Sometimes I take an OLLI course or attend an activity that makes me wonder what my role should be relative to the subject. The Great Decisions class highlights huge problems, and usually there are not easy answers. The summer Straight Talk SC series on the working poor in our area seemed to call for some action, although I didn’t know what. The Out of the Closet class in the fall described the problems faced by the LGBT community but again left me puzzled. Should I respond to these issues? If so, how?

This year, as Judy and I traveled the country a couple of times, we met a variety of people. They came from a wide variety backgrounds. Sometime we knew what these were, and other times we didn’t. We found in many cases that we had common interests and goals: protecting scenic and historic areas, travel, knitting, and many other things, even including playing trivia. We all got along and even helped each other when it was needed.

Possibly that’s one part of solving the big problems. We in OLLI attend classes with the common goals of learning, exploring issues, volunteering, and just enjoying each other. By doing this and seeing that we can get along, we may be changing each others’ attitudes, if only just a little. If we can do it here, perhaps we can do it in the larger community. Don’t get me wrong. I don’t think the problems listed in the first paragraph (and many others) will be solved by a bunch of seniors hugging each other. On the other hand, it can’t hurt. As you take OLLI classes that highlight or suggest issues, think about whether and how you might be part of the solution.

If all this sounds hazy to you, you aren’t alone. It’s hazy to me too. But I’m thinking about it, and I guess that’s a first step.
Do you know what should go into the blue recycle bins?

**Empty** and fairly **clean**: Aluminum (foil and cans)
- Paper coffee cups
- Paper, including napkins
- Plastic bottles

How much does OLLI spend on coffee cups? The cups are about 12 cents each, but for the fall term, we spent $945. Wouldn’t the coffee be better in your own insulated mug? The office has some for sale (metal ones are not microwave or dishwasher safe). We at OLLI should do our part in the Furman sustainability effort (reduce, reuse, recycle). Read what the rest of Furman campus is doing to help the local environment and the budget with sustainability plans and actions.

See: [http://www.furman.edu/sites/sustainability/WhatWeAreDoing/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.furman.edu/sites/sustainability/WhatWeAreDoing/Pages/default.aspx)

At Furman, even waste is put to good use. In fact, our campus recently finished third in per capita recycling among universities across the nation in a contest known as RecycleMania. Through traditional and not-so-traditional programs, we try to reuse everything. We have an e-waste recycling program for cell phones, batteries, computers, and other electronics in the student center lower level. Our community can even recycle their old compact fluorescent light bulbs in our facilities warehouse.

See [http://www.furman.edu/sites/sustainability/Documents/sustain3.pdf](http://www.furman.edu/sites/sustainability/Documents/sustain3.pdf). This 40-page report is interesting and contains good pictures. It explains Furman’s plan for a long-range approach to making the university even more sustainable in its practices, policies, and learning environments. The plan is organized around eight goals that address key aspects of Furman’s mission and operations, including the curriculum, co-curriculum, facilities management, and community relations. This document also highlights the growing imperative for Furman to become more energy independent through greater conservation, improved efficiencies, and use of additional renewable energy sources. One goal is to enhance sustainability service opportunities and create local carbon offset projects and programs. This includes helping to weatherize homes.

Also, Continuing Education’s Center for Corporate and Professional Development offers a postgraduate diploma in corporate sustainability, designed for individuals or teams who are responsible for implementing sustainable business practices. Businesses are embracing sustainability because it makes sense to cut costs and grow market share.
On the left, OLLI @ Furman Director Nancy Kennedy gives information to new members at the September 11 orientation.

Below, new and returning members mingle during the Welcome Back Reception after the orientation.

At left, a volunteer helps some members with class sign up, name tags, and parking stickers in the OLLI office.

There was plenty of helping to be done. The number of OLLI @ Furman members hit a new record; more than 1300 people joined our OLLI program for the 2014 fall term.
THE WONDERFUL VARIETY OF OLLI SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)
Roger Wheeler

Many people join OLLI for the outstanding curriculum, others for the hiking, and still others for the camaraderie. A few have joined for the SIGs. SIGs are “special interest groups,” or collections of members with a common area of interest or social interaction. Whether you joined OLLI for a SIG or only discovered them once you joined, SIGs are an important feature of the OLLI program. There presently are a dozen or so active SIGs; I’ll discuss several of them below and the rest later.

As one example, when members of Judith Chandler-Huse’s Writing Family History classes expressed interest in continuing to work together on their projects, she formed a Family History SIG. The group, which consists of 10 or so members has met off and on for over a year now. Members encourage each other, set writing objectives and, yes, deadlines, pass along tips on things like photo restoration, printing and publishing, genealogical resources, and editing. In just this short time, at least three members have actually published a finished family history. This SIG has helped OLLI members put what they learned in class into living practice, with tangible results.

