and maybe even a new mentor. You were tested, whether in studying a subject you had never before considered, or by traveling, or by joining a member interest group, and so found your horizons beginning to expand.

Your reward? How about that feeling of self-satisfaction for accomplishing something you may have once thought impossible? And maybe an even better reward is the burgeon-



(Art by Esbjorn Jorsater, via [Wikimedia Commons](#))

ing fellowship you found with all the other heroes you met along the way.

Finally, by sharing your experience with others along the road back, you become a mentor yourself for a new group of fellow explorers.

Lo and behold, you’ve completed the journey. How’s it feel to be a hero? Better yet, how does it feel to know that (to coin a phrase) you’ve only just begun?

So seeing life as a hero’s journey impacts how people approach the challenges they face by boosting self-confidence and self-image. It encourages more resilient coping to life’s problems and enables participants to perceive themselves as more capable, psychologically and behaviorally, to tackle their problems.

This points to the powerful influence that our life stories have, shaping both our perceptions of our past and our approach to the future. Are you up for that challenge?

Because whether you know it or not, that’s what happens when we join our OLLI family and friends to discuss new learning and share our experiences. It doesn’t take much to become a hero, but the results are well worth the journey.

Motivational speaker and author Napoleon Hill gives us a path to follow when he reminds us that “whatever your mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.” Believe it! You’re a hero!

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

John Mason
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

Feb 2 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: "Rainy Street Stories" & "Around the Corner"
Wilson Hall

Learn about military intrigue during the Cold War drawn from personal experiences. The presenter's books, *Rainy Street Stories* and *Around the Corner*, describe what our nation expected of our Army counterintelligence soldiers in the secret world of the Cold War and its bitter aftermath. Hear stories of an Army counterintelligence officer as they worked and lived during these tumultuous times.

Presented by John Davis, a retired former U.S. counterintelligence officer.

Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members.

Feb 9 | Fri | 10:30 am - 1:30 pm | [In-Person](#)

Event: Inside OLLI
Wilson Hall

In celebration of thirty years of lifelong learning, get a detailed view of the inner workings of OLLI. Learn about the organization, its history, functions, and how you can get more involved. This event is geared towards those interested in getting more involved in OLLI. Lunch is provided. **FREE.**

Presented by OLLI board and OLLI staff.

Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members

Feb 16 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: "Picking, Politicking, and Pontificating"
(How an Ex-Cop Legalized Cannabis While Fighting Corruption)
Wilson Hall

Hear the story of how childhood trauma helped prepare the presenter for a lifetime of public service. These tragic circumstances transformed him from a homeless teenager to a marine, state trooper, investigator, politician, and ultimately, a storyteller/philosopher/musician who provides an entertaining insider's perspective of the corruption that permeates the world of partisan politics.

Presented by Mike Ball, a former Alabama State Trooper, agent of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation and member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members.

Feb 16 | Fri | 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Event: Souper Bowl
Wilson Hall

Calling all soup connoisseurs to join us after the February 16th Bonus on "Picking, Politicking, and Pontificating", for a Souper Bowl Luncheon. We'll have homemade soups to sample made by OLLI's great cooks. So, register for the Bonus, and sign up to bring your favorite soups in a crock pot. Or, just come and enjoy a wide variety of soups! If it's not a family secret, bring a recipe to share.

Presented by OLLI Social Committee

Free for OLLI members

March 1 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: Space City USA
Wilson Hall

Explore the ill-fated history of Huntsville's prospective theme park, Space City USA. From initial fundraising and planning in 1959 to bankruptcy and liquidation in 1967, the study uses archival resources held by UAH and private collectors to place the Space City story in the context of Huntsville's rise to prominence and the growing pains of a nascent space-related tourism industry.

Presented by Drew Adan, archivist at M. Louis Salmon Library at UAH

Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members

March 22 | Fri | 11:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: Therapy Dog Training
Wilson Hall

Learn what it takes for your pet to be trained as a Therapy Animal. How are animals trained to deal with differently abled people, medical equipment, unusual sounds, smells and sights and how can you become involved in this rewarding volunteer opportunity?

Presented by Mary Graham, certified professional pet dog trainer and Lyndsay Coats, Executive Director of Therapy Partners

Sign-up is required. Free for OLLI members

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEARN ABOUT OLLI, AND SAVOR ITS ART



As we approach the midpoint in our year of celebrating the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning at UAH, more activities are on the horizon.

The energy of our program excites our committee to continue to offer exceptional events as we share our history and future. With the outstanding leadership from our dedicated UAH staff and the OLLI Board of Directors com-

bined with the enthusiasm of our volunteers, OLLI is “30 years and counting.” Come see what we have planned.

Inside OLLI in February

On Feb. 9, we host “Inside OLLI.” Join us from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall to learn more about how our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH works.

Find out how the Academy for Lifetime Learning became a member institution within the 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the United States. Discover what is involved in our day-to-day and ongoing operations, and how members can increase their involvement.

Our OLLI is an outstanding example of lifelong learning that features specific areas of interest to engage members and improve our quality of life. As an organization that balances its function with the University and the Board of

Directors of a nonprofit entity, OLLI at UAH provides a variety of member activities and volunteer opportunities within a rich academic environment.

Lunch is included with your free registration for Inside OLLI.

Art events in March and April

Beginning March 18 through April 4, OLLI art will be highlighted in the Wilson Art Gallery (opposite the lounge). Installations of art from both members and instructors will be featured as part of the OLLI 30th Anniversary Art Festival.

On March 29, the Art Festival Artists Forum begins at the Chan Auditorium in the Business Administration Building (two buildings south of Wilson Hall) at 10:30 a.m. Afterward, head back over to Wilson Hall for refreshments and our member/instructor exhibition. This event is open to members and the public.

Both of these events are free for members. Please sign up on the OLLI website.

More details will follow regarding our final plans to commemorate our 30 years of lifelong learning at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Nancy Barnett Darnall
Chair of 30th Anniversary Committee

PUT YOUR ART ON DISPLAY FOR OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

OLLI’s 30th Anniversary Committee encourages members and instructors to show off your creations in the Wilson Hall Art Gallery. Deadline to enter your artwork(s) is Feb. 14! We want to showcase your talents.

OLLI Art will be on display March 18 through April 4 during OLLI’s spring term. The exhibit will be a highlight of the OLLI Art Festival on March 29.

To submit your art, go to forms.gle/pUj67eoWvngr8JR6A.



EVENTS COMMITTEE

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL



Listed below are the events scheduled for February, March and April.

Mark your calendars for the events you want to attend, and check the OLLI website (Bonuses & Special Events, tinyurl.com/olli-bonuses-events) and eNews to see if signup has opened for the event of your interest.

