

# Gray Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE @ FURMAN

March, 2014 Edition



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## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Gary Aten

I feel like I'm missing so much. I took six classes in the winter, and they were all really good. But, every time I talked to someone in the Herring Center, the conversation turned to classes and I wished I were in those classes too. I signed up for six more this spring term and I know the same thing will happen. I just hope the people I talk to feel the same way. That might relieve some of my jealousy. So, if I'm talking to you and mention a class of mine, tell me you were just heartbroken you couldn't take it for some reason or other. Pour it on thick; you may be contributing to my mental health.

Hey! Does anyone else notice how many paper coffee cups are in the trash cans? Obviously this is a pet peeve of mine. Give those paper cups a rinse, empty them, and place them in the recycling cans located around the building. Better still, join many who bring their own cups. It's not just a matter of money when you use a paper cup; it's an environmental issue.

If you are reading a hard copy, remember that *Gray Matters* is on the OLLI website in full color. To view this issue and past editions of the newsletter, go to "News from OLLI" on the OLLI @ Furman website and then click on "Gray Matters."

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 legal counsels, Justin Voke V and Donatella Noh-Body.

Gray Matters

Deadline for the May Edition:  
April 30

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Jim Smeaton

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Having registered for the spring term classes and events, you are probably eager to start classes after our brief break between terms. The various subcommittees of the Curriculum Committee are already busy deciding what courses to offer in the fall term. Curriculum planning is an ongoing activity. Ideally, we need to develop the outline of a plan a year in advance. This ensures that we can successfully provide a variety of high-quality offerings matched with competent instructors.

All Course Proposal Forms (CPF's) are required several months in advance to ensure that any logistical or administrative issues can be resolved and for publication and distribution of the new brochure.

The Curriculum Committee's responsibilities are distributed among 80 dedicated and talented people working in one or more of the 19 subcommittees focused on a particular aspect of the curriculum (History, Arts, Photography, Science, etc.). We have some openings, so join the team! Contact the OLLI office or e-mail Greg or me directly if you are interested in becoming a member of the Curriculum Committee.

Enjoy the spring 2014 courses and events!

Greg Peters: [peters5369@gmail.com](mailto:peters5369@gmail.com)

Jim Smeaton: [jimsmeaton@gmail.com](mailto:jimsmeaton@gmail.com)

## EMERGENCY ! WHO YA GONNA CALL ?

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The answer is NOT Ghostbusters. In the past, we have been given instructions to call the Furman University Police Department in event of emergency. Some readers of a recent issue of *Paladin*, the Furman student newspaper, may have noticed the instructions to call 911. After consultation with the FUPD, here are the proper procedures:

1. For non-emergency police matters on the Furman campus, call FUPD at 864-294-2111.
2. For emergencies on the Furman campus, call **911**. Arrangements have been made so that the Travelers Rest Police dispatcher will notify EMS, the Fire Department, and Furman Police, whichever are applicable.
3. Remain on the phone to give location and relevant information. This is especially important for cell phone users. The 911 call will go through a nearby cell tower to the proper dispatcher, but that does not allow the dispatcher to locate you.
4. Make sure the dispatcher knows you are on the Furman campus, request the FUPD to be notified, and, of course, tell them where you are. The Furman Police may be able to respond more quickly than other services, and they have emergency medical training.

## “BACK TO THE NEW TERM” ACTIVITIES

Several activities took place January 8. Teachers were given their class rosters, IDs, and passwords, allowing them to access the classroom computers. Several teachers also attended a training session on using Powerpoint for their classes. New OLLI members had orientation, learning about classroom locations, office organization, parking stickers, and other general information. A luncheon of different types of chilies, soups, salads, and breads was served after the orientation for new and returning OLLI members.



Teachers line up for their information packets and attend Powerpoint training.



Counter clockwise from above left: new members attend orientation, some of the colorful vegetables laid out for the meal, a few of the chilis and soups being warmed, and the salad bar being well attended.

