How many times have you seen an apparent winning athlete showboat or turn to check the competition before reaching the finish line, or a winning team let up at the end of the game, only to lose? To lose focus toward the end of an objective is to miss out on an opportunity. Our OLLI objective is to meet the $1.8 million challenge by raising $500,000 by May 17. The opportunity is to secure the lifelong learning building for OLLI. The race is not won, nor is the game over.

On Monday, March 14, we received word that Furman has received a $500,000 donation for naming the courtyard, thus securing their part of the $1.8 million challenge. Achievement of the $1.8 million challenge is now up to OLLI members!! Focus is even more important, and new OLLI contributions for the building are now more important than ever. At this point, one could say that the challenge level is now almost 9:1!!! For every new OLLI dollar, the challenge match is now worth $9!!! Where else can your investment make such an impact, and so quickly??

Many corporations (such as GE) match retiree contributions to educational institutions such as Furman University. If you’re not sure about your corporation, contact Betsy Mosely, 294-3491, or Shon Herrick, 294-3436, at the Furman Development Office. GE will accept match applications for 2010 gifts through March 31, 2011. If you have a pledge due in 2011, you might consider giving now rather than later in 2011, so your corporate match could count toward the challenge. Don’t forget that gifts in the form of stock or directly as an IRA distribution may have special tax treatment. Betsy or Shon can assist you.

How do you perceive OLLI at Furman?? Do you see OLLI as a vendor offering time consuming entertainment and activities? Or do you see OLLI as a stimulating learning experience shared with your spouse and/or friends, and Furman University as a nurturing environment, a new alma mater?? If you are in the latter category, then I feel certain that you have either given toward the building or you are about to do so!!

‘Thank you’ to those who have participated; and ‘thank you’ to those who are about to. It is now up to us! We need to finish strong. We need to finish soon. “Be one of us.”
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
Paul Ziemer

OLLI’s most recent survey indicated that about 50 percent of those members who participated in the survey would like to have some type of summer school program. The present OLLI staffing could accommodate a shortened summer school program. However, summer school can't happen if instructors aren’t found to teach it. So that is where your Curriculum Committee got involved.

For the last several weeks, the Curriculum Committee members have been contacting the instructors who they work with during the regular school year to see what interest they may have. As a kid, I never thought well of summer school, and, as a teacher, I never wanted to give up my treasured off time in the summer. So I had no idea how our committee’s project would go. The result of our labor is yet to be tallied, but there have been responses with good class ideas. Prior to the next OLLI Council meeting, a report will be readied for their review.

If you are reading this and thinking, “Why wasn't I contacted about teaching a course?”, it’s not too late to give me a call at 864-246-4259, or Susan Rae at 864-294-2998, who is assembling this report.

While I am talking about looking for instructors, the Curriculum Committee has begun work on next fall's courses. Every term we try to bring on new courses. Yes, we do have that small group of classes that happen almost every term; we would not dare to not have them, but our committee’s goal is to keep our curriculum fresh. So, please, if you have an idea for a course, share it with your Curriculum Committee. And if you can plug in an instructor for that idea, please have him or her call one of the phone numbers above. Susan or I will steer that instructor to the correct subcommittee for his or her idea.

Looking over what I wrote above, I realize how hard the Curriculum Committee does work. I would like to pass on my praise for all their hard work.

ODE TO A CUPPA
Sally Adkins

Iced tea is fine
when the sun wants to shine
and it's ninety degrees in the shade.
I don't deny
on the Fourth of July
iced tea's nice when the anthem is played.
But, oh, when it's cold
and the North Wind is bold
and the whole sky is cloudy all day,
let me be faced
with the soul-warming taste
of a steaming hot cup of Earl Grey!
BUILDING SOLICITATION COMMITTEE
Barbara Leimsieder

The gift for a lifelong learning building from an anonymous donor of $1.8M is contingent on Furman and OLLI each raising $500,000. Furman has met the challenge. As of March 11, 2011, $350,062 has been raised by OLLI for the new building. This leaves a $149,938 that still needs to be raised by June 30, 2011. If we reach the $500,000 goal we will be able to break ground soon, possibly in the fall.

The committee held a second Phone-a-Thon and raised $25,700. A third Phone-a-Thon will be held in late March. The committee will continue to contact those who have not yet donated to the new building and ask them to help achieve the challenge pledge.

There are several ways to donate to the new building:
1. A one-time gift
2. A new pledge
3. An extension of an existing pledge

The total of all pledges counts toward the goal. So if you join the $2.75 club and pledge $5,000, you can pay $1,000 per year for five years. And the full $5,000 counts toward the challenge.

