

November 2023

THE OLLI INSIDER

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



HISTORY, ART, MUSIC, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY AND OSHER



Clockwise from top left:
"Miss Lillian," Jimmy
Carter's mother, portrayed
by Elaine Hubbard; UAH
experts explain the James
Webb Space Telescope;
UAH OLLI President John
Mason with Bernard
Osher, who has funded
125 OLLIs; Lowe Mill Arts
& Entertainment tour and
concert; an advance look
at the coming SIGNALS
Museum of Information
Explosion.

[Osher.uah.edu](https://osher.uah.edu)

OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Wilson Hall Room 105, Huntsville, AL 35899
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Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at UAH

DIFFERENT DOESN'T MEAN WRONG



In a workshop at The University of Alabama, newspaper editors were learning the “right” way to do journalism when somebody pointed out that the Advertiser-Glean was prospering by doing a lot of things “wrong.”

Most of the “better” newspapers featured big headlines, big pictures and horizontal layout. Much news-writing was proper and formulaic.

But Guntersville's Glean ran

single-column, 14-point headlines on stories that snaked from the bottom of one column to the top of the next; small, black-and-white pictures; and folksy, true tales containing details that set tongues wagging.

Local readers and customers were what mattered to Glean founder Porter Harvey (1903-1995). He once took a local call about a classified ad while on live nationwide public radio, keeping the host and listeners waiting for a minute or so. (The interview was prompted by his bungee jump at age 90.)

“Porter’s primary role from first to last was that of reporter,” Auburn University journalism professor Jerry Elijah Brown wrote. “He published what readers need and want — not only what the cops, courts, and councils of government were doing, but also how much rain was falling in different hamlets of Marshall County, where a column of ants in a bank parking lot was going, how the coin laundry was finally getting a restroom, and which hymn and stanza a man was singing when he dropped dead at a church service.”

In 2005 The Glean’s twice-weekly circulation was 11,535 — probably the largest in the state for a nondaily newspaper. The Glean is still publishing and retains much of Porter’s imprint.

Porter expressed love for his readers in a 16-stanza poem concluding that “when the end of earth shall come and time shall cease to be ... they’ll believe it when they read it in the Advertiser-Glean.”

At UA, The Glean was an intriguing counterpoint to so-called best practices. Commenting on the irony, newspaperman and UA professor John Cameron gave us our best lesson of the day.

“They’re doing it different,” John said, “but you can’t say they’re doing it wrong.”

The unconventional approach is sometimes as good as the familiar one, sometimes even better. Which means we need to be receptive to different people, ideas, races, religions, heritages, cultures, experiences, facts and opinions.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are right and smart not only because they level the playing field for people held back,

but also because they enrich our lives and help us do things better.

Inside The Insider: John Mason reflects on what he’s overheard in the OLLI lounge and what we can be thankful for in this season.

Don’t miss the picture of John with Bernard Osher, the 96-year-old philanthropist who supports 125 OLLIs, including ours. Sue Chatham, continuing her historical series about UAH lifelong learning, explains the early stages of our involvement with the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones write about past and coming events, as well as the new Hiking and Biking member interest group. Marilyn Szecholda invites you to a teacher appreciation event and a holiday party.

Jerry Pang, tai chi teacher and ubiquitous OLLI volunteer, is the subject of Glen Adams’ monthly profile.

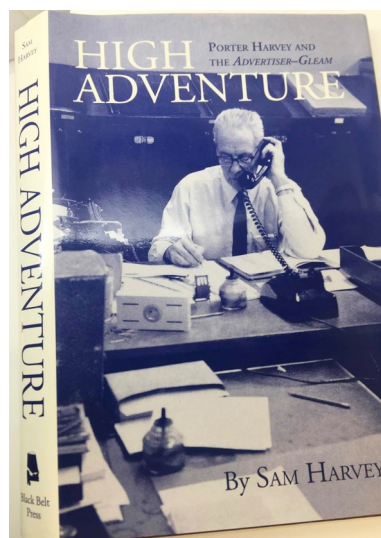
Bob Carroll writes about stewardship of the life and the mind. Clay Williams gives examples of spring classes and says the schedule will come out soon.

Leah Black explains what’s in our DVD lending library and how you can use it. Irene Garoppo invites you to use OLLI’s suggestion box (but good luck if you want a parking garage).

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein summarize four 2024 excursions — to California, Georgia, Ireland and Iceland — that you can sign up for.

In his military history column, John writes about a man who tried to kill Adolf Hitler and didn’t deny it because he did not want someone else to be blamed.

Steve Stewart
Editor, The OLLI Insider



Sam Harvey, who was Porter’s son, colleague and successor at the Advertiser-Glean, wrote this book about his father.

LASTING LOUNGE LAMENTATIONS



I was sitting in the lounge the other day after the Friday bonus (another *great* presentation, by the way. Good on ya', Betty!) when, in between sneaking sweets from the food line (ditto, Marilyn!), I began to key in on some of the snippets of conversation floating around the room.

Try it sometime. Listening in, that is; leave the sweets in the food line to

us professionals.

There were lots of different topics on display, but the one discussion I heard over and over again went something like this: "How's your knee (shoulder, back, etc., etc.) today?" Or "Oh, I had that procedure myself. It took me *forever* to come back from it." Or even "Oh, you don't want to use that doctor (physical therapist, pharmacist, pharmacy, etc., etc.)."

And it dawned on me. Yep, we're all at a stage in our lives where one of our primary concerns is "Jeez, I wonder what part of my body is going next?"

It's OK. I do it, too. Just the other day, I was looking in the mirror thinking, "I don't know who that is, but he needs ironing!"

It's true: We're getting older. We all have our battle scars. But we've survived. And although aging may be inevitable, I like to think we should be thankful for what our lives to this point have brought us. Since it's Thanksgiving time, I'd like to enumerate a few of the things we, and I, have to be thankful for:

1. We're still able to get together with our OLLI family, watch a presentation, enjoy some coffee and snacks, and laugh and talk with our friends. Think back to 2020 and how COVID nearly destroyed that. I'm thankful to be back with you and for every day we have to spend together!
2. We're not slowing down. Every term, you are insisting we provide you with more activities, both inside the classroom and outside in the world. Things like hikes, tours, wine and beer tastings, travel, member interest groups and concerts. In response, we're doing more and you're signing up. And in growing numbers. I'm thankful to see all of you there.
3. We have a terrific UAH staff who, while staying mostly behind the scenes, are the ones who make all this possible. If you haven't told them how much you appreciate all they do lately, please do. They deserve lots of attaboys for their efforts. We're all thankful for them!



