

THE OLLI INSIDER

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE

News for the members of OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



TRANSITIONS, JOURNEYS AND TIES THAT ENDURE

Clockwise from top left: Peggy's Cove in the Canadian Maritimes, one stop on a tour available to OLLI members in August 2023. David Lilly giving a Friday bonus about how a mid-century event changed Huntsville. David Moore (right), director of the Salmon Library, with OLLI Program Manager Clay Williams; OLLI is moving under the library's administrative umbrella. Fathia Hardy with her daughter, Farrah Starr, at Disney World; Fathia is stepping away from OLLI leadership and is this month's "People of OLLI" subject.

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FROM THE EDITOR

WITH LOVE FROM COMPUTER TO VALENTINE



John Mason's curriculum column last month gave me an idea. I wrote these instructions to OpenAI through ChatGPT: "Write a 400-word newsletter article for senior adults about whether artificial intelligence can do our writing for us. Make it concise and witty, with a short opening paragraph. Mention Valentine's Day." The following came back in

about 20 seconds. I did not change a thing. I kid you not.

As Valentine's Day approaches, you may be thinking about writing a love letter to your sweetheart. But before you put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard), you may wonder: can artificial intelligence do the writing for us? The short answer is no — at least, not yet.

While AI has made strides in language generation and can produce coherent sentences and even entire articles, it still lacks the creativity and nuance of human writing. In fact, AI is often used as a tool to assist writers, rather than replacing them. For example, AI-powered writing assistants can help with grammar and spelling mistakes, suggest alternative word choices, and provide formatting assistance.

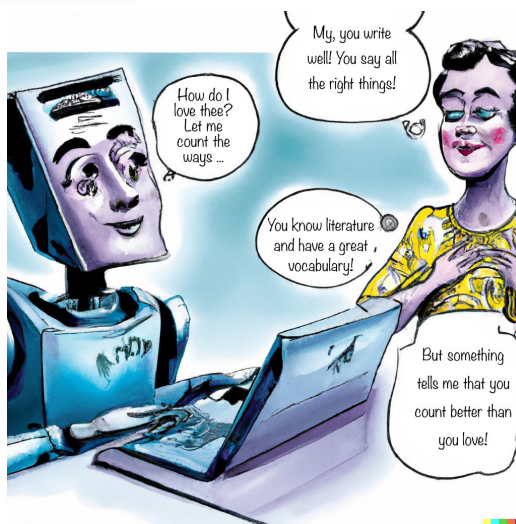
That being said, there are certain tasks that AI excels at, such as data analysis and processing large amounts of information. This means that AI can be useful in generating reports and summaries, but it's not yet capable of producing original, compelling content.

So, for those of you planning on writing a heartfelt love letter this Valentine's Day, don't worry — your job is safe. AI may be able to assist with the technical aspects of writing, but it can't capture the depth of emotion and personal connection that only a human writer can.

In conclusion, while AI has made impressive advancements in language processing, it's not quite ready to take over the role of human writers. So go ahead and put your own personal touch on that Valentine's Day love letter — your sweetheart will appreciate it.

Alas, I guess I can't use a robot to woo Patrice or write the newsletter. For better or worse, I (not a computer) wrote the following:

Inside The Insider: Despite John Mason's hints last month that robots would be writing for *him*, I see no evidence of that in his three articles this month: They are far too clever and substantive. He muses in the curriculum column about the metric system, gold's real value and



(Illustration was artificially generated by DALL-E; wording was generated by William Shakespeare and others.)

critical thinking; his military history column is about Aaron Burr, one of our early scheming politicians; and he describes the Great Huntsville Blizzard of 2022, in case you didn't notice it.

You thought you knew Fathia Hardy well because she is everywhere at OLLI, but Glen Adams' profile of her will educate you as she transitions out of OLLI's organizational chart. Fathia: Thank you, best wishes, and we'll still see you.

Clay Williams addresses the administrative transition in his column, accompanied by a photo of Clay with David Moore, director of UAH's M. Louis Salmon Library, of which OLLI will be a part. In a separate article, Clay introduces us to Jacob Bruce, a UAH student who will be helping with computers, Zoom and other matters.

Jill Stewart explains where some of those obscure national days of celebration come from and suggests additions to the list.

Chris Stuhlinger describes events coming up for members and guests, and Marilynn Szecholda invites you to enjoy free weekly breakfasts and a Souper Bowl. Betty Koval gives details about a trip you could join to the Canadian Maritimes. Leah Black reminds you of OLLI's activities, opportunities and amenities. Irene Garoppo invites you to help out in the OLLI volunteer office and enjoy the camaraderie.

David Styers and Irene, respectively, explain how board members and the Volunteer of the Year are selected. Do you know any good prospects? Of course you do!

Steve Stewart
Public Relations Committee Chair

A DAY TO REMEMBER?



Sometimes in my efforts to find a topic for this column each month, I fall down some really strange rabbit holes. This time it happened while I was entering each of my spring-term OLLI classes into a 2023 weekly planner and trying to organize the rest of my life around them.

Planners typically have major and not-so-major holidays and special days already pre-printed onto the pages. My February calendar noted the usual Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day and Ash Wednesday, but also the dates of the new moon, full moon and Waitangi Day — evidently a big day in New Zealand.

While our *Insider* team likes to include seasonal articles for each issue, I knew I would not write anything about Valentine's Day for many reasons. Groundhog Day, maybe?

But it got me thinking about all those odd “national days” you see featured on social media or news stories. Days like National Tater Tot Day, National Science Fiction Day, National Love Your Pet Day, National Shower With a Friend Day, or Singles Awareness Day — which is, ironically, Feb. 15.

Who decides these weird days? Obviously, they are not official holidays introduced or approved by a legislature. The National Day Calendar (NDC) is a website dedicated to celebrating every day of the year and cataloging all these days in one place. There is a surprisingly easy process for almost anyone to create and nominate a National Day if they wish.

1. Go to Nationaldaycalendar.com.
2. Click “Register a National Day.”
3. Read the instructions for submission. You cannot create a day for a specific person.
4. Write a compelling story about why your organization's day should be chosen and how you might celebrate that day if chosen.
5. Hit submit.



(Created by DALL-E)

It only takes some creativity — and a certain amount of luck. You have a 1-in-20,000 chance of your holiday being selected for the NDC website. They choose 25 new submissions each year from over 20,000 requests. In addition, the website now specifies that “due to a significant backlog” they are accepting submissions only from groups or organizations.

So, maybe you see where I'm going with this. I studied the list of all 366 days — including Feb. 29 — and there is nothing that resembles a day promoting the purposes of an organization like OLLI. There is a National Senior Citizens Day on Aug. 21 (not very inspiring) and a National I Am In Control Day March 31 (better) and a National Bucket List Day April 21 (still not quite right).

Maybe we should convene a committee to create and submit a National Day contender. Perhaps a “National Never Stop Learning Day” or a “National Great Seasoned Minds Day,” etc. We have some great creative minds in OLLI at UAH who can take on this challenge.

I do love the idea of having a reason to celebrate every day. We should all be doing that. And I would be pleased to discuss this with any of you on Feb. 22 — National Margarita Day.

Jill Stewart
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY - MARCH 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.

Feb 3 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: An Alaskan Adventure

Experience Alaska's natural wonders and beauty and gain an insight into its culture through an exciting photographic journey from the OLLI Alaskan trip in August 2022.

Highlights of their 12-day tour include the cities of Fairbanks and Anchorage, the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline, the Museum of the North, Chena Hot Springs, Denali National Park, the Alaska Railroad, Exit Glacier and Kenai Fjords National Park.

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

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Chris Stuhlinger, Betty Koval, and Steve Stewart, longtime OLLI members.

Feb 9 | Thu | 5:30 pm | [In-Person](#)

MIG Event: Dine out, La Fink Mexican Restaurant

Visit [La Finka](#) for authentic fresh Mexican food. Join your OLLI friends for great food and even better conversation.

