



2022 National Survey of OLLI Participants

Every two years since 2014, the OLLI National Resource Center has conducted a survey of participants of selected OLLI programs. The most recent, administered last Fall, included OLLI at Furman and fourteen other OLLI programs which together are representative of the entire OLLI network.

The 2022 survey explored four types of information about OLLI participants: (1) demographic characteristics; (2) relocation, part or full-time work, and technology and social media use; (3) course topics of greatest interest; and (4) experience with and attitudes toward online learning. Additionally, this year the survey asked about primary sources of personal self-worth/significance.

Thanks to those of you who participated in the survey, we can compare OLLI at Furman participants with the OLLI network as a whole. For example, the percentage of participants at Furman age 70 and above is somewhat higher than the national average (75.1% compared to 73.5%). The ratio of male to female participants at Furman is substantially higher than the national average (0.677 vs. 0.463). Relocation is also higher at Furman than the national average (31.1% vs. 27.8%).

The topical areas of greatest interest to both Furman OLLI members and those of other OLLI programs are very similar. The five most popular are History, Fine Arts, Current Affairs, Literature, and Health and Wellness.

A significant difference between OLLI at Furman and other programs is in the preferred learning modality (in-person, online, hybrid of the two). Yearly 82.9% of Furman participants prefer in-person experiences compared to 55.2% of all survey participants. This difference is likely attributable to the ease of parking, our region's mild climate (infrequent snowy or icy road conditions), and the modest levels of COVID-19 compared to the locales of some other OLLI programs.

Sources of personal self-worth/significance most frequently cited by Furman participants are intellectual growth (67.4%), friendships (65.5%), and family relationships (59.5%). Creative growth, spiritual life, and volunteer activities all were noted by between 20% and 30% of participants. These percentages are quite similar to the national averages.

Finally, the level of satisfaction of OLLI participants at Furman is very high. A total of 79.0% of Furman OLLI participants rate the program as "outstanding" or "exceeds expectations." The corresponding national percentage is 68.3%.



For more detailed information contact Jack Hansen (jhansen@ihmc.org). He is part of the team that designs and analyzes these surveys.

Three cheers for OLLI at Furman



Nancy Kennedy, OLLI Director, explains about the Board and all those committees that help to keep OLLI at Furman running so smoothly.

One of the hallmarks of programs like OLLI@Furman is volunteer involvement. In fact, it's a requirement of the Osher Foundation. Volunteer engagement and support make our program richer for all. The energy and ideas our volunteers bring to the program are so valuable, and I am grateful for everything our volunteers accomplish!

Serving on OLLI Council or various committees are two volunteer options. But what do these groups do?

OLLI Council is composed of 3 elected officers (President, President-Elect, and VP for Administration and Finance, each serving a 2-year term), 6 elected at-large members (3-year terms), and chairs of each of the standing committees (chairs are appointed by the president and serve up to 3 years). Council meets four times each year.

The **Curriculum Committee** plans the courses you enjoy each term. More than 80 OLLI members serve on the committee, broken up into subcommittees based on topic area (computers, Arts/Culture/Literature/Music, etc.). Each subcommittee identifies courses in their area by contacting current and former



instructors, identifying potential new instructors, and accepting unsolicited courses proposed by new instructors.

Once a course is slated for a specific term, the **Instructor Support Committee** takes over, planning thank-you events and trainings for our volunteer instructors. Eight to ten members of this committee visit courses taught by brand-new instructors, and also offer help to any instructor who might need assistance with technology, making a syllabus, or other aspects of teaching. This committee's goal is to make sure all instructors are successful and enjoying their time teaching at OLLI.

Two committees plan events and programs that enrich the OLLI experience. The **Travel**

Committee, made up of eight to ten OLLI members, assembles a full menu of opportunities—from local day trips to regional overnight trips to longer national and international trips. The **Social Committee** plans a series of events large and small that appeal to a wide variety of OLLI members, giving us all a chance to have fun while making new friends. Ten to twelve serve on this committee.

Two committees work directly with the business side of our program. Six to eight **Long Range Planning Committee** members plan for the future, helping ensure we are prepared for growth and change. Another 6-8 members serve on the **Finance and Administration Committee**, overseeing OLLI's operating and reserve funds, helping make sure we are fiscally responsible. They also set course and membership fees, approve non-budgeted expenses, and set the term schedules.

You are enjoying the work of the **Newsletter Committee** as you read this edition of OLLI Life. The editor and her small committee of several regular and talented article contributors, proofreaders,

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and photographers, write and submit their work for quarterly editions. They welcome and appreciate guest submissions as well.