Listening to lounge conversations, such as these before the Oct. 6 bonus, reveals that we're growing older but it's not stopping us.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

4. And lastly, new and unexpected relationships. How many of us have met new friends at OLLI that we now consider like brothers and sisters? I have. How many of you have met someone who has changed your life for the better? Again, I have. How many of you are everlastingly thankful for those people? I certainly am! More importantly, how many of you have *told* them what they mean to you? I try to, but sometimes don't think I do it well or often enough. So thank you! You are important to me, and I'm thankful for you! Every day!

So as you gather with your friends and family wherever and whoever they may be this holiday season, be thankful for all you have. (Well, except for the pumpkin spice. Does the season for that *never* end?) And tell someone how thankful you are that they're in your life. It'll make them more thankful, too.

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

John Mason
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 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.

**Nov 3 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: Seven Continents? How this Happened?
Wilson Hall**

Learn how one couple has managed to see all seven continents. Hear fascinating stories of their travels including the Arctic Circle, the Antarctic Circle, and the Equator (in one year) as well as other adventures.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Nancy and Bob Darnall, longtime OLLI members and avid worldwide travelers.

**Nov 10 | Fri | 11:30 am | [In-Person](#)
Event: OLLI Teacher Appreciation Day
Off Campus — Trinity United Methodist Church, 607
Airport Rd, Huntsville, 35802**

Join us to celebrate and thank our fabulous OLLI instructors from the fall semester. Lunch will be served, and entertainment will be provided.

Free for OLLI members; sign up is required.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Social Committee & OLLI Board of Directors.



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



OLLI memberships and tuition are perfect holiday gifts for friends and family! Visit osher.uah.edu/giftcertificate to see options ranging from \$20 to \$50.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

EVENT RECAPS AND NEW HIKING & BIKING MIG



We concluded our fall semester event offerings this past Saturday with the Maple Hill Cemetery walk. Recaps of the Port of Huntsville tour and the cemetery walk will be in the next newsletter. No more events are scheduled for November or December.

The Events Committee has already submitted its lineup for spring events, with plenty of opportunities for members to be active, continue learning, experience new venues, and interact with fellow OLLI members. More spring events information will be listed in the December *Insider*.

Steve Jones and I are pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the new Hiking and Biking Member Interest Group for OLLI members. See additional information below.

Recap of recent events

- **Tour of SIGNALS Museum of Information Explosion** — Members were treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour Sept. 29 of the huge collection of early radios, telegraphs, telephones, phonographs, televisions, computers, and more at this museum, scheduled for opening later in 2024. Most of the items have been fully restored and will showcase the evolution of electronics and communications over the decades.
- **Lowe Mill tour** — This former textile mill and shoe factory has been transformed into the country's largest

privately owned art facility with studios for more than 200 artisans. Members visited a variety of studios Oct. 6, including ceramics, photography, chocolates, painting, jewelry and cigar box guitars. Afterward, the free Concerts on the Dock series featured Marcus Pope & Friends, who entertained with beautiful jazz music.



- **Monte Sano Preserve hike** — A beautiful fall morning greeted hikers Oct. 14 as they explored the Buttonhole section of the Old Railroad Bed Trail. The railroad carried passengers from the Huntsville Depot to the Monte Sano Hotel in the late 1800s. Still visible are the old stone footings, which supported several small railroad bridges and a 175-foot-long trestle over Fagan Creek. A bonus was the annular solar eclipse, which hikers watched through solar eclipse glasses.

Here is a non-OLLI event that may be of interest to members (courtesy of Linda McAllister):

- **Huntsville Master Chorale veterans concert** — featuring Rocket City Bones (trombones) and the Chorale, Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, free admission. More information: [Veterans Salute — Huntsville Master Chorale \(hsvmasterchorale.org\)](https://hsvmasterchorale.org)

Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones



Hiking and biking will become part of a new member interest group. Sign up if you want to participate.

NEW HIKING AND BIKING MEMBER INTEREST GROUP

Starting in spring semester 2024, OLLI will offer a new Hiking and Biking MIG for members. Activities will include hikes, nature walks and bike rides in the greater Huntsville area.

For the past few years, these activities were part of the Events Committee offerings, but after one more "joint" event/MIG activity in February (to help with the transition), those activities will instead be offered by the new MIG.

We hope to offer up to six activities per semester for OLLI members. MIGs usually operate more independently, so

members should join this MIG to receive updates and announcements for upcoming hikes, nature walks and bike rides.

Sign up to be added to the Hiking and Biking MIG email distribution list at forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9. Also, look for announcements of upcoming Hiking and Biking MIG activities in the weekly *eNews* and the monthly *Insider*.

See you on the trail!

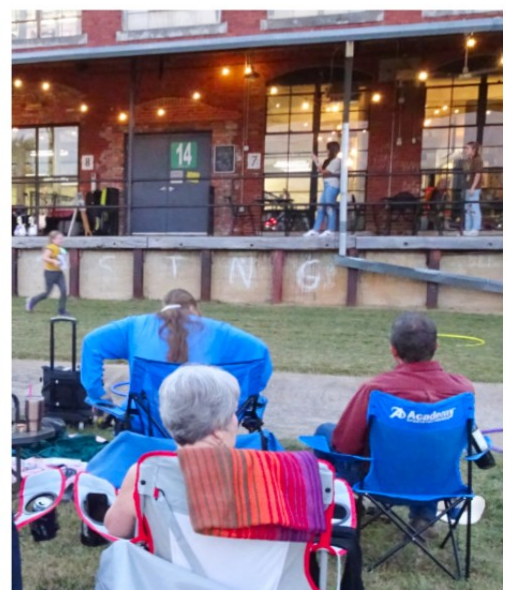
Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones

TOURING NEW SIGNALS MUSEUM, SEPT. 29



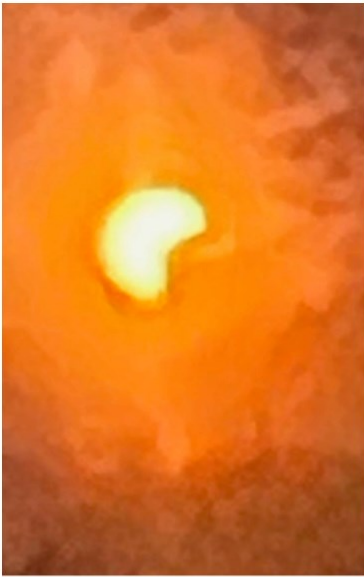
(Photos by Helen Crawford, Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

TOUR AND CONCERT AT LOWE MILL, OCT. 6



(Photos by Steve Stewart and Chris Stuhlinger)

HIKING MONTE SANO PRESERVE, OCT. 14



(Photos by Helen Crawford and Chris Stuhlinger)

DIVE INTO STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE AND MIND



I will start by saying how impressed I am with the spring '24 course offerings! I am tempted to rent an RV, park it in the commuter lot, live at UAH Monday through Thursday, and take as many of the classes as possible.