In similar fashion, the Mah Jongg SIG evolved out of an OLLI course when, in the fall of 2011, a number of students in the Mah Jongg class decided they wanted to continue playing once a week after the class was finished. They played informally at the Woodlands until the Herring Center opened and were first officially recognized as a SIG in the spring of 2012. Under the leadership of Barb Rusch and Cathy Dwyer, the group now plays on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Manley Lobby. Although they have welcomed new people from more recent classes and also those players who just want to brush up on their skills, they are most proud of the six members of the original class who are still playing together over the past 3 years. This is an example of a SIG where some of their members have joined OLLI specifically to play Mah Jongg.

If you think it is surprising that OLLI has so many Mah Jongg players, think about this: There are 18 members of Michael Kilgore’s Latin SIG. The purpose of the Latin SIG is to supplement and enrich the experience of OLLI members taking any of the three levels of Latin classes. This SIG is quite active. Last year it took a field trip to the Michael Carlos Museum of Antiquities on Emory University’s campus, sponsored a three-session lunchtime film of Mary Beard’s encounters with present-day antiquities in Rome, and enjoyed end-of-quarter lunch at the Olympian restaurant. This year’s planning includes another field trip to Emory and of course those Olympian luncheons.

The Out and About Group is a SIG with a difference. Rather than focusing on an area of common interest (e.g., Latin, photography, bridge), Out and About is for OLLI members looking to share experiences and time with one another. This group is for single OLLI members who would rather go to the movies or theater, or just to dinner, with other OLLI members instead of going out alone. Susan Cooper, the group’s leader, says there are about 40 members who take turns planning activities. They have at least one main event each month. During the holidays, festivals, Christmas drop-ins, and concerts are among the favorites. The group welcomes new members, new ideas, and folks who like to sponsor events.

In addition to these four examples, there is a wide variety of other SIGs, from French and Spanish language groups to those interested in bridge or pickleball, knitting or tai chi. So you can see, there are many interesting SIGs to choose from, and I’ll write about some of these other ones next time. Meanwhile, if you see one that interests you, join it; if you don’t, consider starting your own - just contact Heidi Wright about it.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Nancy Kennedy

Every registration period, OLLI members ask me about our numbers. “What are we up to?” “How many members this year?” “Are we going to outgrow our building?”

As of this writing (December 19), 1,541 people have joined OLLI for the 2014-15 year. That number will continue to increase as more people register for winter, and then additional members join us for the spring term. By comparison, there were 1,547 members for all of 2013-14. We are definitely on track for another record-setting year for membership.

Karl Sedlarz, Past President and Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, has analyzed our membership numbers, courses, and classroom space and declares that we are not yet outgrowing the building. We have the capacity for our current courses and membership numbers, and also capacity for significant growth right here at the Herring Center.

I think the bigger questions are “Why do people join OLLI?” and “Why do they stay?” It’s one thing to have people take a class one time. It’s quite another to see them come back term after term while getting more involved in the program through volunteering, teaching, serving on committees, leading bonus events, and so much more.

We hear compliments from members all of the time about why they enjoy OLLI. They appreciate the high-quality courses. (Thanks, instructors!) They enjoy the Book Nook. (Thanks to all the volunteers who keep it organized!) They like the coffee. (Thanks to anyone who helps keep the coffee bar clean and stocked!) They love Furman’s campus. (We are grateful to Furman for hosting our program!) And, perhaps most importantly, they talk about the new friends they meet. (Thanks to all of YOU for your welcoming attitudes!)

Everyone who comes to OLLI plays a role in its success. You all help us welcome newcomers and play a part in making sure people come back after their first taste of OLLI. Thanks for your participation. I’ll keep counting the members.

STUDENT WORKERS HIGHLIGHTED

Judy Aten

Beginning on the next page are brief profiles of our OLLI student workers. After you have read the articles, I think you will agree we are fortunate to have these talented students as part of our program. They contribute in ways you may not know about or that may not be highly visible, but they help keep OLLI @ Furman running smoothly and efficiently. Plus, they are just outstanding young women!

After you have read about Laken, Kelly, and Kristin, give them a wave, a hello, or a thanks. I’m sure you’ll think they deserve the recognition.
An OLLI Student Worker Breaking the Mold - Laken Weaver

Although Laken Weaver was born in Greenville, she has a fondness for Loveland, Colorado, for her family moved to the Fort Collins/Loveland area when she was 5. Home is now Frederick, Maryland, where her family settled a few years later. While the political science major attends her mother’s alma mater, she can spend time with her grandparents who reside here.

Laken applied to three colleges that were at least 7 hours from home. Her mother’s affiliation with the school was not the deciding factor when she picked Furman. That decision was based on Furman’s size, reputation, and its the excellent music department. Why would a music department’s reputation matter to a political science major? Simple. Laken entered Furman as a music major with a major in vocal performance focusing on opera. It was always assumed that her excellent singing skills meant Laken would study music, and she majored in what was expected to.