Cost of food is the responsibility of the participant.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by the OLLI Dine Out MIG.

Feb 17 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: Highlighting Selfless Stewardship of Nature in Madison County

This presentation chronicles the making of two extraordinary videos on the Wells Memorial Trail on Monte Sano and the Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary. The first is a memorial to the Wells family and their gift of land to the Alabama State Park System. The second explores the 375-acre Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, enabled by a 300-acre gift of land to the City of Huntsville from philanthropist and nature-enthusiast Margaret Anne Goldsmith.

Join your OLLI friends for soup served after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Dr. Steve Jones, OLLI Member/Nature Enthusiast, and Bill Heslip, former TV and Media Employee

Feb 17 | Fri | 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)
Event: OLLI Souper Bowl

Calling all soup connoisseurs to join us after the February 17th Bonus on Highlighting Selfless Stewardship for a "Souper Bowl Luncheon." We'll have homemade soups to sample made by OLLI's great cooks. So, register for the

Bonus and all you great cooks sign up to bring your favorite soups in a crock pot. And if it's not a family secret, bring a recipe to share. Sign up [online](#).

Presented by the OLLI Social Committee

Feb 25 | Sat | 2:00 pm | [In-Person](#)
OLLI at UAH Event: UAH Chargers - Women's & Men's Basketball

Cheer on the UAH Chargers basketball teams versus Valdosta State. Free admission. Free parking will be available in the lots across from Roberts Hall.

Cost is Free! Sign up [online](#).

Presented by UAH Chargers

Mar 3 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: The James Webb Space Telescope's First Year of Extraordinary Science

The James Webb Space Telescope is the world's premier space science observatory. This presentation will feature images of embryonic galaxies that formed in the early universe and planets orbiting other stars. Participants will learn the implications of Webb's discoveries for deepening our understanding of how stars, planets, galaxies and the universe as a whole form and evolve. Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Free and open to the public.

Presented by Dr. Rand Baldwin, astronomer and former longtime contractor at the Missile Defense Agency.

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

EVENTS COMMITTEE

WARMING BRINGS A VARIETY OF EVENTS



Temperatures are mostly back to normal, so get ready to participate in the variety of events coming up in February and early March.

Below are descriptions of the events. Please mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow OLLI members.

Remember to register online in advance and agree to the waiver/release form (see the registration links below, in the weekly *eNews*, and on the OLLI website). Bring your OLLI name tag to all events.

Note that some events have a registration deadline and/or a registration limit. And up to two guests per member are welcome to attend specified events (guests must also register).

Coming events

- Friday, Feb. 3 — **Bonus event: An Alaskan Adventure!** 11 a.m., Wilson Hall. Highlights of the August 2022 group tour. tinyurl.com/alaskan-adventure.
- Friday, Feb. 10 — **Tour of Martin Stamping and Stove Factory, aka The Stovehouse**, 2:45 p.m. Participation is limited to the first 25 registrants. **NOTE:** *Registration for this tour is closed; the registration limit has been reached.*
- Saturday, Feb. 11 — **Hike/nature walk at Blevins Gap Nature Preserve**, 10 a.m.-noon. Meet at the trailhead (large gravel parking lot) at 3470 Cecil Ashburn Drive SE, Huntsville. Hike the 1.97-mile (each way) Bill and Marion Certain Trail to scenic overlooks from the ridgetop, with nature narratives along the way. The first half-mile is uphill; the rest of the trail is easy and flat along the ridgetop. forms.gle/6B2mrrMfRnVoDqfg7.

- Saturday, Feb. 25 — **UAH Chargers — women's and men's basketball**, 2 p.m. women's, 4 p.m. men's; versus Valdosta State. Spragins Hall Gymnasium, UAH campus. Cheer on the teams. OLLI members may attend the games for free (thanks to Janet Reville for arranging this), but you must register in advance and bring your OLLI name tag. Free parking will be available in the lots across from Roberts Hall. forms.gle/avcWJ5X1j1ovt0dUA.
- Saturday, March 4 — **Hike/nature walk at Harvest Square Nature Preserve**, 10 a.m.-noon. Meet at the trailhead at 111 Allyson Sadie Blvd. in Harvest off Jeff Road near Publix supermarket. Drive northwest on Jordan Lane (Highway 53) about 4.5 miles from Research Park Boulevard; turn right on Jeff Road. We will choose from several easy trails, some of which provide views of two ponds. Six trails total just over 2 miles of hiking. Hear nature narratives along the way. **NOTE:** *Each attending member may bring two guests (guests must also pre-register and agree to waiver form).* forms.gle/6ux1WvcavQU8xRDP9.

These two member-suggested events may interest you:

- Saturday, Feb. 11 — **The Huntsville Master Chorale** presents “Mosaic of Love” fundraising performance, Campus 805 Stone Event Center, Huntsville, 4 p.m. Wine and chocolate pairings, Chip Gulbro's Grooveyard band. Tickets \$50 or \$350 for a table for 8. hsvmasterchorale.org.
- Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 21 and 22 — **The Buttonwillow Civil War Theater and the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table** present “Granddaddy's Watch” at The Studio Theater, Lowe Mill, Huntsville, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets \$25. tvcwrt.org/symposium.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair

OLLI members will walk Blevins Gap Nature Preserve (left) on Feb. 11 and Harvest Square Nature Preserve (right) on March 4. You can bring one or two guests to the second event.



METRIC SYSTEM, GOLD AND CRITICAL THINKING



So I saw an interesting commercial on television this morning that got me thinking.

It opened with a graph explaining how the price of gold had risen from \$300 an ounce in 2002 to \$1,822 recently and noting that there was no telling what its ceiling might be in the

future. Basically, that was the bait to get us thinking about investments and wealth. Ahh, but then came the hook: a way that even the common investor could take advantage of such a glorious opportunity.

Then the screen shifted to show a gold coin.

In dulcet tones, the announcer told us how each of us could get in on the action by investing in buffalo nickels — gold-clad with 14 milligrams of pure 24-karat gold for only \$9.95 each. And to prove how successful this was going to be, there was an *ironclad limit* of only five coins per customer! Get them now, the pitch was intimidating. They won't be available forever.

All right, I can hear you now: Where is this crazy man going? What does this have to do with our OLLI curriculum?

Well, a lot, actually.

For example, did you know that the earth has a population of around 7.046 billion people, and that 94.7% of the world by population uses the metric, not the imperial, system? 95% of the world, then, would know what an insignificant amount 14 milligrams of gold is. Would you?

Only three countries — the U.S., Liberia and Myanmar — still (mostly or officially) stick to the imperial system, and that begs the question of why the United States is the *only* major nation in the world that refuses to accept it. But that's a discussion for another time.

It would make sense for us to adopt the metric system. Not only would it put us in sync with the rest of the world, but as it's based on a number system we use for almost everything else we do — the base-10 system — it should be fairly simple to learn. Alas, we are rugged individuals here and don't need nonsense like the metric system (or universal health care or gun control) messing up our lives.



Gold glitters and is pricey, but what is it really worth?

Well, I, for one, think it *is* something we should learn. We see it every day; we should at least have some passing familiarity with what it means and how to interpret it.

So I'm calling for a new class to be developed: The Mysteries of the Metric System! It's a class whose time has come. Sounds like a perfect entry for a science or math buff as instructor.

This also raises a question about investing. Just recently none other than Warren Buffett noted that investing in gold is stupid. Gold, he says, in and of itself has no real intrinsic value. We pay people to dig it out of the ground and then people to guard it, but its only real value is the arbitrary amount we place on it because it's pretty. Cowrie shells served the same purpose for millennia.

And his very valid point is that once you acquire gold, all it's good for is so you can sit around and look at it. If there's ever a global catastrophe that should require us to sell our gold, it's likely there'd be no one there to buy it.

Now, we have somewhat regular classes on retirement and investments to help you make just those kinds of judgments. Maybe this is the kind of question you'd like to see addressed in the next one?

