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Instructors
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OLLI Life

Lost
by Lynda Fredsell
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September 2024

Learning, Laughter, Friendships
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman

Issue 23

Each summer, a lifelong learning institute in the Southeast hosts the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement. This summer, the OLLI at the University of Kentucky hosted the conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

Thanks to a long-standing endowed fund set aside for OLLI@Furman staff and volunteer training, three OLLI volunteers and three OLLI staff members attended the conference. They joined a mix of staff and volunteers from many lifelong learning programs throughout the South and across the country.

Representing OLLI@ Furman were Tony Caruso, Curriculum Committee co-chair; Erick Ayers, Office Manager; Pam Roberson, Program Coordinator for Instruction; Nancy Kennedy, Director; Patti Wargo, Social Committee Chair; and Al Wargo, VP for Administration and Finance.

Participants enjoyed keynote speakers, breakout sessions on a variety of topics, and time networking with other staff and volunteers.



Erick Ayers commented that his favorite part of the conference was “meeting other staff and hearing about their challenges and successes.”

In addition to hearing speakers who validated the importance of programs like OLLI and why it’s important to stay engaged as we age, we attended sessions offering helpful information for running lifelong learning programs. From how to better use online registration tools to sharing ideas for

new social events, these sessions covered a lot of helpful information.

After returning home, the group gathered to discuss what they had learned and think about what could benefit OLLI@Furman. Patti Wargo noted that many of the sessions she attended affirmed that we are already doing many things well here at OLLI. But we can always learn more, and here are a few things we hope to work on:

- Enhance our social media presence
- Take advantage of reporting features in our registration software to extract usable data
- Find ways to collaborate with other lifelong learning programs
- Increase outreach to diversify the OLLI membership

OLLI Summer Conference continued on page 11

Poinsett Bridge Preserve Acreage Has Tripled.



James T. Hammond

During my senior year at Blue Ridge High School, 1963-64, I drove a bus that crossed Callahan Mountain, off Scenic Highway 11. It was one of Greenville County's most scenic areas. The road continued toward Old Highway 25.

One of the most tantalizing scenes was an old bridge, long abandoned, resembling a pile of stone rubble. Even then, it was known as the Poinsett Bridge. Built between 1817 and 1819 under the direction of South Carolina's Director of Public Works, Joel R. Poinsett, the bridge was part of the old State Road running from Charleston through Columbia to Upstate towns and on up to towns in North Carolina.

As Greenville prospered, citizens became more interested in preserving the region's heritage. That led to a movement to put Poinsett Bridge into a public conservation status. Some repairs were made to the bridge, signage explaining its significance were added, and a modest parking area was developed.

In 2003, the Heritage Trust Program, under the umbrella of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), acquired 120 acres to protect and oversee the maintenance of the bridge.

This year on June 14th, the SCDNR's Heritage Trust Program added 283 acres to the Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve. This new land tripled the size of the preserve. Future plans include improving accessibility and parking, stabilizing the bridge, and adding hiking trails and signage – good news for OLLI's avid hiking groups.

Robert H. Boyles, Jr., the SCDNR director, said their

partners in this endeavor are The Nature Conservancy in South Carolina, South Carolina Conservation Bank, Boy Scouts of America, and SCDNR's Heritage Trust Program. Also playing a key role in the preserve's expansion is The Greenville County Historical and Natural Resources Trust, an independent agency that funds projects to preserve Greenville County's historic and natural resources.

"The protection of this property is important not only for its natural and historical features," said Dale Threatt-Taylor, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in South Carolina, "but also because of its location just below TNC's conservation easement in the Greenville watershed. These 30,000 acres provide clean drinking water to more than half a million people. We're excited to see this significant preserve expanded and new lands opened for public access."



The 204-year-old arched stone bridge is likely the oldest surviving stone bridge in South Carolina and possibly the oldest stone bridge in the southeastern United States. Its gothic-inspired arch includes a keystone bearing the date of 1820.

The Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve in the Blue Ridge

Escarpment features rich geology. And the steep, north-facing slopes host rich cove forests, home to many rare plant species. It is home to five species of bats. Migratory songbirds use the forest for breeding and a foraging habitat, and more than 73 bird species have been documented at the preserve.