I will have to narrow it down, eh? Kudos to the Curriculum Committee and all who volunteered to teach.

Once again Clay Williams has the opportunity to find classroom space to accommodate all the offerings.

I dovetail this with the fact that I have heard many good comments about this fall's curriculum offerings. I took the time to thoroughly read the brief bios of all the instructors printed in the fall 2023 OLLI Course Guide. What a diverse and talented group of instructors!

If you read the bios, there is a common thread. Many instructors not only share their vocational background expertise but additionally speak from an avocational interest. Tell me that is not exemplary of lifelong learning!

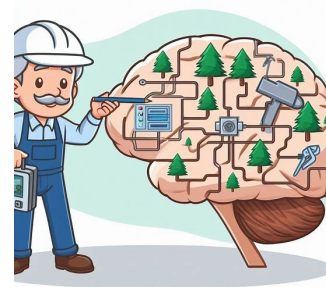
And that is a good segue to the topic of this month's writing: stewardship. Don't panic, I'm not referring to financial stewardship — no guilt trips about giving to OLLI — but rather, life stewardship. That could include numerous facets: health, resources, environment, wellness, mindfulness, friendships, to name a few.

OK, I'm guilty as charged with non-stewardship in many areas. Like many of you, I am a reformed smoker (been 35 years ago that I quit cold turkey), and I lament the day I first lit one up. How much damage did I do to my lungs, but also to my surroundings by exposing others to secondhand smoke, by emptying my vehicle ashtray full of butts on the asphalt of a parking lot, and by spending cash daily for a pack or two? Like many of you, I littered highways by tossing a soda can or bottle out the car window. Like many of you, I took poor care of my possessions.

But one facet I have hopefully been a good steward of is my mind. Recall the public service announcement from the United Negro College Fund that had the tagline "A mind is a terrible thing to waste"? Still true, even 40 years since its release.

Pardon my patting myself on the back, but in my many vocations I have always engaged my mind to learning everything I could about the particulars of the work and workings. When I was a railroad switchman back in the late '70s, I learned from the various locomotive engineers I rode the mainline with how to "drive" a milelong freight train. When I was a partner in a logistics business enterprise, I had one of our truck drivers show me how to drive an 18-wheeler (it ain't easy, let me tell you). When I became an educator, I enrolled in professional development classes almost every summer.

Keep your mind healthy by exploring subjects as diverse as electronics and forestry. (Illustrations by Microsoft Bing Image Creator)



My favorite personal example is when once, being unemployed, I took a blue-collar job as an electrician's helper to make ends meet while I pursued the job market. The foreman I was placed with realized my eagerness to learn the skills and took me under his wings. I learned commercial electrical applications at several job sites, and since then I have used those skills to perform many residential jobs, including the wiring of two new house projects.

Ironically, when we moved to Huntsville in '21, I took on a small job rewiring a kitchen and dining room for remodeling, and during those three days of work a conversation with the owner introduced me to OLLI at UAH!

OLLI — in particular, instructors (and now good friends) Steve Jones and Chris Stuhlinger — has brought learning full cycle for me. My undergraduate degree is a B.S. in forest management, and I practiced the vocation for less than two years. For four decades, a lot of forestry knowledge was put in storage in my cranial lobes. But taking advantage of Steve and Chris' hikes and course has "mined" my mind to resurrect that knowledge, especially the dendrology (tree identification) of Southern hardwoods.

I would still be in the dark if it weren't for the chain of events — I prefer to call it providence — that began with lifelong learning surrounding electrical contracting.

How about you? Hopefully, I am preaching to the choir; otherwise, we all wouldn't be active in OLLI. But are you being a good steward of your mind?

Studies prove that for us mature humans, mind stewardship has multiple benefits. As I perused the spring offerings, I noted many courses pertaining to body and mind healthiness. Music, art, dancing, tai chi, language acquisition, yoga and games are just a few of the subjects that have benefits.

Want to extend your years, fend off dementias, and be that person whom others enjoy being with? Dive into lifelong learning; dive into OLLI!

Veni, vidi, vici.

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

LOOKING AHEAD



Fall semester is winding down with only a few weeks to go. Please remember to complete evaluation surveys that are emailed upon completion of your courses. That information is important for OLLI staff and for instructors as they seek to improve their teaching.

Speaking of instructors, please take time to thank them for their service to OLLI. They volunteer

their time and energy to share their knowledge and interests; OLLI could not survive without them.

I hope you will also join us on Nov. 10 for the fall Teacher Appreciation event at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church as we celebrate their work and efforts. (More details on this event are found in Marilyn Szecholda's column in this *Insider*.)

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and holiday breaks, OLLI staff is busily preparing for the spring semester. We are anxiously trying to squeeze 70-plus courses into the schedule, along with a plethora of Friday bonuses and other special tours and events. Combined with the usual member interest groups (MIGs) and other activities, there should be something for everyone.

The spring semester contains many classic favorites like tai chi, writing your life story, foreign languages galore, bridge and Bollywood. We are also extremely thrilled about several new offerings, so I thought I would use this space to give everyone a sneak peek.

If history is your thing, we have new courses on Huntsville during Reconstruction, presidential elections, and the Russia-Ukraine War (although I guess that is actually current events). If nature is more up your alley, we feature courses on birding and our great Alabama state parks.

Want to play an instrument? Then try beginning ukulele. Other interesting courses feature Michelangelo, J.R.R. Tolkien, Dungeons & Dragons, and Hawaiian dancing. These are just a sampling of the diversity of courses we will feature in 2024.

The semester starts the week of Jan. 29 and runs six weeks until spring break (March 11-15) and then runs an additional seven weeks until May 3.

The spring Course Guide should be ready prior to the holiday season in December. With a growing membership, I urge everyone to register quickly for courses and events as soon as they become available. Courses and events have enrollment limits based on space and instructor preferences.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the fall semester, and I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

OLLI will offer more than 70 courses during the spring semester.