A few ad-hoc committees round out this list, such as the **Nominating Committee**, formed each January to develop a slate of Council members to be voted on in May. Per our operating policies and procedures, the Nominating Committee consists of the President-Elect, the Volunteer

Committee chair, and three additional OLLI members. The **Read and Explore with OLLI Committee** forms each summer to choose a book and plan related programming for OLLI's community read. You can thank the 6 members of this year's committee for another outstanding program.

Finally, 4 members of the **Volunteer Committee** help fill open spots for all volunteer needs

at OLLI, including committees. They also find creative ways to thank and recognize all of our volunteers. If you'd like to explore ways to volunteer at OLLI, whether on a committee, in the classroom, in the office, or something else, contact Heidi Wright at Heidi.Wright@Furman.edu. She would love to speak with you!

SAFETY ON THE SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL

Spring is definitely in the air. Do you, family members or friends, use the Swamp Rabbit Trail? Do you walk, run, bike, roller blade or skateboard (maybe your grandkids do these last two) on the Trail?

Maybe you only cross the trail as an automobile driver.



vehicle driver. Extra caution is to be exerted near the Trail for people, animals, tykes on trikes and those on other modes of transportation. Stay

However you travel, you may be confused by the myriad of warning signs that are posted along the way. Sometimes they may seem a little cryptic depending on the area

or direction you are going.



safe and keep others safe as well.



One thing is for certain; they all announce that you need to take caution whether you are a pedestrian on foot or wheels, or a

Thank you Greg Parker for submitting these photos

Greenville's Natural World Threatened by Unbridled Development

By James T. Hammond

I live in the woods, on the former farm of my grandparents, on the shore of Lake Robinson, a reservoir built and operated by the Greer Commission of Public Works.



Ten years after returning to the landscape I roamed in my youth, I feel I have grown closer in touch with the natural world that is increasingly under threat from unregulated development.

My newest acquisition of technology has recently drawn me more deeply into the life of the remnant of forest where we live. A friend put me on to a new app for my iPhone. It's called Merlin, and it was developed by a division of Cornell University.

Turn on the free app, and it begins listening to the surrounding landscape for the calls of birds. I was astonished by what Merlin produced. In about 10 days, it had recorded the sounds of more than 60 types of birds. And I know there are more types of birds that I've seen in the past, but just haven't shown up in the past couple of weeks.

So far, Merlin has recorded four kinds of owls, five kinds of woodpeckers, and two kinds of Loons, seldom seen, but often heard on the lake. My greatest thrill was the appearance of the Great Horned Owl, which I've believed to live here but had never seen.

This abundance and variety of life that lives around us was a surprise to me. Many of the birds are not often seen, and are only evident to me once Merlin started listening and recognizing the many calls wafting through the trees.

This discovery has given new urgency to my concerns about the vanishing habitat in northern Greenville County, illustrated by 45 acres next door to our property that is now bare of any trees, habitat lost to

the myriad wild creatures that require intact forest to feed themselves and to reproduce.

Coincidentally, I attended an OLLI presentation recently by Frank Holleman, president of the Greenville-based Naturaland Trust, a conservation nonprofit that in the 50 years of its existence has protected thousands of acres of mountain land and streams in Greenville County's mountain escarpment. Much of their work has been done along one of the Upstate's foremost scenic highways, SC-11. Holleman describes his mission as "a long-term project to preserve intact the mountain crest north of Greenville."

Also active in the region is Upstate Forever, another local conservation nonprofit that recently announced several projects that will protect an additional 700 acres in Greenville County.

The Naturaland Trust works with the state Conservation Bank, willing sellers among the region's landowners, and national nonprofit conservation groups such as the Nature Conservancy to connect threatened streams and the flora and fauna that live there. An example was Naturaland's cooperation with the Nature Conservancy to protect 1,700 acres known as the Nine times Forest in the Eastatoe Creek basin near SC-11.

Naturaland Trust has been instrumental in protecting more than 100,000 acres of land and owns and manages 8,300 acres. Anyone who has visited and hiked the Raven Cliff Falls Trail near Caesar's Head State Park has seen one of the landmark preservation projects spearheaded by Naturaland Trust.

Sadly, habitat protection has not been given a high priority outside of the most mountainous regions. My wonderful feathered neighbors in our forest remnant on Lake Robinson may only find refuge in these precious redoubts.

If you are interested in the work of Naturaland Trust, check out their website: NATURALANDTRUST.ORG.

Thank you Jim for this interesting and informative article.