If you have an existing pledge, you can extend it for one to five more years and continue to pay the same amount you are paying now each year. And the new total of your extended pledge also counts toward the challenge.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Stefan Tams - Clemson

Do you sometimes feel that computers and computer activities are not designed with senior citizens in mind? Do you sometimes feel frustrated when using computers? If so, perhaps you would like to help develop computer activities that can be used more easily and effectively by senior citizens. Please join us in Clemson University’s CAT lab for 2-3 interesting and fun hours, and help us design more senior-friendly computer activities. No computer experience or other knowledge is required. You would simply do a variety of different activities and games on the computer and answer questions about them; thereby helping us here at Clemson to understand how computer activities should be designed for senior citizens.

Please e-mail us at stams@clemson.edu or call us at 404-665-3685 to schedule your appointment. During weekdays, please choose the late afternoons or evenings to call. On weekends, please feel free to call at any time. Should you reach our voicemail, please leave a message and we will call you back. Please note that we will reimburse you with $15 for your time and expertise and that you will have the chance to win one or more valuable prizes totaling $500. Thank you very much for helping Clemson and the senior citizen community!
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Bob Howell

OLLI enrollment has continued to grow during the year with 690 members enrolled for the spring term (90 of them being new members). This brings our total enrollment for the year to approximately 1,200. As many of you know, our enrollment level above 1,000 is significant for us as we plan our future and consider space and classroom needs.

Members of the committee, once again, will take on the task of making welcome and follow-up calls to new members. In the past, this has given us good information and has made our new members feel welcome in their new environment. As we move toward the conclusion of this year, much of the information gathered from these calls will be summarized and provided to the OLLI leadership.

Joy Eaton led a subcommittee to define and give structure to Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within OLLI. Joy gave a report at the last Membership Committee meeting, and the policy proposal was approved by the committee. This, in turn, will be presented to the OLLI Council at its next meeting and, if approved, will become policy for SIGs in the future. It is anticipated that the SIGs will provide opportunities for our members to enjoy enhanced social opportunities within the OLLI membership.

Jim Baker continues to work on a task force to increase the volunteer participation within OLLI. Jim has 12 volunteers working with him and reports that we have 30–40% volunteer participation. While this is good, he continues to work hard in finding ways to reach his 100% goal. As always, new ideas for Jim and this group are welcome.

One of the ideas to come out of last summer’s conference hosted by OLLI was to conduct an OLLI Member Survey. Dick Eaton headed up this effort with the assistance of committee chairs, Lucy Woodhouse, and other office staff. The survey was done during the winter term and the results have now been compiled. Dick presented the information to the Long-Range Planning Committee and it will, in turn, be presented to the Council and the general membership. Our thanks to Dick for taking on this assignment and for a job well done.

Two other people deserve special thanks for their outstanding efforts this year. Judy Lema recruited and coordinated the office volunteers for the year, and Sharon Huecker obtained liaisons for all our classes. Both of these difficult tasks are very time-consuming and require a lot of hard work.
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Alan Weinberg

Your Long-Range Planning Committee continues to meet and progress toward our goal of presenting a plan to the OLLI @ Furman Council in May. We are waiting for the analysis of our recent membership survey, and we are gathering input from the different committees addressing our Vision Goals for up to the next five years. We and the committees are finding it a bit challenging to think into the future but, to their credit, their inputs so far look great. We have heard from many of the committees, with a few more to go. The next step is to combine the inputs and submit this back for comment before finalizing the proposal for the Council. So, with some luck, we should make the May meeting. It is probably worth noting that this LRP will be updated on an annual basis as we progress against the plan and extend it into the future. Also, things change, so revisions will always be appropriate as with any long-range plan.

The committee has also decided to develop a Membership Growth versus Administrative and Operational Needs Chart so that we will have an idea of what additional resources will be needed as our membership grows and will assume that we will have our new building fully operational soon. This exercise should provide a guide for the future as our membership continues to increase and allow our leadership to be ready to provide for our members’ needs.

BOOK BUDDIES
Connie Kane-Maguire

Our OLLI team of Book Buddy volunteers at Duncan Chapel Elementary School continues to be the backbone of the program. In January, we actually increased our number of volunteers and the number of students we serve. In addition, about half of our OLLI Book Buddies have been helping the Duncan Chapel library. Due to budget cuts, the school librarian no longer has an aide, so volunteers help re-shelve books and assist the students in checking books in and out.

The following is the list of OLLI members who volunteered for the Book Buddy program during the winter term: Bonnie Arrington (friend of CKM, reads with two students), Gary Aten (reads with two students), Jean Bridger (reads with two students), Dea Cox (reads with two students), Lynda Fredsell (reads with three students), Linda Gilkinson (reads with two students), Margaret Howland (reads with two students), Connie Kane-Maguire (DC BB coordinator, reads with one student), Nancy LeDonne (reads with two students), Judy Leonard (reads with two students), Sandy MacIlvaine (reads with two students), Phoebe Michaels (friend of CKM, reads with two students), Susan Preusse (reads with two students), Susan Recknagel (reads with two students), Sue Renault (reads with two students), Bob Scherer (reads with two students), Pat Tyson (friend of Lynda Fredsell, reads with three students), and Paul Ziemer (reads with two students).