Oh, by the way, there's something else that commercial raised that people in general have problems with, and that's the skill of critical thinking. Admen go to a lot of effort to make us believe not what we see, but what they tell us to see.

(continued on the next page)

METRIC SYSTEM, GOLD, CRITICAL THINKING, Cont.

In this ad, they're telling us that this may be the last chance for us, the common folks, to hop onto the gravy train of gold. Here are these beautiful pieces of Americana *and* they're clad in all that gold. They're so priceless that you can buy only five, but trust us, you'll be on your way to lasting financial security. The ability to think critically would help us to see through their charade.

And I say that by way of suggesting that a course — a bonus maybe, or a seminar — on critical thinking would be another beneficial offering. It's a subject we can definitely use every day. Anybody out there brave enough to tackle this topic as an instructor?

So that, I hope, answers the questions of why I thought a TV commercial needed comment in this column. See? Education is everywhere.

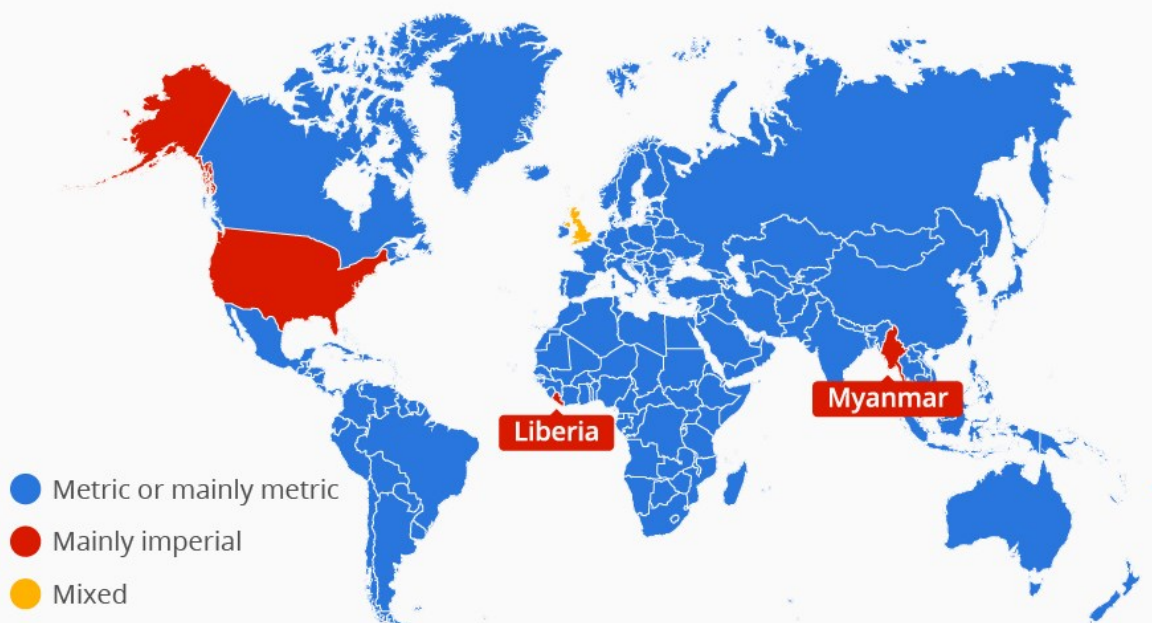
Oh, by the way, 14 milligrams of gold is equivalent to 0.0004494 troy ounces. So at \$1,822 a troy ounce, that gold cladding is worth just about 74 cents per coin. So for only \$49.75 plus shipping and handling (because surely you'll buy all the five coins you're allowed!), you can own \$3.95 worth of nickels. Well, that's their potential value; actual value is 25 cents. Yep. There's wealth being generated there for somebody; the question is for whom.

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

John Mason
VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

Where in the World Do People Use Metric and Imperial?

Countries which used the metric or the imperial system for measurements in 2019



@StatistaCharts

In Canada, Australia, India and some other former Commonwealth countries vital statistics, living and commercial spaces, oven temperatures and recipe measurements might still be imperial.

Sources: U.S. Metric Association, Metric Pioneer, Metric Views, Trip Advisor

statista

(Map from [statista.com](https://www.statista.com))

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Spring 2023 is underway, but there is still time to register for 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 – 3/9 • Th • 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 also examines the role culture plays in people's personality.



EXPLORING WHITMAN ALABAMA

2/2 – 2/23 • Th • 10:30 am to Noon • 4 sessions • In Person • W. Thames • \$25

Join us as we explore how contemporary Alabamians interact with the genius of Walt Whitman. Watch a series of videos that feature Alabama citizens reading portions of Whitman's "Song of Myself." From farmers to barge operators to local judges, the readers combine their stories with readings from the poem to produce striking, amusing and engaging short videos. Attendees will explore the poetry and discuss how both work as expression and art.



THE STORIES, ORATORIES AND PROCLAMATIONS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

2/2 – 3/30 • Th • 1:15 – 2:45 pm • 8 sessions • Live Virtual • J. Syster • \$35

Learn how a poorly educated youth became arguably the greatest speaker in our nation's history. Discover Lincoln's own words in his law cases, speeches, and proclamations which will spark conversation about our ever-changing Constitution, the expansion of our understanding of freedom, and the role of the spoken word in our comprehension of history.



CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH

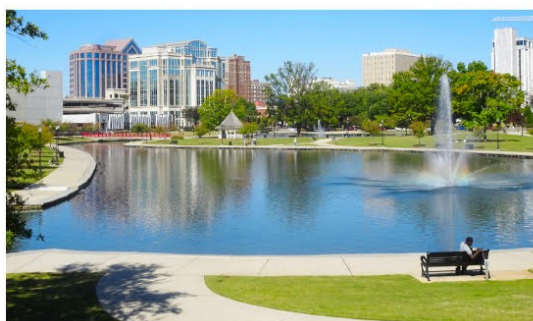
2/28 – 4/25 • Tu • 1:15 – 2:45 pm • 8 sessions • Live Virtual • T. Prescott • \$35

Develop oral communication and pronunciation fluency of French with dialogues on specific topics and basic phrases and expressions. Conversations will be based on daily life issues using the news, magazines, arts, etc. as source material.

Save 20%

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

COURSE SPOTLIGHT



Watercress ponds in Madison County during the 1920s; watercress barrels ready for nationwide shipping. At left, downtown Huntsville today.

(Historical photos courtesy of Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Special Collections; third photo by Chris Stuhlinger)

COURSE WILL EXAMINE HUNTSVILLE'S TRANSFORMATION

Do you want to learn how Huntsville developed from a small agricultural town to a top place to live in our country? Find answers in the OLLI course “The Transformation of Huntsville: From Watercress Capital to the Best Place to Live in the USA.”

The course will have eight sessions on Thursdays, available in person and on Zoom, from March 2 to April 27. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon and will cost \$35.

Whether you are a newcomer to the Huntsville area or a longtime resident, this course will be of special interest to you. The purpose of this extended Course Spotlight is to alert and encourage more members to register for and attend this course. We want to provide a substantial audience for the many guest speakers.

Huntsville, founded in the early 1800s, became best-known for growing cotton and watercress through the early 1900s. Huntsville evolved and recently was named best place to live in the USA by U.S. News and World Report.

What makes Huntsville a top tourist destination, a desirable place to live, and an attractive location for business and industry? Hear top officials and representatives invited from 14 of Huntsville’s leading organizations share their perspectives on our city’s allure, the developing conditions over the decades that transformed Huntsville, and their organizations’ roles.

Invited speakers represent the Historical Society, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Association of Realtors, Space & Rocket Center, Botanical Garden, Alabama A&M University, UAH, Huntsville Hospital, von Braun Center, Land Trust, Speleological Society, Chamber of Commerce, Cummings Research Park, and City of Huntsville Planning Department.