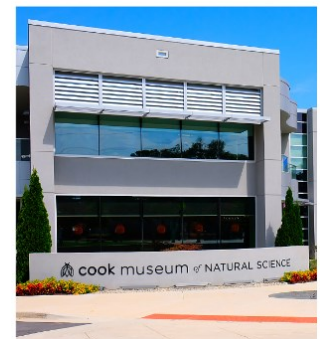
OLLI staff will open event signup about one month (it could be around 40 days) prior to each event.

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

- Friday, Feb. 23 — **Dynetics tour** (Cummings Research Park-East, Huntsville), 10 to 11 a.m. Attendance is limited to 25 registrants. The tour is already full.

- Saturday, Feb. 24 — **Nature walk at Elgie's Walk Greenway** (south Huntsville), 10 a.m. to noon. This is a Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group activity and is listed here for information only. OLLI members who join this MIG will receive details about planned activities. About 80 members have already joined the Hiking & Biking MIG. If you are also interested in joining, sign up at the following link and agree to the release/waiver form. forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9
- Friday, March 15, or Saturday, March 16 — **Fanfare Quilt Show** (Von Braun Center, South Hall, Huntsville), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday or 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. OLLI members will have the opportunity to view the Fanfare Quilt Show from the perspective of co-chairs Kari Hawk and Cheryl Heeth as they educate us on what makes a show-worthy quilt, and why a particular quilt received a certain award. We will also learn what it takes to put on a show of this magnitude. The Fanfare is a quilt show presented every other year by the Heritage Quilters of Huntsville. Over 200 quilts of all

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Events include (clockwise from top left) canoeing and kayaking, touring a 19th-century mill, a quilt show, and tours of a natural-science museum, the UAH library and a wine vineyard. The library photo is from a similar OLLI event April 21, 2023. Chris Stuhlinger's column also mentions a nature walk and a tour of Dynetics, a technology company. (Photos by Chris Stuhlinger, from venue websites, and from event sponsors)

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL, CONT

sizes and techniques will be displayed, including bed quilts, wall hangings, miniature quilts, art quilts and wool quilts. **NOTE:** You must choose one of these two tours to attend. OLLI members will pay the \$10 entrance fee at the door. Friday's tour will last past show closing hours. Saturday's tour will begin before the show opens. This tour will take approximately one hour of standing or walking on concrete. Each tour is limited to 20 registrants.

- Friday, March 22 — **Cook Museum of Natural Science** (Decatur), 2 to 4 p.m. Tour the Cook Museum (self-guided) in Decatur to explore, interact with, and learn about nature. See a variety of live animals, and discover amazing exhibits about rivers and streams, caves, oceans, forests, insects and more. Admission price is \$20 per person — pay at the door. Attendance is limited to 50 registrants.
- Friday, March 29 — **UAH Salmon Library and Archives tour** (UAH campus), 2:30 to 4 p.m. Access to UAH library services is an important perk of being an OLLI member. Join library staff as they highlight the library's key services, especially the archives and special collections. The library is much more than a place to check out books — learn about computer stations, a multimedia lab, specialty printers, and more resources available to students and OLLI members. Attendance is limited to 25 registrants.
- Saturday, April 6 — **Jules J. Berta Vineyards & Winery** (Albertville), 10:30 a.m. to noon. Tour the vineyard at Jules J. Berta Winery (Alabama Winery of the Year) near Albertville, and learn about the varieties of grapes grown there for making their handcrafted wines. The tour is free, but afterward tour participants are encouraged to purchase a wine-tasting flight (\$12-14), wood-fired pizza (\$14-24), or charcuterie (\$20+). Attendance is limited to 30 participants.
- Saturday, April 20 — **Brown Bear LLC canoe and kayak paddle trip** (Huntsville), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choose a canoe or kayak to paddle a 5-mile section of the Flint River northeast of Huntsville. Both single and double boats are available. We will meet at Brown Bear (Winchester Road at the Flint River, about 6 miles northeast of Alabama A&M University) and ride north to Oscar Patterson Road, where we will begin our paddle adventure back downriver to the Brown Bear facility. The cost estimate is \$40 per person. Paddle date is dependent on sufficient river water levels and good weather. April 27 is the backup date. More details will be available later. Attendance is limited to the first 20 registrants.
- Friday, April 26 — **Falls Mill tour** (Belvidere, Tennessee), 10:30 a.m. to noon. We will tour Falls Mill, which consists of a water-powered mill (built in 1873) and now contains the Museum of Power and Industry Inc. The mill building is four stories tall and is filled with antique machinery, etc., powered by the 32-foot waterwheel. Admission cost at the door is \$7 (\$6 for seniors). Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy on the scenic mill grounds after our tour. Falls Mill is about 35 miles northeast of Huntsville. Attendance is limited to 25 participants.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair

IT'S TIME!

Nominate yourself or somebody else to serve on OLLI's Board of Directors

Volunteer board members direct curriculum, events, social activities and policy. They serve 3-year terms. We need your help and your ideas. Help out, and have fun!

Go to tinyurl.com/olli-nominations-2024 to obtain the nomination form.



FATHERS, BIRDWATCHERS, LIFELONG LEARNING



1991 was a bellwether year for me. I was 38, but it wasn't a midlife crisis; rather, it was a year of coming to terms with God's calling on my life.

To start, I had been underemployed for two years. Currently I was helping an acquaintance stick-build his new house with framing and wiring and whatever else. Just the two of us. It was also the

year that I knocked on the door of the South Carolina Department of Education and politely asked, "Would y'all certify me to teach?"

I paid money needed elsewhere to my college alma mater to have my transcript mailed to Columbia. And wouldn't you know it? A B.S. in forest management, squeaking by with a 2.4 GPA — I actually majored in extracurricular activities and minored in forestry — was my ticket to alternative certification.

They needed science teachers, and my degree was a Bachelor of Science, not Bachelor of Arts (eat my dirt, English majors!). I took the Graduate Record Examinations — another expense we couldn't afford at the time — and excelled in biology-related items.

Thus, I began a pilgrimage to what I thought would be teaching high school biology. Think dissecting frogs or fetal pigs!

God had other plans.

First came a punch in the gut. My father had cancer — yep, the Big C. The phone call from Ohio was surreal; Dad tried to be upbeat but broke into tears. I don't remember him ever crying except at his own father's funeral.

Death is a shocker, even though we know it is coming sooner than later. The oncologist did not offer much hope, two to three months at most. It was August, and we packed up the Astro van with our 9- and 10-year-old children and our golden retriever. We headed north to northwest Ohio so they could have one last visit with Grandpa.

On the way up I-75, I diverged from the usual route to take a slight detour through Indianapolis. I had arranged to visit the corporate headquarters of Wild Birds Unlimited, a startup birdwatching and gift store with some franchises primarily in the Midwest. Bear with me; there is a connection.