(Illustration by Microsoft Bing Image Creator)



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

LET'S THANK OUR TEACHERS AND HAVE A PARTY



Cool days and even cooler nights — it must be fall, and that means it's time for our Teacher Appreciation event. Come and join your OLLI friends as we thank our instructors for an informative and fun fall term.

We will meet off campus at Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road, Huntsville. The event will be from 11:30 to 1:30 on Nov. 10. A

lunch will be served, and one of our OLLI dance groups will entertain us. Join us for this enjoyable occasion.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for our holiday party. It will be on Dec. 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Conference Training Center on campus. A hot buffet dinner will be served.

Best of all, Ted Cannon will be our DJ. He plays the music that keeps the dance floor full. Come, have fun, and celebrate the holidays with OLLI.

Marilynn Szecholda
Chair, Social Committee



DJ Ted Cannon will be back for the holiday party on Dec. 7, providing dance music as he did last year.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)



Your will is a powerful tool
in planning for yourself,
your loved ones,
and your community.
It's easier than you think to
create a legacy of support
for the future of
OLLI and UAH.

Contact us to learn more.

uahlegacy.org/#getintouch

EXPAND LEARNING WITH OLLI'S DVD LIBRARY



It's difficult to believe that so much of the fall term has gone by already. Soon we will be planning for the holidays and all the "busyness" and fun.

OLLI members have been enjoying the variety of classes offered and may miss the mental stimulation during the break between terms. There is help for that, though.

If you would like to continue learning when classes are over, please come and visit the OLLI DVD library, located in the OLLI volunteer office at 151 Wilson Hall.

If you have looked in the office, you may have noticed a bank of black file cabinets. Within those cabinets are worlds of knowledge just waiting to be visited.

Most of the DVDs within the cabinets are from the Great Courses series, and the topics vary from health, crafts, science, history and psychology to music and other topics.

OLLI members are welcome to explore the contents of the drawers. Just ask an office volunteer to unlock the cabinets. On the top of the cabinet are a notebook with a list of the DVDs, a file box with cards for checkout, directions for checking out items, and a tray for returns.

An office volunteer will be glad to assist you. There will also be a list of DVDs in the OLLI lounge (152D Wilson Hall) in a pocket tacked up on a bulletin board.

OLLI members can check out DVDs and enjoy them during the break over the holidays.

Great Courses and other DVDs are available for checkout in the OLLI volunteer office, inside these file cabinets.

Annual photo contest

Don't forget to take photos that you may like to enter in the annual photo contest. You have until April 1, 2024, to upload them to the photo contest site, tinyurl.com/olli-photo-contest. All the information you need is on that site, so be sure to make a visit there.

This year's subject is "A Reflection." You may also enjoy seeing last year's winners, which are posted outside the volunteer office.

Bonuses, snacks, MIGs, committees

Hopefully, you have been able to enjoy the snacks before or after the Friday bonus presentations. These presentations are free and are part of your OLLI membership. Members have really enjoyed visiting and getting to know some of our new members, so don't forget to come by.

Remember that the member interest groups, except for Dine Out, continue to meet during the break. If you are interested in tai chi, bridge, art studio, or mah-jongg, come join the fun. A new MIG for hikers and bikers will be starting when the next term begins. See Chris Stuhlinger's column in this *Insider* for details.

A great way to get involved with OLLI is to become a committee member. OLLI is a volunteer organization and depends on its members to function.

This committee, Member Services, is always looking for more helpers. In fact, we need someone who likes photography to help with the photo contest. If you are interested, please email OLLI.info@uah.edu or phone 256-824-6183.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

SHARE YOUR IDEAS, ANONYMOUSLY OR NOT



I'm guessing that the majority of OLLI members have at some time or another thought of an idea on how to make our organization bigger and/or better.

It could be a course that may be interesting, a topic for a weekly bonus, a person who may make an excellent instructor, an idea on gifts for instructors, door prizes for the term open houses, or even a public relations thought.

You may think your idea is worthwhile or silly, but you'd still like to get it heard. You've probably even thought through the process of actually sharing with someone who can help make the idea become a reality, but hmmm, whom do you share with?

Here's a thought. Did you know that OLLI has a suggestion box, whose name I'm now unilaterally changing to the idea box? It's a black box on a stand in the hallway by the OLLI volunteer office (151 Wilson Hall), in front of the bulletin board.

Submitting here is completely anonymous, and anyone can put anything in — ideas, suggestions, gripes, anything. So think about your ideas. Take a minute and write them down and slip them into the box. I promise they will all be looked at and presented to the Board of Directors.

You can add your name and contact number if you think we may have questions. If you're interested in teaching a class, we'll definitely need your contact information; how else would we know whom to contact?

See, now that I've made it easy for you to suggest, share or recommend, please use this vehicle available for you. All I ask is that you don't put in anything that may be totally undoable, such as dedicating a building to OLLI or building a parking deck for Wilson Hall. Remember, we are a volunteer organization running on donations.

So now it's your turn — the idea box is waiting on you.

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair

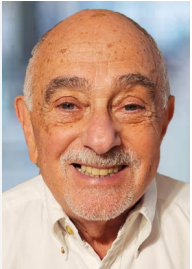


This box outside the OLLI volunteer office is where you can submit ideas, suggestions, gripes or other comments.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)



OLLI memberships and tuition are perfect holiday gifts for friends and family! Visit osher.uah.edu/giftcertificate to see options ranging from \$20 to \$50.

4 OLLI TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024



It's been said that OLLI has something for everyone. Truly the diversity of content and depth of individual subject matter are trademarks of our curricula and special events. The same can be said of OLLI travel.

Consider what the OLLI Travel Committee has arranged for members in 2024.

Winter art break in Southern California

We start the new year with an escape to sunny Southern California on Jan. 14-19, 2024, during the dead of winter in North Alabama and OLLI's winter break between fall and spring terms.

This trip, titled "Art Collectors and Their Collections," is hosted by Road Scholar and features renowned entrepreneurs who garnered treasures from around the world and housed the artifacts in equally stunning homes, museums and gardens in and around Los Angeles.

Nancy Darnall is the trip coordinator for OLLI, and a few spaces are available. Road Scholar provides expert guides for each venue for your in-depth appreciation. Accommodations are at the spacious downtown Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites for five nights — within walking distance of landmark restaurants and lounges, LA's Music Center and sports facilities.

See tinyurl.com/olli-ca-art. You may also email Nancy at olli.info@uah.edu if you are interested in this trip.

Spring break on Georgia barrier islands

During spring break, March 10-15, 2024, OLLI is traveling to the Georgia barrier islands, including St. Simons, Sapelo and Jekyll islands, where our accommodations are at the famed Jekyll Island Club Hotel for five nights.

