



OLLI Life



Learning, Laughter, Friendships

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman



March, 2025

YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES HERE



Issue 25

Whenever I'm around other OLLI directors, they are very interested in the size of our program and want to know what we have done to experience such growth. They are hoping to find the secret sauce for their own programs and think that someone at Furman must be some kind of marketing wizard. They are always amazed to hear that, beyond printing course brochures, we do not spend any money on marketing or advertising.



Nancy Kennedy, Director

That's all thanks to you, our members. Most new OLLI members find us because a friend, neighbor, or even a stranger in line at Publix has mentioned OLLI to them. Thank you all for spreading the word!

I want to make sure you all know about the ways you can share OLLI with friends. Here are a few.

- *Share a brochure. We print extras so that you can take them places you frequent or pick one up for a friend.*

- *Add someone to our mailing list. Just come by the office and let us know their address, and we'll send them a course brochure.*

- *Invite a friend to a Tuesday Lunch and Learn. Those are open to the public and do not require a reservation. That's a great way to introduce someone new to OLLI and the Herring Center.*

- *Invite them to attend class with you. We welcome guests to visit a class **once, provided there is space in the classroom.** Please confirm with the OLLI office first.*

- *Bring a friend to our New Member Orientation and Back to OLLI reception, held each September, January, and March on the Thursday before classes start. The orientation gives them the chance to learn a lot about OLLI, and the reception allows them to meet many new friends.*

As always, when you are introducing a friend to OLLI, please bring them by my office. I look forward to meeting them.



Another successful event for the OLLI Social Committee!

In 2024, our first successful inaugural potluck event was *Celebrate Your State*. This past January, 79 people attended our 2025 *Flavors of the World Potluck*. Everyone brought homemade or purchased dishes, either from the country of their ancestry or representing their favorite international cuisine.



Potlucks are always a good time with friends
and fellow students.



So many food choices . . .

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Committee members and OLLI staff participated in the table set up, decorating with brightly colored tablecloths, international flags, and napkins, checking in, and assisting members in filling out their “food table tent” with their name, country cuisine, and notable ingredients. Others were available to help transport dishes from the parking lot and get everyone inside to set up their dishes so the sampling could begin. The amazing variety of foods was displayed on several long tables, providing serving access on both sides, complete with outlets for crockpots.

This year, we decided to use an ethnic background music playlist to help promote conversations amongst the diners.

There were many round tables for members to sit down together and enjoy their scrumptious choices of entrees and desserts. Stews and soups, puddings and flans were served in cups, and plates worked for most everything else. The plates were often filled multiple times! Be sure not to miss this event next year!

This year’s participant feedback requests included:

- having another potluck next year. Retro '60s recipes, anyone?!
- sharing this year’s recipes - Vito Fiore has “volunteered” to gather them!

Watch OLLI Notes for details!



Thank you, Anne and the social committee, for organizing this fantastic event. Your efforts are recognized and appreciated! And thank you, Vito!

How We Spent Our Summer Vacation

by
Linda Burns and Pat Booker-Christy

Our journey began by reading the Olli bulletin board. While waiting for our classes to begin, Linda read a notice about a summer lifelong learning program at Girton College in Cambridge, England. We talked and thought about it, then decided, "Yes, let's try." Once that decision was made, we applied and were accepted. (Later, we found out that no other participants from South Carolina had ever applied.)

As we got off the train in Cambridge, we realized that this was a college town. Cambridge has 31 colleges and universities founded from the 1200s to the mid-1960s. What a unique town and county this would be to explore.

Group participants for the Lifelong Learning Summer School came from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.



Conversations were varied and fun to try to understand because some spoke in heavily accented English and used their local slang. After a few conversations, we managed to understand one another very well.

It's been a while, but living in a dormitory and having meals in the college cafeteria can be fun. The college is built in the shape of a large rectangle, so classrooms, the cafeteria, dorm rooms, and the pool could all be easily accessed.



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Morning classes focused on topics such as learning the histories of the English monarchy, scientists, government, architecture, and a variety of other topics. The afternoon excursions highlighted our morning discussions. Punting on the River Cam to see all the colleges whose banks were on the river. Taking a closer inspection of Kings College Chapel with its extraordinary art, enjoying formal dining, informal pub crawling, shopping, and visiting Grantchester, Ely, and London were all included.

This is an experience that can't be missed. Any lifelong learning program is about taking the time to meet, eat, and enjoy one another, and this one was exceptional.