Please note: Although in-person registration was closed in mid-January because the classroom was full, a larger classroom (Wilson Theater) has been found and in-person registration has opened again. If you registered to attend via Zoom and prefer to attend in person, please contact OLLI staff.

Chris Stuhlinger
Course Organizer

SPRING SEMESTER IS IN FULL SWING



Spring semester is underway. Seventy courses and a host of special events and bonus lectures are available for you to enjoy. Courses and events do fill up, so register now to take advantage of these exciting opportunities.

With the new semester starting, please remember to wear your OLLI name badge to all courses and events. The badges are useful to help build our

OLLI community, as they make it easy to introduce yourself to members you may not know. (And, to be honest, they are helpful for staff, as we really struggle to remember all of our 700-plus members.)

One addition we have back for this spring is nice, glossy, printed catalogs. The high cost of printing and postage prevents us from mailing one to every member. We encourage our members to use the one on the website, which can be downloaded and printed.

The main purpose of these printed catalogs is to share to prospective members. They are our primary marketing tool to demonstrate the great benefits that OLLI has to offer. If you have some friends or family you want to share the catalog with, please let us know and we will get them to you.

Clay Williams at open house on Jan. 6 with David Moore (right), director of the Salmon Library. OLLI will now be part of the library in the UAH organizational chart, but OLLI's location in Wilson Hall hasn't changed.

As was mentioned in the January edition of *The Insider*, OLLI will no longer be housed under the College of Professional Studies but will fall organizationally under the Salmon Library. For the immediate future, OLLI will remain in Wilson Hall and Alice Sammon and myself will continue to run the daily operations.

Library Director David Moore and his entire staff are committed to maintaining the high level of quality that OLLI has presented over the years. David is excited about the possibilities and opportunities that will be afforded by this new relationship and looks forward to having a role in OLLI's continued and long-term success and impact on our community.

I want to remind everyone to check out the weekly *eNews* that is emailed to members every Friday afternoon. This is the best way to stay informed of breaking news and coming events. We try hard to provide information and links you need to participate in all the OLLI offerings. If you are not receiving the *eNews*, please let us know.

Happy Valentine's Day from the OLLI staff, and we look forward to seeing everyone this spring.

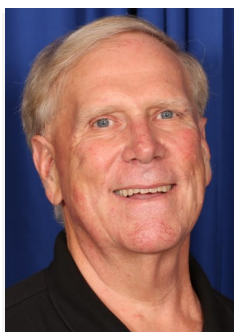
Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager



(Photo by Steve Stewart)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OLLI IS LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Happy new year! Your OLLI has completed 2022 and is opening the door of a new year. With that new year come opportunities for you to become even more involved in your OLLI. You ask, "How do I do that?"

I have an answer.

OLLI is operated by a board of its members. That board is elected by its membership. Let me tell you a

little bit about it and how it works.

OLLI board members are elected for a three-year term and may serve up to two consecutive terms, but then must rotate off the board for at least one year. What that means is that about one-third of our board membership, plus or minus, changes each election cycle. It is time for that election cycle to start.

The election process began in October with the solicitation of people interested in serving on the Nominating Task Force. The Nominating Task Force is co-chaired by the past president of OLLI and the OLLI program manager. In addition to these members of the Task Force, three other members are selected and approved by the Board of Directors. These three positions must include, as a minimum, a representative from the current board along with a volunteer from our membership at large.

After the formation of the Nominating Task Force is completed, the real work begins.

We solicit from our membership people who have an interest in serving OLLI as board members. Nomination forms are made available online. Individuals may nominate themselves, or others may nominate an individual with the nominee's permission. The nominations are reviewed by the Task Force to make sure they meet the requirements for board candidacy.

These nominations are open and will continue through February. We need at least four candidates to step forward and agree to serve OLLI. Those nominations result in an election that will occur in March. The winners of the election are contacted and invited to the April board meeting as guests to meet the existing board members.

At the May board meeting, the newly elected members are inducted into the board, beginning their three-year service commitment. This newly seated board has an awesome responsibility at that point: They must elect the members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board consists of the



Members of the OLLI Board of Directors loosen up for a photo session with Charger Blue, the UAH mascot.

president, vice president of curriculum, vice president of administration and finance, secretary and treasurer of the organization.

This newly elected team meets in June for training and committee selection. Committees are the workhorses that make OLLI successful.

What do we expect of our board members? We ask each one to serve out their complete three-year term. We are, however, a volunteer organization, so occasionally one of our board members may not be able to complete the term. For that reason, we have built flexibility into the mandatory number of board members we must maintain.

Each board member is asked to serve on two of our standing committees. At that June meeting, the new members will decide where their skills can best be supplied for the organization.

So, what does all this mean for you? It means we need you to volunteer to serve.

Please consider dedicating three years of service to your OLLI to keep it vibrant and alive. It can only be as successful as the vision and action of the leadership. We need you to step up and be a leader, a board member.

I have written this article early in the year to give you a little time to think about where you might serve. Feel free to ask any of our existing board members about any details and questions you may have. We want and need you to be a part of OLLI leadership.

David Styers
Immediate Past President
OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS TO START FEB. 17



Happy new year, all. Hope you had a wonderful holiday season and by now have had a chance to read last month's *Insider*.

If so, hopefully, you glanced at the article about the Volunteer of the Year (VoY) program. This is just a little reminder to start listening to the facilitator announcements, reading the weekly *eNews* and watching

OLLI emails to start the nomination process.

Your nominations are the first step in selecting this year's VoY, who will be announced at the OLLI annual dinner in April.

All members of OLLI are invited to participate in this venture by nominating those who you feel are deserving of the award. It could be one of our instructors, class facilitators, committee/board members, office workers/ambassadors or member interest group leaders, or someone who serves behind the scenes. You can nominate more than one person.

If they volunteered anytime during spring term 2022 and fall term 2023, they're eligible. If you want to nominate someone, but you know they've already been nominated by someone else, do it anyway; sometimes people plan to nominate, then get busy and let time slip by.

We hope to open the nomination window on Feb. 17 and have it remain open until March 17, giving everyone plenty of time to put some thought into the process.

The forms will be available online and will ask for the nominee's name and a list of volunteer categories (e.g., instructor, facilitator, etc.), as well as an "other" category, which you'll need to explain (example: behind the scenes putting together a trip to xyz or providing snacks for bonus Friday).

There will be a place for comments to let the nomination committee know why you feel the person you're nominating is deserving of the award. We are also asking for your name and email in case additional information is required.



Janet Reville (left) receives the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award from Irene Garoppo on May 17, 2022.
(Photo by Philip Flowers)

Hard-copy forms will not be used. During the same time, there will be an overlap for nominations for the Board of Directors, so please be sure you're using the correct form.

Remember, the VoY will be announced at the annual dinner. The recipient will receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the OLLI board president, a trophy and a registration certificate for the fall 2023 term. His or her name will be added to the volunteer plaque in the volunteer office.

Please take time to nominate someone you feel should be named 2022-23 Volunteer of the Year.

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair

OLLI VOLUNTEERS

MEET PEOPLE, HELP THEM, BE IN THE KNOW



Are you looking for opportunities to meet OLLI members and don't want to join a committee? Try volunteering in the OLLI volunteer office, which is one of the best opportunities to meet people and know what's going on.

If you have a morning class on campus and another in the afternoon and are trying to figure out a way to kill time, the office is a great place to do it. Becoming an office volunteer is one of the *best* ways to meet OLLI members outside the classroom environment. You get acquainted with the UAH staff, teachers, facilitators and students who stop by for information or just to chat.

This opportunity is easy. A big part is answering questions, especially during the first couple of weeks of each term — things like the location of classes, how to use the reproduction equipment, how to register and how to get a new/updated parking pass. For registration and parking, all you have to do is refer students to the registration office.

If something is asked you don't know, you can check our handbook or contact an OLLI staff person. Easy stuff.

