EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Gary Aten

After being dragged into the 21st century by our children and continuing on ourselves, I was taking stock recently of our electronic and information hardware: laptop and desktop computers, smartphones, a WiFi router and the internet access that goes with it, wireless printer/copier, GPS, IPods, Kindle e-readers, digital cameras and clocks and calculators, Sirius radio, programmable thermostat, flat screen HD televisions with remote controls, digital video recorders and players, not to mention the appliances and cars that have circuit boards.

In 1950, sitting on the edge of a housebound woman’s bed with her two nieces, I watched a snowy Lone Ranger, my first glimpse of TV. A few years later, my father installed an antenna rotor on our house so the three TV stations we received could come in a little more clearly. This, of course, didn’t mean we didn’t have to continually adjust the horizontal and vertical picture holds. The other things mentioned above were only dreams, if that. Now, many of you have not even held a paper copy of Gray Matters. This sure beats the fuzzy old mimeograph, although it doesn’t have the nostalgic odor. When did you first see TV? Send me an email at gary.aten42@gmail.com. I’ll put your experiences in the next issue.

Also, if you have any pictures, poems, or articles you would like to contribute for Gray Matters I am always glad to receive them. If you would like to discuss a contribution you can call me at 307-871-1050.

If you are reading a hard copy of this issue, 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 put the issue on the website and arranged for the printing. Thanks to all who contributed articles and photos. Gray Matters is also indebted to our OLLI weather forecaster, Levon Coates, and our staff oceanographer, Marianna Trench.
After a rigorous two-month nationwide selection process, which included 85 applicants and three finalists, our search committee has reached a final decision on the appointment of a new director. I am pleased to announce that Nancy Kennedy has accepted our offer to become the Director of OLLI @ Furman effective May 1, 2014.

For the past three years, Nancy has served as the Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager for OLLI. Prior to her role at Furman, Nancy served as a Development Specialist for the American Red Cross. She has also been actively involved in leadership roles in a number of community, education, and faith-based organizations, including the Junior League of Greenville, school- and district-level PTA, the Furman Young Alumni Council, Public Education Partners, a Child’s Haven, and Christ Church Episcopal.

Nancy’s passion for OLLI, her strategic ideas for the future of OLLI, and her successful track record at Furman made her the clear frontrunner amidst some very tough competition. I am very excited by Nancy’s appointment and know that she will do a fantastic job in providing leadership to OLLI @ Furman.

Nancy Kennedy joined the OLLI staff in April 2011 as our Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager. Nancy describes her duties as the “fun stuff.” Charged with making sure things run smoothly, she oversees the student workers and OLLI volunteers and coordinates the Social Committee, as well as orders supplies and handles general troubleshooting. The South Carolina native describes OLLI as a happy place filled with interesting people who are pleased to be taking classes and interacting with others. She says that every day at OLLI is different and enjoyable, and she hasn’t had a bad one yet.

An active volunteer in the community, the stay-at-home mom decided to curtail some of her volunteering and enter the workforce to beef up her children’s college fund. Finding a position that fit with “mommy hours” (off to work after school begins and home before it lets out), wasn’t easy. The Furman graduate was certain OLLI had a specific person in mind when she saw their ad. However, the always optimistic Nancy sent in her application and was delighted to be offered the position.

Nancy earned her Master of Mass Communication degree with a focus on public relations and fundraising from USC, where she also met her husband, Patrick. The Kennedys relocated to Greenville in 1995 and have two children: a son, William, and a daughter, Mary Camilla.
Wayne Halli

As Bill Bryson wrote in his best-selling book about his attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail in one attempt, “Hiking is little more than a walk in the woods.”

Well, a couple of other guys also named Bill brought segments of Mr. Bryson’s book to life at Furman. Sarah Fletcher asked Bill Bozeman if he would think about starting a hiking class for OLLI (known then as FULIR), and he led the first class in March 2001. By the fall of 2002, the renowned Monday Intermediate Hiking program became a staple on the class listings.