I needed a backup plan in case teaching did not turn out to be my cup of tea. Just like Dad, I am a people person, and retail was right up my alley. He had been in sales most of his life, and around our small town he was well-known to people on both sides of Main Street. He was a natural, and I inherited the characteristics.



Birds visiting the Carrolls in the aftermath of north Alabama's winter storm: (clockwise from top right) red-bellied woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, male house finch, tufted titmouse and female house finch. (Photos by Bob Carroll)

Thus, I investigated the prospect of breaking ground and starting a WBU in the Southeast. The discussion/interview at the Carmel, Indiana, office went well, though money would be an issue. We continued homeward and got in late that evening. Dad was thrilled to see us and the kids to see him.

Birdwatching. Birdwatching. As I write this, Huntsville is in hibernation mode. A polar blast from the north collided with moist Gulf air and a winter storm ensued, leaving behind a layer of sleet, snow and freezing rain with no thaw in sight yet, as the temperatures have not been above freezing for three days. School has been canceled, and law enforcement has closed most roads.

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FATHERS, BIRDWATCHERS, LIFELONG LEARNING, CONT

My entertainment primarily consists of enjoying the birds (and squirrels) at our feeders, which I have kept stocked with sunflower and safflower seeds. At last count, 12 species have been coming and going, mostly sharing space at the feeders or on the ground, except the house finches — bullies!

Memories of the feeders outside the kitchen window of my childhood home come back. Mom was the birdwatcher and made notes and kept lists and would call us to the window when something new or unusual landed.

Dad was a fisherman and not into the backyard birds, though he was the middleman between the local feed mill and our feeders — anything to get out of the house. Taking time around a coal-burning stove at the feed mill office and talking local politics were his idea of leisure time, either that or going to the local hardware store (owned by his brother) and innocently flirting with the cashier. He kept Mom happy by bundling up during below-zero weather and filling the feeders for her birds.

My appreciation of nature began with birdwatching at the kitchen window and perusing a worn, dog-eared copy of “Audubon’s Field Guide” with the inside cover scribed with “Louise Carroll, Bryan, Ohio.”

Birdwatching graduated into “birding,” which means birdwatching with passion and buying binoculars. Real enthusiasts have more than one field guide and keep life lists and download apps to their iPhones. I’m almost there, apart from keeping life lists and joining the Christmas Day counts.

I lean toward the stewardship side of birding, reading articles and educating myself on conservation connections. You see, birds really are humanity’s “canary in a cage.” Scoff if you will, but bird populations (diminishing) and bird migration pattern shifts are a primary warning of global climate change. But we can discuss that another time. Let us tie things together.

I returned to Ohio by myself in October 1991 to be at Dad’s bedside during final days. Surgery had revealed the cancer had spread throughout his abdomen, the worst prognosis, and he was now in a hospital room sedated.

I had had a panoramic view of his favorite fishing spot in northern Michigan printed and taped it to his hospital room wall. At times he would awaken and see it, nod, and, as if it were his first time to acknowledge it, turn to me and say, “Drummond [Island]?” I would confirm, and he would smile.

I would stand at his bedside and have one-sided conversations with him about us fishing together; I’m hoping he understood me. Mom, my eldest brother and I took shifts spending nights with him, sleeping on the pull-out.

It was my shift when the inevitable happened. I suddenly awakened at 4 o’clock and in the dark listened intently for his labored breathing. None. He had passed; God had called another fisherman home. We celebrated his life.

Providentially, God opened the door to a career in secondary education that following year. I know He has a sense of humor because it was not teaching biology. No, it was chemistry, then physics, then astronomy. I discovered my purpose, and even after retirement 26 years later, I still teach voluntarily in the community of lifelong learners and young children.

Oh, yeah, the Wild Birds Unlimited thing? Didn’t need it. Ironically, someone else opened a franchise back in South Carolina, and guess where I bought birdseed and Bark Butter. Moving to Huntsville three years ago, we found a franchise not too far from the house, and I am a “frequent flyer” (pun intended).

Dad and, two decades later, Mom were cremated, and their ashes both were scattered in Lake Huron off the shores of Drummond Island, Michigan, his favorite fishing respite and Mom’s favorite birdwatching haunt. Their spirit of nature appreciation and stewardship and a love of learning continues. I am so thankful.

Interestingly, OLLI at UAH is offering a class in birdwatching taught by Ken Ward this spring. And then there is the course on Alabama State Parks taught by Steve Jones and Renee Raney. Put the two together, and go birding in the state parks. As both courses will corroborate, Alabama biomes are home to some of North America’s greatest diversity of avian life.

You want more? Outdoor hobbies are proven by research to contribute to the wellness of us mature citizens, as do activities like tai chi, yoga, or inside activities playing bridge, dancing, visual arts and mindfulness, to name a few.

Guess where you can join others and decompress and learn at the same time. OLLI at UAH, of course! See you there!

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

SPRING SEMESTER UNDERWAY; HELP WANTED



The spring 2024 semester is off and running. Members have registered in waves for our 70 courses plus events and bonuses.

Membership is rapidly approaching 900 as we continue to rebound from COVID, and many courses and events have filled up. This is just more proof that members need to move quickly to register for the

courses and events they want as soon as the course guide becomes available.

Kudos to everyone who made our spring open house a huge success. Nearly 200 people attended, and we gained nearly 30 members. It truly takes a team effort to pull off such an event, and it could not be done without the hard work and support of dedicated OLLI members.

This provides me a great segue to discuss the importance of active members. We must never forget that OLLI is a member-based organization that drives our activities and events. Although the UAH staff puts in its hours to help things run smoothly, it requires active membership to truly have a successful organization.

