



## President's Message

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Clemson University had another excellent year in 2005. With the financial support of the Osher Grant, we were able to accomplish many of the following tasks in 2005.

### 2005 Goals Met

- The director position was made a permanent, full-time Clemson University position.
- Support staff positions were expanded.
- The OLLI brochure was developed, and 20,000 copies were printed for distribution in Oconee, Anderson and Pickens counties.
- A new Membership/Publicity Committee was established to address program growth.
- A new Lunch and Learn series was introduced by our Curriculum Committee.
- The Long-Range Planning Committee was given responsibility for developing a strategic plan that incorporates the Osher Grant funding.
- The dedicated OLLI facility study was completed.
- More than 40 courses were offered during each of the fall and spring semesters with 338 members in the fall and 342 members in the spring.
- A gift program offering course certificates was introduced.
- The membership survey was completed.
- The OLLI appreciation luncheon and annual general meeting were held with more than 100 members, Clemson staff and instructors in attendance.
- The 2005 President's Award was presented to Karin Emmons in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management's Office of Media Resources.

### Plans for 2006

In 2006, we will continue to expand and improve our OLLI program with the following objectives:

- Complete and submit a proposal to the Osher Foundation for a new \$100,000 grant
- Continue to work with the Provost's Office to develop a plan for a permanent OLLI facility on the Clemson campus
- Grow membership in Pickens and Anderson counties
- Proceed with a scholarship program
- Expand staff support as required by the director
- Expand the relationship with the Clemson University alumni, Emeritus College and professors

### 2006 Goals Met

These 2006 objectives have already been met:

- Staff the director position with a new full-time director
- Expand the curriculum to three semesters by adding a Maymester program
- Have Clemson OLLI staff attend the Third Annual National Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Conference

### Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the new OLLI board members who were elected on January 13, 2006, at the membership meeting.

- Jim Hannon, Member at Large
- Judy Wilkinson, Member at Large
- Rosella Bayer, Member at Large
- Ed Krech, Vice President

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Fuller, President  
Ed Krech, Vice President  
Ruth Story, Curriculum Chair  
Jana Schuelke, Long-Range Planning Chair  
Bill Bridwell, Membership/Publicity Chair  
Jim Hannon, Member at Large  
Judy Wilkinson, Member at Large  
Rosella Bayer, Member at Large

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Joan Pettigrew, OLLI Director  
Brandi Graham, Assistant  
Susan Azzarello, Public Relations  
Fran McGuire, Departmental OLLI Liaison  
Pat Smart, Assistant to CU President

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Also, I want to extend a special THANK YOU to the board members who have served during the past year — Ed DeJulio, Barbara Holzman, Andy Hartman, Susan McClure and Jean DeJulio.

Finally, I want to express my personal appreciation to Ann Marshall, our departing OLLI director, for the unbelievable job she has done with the program. I can honestly say that the program we have today is a direct result of her commitment and the long hours she worked during her tenure. We all will miss Ann, and we will always remember her.

We look forward to another excellent year in 2006 as we continue to expand and improve our OLLI program.

Don Fuller  
Clemson OLLI President

## *Letter from the Director*

**W**ith very mixed emotions, I said goodbye to OLLI on March 31. The position has grown to the point that it needs a professional event planner to take the reigns. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years with OLLI and Clemson University. It has been extremely rewarding to take our program from a fledgling to a soaring eagle.

I would like to thank our volunteer board of directors for all their help. I am so grateful to all the Curriculum Committee members who worked so closely with me to build an expanded program and an outstanding curriculum. Of course, our volunteer instructors are the heart of our organization, and I am sure our members will join me in thanking them for their time and devotion to OLLI. Lastly, a special thank you goes to Dr. Fran McGuire for putting us on the map at Clemson University when he introduced us to the Osher Foundation. This opportunity gave us the freedom to increase our membership and buy the equipment that allows our staff and our instructors to operate in a professional manner.

It is my great pleasure to introduce Joan Pettigrew as the new director of OLLI. Joan has a master's degree in event management and one in education. She brings excellent skills to our program.

Ann Marshall  
OLLI Director, 2000-2005

## *The OLLI Curriculum Committee*

**T**hanks to our dedicated Curriculum Committee, the University's OLLI program continues to grow and thrive. This spring we offered 43 courses with an enrollment of 496 students, 77 of whom were new participants. Our spring schedule offered courses Monday through Friday and included a wide variety of subject areas — arts, crafts and music; computers and digital photography; finance and economics; history and government; philosophy and religion; science, nature and the environment; leisure activities; language arts; and health and fitness. In addition, we offered eight Lunch and Learn one-day courses that ranged from a cell phone workshop to "Humor in Your Life."