Many thanks to the volunteers that worked hard to make this busy day a success.

## 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 South of North Village
- 2 North of the mall
- 3 Near McAlister Auditorium
- 4 Close to the old FULIR / OLLI building

Answer below:

The porch of the Playhouse



## 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](mailto:gary.aten42@gmail.com), 864-294-6371, or at 307-871-1050. We will arrange a meeting and decide on assignments, depending on people's interests. Thanks for considering this opportunity to volunteer with *Gray Matters*.

## KOREAN WAR VETS - WE WANT YOU !

*Gray Matters* wants 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](mailto:gary.aten42@gmail.com). You do not have to have been on the ground in Korea. We already have some contacts, so don't fear you will be alone. The "Forgotten War" should not really be forgotten and you can help us remember.

Please consider participating.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Brad Bechtold - Executive Director of Continuing Education



**Did you know** that OLLI @ Furman was originally called FULIR (Furman University Learning in Retirement) and was created in 1993 under the leadership of Dr. John Crabtree, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Jack Dickey, Director of Continuing Education, with a \$5,000 matching grant from the Greenville Community Foundation?

**Did you know** that 40 years earlier, on October 6, 1953, Alester G. Furman, who was the great-grandson of Richard Furman, was first person to break ground on the “new” campus, near the site of the present-day McAlister Auditorium? Construction soon began for what would one day be recognized as one of the most beautiful university campuses in the country.

**Did you know** that in 1958, under the leadership of President John Plyler, Furman made the official transition to the “new” campus, after a 102-year history of being in downtown Greenville? This was certainly an exciting time in the history of Furman as it represented an opportunity to build on its already stellar reputation of being a fine liberal arts institution. It is interesting to note that Furman’s undergraduate tuition was only \$490 per year in 1958.

**Did you know** that the original name for the Division of Continuing Education was “The Community College” and it intentionally reflected Furman’s desire to keep a strong connection with the larger Greenville community?

**Did you know** that ours was Greenville’s first “community college” since it pre-dated Greenville Technical College, which was established in 1962 under the leadership of Dr. Tom Barton? In fact, the 1958 Furman Academic Catalog states that the mission of “The Community College” at Furman, which hasn’t changed fundamentally since 1958, was to meet the needs of the following learners:

1. Those who wish to take courses with a view toward cultural advancement and enjoyment.
2. Those who wish to work toward an undergraduate or graduate degree in the evening.
3. Those who wish to take courses which would be of value in professional or occupational advancement.

At that time, we offered only a modest array of courses that served the professional, cultural, and leisure time subjects of interest, which is a far cry from the breadth and depth of programs that are offered today.

**Did you know** that in addition to OLLI @ Furman, the Division of Continuing Education includes an Undergraduate Evening Studies program that offers the Bachelor of Liberal Arts with majors in accounting and business administration, as well as pre-MBA and pre-CPA courses which serve over 200 students annually?

**Did you know** that the Division of Continuing Education also includes our Center for Corporate and Professional Development, which was created in 2003 to anticipate and respond to the ever-changing needs of organizations and corporations by providing high-quality instructional programs tailored to meet specific needs? Our client list includes organizations such as BMW, Michelin, Alfmeier, BlueCross Blue Shield of South Carolina, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, O'Neal, Goodwill Industries, Kolbenschmidt Pierburg, Draexlmaier, Southern Weaving, Fabri-Kal, and many others

**Did you know** that our Bridges to a Brighter Future program is an endowed, nationally recognized, pre-college academic enrichment program for Greenville County High School students with strong educational and leadership potential who are living in difficult and seriously challenging circumstances? This year-round program includes an intensive four-week summer residential experience on the Furman campus and year-round support through Saturday College, and we now have a new component called "Crossing the Bridge" to support students once they are admitted to college.