Things changed drastically during her freshman year when she was diagnosed with a medical condition involving her vocal chords that meant a career in opera was out of the question. Disappointed, but undaunted, Laken took a hard look at what made her happy and came to the surprising discovery that she was most fulfilled when helping others, not entertaining them. Her involvement with the youth programs at her church and earlier work at a nursing home were the clinchers, and she settled on political science, aiming for a career in family law that would allow her to advocate for abused women and children. As Laken discussed her new major, her face lit up when she declared that breaking the mold is sometimes exactly what you ought to do. She is certain that her new career is a perfect fit; it just took a medical quirk to get her on the right path.

Laken hopes to study abroad for a semester next year. She is already eyeing some universities offering law degrees. Her affection for the West may lure her to a university in Colorado, but she would also settle for another university, perhaps Harvard (yes, the young lady aims high). Law schools are highly selective, and this bright sophomore is determined to succeed. She spends about 6 hours each Saturday at the Forest Coffeehouse studying. It’s natural that she would go to a coffee shop to study, for she works as a barista back in Frederick when she goes home.

Laken likes to hike and check out the local eateries with her friends. She also returns to Frederick to see her family. On her last trip there over fall break, it was unsettling to discover her little brother had grown taller than she and was also driving! Laken is proud of her parents. Her father, a professional videographer, has finished and released his first documentary, and her mother, a middle school teacher for 26 years, has completed her masters degree and is preparing to be an assistant principal.

Laken likes interfacing with OLLI folks. She enjoys working with the iPhone class, answering questions and learning new tricks with her iPhone. Laken especially likes hearing our stories of how things used to be, for, given a choice, she would rather live in the past than the future. She considers OLLI her “personal time machine.” It seems a natural fit since Laken’s unusual first name belonged to a female relative long ago.

If you want to make Laken smile, ask her if she’d like to hear about something you did when you were her age. I can guarantee, you’ll have her complete attention!
The Real World Is Coming Soon - Kelly Rae, Student Worker

Greenville native Kelly Rae has been with the OLLI program since the beginning of last summer when she was a rising sophomore. Now in her junior year, the Greenville native has been an OLLI staffer for a year and a half and is now a familiar face in our office. She smiles and declares that “the real world is coming soon,” and she is preparing for life after Furman.

The soft-spoken elementary education major is currently teaching first graders at Cherrydale Elementary School 4 hours a week, providing her Title I charges with the individual attention they need. Although she “absolutely loves it,” Kelly hopes to teach older elementary students after she graduates, for teaching the basics is a complicated, difficult matter. She enjoys the “brain breaks” she takes with her students, playing hip hop music and dancing with her first graders who try to mimic her dance moves - that always makes her laugh. The notes and drawings her students give her are proof that they really like Miss Rae.

Kelly values lifelong learning and says it’s inspiring to see OLLI members continuing their education as a hobby. She hopes to teach an OLLI class in the future. Her only problem is settling on a topic that will appeal to our membership. Knowing that OLLI courses are fun, we asked Kelly what courses she has taken for fun. Her choices were art and political science. She chose political science because she is considering working in Washington, DC this summer.

The major reason Kelly applied for a summer position at OLLI was to work with her mother, Susan Rae, OLLI’s assistant director of curriculum and technical support. When offered the opportunity to make that summer job one that lasted for the academic year, Kelly jumped at the chance. Seeing her mother three times a week gives her more time with her now than she managed during her freshman year. Kelly declares that she loves working at OLLI because her mother can answer her questions as well as keep up with Kelly’s student life.

Now living in North Village, Kelly doesn’t go home as often as she did her freshman year. Student life at Furman keeps her busy for she is not only vice president of the Chi Omega sorority, but also serves as an Admissions Ambassador, giving tours to prospective students. She also works with Heller Service Corps coordinating volunteers for Greenville United Ministries. Education majors are required to spend at least 20 hours in community service, and Kelly certainly meets that requirement. Her sorority has helped raise funds for Make-A-Wish and has met two of the children they sponsored.

A graduate of J L Mann High School, Kelly is the first member of her family to choose a career in education. One of her two older brothers graduated from Furman, while the other claims Clemson as his alma mater. Her mother briefly taught at a community college prior to starting her family, and her father started out in finance but moved into manufacturing.

Kelly says her friends love hearing stories about her OLLI friends and are especially happy when she brings home the treats that we’re famous for providing. Her pleasure with OLLI members extends well past the Herring Center, for she is happy to see and speak to OLLI folks when she sees us around campus. We’re the equivalent of a large, extended family that she enjoys. Judging from her poise and ability to express herself, I think that Kelly will be more than prepared for that real world looming on her horizon.
Kristin Farrar - Our Sophomore Shutterbug

Kristin started working at OLLI last August and has been here for over a year. She’s a sophomore majoring in elementary education. Furman education students go into classrooms that reflect the education classes they are currently taking. This term Kristin’s in a Furman special education class, so she is working at the Meyer Center in a special education class. She doesn’t yet know what age group she wants to teach, so working with various ages is helpful.