Mike O'Neill - Life Long AND Long Distance Learner



Mike O'Neill

Retirement usually means leaving paperwork and bureaucracy behind, so how did I find myself sorting through 2,000 year-old memos from the Roman Empire? The prime suspects: Ginny, Pliny and Zoom.

Ginny, of course, is Ginny Anderson, one of OLLI's crown jewels. Pliny was once in charge of a remote province of the Empire. The Zoom gods and gremlins need no introduction.

My journey back in time began when I resumed my Latin studies at Hunter College here in New York. Latin 101 started in the classroom but quickly went virtual when the City was locked down for the pandemic. Our assignments continued from home and before long I was conjugating verbs, declining nouns and confusing my pronouns like a teenager. I

was ready for more.

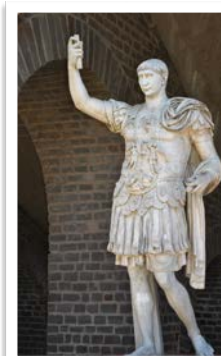
A quick Google search found the courses Ginny was teaching at OLLI. With so much running via Zoom, she welcomed me as a long-distance disciple. My new classmates and I marched through Gaul with Caesar, translating his Commentaries as we went. (Yes, Gaul really was divided into three parts and, spoiler alert, Caesar should have 'beware'd' the Ides of March.)

Later, when I added Ginny's advanced/hybrid Latin class, I joined a group of scholars who were mid-way through translating Pliny's office correspondence with the Emperor Trajan in Rome. History is filled with tales of the generals, statesmen and scoundrels who built Rome, but only Pliny preserved a record of how the Empire was actually administered on a daily basis.

We've deciphered budget



Supporting piers of Trajan's Bridge on the right bank of the Danube, in modern Serbia.



Statue of Trajan, posing in military garb, in front of the Amphitheater of [Colonia Ulpia Traiana](#) in the Xanten Archaeological Park

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requests, executive orders and appointments. We've debated a few "build back better" plans, and analyzed controversial legal opinions. Thanks to a trove of ancient inter-office memos (none marked Top Secret), a land once 'long ago and far away' soon seemed like it was just around the corner.

Greek legends were next on the agenda, and with the guidance of Furman's Chris Blackwell, I've re-fought the Trojan War and am now tracking a homeward-bound Odysseus through the Mediterranean.

Heroic journeys. Roman conquests. The corner office of an Empire. Thanks OLLI for bringing a few wonders of the world back to life.

Editor's Note: Ginny Anderson formerly taught Latin at Furman, and has been teaching Latin classes at OLLI since 2005.



Trajan's Column, in Rome, with a statue of St. Peter on top. The statue was installed by a Renaissance pope.



Close up of Trajan's Column



The amphitheater at [Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa](#)

Many thanks to two great proofreaders, Betsy MacCarthy and Anne Coble, for their expertise and assistance with this edition of OLLI Life.



Vicario Micro-Distillery and Farm - OLLI Bonus Event January 20, 2023

Artisanal liqueurs

Did you know that a giant 'tea bag' is used to combine macerated herbs and unflavored alcohol to make liqueurs?

"Vicario micro-distillery and farm creates gin and fifteen different award-winning liqueurs from a considerable compendium of knowledge of historical, cultural and mythological characteristics of the herbs, spices, nuts and fruits which have been used for many centuries in liqueur making."

Jeannette Wesley and Renato Vicario welcomed us to their tasting facility,



located at their farm in Greer, where they grow stinging nettle to offset the properties of our southern clay-rich soil.

Our OLLI group saw, touched, smelled, and tasted many of the raw ingredients, as well as 19 quite unique liqueurs, including Seville Orange, Savage Cherry, and Herbal Amaro!

This was, indeed, an "outstanding tasting experience!"

For descriptions of each liqueur visit www.SaluteLLC.com or call 864-420-0225



Thank you Anne Doyle for sharing this article and photos from the Bonus Event at Vicario Micro-distillery and Farm



SECTION HIKING ON THE FOOTHILLS TRAIL BY THE MONDAY HIKING GROUP

With the Winter Session over, I wanted to point out that the Monday Hiking Group, led by Jess Greer, has taken our hiking group out of our comfort zone and put us to a challenge. The challenge will be to do the Foothills Trail, which is 77 miles long, from the Oconee State Park to Table Rock State Park. This is South Carolina's version of the Appalachian Trail. In fact, many people hike the Foothills Trail to get prepared mentally and physically to do the Appalachian Trail.