Book Buddy volunteers read with each student for one-half hour per week. Children are selected for the program because they have no one who is able to read to them at home (in English), and usually they do not read at grade level. The Book Buddy can read to the child, read with the child, or listen to the child read to them - depending on the student's age and ability. The objective is to show the child that reading is fun and worth the effort to learn.
BLUES
Beth Dragon

Not true the darkest hour is before dawn
the blues were beautiful
the sun too low to chase
away the shadow of night
not yet ready to add the pink and gold of day

yet light, these blues,
the ocean merging with the sky
somewhere in the distance
the sand a paler shade
the grasses darker
even the seagulls
still sleeping in the sand
were blue

and I stood there
on the balcony
wanting yet not wanting
these blues to leave my soul

MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR
Gary Aten

Exciting times for OLLI@Furman! The “Home of our Own” many at OLLI and Furman have been working for is within our grasp, thanks to a challenge gift and the concept of combining the use of the building. The building would be used for OLLI classes during the days, for Furman Learning for You classes in the evenings, and the Furman Bridges program during the summer. Offices for OLLI and Furman Lifelong Learning would be in the building. THIS IS NOT A TIME TO BE COMPLACENT! If the challenge is not met the gift goes away. If you have ever thought about donating toward the building NOW is the time to be part of OLLI’s future. See the President’s Message on Page 1 and the Building Solicitation Committee report on Page 3 for more details.

As always, I encourage you to submit articles, poems, pictures and the like. Next time we would like to devote a lot of space to arts and crafts. Please share your pictures and stories with me so I can put them in Gray Matters. E-mail me at garyaten@bellsouth.net or call me at 294-6371.

Thanks to Carole Eisen for proofreading this issue. Also, thanks to those who submitted poems, pictures, and articles. Special thanks to the Gray Matters accountant Imelda Chekhov, and to our road trip cooks Everett Possum and Sal Monella.
It should be not shock you that our OLLI members are technology savvy and use a wide variety of tools to help them in their lives. There were a couple of surprises in the survey, at least to me. First, thanks to all the people who took the time to fill out a survey. Second, there was a potful of information that could be massaged in various ways. I hope you find this summary of results interesting.

**Computers:** Less than 3% of survey takers don’t have a computer. PCs are more numerous at 79%, but a significant number (23%) of OLLI people have Apples. Yes, you are right, these add up to more than 100%. Why? Because a few people have both.

While almost everyone with a computer uses e-mail, a surprising 37% are on Facebook.

Other forms of communication are not as popular. Less than 2% use Twitter, but a significant number use Skype (23%).

**Television:** Dish users at 23% are less numerous than cable users at 81%. Again, a few members have both services. We evidently like our access to television as there was an average of 2.74 sets per survey taker and only 2% of us don’t have any.

We also like to record and/or view content later. DVD players are popular and 93% have one. Digital recording devices at 56% are gaining ground on VCRs at 68%. So, we are embracing the newer technologies.

**Other Technologies:** Every survey taker had either a cell phone (93%) or a land line (95%). We must get lost a lot, because well over half of us at 60% have either a GPS in their car or use one when hiking. Satellite radio is not as widely used, but 28% have this service. You might expect this group to be readers. This is borne out by 12% of us having a Kindle or another type of e-reader.

**Conclusions:** I don’t have a comparable survey of a younger crowd, but I would expect them to have higher technology use. However, these results show that we “old fogies” are not so techno-averse as many would expect. On a personal note, I guess I’m going to have to check out Skype and look into an e-book before I’m left behind.
APRIL BARTHELMES  Submitted by Ruth Pollow

April Barthelmes, an active member of OLLI until recently, passed away in hospice on January 6, 2011 with family by her side. April was a resident of Woodlands and enjoyed her involvement in OLLI and the friends she made in her classes. When the doctors gave her a terminal diagnosis with only months to live, April decided to fill those months with joy and activity. She wouldn’t let the diagnosis slow her down even in the last few months when she continued to enjoy the friendships at Woodlands from a motorized scooter. She had a long list of future projects and was in the midst of sewing a quilt for her father and a quilted jacket for herself when she entered hospice in mid-December. She will be remembered fondly by many.