Kristin applied to OLLI after reading about the opening on a work study list. She sent in an application, interviewed with Nancy Kennedy, and found out a week later she had the job. Kristin does a bit of everything, from OLLI Notes to making coffee, to making and analyzing surveys, or anything else she’s asked to do, noting that it seems she learns to do something new on the computer each day. When she looks at our brochures she can always find a class she wants to take and is amazed that OLLI used to be housed in trailers.

Kristin is a local girl and a graduate of Christ Church Episcopal School. She chose Furman because its education department puts its freshmen into a real classroom, allowing them to discover early on if they’ve made the right career choice. She also likes the “Furman community” where everyone can find a place where they fit.

Why did Kristin pick elementary education? It can be traced back to her only sibling, a sister who is 5 years younger than she. Her parents own an automotive repair shop and sought Kristin’s help with her little sister from the day she was born. That instilled a strong maternal feeling overall toward children and allowed her and her little sister to become very close. The pleasure she took from helping her sibling inspired her to settle on elementary education.

Kristin has a special affinity for her special education students. She sees all the possibilities in them, not their disabilities, for many of her Meyers Center students will go into regular classrooms. She has learned a lot from these youngsters and knows they will need a very special person to work with them.

Kristin stays very busy. In addition to working for OLLI, she belongs to Delta Gamma sorority, does fill-in work at a Mitchell Road Church’s 2-year-olds classroom, babysits, and tutors high school students in various subjects.

She has done some traveling, the most memorable being a trip to Italy and Greece during spring break when she was a high school senior. An avid photographer, Kristin used to concentrate on landscapes but is expanding into portraits. She may remain an extra semester to finish up an art degree to accompany her education degree, for she truly enjoys working in all aspects of photography, including dark room work.

She has eclectic tastes in music and films, telling me that she likes action adventure movies, romances, and, when she needs a good cry, a Nicholas Sparks film. Her music tastes include country, pop, rock, Latino, or anything that has a good beat. Kristin believes in living life to its fullest and not looking back on the past with any regrets.
The OLLI @ Furman Antique Fest, held on October 3, was a huge success despite the rain, which didn’t dampen the spirits of the participants. When the start time of 10 a.m. came several people had already arrived with items to be evaluated. Appraisers were available in the areas of antique books; art; knives, tools, and coins; ivory; jewelry and silver; porcelain and china; silver and oriental china; small furniture; and Southern pottery and folk art. Appraisers gave demonstrations and brought items for display. There was also a collection of Civil War artifacts on view.

Entertainment was supplied by Patricia Fisher on the piano, the Uke Can Do Re Me ukulele band, and the Furman Belles.
The four food trucks were well attended, even though umbrellas were advised. As people got their food, many went into the Crabtree Classroom that was set up with tables and visited with friends as they had lunch. Another classroom was occupied with talks on preserving archives, identifying ivory, and obtaining collectible appraisals.

Having items evaluated by experts was the main draw, of course. Most OLLI members felt the information they learned about their items was more interesting than the estimate of value, although a few people were pleasantly surprised with a quite valuable item.

Dick Lambrecht, above, explains about a set of wood carving chisels his grandfather used to carve the mirror frame and the figure on the table.

Sharon and Bob Howell are shown above at the event. Bob explained the experience this way: “I have a fox-hunting horn that has been in our family for over 100 years. My son had recently gotten an appraisal in New York City. The appraiser at the Antique Fest was very knowledgeable. He described the horn as “museum quality” and confirmed that the previous appraisal was accurate. Thanks to OLLI for a well-planned event!”

Thanks to Sharon Pietsch, Cindy Smithers, and the rest of the Antique Fest Committee for their hard work. This successful, complex, and fun event was in the planning stage for months.
Behind the serious face of our current OLLI Council President, Elaine Brummett, lives an adventurous woman. Although her planning and organizing skills are known to her friends, her diverse career path followed whatever direction was of interest at that time.

Born near Detroit, Michigan, in high school she became interested in history because of a dynamic teacher. She obtained a scholarship to attend college and worked part-time. As a freshman, a B in history but an A in biology led her to choose science, specifically zoology, as her major. Elaine received a B.S. at Western Michigan and then worked as a radioisotope tech for a year at Ann Arbor Hospital. However, that level of work did not satisfy her intellectual curiosity and desire for a more expansive life. So she went to Tucson, Arizona for a master’s and some delightful travel in Mexico. It was during grad school that her curiosity took her to a new area of enjoyment and learning, and she started attending concerts, an interest that she pursues to this day.