And that's not all. We initiated a new series this year: a Maymester catalog of 15 classes. These courses, most of which run for five weeks, began the first week of May and ended the first week of June. The courses include some new subjects for OLLI, such as "Looking at American Classic Movies" and "Tennis for Beginners," "Basics of Watercolor Painting" and "Hiking the Foothills Trail." Our one-day Lunch and Learn courses included "Humor in Your Life," "Flowers by Design," "Monster Tomatoes Grown in Your Own Backyard" and "Healthy Eating, Southern Style."



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## 2005 OLLI President's Award

**K**arin Emmons, the recipient of the 2005 OLLI President's Award, is a major contributor to the success of our OLLI program. From the early days, she has offered help and guidance to our directors. Knowing where to get help and support has been especially critical as we work within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (PRTM) and with other University offices and departments.

As we have expanded our program, she has always stepped up to offer her skills and talent. She became involved with the OLLI curriculum program and helped to launch the "Photoshop Elements" class in 2003 as a co-teacher.

That class is among our most popular courses and has now expanded to three sections.

In addition to teaching, Karin helps with our software needs, our Web site, graphics and displays for OLLI presentations and the OLLI brochure.

Karin is a very special member of the OLLI family and represents all of the best that PRTM and Clemson University have to offer.

Congratulations Karin!



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## What's New With OLLI at Clemson University?

**T**here have been many exciting changes in Clemson University's OLLI program since our last Learning Links newsletter, and we want to tell you about them. We continue to apply "lessons learned" and listen to our audience while refining, developing and growing OLLI. We analyze the questionnaires filled out by our student participants at the completion of each class and use this feedback for our courses offered the next semester. In addition, last fall the Membership Committee conducted a random survey of students who had previously participated in the OLLI program to learn why they were not currently taking classes. This information, as well as experiences gained from discussions with other OLLI programs and in-house discussions, led us to make significant changes in our OLLI program to help meet the ever-changing needs of our growing audience.

### Lunch and Learn

In response to our OLLI audience, we instituted a "brown bag" series that evolved into our current Lunch and Learn sessions. These sessions are a series of one-time topics covered over lunch with an expert instructor/facilitator to lead the discussions and plenty of interaction with the participants in a casual lunch-time setting. These sessions began in summer 2005 and have continued on a regular basis. Since then, we have conducted eight Lunch and Learn sessions with a total attendance of 68 students. Seven additional Lunch and Learn sessions will be offered by June 1, 2006. We anticipate continuing and expanding these sessions beginning again in late summer 2006.

### Maymester

We determined from student discussions and surveys that many people in our target audience are still on vacation at the beginning of the OLLI fall semester, which typically starts in early September. However, most of our participants do not begin their vacations until June or later. This led us to create a "Maymester" session for May 2006. We offered 15 courses to test the popularity of this concept. We have been encouraged by the initial early response to the Maymester classes.

### Pickens and Anderson County Initiatives

During our analysis of our service to participants, we learned that most of our students come from Oconee County. This is understandable since the initiative to create Clemson's OLLI program began with Keowee Key adult residents who were exploring the kinds of services and amenities that attract future retirees. They discovered that "intellectual life" was one of the seven most important elements people sought when selecting a retirement community. Their desire for intellectual enrichment was a motivating factor in establishing the Clemson University Lifelong Learning program, known as CULL at that time and now known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Clemson University.

In the interest of the OLLI program and the communities we wish to serve, we are expanding our audience base to attract more students from Anderson and Pickens counties. The OLLI program established a Membership/Publicity Committee in the fall of 2005 and charged this committee with the task of increasing membership throughout our target areas and expanding our reach in Anderson and Pickens counties.

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## A Gorges View

It's easy to spot the OLLI students in a Jocassee Gorges class. They're the ones who have a hiking stick in their hands and a smile on their faces. Greg Lucas, who works in education and recreation for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), has led this very popular OLLI hiking class for eight semesters. Hikers spend six Wednesday afternoons exploring the gorges. The class originated with Ann James, former chair of the University's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. She recruited Greg to lead the class and has taken many of the hikes.