Thank you Jim for enlightening us about the expansion of this preserve. So many things to see in the upstate.

Welcome New OLLI Instructors

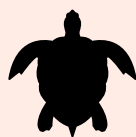
Dr. Jane Ellis has a PhD in Plant Physiology from Clemson and is a retired Professor of Biology. She taught various college courses, from plant taxonomy, plant physiology, botany, and medical botany to human anatomy and physiology, during her 30+ years of educational experience.



Dr. Ellis has given presentations and workshops nationally and internationally and has been an invited speaker and/or participant at conferences and workshops in such places as Scotland, Norway, Japan, Mexico, and Canada. She also has expertise as a naturalist focusing on sea turtles and the sea and shorebirds that visit Kiawah Island where she has lived for over 15 years.

She loves being on the beach at 6:00 am to help protect and monitor the turtle nests. Kiawah has over 347 Loggerhead nests this year!

Dr. Ellis is teaching Murder, Magic, and Medicine on Tuesdays at 9 - 10:30 a.m. (SNM2004)



Jon Jeffrey Grier holds a D.M.A. in Composition from the University of South Carolina and served as Instructor of Music Theory, History, and Composer in Residence at the Greenville Fine Arts Center from 1988 to 2019.



Jon has received many composition awards, grants, and commissions, including the 2016 South Carolina Arts Commission Fellowship in Music Composition, the 2016 Composer Commission from the South Carolina Music Teachers Association, and the 2014 Carl Blair Award for Excellence in Arts Education from the Metropolitan Arts Council. Many of Jon's compositions have been commercially published, and in retirement he continues avidly composing and performing in Greenville with jazz quartet Edgewise. Jon also serves on the Board of the Sigal Music Museum and is excited to be a part of this growing and dynamic organization.

Jon lives in Greenville with wife Marion and rescue dog Roxanne. More information is available at www.newertunes.com.

Jon will moderate the course - Sigal Music Museum Series. (MUS208)



My name is EJ Wilson, and I am entering my final semester of undergraduate studies here at Furman. I am studying Spanish, politics and international affairs, linguistics, and Latin American studies. I am from Xenia, Ohio, and I found my way to Furman University through the high school football recruitment process. Playing on offensive line, I am now about to embark on my fifth season with the Paladin football team. Upon graduating in December, I plan to pursue Furman's Master of Arts in Teaching degree, thereby receiving certification to teach

PK-12 Spanish. I hope to make my career as an educator teaching Spanish and coaching football (perhaps at the high school level), and eventually move on to an administrative role. While I have not made official plans to continue teaching with OLLI after this semester, I will remain in the area and am open to the idea!

EJ is teaching Spanish 101 (LAN 794) on Mondays from 9 - 10:30 a.m.



Dhara Baiden began her yoga journey 15 years ago out of curiosity, and soon realized its benefits. During her career as a middle school teacher, she found the application of yoga's principles—especially breathing—to be notable for stress management and mindfulness. When confronted with some very challenging family circumstances, Dhara realized her yoga mat was a sanctuary where she could find presence and peace.

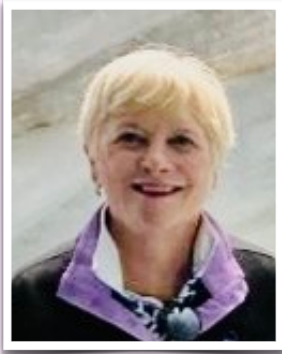
In her yoga classes, she emphasizes breathwork and mindfulness while also supporting her students in their personal journey with the yoga postures. Dhara loves when she can incorporate her passions of astrology, holistic health, and travel into her teaching.

Dhara completed her RYT-200 certification at Zen Rabbit Yoga in Travelers Rest, South Carolina, and has certification in trauma-informed yoga. She is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), is the owner of Inner Quest Astrology, and is a Certified Functional Nutrition Counselor (CFNC). When she's not practicing yoga, studying the stars, or nerding out about health, you can find Dhara with her husband, Jake, traveling anywhere and everywhere.

Dhara is teaching Beginner Friendly Yoga (HFE613) on Friday mornings at 9-10:15 a.m.