Elaine applied to work for an embryologist at the University of Florida Medical School. He didn't need a technician but did have a fellowship in anatomy available. This allowed her to earn a PhD in medical science with research on drug effects on the bone development of mice while living in an 8 x 30 foot trailer. She had a sort of vacation due to a 6-week scholarship to the Bermuda Biological Station, adding to her collection of scars by not being used to hand brakes on a bike. A requested tour of a Canadian sub was interesting and, after many dives, she once found herself nose-to-nose with a barracuda!

During her post-doctoral research, she saw an ad for an anatomist in New Zealand, so she immediately applied and off she went to the medical school in Dunedin, New Zealand. During her 2 years on the South Island, she enjoyed hiking and backpacking trips, using skills she had learned as a Girl Scout. The South Island had “more sheep than people” and a retro culture of no supermarkets, making your own catsup, a wringer washing machine, and electric towel-bar heaters.

Elaine's next adventure came as a result of seeing another ad in a scientific journal to work for an American embryologist who was the Chairman of Anatomy at the University of Malaya and presumably directing a lot of research. Her new boss turned out to be allergic to mice! So much for “a lot of research.” However, Kuala Lumpur was a delightful world of various cuisines, open-air markets, and jungle tours, which she thoroughly enjoyed. One night she was invited to a dinner party thrown by a member of the royal family and held in a
courtyard among papaya and banana trees. In spite of the charms of this location, Elaine returned to the States and to Salt Lake City to teach anatomy and embryology. The next year, wanting a change of scene, she joined a friend in the outback of Australia for several months. Exploring the opal mine area there was exciting, but the desolation was too much for a long-term stay, and it was a cold winter.

Between jobs, she relocated to western Colorado, where her parents had moved for retirement. A new set of experiences ensued. One was a 6-month job doing a survey of battered women in Colorado. That was followed by 12 years with the Colorado Department of Health as a health physicist (radiation protection). It was fun to wear Levis and boots, work outside part of the day, and have a 40-hr week, plus hike and enjoy cross-country skiing in her free time. She was also happy to be near her parents and help with their care during their failing years. Afterward, Elaine moved near Bethesda, Maryland, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and often traveled to the western states, inspecting and negotiating the cleaning up of uranium mills as project manager. The National Mall (Smithsonian museums and concerts) and Appalachian Trail were frequent destinations.

When she retired, Florida was considered as the next stop. However, the proximity of mountains was important, so she and her dear friend Mike looked at North Carolina, but found through the Internet that Greenville, South Carolina, had a large selection of homes in their price range. The final deciding factors that brought them here in 2005 were downtown Main Street and Furman University. Elaine immediately got involved in FULIR/OLLI and shared her scientific background by teaching a number of courses in that area. Her management skills played a winning role with her development and management of OLLI’s Bonus Events for 5 years, then led her to the OLLI Council, and now the presidency.

Among the many goals she has set for her term as president, along with building a sense of community, working on the 5-year plan, and “accomplishing what we set out to do,” one reflects her concern for nature and Furman’s goal of sustainability, e.g., recycling, reducing, and reusing throughout OLLI. Her comfortable home is testament to her strong belief in this area. Here she relaxes and enjoys her two small dogs and three cats, her gardens, and her koi pond.

What will she do next? As immediate past president, Elaine will be chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee for the next year. Maybe some European travel will be next. Then there’s an interest in working with a developer to create new senior housing alternatives in this area. Whatever she chooses to do, you can be sure that her curiosity and love of learning will provide her with the ability to accomplish much.
After 51 years of serving the Furman community, Dr Crabtree had a second retirement on November 11, 2014, when he stopped teaching for OLLI @ Furman. His first retirement was when he retired from Furman University. Dr. Crabtree helped to start our learning in retirement organization and taught at the FULIR / OLLI program, starting in the fall of 1993. He taught about some different authors over the years but was best known for his classes on Shakespeare. The classes were extremely popular, and many of his students organized their entire OLLI class schedule around his class.

The day of his retirement was a perfect trifecta, seeming to some like it was fate. First, was his achievement of 21 years of FULIR / OLLI teaching. Second, it was Veterans Day and Dr. Crabtree was a veteran. He told of being a sailor in San Francisco and attending a Shakespeare play. He still remembers the actors and director of that play. This anecdote of his life is outstanding on many levels. Third, it was his birthday. Brad Bechtold and the OLLI staff brought in cake for the class to celebrate. The occasion was bittersweet as the class celebrated his contribution but lamented the end of the “Crabtree era.”

It was only fitting that this event took place in the Crabtree Classroom that was funded by donations by his students and named in his honor. As many OLLI members enter that classroom, they will remember how he brought 400-year-old plays to life, showing how they still speak to us today.