The Jocassee Gorges include more than 50,000 acres of pristine, forested mountain land in South and North Carolina. The SCDNR owns and manages 33,000 acres known as The Jim Timmerman Natural Resource Area. The remaining acreage is owned by the state of North Carolina, the U.S. Forest Service and Duke Power Co. The Duke Power land is in a conservation easement.

The gorges contain hiking trails, old road beds, mature forest land, rocky streams and plunging waterfalls. Greg's classes have hiked to many interesting and beautiful areas. Each fall, groups hike to Jumping Off Rock, the Pinnacle Mountain petroglyph site and along the Foothills Trail from the crest of Sassafras Mountain down to Chimneytop. In the spring, outings include a tour of the Duke Power Bad Creek Hydroelectric Station (a pumped storage facility) and a trip to Devil's

Fork State Park to see the early blooming Oconee Bells. The classes have also visited the Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve, the Coon Branch Trail, Oconee State Park, and the Keowee Toxaway State Park Natural Bridge and Raven Rock Trails. This semester the class visited Wadako Mountain, a site well known for wonderful spring wildflowers.

Greg's classes are educational and have included geology hikes to Fisher Knob with a state geologist, Dr. Bill Clendenin, and forestry hikes to Shooting Tree Ridge with a Clemson forestry professor, Dr. Vic Shelburne. One class even went on a bear hunt in the peach orchard area with SCDNR bear biologist Skip Still. The spring 2006 class went on an early morning bird hike in the gorges with Dr. Drew Lanham, a Clemson forestry professor.

The OLLI Jocassee Gorges course is a way for students to learn more about this wonderful natural area in the S.C. mountains. Greg Lucas is enthusiastic about leading groups through the gorges and says, "It's a great way for the SCDNR to interact with both Clemson University people and others who are interested in the Jocassee Gorges to give them a taste of what's out there. I hope folks learn some botanical, geological and wildlife information." Anyone interested in hiking and learning should get an application in early because the class fills up quickly!

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## Happy Trails to You

**T**he Foothills Trail is a 76-mile hiking trail that stretches through the South and North Carolina mountains from Table Rock State Park on the east to Oconee State Park on the west. The trail winds through dense forests, follows rushing streams and skirts several impressive waterfalls. It offers a great diversity of flora and fauna. Visitors can see plant life ranging from giant, aged trees to colorful spring wildflowers. Quiet walkers might spot deer, wild turkeys, reptiles, amphibians and colorful birds.

The trail was built through a cooperative project between the Foothills Trail Conference, Duke Power Co., the U.S. Forest Service and the S.C. State Parks. It was completed in the early 1980s and is maintained by the Foothills Trail Conference and Duke Power. Local hikers, backpackers and visitors from other states all enjoy using the trail. It is a popular destination for day users as well as seasoned hikers who traverse the entire 76 miles.

During Maymester, OLLI students had an opportunity to learn more about the Foothills Trail and experience short hikes through some of the most scenic sections. Heyward Douglass, immediate past president of the Foothills Trail

Conference, led a class to introduce students to the joys of the trail. The group hiked to the following areas:

May 1 — From the Upper Whitewater Falls along the Whitewater River to the Bad Creek parking lot — 3 miles

May 5 — From the Upper Whitewater Falls to Grassy Knob for a spectacular view of Lake Jocassee — 2 miles

May 15 — From Sassafras Mountain to the John L. Cantrell home site — 2 miles

May 22 — Along the Chattooga River to King Creek Falls — 4 miles

May 29 — From Sassafras Mountain down to Chimneytop Gap — 2.7 miles

Heyward enjoyed sharing his vast knowledge of the Foothills Trail with OLLI students. He said, “I certainly feel that the Foothills Trail is this little jewel that doesn’t get the publicity it should. Hopefully, we will educate as well as entertain the people who took this class.”

If you ever have the opportunity, be sure to join Heyward along the Foothills Trail for some great hiking. Don’t miss learning about and experiencing this wonderful trail!



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## Seeing the Forest and the Trees

In the fall of 2005, OLLI offered a class about the Clemson Experimental Forest. The forest has been in the news a lot during the past year, and the forest's use is being studied. The class was taught using a team approach with four instructors who taught each class together. These instructors were John Garton, retired Duke Power Company biologist; Dr. Ben Sill, Clemson engineering professor; Skip Still, wildlife management biologist for the SCDNR; and Dr. Dave Van Lear, retired Clemson forestry professor. While their careers are somewhat diverse, these instructors were united in their interest in the forest and their desire to share this wonderful resource with others. Dr. Van Lear agreed to be part of the teaching team to help more people become aware of the Clemson Forest and its many resources.