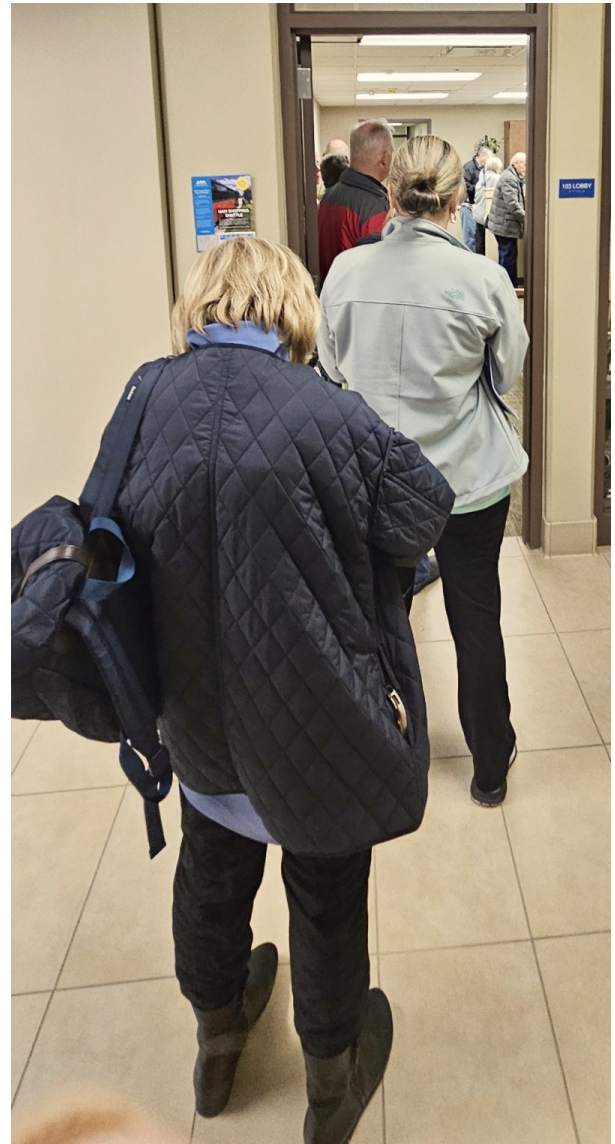
February is the time for board recruitment. OLLI needs energetic people to join the board and help this organization move forward. Our board has many responsibilities. Chief among them are establishing curriculum for the fall and spring semesters, planning events and socials, and basically setting the framework for how OLLI operates. And as with all organizations, fresh blood is always needed to lead into the future.

Perhaps you have thought about getting more involved but were not sure how. I invite you to sign up to attend our "Inside OLLI" program that will take place on Feb. 9 and offers an insider's view of what OLLI is all about.

It is the perfect event for those wanting to become more-active members. And afterward when you are excited about learning all about our great OLLI program, you can go ahead and nominate yourself for board membership.

Finally, although our spring semester has just started, preparations for summer will begin soon. Our summer semester (June and July) operates a bit differently with shorter sessions.

So, if you have perhaps thought about teaching but were not sure how to go about it, summer is a great time to do a trial run with a one-session class. If interested, contact me and let's see what we can put together.



People wait in line to register Jan. 5 during open house. You can register online, by phone or in person. Many spring classes have not started yet.

See tinyurl.com/olli-spring2024.

(Photo by Patricia Haag)

I hope everyone has a fun and fulfilling semester. If you ever have any comments or concerns, do not hesitate to drop by and see me.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

It is time to register for Spring 2024 courses. Tuition is \$20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration).



WHY YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE

2/2 - 3/8 • F • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 6 sessions • In Person • S. Dabrowski • \$30

Dive into the processes by which personal experiences and learning affect how people develop and mature. Using DVDs and instructor-led discussion, this course examines the role culture plays in people's personality.



GERMAN STORIES FOR INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED READERS

2/8 - 4/4 • TH • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 8 sessions • In Person • L. Medenbach • \$35

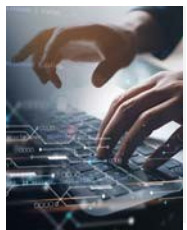
Enhance your knowledge of the German language as we engage in a lively discussion of the book *Schlamassel in Stuttgart*. Explore Stuttgart; learn about local culture, history and cuisine. Learn about Dino and get wrapped up in an exciting mystery. Join us for another adventure!



'TIS GRIEG TO ME: SCANDINAVIAN CONCERT MUSIC BEYOND THE "MOUNTAIN KING"

2/26 - 4/8 • M • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 6 sessions • In Person • D. Hornstein • \$30

The 19th and 20th centuries saw nationalist movements in the Arts beyond the countries that previously dominated artistic expression — Germany/Austria, France, and Italy. This course will make you familiar with composers and music that may have been previously unknown to you — beyond the "Hall of the Mountain King" you listened to in elementary music class. Getting to know Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, and Swedish composers will expand your musical horizons and offer a great deal of enjoyment. Uff Dah!



WHAT MAKES COMPUTERS TICK?

2/27 - 4/9 • T • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 6 sessions • In Person • J. Delmas • \$30

You use them everywhere, even carry one with you in your pocket or purse, but have you ever wondered what makes computers tick? Explore both the history of computing and the fundamentals of computer and software architecture. The course will cover how a computer performs basic arithmetic, makes decisions, and retrieves and stores data. Course will use Python programming language examples to explore simple software projects.

Save 20%

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

BREAKFAST, SOUPER BOWL AND OTHER TREATS



Believe it or not, I'm actually hoping for a snowstorm this winter.

You see, I grew up in a suburb of Chicago. When I was in elementary school, my brother and I trudged through knee-deep snow many times every winter.

That's no joke! Bundled in heavy coats, tight wool caps, scarves

wrapped around our faces, and those sloppy brown boots, we shuffled through snow on our way to school.

Countless snowmen with carrot noses were constructed on our front lawn. Snowball fights with the neighbor kids were the highlight of after-school fun. We didn't go inside until our hands were freezing and our noses were dripping.

Ah, back to the reality of disappointing Southern winters!

February holds promise of OLLI classes, interesting bonuses and special events.

Free Early Bird breakfasts will resume on Mondays at 7:45. They will start on February 5th. Come early and enjoy casseroles, fruit, and various pastries along with a cup of coffee.



Tasty options at the last Souper Bowl on Feb. 17, 2023. The next one will be Feb. 16, 2024. (Photo by Glen Adams)

Souper Bowl returns Feb. 16 at noon after the Friday bonus. Members bring their special soups in crockpots to share. Sign up in the eNews, and tell what kind of soup you are preparing.

This event was popular last year, and we hope you will come and enjoy good food and fellowship with OLLI friends.

See you soon!

Marilynn Szecholda
Chair, Social Committee

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

SEND YOUR PHOTOS; HELP RUN SOMETHING



We are looking forward to enjoying more bonus classes and snacks and sharing conversation with other OLLI members. It is exciting to see so many new faces, too.

It is sometimes a challenge to keep up with coffee supplies in the lounge, so if you see things getting low, please let me or someone in the OLLI office know so we can make sure there is

enough of everything.

Providing yummy snacks for bonus events helps to encourage members to socialize and maybe make new friends. If you have suggestions to make this even better or would like to bring something to share or maybe just help, please let me know. It's a great way to get involved.

Don't forget the annual photo contest. The deadline for submissions is April 1, and that will be here sooner than we think. Check online at tinyurl.com/olli-photo-contest for the requirements and more information.

If any of you are interested in helping with the contest,

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tinyurl.com/olli-photo-contest

please contact me. Volunteering is a great way to learn more about OLLI. We are a volunteer organization, and we are always looking for members to get involved.

Remember to check out the member interest groups (MIGs) for more ways to be active and connect with others. Also, check out the extensive DVD library in the OLLI office. It's a great resource.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

VOICE YOUR OPINION ON VOLUNTEER AWARD



Let your voice be heard. As you may have read in last month's *Insider*, it's almost time to nominate your favorite volunteers for this year's Volunteer of the Year (VoY).