What has grown from these simple beginnings of 12 years ago is amazing. Within two years we had Anne Martin and Virgil Story leading Thursday Hiking, which is still going strong today. Not long after that the original name of Wildflowers and Waterfalls was introduced by Dick and Joy Eaton and is also continuing. Monday Intermediate Hiking became so popular that each Bill had to start his own group: Bozeman’s Intermediate Hiking (now known as High Country Hikers) and Farmer’s Intermediate Hiking.

As of spring 2014, the hiking courses at OLLI @ Furman include Farmer’s Intermediate Hiking, High Country Hikers, Martin’s Hiking, The Rock Stars, Dave’s Hiking, and Wildflowers and Waterfalls. These combined classes have had over 200 students enroll this year plus the hike leaders - AMAZING!

We owe a grateful thanks to our Bills who have now turned over the duties of driving many miles to walk a few miles in the woods to others. This is what hikers do, but once you experienced walking in the woods with Bill Bozeman or Bill Farmer, you were hooked.

Thank you Bill and Bill.

Photos: Top left of Bill Bozeman, and lower right of two Bills, by Bob Howell
Top right of Bill Farmer by Marty Lazar
ANNE MARTIN’S BIRTHDAY

Anne Martin, the leader of Martin’s Intermediate Hiking, celebrated her 80th birthday during a lavish pot luck during the last hike of the winter term. Most of her current hiking group was present and were joined by past members of the group. Anne was honored by a gift in her name to the Lake Conestee Foundation, a cake of course, and other tokens of congratulations. The Conestee Foundation grant will fund a “pollinator project” on Henderson Meadow with the planting of two acres in wildflowers and several hives that will be installed to encourage bees in this new environment. Perhaps the high point of the day was a musical slideshow of past hikes provided by Ron Lawson. Ron also supplied these photos. Anne has been involved in leading a hiking group since 2002. Her quote of the day: “It’s good to be 80! I hope all of you get to experience it.”

WONDERING AROUND IN A FOG

Many OLLI people have been accused of doing this, but this group of High Country Hikers really are. Don’t worry - we hear they all made it back safely.

Photo by Bob Howell
OLLI @ Furman will be offering in the fall of 2014 the first of its kind Dynamic Aging Program (DAP). DAP is based on an interdisciplinary review of the latest research and theory on positive/successful aging from multiple scientific fields, melded into a proactive, interactive, and systemic approach to optimizing one’s own aging process – one that can be easily practiced by a motivated adult.

The program is restricted to 30 students and will consist of two classes and a group session, one day a week for about four hours during each of the fall, winter, and spring terms. Each term will be a standalone segment teaching different aspects of the dynamic aging process, and, while there is no commitment to taking the program for the entire year, priority each term will be given to those students who have attended the program in prior terms.

Why take this Program?
If you are an OLLI student, you’re probably already doing many things to improve your own aging process, and there is a good chance you will live to around 90 years of age or longer. Medical science has given us an additional 15-20 years of average lifespan as compared to our parents and grandparents. Unfortunately, almost anyone living to 90 years of age will experience some form of moderate to extreme age-related decline (either physical or mental, or both) that is, unless something is done now to minimize these negative changes to our mind and body, while we still have the capability.

Equally important, this longer lifespan for an increasing number of older adults actually represents a whole new stage in life. No longer concerned with raising a family or carving out a career, many older adults now have the time to establish new meaning and purpose in their lives, make a significant contribution to future generations, and achieve their true potential. However, living longer is not enough. No one can accomplish these goals if cognitively impaired or in severe pain most of the time. So without a proactive approach to one’s own aging process, it is highly probable we will squander these extra years, spending them in a state of relentless and painful decline.

DAP will show you how to minimize or even reverse the effects of age-related decline, maximize your energy levels to accomplish new goals, and teach you how to live these additional years with the highest possible quality of life – all in a supportive, interactive, and fun environment. To be successful in this program, all the student needs to do is be motivated, obtain an understanding and participate in the practices taught in class, learn from their fellow students in the program’s interactive group activities, and be open to the positive changes that will emerge from this process.

