EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Gary Aten

Having educators around is normal in my family. My wife, daughter, son-in-law, two aunts, two cousins, the husband of a cousin, and my father for a time have all been teachers. I’m even plying the trade somewhat in the OLLI program myself. While visiting with my daughter a while back she mentioned KWL, which stands for the following:

**KNOW** - What do you now know about a subject? In the OLLI program, we may enter a class knowing a lot or almost nothing about the subject. Experts and beginners mix freely.

**WANT** - What do you want to know? This may be uncertain or specific, depending on the subject. We may not know what to expect.

**LEARN** - Learn about the subject. Whether we know a lot or a little, know what we want to learn, or just go out of curiosity, amazingly we all seem to take away some new knowledge in each class we take. In many cases, the takeaways are not what we expected at all. But, because we are attending and willing, we learn new facts or skills, develop social contacts, increase our fitness, gain appreciation for new things, or just have fun. In the coming session, think about KWL and how it applies to you.

By the way, if you **KNOW** something you would like to share and teach a class, get in touch with the Curriculum Committee. They would be glad to discuss it with you.

If you are reading a hard copy, remember, *Gray Matters* is on the OLLI website in full color. Just click on “News from OLLI” and then “Gray Matters” to view this issue and past editions.

Thanks to Carole Eisen, Sue Renault, and Nancy Williams for proofing this issue. Nancy Kennedy puts the issues on the website and arranges for the printing. Thanks to all who contributed articles and photos. *Gray Matters* is also indebted to our OLLI private plane pilot and copilot Chet Propell and Ulanda U. Lucky.
The Curriculum Committee consists of 18 subcommittees and 72 men and women dedicated to identifying exciting courses and activities to offer OLLI students each term. The continuing challenges are to schedule popular courses previously offered, find promising new ones, and identify qualified instructors interested in teaching at OLLI. Each individual subcommittee has been assigned a target number of offerings, which add up to 95 regular OLLI courses, with the expectation that the actual number in a given term may vary from 90 to 100. There are also 20 to 25 Bonus Trips and Events and 7 to 9 Lunch & Learn Tuesday sessions each regular term.

These offerings appear to closely match our current demand for courses and activities and our capacity to deliver them. Our emphasis has now shifted from simply adding more offerings to providing a greater variety and improving overall quality. You should begin seeing more courses in the Cooking/Food and Computer/Technology areas. The Current Events and Other (CEO) area will be placing more emphasis on topics of current interest. Look for exciting new offerings coming from the other subcommittees in the future as well.

OLLI President, Karl Sedlarz, and Vice President, Elaine Brummett support the Curriculum Committee by providing oversight of our plans and activities. We could not function without the assistance of our excellent OLLI staff. Lucy Woodhouse, OLLI @ Furman Director, and Susan Rae, Assistant Director, are ex-officio Curriculum Committee members. Susan also serves as the Curriculum Coordinator and does all of the logistical work in constructing the schedule, publishing the course brochure and facilitating student registration each term. We are grateful to have such a competent person in charge of these demanding tasks.

WHERE IN FURMAN ARE WE?

This picture was taken on the Furman campus. Do you know where? How many hints do you need?

Hints:
1. At mid-campus.
2. Not visible from the mall.
3. Close to Johns Hall
4. Closer to Furman Hall

Answer below:

The covered walkway just to the west of Furman Hall
A large crowd of the 180 new members attended the New Member Orientation session, and the Herring Center swelled as more members came in to the Welcome Back reception. This was the 20th anniversary of the FULIR/OLLI program at Furman so a cake was in order. The number of members hit an all-time high totaling 1125.

Lucy Woodhouse Welcomes the new members in room 110, which was filled to overflowing.

The well attended reception was made special by both the number of members and the cakes.

At left, the registration process went smoothly as people picked up name tags, parking passes, and other information.
Interested in teaching for OLLI? Have an idea that needs to be developed?

ANNOUNCING 2014 ReSource GRANT CYCLE!