This Road Scholar trip is all about diverse people's history, island lore and beauty, and environmental facts and experiences. The spaces filled up quickly, but several of our members have lucked out and gotten reservations by placing their names on the wait list maintained by Road Scholar.

Jane McBride is OLLI's coordinator on this trip. See tinyurl.com/olli-ga-islands. You may also contact Jane through olli.info@uah.edu.

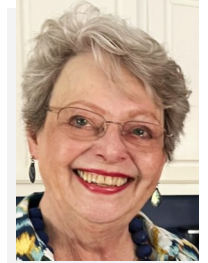
Cool, green Ireland at midsummer

In the middle of the summer when you know it's steamy in Alabama, OLLI is off to cooler and greener Ireland.

Yes, our Travel Committee just recently approved another trip for 2024 — this one by Grand Circle Travel! Mark your calendars for July 13-27, 2024, for "Ireland in Depth: Dublin, Kilkenny, Cork, Killarney, Galway" with a pre-trip to Northern Ireland and post-trip to Bath and London options.

There are excellent incentives to reserve your place on this exciting journey, but time is of the essence — it's this time of year that travel companies give the best rates for travel in the following year, so be alert to the opportunity by Nov. 30, 2023!

Linda McAllister, who has toured Ireland and traveled with Grand Circle previously, is OLLI coordinator for this trip. She says you're sure to have an adventure of a lifetime and many fond memories. See tinyurl.com/olli-ireland-in-depth. You may also contact Linda through olli.info@uah.edu.



Iceland's fire, ice and lights in the fall

And for the OLLI explorer and the geologically inquisitive, the Land of Fire, Ice and Lights — exotic Iceland — is scheduled for Sept. 8-17, 2024! This trip by Nanda Journeys of California is described as "A Journey of Purpose and Discovery."

This trip is comprehensive and a high value for your accommodations and experiences.

Chris Stuhlinger is OLLI coordinator, and he invites you to attend a webinar with useful information on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. to hear details of the trip. Contact Chris through olli.info@uah.edu to obtain a link to the webinar (or a recording if it's already past) and other information.

See tinyurl.com/olli-iceland-fire-lights.

(continued on the next page)

4 OLLI TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024, CONT

Bringing it all together

For details, meals, inclusions, itineraries and reservations on all trips, please go to tinyurl.com/olli-travel-2024. Also please feel free to request that any of the trip coordinators get in touch with you should you have questions or suggestions, using olli.info@uah.edu.

There really are travel extravaganzas to suit a variety of tastes and interests among OLLI members. We welcome

seasoned and curious travelers to the OLLI Travel Committee. Your inputs are always welcomed.

And don't forget, we want to feature your own private travel adventures in this space in *The OLLI Insider*.

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein
Travel Committee Co-Chairs

The screenshot shows the OLLI at UAH - Travel page. The top navigation bar includes links for ABOUT UAH, EVENTS, MAP, GIVING, ALUMNI, DIRECTORY, I AM A..., and a SEARCH button. Below this is the UAH logo and a secondary navigation bar with links for Admission & Aid, Academics, Research, Campus Life, Athletics, and News. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: LIBRARY / OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE / TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES / TRAVEL WITH OLLI OVERVIEW. The title "OLLI at UAH - Travel" is prominently displayed. On the left, a blue sidebar lists "OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE" and links for "OLLI Gift Certificates", "About OLLI at UAH", "Membership" (with a plus icon), and "Course Registration" (with a plus icon). The main content area contains a large group photo of OLLI members posing outdoors. On the right, a yellow sidebar offers three options: "Apply to UAH", "Visit UAH", and "Request Info".

Go to tinyurl.com/olli-travel-2024 to find this summary page containing details of coming adventures and links to more information about each one.

JERRY PANG DISCOVERED OLLI AND TAI CHI

Whenever anyone at OLLI mentions tai chi, the first name that pops up is Jerry Pang. In the last six years, Jerry has taught more than 20 tai chi classes, and at each open house he can be seen enthusiastically encouraging members to sign up for his next class.

But Jerry is much more than an instructor. He has served on the OLLI board, has been a facilitator and has helped with numerous OLLI programs. In 2019, he was the first OLLI Volunteer of the Year. Jerry is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Jerry's grandparents immigrated from China to Honolulu at the turn of the 20th century, and Jerry grew up there. His parents owned a neighborhood grocery store that closed only half-days at Thanksgiving and Christmas. His dad unexpectedly passed away at 49, leaving his mother to run the store and support the family, but with the help of Jerry, his five older sisters and his younger brother.

"My sisters tended the store while my brother and I restocked the shelves," recalled Jerry. "Mom was remarkable because she managed from her limited income to make sure all of her children graduated from the University of Hawaii or a business school. Although we didn't have much financially, we never felt we suffered and we learned how important a family is in teaching responsibility and love."

As a boy, Jerry had a natural curiosity about how things worked. "I loved taking things apart," said Jerry. "I was pretty much a hands-on self-learner when it came to mechanical things."

This curiosity led him to major in electrical engineering at the University of Hawaii, where his love of surfing competed with his studies. His first job was as a range engineer at Kwajalein Atoll, where the Army tests intercontinental missiles. After a year, Jerry returned to Hawaii to marry his college sweetheart Jerilyn. He and Jeri lived in Kwajalein two more years and moved in 1975 to Huntsville and major culture shock.



Jerry Pang has been active in leadership for most of his eight years at OLLI, including teaching a tai chi class. He and wife Jeri, who is also an OLLI member, attended a reception at the UAH president's house about 2018. Sue Chatham presented Jerry the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award. In the fall of 2022, Sue and Jerry demonstrated tai chi at the open house.

"It was our first time living on the U.S. mainland," said Jerry. "Weatherly Road had just been completed. When conditions were right, the steel mill haze blew in from Birmingham, and rocket testing at the Arsenal was a daily occurrence. ...

"Our original plan was to stay a couple of years and then move to the West Coast and eventually Hawaii. Forty-eight years later, we're still here! We took a liking to the South. We love Huntsville and consider it the best move we ever made."

After 10 years working in range engineering, Jerry moved to process and systems engineering.

"This involved working on many different programs and projects with a number of government agencies and commercial entities," said Jerry. "I can't go into detail what I did or where I

worked. ... Work was interesting because each assignment was different and a new challenge."

After 40 years, Jerry retired and was well on his way to being a full-time couch potato when he noticed a newspaper ad for OLLI. He joined OLLI in 2015 and never looked back. He facilitated the first class he took and soon was taking many classes.