Editor's note: Dhara is the daughter of Tim Baiden who was a long-term member of OLLI and a great supporter of OLLI's governance and funding activities. The Baiden Concourse, dedicated to Tim, is the hallway area at the coffee bar where the OLLI member artwork hangs and changes.

Exciting words from OLLI Council President Kathy Roed



On behalf of your OLLI@Furman Council, I would like to welcome you, our very engaged community of learners, to our Fall 2024 term. Whether you are a new member or a returning member, I think you will find that we have planned an exceptional “OLLI Experience” for you!

This year we have six new Council members who promise to bring great energy, enthusiasm, and expertise to the leadership of our OLLI@Furman program!

Please join me in welcoming **Al Wargo** as chair of the Administration & Finance Committee. Al’s life partner, **Patti Wargo**, has joined the Council as well as Chair of the Social Committee. What a dynamic duo! Patti and her committee have planned an exceptional array of opportunities for members to get together socially in a variety of venues this year. Also, Patti just happens to be the sister of at-large Council member and Rogue Reader Book Club leader, Gayl Glover.

Please join me in welcoming **Sonya Hammond** as the new chair of the Travel Committee. She rejoins the Council as a former chair of the Curriculum Committee. Sonya has a wealth of personal experience traveling with her “significant other,” George Hammond, also a current at-large member on the Council. The Travel Committee’s plans for this year are incredible!

I am excited to introduce **Betsy Forbush** and **Ron Tullis** who have generously volunteered their time and expertise to serve the next three years on the Council as at-large members. Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to **Yvonne Matthews** who “hit the ground running” in May as the new co-chair of the Curriculum Committee!

No doubt you have noticed already the record number of classes we are offering this Fall in a variety of course lengths and venues. We have a terrific group of new and returning instructors and have even initiated a partnership with NC State to offer two new Zoom classes.

What a spectacular year we have ahead of us. Wishing you the very best “OLLI Experience” possible!

Kathy

OLLI President



When OLLI celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018, we wanted to find a way to say “thank you” to Furman for being such a generous host to our program. The result was the OLLI Faculty Enrichment Fund.

The OLLI Faculty Enrichment Fund is an endowed fund that generates revenue each year. These profits are awarded to Furman faculty to use for summer research or other scholarship activities that enhance their teaching. Often they have a Furman student working with them, and all recipients are required to give back to OLLI by offering a Friday Bonus Event, a course, or some other program for OLLI members.

Since the fund's inception, 11 faculty members have received funding. Following is a list of the faculty members, their projects, and the courses they have offered at OLLI. They are organized based on when the award was granted.

March 2020

Dr. Amy Jonason, former Assistant Professor of Sociology, “Understanding Small Business Owners' Roles in Neighborhood Change.” Dr. Jonason offered a Friday Bonus Event in Winter 2021.

February 2021

Dr. Ken Kolb, Professor of Sociology, “New Orleans River Pilot Association.” Dr. Kolb offered a Friday Bonus Event in Spring 2022.

February 2022

Dr. Adi Dubash, Associate Professor of Biology. Dr. Dubash offered a Friday Bonus Event in Fall 2023, “Sticky Business: Cancer Cell Migration and Metastatics.”

February 2023

Caroline Davis, Visiting Lecturer, Theatre Arts and Education, presented a 4-week course, “New Play

Development,” in Fall 2023, and has expanded it to a 9-week course for Fall 2024.

We are currently scheduling courses based on the most recent awards. Watch future course brochures for the following:

November 2023

Dr. Mengling Wang, Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, “Networks of Contemporaneous and Transtemporal Literary Relations in the Wen xuan: The Case of the Seven Masters of Jian ‘an.”

Dr. Greg Hecimovich, Professor of English, “The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts.”

Dr. Katie Kelly, Associate Professor, Education, “Literacy Learning as a Vehicle for Social Justice.”

February 2024

Dr. Claire Whitlinger, Associate Professor of Sociology, “Southern Politicians and the Multiple Audiences Problem.”

Patricia Sasser, Director of Maxwell Music Library, “Barbarian Muses: Scandinavia and Scandinavians on the Ballet Stage.”

Greg Lewis, Professor of Biology, “Testing for Relationships Between Stream Water Chemistry and Residential Area Characteristics.”