EVELYN CHILDS  Submitted by Sarah Fletcher

Evelyn Childs, 98, died January 10, 2011. She taught school in Hartwell, Georgia before moving here 1936 with her husband where she became manager of the receiving department at JC Penny. A devoted fan of Dr. John Crabtree, Evelyn attended his Shakespeare classes for 30 terms, from the fall of 1994 to the winter of 2006! Her daughter, Emlyn Sanders, a former member of the Furman trustees, often visited the classes with her. Evelyn’s FULIR friends, Carl and Joann Detwyler, often brought Evelyn to class with them. She was always very tastefully dressed, quietly cheerful, with a sparkle of delight in her eyes. She didn’t want “any fuss” about herself asked NOT to have the traditional FULIR birthday party for members who’d reached 90 saying “That would just embarrass me, Dear”, so we all signed a huge birthday card instead and gave it to her privately. Gifts can be made to our new Lifelong Learning building in her memory.

The Tributes section recognizes departed OLLI classmates, teachers, and staff who have enriched the OLLI program. We invite you to submit your name and contact information, along with a brief notice of up to 125 words (8 or 9 lines) to the Tributes editor (connieirby@charter.net). Please emphasize the significance of the deceased to OLLI.
WHERE IN FURMAN ARE WE?

This picture was taken on the Furman Campus. Do you know where? How many hints to you need to figure it out? Hints:

1. Science students frequent this building.
2. On the tree-lined mall.
3. Near FULIR’s first Office.
4. Part of Plyler Hall.

Answer below.

at the South End of Plyler Hall

THE Kohrt Commons

BILL BOZEMAN DAY
Bob & Sharon Howell

March 7, 2011 was a day that will be a significant part of OLLI @ Furman’s history! Bill Bozeman retired from his 10-year leadership of Bozeman’s Monday Hiking and was treated to a banquet hike like none other. Crisp weather set the stage for the class members who accompanied Bill to the summit of the beautiful Slate Rock Trail in Pisgah National Forest. Sally Potosky, who has hiked with Bill the longest, presided over the festivities. The first order of business was Bill’s ceremonial procession through arched hiking sticks accompanied by a rendition of “Pomp and Circumstance”. At the end of his march, Sally explained that even though Bill had never graduated any of us (only one person who moved away) we thought that he deserved to graduate and was given a special graduation pin. Then it was diploma time!! It read: “In Recognition of Ten Years of Leadership in Intermediate Hiking, this Certificate of Graduation and Admittance to the Graduate Program of OLLI @ Furman is Hereby Granted to Bill Bozeman. Awarded this 7th Day of March, 2011, at an Undisclosed Woodland Location” and signed by Lucy Woodhouse, Director, and Sherm Rounsville, President.
To end the presentation, Bill was serenaded with a version of “For You’re a Jolly Good Fellow”:

Dear Bill, we sing a cappella,
No fiddle, recorder or “cella”,
For you’re a jolly good “fella”,
Which nobody can deny.
Which nobody can deny.
Which nobody can deny.
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
Which nobody can deny.

You’re cool, funny and mellow,
Like Abbott and Lou Costello,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
Which nobody can deny.
Which nobody can deny.
Which nobody can deny.
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
Which nobody can deny.

You love hiking over the mountains,
With GPS, compass and crampons,
Equipped for whatever happens,
Till we are safely out.
Till we are safely out.
Till we are safely out.
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
Which nobody can deny.

You’re the guy that we all adore,
You’re part of the OLLI lore,
We wish you many years more,
Out on the trails you love,
Out on the trails you love,
Out on the trails you love,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
For you’re a jolly good fellow,
Which nobody can deny.

Greg Peters surprised everyone when he whipped his laptop out and showed a computer movie of Winter Term hiking pictures set to music of “The Happy Wanderer” and “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”. After a scrumptious gourmet luncheon (including a few “adult” beverages), reminiscing about past hikes, and relaxing in the sunshine and peaceful setting, all hiked down the mountain with happy hearts for a wonderful day!!

Photos:       Bob Howell and Greg Peters
Lyrics:         Sharon Howell
Musicians:  Judy Brooks and Sharon Howell, recorder;
                Sally Potosky, violin
Through mid-March OLLI had income of $190,400 and expenses of $135,400 leaving a surplus of $55,000. This includes most of the tuition income for the spring term, but none of the expenses for the rest of the fiscal year.

For the balance of Fiscal Year 2010/11 we can expect a deficit of about $45,700 and would then have a full year surplus of $9,300.

However, the above information shows the operations of OLLI without any amounts to be paid to Furman University for providing the facilities, maintenance, utilities, and administrative support.

For Fiscal 2010/11 this support requirement was set at $33,450. As OLLI has only $9,300 left, we will have an overall deficit of $24,150 for the year. Fortunately, we will be able to draw on the earnings from the Osher endowment to cover this shortfall.