Learn more about DAP by clicking on the link below, or contact me directly by email:

Dudley@dynamicaginginstitute.com

http://www.dynamicagingintitute.com/dynamic-aging-program
The Irish Americans class, taught by Bob Dwyer and Mary McGee, pictured at left, was the catalyst for OLLI @ Furman holding its first St. Patrick’s Day celebration. A corned beef and cabbage dinner was advertised, but the day held much more for the attendees. There was indeed plenty of food, lots of “wearing of the green,” a singalong shown above, traditional Irish dancing, a couple of kilts, and even a bagpipe was heard in the Herring Center. It seems almost certain that St. Patrick’s Day will be an annual OLLI @ Furman event.

Photos by Greg Parker
Michael Cogdill, pictured with Jim Baker, was the Lunch & Learn speaker on Tuesday, March 25. Michael spoke about volunteering and helping others, using a resident of Scott Towers as his example.

Members of the Science Research at Furman University class witnessed a demonstration of a drone at the hands of a physics professor. The class has shown that Furman can compete with larger colleges on targeted research projects.

Many OLLI @ Furman members attended a poverty-simulation workshop at the Herring Center. Placing themselves in the positions of disadvantaged persons gave them a better understanding of the issues faced by low-income people.

On February 28, a group of OLLI @ Furman members visited Concrete Creations, the largest ornamental concrete manufacturer in South Carolina. They saw the manufacturing process from mold making to finished product.

Photo by Greg Parker

Photo by Bruce Schug
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 the Library
2. North of the PAC
3. Visible from the Mall
4. Next to the Rinker/Townes/Plyler Bldg

Answer below:

The Henderson Greenhouse. Taken from the Bell Biology Plant Growth Suite end.

COFFEE ANYONE?

In April, OLLI members visited the West End Coffee Company for the Coffee Roasting and Tasting bonus trip. A plethora of information was available on where coffee is grown, how it’s harvested, and the different types. A batch of coffee was roasted, and different methods of making coffee were demonstrated.

Top: OLLI members take advantage of tasting different types and roast levels of coffees.

Bottom: West End employees demonstrate different ways to brew coffee.

Photos by Rebecca Schramm, West End Coffee Company Owner
Another academic year for OLLI @ Furman has gone by. We now have more members (about 1600), we have more classes (about 90 per term), and we have enough support for our OLLI. All in all, another year of success. WHO did it? A very small group of extraordinary staff members together with a huge group of OLLI volunteers that's WHO! And thank you all.

Back in the fall of 2013 the goal for this academic year was not more members or more space but more overall QUALITY! What is more quality for OLLI? It is great instructors for interesting subjects masterfully presented in exciting classes that meet and attract the interest of our members. The quality of instructors is reflected in excellent classes and in the satisfaction of our members. Progress in quality will attract more members and thus more funds. It is really quite simple: more quality will lead to more of everything else.

With that simple principle we can see where OLLI is going:
Better Program--> More Members--> More Funds--> More Enjoyment--> More Happiness!

Let us keep it up. Enjoy your summer!

OLLI MEMBERS SCORE IN TENNIS FINALS

OLLI members Captain Alan Bornmueller, at right, and Joe Pelissier, at left, part of the Greenville tennis team the Double Nickles, competed in the national championships in Surprise, Arizona. The eight-member team survived a second-place finish in the sectionals only to be awarded a wild card entry to the nationals. Seven of the members made the journey and finished second out of 12 teams at their level. They lost only one match, and that was in a tie-breaker.

Congratulations
Joe and Alan!

Although it probably didn’t help a lot, it didn’t hurt that Olliver was on hand to lend support and guard the trophy.
The planners of the Lake Jocassee Loons and More bonus event had their share of problems, but not the participants. First, the class was so popular a second day was added. Next, the first scheduled day had to be postponed because of weather. All was well in the end, however, as four boatloads of people took part in two days of fun. Many loons were spotted, along with other wildlife and stunning scenery. Local history and biology information received from the boat pilot was a great bonus. Who knew that some of those eerie sounding birds of the North were wintering near here?