With that said, Jess broke down the hikes into 10 segments, 5 of which were done in the Winter Session and the rest will be finished in the Spring Session. We started out at Oconee State Park and are moving eastward. Doing a section hike involves many aspects of coordination, and with 20 plus people, that can be a bit of a challenge. This will involve cars, vans and boats to get us from Point A to Point B on every section we do....The spring session will be a lot of water shuttles to get us to the most northern point of Lake Jocassee.



I have to say that the Foothills Trail is maintained by many volunteers and they do an awesome job. Plus we have to thank Jocassee Lake Tours which will provide us with the water shuttles and van service on some of the sections we will be doing. This is a first for any of the hiking groups that OLLI has organized. This is not



recommended for first time hikers but something that can be achieved once you are ready, willing and able.

For further information:
www.foothillstrail.org
www.jocasseecharters.com
www.jocasseelaketours.com

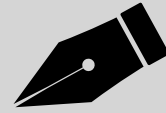
The most IMPORTANT aspect of doing the Foothills Trail....We want our Peregrine Award Badge to proudly display on our hiking packs.... Would there be any other reason?

Thank you to Kathleen Durava for this article and pictures, and congratulations to all of you!



Always a Writer

by Bonnie Neely



When I was in first grade I told my mother I wanted to be a writer someday. In my teens I was editor of Greenville High News and wrote wedding stories for The Greenville News. With a syndicated newspaper column (Formulas For Fun by Beth Stone) for a decade, my first two books were published in the 1980s. Then I received many rejections for my next projects, and I always cried. The World Wide Web was newly opened to the public (1993) although the Military had used the Internet since 1969. My husband Bill gave me an early model laptop computer in the late 1990s.



advised me to ask other writer friends to send stories also, and www.RealTravelAdventures.com was born as the first #travelgram on the Internet. It is still a popular travel site and now in its 23rd year!

Bill, a #travelholic, loves to drive, and my new book Real Ventures tells our true, hilarious, and sometimes frightening experiences #camping in motor homes on holidays for 47 years. We stayed in #nationalparks in all US states, all Canadian provinces, and went #exploring in #RVs through 8 other foreign countries. Bill drove miles equivalent to 25 times around the earth's equator, or 3 times to the moon! This is a book you will not want to miss, whether you are a traveler or a dreamer!

This wonderful computer had a button that said, "Publish your own work." That computer gift was like giving a drunk a liquor store! Soon I wrote an article about a place we had enjoyed on a recent trip, and I pushed the magic button, and my story was published on the WWW immediately. Too good to be true! My neighbor

Editor's Note: Real Ventures: Did We Really Do That! by Bonnie Burgess Neely, a local author and Olli alum, is a fun read for anyone at any age. It is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble in paperback or e-book and has 5-star ratings everywhere.

Other OLLI authors you might enjoy:

Jon D. Henson, Getting Our Ducks in a Row - Deciding How Things Really Are, 2004, Harmony House Publishers.

On Time: Unlike all other riches, gold, silver and the like, the value of time, our most precious possession, is not dependent on amount. Its value is dependent on how we use it.

Others: An exact gauge of what we think of ourselves is the mirror of how we treat others.

Copies of this book, and other OLLI authors, are available in the OLLI office.



Speaking of Humor ...

Do you have a certain type of genre or humor that you enjoy? It's been my experience that Alexa (shh . . . don't say her name out loud) never has any funny or witty jokes.

Do you like elder humor, knock knock jokes or sarcasm?

If you have a funny one-liner, or longer, please send them to me at jean.hess66@gmail.com



That's not a dress, it's a cape.

SARCASM

Power Nap:
A short amount of sleep taken during business hours so that one can awaken disoriented, foggy and out of it, never really coming back to any level of effectiveness for the rest of the day.

Yogurt
Milk that has been allowed to curdle through interaction with bacteria, available in handy single-serving sizes for the kids.

References:
James Napoli, *The Official Dictionary of Sarcasm*, Fall River Press, New York

ELDER HUMOR

It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round. . . and laughed and laughed and laughed.

Let me know at jean.hess66@gmail.com if you chuckled at any of these!



Chautauqua - Where History Comes Alive

Chautauqua (pronounced “Shuh-TALK-wa”), was originally created in 1894 in upstate New York near Lake Chautauqua as an adult education program.

Its popularity grew in the 1900s to bring the Chautauqua Experience of music and education to the American people via traveling road shows. These road shows eventually reached more than 45 million people in over 10,000 communities, before almost completely dying out in the 1930s, with the advent of radio and television for entertainment. President Theodore Roosevelt called Chautauqua “The most American thing in America.”

