It has been a long, hot summer and most of us are anxiously awaiting cooler weather. For many, however, our greatest anticipation comes with the start of OLLI classes. Being with old friends and having the opportunity to make new friends is one of the greatest benefits of being a member of OLLI.

This summer was not all vacation time for OLLI. We’re still celebrating three outstanding accomplishments.

One was a result of last year’s member survey - OLLI’s first summer session was held in June with 20 classes and 200 students participating. What a great start for a summer program!

Next came the four-part series “The Legacy of the Civil War and the Long Road to Civil Rights” co-sponsored by OLLI and the Riley Institute. Dr. A. V. Huff, Professor Emeritus of History at Furman, and beloved OLLI instructor, hosted the sessions. Held in the Younts Center, average attendance was 255, many more than anticipated. As an additional bonus, the majority of each session was made up of OLLI members.
Finally, WE DID IT! After many years of hard work by a multitude of people, the Fundraising Committee was dissolved. The press release for the groundbreaking of our building was as follows:

Furman University held a groundbreaking ceremony on campus Thursday, Aug. 25 for its newest building, the Herring Center for Lifelong Learning.

The 10 a.m. ceremony took place at the future site of the building, which will be located next to the Younts Conference Center and across from Timmons Arena.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September and be completed by August 2012.

The $6.4 million, 23,000-square-foot Herring Center for Lifelong Learning will house Furman’s Division of Continuing Education, including offices of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Bridges to a Brighter Future, Center for Corporate and Professional Development, Learning for You, and Undergraduate Evening Studies. It will also provide classroom space for these programs.

The naming gift for the Center was provided by Furman graduates Sarah and Gordon Herring of Greenville, who have been generous and longtime donors of the university. Other major donors include local foundations, alumni and friends. OLLI members were the driving force behind the effort and make up the majority of the donors.

“This new building, with its emphasis on providing educational opportunities for the community, represents the core of Furman’s values and its educational system,” said university president Rod Smolla. “Learning is a lifelong endeavor, and any great university must be deeply connected to the community that surrounds it.”

The groundbreaking ceremony included remarks by Smolla, Herring, Continuing Education director Brad Bechtold, and OLLI at Furman president Robert Howell.

I want to express my sincere thanks to three groups of people who make OLLI the outstanding program we all enjoy:

First to our instructors (many of whom have been teaching for several years)—what a great selection of classes we are able to offer.

Next to the committee chairs and all the volunteers who work on those committees—your hard work and efforts are appreciated by all of the members.

Last, but certainly not least, to the staff—Director Lucy Woodhouse, along with Barbara Mallon, Susan Rae, and Nancy Kennedy have stepped up to do a fabulous job. They are a pleasure to work with and provide us with answers to the many questions that come up as we work to keep OLLI@Furman the great organization that it is.
The groundbreaking ceremony was presided over by Furman University President Rodney Smolla, Continuing Education Director Brad Bechtold, OLLI @ Furman President Bob Howell, and naming donors Sarah Weaver Herring and Gordon Herring.

Furman’s Continuing Education Department Staff at the groundbreaking.

Photos by Alan Weinberg
"Being a Book Buddy is a win-win for everyone. It is a way for the volunteer to give back to the community. It is a confidence and esteem builder for the student, and it is a support to the teacher. I look forward each week to visiting with my Book Buddies and seeing the progress that has been made." - Dea Cox, OLLI Book Buddy 2010-2011

"Reading with Katy and Jorge is one of the highlights of my week. Through them - and our 4th and 5th grade books, I've met the young slave who grew up to be a Civil War hero, and Vanessa Hudgens, star of the popular High School Musical movies. I've discovered the Diaries of a Wimpy Kid and the perils of a young Katrina survivor, and I've connected with two delightful new friends. Our families and traditions are quite different from one another, but we always find common experiences when we are turning the pages of our books together." - Sue Renault, OLLI Book Buddy 2010-2011

Duncan Chapel Elementary School (behind Publix on Poinsett Hwy) is looking for volunteers to read with “at risk” children. These children are selected for the Book Buddy Program because they have no one at home who is able to read to them (in English), and usually they do not read at grade level. Each Book Buddy volunteer reads with their student for one half-hour per week, at a mutually convenient time. The Book Buddy can read to the child, read with the child, or listen to the child read to him or her – depending on the student’s age and ability. The objective is to show the child that reading is fun and worth the effort to learn. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Connie Kane-Maguire (ckanemaguire@gmail.com) about this opportunity to help a child.