Members of the Cooking Italiano! class took a step in the right direction by at least looking like chefs during a class in April. There is no statistical data to confirm whether wearing a chef’s hat makes a student a better cook, but it can’t hurt, and it truly looks fantastic.
ANOTHER DAY

Dave Gallemore

He stares at the barely visible ceiling, dimmed by thick drapes over the window heating unit. Thumb and forefinger lift eyelids-- but fail. Strewn covers lock the knees and the neck-cracking pillow holds a head still full of sleep memories wending their way back to shadow.

Waking in a motel room in a strange city—alone. Not really alone. From his place on the very edge of the mattress he feels a familiar nudge, a cold, fiery stab at his heel, an Achilles of too sensitive skin for this icy-tongued foe. No more space at the edge, no room to give. The doxie has won again, the only option now to rise.

Another Motel 6 morning on the road with Buddy.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Jim Smeaton

I was named chairman of the Curriculum Committee in June of 2013, succeeding Jim Baker. At last I feel comfortable leading this diverse and stimulating group of people. I now understand fully the dynamics and structure of the organization. The old adage "time flies when you are having fun" definitely applies here. Getting to know a lot more OLLI members has been the highlight of my tenure.

The Curriculum Committee is a large organization. There are 18 subcommittees each led by a chairperson or co-chairs. Total staffing consists of 94 positions. The Curriculum Committee is large by design to distribute the workload and to achieve enough diversity within the subcommittees to have the critical mass of creativity needed to identify and develop new courses, thereby adding variety to the OLLI @ Furman curriculum.

The 2014 summer flyer is available online. Twenty-three courses and activities plus five BTEs (Bonus Tours and Events) are being offered. I'm excited about the mix of popular offerings from last year and some interesting new ones. Don't miss them! The Curriculum Committee is now actively engaged in constructing the fall course line-up, as we must work at least one term in advance. The target is to have 95 regular courses and activities, 27 BTEs and 9 Tuesday Lunch & Learn sessions. We are at work for you!
As a child in England, Richard built models, a hobby that has continued to this day. His early model-building experiences included models made from highly precision-cut card stock, generally from Germany or Poland. Model-building has been part of his life since that time, and branched out to pop-up cards and sheets. He is proud of his grandchildren, who also enjoy making pop-up cards in an era when many youngsters don’t do anything with their hands but operate the electronic game controls. He really increased the amount and the level of modeling after his retirement from project work with a variety of Celanese incarnations. At that point, he started a business building models for architects, but it later suffered from the economic downturn. His model-building now includes boats. He has several, and they are all radio controlled and highly detailed, as you can see from the photo below. Up until now, these have been motor driven models, but Richard is in the process of building a sailboat model.

The other major portion of his work is the construction of three-dimensional building models from card stock. Many of these are a bas relief construction in a frame like he is holding in the photo. A lighted, three-dimensional church model is shown below, right. Richard and his wife Rosemary live in Carilion and have been members of OLLI since last July.

Richard is willing and eager to share his knowledge. If you have ever contemplated building a radio-controlled boat or card stock models now is your chance. You can contact Richard at 864-517-5055 or ricardo0007@att.net
GOOD-BYE TO OUR FORMER HOME

The last four units of the former FULIR/OLLI home are shown here all wrapped and ready to be moved off site. They may look less than attractive here, but they were a welcome change from the basement of Plyler Hall and served us well for several years. Perhaps some other group will make good use of them.

TRIBUTES

Connie Irby, Tributes Editor

Gae McCord

First, the smile, then the sparkling eyes, then the intellect. These went away on March 22, 2014, except in the minds of those who knew Edna (Gae) McCord, former FULIR (OLLI) president and friend to many. After moving to Greenville upon the passing of her husband, Gae devoted herself to the service of others, both at FULIR, OLLI, and in the community’s arts programs, especially the Greenville Museum of Art. She did this in the face of debilitating physical challenges. She left Greenville for Novi, Michigan in 2005 to move closer to her family. Her send-off party was a large gathering of friends who were both happy for her legacy of joy and sad at her departure. In Michigan, she was originator of Fox Run YOU, a community-based continuing education program targeting residents of the Fox Run adult-living complex. Gae’s health continued to decline and she died peacefully in her sleep. Let us all remember a warm, noteworthy woman’s smile, sparkling eyes and keen intellect.