The first week of classes is pretty typical: Answering questions about where classes are meeting (we have the room numbers in the office), where to get parking permits and how to replace a lost name badge, *and, of course*, chatting with fellow members. If you're inquisitive (my new word for nosy), this is the place to be.

Our volunteer office is located in Wilson Hall, Room 151, and sometimes is a bustle of activity with people dropping in to get information, kill time before going to class, or chat. There are many times you'll find three or four people just chatting.

Since we've changed from short terms to longer semesters, there are fewer classes per shift but still a need for those attending classes on campus. We may be changing the schedule for the fall, but right now we have four shifts, Monday through Thursday (8:30, 10:30, 12:30 and 2:30), each for two hours, and one shift on Friday morning at 8:30. If you need to skip a day, no problem; we all have things that interrupt our schedules.



Val Seaquist and Rick Heeth at work in the OLLI office. Volunteers are needed to serve members during the spring semester.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

Many shifts are available in the current term, which began Jan. 30. Training is provided if required, and there is a handbook in case something comes up you're not sure about.

If you think you may be interested in this opportunity or would like additional information, please email olli.info@uah.edu for available shifts and/or information. Remember, it's never too late to volunteer!

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair



SIGN UP TO TRAVEL TO CANADIAN MARITIMES



I hope by now you are enjoying your spring-term classes. I could just put a cot in a spare room until the term is over. I am sure more than a few of you feel the same way.

Now on to travel. The big trip this year is the Canadian Maritimes. It begins on Aug. 17 by flying into

Halifax, Nova Scotia, and continues through Aug. 29.

Day 2 — The group explores Halifax: a tour of the Halifax Citadel (Fort George), the Old Town Clock Tower, the historic harbor area, and Point Pleasant Park. The evening ends with the welcome dinner.

Day 3 — Halifax to Baddeck, Nova Scotia. Visit the Alexander Graham Bell Museum, then on to Baddeck.

Day 4 — In Baddeck, explore the Cabot Trail of jagged peaks and enjoy a scenic picnic lunch in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Day 5 — Visit Gaelic College for a true Celtic experience — demonstrations of kilt-making, Celtic language lesson, and a traditional song and dance with professional performers.

Day 6 — Baddeck to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island — a scenic journey from Baddeck set on the shores of the lovely and expansive Bras d'Or on Cape Breton Island, the northeastern part of Nova Scotia separated from the mainland by the Strait of Canso.

Day 7 — Charlottetown. Visit Anne of Green Gables Museum at Sliver Bush. This is where author Lucy Maud Montgomery found her inspiration for Anne. Head to Raspberry Point Oysters for a lesson in oyster farming — you will be able to shuck and enjoy raw oysters. On to Prince Edward Island National Park to complete the day.

Day 8 — Hopewell Rocks, Saint John, New Brunswick — on the way to Prince Edward Island, stopping at Hopewell Rocks (whimsical rock formations). On to Charlottetown, the provincial capital of PEI.

Day 9 — Explore Saint John by doing a walking tour of the historic districts, King's Square and the City Market, and enjoy the afternoon on your own to explore more. Afterwards, you will regroup and see Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark, a unique phenomenon. Tonight will feature a group dinner with your fellow travelers.

Day 10 — St. Andrews excursion, Campobello Island, and whale watch. What an exciting day! Visit the Roosevelt Cottage on Campobello Island, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's family summer retreat. Whale watch on the Bay of Fundy (weather permitting).

(continued on the next page)



Peggy's Cove (left and right photos) is one of the attractions on the August 2023 tour of the Canadian Maritimes, as is the Halifax Citadel (middle photo).
(Photos by Jill Stewart)

TRAVEL COMMITTEE

TRAVEL TO CANADIAN MARITIMES, Cont.

Day 11 — Saint John to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Begin your transfer to New Brunswick, stopping along the way for a cruise of Shediac Bay and an included lobster lunch onboard. Continue by land to Saint John.

Day 12 — Halifax. Visit Peggy's Cove on the eastern shore of St. Margarets Bay and Lunenburg on Nova Scotia's scenic southern shore. Lunenburg's Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its beautifully preserved architecture.

Day 13 — Halifax and return home. Eat breakfast together and bid farewell to fellow travelers for your return trip home.

The price for all this is \$4,635 per person with international airfare from Huntsville. Tour-only cost is \$3,595 per person — *no airfare included* in this price. Deposit is \$350 per person, and I strongly suggest this: *Do buy the trip insurance.*

Contact Grand Circle Travel by phone, 800-221-2610, and use the code G3-29136.

This is a trip many asked for, and I hope to see more signups within the month.

If you have any trip suggestions, please feel free to contact OLLI.info@uah.edu or phone 256-824-6183.

Remember: All who wander are not lost!

Betty Koval
Travel Committee Chair

WELCOME ABOARD, JACOB BRUCE

You may notice a new face in classrooms this spring.

OLLI is pleased to have Jacob Bruce serve as our student information technology worker for the foreseeable future.

Jacob is a sophomore hailing from Rome, Georgia, and is majoring in information systems with a concentration in cybersecurity and a minor in computer languages and systems.

His main responsibility will be serving as an IT facilitator in classrooms, helping instructors with their setup, and running and monitoring Zoom courses.

When not assisting with courses, he will be performing other administrative duties to assist Clay Williams and Alice Sammon. His workstation will be right outside the main OLLI offices.

Make sure you say hello when you see Jacob and welcome him to the OLLI family.

By Clay Williams
OLLI Program Manager



Jacob Bruce (right) helps issue and update parking passes during open house Jan. 5.
(Photo by Patrice Stewart)

FATHIA HARDY IS STEPPING AWAY FROM KEY OLLI LEADERSHIP ROLE — BUT NOT GOING FAR

It is with sadness that OLLI sees Fathia Lutfi Hardy scale down her involvement. In her role as director of outreach and support services in the College of Professional Studies, Fathia has been UAH's guide for OLLI for seven years.

A UAH reorganization is moving OLLI to the Louis Salmon Library organization. But Fathia promises OLLI has not seen the last of her: "I look forward to seeing you all in classes, field trips, and maybe a trip abroad."

As part of OLLI's farewell, Fathia is the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Fathia grew up in Irondale, just east of Birmingham. Her father, Farouk Lutfi, is from Khartoum, Sudan, and came to the U.S. in the 1980s and eventually married Linda Starr from Detroit. Fathia's father still owns an auto repair shop and sells used cars. Her mother just retired from The University of Alabama at Birmingham and now lives in Madison and is part of OLLI. Fathia has three brothers, Kamal, Mustafa and Greg, and numerous nieces and nephews. In Arabic, "Fathia Lutfi" means victory and kind/gentle, which seems appropriate.

It turns out Fathia has always been a whirlwind of activity.

"I grew up in the arts," she said. "I attribute that to my mother. I did all things: dancing, singing, acting, drawing and painting. I danced at a studio for many years, and I was on the dance team in middle school. I have done community theater since I was 7, and I was heavily involved in the Shades Valley High School Theatre Department. ...

"I also developed a love for cooking. You could often find me glued to the Food Network, learning to cook tasty meals. And I developed a passion for event planning. All of these things helped shape the woman I am today."

Fathia grew up with dreams of a stage and movie career. But after several university theater departments showed interest in her acting, she decided to try college first at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. But at school, Fathia's interest gradually shifted from acting to a degree in communications with a public relations certificate. She graduated in 2010 and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. (Fathia did not stop her education then. She earned an MBA from UAH and is currently working on an Ed.D. in higher education administration from The University of Alabama.)



On a Thanksgiving cruise celebrating the birthday of Fathia's daughter, Farrah Starr Hardy, were (from left) Malik Hardy (Fathia's son), Kamal Lutfi (brother), Khaysia Starr Lutfi (niece), Farrah, Linda Starr Lutfi (mother) and Fathia. In August 2022, Fathia celebrated her own birthday with her daughter at Disney World.