"I started taking classes, dozens of classes," said Jerry, "most within my comfort zone. Then I shifted to discussion classes and then activity classes. Later I felt comfortable enough to ask questions in class."

After just one year, Jerry was elected to the OLLI board and dove head first into the deep end by volunteering to chair the Member Services Committee.

(continued on the next page)

JERRY PANG DISCOVERED OLLI AND TAI CHI, CONT

“Back then, if any new task came up that had anything to do with members, it was assigned to our committee,” said Jerry. “We were responsible for, among other things, the monthly newsletter, office volunteers, DVD lending library, annual photo contest, weekly bonus goodies, newsletter mailing, and my most important job of all: ensure we never ran out of coffee.”

And then came tai chi. Jerry had been interested in tai chi since his days in Hawaii, but had never had the chance to study it. When he discovered tai chi was being taught in a local church, he signed up and was hooked.

In 2017, Jerry convinced Gratia Mahoney, curriculum chair, that it was time to bring tai chi to OLLI. His instructor taught the first two terms, but

when he could no longer do the class, Jerry took over.

What drew him to tai chi? “Tai chi improves balance, coordination, flexibility and strength,” said Jerry. “Tai chi also has a mindfulness benefit for better cognition, focus and concentration. Students learn each movement and through repetition commit the entire routine to muscle memory. This initial mind-body awareness later transitions into relaxed, nonthinking meditative movements. The movements are gentle, no-impact, and done slowly and continuously from a standing position.”

A hiccup came a year ago when Jerry had to have bypass surgery. In his absence, Candi Holcomb and Phil Graham kept the class going.

What has OLLI meant to Jerry?

“OLLI provided me with an opportunity to learn new things and to push myself beyond my comfort zone,” said Jerry. “A longtime OLLI instructor told me he taught so many courses ‘because I love learning. Teaching takes your quest for learning to the next level.’ He was right.”

A bonus for Jerry came when his wife of 51 years, Jeri, joined OLLI last year.

“Now we share common experiences and friends together,” said Jerry. “She found her own niche. I have met many new friends through her. OLLI has brought us closer.”

Thanks, Jerry, for the many things you have done and will do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams

JOHN MASON VISITS WITH BERNARD OSHER



Bernard Osher (right) spoke with John Mason, president of the OLLI at UAH board of directors, in San Diego. John and Justin Clay, marketing and design specialist, represented OLLI at UAH at the 2023 Osher Institutes National Conference on Oct. 15-18. Osher, 96, is a businessman and philanthropist who founded the Bernard Osher Foundation in 1977. Among other projects, it supports 125 OLLIs on campuses from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska. Bernard Osher is also “a serious student of opera and an ardent fly fisherman,” according to his biography at osherfoundation.org.

OSHER GRANT BROUGHT ON A NAME CHANGE



This is the third of several historical articles by Sue Chatham, who joined UAH's Academy for Lifetime Learning 29 years ago. The Academy later became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The Academy for Lifetime Learning had some major changes during the first decade after 2000.

In 2004, Continuing Education at UAH and the Academy received an invitation from the Bernard Osher Foundation to submit a proposal to receive a grant of \$100,000 to support our activities. Toni Reynolds, an Academy member, was instrumental in working with Dr. Karen Clanton in submitting the proposal. UAH was awarded this initial grant in 2005. One condition of the grant was to change our name to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH.

In 2006, UAH received a bridge grant of \$50,000, and then in August 2006 a second \$100,000 grant.

UAH received a \$1 million endowment in 2007 and a second one in 2008 to continue the support of what was now OLLI. As a result of receiving the initial \$1 million endowment, UAH agreed to provide dedicated space of about 2,500 square feet for OLLI use in the refurbished Wilson Hall.

An ad hoc committee composed of OLLI members from the Board of Directors was established to lay out the rooms for this space. I can remember Jim Lindberg chairing the ad hoc committee and working diligently for many hours with UAH to design the space we have now. To celebrate receiving the first \$1 million, a reception was held at the Art Museum on June 5, 2007, and Academy members were invited to attend.

In the midst of all of this, the Academy/OLLI continued to grow and prosper.

In 2004, the Academy held a yard sale at the home of Jim and Pat Lindberg to raise money for the UAH Scholarship Fund. \$1,738 was raised, and it boosted the Scholarship Fund to \$8,396. By the end of 2007, OLLI members had donated \$22,094 to the fund. In 2006, Katie Buchanan received the first scholarship of \$650.

In the fall of 2005, an electronic class registration system was offered by the UAH Continuing Education Department to Academy members for those who wished to use it.

In 2006, our name became Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH officially with the state of Alabama. The OLLI at UAH Member Handbook was published and distributed to all members.

From July 27 to Aug. 7, 2007, the first OLLI Alaska trip took place. In the fall of 2007, the DVD library was announced, and the following DVDs were made available for members to check out: Greek civilization, famous Greeks, the history of ancient Egypt, the Hellenistic Age, physics and economics. Mary Pat Bohrman, the UAH outreach coordinator of continuing education, left the staff.

In 2008, Maxine Doherty became the UAH outreach coordinator of continuing education. In June 2008, OLLI moved to Madison Hall temporarily until Wilson Hall could be refurbished.

In 2009, the first OLLI photo contest was announced. The theme was picturesque scenes of Madison County.

And as you might expect, food was involved with many of these activities. "We love to eat." Some things don't change!

There are Academy/OLLI scrapbooks in the lounge (152D Wilson Hall). Information and the pictures came from those.

The journey continues ...

By Sue Chatham



Pat and Jim Lindberg; Toni Reynolds (left); scholarship winner Katie Buchanan.