Venita Allison

Our friend and great OLLI teacher died March 9. She lived in Greenville until age 16, when the family moved to Texas. She married at 17 but continued her education to a Ph.D. in molecular biology. Venita taught at Southern Methodist University for 39 years, many as Chair of Biology, and researched the genetic control of cancer. She retired to Pelzer, SC and joined FULIR in 2003. At FULIR/OLLI she taught Human Biology: Selected Topics, Intro to Cell Biology, and was co-instructor for Aspects of Biology, Everyday Uses of Science, Understanding the Human Body, and History of Medicine. Her knowledge, enthusiasm for biological science, communication skills, and ready smile are greatly missed at OLLI. She leaves one daughter, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandsons.

by Dave Gallemore

by Elaine Brummett
SENIOR LEADERS GREENVILLE
Chuck Hawkins, co-chair, Senior Leaders Greenville

SENIOR LEADERS GREENVILLE (SLG) CONTINUES TO BUILD MOMENTUM TOWARDS NOVEMBER GRADUATION.

With completion of four class sessions, the twenty-nine members continue to become better acquainted and to talk of post-course project planning. Class evaluations are closely reviewed by Steering Committee members to ensure that participants’ suggestions are incorporated into future course offerings.

Classes have been held at Cascades-Verdae, the Herring Center, and Greenville Technical College. The June session will be held at USC Medical School located at the Greenville Hospital System Campus. During the July-August break, participants are encouraged to attend the Straight Talk lecture series presented by OLLI and the Riley Institute.

With the state of South Carolina forecasting double the number of senior-aged residents to nearly 2 million people over the next 15 years, SLG graduates will face ever-growing challenges. OLLI leadership continues to be encouraged by the career backgrounds, including Greenville area volunteerism, which our initial SLG class brings to the program.

SUMMER IS UPON US
Whether your summer takes you near, as above, or far, as below, have a good summer. Come back and join us in the fall.
The Last Word

transition [tranˈziSHən, -ˈsiSHən]

noun
the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another: students in transition from one program to another | a transition to multiparty democracy.
• a passage in a piece of writing that smoothly connects two topics or sections to each other.
• Music a momentary modulation from one key to another.
• Physics a change of an atom, nucleus, electron, etc., from one quantum state to another, with emission or absorption of radiation.

verb
undergo or cause to undergo a process or period of transition: [ with obj. ]: the network ought to be built by the federal government and then transitioned into private industry | [ no obj. ]: we have transitioned from a high-intensity combat operation to a support role in the community.

ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from French, or from Latin transitio(n-), from transire ‘go across.’

We are all familiar with this word. As we get older, we have undergone many transitions in our lives. Some have been good: birthdays, weddings, children, and retirement are examples of transitions in our lives that we usually celebrate. Some have been bad: sickness, deaths, financial difficulty, and perhaps even retirement are things we might have been exposed to that we didn’t enjoy. Some are a mixture; as we look forward to the transition from the cold weather of winter, we know that the change to the high temperatures of late summer are following. Some may just be confusing; the editorial about our move into the high-tech world is an example of that. Hopefully, OLLI @ Furman has helped you make the transition to retirement more enjoyable, rewarding, and meaningful. OLLI @ Furman has transitioned over the years from a couple of rooms in a basement to our wonderful Herring Center. Now OLLI is undergoing other transitions. With Nancy Kennedy taking the helm of our ever larger craft of learning, this transition promises to be one of the good ones. One of our student workers, Jessica Crumley, is getting married and entering graduate school at Clemson. Although we are sad to see her go, these transitions are exciting for her, and we wish her the best.