Thank you, Dr. Crabtree!
On the Occasion of Dr. John Crabtree’s Final Presentation in OLLI Shakespeare Class, November 11, 2014

Joe Wrobel

Declined? Not much. This vale of years
Embraces also beauty sere, of yellow leaf,
No solemn tolling chime at sundown fears,
And still our still quintessent dust relief
Much thanks doth give; the tide
In our affairs is calmed; the crabtree
Shelters running brooks of words as wide
And deep as the pools we mortals be.
“So thou thy worldly task hath done,”
Opening caskets of the mind and heart.
Now enjoy thy cakes and ale and laurels won,
And though we in sweet sorrow part,
Our OLLI island still resounds sweet airs caused
By our still-lending hands: applause, applause, applause!

References, Citations, Allusions, Paraphrases, Puns, and Quotations
“…I am declined into the vale of years. But that’s not much…” Othello
“…my life has fallen into the sere, the yellow leaf…” Macbeth
“…we have heard the chimes at midnight…” King Henry the Fourth, Part II
“…what to me is this quintessence of dust?…” Hamlet
“…for this relief, much thanks…” Hamlet
“…there is a tide in the affairs of men…” Julius Caesar
“…books in running brooks…” As You Like It
“…what fools these mortals be!…” Cymbeline
“…thou thy worldly tasks hath done…” The Merchant of Venice
“…let me to my fortune and the caskets…” Twelfth Night
“…no more cakes and ale…” Romeo and Juliet
“…parting is such sweet sorrow…” The Tempest
“…sounds and sweet airs that give delight and harm not…” A Midsummer Night’s Dream

It’s one of my joys to write tribute poems of gratitude to people who have influenced my life. This one is for Dr. John Crabtree upon the completion of his mythic contribution to the OLLI program through teaching his many courses on Shakespeare.

I fill the tribute poems with references to experiences shared with the person to whom I’m writing. This poem celebrates Dr. Crabtree’s transition off-stage to a time of savoring years of having been a worthy agent of the Bard of Avon. In a (sort-of!) Shakespearean sonnet, it includes allusions, citations, and quotations to 12 of Shakespeare’s plays.

I hope it reminds you of the range and richness of the plays, and of Dr. Crabtree’s generosity in bringing that to OLLI.
COFFEE BRIGADE MEMBERS WANTED

As you can tell by the picture at left, OLLI @ Furman’s coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are very popular. You can help make sure the supply is always available by joining the Coffee Brigade. There is no set schedule. Just help out when you are available and there is a need. Heidi Wright will be glad to give you a quick instruction session.

FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

George Hammond

On a gorgeous fall afternoon, 24 OLLI members met up to play in the second Annual Fall Golf Scramble at the Furman Golf Course. The competition was fierce, the trash talk even fiercer. With a score of 35 (1 under par) the team of Edie Parrot, Ted Maier, Dick Conlon and Randy Pope was the winner. Three teams tied for second place with a score of 36. The other two teams were not far behind with a score of 39. Thanks to the Furman Golf Course staff for their assistance in making the afternoon outstanding. Look forward to the first Annual OLLI Spring Golf Classic now being planned.
TV MEMORY

Sarah Fletcher

I remember that one family on our block who had no children had the first black-and-white TV. I recall standing with my younger sister and older brother on their porch with our noses pressed to their living room window watching a very snowy picture on their TV. That was probably in 1949 or 1950. I don't recall what the program was, but we thought it was wonderful, quite miraculous, and a luxury that we certainly wouldn't and couldn't have at our own home. As I look back on that, I wonder why they never invited us inside to watch. They must have felt that if they let in one child, the whole neighborhood of little kids would expect to be invited in as well. We thought they just didn't like kids.

My folks were very handy, particularly my Dad. They worked evenings, weekends, and any spare time they could for 3 years and built us a home on the outskirts of town. We moved there when I was in third grade. We three kids began to plead that we "needed" a TV, and would tease and cajole our father each evening at the dinner table. It was a red-letter day when our first TV arrived in 1952. It was a huge console with a very small black-and-white TV and a rabbit ear antenna that my brother soon became expert at adjusting. We cheered and stomped in glee, hugged and kissed Dad, and invited all the other kids around to come in and watch. They were draped all over the sofa and living room floor every afternoon.

When I was in fifth grade, the whole class took a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. I was astonished at the color TV on display there and distinctly remember thinking that I would probably never see one of those in our home or the home of anyone else that we knew.

CRUEL WINDS

Dave Gallemore

Cruel winds alone
Don't kill unless the blasts come
From a faithless friend.

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. Near the academic center of campus  
2. Visible from the mall  
3. Its use is an OLLI @ Furman perk  
4. Certain worms hang out here

Answer: The Duke Library
Senior Leaders Greenville is a program of OLLI @ Furman. The first class began its year of exploration in January. Through monthly course sessions on topics including healthcare, education, housing, transportation, end-of-life issues, and much more, participants learned about the issues surrounding these topics and specifically how seniors affect and are affected by these issues.

OLLI members Chuck Hawkins and Margaret Clark chaired the Steering Committee, joined by 11 other OLLI members who worked to plan the course sessions.