This year's award covers the period from spring 2023 through early spring 2024. We have members volunteering in many capacities as committee members, instructors and facilitators, board members and bonus presenters.

If you'd like to nominate someone who you feel needs recognition, now's your chance. The nominations window will open on or about Feb. 12 and will remain open until March 8. There will be a link in the weekly *eNews* during this time — all you have to do is click on the link and follow the instructions.

Candidates are selected based on nominations received by the OLLI membership at large. All OLLI volunteers are eligible, and you can submit as many different nominations as you'd like.

Nominees will be validated by a small committee for eligibility, and a "winner" will be recommended to the Board of Directors for final selection. The winner will be announced and presentations made during the OLLI annual meeting/dinner. If for some reason we are unable to host an annual dinner, the winner will be announced via the weekly *eNews* and in the newsletter.

The recipient will receive a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the OLLI board president, a small trophy/memento, and a registration certificate for the following fall term. The recipient's name will be placed on the volunteer plaque in the volunteer office.

So let your voice be heard. Nominate your volunteers, and have one of them recognized!

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair



Who among OLLI's many volunteers should be the next Volunteer of the Year?
(clipart-library.com)

MANY 'BUCKET LIST' IDEAS FROM OPEN HOUSE



The Travel Committee table at the OLLI Open House on Jan. 5 saw many visitors with plenty of ideas about going places in the next year or so.

There were 31 slips of paper in the big

"Bucket List" bucket from newcomers and seasoned members — several with multiple destinations noted. All venues under consideration by the committee received even *more* votes. Those are Road Scholar's "Essential Arkansas"; Santa Fe during holiday season; Portugal and Spain, Douro River excursion; Costa Rica; Pacific Northwest; Great Lakes; and Pittsburgh.

A trip to Pittsburgh is likely for 2025. Visiting the city at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers forming the mighty Ohio, important geography for Native Americans and their industrial successors, offers an exciting prospect in May or June 2025. Michelle Lavery will be telling us just how exciting our travel there will be in the coming months. Remember that the Pirates will be knocking it out of the park during that time.

We had wonderful suggestions for more regional specialized travel, such as "Cajun country" for the food, zydeco music and dancing. We agree, having been there several times and simply never getting enough of that culture and its mysterious but beautiful bayous and swamps. Avery Island, home of Tabasco, lush gardens and protected wading bird rookery add to the charm of that region. What's a trip to Louisiana without a day or two or three in N'Orleans?! Food, art, history and nature galore in one package! The drive is about 6.5 hours on four-lane roads. Just saying ...

The OLLI course guide for spring term features courses on bird watching and Alabama parks, so some of us would like to visit natural areas with wildlife. Most nature buffs' wish lists include Big Bend National Park in Texas and Chesapeake Bay (largest estuary in the USA) sights along the Atlantic Flyway. Closer to home, Dauphin Island can't be beat for migratory bird sightings in April and October.

There were some overseas excursions in the mix like Sicily, Berlin, Turkey, Scandinavia, Japan, New Zealand, Croatia, Lake Como and Italy (for "cooking lessons"). A couple of ideas about domestic immersions at Chautauqua, New York, and the African American Museum in Cincinnati were noted — so much to see along the way if one drives!

America has the best state parks imaginable, and they're along most any route you choose. We challenge you to look into a full week in Arkansas for some big surprises!

Reminders for 2024 travel

In July we are teamed with Grand Circle Travel for OLLI's "Ireland in Depth" trip. We had lots of interest in this trip at open house, and several folks have since signed up. Note the pre- and post-trips connected to this venture. See tinyurl.com/olli-ireland-in-depth. You may also contact Linda McAllister through olli.info@uah.edu.

In September OLLI travelers (30 maximum) are going to Iceland. There are a couple of spaces still available. See trip details at tinyurl.com/olli-iceland-fire-lights. If you would like more information about this trip, and/or the link to the Nov. 1 webinar recording, please contact Chris Stuhlinger through olli.info@uah.edu.

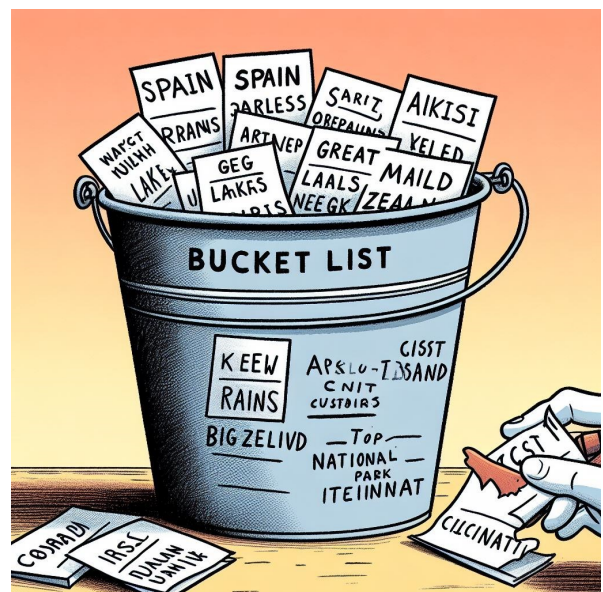
Your bucket list for travel in 2025 and beyond?

Please make your wishes known to the OLLI Travel Committee. Trips won't happen unless you speak up, plan with us and shape the agenda.

Our OLLI courses may spark a desire to go visit a place you've just heard about. Your own hobbies might dictate where you want to go. Let us know. Contact Jane and Ed through olli.info@uah.edu, and weigh in on what interests you.

We need a few good advocates and adventurers to help research and coordinate trips *and* inspire others to travel with OLLI. So sign on and *let's go!*

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein
Travel Committee Co-Chairs



(Art and spelling by Microsoft Bing Image Creator)

PEOPLE OF OLLI



M.D. Smith, IV, with his mother and father; his father at work; M.D. and Judy's wedding in 1961; M.D. with Judy and the family.

FROM TV TO WRITING TO TEACHING FOR OLLI

OLLI members who grew up in Huntsville have M.D. Smith to thank for helping take care of their television needs.

Beginning in 1963, M.D.'s parents, M.D., III, and Kirby, owned WAAY (Channel 31). M.D. himself managed the station for 36 years. But more about that later. M.D., who teaches creative writing at OLLI, is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

First, M.D. is actually M.D., IV. And the name didn't stop with him. His son is M.D., V, and his grandson is M.D., VI. What's it stand for? Marcellus Davidson.

M.D. grew up in Birmingham.

"I was a normal kid with a bike and a dog," M.D. recalled. "Like kids that age, I wanted a BB gun like my father had before me. When I got my first Daisy Red Ryder BB gun, I'd go out in the woods and hunt the only thing the rifle would kill, small birds. When I

graduated to a .22 rifle, squirrels and rabbits became my game. My father always taught me 'to eat what you kill,' so I did. I learned to skin small animals, and our cook would cook them for me. My parents kindly abstained."