The Clemson Experimental Forest consists of approximately 17,500 acres of University-owned wooded land that surrounds the town of Clemson. It contains miles of hiking, biking and horseback trails; lakes and streams; and recreation areas, some of which were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Visitors to the forest can observe a wide variety of plants including stately trees, lovely ferns and spring wildflowers. Animal life is abundant — reptiles and amphibians, along with beaver, ducks, migrating birds and deer.

Skip Still enjoyed the team-teaching approach. "I liked it," he commented. "The forest has many different components and, through our diverse backgrounds, we were able to cover them all."

Each Wednesday in October, the class visited different areas of the forest. In the South Forest, students walked along Seed Orchard Road where

there are tulip poplar and loblolly pine seed nurseries. They looked for beaver in the large beaver ponds in Fant's Grove. The North Forest gave the class an opportunity to hike along Six Mile Creek, Lake Isaqueena and the Dalton Road area. Ben Sill found that meeting all the participants and seeing them enjoy the forest was a special part of leading the class.

The teaching team enjoyed showing off the Clemson Experimental Forest so much that they taught a class about the birds and flowers of the forest during the spring semester. Their expertise makes the classes enjoyable and educational for everyone. John Garton says, "I hope our OLLI students learn that the Clemson Forest is a wonderful natural area right in their own 'backyard'."



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## The Clemson University Outdoor Laboratory

Looking for some adventure? Join us for a fun-filled week in beautiful Clemson, S.C.! The cost of the program includes meals, lodging and activities for five days and four nights of adventure. You will receive more program information and confirmation upon receipt of your registration. Please apply early because space is limited!

### Important Registration Information

- The cost is \$250 per week per person (plus \$13.30 tax). A \$50 per person nonrefundable deposit must accompany each registration. Make checks payable to Clemson University.
- Linen may be rented at an additional charge of \$20 per person (two sheets, pillow/case, blanket, seven towels, three washcloths)

### 2006 Dates

- September 25-29, 2006
- October 2-6, 2006
- October 16-20, 2006
- October 23-27, 2006

For registration information, contact:

Clemson University Outdoor Lab, Camp Again  
Lehotsky Hall, Box 340735, Clemson, SC 29634-0735  
Phone (864) 646-7502 or email [cuolcamps-L@clemson.edu](mailto:cuolcamps-L@clemson.edu).

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## Golden Corner Special Events Calendar

This new regular feature will highlight events of special interest to our audiences from Clemson, Seneca and Easley.

### Clemson University

Brooks Center for the Performing Arts

[www.clemson.edu/Brooks](http://www.clemson.edu/Brooks)

New Plays Premiere, Bellamy Theatre

May 25-27, 2006, 8 p.m.

May 27, 2006, 3 p.m.

### City of Clemson

[www.clemsonchamber.org](http://www.clemsonchamber.org)

**June 17, 2006**

Father's Day Fishing Tournament

Larry W. Abernathy Waterfront Park

**July 3**

Clemsonfest

5 p.m.

Featuring the Tams (beach music), children's games and a fireworks display

Y-beach at the Foothills Area YMCA

**September**

Picnic in the Park

Every Wednesday in September

### City of Easley

[www.easleychamber.org](http://www.easleychamber.org)

**July 1-4, 2006**

Independence Day Festival (including a 5K run on July 4)

Downtown Easley

**July 28-August 5, 2006**

Big League World Series at Red Owens Sports Complex

### City of Pendleton

[www.townofpendleton.org](http://www.townofpendleton.org)

**June-July 2006**

Woodburn Museum Home

Thursday and Saturday

noon-4 p.m.

\$5 admission

**June-August 2006**

Ashtabula Museum Home

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, 2-6 p.m.

\$5 admission

**July 1, 2006**

Pendleton Freedom Fest

Veteran's Park (with dancing and fireworks)

**August 2006**

Woodburn Museum Home

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

noon-4 p.m.

\$5 admission

### City of Seneca

[www.senecamerchants.org](http://www.senecamerchants.org)

**May 19, 2006**

Blue Ridge Arts Gallery opening reception  
"Helen & Griz Hockwalt" (through July 7)

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Downtown-Go-Round

(food, music, gallery openings and more)

5:30-8:30 p.m.

**June 10, 2006**

Music on the Green

7 p.m.

**June 24, 2006**

Music on the Green

7 p.m.