In this inaugural year, 29 senior adults joined (many of them new to OLLI), and 27 graduated on Friday, November 21. Dr. Carl Kohrt, Interim President of Furman in 2013-14, was the graduation speaker, and he challenged the graduates to use their new knowledge to make a difference in the community.

Class II of Senior Leaders Greenville will run September 2015-May 2016. Applications will be available in late spring. Please consider applying to participate. If you have questions about Senior Leaders Greenville, contact Nancy Kennedy in the OLLI Office.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Jim Smeaton

The Curriculum Committee offers approximately 95 courses for the regular (fall, winter, and spring) terms. Our objective is to continue to offer popular courses at regular intervals along with about 25 percent new offerings. In addition, approximately 25 Bonus Tours and Events and eight Lunch & Learn Sessions are offered each regular term. We are also anticipating about 20-25 offerings during the June summer term.

The Curriculum Committee is composed of more than 80 people serving on one or more of 19 subcommittees, each focusing on a specific subject category. The organization is constantly evolving to better serve the needs of the organization. One change underway is to combine the CPT (Computers and Technology) subcommittee with the SNM (Science and Math) subcommittee. The mission of the new group will be to deliver a variety of interesting and relevant STM (Science, Technology, and Math) courses in a subject area undergoing continual change.

(Continued Next Page)
We are also exploring alternative ways of providing course materials to OLLI students. Although this proposal is in the early investigative stages, look for updates in the future. In addition, we are considering opportunities to leverage technology to streamline the administrative work of the Curriculum Committee.

I am indeed fortunate to lead a large group of talented and committed volunteers who, along with our exceptional instructors and the dedicated OLLI staff, make all of these courses and activities possible. Please join me in thanking them.

ANNOUNCING THE 2015 OLLI CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Have you ever wished you could develop and teach an OLLI course but just didn’t have the funds to do the necessary research? Are you currently teaching but wish you could enhance your course? Is there something you’ve always wanted to learn about (and you would share your new knowledge with OLLI in some way)? Then a Curriculum Enhancement Grant is for you!

Since 2012, these grants have helped enhance existing courses and produce new courses and bonus events. Mike Broder was awarded one of the first grants, in 2012, and he notes, “With an interest in American history, I applied for a grant to study in more detail notable events related to the War of 1812. I was able to visit sites in Indiana (Tippecanoe); Ohio (Lake Erie); Ontario (Amherstberg); Washington, DC; and Baltimore (Ft. McHenry), which added important visual and locale details to my classes on the war and its context in U.S. history.”

Anyone who has been an OLLI member or instructor for at least 6 terms may apply for a grant of $200 to $2,000. Within 2 years, recipients must share their knowledge with the OLLI membership in some way: teaching a course, presenting a Bonus Event, starting a new Special Interest Group, or developing a series of seminars or other offerings.

Susan Nelson was awarded a grant in May, 2014 to research document preservation and says “I hope my future class can help you (and me) preserve the history that is important to you and to your families (even if maybe our families don’t realize the importance just yet). I am so appreciative of the OLLI program and the OLLI @ Furman Grants Committee for supporting my mission of historical preservation.”

Applications are due March 2, 2015. The Grants Committee will review completed applications in March and April, and applicants will be notified in early May. A public announcement of the grantees will be made at the OLLI Spring Luncheon on May 19, 2015. We are looking forward to some exciting new courses!

A packet including grant requirements and an application can be found on the bulletin board across from the restrooms in the Herring Center in January and February. You can also find this information on the OLLI website under Current OLLI Members/Forms.

Please contact members of the Grants Committee with questions: Judy Lineback (Chair), Dave Johnson, Connie Memolo, Marge Snyder, and Geraldine Weyermann.
Jan Howell demonstrates some techniques in the **Beginning Guitar** class.

Two students in the October 18 **Felting** bonus event learning how to do some 3-dimension work.

Students in the Friday **Paper Making** bonus class work on their projects.

Tim Baiden and the Herrings in the **In Conversation With** class.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman has seen remarkable growth. The program began as Furman University Learning in Retirement (FULIR) in the fall of 1993 under the direction of Dr. Sarah Fletcher. She had an office on the second floor of Furman Hall and one dedicated classroom on the first floor. Seven courses were offered, with 62 members attending.

As FULIR grew, it moved to the basement of Plyler Hall (science building), expanding to a two-person office, two classrooms, and a computer lab. Courses were also conducted in other Furman buildings such as Building J which has multiple classrooms. Later, Furman Hall underwent a complete, beautiful renovation and was used for some classes.

In 2005, Furman announced that Plyler Hall also would be renovated and additional science buildings would be added. FULIR had to move out! Where to go? The FULIR Board decided to embark on a quest to build its own building on campus. The groundwork had already been established as the Furman Board of Trustees had approved the idea, had identified a plot of land for us near the Younts Center, and had requested a cost estimate for building construction. Now, all it would take was raising the money!