After eighth grade, M.D. transferred to Indian Springs School, a private boys school outside Birmingham that is still one of the top prep schools in the country. After high school, he set out for the University of Virginia with plans to become a doctor.

"I wanted M.D. at both ends of my name," M.D. said. "After a year, I found out how hard that would be. I had to have a language and I flunked both semesters of French, so I decided medicine was not for me."

His father had told him that if medicine didn't work out, he could join the family radio and TV broadcasting business. M.D. transferred in his junior year to The University of Alabama, where he

could major in radio and TV. His parents by then had moved to Huntsville, where his father bought the radio station that became WAAY. M.D. married a Huntsville woman, Judy Chandler, before going to UA. By the time he graduated in 1963, they had their son M.D., V.

His family had sold Birmingham's WBRC-TV and radio in 1953. His father was able to use that money as security to buy WAAY in 1963. And fresh out of college, M.D. became the general manager of WAAY while his father ran three radio stations. He would continue that job until 1999. After his father died in 1985, his mother took over the radio stations, which she managed until her death in 1997.

(continued on the next page)

FROM TV TO WRITING TO TEACHING FOR OLLI, cont

The job of running a station changed vastly during the next decades.

"In my early management days, it was no problem doing every job at a small station of 17 employees," said M.D. "But by 1995 our staff size had reached 175, and during those years I had to become a better manager. I took the Dale Carnegie Management Course in 1967, then returned as a graduate assistant, went for further training in Milwaukee in 1968, and then was an instructor for the Carnegie Management courses in Huntsville and Birmingham for the next 18 years.

"I learned a lot about teaching during that time and a lot about managing and motivating people. I'm sure that's one big reason we had the No. 1-rated station from the mid '70s on for many years. We had a motivated and willing staff of people. I instructed my middle managers to run their departments and people the same way I did because when they succeeded, we all succeeded."

By 1999, it was going to cost millions to convert the station to digital. And their internet company, HiWAAY.net, which they had started in the '90s, was starting to lose money. So M.D. decided to leave the communications business. From some of the money he made selling WAAY, he bought several storage companies that he ran until 2020.

Beginning in 2005, M.D. started writing nonfiction articles for Old Huntsville Magazine. He then tried his hand at fiction by writing "a bad first novel." That led to earning a master's in fiction writing from Seton Hill University in 2020-22. And that led to teaching a writing class at Studio 60 (formerly the Huntsville Senior Center). And that led in 2022 to teaching writing classes at both OLLI and LearningQUEST.

M.D. has now written seven books and assembled two for Judy. "Behind the Screens" is a history of WAAY. Two of the books are collections of his and Judy's Old Huntsville articles, three are romance novels, and three are collections of M.D.'s flash fiction stories. For

more about his writing, go to www.mdsmithiv.com.

This doesn't cover all of M.D.'s interests. He has logged over 1,000 hours as a multi-engine, instrument-rated pilot. He has been a ham radio enthusiast since the vacuum tube days, when he built radios from old TV parts. And he and his sons enjoyed operating radio-controlled airplanes, boats and cars while the sons were growing up.

Over six decades of marriage, M.D. and Judy have had eight children. Their children were born in three different decades. They are: M.D., V; Barry Scott; Brent Kirby; Bryan Creighton (passed away in 2011); Elizabeth Allison; Martin Douglas; Warren Chandler; and Owen Kirvin. They have several grandchildren.

M.D. has led a full life!

Thanks, M.D., for all you've done for OLLI.

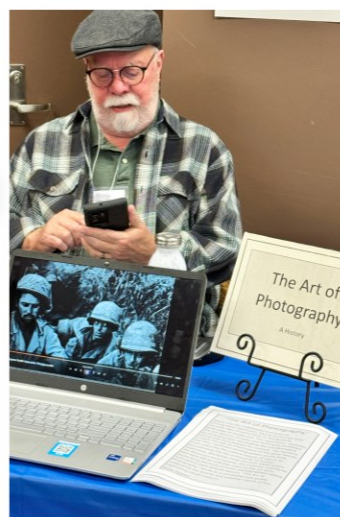
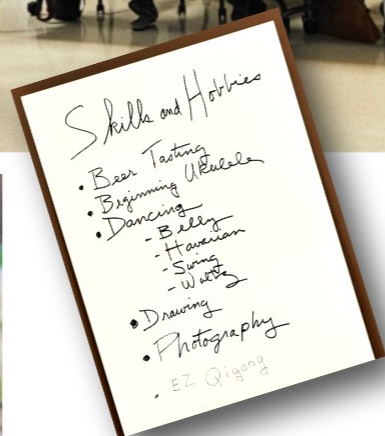
By Glen Adams

M.D. and Judy have published nine books.



TEACHERS AND A CREATURE HOST OPEN HOUSE

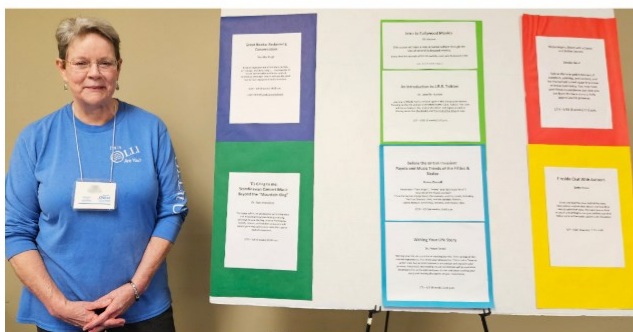
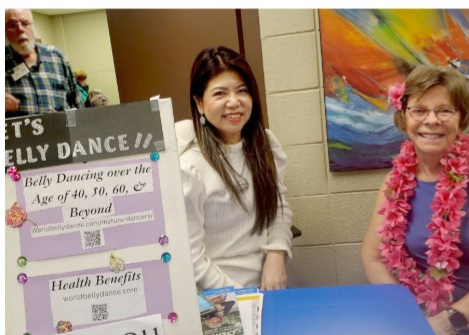
New members, old members and teachers turned out for open house Jan. 5, showcasing nearly 70 courses offered for spring semester. Guests included UAH President Charles Karr and a nonvenomous golden-morph corn snake.



(Photos by Patricia Haag, Joan May, Michael Mercier and Steve Stewart)

OPEN HOUSE: WELCOME TO SPRING SEMESTER

The nonvenomous golden-morph corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*) serves as a “creature teacher” for Alabama State Parks. Enrollees in the spring course “Nature and Wellness in Alabama State Parks” will meet other creature teachers as well. The human teachers are Renee Raney and Steve Jones.



NEW, OLD MEMBERS MIX IN SOCIAL EVENT FEB. 24



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Justin Clay)

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

February: Above and beyond ...