ReSource Grants were initiated in 2012 and are offered in even numbered years to encourage OLLI members and current instructors who are offering a new topic to develop new courses for OLLI @ Furman. The purpose of the ReSource Grants is to encourage all members to go beyond their comfort zone and find new ways to share information with our community of learners. Grants may be made to those who have been OLLI members for at least two years and will be awarded in amounts not to exceed $2,500 per person. The types of expenses funded by the grants might include cost of attending workshops, participating in conferences, publishing or marketing books or other publications, various research materials, and travel required to pursue fields of study.

A packet containing the overview of the grant, the requirements and an application can be found on the bulletin board outside the restrooms in the Herring Center in January and February, 2014 and on the OLLI website under Instructors/Forms.

Applications are due March 1, 2014.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the committee in March and April with applicants being notified in early May. A public announcement of the grantees will be made at the spring luncheon on May 20, 2014. All applicants are encouraged to attend the luncheon. We are looking forward to some exciting new courses. Thank you for keeping us challenged! Have questions? Please feel free to contact any of the members of the ReSource/ReSearch Grant Committee:

Marge Snyder, Chair  Judy Lineback,
Connie Memolo      Geraldine Weyermann

OLLI CAROLERS

OLLI @ Furman members performing at the Heartland Healthcare Center of Greenville are shown below. Listed alphabetically, they are: Jean Bridger, Kathy Brown, Rosemarie Cothran, John Dean, Manuel Del Valle, Patricia Fisher, Annette Garver, Sally Gregoire, Frank Griffin, Sharon Howell, Connie Kane-Maguire, Nancy Kennedy, Gloria Larkin, Keith McMahan, Daya O’Hara, Mary Pauly, Sharon Pietsch, Judy Root, Cheryl Street, Diane Teare, and Ron Teare.
The 100th birthday of Elsie Horton was celebrated at the Herring Center in honor of her long-time membership in FULIR/OLLI, enjoying, especially, Shakespeare, yoga, and aquacize classes.

Born Elsie Metzner in Weischlitz, Germany, on September 25, 1913, in a tiny rural town, she and her family made do by gleaning, fishing, and trading math lessons for food, while her father, Bruno, was away for six years in WWI. Afterward, at her mother’s insistence, her father traveled to America, working until the whole family could join him in Hoboken, New Jersey in 1926, and then to the Bronx to live.

Her father followed his craft as a stone cutter, carving gargoyles and architectural features for such buildings as the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, while the women worked as waitresses and domestics. Elsie was far ahead of the other students in Rapid Advance classes, and OLLI friends said the same about her at Furman. She worked a year in the Bahamas and later found work in upstate New York at West Point, where she met her future husband, Fred, with whom she opened a service station where they served home-cooked meals made by Elsie. They had three children, Elizabeth, Alfred, and Carl. Her six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren love her very much.

The OLLI party, which was planned by Judy Williams, ended with music, dancing and singing and delicious donated food and drink.

Elsie is pictured above with members of the Aquacize class she has attended for many years.
Major General Michael Lehnert appeared in the SNAFU and Current Events OLLI classes, where he presented his views on the Iraq War and answered a wide variety of questions. Mike Lehnert was commissioned in 1973 as a combat engineer and participated in combat operations in Panama, Kuwait, and Iraq. In 2003, he led 5,000 marines and sailors during the initial invasion of Iraq in support of the 70,000 marines who formed the First Marine Expeditionary Force. During his 37 years of active duty, General Lehnert held 13 separate commands from platoon commander to joint task force commander.

Halloween Hiking

Martin’s Hiking group celebrated Halloween by sharing snacks at a Nine Times overlook. Photo by Tom Harvey
CLASS LIAISONS ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The OLLI class liaisons are largely unheralded but are an important asset to the instructors. They do a wide variety of things from fetching a fresh battery to making last-minute copies. They are also an important means of communication when the office wants some information passed on to the students. Although we can’t mention them all, we thank them and share with you a few who have been singled out by their instructors.

Becky Brown, the class liaison for Bring the Outdoors In, gives up part of her lunch hour to help set up early. She stays to clean up and help transport items to the instructor’s car. She has also been known to do the normal liaison duties of making copies, etc.