**July 8, 2006**

Music on the Green

7 p.m.

**July 21, 2006**

Downtown-Go-Round

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Blue Ridge Arts Gallery opening reception

Annual Members Show and Sale (through September 8)

5:30-8:30 p.m.

**July 22, 2006**

Music on the Green

7 p.m.

**August 12, 2006**

Music on the Green

7 p.m.

**August 18, 19 and 20, 2006**

Seneca Steam Fling

100th anniversary celebration of the Greater Seneca Chamber of Commerce

**September 15, 2006**

Downtown-Go-Round

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Blue Ridge Arts Gallery opening night for

Anagama pottery from Clemson University (through November 10)

5:30-8:30 p.m.

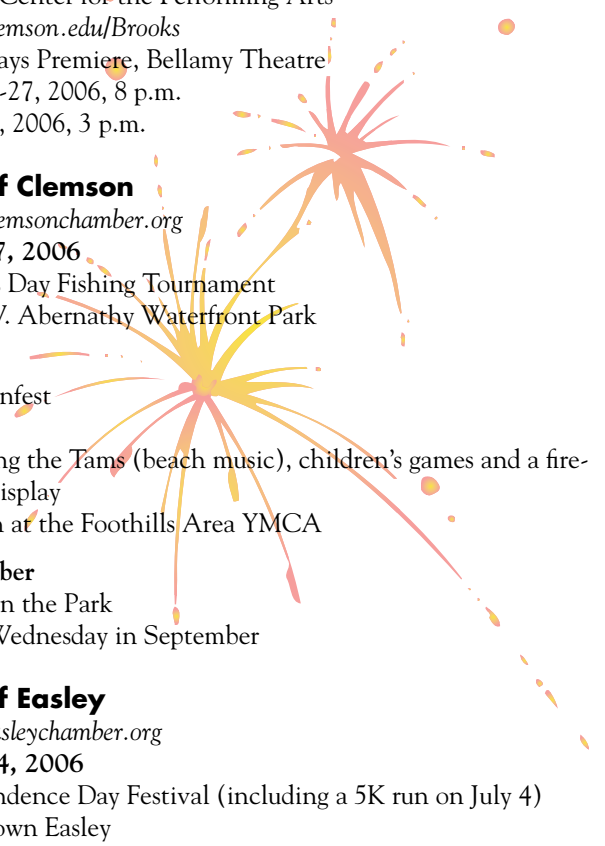
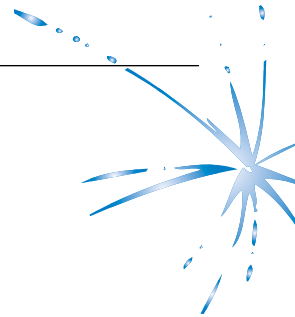
**September 15, 16 and 17, 2006**

Lake and Mountain Quilters show

**September 16, 2006**

Music on the Green

7 p.m.



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## The National OLLI Conference

The OLLI program sent our new director, Joan Pettigrew, and the Curriculum Committee chair, Ruth Townsend Story, to the 2006 National Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Conference in San Jose, Calif., April 19-21. In addition to becoming acquainted with OLLI leaders from throughout the nation, Joan and Ruth attended plenary sessions that focused on the foundation's goals, funding expectations and progress. Joan and Ruth also took part in concurrent sessions presented by OLLI leaders from various schools. Among the topics addressed were "Reaching New and Diverse Audiences," "Partnering with National Organizations for Programming," "Marketing, Fund Raising and Finance" and "Faculty Recruitment." Ruth was a co-presenter for the "Faculty Recruitment" seminar, and she shared her expertise on recruiting and coaching faculty in this best-practices workshop.

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## A Peek at the Future

The work of the OLLI Curriculum Committee never ends. Fall planning is well under way for another engaging and stimulating program. A peek at the future includes courses such as "Upcountry Folklore," "Thunderous

Torrents and Magical Mists: Discovering Our Area Waterfalls," "Beneath Your Feet: Gems and Minerals of the Piedmont," "True Lies and Real Fiction: Writing Your Life Stories" and "The History of the Middle East, Part I."

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## Did You Know That . . .

Every Saturday on the front page of the Life Styles section of the *Seneca Daily Journal*, you will find a story written by one of the authors of *True Lies and Real Fiction: Writing Your Life Stories*. This column, now in its second year, gives readers a chance to learn about some of the interesting and talented people who live in the Upstate of South Carolina.

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