Fathia started her own event planning business while in college and continued that after graduation, plus working part-time jobs. But in January 2013, she made her way to Huntsville and better opportunities. By the end of the year she was a UAH employee, first as an event services coordinator in student affairs. Then she came to the College of Professional Studies to be the assistant director of outreach and events. Since then, she's been promoted to associate director and now, of course, director.

And that's how OLLI was fortunate enough to get a leader of Fathia's caliber.

"OLLI has been the highlight of my career," said Fathia. "I have enjoyed building lifelong relationships with the members. ... The OLLI community is like my second family. I've not only enjoyed leading OLLI, but volunteering and taking classes!"

Fathia helped build the OLLI membership to almost 1,200 before the pandemic and helped guide it through those difficult months when everyone was stuck at home. Now OLLI is on a trajectory to put membership back over 1,000.

Fathia has not just helped as an administrator. She has taught OLLI classes on race and on cooking and led field trips to the Jack Daniel's Distillery in Tennessee and to Birmingham.

(continued on the next page)

PEOPLE OF OLLI

FATHIA HARDY IS STEPPING AWAY, Cont.

And Fathia has not forgotten all the people who have aided her success:

"First, I would like to thank Dr. Karen Clanton [retired CPS dean] for taking a chance on me. ... I would also like to thank Dr. Jason Greene [interim dean] for his continuous support of my career goals and OLLI.

"Over the years, I have worked with so many wonderful people who were dedicated to OLLI, starting with Maxine Doherty, Jessica Clunan, Rebecca Duke, Alissa (McKinnon) West, and Ale Pacheco [former OLLI program manager]. The one person who has remained a constant source of knowledge and pure joy was Alice Sammon [OLLI program coordinator]. She has been riding this crazy roller coaster with me over the years and has always done it with a smile on her face.

"Clay Williams [OLLI program manager] stepped in at a crazy time and has been a well-oiled machine ever since. I appreciate his fresh perspective and dedication to seeing OLLI into this next phase."

Fathia also praised the help of such UAH employees as Teresa Richardson in registration (preceded by Kathy Hosch, Rita Campbell, Pat Belknap, Tressa Hillman-Moore and Hildora Cowen), Amber Capello and C Hughey in marketing, and Jessica Loving in administrative support.

And Fathia is grateful for OLLI members themselves:

"There are so many to name! From former and current Board of Directors members to executive committee members to members I got to know during classes or field trips, everyone has been so amazing and influential in my professional and personal life."

Amidst all her work and achievement, Fathia has raised a family: Son Malik, 13, loves all things sports. Daughter Farrah Starr, 6, is part of her studio's dance company. And the fur baby Fanci Starr is a 2-year-old "Yorkiepoop."

Fathia plans to support OLLI as a member and "remain OLLI's biggest cheerleader. I'm looking forward to joining in on the fun!"

Thank you, thank you, Fathia, for all you've done for OLLI.

Don't be a stranger.

By Glen Adams

Fathia with (from left) former board President David Styers and current President Jill Stewart; former board President Gratia Mahoney; and board member Leah Black.



Fathia traveled with OLLI members (top photo) to Jack Daniel's Distillery. From left are Terese Penix, Alice Sammon, Renate Kump, Janet Reville, Barbara Halupka, Barbara Hitchings, Harriett Somerville, Grazyna Musielak, Rexanne Warfel, Fathia, Jack Geren, Jerri McLain and Carolyn Turner. In the middle photo, another OLLI group tours the Negro Southern League Museum in Birmingham. In the third photo, Fathia helps facilitate questions during the 2018 Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement, held at UAH.



MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENJOY OLLI'S ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES



The spring term is so full of wonderful classes and exciting events, I'm sure you are going to have a chore fitting them into your calendar.

Remember that the bonus events will have the additional fun of great snacks and time to chat with OLLI friends. If you are a new members, you can make new friends, too.

Many of our members have been OLLI friends for a long time and have shared many adventures they would love to share with you.

The member interest groups (MIGs) have been meeting and would love to have new members. So, if you are interested in bridge, mah-jongg, tai chi, etc., please contact the person in charge.

Many times, members really enjoy a topic or activity they have learned in a class and would like to continue the activity with others after the class is over. They can start a MIG by filling out some forms and arranging a meeting place and time. Please contact me for more information.

You may not be aware that we have an extensive collection of Great Courses DVDs. Many are available in the OLLI office, 151 Wilson Hall. You are welcome to look over what is currently available for checkout. Often instructors use these DVDs as an addition to their classes, but members can take them home to enjoy, also.

We have received donations of a large number of additional DVDs, and these will be available soon. Rick Heeth is working hard to organize the whole collection so everyone can enjoy them.

I hope you are enjoying the coffee in the lounge, 152D Wilson Hall. You are free to make a cup and take it to class with you.

We also have a book exchange area and even some puzzles to share. You are free to take them, bring them back (or not), and maybe share one of yours. The space is limited, so there will be some culling of books, etc.

Don't forget the annual photo contest. We already have some entries. The topic is "Light and Shadow." Please check out the instructions before submitting photos. Enjoy all the wonderful things that OLLI has to offer you.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair



(Photo by Steve Stewart)

Take advantage of the free book exchange in the OLLI lounge.

OLLI BOARD MEMBERS THANK FATHIA HARDY



During the Jan. 13 OLLI board meeting, Fathia Hardy (right) receives thanks from board President Jill Stewart for Fathia's years of service to OLLI. Board members gave flowers to Fathia and donated in her honor to Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

FREE BREAKFASTS AND A SOUPER BOWL



Calling all you early birds! Weekly free Early Bird Breakfasts will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 7:45 till noon in the lounge.

Come early for your Tuesday classes, and enjoy a bite to eat. And we would appreciate any contributions of food to our breakfast buffet you would like to bring.

Also, get ready for the Souper Bowl on Friday, Feb. 17 (five days after that other Super Bowl).

All the great cooks out there will prepare a delicious soup luncheon after the bonus for all to enjoy. Register to bring your special soup in the Friday weekly *eNews*. If you wish, bring copies of your recipes to share (well, that is if it's not secret).

Marilynn Szecholda
Social Committee Chair



Enjoy food creations at free Early Bird Breakfasts on Tuesdays, starting Feb. 7. (Photo by Steve Stewart, embellished by Insta Toon)

SUE CHATHAM WINS BY REFERRING A FRIEND

Congratulations to Sue Chatham for winning the December drawing for Refer a Friend. Sue wins a one-time complimentary semester tuition and a one-course gift certificate. You could also win by referring a friend as a new member of OLLI. (Photo by Amber Capello)



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

February: Happy Birthday, Aaron Burr!

Aaron Burr was born to a prominent family in Newark, New Jersey, on Feb. 6, 1756. After studying theology at Princeton, he began his career as a lawyer before joining the Continental Army as an officer during the American Revolutionary War in 1775. After leaving military service in 1779, Burr practiced law in New York City, where he became a leading politician and helped form the new Jeffersonian Democratic-Republican Party.

In 1791, Burr was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until 1797. He would run as the Democratic-Republican presidential candidate in the 1800 election. That election ended in an Electoral College tie between Burr and Thomas Jefferson, resulting in the House of Representatives voting in Jefferson's favor. Burr became Jefferson's vice president because he had the second-highest share of the votes.

Looking at his résumé, one would have thought that this was a man of destiny — one who was going places in the nascent country's governance.

But one would have been wrong, and that's the rest of the story.

Whatever it was that led Aaron Burr to his early successes was apparently tainted by something inside — a yearning for power, perhaps. Those who knew him recognized it.

When he applied for a brigadier generalship to President John Adams after the Revolution, George Washington wrote, "By all that I have known and heard, Colonel Burr is a brave and able officer, but the question is whether he has not equal talents at intrigue." The promotion was denied.

In 1799, Burr founded the Bank of the Manhattan Company, and the enmity between him and Alexander Hamilton may have arisen from how he did so. Hamilton and other supporters believed that he had acted dishonorably in deceiving them for political gains.