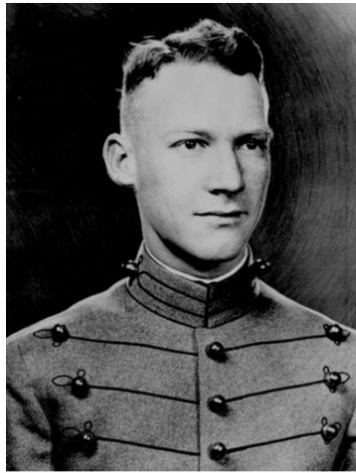
In the early morning hours of Dec. 8, 1941, some 10 hours after they struck at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Japanese aircraft based in Formosa were detected by radar heading over Lingayan Gulf in the direction of Manila. An invasion fleet followed close behind.

To oppose them, the United States Army Forces in the Far East, Philippine Department, had about 31,095 troops present for duty, including 11,988 Philippine Scouts. Army Maj. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was in command.

The Japanese had no problem finding their American targets. After American aircraft were severely damaged in the initial Japanese attack, the American Asiatic Fleet in the Philippines, now lacking air cover, withdrew to Java on Dec. 12, 1941. MacArthur was ordered out as well, leaving for Australia, some 4,000 kilometers away, on the night of March 11, 1942. Brig. Gen. Jonathon Wainwright then took command.

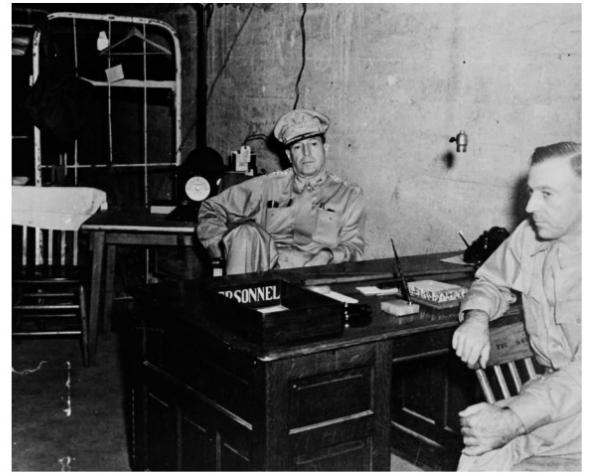
Japanese forces landed north and south of Manila on the island of Luzon. The 57th Infantry Philippine Scouts (PS), having been in the Philippines since Dec. 2, 1920, contested their advance all the way down the Bataan Peninsula for four months. That action earned the regiment three Distinguished Unit Citations and one Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. Additionally, its officers and enlisted men were awarded 95 decorations for valor, including one Medal of Honor, 21 Distinguished Service Crosses, 68 Silver Star Medals, and five Bronze Star Medals. The regiment surrendered on April 9, 1942, to the Japanese, but their regimental colors were hidden and saved.

Enter 1st Lt. Alexander Ramsey "Sandy" Nininger, an unlikely hero born in Gainesville, Georgia, in 1918, and the first U.S. soldier to receive the Medal of Honor in World War II. And that's the rest of our story.



Sandy Nininger (above) applied himself as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, graduating near the top of his class. He died in combat Jan. 12, 1942, at age 23 and received the Medal of Honor.

At right, Gen. Douglas MacArthur (left) and his chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Richard Sutherland, in the headquarters tunnel on Corregidor, Philippines, March 1, 1942. MacArthur moved his headquarters to the island after conceding Manila to the Japanese in December 1941. (U.S. military photos)



Growing up, Sandy spent a good deal of time at his mother's old family home in Central Valley, New York, just across the hills east of the United States Military Academy at West Point. As a boy, Sandy was inspired by his ancestors who had served the United States. His grandfather, as part of the 27th U.S. Infantry, had fought in the Indian Wars, and another kinsman was the first governor of Minnesota. His attendance to West Point, beginning on July 1, 1937, seemed almost pre-ordained.

Around the time that Sandy arrived at the 57th Infantry Regiment (PS), Maj. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, then commander of the North Luzon forces, noted that the Japanese "truly began to hit us," describing the situation as "endless days and nights of killing Japs [sic], getting killed, and withdrawing."

As a platoon leader in A Company, 1st Battalion, 57th Infantry Regiment (PS) in eastern Luzon, Sandy spent a harrowing first month in combat, earning both a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. On Dec. 19, he was promoted to first lieutenant. That same day, he man-

aged to send a brief radio message to his parents, "Well, Merry Christmas, Sandy." It was the last message his parents received from him.

On the night of Dec. 23, MacArthur gave up all hope of defending Luzon. He ordered the execution of War Plan Orange-3, the withdrawal of forces there to the Bataan Peninsula, and so the U.S. and Filipino forces began their movement south. The average distance units had to move was 150 miles. As Wainwright characterized it, "Ours was more withdrawal than retreat, withdrawal with delaying actions all the way."

Sandy's 3rd Battalion formed a vital part of the main line of resistance near the towns of Mabatang and Abucay, defending the one major road running down the peninsula. Nininger and his men cleared fields of fire and strengthened their positions, which, according to the regimental commander Col. George S. Clarke, "enabled them to repulse Jap[anese] attacks night after night."

(continued on the next page)

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

On the evening of Jan. 11, K Company's position was ruptured, allowing a large number of Japanese snipers to infiltrate the area. Using camouflaged positions in the sugar cane and mango groves, they were killing and harassing Allied soldiers. Headquarters quickly realized that unless this breakthrough was eliminated, the viability of the entire defensive line on Bataan was threatened. The outcome of the campaign hung in the balance.

The 57th organized several sniper-hunting parties to remove the threat and prepare the way for a counterattack. Nininger volunteered to lead one of those teams. Clarke reported that going forward, Nininger "was loaded down with grenades and with a Garand rifle slung over his shoulder." Under his arm, Sandy carried a captured Japanese submachine gun.

Leading the advance, Nininger shot one sniper out of a tree. Drawing heavy enemy fire, he began throwing grenades from the satchel he carried. The soldiers of Company K later reported 20 enemy killed from those grenades.

When enemy artillery began to lay down a tremendous barrage, Nininger continued to move forward until, having expended his ammunition, he resorted to his bayonet. In the hand-to-hand fighting that followed, Nininger was wounded three times. Although staggered by the loss of blood, he pressed the fight. One American officer reported that three Japanese soldiers then charged Nininger. The lieutenant somehow managed to parry their attack before falling to the ground.

Exploiting Nininger's initiative, a regimental counterattack by the 2nd Battalion re-established their line. In the aftermath of the attack, Sandy's comrades found his lifeless body. The bodies of a Japanese officer and two enemy soldiers lay nearby.

The regiment held funeral services for Sandy in the nearby village. Wrapped in a scrap of tent canvas, his body was buried in a hasty grave in the churchyard at Abucay.