In the meantime, Plyler Hall and Rinker Hall were being renovated, and two new buildings were being added to form the Charles H. Townes Science Center. A six-wide portable building next to the Playhouse on campus became available, and Furman renovated it for our needs. FULIR took occupancy in the fall of 2006.

Fundraising for the new building began in earnest in fiscal year 2005. With generous contributions from our FULIR members, local foundations, and a wonderful naming gift from Furman University graduates Sarah ’66 and Gordon ’65 Herring of Greenville, SC, the 23,000-square-foot Herring Center for Continuing Education became a reality in the fall of 2012.

When an initial grant of $100,000 was received from the Bernard Osher Foundation in February, 2008, FULIR was renamed Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman (OLLI @ Furman). Eventually the Osher Foundation grants totaled $2.2 million.

Dr. Fletcher retired in spring of 2008 after 15 remarkable years. During that 2007-8 year, there was an average of 614 members each term, approximately 10 times those in the initial 1993 term.

Lucy Woodhouse succeeded Dr. Fletcher as OLLI Director and smoothly transitioned OLLI into the beautiful new Herring Center. Lucy left in 2014 and was succeeded by Furman graduate Nancy Kennedy, who became only the third director of our lifelong learning program.
In FY 2013, ending this past May, there was an average of 1109 members per term, 495 more than in 2008. Clearly, the splendid course offerings, magnificent new building, very attractive upstate area, growing retired population, and the continued desire for learning and mental stimulation have propelled the growth of membership at OLLI. In the fall term 2014, enrollment was 1,319 including 272 new members. All told, 5,711 people have enrolled and enjoyed the program since its start in the fall of 1993. Phenomenal!

The following is a salute to those with the longest attendance record through fall 2014:

Peggy Farmer, Harry Holland, Jean Kral  
Betty Manly-Garrett, Katie Roark  
Del Sellers  
Andrea Howard  
Bill Howard, Harriet McIntosh  
Myra Armistead, Annette Garver (Clark)  
Peggy Green, Ethyl Piper, Doreen Pickering Sieber  
Elizabeth Cusick, Natalina Ferlauto, Roy Green,  
Treavor Hanson, Jennifer McDermott  
Bernice Bloom, Bill Farmer, John Piper  
Peggy Sauvain, Geraldine Weyermann  
Bob Halladay, Kent Snyder, Marge Snyder  
Barbara Greene, Bill Greene, John Dean

That’s 30 people with more than 16 to more than 21 equivalent years of attendance.

Now, not everyone returns term after term, but it is gratifying to note that some have enrolled again after being gone for many years. The program holds a great attraction.

The graph on the following page is included to help depict FULIR/OLLI’s phenomenal growth. It shows total yearly membership growth over the entire program beginning in FY 1993 through FY 2013 (ending in spring 2014). It shows a solid overall upward trend. One exception was a decline in 2008 as a result of the poor economy, but the next year we bounced back even better than expected.

**Editors Note:** This is the first of two parts examining the growth of OLLI @ Furman. This part focused on the history of the program. In the next part, to be presented in the March issue of *Gray Matters*, the focus will be on how that past growth relates to the future of OLLI @ Furman. This information is invaluable to the long-Range Planning Committee, and Kent Snyder has spent several years collecting and organizing our growth data. I hope you find these articles interesting. If you do, thank Kent for his work.
The second THANKSGIVING pot luck dinner provided great company and splendid food.

Thanks to all 100 who participated.

Photo by Elaine Brummett
accomplishment |ə'kæmpliʃmənt|
noun
something that has been achieved successfully: *The reduction of inflation was a remarkable accomplishment.*
• the successful achievement of a task: *the accomplishment of planned objectives*
• an activity that a person can do well, typically as a result of study or practice: *Long-distance running was another of her accomplishments.*
• skill or ability in an activity: *a poet of considerable accomplishment*

Note that the definition above uses terms like success, something done well, and skill and ability. Throughout this issue, these terms are evident and have led to the accomplishment of creating and growing our OLLI @ Furman program. Look at each article. Every one shows how OLLI @ Furman exemplifies the terms used in the definition of accomplishment. Some things come to an end, such as the retirement of Dr. Crabtree. Other things are growing, like the Special Interest Groups. Still others like the Antiques Fest are brand new and have never happened before. They all take people’s skills and abilities, and they have been done well.

Now I risk asking more of you. In the opening Editorial Ramblings, I asked you to consider becoming involved in issues that are suggested in classes you take. Now I ask you to consider using your skills and abilities to help OLLI @ Furman continue to accomplish our goal of being the *best we can be*, to borrow the slogan from the U.S. Army. Note I said *consider*. Only you know what you might be able and/or willing to contribute. Whatever you decide, thanks for participating and helping make OLLI @ Furman a success. Gary