**Did you know** that the Herring Center for Continuing Education held its official dedication on October 18, 2012 and over 1,000 people attended? This spectacular two-story, 23,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility houses all of Furman's Division of Continuing Education, including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Bridges to a Brighter Future, the Center for Corporate and Professional Development, and Undergraduate Evening Studies, which collectively serve over 3,000 Upstate SC business and community members annually.

There sure is a lot to **know** around here and to be proud of! Thanks so much for being an essential part of our rich history and success in Continuing Education. We could not do it without you!

## KEEPING THE PIANO HUMMING



The piano certainly adds a lot to the atmosphere in the Manly Lobby, especially during events such as decorating for the holidays. It wouldn't have the same effect if it were not in tune. Fortunately, Sammy Smith, shown here at work, keeps our piano in tune. He has been tuning pianos for years and tunes instruments for businesses and individuals in the Greenville area.

Thanks, Sammy!

## OLLI @ FURMAN OFFICE STAFF

Who are these strange, yet wonderful, people we see in the Herring Center? They may be greeting you in the lobby, typing furiously at their computers, checking on coffee, answering questions, or a myriad of other jobs you may not be familiar with. Below we show them in their “home bases,” although they can be anywhere. We have attempted to outline their duties, but you should realize there are too many tasks to mention. In some cases, such as a last-minute class cancellation, it may be “all hands on deck” to notify students. They all do more than a brief description can tell, but this may give you an idea of how the OLLI Office is organized.



**Susan Rae** is the Assistant Director of the OLLI @ Furman program. She works closely with the Curriculum Committee and the faculty during the preparation of the course schedule for a term. As such, she has to coordinate where and when the classes are taught and is responsible for the design and editing of the brochure. Susan also handles registration, which includes wait lists, drops/adds, and any system issue. Once the term brochure is completed, the responsibility for working with the faculty passes on to Pam Roberson, who is next.



**Pam Roberson** is primarily responsible for working with the faculty; if you are teaching a course you will probably get to know her. Her faculty support duties include training, tech support (for example, when we forget how to run the computer system), and working with the Faculty Support Committee. As the finance person in the office, she is responsible for keeping track of the money flowing in and out of the program and generating reports about our financial situation.



**Nancy Kennedy** wears a variety of hats. As the Office Manager, she is in charge of supplies, including tea, hot chocolate, and our precious coffee. She can even be seen personally checking on the level of coffee so there won't be a societal breakdown. She is our volunteer coordinator, helping to ensure there is always someone in the office to assist members. She is responsible for the student workers, social events, and Special Interest Groups, and she helps with Senior Leaders Greenville.

## OLLI PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Jean Fontaine

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In February, OLLI returned Peace Corps volunteers and staff met for lunch to get to know one another and to share experiences about their Peace Corps service. Those attending were from left to right: Harry Wilkinson (assistant director in Ethiopia 1967-69, director in Costa Rica 1970-72), Margy Hazelton (Malaysia 1966-68), Jean Fontaine (Perú 1967-69), Bill and Debra Nicholls-Wozniczka (Jamaica 2004-05), Nancy Neal (The Seychelles 1984-86), Mildred and Bob Schilson (Sierra Leone, West Africa 1987-89).



This was the first such meeting, and they plan to make it an annual event. If there are any other OLLI @ Furman members who were Peace Corps Volunteers contact Jean Fontaine at [eeпа45@gmail.com](mailto:eeпа45@gmail.com) to be included.

## MORE THAN A COURSE CATALOG !

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The familiar OLLI @ Furman course brochure contains more than just a listing of classes. The registration information is probably the thing we look forward to the most, but there is a wealth of other information. All the activities you can become involved in are listed, such as the Special Interest Groups or the Straight Talk summer lecture series. Important dates related to classes and a listing of the OLLI @ Furman Council members and their committee assignments are included. Ways you can be involved in a variety of volunteer activities are shown so you can be more involved in the OLLI program. There is a list of frequently asked questions, contact information for the staff, and a listing of membership benefits. The back page even has a map of the Furman campus so that you can find your way around.