Marcia Smith is the class liaison for the Making and Mastering Mosaics class. You can tell by her smile she is upbeat and cheerful, a great help in making the class run smoothly. With all the materials required to make mosaics, there is always something to do.

Rupert Huse always delights the SNAFU class students with his poems that start off each class. He even has been known to give selected answers to the daily New York Times crossword puzzle.
Patricia Fisher has been very helpful encouraging the instructor in the Sing the Greatest Songs Ever class. Troubles with the laptop were overcome as she helped keep the class moving along.

Jim Baker is the class liaison for World’s Greatest Explorers: Marco Polo. Jim always has some key items from the OLLI Notes to share and tries to keep the paper copy moving in the right direction, despite the reluctance of the class to follow his directions.

Judy Aten tries to prepare the students for their arduous journey in their covered wagons during the Overland Trail class. As the trip went on each week, her clothes showed the wear and tear an emigrant was subjected to on the trip.
George Hammond, with the help of Furman Golf Pro Kyle Stam and Nancy Kennedy from the OLLI office, organized the first OLLI Golf Scramble on Thursday afternoon October 24. Twenty-four OLLI members teed up and two teams tied with a score of three under par 33's. The team of Bob McGrath, Tom Scotidas, Tim Baiden, and George Overton tied the team of Dick Overton, Wally Buser, Sonya Hammond, and George Hammond. It was a fun and gorgeous afternoon on the links.

Look forward to announcements in OLLI Notes for future golf dates, scheduled to start in late January.

This team plays out of Riverside Tennis Club. They won the local league last spring and went to State November 1, 2, and 3 at the Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms, where they won again. They now move on to sectionals in December.

Pictured left to right: Norm Wertz, Tim Walsh, *Joe Pelissier, John Bumstead, *Alan Bornmueller (kneeling - Captain), Sam Edwards, Shashi Rishi, Roger Hardin (Co-Captain).

* Denotes OLLI members
MIND THE GAP

Dave Gallemore

Hurrying through Waterloo Station at rush hour,
Evening Standard under arm,
Ears-- balloons of airy nothings,
I step onto the painted Mind the Gap
And enter the train to Wokingham.

Other riders hold their talk to share
Later, at a table near the hearth
Where, having tossed their paper in the bin
Like me, they'll speak softly of the day's doings

GRAY MATTERS SEEKS ADDITIONAL STAFF

As we attempt to continue improving Gray Matters we need to involve more OLLI members. Different skills, points of view, and new ideas are necessary to keep the newsletter fresh and interesting. To that end, we are asking those members that are interested in becoming involved to contact Gary Aten at gary.aten42@gmail.com, 864-294-6371, or at 307-871-1050. We will arrange a meeting during the winter term and decide on assignments, depending on people's interests. Thanks for considering this opportunity to volunteer with Gray Matters.

FALL COMES TO THE UPSTATE

Photo by Ali van den Broek
Allan Bornmueller has multiple talents. Proof of this are the stained glass door panels at the left, and the lathe-turned wooden box on the right.

KOREAN WAR VETS - WE WANT YOU!

Gray Matters is considering ways to honor OLLI @ Furman members who are veterans of the Korean War. If you served in any of the armed forces between June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces invaded South Korea, and July 27, 1953 when the armistice was signed, please get in touch with Gary Aten by phone at 864-294-6371 or 307-871-1050, or e-mail at gary.aten42@gmail.com. Please make contact during the OLLI winter term so we can start planning an appropriate way to recognize your contribution. The “Forgotten War” should not really be forgotten and you can help us remember. Please consider participating.
AN ODE TO MR. BILL

Gene Johnston

Twasn’t so long ago I first hiked with Bill,
And learned very quickly of his definition of “hill”!
We all heard “a little up”, “a little down” and “it’s flat just ahead”,
Little did we know that these expressions might leave some of us dead.

So we went to Pinnacle and Whitewater Falls,
But the worst was the “up AND down” of Sassafras, the one trail that kicked everyone’s …..!