On Jan. 29, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt bestowed the Medal of

Honor upon Lt. Nininger. The award was presented to his father in a ceremony on Feb. 10 at 3rd Air Force Headquarters, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

The last of MacArthur's defenses in the Philippines, the fortified island of Corregidor, fell to the Japanese on May 6, 1942. Nininger's old company commander, who ultimately endured years in a Japanese prison camp after Bataan, felt compelled to write Sandy's parents after he was released. He offered:

Your son's character was faultless. Never have I met anyone who could bear the hardships of war more cheerfully. Never have I encountered one whose attention to detail was greater, or whose performance of tasks assigned was better. ... He wanted to be regarded above all other considerations, as a man fulfilling West Point's guiding motto: Duty, Honor, Country.

We can all be heroes. It's simply a matter of being ready to accept the call when it's offered.

By John Mason



The Bataan Death March on April 9-17, 1942, was the forcible, brutal transfer by the Japanese Army of 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war after the three-month Battle of Bataan in the Philippines. Thousands of Filipinos and hundreds of Americans died in the march. (Photo from Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and U.S. National Archives)

NAOMI JUDD, THE LIBRARY AND SPACE CAMP



This is the fifth of several historical articles by Sue Chatham, who joined UAH's Academy for Lifetime Learning 29 years ago, about a year

after its founding. The Academy later became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Sue remains an active OLLI member.

There is a fountain of youth: It is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.

—Sophia Loren, quoted in the February 2015 OLLI Insider

Exciting happenings continue to occur as OLLI continues to evolve and grow.

November 2014 — In the newsletter, an announcement said an anonymous gift arrived at OLLI to provide dedicated email delivery of *The OLLI Insider* to members and area organizations. This meant that each member would get a direct email link to each edition. This was exciting news at the time.

November 2014 — The Curriculum Committee announced that winter term 2015 would be seven weeks long instead of eight for the first time.

Jan. 15, 2015 — UAH provided active OLLI members library privileges at no additional cost. Privileges included checkout of three books at a time for 28 days, and the issuance of a username and password for access to the personal computers in the library.

April 2015 — OLLI advertised on a billboard for the first time. The billboard showed the cover of the spring catalog — which was photo contest winner Alan Forney's winning picture from the photo contest.



This map behind the book exchange in the OLLI lounge dates from 2015, when members were asked to identify their home countries and states, as well as places they had lived.

Nancy Darnall marked the locations with pins.

(Photo by Justin Clay)

April 6-8, 2015 — OLLI members traveled to Memphis for "Arts, Blues and Cuisine." Nancy Darnall coordinated the trip of 15 members.

June 2015 — There are 57 entries in the photo contest — setting a record for the most entries.

June 1, 2015 — Thirty-eight members of OLLI toured England. Sixteen of them continued on to Scotland and Wales. Linda and Bill McAllister coordinated this trip. OLLI members love to travel.

July 15, 2015 — "An Afternoon with Naomi Judd." Over 430 tickets were sold to this membership event. Liz Hurley did a great job interviewing Judd, who kept us entertained and surprised past our scheduled end time.

Fall 2015 — "OLLI After Five," a series of evening classes, was added by the curriculum committee to enable members still working the opportunity to enroll in classes.

Aug. 11, 2015 — A world map was put in the lounge for the Fall Registration Celebration. Members were encouraged in previous newsletters to send

their home country/state locations, as well as locations where they had lived in the past, to Nancy Darnall. She pinned all locations on the map. Take a moment to look at that map the next time you are in the lounge, and be in awe of all the places OLLI members are from or have lived. We are an awesome group. Our thanks to Nancy for providing us this ongoing opportunity to share a part of our lives with each other.

September 2015 — Dr. Karen Clanton was named dean of professional and continuing studies at UAH.

Sept. 27, 2015 — The first International Dining Member Interest Group dinner was held at Asian Rim on Gallatin Street. (It is now closed.)

October 2015 — A flexible membership year was announced. Previously OLLI had a fixed membership year of Aug. 1 through July 31. Under the new policy, whenever someone joins or renews, they are a member for the following 12 months. This is still the policy.

(continued on the next page)

NEOMI MARRIAM RECEIVES OLLI AT UAH SCHOLARSHIP

Neomi Marriam, a nontraditional student at UAH, received this year's OLLI at UAH Scholarship.

Her selection made sense because "OLLI is composed of nontraditional students," said Clay Williams, OLLI program manager.

Neomi is pursuing a bachelor's/master's program in business management with a concentration in human resources. She transferred to UAH in the spring of 2023. She said she has enjoyed being at this university, attending classes, and meeting excellent instructors and fellow students. She expressed thanks for the scholarship.

She has three children, one grandson and four dogs. She is originally from Washington state, grew up in Utah, and joined the military when she was 18. Her family moved to the Huntsville area in September 2021, and she said they have loved the area since moving here.

The OLLI at UAH Scholarship provides support for deserving UAH undergraduate students. The scholarship assists in covering the cost of higher education, including tuition, books, housing and related fees.

You can donate to this scholarship fund, the OLLI Support Fund or the OLLI Legacy Giving Fund at tinyurl.com/donate-to-olli-uah.

NAOMI JUDD, THE LIBRARY AND SPACE CAMP, CONT

Academic year 2015-16 — The OLLI Support Fund was established. Generous members and supporters contributed \$14,500, which was beyond expectations.

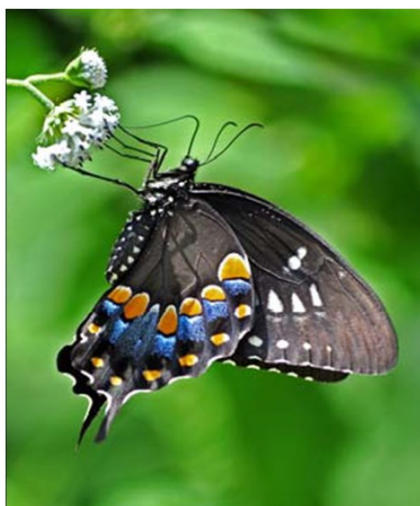
Jan. 12, 2016 — Thirty-two OLLI members attended Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. They excelled, and all received their Corporate Space Academy Wings underneath the Saturn rocket.

Fall 2016 — OLLI exceeded its goal of 1,000 members!

The information and the pictures came from past newsletters located on the OLLI website at tinyurl.com/olli-insider.

The journey continues ...

By Sue Chatham



"An Afternoon with Naomi Judd" sold over 430 tickets in 2015. The same year, Frances Byrd (left) and Jerri McLain visited Stonehenge in England with other OLLI members; "Arts, Blues and Cuisine" was the theme of a trip to Memphis; and a billboard showed Alan Forney's winning picture from OLLI's photo contest.