Maegan Azar, Associate Professor, Theatre Arts, “The Space to Create: Moment Work with Tectonic Theatre Project and Summer Training with Double Edge Theatre.”

We are well on our way to reaching \$200,000 in gifts to this fund. If you'd like to make a gift to support Furman faculty and bring new programming to OLLI, please contact me. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have!

Lost

Lynda Fredsell

We lay on the damp sand staring up at the black sky stippled with stars. All around us was darkness – beachfront lights were banned for the protection of Loggerhead turtles. The only light we saw came from the moon’s reflection on the calm Gulf – a *perfect* night for star-gazing in front of our vacation cottage.

Just as a shooting star crossed the heavens, the darkness was shattered by the headlights of a dune buggy rumbling our way. We sat up quickly to see who was coming.

“Hello!” a voice called out. Two young men in tee shirts and shorts greeted us enthusiastically, “We’re the Turtle Patrol.”

“Seen any turtles tonight?” my husband asked.

“We think we spotted one a few minutes ago not far from here. Would you like to ride with us to look for it?” they asked.

Without hesitation, I blurted out, “We’d *love* to!” The thought of seeing a Loggerhead turtle up close was thrilling. “But, we can’t be gone long,” I said.

“No problem. It’ll be a short run tonight,” the driver said.

Grabbing our tennis shoes and towels, we hoisted ourselves up onto the back seat of the buggy and held on tight.

We had not gone far down the beach when our driver stopped and beamed his headlights toward the edge of the water.

“There’s one now!” he whispered, pointing to a huge turtle struggling up through the waves onto the shore. We watched in awe as she headed toward the dunes. But then, suddenly, she turned on her flippers and waddled hurriedly back into the surf. Our lights must have scared her away.

“Guess that does it for our turtle count tonight,” the driver said. “She’ll come back and lay her eggs later after we’re gone. Let’s go home.”

When the Turtle Patrol dropped us off at the cottage, our family was anxiously awaiting our return. “We thought you were lost!” they said with relief in their voices.

And so we were – lost in the wonder of stars and turtles.

Editors Note: Lynda told me that this essay came from a prompt given by the instructor of an OLLI writing class. Everyone was to write an essay about the word **LOST**. She said it made the writing fun.

Leave it to Lynda to come up with something so creative and positive about the word **LOST**. Thank you Lynda for sharing your essay with OLLI readers and thank you to all OLLI writing instructors.

Beautiful places are always appreciated while on a walk with the OLLI Gentle Walking class

The OLLI Gentle Walking program (OLLI Walkabouts) is designed to promote health and camaraderie through guided walks. Debuting in 2022, the class has been offered 8 times with 115 people walking and talking. The summer session was 4 weeks long and gave our group a chance to try out different walks in the morning before the heat became too much.

Our leader, Sally Bornmueller, prepared 4 separate walks for our group of 15 participants. She prewalks the routes noting where the rest stops are and the shade is. Our trails included the Furman Campus, with geese; downtown Greenville starting at the zoo and featuring the magnificent Medusa tree; Connestee Park and Legacy Park.

The Medusa Tree was planted in 1926 by the original Greenville Garden Club. The soil around the beech tree's roots eroded over the past almost 100 years yielding a spectacular background for photos.

Gentle Walking was perfect for me as I eased my way back into walking. Even the more active walkers enjoyed the birds, animals, and scenery along the trails. Come and join us!

This fall, OLLI Walkabouts will be offered on Mondays at 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (HFE109)



**OLLI Walkabout class in front of Medusa Tree.
Sally Bornmueller on the right.**



Article submitted by Susan Dicey.
Thank you for sharing with readers this
article about such an energetic class.

Marvin Book Nook Volunteers



Jean Hess, Erna Mahony, Judith Gannon, Diane Morris

The Marvin Book Nook volunteers were busy on Thursday getting the library ready for the fall semester.

The Book Nook is such a popular benefit of OLLI membership, and the breadth and depth of the selections are truly remarkable. And, it is all from member donations. The volunteers make sure the books are up-to-date and in good condition. There are also music CD's and audiobooks. Don't forget the jigsaw puzzles, currently in the arts and crafts room 113.

Here is an opportunity for you to help OLLI @ Furman increase our social media presence and spread the word about our remarkable lifelong learning program.