What a time we had hiking with Mr. Bill! But can we forget the gifts of nature we saw?
Learning the names of wildflowers was quite a deed, even if Ed Schmid said they were all weeds!

Big Blue was steady in Jocassee Gorges, a DNR purchase led by John Frampton,
But the gift for car impalement will go to Bev Crampton!

And how could we forget Ms. Betty, the Master Dipper at Slater Drug,
I’m sure she expected Bill to give her a hug.

I know Tommy’s bothered by my circumlocutious verse,
And though I tried hard, I know I’ve heard worse.

Through it all, Mr. Bill was there, leading us with good nature, and never a hiker was lost,
Always a pleasure to be around, he was always “THE BOSS”!

So, it’s time to bring this story to an end, and say that Mr. Bill is our dearest friend.

Written in honor of Bill Farmer, who lead a hiking group for many years at OLLI/FULIR.
Although Bill has retired as the leader, his name lives on, as Farmer’s Hiking continues.

Deadlines for Submissions for Upcoming
Gray Matters Issues:

March Issue: February 28
May Issue: April 30
LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Barbara Leimsieder

The Long-Range Planning Committee members for 2013-14 are Jim Baker, Ron Bryson, Dick Eaton, Sherm Rounsville, Gladys Spiak, Susan Thomas, Richard Wagner, and Alan Weinberg.

The committee met in October and discussed the three projects that they will be working on this year: (1) revise and update the Strategic Mission, Vision and Goals, and Action Plans documents, (2) revise and update the bylaws, and (3) revise and update the position descriptions for the organizational chart. The group divided into three subcommittees:

Strategic Mission, Vision and Goals and Actions Plans – Sherm Rounsville, Susan Thomas and Alan Weinberg

Bylaws – Dick Eaton and Barbara Leimsieder with assistance from Lucy Woodhouse

Position Descriptions – Jim Baker and Gladys Spiak with assistance from Barbara Leimsieder

The subcommittees are meeting and working on their specific projects until the next meeting of the full committee in January.

TRIBUTES

Connie Irby - Tributes Editor

Anna Louise Watkins Gibbins

OLLI member Anna Gibbins, wife of hiking leader Jerry Gibbins, was a member of Christ Church Episcopal, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Greenville, a member of the Dorothy Haynsworth Garden Club, and the Rotary Book Club. Mrs. Gibbins was the former communications director of the United Way of Greenville, former manager of the Carolina Youth Symphony, and assistant director of development of Christ Church Episcopal School.

Charlotte Sloan

By Sarah Fletcher

Charlotte Sloan, witty and well-read, was a delightful person to chat with, to travel with, and to talk about good books. Raised in Spartanburg and a graduate of Converse College, she lived in Paris and in San Francisco before returning home to marry E.D. (Ned) Sloan, Jr. They had four children. Charlotte was on the governing board of the Spoleto Festival and of the George Washington Foundation of Fredericksburg, Virginia. She loved to take FULIR/OLLI courses on Shakespeare from Dr. Crabtree, as well as courses on Proust, Greek literature, and Faulkner. As a long-standing member of the Thursday Club, she helped to facilitate a course about 8 years ago featuring past papers by several members of the Thursday Club, similar to the course offered this winter term. Charlotte was a gifted writer and loved chamber music, travel, and raising orchids.
The OLLI Consort had a gig October 29 at St. Anthony's Church arranged by Kathy Varadi of Bon Secours Catholic Charities. It was supposed to be a drop-in for elderly people and their caregivers. However, they got a poor response and only two "elderlies" were there! So they invited the 4th grade music class from St. Anthony's School to attend. We had fun introducing them to the recorder and invited their teacher to conduct one of our pieces.

At right, the OLLI Consort, along with three friends from the Jasmin Recorder Consort, went on their annual "Great Hospital Tour" on December 11. They entertained visitors and staff with holiday music in the lobbies of both St. Francis Hospital and Greenville Memorial Medical Center.
HERRING CENTER DECORATES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Many hands made light work (and made the lights work) as the Manly Lobby was decorated for the holidays. Jann Howell played, and singers rotated in and out of the group around the piano. Jann was so dedicated she kept playing through the group photo session. Many areas had decorations, but the main result was the tree at right. More new decorations related to OLLI classes were added. Even Olliver got into the act with a newly decorated nest.