As you can tell, this publication doesn't just happen on its own. Many people, led by Susan Rae, have a hand in getting the information together and making sure it's as error free as possible. Thanks to all of them, even though many are anonymous. Take that brochure out now that you have registered and really read through it. You'll be glad you did.

## CHAUTAUQUA COMES TO OLLI @ FURMAN



Susan Marie Frontczak portrayed scientist Marie Curie at a Chautauqua performance in the Herring Center on February 1. Ms. Frontczak displayed an exceptional knowledge of Madam Curie and answered many detailed questions about her life and her science. Her performance, including a test tube with glowing “radium,” could have convinced an observer they were really watching Marie Curie tell about her life. For those interested in learning more about Madam Curie, Frontczak recommended *Marie Curie: A Life* by Susan Quinn. A wine and hors d’oeuvres reception was held before the sold-out show.



## THE STORY OF RADIUM CONTINUED



In February, Furman students performed *These Shining Lives*. The story deals with workers in a factory where they painted radium on clock dials. Students in the OLLI class “Inside the Playhouse,” toured the playhouse building, viewing the stage, dressing rooms, costume making, and set construction areas. The theater annex next door, which houses classrooms, costume storage, and props storage areas, was also toured. The picture at left is part of the sound control system and overlooks the stage, which was set up for *These Shining Lives*. After attending the play, the OLLI students were given the opportunity to discuss the production with cast and crew. It was an enjoyable experience, even though it was interrupted by the snow.

## OLLI MEMBERS' WORKS DISPLAYED IN BAIDEN GALLERY

Teachers and students of OLLI @ Furman classes during the past couple of years have had their work displayed in the Baiden Gallery. Watch OLLI Notes for announcements of future shows by our talented members. Chris Efner, Sandy Roback, and Gary Aten are the designated Baiden Gallery Installers, reporting to the Herring Center Art Committee. Sandy has also been pressed into service in the past for making and putting up the labels so you can see who provided the art.



Photographers had their works on display in January and February.



Watercolors are being displayed in March and April.

## VANDERBILTS CLASS SPEAKER

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Darren Poupore, a curator at Biltmore Estate in Asheville, spoke to the Vanderbilts class taught by Linda Kelly and Linda Russ. Mr. Poupore explained some history of the house and grounds and revealed much about the continual preservation of the mansion. His detailed presentation about the complicated process involved in researching and recreating items to make the rooms that are open to the public as authentic as possible, was eye opening to say the least. After the picture-loaded presentation he answered many questions from students in the packed classroom about Biltmore House and his work.

## MY MUSE IN SPRING

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William Burns

The spring rain comes and comes and comes.  
The end of the drought

And the weathermen want you to believe they did it  
The Greeks were so much better at this whole hubris thing

Cold dismal days  
Cold, clear rain water assaults the barren earth  
And everything becomes puddled  
Muddled and mushy

Suddenly the Sun arrives  
Shattering the solitude

All at once the ground is teeming with  
ten thousand tiny green shoots  
A backyard once comfortable  
in the quiet death of Winter  
Becomes terribly complicated  
with the noisome business of resurrection

The peeper frogs cheep  
And all the dead things begin the long arduous climb back to life  
The quiet air becomes filled with the chatter and palaver  
Of tiny creatures asking "Is it time yet?"  
And everything toils toward the promised renewal  
With the absolute certainty of the Silent Green Engine  
That lifts inanimate dirt into the complex dance of living.



## WHY DID THE GERMANS BOMB PEARL HARBOR?

Dave Gallemore

Why did the Germans bomb Pearl Harbor so far from my Waikiki hotel?

After all, Poland was so near and Oahu so far. It begs the question of why so many Japanese are still here and so few Germans remain.