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

November: As Pericles said, 'Freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it'

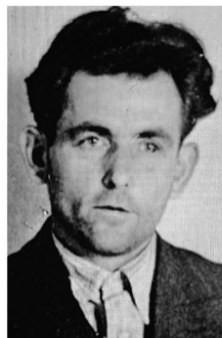
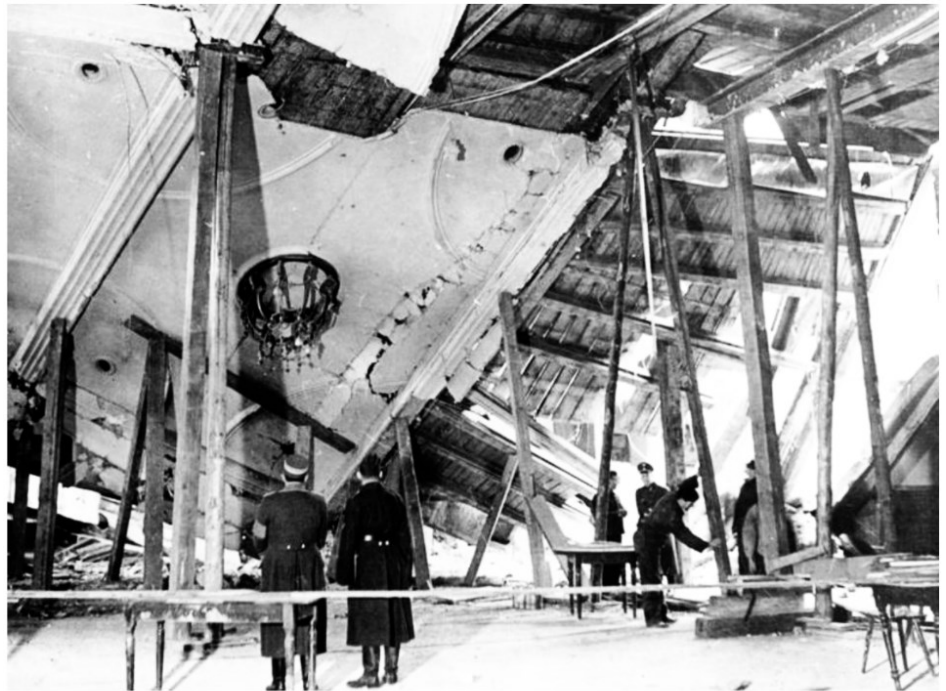
Georg Elser, a carpenter and cabinet-maker by trade, was born on a small farm near Königsbronn in the German Empire in 1903. In 1922, he apprenticed with a master woodworker nearby, graduating at the top of his class from a local trade school.

In August 1925 he took his skills and moved to Konstanz to build cases at the town clock factory. During that time, the entire clock industry suffered through constant crises, with his employer finally going into bankruptcy in 1926-27. For six months, Elser was out of work, even though he regularly inquired at the employment office as well as with furniture manufacturers and cabinetmakers. In 1928, the company reopened as Schuckmann & Co. Clock Factory, and Elser was rehired.

By the beginning of 1929, Schuckmann was in financial difficulty. In the end, the company could not be saved, and in desperation the boss set fire to the place. The police immediately saw arson as the cause of the fire. And Elser was, once again, unemployed.

For the next four years, he bounced around, trying to support his family. Hoping for assistance, he became a member of the left-leaning Federation of Woodworkers Union. His place in history can likely be traced to his membership with this group, and that is the rest of the story.

Throughout his life, Elser rarely read and appeared to have little to no interest in politics beyond its impact on the labor movement — with one crucial exception: He hated the Nazi Party, particularly its economic policies. Working hours were long, vacations were few, wages were frozen, and — most importantly for Elser — trade unions were banned.



The aftermath of Georg Elser's bomb on the Bürgerbräukeller beer hall, Munich, Nov. 8, 1939. Elser's photo at left is from the same month. At right is a German postage stamp commemorating Elser's 100th birthday. The quote reads in English: "I wanted to prevent the war." (Photos from [Wikimedia Commons](#))



Elser became ever angrier about the growing social rift between members of the Nazi Party and ordinary citizens like himself. He reportedly refused to give the Nazi salute as far back as 1933 and refused to listen when Adolf Hitler appeared on the radio. He is even said to have turned his back and whistled when a pro-Hitler parade passed through his hometown.

In early 1938, Elser made up his mind to take matters into his own hands and attack Hitler directly. Fortunately, one annual event was a constant fixture in Hitler's schedule. Every Nov. 8, Hitler traveled to Munich to give a speech at the Bürgerbräukeller beer hall to commemorate the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch, when he launched the abortive coup against the Weimar Republic that set the stage for his rise to power.

(continued on the next page)

DID YOU KNOW ...?

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY, CONT

During four days of interrogation in Berlin (Nov. 19-22, 1939), Elser articulated his motive to his interrogators:

I considered how to improve the conditions of the workers and avoid a war. For this I was not encouraged by anyone ... Even from Radio Moscow I never heard that the German government and the regime must be overthrown. I reasoned the situation in Germany could only be modified by a removal of the current leadership, I mean Hitler, Goering and Goebbels ... I did not want to eliminate Nazism ... I was merely of the opinion that a moderation in the policy objectives will occur through the elimination of these three men ... The idea of eliminating the leadership came to me in the fall of 1938 ... I thought to myself that this is only possible if the leadership is together at a rally. From the daily press I gathered that the next meeting of leaders was happening on 8 and 9 November 1938 in Munich in the Bürgerbräukeller.

So, in November 1938, Elser traveled to Munich to plan his attack. Inside the beer hall, he noticed a stone pillar located behind the speaker's platform that supported a large balcony overhead. A large bomb placed within that pillar, he calculated, was capable of bringing down the entire balcony. In this way, he could bury not only Hitler but also a number of his ministers and supporters.

Elser worked methodically, smuggling 110 pounds of high explosives and high-capacity detonators from the Waldenmaier Armament Factory into the beer hall and putting them into place inside the pillar. To minimize the noise of the mechanism, he lined the cavity of the pillar with cork.

Elser knew from his research that Hitler started his speech every year at about 8:30 p.m. and spoke for about 90 minutes. So he set the timer of his bomb to explode at precisely 9:20 p.m. on Nov. 8, 1939, roughly the halfway mark of the speech.

Then things started to go wrong. Hitler, who claimed he had the "luck of the devil," intended to fly back to Berlin after his speech to work on plans for the war now that it had officially begun. However, local weather reports called for dense fog on Nov. 8, making air travel hazardous. So he decided to return to Berlin using a private train, whose schedule necessitated moving the start time of his speech up to 8 p.m. And he shortened it to about an hour.

The speech concluded at 9:07 p.m., and Hitler quickly departed. Elser's bomb exploded as planned 13 minutes later and brought down the entire building, killing seven people and injuring over 60 others. However, as the stage had been emptied, none of the bomb's original targets were among them.

Elser had taken a train back to Konstanz the morning of Hitler's speech. When darkness fell, he headed out toward the border, attempting to cross into Switzerland on foot, but was stopped and arrested by border guards.

When the border guards received news about the attempted assassination, they transferred Elser to Munich, where the Gestapo interrogated him. The evidence against him was overwhelming. Elser signed a confession on Nov. 15, but Hitler refused to believe that a German would dare attempt to assassinate him. Hitler insisted that Elser was working for British intelligence services.