And finally, President Jefferson never trusted Burr, so he effectively shut his vice president out of party matters. Burr was not nominated to a second term as Jefferson's running mate in Jefferson's 1804 re-election.

When it became clear that Jefferson would drop him from the ticket, the vice president ran for governor of New York instead. Burr lost the election in what was the most



From left: Aaron Burr, James Wilkinson, Harman Blennerhassett and John Marshall.

significant margin of loss in New York's history up to that time, perhaps partly due to the strident opposition of Alexander Hamilton.

Then, the Albany Register published a letter from Dr. Charles D. Cooper to Philip Schuyler, which relayed Hamilton's judgment that Burr was "a dangerous man and one who ought not to be trusted with the reins of government," and claimed to know of "a still more despicable opinion which General Hamilton has expressed of Mr. Burr." In June, Burr sent this letter to Hamilton, seeking an affirmation or disavowal of Cooper's characterization of Hamilton's remarks. As a result, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel and mortally wounded him. Burr was charged with multiple crimes, including murder, in New York and New Jersey, but was never tried in either jurisdiction.

But this turned out to be only an appetizer. According to later accusations, while still vice president, Burr had plotted to use his international connections and support from a cabal of U.S. planters, politicians and army officers to establish an independent country in the Southwestern United States and parts of Mexico. His true intentions remain unclear and, as a result, historians have varying theories: Some claim that he intended to take parts of Texas and the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase for himself, while others believe he intended to conquer Mexico or even the entirety of North America. The number of men backing him is also unclear, with accounts ranging from fewer than 40 men to upwards of 7,000.

Gen. James Wilkinson was one of Burr's key partners. The commanding general of the United States Army at the time, Wilkinson had once, in the 1780s, attempted to separate Kentucky and Tennessee from the union. Burr persuaded Jefferson to appoint Wilkinson to the position of governor of the Louisiana Territory in 1805. Wilkinson would later send a letter to Jefferson that Wilkinson claimed was evidence of Burr's treason.



DID YOU KNOW ...?

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY, Cont.

In 1805 Burr traveled from Pittsburgh, down the Ohio River, to the Louisiana Territory. That spring, he met with Harman Blennerhassett, who would provide friendship, support and, most importantly, access to Blennerhassett Island, which he owned on the Ohio River, about 2 miles below what is now Parkersburg, West Virginia. In 1806, Blennerhassett offered to provide Burr with substantial financial support.

Using the island as his base, Burr tried to recruit volunteers to enter Spanish territories and was even able to gain the support of New Orleans' Catholic bishop for his expedition. But his activities weren't going unnoticed. Reports of Burr's plans began to appear in newspapers in August 1805, suggesting that Burr intended to raise a Western army and "to form a separate government."

In February and March 1806, the federal attorney for Kentucky, Joseph Hamilton Daveiss, wrote Jefferson several letters warning him that Burr planned to provoke a rebellion in Spanish-held parts of the West and form an independent nation under his rule, but Jefferson dismissed those accusations as being politically motivated. Daveiss brought charges against Burr anyway, claiming that he intended to make war with Mexico. However, a grand jury declined to indict Burr — defended by the young attorney Henry Clay.

By mid-1806, Jefferson and his Cabinet began to take more notice of reports of political instability in the West. Their suspicions were confirmed when Burr's one-time confederate Gen. Wilkinson sent the president correspondence that he had received from Burr detailing the plan. The correspondence was used as the principal evidence against Burr, although, to be sure, Wilkinson edited it to try and remove his involvement in the plot and to preserve his good name.

Jefferson alerted Congress of the plan, and ordered the arrest of anyone who conspired to attack Spanish territory. He warned authorities in the West to be aware of suspicious activities. And finally, convinced of Burr's guilt, Jefferson ordered his arrest.

Burr was charged with treason for conspiracy and for assembling an armed force to take New Orleans and separate the Western from the Atlantic states. He was also charged with high misdemeanor for sending a military expedition against territories belonging to Spain.

The case was controversial from the beginning. Burr's trial brought into question the ideas of executive privilege, state secrets privilege, and the independence of the executive. Burr's lawyers asked Chief Justice John Marshall to

subpoena Jefferson, claiming that they needed documents from Jefferson to present their case accurately. Jefferson proclaimed that, as president, he was "Reserving the necessary right of the President of the US to decide, independently of all other authority, what papers, coming to him as President, the public interests permit to be communicated, & to whom."

Marshall ruled that because Burr had not committed an act of war, he could not be found guilty; the First Amendment guaranteed Burr the right to voice opposition to the government.

To merely suggest war or to engage in a conspiracy was not enough. To be convicted of treason, Marshall ruled, an overt act of participation must be proven with evidence. Intention to divide the union was not an overt act: "There must be an actual assembling of men for the treasonable purpose, to constitute a levying of war."

Marshall further supported his decision by indicating that the Constitution stated that two witnesses must see the same overt act against the country. Marshall narrowly construed the definition of treason provided in Article III of the Constitution; he noted that the prosecution had failed to prove that Burr had committed an "overt act" as the Constitution required. As a result, Burr was acquitted.

Burr, with his prospects for a political career quashed, left the United States for a self-imposed exile in Europe until 1811. He first traveled to England in 1808 in an attempt to gain support for a revolution in Mexico. He was ordered out of the country, so he traveled to France to ask for the support of Napoleon. He was denied and found himself too poor to pay his way home. Finally, in 1811, he was able to sail back to the United States on a French ship. He died, deeply in debt, on Sept. 14, 1836.

James Wilkinson was twice investigated by Congress on issues related to the West. Following an unsuccessful court-martial ordered by President James Madison in 1811, he was allowed to return to his military command in New Orleans.

The similarities between Burr's plot and today are astounding; the same legal arguments are being used in another potential attempt to overthrow the constituted government of the United States. Aaron Burr was the first to try, but he certainly won't be the last. Benjamin Franklin told an onlooker after the Constitutional Convention, "You have a republic *if you can keep it.*" Can we?

By John Mason

THE GREAT HUNTSVILLE BLIZZARD OF 2022

It was a dark and stormy night. Winters in North Alabama are like that. Well, sometimes. Actually, it happens more during the summer, but that doesn't help the story. And so, I'm sticking with "dark and stormy." Get over it.

So it was actually mid-afternoon, but that's not nearly as good a way to start a tale of undaunting courage and struggle. Anyway. Temperatures in the preceding days had been arctic in nature, and now, unexpectedly, came Mother Nature's coup de grâce — the blizzard! Yep! "Dark and stormy" it is!

It began as a light dusting. That was OK; the weather people said it was expected. But as I rushed to Walmart to stock up on bread and milk, knowing that to wait meant only empty shelves, the skies darkened, the wind began to howl, and those light, floaty flakes turned into rampaging white bowling balls, mercilessly battering everything in their way. I had to turn around; now starving became a real possibility!

Here's a picture I took while trying to come back home:



I battened down the doors just in time. For the next few days ... OK, hours ... OK, an hour and a half ... or so, more or less, Mother Nature and I engaged in a life-and-death struggle, a mano-a-mano fight to the finish. I could recount the details, but we all know that what happens at fight club stays at fight club. Only one of us could win. The frightening question was, who would it be?

Then things went from bad to worse. The power failed. What little heat there had once been quickly dissipated as the freezing wind crept in through every unseen crack and crevice in those fancy windows that were supposed to be built right here in America to stop things like that. Hypothermia was a real threat.

I quickly ran through all of my alcohol trying to ease my fear, er, I mean, trying to keep a fire burning. With the last bottle empty, I was forced to turn to becoming a mummy, wrapped in my own blankets. And still, on came the freezing cold, nibbling hungrily at my toes sticking out from under those old rags. At least, I think it was the cold.

The house began to flex in and out like an old Hungarian accordion, bowing to the changing pressures and winds. Snowflakes, now seemingly the size of small automobiles, began battering the walls. I was sure the end was near.