I have even run into a few Americans from the States but most of them are just Yankees or Floridians

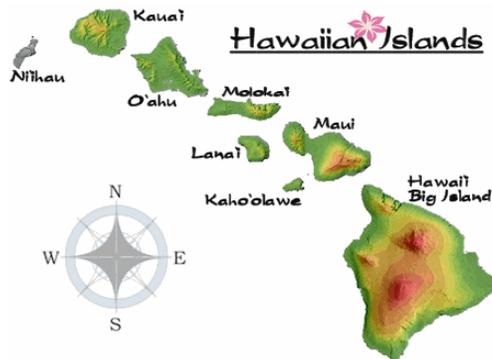
But as I was saying, to get to Pearl Harbor from here you have to have a shuttle pick you up at your motel and then someone else's motel and then a tall hotel before you start your trip through traffic (times two) bumpity bumpity bump bump bump!

We then had to see a museum and ride a boat out to the Memorial, but could stay only a bit before we had to come back -- but I picked up something interesting. It turns out the Germans liked Polish polkas and sausages more than rice and pineapple and wound up lighting up London, Liverpool, and Poland rather than Waikiki and Maui.

So here I am in Paradise driven by a London Pakistani right by the school where he said Obama and John Travolta's wife went to high school together (before she was wife). Strange how a foreigner can "teach" you things without even mentioning Kenya. Ha!!!

Haven't seen a pineapple, a lei or a grass skirt except for the waitress girls--and GUYS --next to the hotel on the other side of McDonald's. Garish greenish tinselly strips flowing over largish hips.

Speaking of largish hips, this tour van was not designed to accommodate mine and the way back from Pearl Harbor was like riding face up in a small luge heading downhill.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH OLLI @ FURMAN MEMBERS



Paladin football was the excuse for food and fun in October during the OLLI Tailgate gathering



The Bon Secours Wellness Center was visited during a behind the scenes tour of the Greenville Road Warriors Hockey program. The tour was judged a complete failure when the group was not allowed to drive the Zamboni.



Eaton's Winter Wayfaring group was bundled up against the cold, but the weather was sunny, during a January hike.

Photos by Greg Parker

## THE LAST WORD

**variety** |və'riətē|noun (pl. **varieties**)

**1** the quality or state of being different or diverse; the absence of uniformity, sameness, or monotony: *It's the variety that makes my job so enjoyable.*

- (**a variety of**) a number or range of things of the same general class that are different or distinct in character or quality: *The center offers a variety of activities.*
- a thing that differs in some way from others of the same general class or sort; a type: *fifty varieties of fresh and frozen pasta.*
- a form of television or theater entertainment consisting of a series of different types of acts, such as singing, dancing, and comedy: *In 1937 she did another season of variety.* | [ as modifier ] : *a variety show.*

**2** Biology - a taxonomic category that ranks below subspecies (where present) or species, its members differing from others of the same subspecies or species in minor but permanent or heritable characteristics.

- a cultivated form of a plant.
- a plant or animal that varies in some trivial respect from its immediate parent or type.

## PHRASES

**Variety is the spice of life.** proverb New and exciting experiences make life more interesting.

ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from French *variété* or Latin *varietas*, from *varius*

This is not one of the largest issues of *Gray Matters*, but it certainly illustrates variety. Our OLLI @ Furman members take part in a huge variety of activities and show a variety of talent. Take a minute and thumb back through this issue; on every page, you will see how OLLI @ Furman members are contributing to our organization's success and at the same time pursuing their own interests. Brad Bechtold closed his article with: *We could not do it without you!* That's certainly true. So, carry on with your own variety of activities, but don't forget to consider how you can contribute to OLLI's variety too. That truly can be the spice of life.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR NOTES AND DOODLES.

If you create a “memorable work of art” in this space photocopy it and place it in the *Gray Matters* mail box in the OLLI office. We will select one or two to include in the next issue.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for notes and doodles. The box is defined by a thick black border and occupies the majority of the page below the introductory text.