So Elser was transferred to Berlin on Nov. 18 for further interrogation to get the "confession" Hitler wanted. Reportedly, he was interrogated by Heinrich Himmler, the dreaded head of the Nazi SS, himself. With German defeat looming in the spring of 1945, Elser was transferred to Dachau concentration camp, where he was shot on April 9, 1945, just four weeks before the end of World War II in Europe.

This was not the first attempt to assassinate Der Fuhrer; there had already been at least 13 other attempts made, beginning as early as 1932. In the end, no fewer than 42 different groups or individuals would try. None succeeded.

Elser remained little more than a footnote in history until 1999 when historian Hellmut G. Haasis published his biography. In 2003, the German postal authority issued a special stamp commemorating Elser's 100th birthday. Elser never denied his role in the attempt for fear that someone else might be blamed.

"That he was for so long ignored by the historians of both East and West Germany, merely goes to show just how long it took Germany to become comfortable with honestly confronting its own history," wrote German political journalist Claus Christian Malzahn in 2005. "Johann Georg Elser, though, defied ideological categorization — and for that reason, he is a true German hero."

Sometimes, good people simply have to stand up for what they believe in if freedom is to be preserved.

By John Mason

A VISIT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S MOTHER

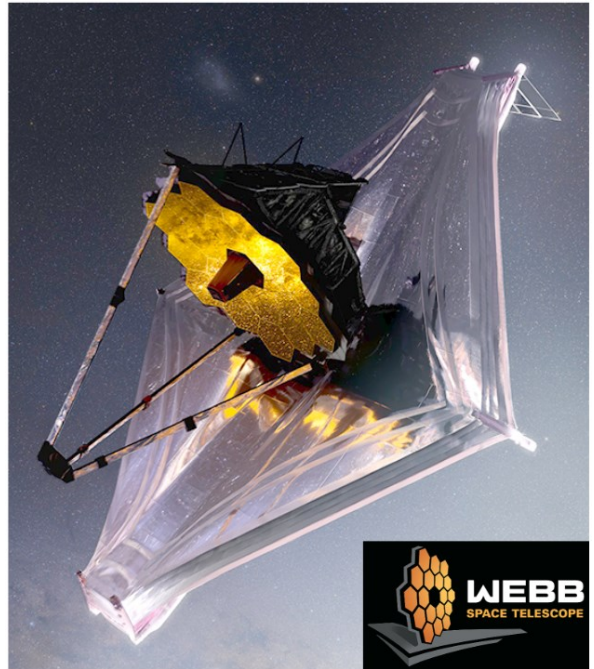
Elaine Hubbard (top left) portrayed Lillian Carter in "Miss Lillian," a one-woman play written by Carol Cook Puckett (bottom right) during a bonus presentation Oct. 6. Miss Lillian was President Jimmy Carter's mother. The audience gave a standing ovation.



(Photos by Steve Stewart)

EXPERTS BRIEF OLLI ON THE WEBB TELESCOPE

UAH's Dr. James Hadaway and Dr. John Fix explained the design, construction, testing and early scientific results of the James Webb Space Telescope during a public "super bonus" Oct. 20. Hadaway (right) is a principal research scientist, and Fix is a professor and dean emeritus. Images captured by the telescope include the remains of a dying star (large photo), Jupiter (bottom left), and The Ring Nebula.



(Event photos by Steve Stewart; other images from webbtelescope.org, webb.nasa.gov and apod.nasa.gov)

A FLASHBACK TO 2006 AND FIRST OSHER GRANT

OLLI members might be interested in some of the major concerns for The Academy of Lifetime Learning in the 2005-06 time frame. The following was in the September 2006 OLLI newsletter and explains how the first grant helped resolve some of the concerns at that time.

In June 2005 The Academy for Lifetime Learning at UAH received an initial yearly grant of \$1,000,000 from the California Based Osher Foundation. These grants are awarded to strengthen and expand lifelong learning organizations. We have completed obligating the funds for the 2005-2006 grant and the projects and activities funded are summarized below. We have submitted an application for a second year grant and are waiting on a decision from the Foundation.

Community Needs Assessment Study

A contract was funded to conduct a random telephone survey of people 50 years of age and older in the Huntsville/Madison County area to determine awareness and interest in lifelong learning programs. Approximately 2,000 total calls were made with about 300 responding to questions.

An interactive internet survey was also conducted of current OLLI members with a different set of questions pertaining to their degree of satisfaction with our program and possible suggestions for improvements. 153 members completed the online survey.

Improved Facilities

Four wireless microphones and three VCRs were purchased for use with the audio visual equipment in four classrooms in Wilson Hall.

A portable PA system with wired and wireless microphones was purchased to be used in classrooms on campus that do not have built-in audio equipment. This system may also be used at functions off-campus.

Assisted hearing systems with individual headsets for the very hard of hearing were purchased. These can be used with the installed systems in Wilson Hall or with the portable PA system.

Computer labs used by OLLI in Wilson Hall were upgraded and Paint Shop Pro software for OLLI computer classes was purchased.

A new portable laptop computer and software were purchased. This can be used by instructors or members for OLLI activities.

New furniture has been purchased for the OLLI lounge in Wilson Hall.

A new copier has been purchased for the OLLI office to be used for reproductions associated with OLLI classes and activities.

Curriculum

Funds were used to rent facilities off-campus for some of our classes.

A seminar designed toward teaching adults was held for our volunteer teachers and those interested in teaching. Approximately 60 persons attended.



Patricia Miklik Doyle/Huntsville Times
Celebrating the \$1 million endowment on Monday at the Huntsville Museum of Art are, from left, Lew Radonovich, Sue Chatham and Cindi Branham.

Praise is worth \$1 million to UAH

Lifetime learning center gets
Osher Foundation endowment

By KENNETH KESNER
Times Staff Writer
kenneth.kesner@htimes.com

The lifetime learning program hosted by the University of Alabama in Huntsville has been such a success since its founding 14 years ago that the Bernard Osher Foundation recently paid it a \$1 million compliment.

Money raised by the foundation's \$1 million endowment to what is now called the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH will ensure continuing support for its programs, said Sue Chatham, president of the OLLI at UAH.

"The main thing is, it allows us to have permanent facilities on campus," she said Monday afternoon during a reception at the Huntsville Museum of Art to celebrate the grant.

OLLI at UAH is a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the school's Division of Continuing Education and was formerly

The Huntsville Times published this story in 2007 about UAH's \$1 million grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. (Reprinted with AL.com's permission)