But I refused to go without a fight! "Self," I whispered to myself, "don't give up without a fight. Besides, if you freeze in here, nobody will ever know because the cat will eat you before the snow thaws."

Flooded with a new sense of purpose, I threw open the front door, **only to find this staring back at me:**

The cat meowed with what was certainly a sigh of expected satiation.

I sat back down, realizing that I was now trapped in a Donner Pass of my own making, when, over the wail of the winds, the faint sound of sirens wafted in the distance.

"Don't give up!" someone shouted. "We're coming for you."

The scrape of snowplow blades screeched above the wind.

"Hurry up!" I cried. "The cat's starting pawing at the choicest parts!"

And then — much to her disgust — the door was flung open! I was saved!

As I reached the street, I turned for **one last look** at what I had only moments before been sure would be my eternal resting place. But no!

Me after being rescued:

I was alive! I had survived! I took the cat to the shelter the next day.

The end

*PS: So as I live and breathe, this was actually the way it happened! Honest! But the publisher insisted I show **another picture** of the conditions on that fateful, horrible day. So here it is.*

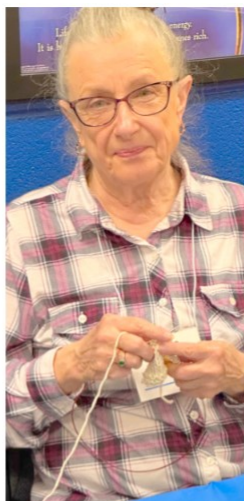
Mind you: This was obviously taken long after the snowplows and rescue crews fought their way through! I will always maintain that it was touch and go, right up to the very end!

By John Mason



OPEN HOUSE GIVES SPRING SEMESTER PREVIEW

Open house in Wilson Hall on Jan. 6 was an opportunity for members and prospective members to chat with instructors and register for some of the more than 70 courses offered during spring semester. Parking permits, snacks and friendship were readily available.



(Photos by Glen Adams, Patrice Stewart and Steve Stewart)

HUNTSVILLE BEFORE THE ROCKETS CAME

Huntsville — now Alabama’s most populous city — was small, poor and uneducated before the Army Missile Research and Development Team moved here from El Paso, Texas. That change was announced in the late 1940s. “Nobody could have foreseen how the Cold War was going to drive missile development, and we were in the middle of it,” David Lilly said during a bonus session Jan. 20. He described the old Huntsville and showed pictures. Lilly is a longtime employee of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library and provided the historical photos seen here from its Special Collections. (Other photos by Glen Adams and Steve Stewart)



IN MEMORIAM

BETTY CARLTON, OLLI WRITING TEACHER



A women's rights conference motivated Betty Jo Morrison Carlton to teach women — and soon men — to write their life stories.

Betty, who taught OLLI's "Writing Your Life Story" course before turning it over to Val Seaquist in 2015, died at her Huntsville home Jan. 5 at age 93.

After returning from the conference in 1998, she wanted to teach a writing course for women only, according to her daughter Marsha Weinstein, who also attended the conference.

"What's so funny is the men wanted in her class," Marsha said. "So she said OK."

As Betty explained it when she wrote "Life and Times of Betty Carlton":

"Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement in Seneca Falls, New York during July 16-19, 1998, was ... a life changing experience for me. ... I came to the realization that I had lived more than half of those one-hundred and fifty years and knew what it was like from my own life experiences to be denied equal rights in growing up and being female. ...

"There is a strong movement toward developing a new psychology of women since the only model for full personhood is based on the male. This model of life has been underdeveloped and distorted because it has been created by only one half of the human species. ... I think it is important to record how a woman's life was lived in the twentieth century and how each generation stands on the shoulders of those who have lived before and have paved the way for our equal rights and freedoms and to become fully human."

Betty retired after 30-plus years teaching students and faculty at Huntsville High School, where she became an assistant principal. She taught at both OLLI and LearningQUEST.

"She was always positive," Marsha said. "She always found the good in everything. She took any bad thing that came along and turned it into something positive. She was extremely helpful. She was the teacher of all teachers. Her biggest passion was the love of books and reading and learning and being educated. She was kind and generous and a hard worker, and of course a great mother. ... I did win the lottery of the best mother, for sure. ...

"She loved OLLI. That whole thing was just a really important part of her life after she retired — a way for her to continue teaching."

Betty grew up in Jasper, Tennessee. She attended Tennessee Tech University and earned her bachelor's

degree in 1968 from what would soon become UAH. She earned a master's in counseling at Alabama A&M University and pursued a doctorate at Vanderbilt University in educational leadership. She "traveled extensively, and held high regard for diverse cultures, fine art, museums, and music," according to an obituary published by her family.

Survivors include four children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

By Steve Stewart

Memories from OLLI members:

She was one of the most intellectually curious older people I've known — always buying, reading, and talking about books. In the early days we were often shifted from building to building every term, sometimes in rooms that weren't very accommodating to our purpose, but she always made it work.

Several years ago I made a stab at calculating how many stories had been written as a result of WYLS classes. ... A guess would be close to 8,000 stories written in the Huntsville area that would not have been if not for Betty's work and encouragement. There were, of course, more than this total, as many people wrote many stories. I think that is a unique, incredible legacy!

—Val Seaquist

I quickly learned that Betty was a favorite OLLI teacher when I enrolled in 2005. She could inspire and engage her students to write fun and interesting lifetime stories. The writing was never critiqued or graded, but when we read aloud, it could not be longer than seven minutes! She offered numerous resources to spark memories for our writing. Betty also was a lifetime learner, and I was surprised to see her at the New York Chautauqua Institute when she was in her late 80s.

—Linda McAllister

Betty was an inspiration to me and mentored me to teach art classes for OLLI, which has greatly enhanced my life and enriched me more than just about anything I have ever done.

She was an intellectual brimming with love and shared what she had learned and continued to learn. An outstanding teacher and friend, she set standards of achievements high for us all to realize how much of a difference each of us can make if we apply ourselves. She created and nourished a beautiful, successful family, of which she was proud, while balancing a career and a happy life. Those of us who experienced her enthusiasm will never forget her. She is an example of what a life well lived looks like.

—Debbie Dempsey West



CAN YOU HELP WITH WORLD CYCLING EVENT?

Volunteers are needed to help conduct one of Huntsville's largest public events, the Para-Cycling Road World Cup, before and during Memorial Day weekend.

About 300 athletes will compete, accompanied by team support staff and family members, according to the Huntsville Madison County Chamber. Countries that typically compete include the United States, England, Italy, Germany, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Japan, Korea, Canada, Mexico and Portugal. Para-cycling — cycling adapted for athletes with disabilities — is governed by Union Cycliste Internationale.

Athletes and crews will begin arriving May 19. Races will take place May 26-29 in Cummings Research Park.

This will be the first time in the event's 28-year history that it's held in the United States, said OLLI member Michelle Laverty. It will be live streamed worldwide and could set records for Huntsville visitors and tax revenues.

More than 400 volunteers will be needed both before and during the races. Michelle said OLLI members could provide time, organizational skills and contacts. For example, athletes' families need things to do, which



Handcyclist Ursula Schwaller at the 2012 Paralympic Games. Para-cycling is a sport adapted for cyclists with disabilities.

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could include tours, classes, lectures, games, excursions and demonstrations. More information is available at huntsvilleparaworldcup.com and from Michelle at olli.info@uah.edu.

By Steve Stewart

Photo Contest

LIGHT & SHADOW

Showcase your mastery of light and shadow in photographs.

2023 OLLI PHOTO CONTEST

- The topic for this year is "Light and Shadow."
- Photos must be taken from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.
- The photographer must be a current OLLI member.
- Gentle photo editing is permitted, but keep the original photo.
- Submit the named photo in a standard digital jpg format — at least a 2MP final pixel size is recommended.
- Photographers may submit photos anytime until the April 1, 2023, deadline.
- Submit photos to OLLIPhotoContest@uah.edu.