Wanted - photos from a fun class you are taking, other OLLI related activities, or SIGs, for use on our Facebook page, the website, or maybe even the quarterly class brochure or other publications.

Send your photos to Jessica.Justice@Furman.edu



OLLI Remembers



Judy Pearson died on June 27, 2024, after a brief illness. She was a 30- year member of FULIR/OLLI who led several committees and

interest groups. She chaired the Instructor Support Committee for a number of years. Judy's voice and ideas could also be heard on the Curriculum Committee and OLLI Council. Judy was the major resource for the Mystery Readers group. She promoted OLLI in the community and among her friends and colleagues. Her smile, sense of humor, her musical gifts, and her commitment to others will be greatly missed.

Tribute by Kathleen Allen - Thank you!



Marty Levenson died on August 6, 2024, at 87. One of the many OLLI classes Marty took was the Dynamic Aging Program, an ongoing course. That is where he

and I met and developed a long-term friendship. We shared a common bond in our love of flowers, angels, and cats. He elicited a sense of true connection by asking insightful questions, which required some self-reflection before they could be answered. He was warm, intelligent, curious, and had a marvelous sense of humor. Marty left this world like the velveteen rabbit—well-loved.

Tribute by Bobett Button - Thank you!



Arnold "Arnie" Schlusberg died on November 18, 2023, at 76.

It is with great affection that we remember Arnold "Arnie" Schlusberg. An OLLI member since the Spring of 2020, Arnie made a big impact in a short time. Known for his warm smile and gracious manner, he organized the Bridge SIG and he extended welcome to players of all levels. You might have also known Arnie through an OLLI history, yoga, or bridge class as he enjoyed a variety of classes.

Arnie was a native of Syracuse, New York, and called Hillsborough, New Jersey, home for much of his life. While his career was spent in telecom, he enjoyed biking, bridge, and people. He was much loved, and he loved well.

Tribute by OLLI staff - Thank you!

One of the sessions at the conference was titled “Loving Longevity Through Lifelong Learning.” Tony Caruso said this is “what attracts so many people to programs all over the USA. Furman’s OLLI program offers learning and so much more fun and socialization opportunities.” New ideas from the conference will help us further this mission.

Thank you to all the wonderful contributors to this edition of the OLLI Life newsletter. We appreciate everyone, and couldn’t do it without you!

Writers and Proofreaders:

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- Jim Hammond** - Poinsett Bridge Preserve - page 2
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- OLLI Staff** - Tribute - page 11
- Mary Robert** - Last Page Thoughts - page 12
- Lynda Fredsell** - editor and proofreader
- Carol Stowell** - proofreader
- Maryanna Levenson** - proofreader



If you have any comments, suggestions or would like to submit an article, highlight a class or special event for OLLI Life newsletter, please contact Jean Hess, editor, at: jean.hess66@gmail.com

We need your input to keep the newsletter interesting and a pleasure to read!

The answer to the May OLLI Life Trivia question is - SEQUOIA

Mary's Last Page Thoughts

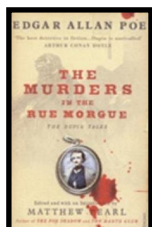
Word of the Day - RATIOCINATION

The Latin root word that gave us ration and rational also gave us ratiocination, pronounced /rat-ee-oh-suh-NAY-shun or /rash-ee-oh-suh-NAY-shun/.

It means "the process of exact thinking" or "a reasoned train of thought".

In Latin, ratio means "reason" or "computation," and the mathematical connotation of this word made it appealing for those describing a machine-like thinking process.

Edgar Allen Poe used it to describe his story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," considered the first detective story as we now know them.



Unsurprisingly, the most famous character of the new genre was also the possessor of perhaps the most machine-like brain in fiction - Sherlock Holmes. Ratiocination is a favorite word used to describe him.

It is a pretty fancy way of saying "to think," and usually draws attention as a technical term.




Many thanks to Mary Robert for her contribution to this edition of OLLI Newsletter's Word of the Day and Trivia Questions.

Trivia Questions

What is the proper term for a group of bears?  A Sleuth or A Sloth

What is the proper term for a group of pandas?  An Embarrassment

What is the proper term for a group of polar bears?  A Celebration