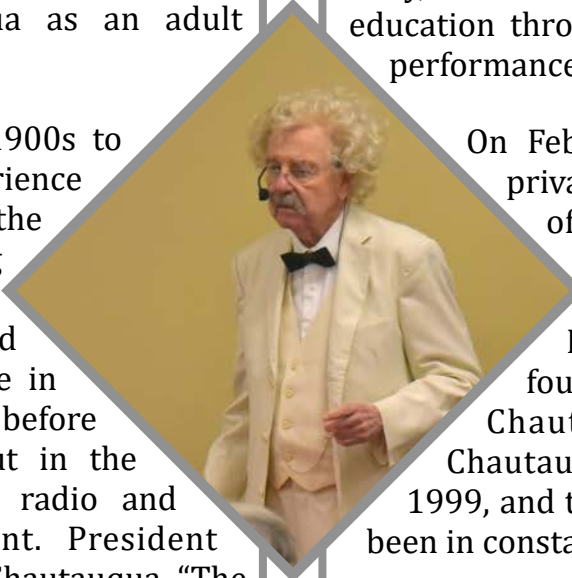
A Tent Chautauqua regularly came to Greenville, and set up its distinctive brown tents in City Park (now McPherson Park).

Modern Chautauqua developed in the 1970s and was sponsored by national and state

humanities councils as a means of providing lively, interactive and authentic humanities education through first-person, in-character performances of historical figures.

On February 11, OLLI presented a private Chautauqua performance, of Mark Twain, portrayed by George Frein PhD, (Former adjunct professor at Furman). Dr. Frein is a founding member of the National Chautauqua Tour and brought Chautauqua back to Greenville in 1999, and the Greenville Chautauqua has been in constant production ever since.

Over 100 OLLI members in attendance, were treated to an informative and entertaining evening listening to Mark Twain tell stories, both humorous and educational, about his life and times. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions about his character and learn intimate details of his history.



Thank you to Greg Parker for submitting these photos



Social hour, prior to start of Chautauqua, with a delicious selection of food and beverages, was arranged by the Social Committee. Thank you!

OLLI Remembers



Frank Erk, 76, died
1/19/2023

Frank was a member of OLLI since 2016 and volunteered for the Photography Committee and participated in several photography groups. He was a much loved member of two OLLI hiking groups - High Country Hikers and The Rock Stars. As photographer of both groups, he captured the sights and feeling of the trails. His ability to squat so low to take a picture was remarkable. An avid biker and nature photographer, Frank shared many photos of his kayaking on Lake Robinson including herons, eagles, and bears. We will miss his distinctive laugh and friendship.

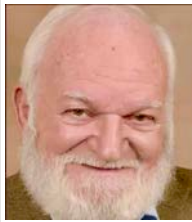
Tribute by Steve Davis



Moffett Kendrick, 99, died
2/11/2023

OLLI member Moffett Kendrick left Furman a better place. Having celebrated his 99th birthday in January, he was into his 100th year when he died February 11. He took OLLI history courses since 2011 and was widely acclaimed as "The Mayor of Woodlands." In the 1960s, he founded Furman's fundraising department and headed it for some 20 years. When I arrived in the same position in 1993, Moffett was my mentor. I'll always be grateful to Moffett, and salute him in his passing.

Tribute by Don Lineback



Dean Campbell, 88, died
12/29/2022

Dean was known as "The Squire of the Dark Corner." He knew just about all the history there is to know about The Dark Corner of upper Greenville County. He also knew who made the best moonshine and whether it was safe to drink. Dean had left Greenville County as a young man to become an actor. He returned after many years because he loved the mountains from whence he came. His father once said that he knew Dean would always return to his roots. Dean taught for many years at OLLI and it's partly because of his class that Cliff and I have been long time members. We are glad to have known Dean and May he Rest In Peace.

Tribute by Nancy Gammons



Jack Stone, 83, died 12/2/2022

Eugene "Jack" Stone IV was an avid supporter of both OLLI and Furman University. After the Navy, Jack held positions at North Face, Levi Jeans and CEO of Hang Ten. Eventually Jack returned to Greenville to run Stone Manufacturing. A huge enthusiast of soccer, Jack brought the world-famous soccer star Pele to tour the US, which included an appearance at Furman University. Always staying engaged, Jack joined OLLI in 2019 taking courses in history, current events, religion and even "Birds and Society." He was a thoughtful member of the Grant Committee and quietly encouraged OLLI members to attend Furman soccer games at the stadium named for his father.

Tribute by Mike Pilsbury