For the past several years, OLLI has been the largest single contributor of volunteers to the Book Buddy program at Duncan Chapel. We would like some new folks to add to our team so that we can continue and strengthen this wonderful partnership. The school is very near the Furman campus. Please look at your OLLI schedule to see if you have a little time before, after, or between classes, when you might be available to read with a child.

**FALL TERM STATISTICS**

- **844** Annual Members registered for Fall

- 243 have a 6 course package (doubled from last year!)
- 92 have a 9 course package
- 56 have a 15 course package

- 380 people are taking one or two classes (not package owners)

- 1527 class seats filled (average 1.9 classes per person)
- 561 Bonus Trips and Events class seats filled by 254 people
- 2088 class and BTE seats filled (average 2.7 classes/events per person)

- 62 annual members not taking classes (includes instructors and members)
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Barbara Leimsieder

The Membership Committee has been split into two committees.

One, the Volunteer Committee, will focus on recruiting, training and assigning volunteers for OLLI. Joy Eaton is the chair of this new committee.

The other, the Membership Committee, will focus on delivering brochures and calling new members to welcome them to OLLI each term, recruiting and coordinating class liaisons, coordinating the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and conducting member surveys.

Both committees need new members. If you are interested in the Volunteer Committee, please contact Joy at 864-834-5239. If you are interested in the Membership Committee, please contact Barbara at 864-467-9411.

HERRING CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING - CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

September 15, 2011           Photo by Bob Howell
The sheep all sleep.
It's dreamtime on night's clock.
The shepherd, like his flock, pursues the rest he needs that night. Then from above, astounding light and golden song, angelic throng!
A God-sent message told. "The manger! "Go! Behold before comes morn your Savior born!"

THE SHEPHERD'S TALE
(a hexaduad)
Sally Adkins

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Karl Sedlarz


OLLI finished the past fiscal year with net revenues from member paid fees of $202,728 and had expenses of $233,485, including the required surplus to Furman University for its support of OLLI operation. This resulted in a deficit of $30,757. Fortunately, and anticipated, earnings from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute endowment, which was received in March 2009, were about $135,000, which more than offset our operational deficit. After applying a portion ($57,797) of these endowment earnings to offset the operational expenses, OLLI showed a surplus of $27,039. This surplus was then used to cover a shortfall in the Crabtree/Huff room-naming opportunities, and so OLLI's books were actually in balance, showing neither a surplus nor a deficit.

The remainder of the endowment earnings (about $77,000) was used to replenish OLLI's own program support funds, which were depleted to cover the two previous years' (2008 and 2009) deficits of $40,000. Another $10,000 was set aside for new computer equipment in the new building, leaving about $27,000 available for future use.

OLLI is fortunate that it can use the earnings of the endowment to support its operation and it appears that at least in the near term there will be no need to raise our tuition fees. However, once the Herring Center is completed, the original amount of the endowment will be transferred to a building maintenance fund, and the earnings from the remaining balance will be smaller.
Furman students, OLLI seniors: Learning together
By FU student Erikah Haavie
[ This article originally appeared on FUNet (FU internal website). ]

For students taking EDU 234 during May Experience, some of the best lessons learned came from those sitting in chairs right next to them.

Dr. Lorraine DeJong’s class, “Intergenerational Learning with Senior Citizens,” brought students as young as 19 and as old as 91 to learn together and share experiences. The unique May Experience course is the first of its kind at Furman. The May Experience, also known as May X, is an optional three-week term following spring commencement that encourages innovative and intensive academic experiences.

Over the years, guest speakers from the OLLI program visited DeJong’s ED120 class in Human Development, and students always commented on how much they enjoyed the seniors’ visits. “The OLLI guests have always been a tremendous example of what to look forward to as we age and begin the years of retirement,” DeJong said.

The idea to create an intergenerational learning class blossomed into a unique partnership between DeJong and Lucy Woodhouse, director of the OLLI program. DeJong wrote and taught the course, while Woodhouse located sites in the Greenville area for students to visit and spread the word among senior adults who readily agreed to attend classes and share in daily discussions.

As part of DeJong’s class, undergraduates and senior citizens discussed specific issues related to aging and adult development, including nutrition and exercise, work and retirement, learning and leisure, religion and spirituality, family relationships, the media’s portrayal of older adults and issues of daily living such as housing. Participants toured locations across Greenville, including the St. Francis Hospital Millennium campus, The Woodlands at Furman, First Baptist Church, and Senior Action.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute member and author Jack Hansen visited the class to discuss details of the book he co-authored, *Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement*, and review the benefits of using qualitative research to gather information on the personal side of the retirement years. Students also sat down with seniors to hear their life stories, which they shared in PowerPoint presentations on the final day of class.