Oliver enjoyed the river also.
Here he is being held by Pat

*Thank you, Linda and Pat, for sharing your extraordinary adventure with OLLI Life readers.
Want a fantastic learning experience you had!*

Olli Travel Committee

On the Road Again..... by Kathleen Allen

The OLLI Travel Committee has been imagining, creating, and delivering a diverse variety of trips for OLLI members to enjoy over the past 8 years.

From the beginning, the Travel Committee never thought small. It was decided to subdivide the OLLI Committee into three categories: 1 to 2-day local adventures, 4 to 7-day national trips, and an annual international foray. The trip to the Mint Museum in Charlotte, the Yosemite excursion led by an OLLI instructor, and numerous overseas jaunts from Iceland to Ireland are all great examples of Travel Committee planning.

The spirit and organization of these early intrepid travelers live on. This past year, including fall, winter, and spring terms, OLLI members have participated in one-day travel to surrounding locales, national treks to New Orleans and Tennessee, and international plans for the Czech Republic and Southern England, including the Guernsey Isles.

An OLLI staff member accompanies most overnight or longer trips. Great care is taken to ensure the quality and safety of OLLI travelers. OLLI's best ambassadors are the OLLI members who have participated in these fun learning adventures.

The Travel Committee is always open to new ideas and suggestions for trips. The Committee meets approximately 4 times a year. The Travel Committee would love to hear from OLLI members who would like to be a part of this committee. Your input is invaluable. Please contact Heidi Wright or any member of the Travel Committee if you are interested.

Sonya Hammond: Travel Chair and Olli Council member, Betty Jo Shaw, Ted Sauvain, Martha Hughes, Susan Harris, Kathleen Allen.

Thank you, Kathleen, for giving us insight into the workings of the Travel Committee. Great job by everyone involved! You continue to accomplish so much.



Be a part of the upcoming Furman family bicentennial cookbook!

First Gentleman Charles Davis is asking the Furman family to submit recipes for inclusion in a brand new cookbook, "In the Kitchen at Furman." This blend of history and favorite recipes is a way to gather around each other's tables and share the great food and sense of family that makes Furman what it is. For more information and to submit your recipes, click on the link below by July 31, 2025!

<https://www.furman.edu/fu/bicentennial-cookbook/>

Don't Miss Out!

Watch for OLLI Notes from Jessica every Friday in your inbox.

Interesting events are happening every week at OLLI that are not covered in the course brochure. You can learn about them through OLLI Notes.

Here are a few events that have occurred just since January 2025.

- Chautauqua - Charlie Chaplin
- Shred Day
- Piano Recital by Dr. David Gross
- Furman's Department of Music presents three Menotti Chamber Operas
- Upcountry History Museum Special Event
- Greenville Jewish Film Festival Pop-Up Event
- OLLI Players Present Neil Simon's The Odd Couple - Female Version (4 SOLD OUT Performances.)



OLLI POP-UP HAPPY HOUR at What Ales You Pub

Yes, these have already happened, but you can find so many more like these in OLLI Notes. You can also check for Friday Bonus Event openings and travel opportunities. Keep tuned in, and you won't miss out.

Mary's Last Pages Thoughts

What creature has a tongue twice the length of its body?

A Chameleon



What is the deadliest creature in the world?

A mosquito



Joke of the Day

What frightened Snap, Crackle, and Pop so much?

They heard there was a cereal killer on the loose.

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My last page today is a bit different than the ones you are accustomed to. Today, I am trying to find the right words to say "Thank You" to a fellow OLLI classmate.

I am looking for the best way to tell Jean that I have loved reading OLLI Life and I have loved contributing to it in a very small way.

Jean Hess has been the editor of our OLLI Life Newsletter for the past two years. She was going to step down after this edition, but then another opportunity came on the horizon. Sharing of the responsibilities for OLLI Life was proposed and accepted. Jean will share the editor position with another OLLI student, Christine Schmidt. Together, with the help of all the writers, proofreaders, contributors, and photographers, they will accomplish the tasks to continue to make OLLI Life a newsletter that OLLI at Furman can be proud of.

I know that I have looked forward to reading every edition and discussing the information with my friends and classmates.

Social Media takes up the time and lives of so many people these days, and I find myself looking forward to finding a book or a newsletter I can hold and read and sometimes re-read. It gives me a feeling of belonging and comfort that I enjoy.

I want Jean to know that her presence, words, energy, caring, and OLLI Life have made a difference for the better. I want her to know that I hope she will continue to bring her love of community, learning, and life in any way she chooses to our OLLI world.

We welcome Christine and look forward to hearing more about her in the May issue of OLLI Life.

Mary Robert



Thank you, Mary, for the kind words. It is people like you who have made this experience such a pleasurable one.