



AT THE
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PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

by Dawn Torcivia



Dawn Torcivia

When I was approached by Cher Snyder in early 2020 about serving as President-Elect, I never could have imagined what a roller coaster ride the past year and a half would be. But OLLI@UGA did make it – only because of all the people who were committed to keeping OLLI alive and vibrant.

As we start to re-open and slowly get back to our pre-pandemic routine, OLLI needs you more than ever. Volunteers are the lifeblood of OLLI. They recruit instructors and classes (Curriculum Committee), plan social events and activities (Hospitality Committee), design ways to attract new members (Membership Committee), advertise the benefits of OLLI (Marketing Committee), organize fund raising projects (Fund Development Committee), arrange overnight and day trips (Travel Committee), assess and improve technology (IT Committee), review the budget and financial status (Finance Committee), develop long range plans for the organization (Long Range Strategic Planning Committee), and more.

OLLI is a stellar organization because of you, its members. However, working remotely has made it difficult to recruit

new committee members, and you are needed now more than ever. Please consider joining one of the committees and donating a few hours a month. It’s a great way to meet people and develop some wonderful friendships while helping OLLI remain strong, relevant, and vibrant. Join by going on OLLI Comm. Click on “SIGs/Committees on the left column, choose the committee, and click on “Request Access.”

I am grateful for everyone who contributed to the well being of OLLI over the past year. There’s our Executive Director, Tim Meehan, who worked with his administrative team (Shelly Magruder, Ryan Robinson, Amanda Nix, and Rita Healan) to respond in a flexible and innovative manner to meet our members’ needs. President Cher Snyder led an incredible group of officers and board members as well as an energetic and persistent cadre of volunteers who donated countless hours ensuring that OLLI continued to meet the needs and interests of our members in innovative ways. And of course, there are our members. OLLI could not have made it without your support over the past year whether this was in the form of attending classes, instructing, serving on a committee, contributing to our annual fund, or simply renewing your annual membership. OLLI is all about its members. Thank you for your support.

OLLI PRESENTS AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE, INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

By Larry Dendy

Several OLLI members were recognized for outstanding service and new officers and members of the Board of Directors were installed during the Annual Meeting in May. The meeting was conducted virtually due to pandemic restrictions.

The Sustained Service Award, which recognizes a legacy of outstanding service to OLLI, was presented to Sherry Malone, Ann Allen and Bill Loughner. The Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes special contributions to OLLI, was presented to Jeanne Davis-Blair and Adrien Helm. Madeline

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TIME TO RENEW!

A new OLLI year is starting. Don’t miss out on classes, activities, travel and more, including the return of in person events.

Easily renew your membership at olli@uga.edu.



Tim Meehan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

They say if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. I just hope that he is not a voracious reader of the *OLLI Times*! You will know that we are planning a staged return to in-person operations later in the year (COVID conditions permitting) but I wanted to drill down into more details about what we are planning.

I know that many people would like to get back to normal (or whatever is termed our “new normal”) as soon as possible, but we don’t just want to go back to the way things were. We are reviewing how we deal with parking, waitlists, room allocations, etc. so that we can give our members an even better learning experience whether from River’s Crossing or the comfort of their home.

Our SIGs are already beginning to return to normal functions, though some may keep at least some virtual elements (Solo Seniors for example). Wesley Woods (formerly Talmage Terrace) is welcoming back many of our SIGs with safety protocols in place. Many of our coordinators have done sterling work over the years (especially last year) and some of our popular SIGs

(Gardening, Lunch Bunch in particular) are looking for new volunteers to keep them going.

Social events kicked off in June with a Picnic in the Park. Please keep an eye out for more information as we continue to bring you opportunities to socialize more with members old and new. We will look for a way to safely hold a Lifelong Learning Fair, but now is a great time to be telling your friends and neighbors about OLLI.

During the Early Fall term (August-October), we will be introducing in-person tours around Athens, and in the Late Fall term (October-December) we hope to be welcoming members back to River’s Crossing. We want to ensure that all members are comfortable and have equitable access to classes so we are working on offering in-person, hybrid, and online classes – though not all classes will work in all formats. We want to ensure that we can communicate clearly how a class is to be offered so that all members understand what kind of class they are registering for and how it will be delivered.

By next year we hope to be able to offer travel again – though as Dawn says in her article we do need volunteers to make these things happen. If each of us offers a little bit, then we can grow and learn together.



Members enjoyed socializing in person (after a very long time!) at a fun-filled picnic at Harris Shoals Park on June 30. Thank you, Hospitality Committee.

OLLI PRESENTS AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE, INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

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VanDyck received the OLLI Scholar Award for exemplary participation in OLLI classes. Tom Buchanan and Gary Whiting received the Outstanding Presenter Award for presenting extraordinarily engaging and compelling classes.

Sherry, who joined OLLI in 2013, has served two terms on the Board of Directors, is a former co-chair of the Curriculum Committee and is a member of the Information Technology Committee and the Re-Entry Committee planning OLLI's post-COVID return to regular activities. Ann, an OLLI member since 2014, started the Marketing and Communications Committee in 2018 and has been co-editor of the OLLI Times newsletter for two years. Bill, who joined OLLI in 2010, is the OLLI historian, a former parliamentarian, host of the summer film festival and has presented numerous classes.

Jeanne, a member since 2016, is chair of the Hospitality Committee, which she joined in 2018, and has been a class presenter. Adrien, who joined OLLI in 2018, is a poet who has helped start and lead two Shared Interest Groups and has presented classes on poetry.

Madeline joined OLLI in 2013 and in the past year enrolled in 86 OLLI classes. She is a member of the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee, Curriculum Committee and Information Technology Committee and has been a class presenter.

Tom, an OLLI member since 2019, is pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church and in the past year presented four classes with spiritual themes. Gary, who joined OLLI@UGA in 2019, is a Master Naturalist and freelance photographer and has taught more than 50 photography and nature programs for two OLLI organizations including five classes for OLLI@UGA in the past year.

Officers for the new OLLI year that began in July are Dawn Torcivia, president; Mamie Mierzwak, president-elect; Linda DiPietro, secretary; Greg Mitsoff, treasurer; and Cher Snyder, immediate past president. New members of the Board of Directors are Victor Gagliano, Douglas Kleiber and Navin Patel. Re-elected to the board were Roy Martin and Liz Powell.

OLLI is continuing to implement its re-entry plan for a gradual return to in-person activities. Meetings of Shared Interest Groups, along with some social activities, can now be held in person. Masks and social distancing are recommended for people not fully vaccinated and optional for others.

Classes for the summer will continue to be on Zoom, along with two special programs—a lecture series from the Osher Institute at Dartmouth and discussions of movies in the summer film festival. In-person classes and tours are tentatively scheduled to resume in the fall.

***Thank you OLLI partners
and sponsors for your
continued support.***

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