Janet Reddy, a member of OLLI, described class discussions as “extremely satisfying” and said she “loved being with the undergrads!”

“From the readings on the first day to the interviews during the last week, I have come to appreciate the older generation… I feel privileged that a few of them let us into their lives and shared stories that end up either being funny or acted as words of wisdom,” said student Nathan Wagner. “Learning with senior citizens has been one of the greatest experiences of my freshman year at Furman.”

Senior Patrick Mills said he hopes to see more intergenerational learning offered for students and seniors so that they can enhance each other’s learning experiences. “I felt that this course was academically enriching like no other course I’ve taken,” he said.

**MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS BY THE EDITOR**

Gary Aten

School is back in session and we can attend classes, tell each other what we did with our summer vacations, and look forward to raking leaves. There will be plenty of new friends to be made with the near record number of students signed up for classes and trips. We also have the opportunity to supervise the construction of our new home - very exciting.

**World War II Vets: We want you!** To commemorate 70 years since the entry of America into the Second World War, we are putting out a special edition of Gray Matters and would like to include brief stories of each OLLI member who served in any of the uniformed services. We are on our way with a few interviews completed and plan to have the issue ready in the spring. Please contact me at 864-294-6371 or by e-mail at garyaten@bellsouth.net.

Thanks to Carole Eisen, Nancy Kennedy, Lucy Woodhouse, & Judy Aten for proof reading this edition. Thanks also to the Gray Matters / Herring Center construction liaison, Dustin Dubree.

Does this issue seem a little thin? Well, typically our fall edition is not as big as others, but we could use more pictures, poems, reports, and articles. Our acceptance rate is VERY high, so now is your chance to be published. Contact me using the above phone and e-mail information.
THANK YOU, CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
Lucy Woodhouse

Do you want to know who to thank, or who to give your ideas to, regarding OLLI @Furman’s AWESOME Course offerings? Listed below are the incredible OLLI members who ask, inspire, challenge, and in some cases cajole, beg, and plead instructors to teach for OLLI at Furman. Next time you see them please give them a great big thanks, because they are working hard behind the scenes to fill each term with great offerings. If you would like to be a part of this amazing group, or have some ideas for courses, contact Jim Baker (jmbaker125@charter.net 895-5945) or Susan Rae (susan.rae@furman.edu 294-2998).

Curriculum Chairman:
Jim Baker
Staff Liaison to Curriculum
Susan Rae
Arts, Culture, Literature, and Music (ACM):
Margaret Howland (Lit)
Cindy Smithers (Music-Art)
Georgia Harrison (Art)
Business, Economics and Finance (BEF):
Dan Kappel
Computers and Technology (CPT):
Dan Kappel
Sarah Fletcher
Health, Fitness & Exercise (HFE):
Dick Eaton (Hiking)
Patty Coats
Harry King
History and Politics (HIS):
Nancy Gammons
Joanne Hutto
Tom Jenkins
Language and Travel (LNT):
Robyn Harmon
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Current Events & Other (CEO):
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Mignon Davis
Photography (CPT):
Bruce Schlein
Greg Peters
Lynn Henderson
Gordon Dohm
Tom Cox
Bruce McCandless
Al Weinberg
Practical Arts & Hobbies (PAH):
Jann Howell
Lucy Strausbaugh
Psychology, Personal Development, and Self Help (PPS):
Dudley Tower
Janet Reddy
Religion and Philosophy (RPH):
Barbara Massey
Susan Cooper
Science & Math (SNM):
Joe McCarty
Gil Knight
John Mioduski
Martin Zgraggen
Mary Lou Jones
Tours and Events (BTE):
Jim Smeaton (Industrial)
Elaine Brummett (Cultural)
SAVE THE DATES!

November 5th - Furman meets up with powerhouse Appalachian State and OLLI members will be there! Tailgating in Danny’s Grove before the 1:30 kickoff. Paladins need all the support they can rally for this game, so save the date. Details will follow in the OLLI Notes.

OLLI's Ghoulish Party with Halloween Storytelling by Monty Tucker
Costumes encouraged!
October 31 at 3:30 in the Camilla Room at The Woodlands

Registration for Winter Term
November 16 (Course Package Holders)
November 17 (Single Course Owners)

Lessons and Carol (Tickets will be made available in November)
December 11, 3:00 and 5:00

HERRING CENTER CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES
September 22, 2011 Staff photo by Hap A. Chure