Photos by Greg Parker
More than 60 people attended the first OLLI Thanksgiving. Most in attendance felt this should not be the last. Elaine Brummett and Lucy Woodhouse were the drivers for the event, but many other staff and members helped make it a success by cooking, carving, pouring, setting up, and cleaning afterwards. Football on the TVs, eating, meeting new friends, snacking, visiting at the tables, eating, and hearing some old and new stories made for a great day. We were truly thankful to be part of it. The pot-luck cooks made so much we could even take home a plate for the next day.

Thanks to all who helped and attended. It was a special day.
These council members all have special assignments, but they are additionally charged with representing the membership. They have their ears tuned for what is going well, or not so well, with the OLLI @ Furman program.

They are also experienced members and will be glad to help with any problems and concerns or will direct you to the proper person. Listed with their assignments, from top to bottom, left to right they are:

Laura Gossett  
Class Liaisons

Pat Hicks  
Curriculum

Cathy Dwyer  
SIGs

Dick Eaton  
Bylaws

Barbara Wojack  
Senior Leaders  
Greenville

Natalina Ferlauto  
FULIR/OLLI  
History
The OLLI @ Furman Council is shown above. Pictured from left to right are: Standing: Cathy Dwyer, At Large; Barbara Wojack, At Large; Connie Memolo, Volunteer; Judy Pearson, Faculty Support; Marge Snyder, ReSource/Research Grants; Laura Gossett, At Large; Pat Hicks, At Large; Natalina Ferlauto, At Large; Karl Sedlarz, President; Jack Hansen, Outreach; Steve Davis, Admin & Finance; Sharon Sickler, Social; Barbara Leimsieder, Long-Range Planning; Front Row: Elaine Brummett, VP of Membership; Greg Peters, Curriculum; Jim Smeaton, Curriculum; Gary Aten, Newsletter; Sandy Jenkins, VP of Administration.

SENIOR LEADERS GREENVILLE OFF TO GREAT START
Margaret Clark / Chuck Hawkins

OLLI has approved twenty-nine applicants for the inaugural year of Senior Leaders Greenville (SLG). This is a thrilling conclusion to two months of hard recruitment work. The first class of SLG will have 17 women and 12 men, with a wide variety of backgrounds, which will enrich the class experience. All share a passion to learn more about senior issues and to become an active voice in the community for seniors. Only eight applicants indicated involvement with OLLI, a nod to the success of program outreach and promotion. The SLG steering committee’s work continues in earnest as it creates eight day-long sessions, that will not only meet class expectations, but also challenge this group of motivated individuals.
THE LAST WORD

ec-lec-tic | iˈklektik |

adjective
1 deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources: her musical tastes are eclectic.
2 (Eclectic) Philosophy of, denoting, or belonging to a class of ancient philosophers who did not belong to or found any recognized school of thought but selected such doctrines as they wished from various schools.

noun
a person who derives ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.

DERIVATIVES
eclectically adverb
eclecticism | iˈklektɪsɪzm | noun

ORIGIN late 17th cent. (as a term in philosophy): from Greek eklektikos, from eklegein ‘pick out,’ from ek ‘out’ + legein ‘choose.’

This word describes the issue of *Gray Matters* you are reading. Unlike many issues that have a theme, this one doesn’t seem to. There are committee reports, reports on OLLI activities, information on a range of happenings in the classes, features about OLLI members activities, poems, pictures, and other items. This is appropriate because OLLI @ Furman is an eclectic collection of people and activities, but with something in common. From formal classes to hiking in the woods, the common thread that runs through OLLI @ Furman is the pursuit of community. We could all take classes on the computer or hike by ourselves, but we choose to be involved in activities where there are other people. We want, and probably need, that contact. It makes the things we learn, the skills we attain, and the trees we see all the more rewarding when we share them with others.

So you see, there is a theme to this eclectic issue after all.