

# LEARNING LINKS

Volume 6, Issue 1 - Spring 2009

CLEMSON  
UNIVERSITY



## *OLLI - A GOOD-NEWS STORY!*



Dear OLLI members,

Since President Ed Krech status is on vacation I have been asked to write an article on the current of OLLI. It is an exciting time for all of us who are associated with OLLI. All of the hard work comes on stage – just as in the opening night of a new play - as we begin this Spring semester. OLLI is currently offering 96 courses which include classroom sessions on a large variety of subjects, Lunch and Learn programs and excursions. One example, OLLI recently offered an excursion by bus to the High Museum in Atlanta to see the “First Emperor Exhibition.”

The Fall, Spring and Maymester semesters require untold hours of volunteer effort. This comes in the form 140 volunteer instructors and class assistances combined with Clemson personnel, committee members and nine OLLI Board members. Our small paid office staff services many of the day-to-day needs of OLLI including the scheduling of classes, assembling and mailing the catalog, and processing class registrations.

As in the production of a play, each course and program for the three semesters must be created and then advertised through our catalog and inserts in our local newspapers. These classes are offered at 20 different locations to conveniently accommodate members living in our geographic area. As of February 26, 2009 there were over 900 members who registered for 1,209 OLLI offerings for the Spring semester. **NOT BAD FOR BEING IN BUSINESS FOR ONLY FIVE YEARS!**

We are in the final stage of completing our 2009 Maymester catalog and are very excited about the breadth of our Maymester offerings. We have thirty four courses scheduled, including ten multi-session courses, sixteen special events, three excursions and five Lunch & Learns. We have highlighted some of our Maymester offerings in other sections of this newsletter. Please join us and enjoy our Maymester offerings.

I think I can speak for most of our volunteers that it continues to be a real pleasure to work in support of OLLI. But we need your continuing participation as members and class attendees if the OLLI program is to continue to flourish.

Jim Hannon,  
Vice President

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## *Letter from the Director*

Greetings from the OLLI office. Our spring semester is here and I hope many of you are enjoying the many class offerings available to you. My November newsletter contribution highlighted the importance of lifelong learning. This month I would like to discuss why OLLI at Clemson is an ideal program for finding the intellectual nourishment available through lifelong learning.

In the last newsletter I highlighted Tennyson's poem, *Ulysses*, and its message that we need to keep searching for new worlds and opportunities for growth. OLLI at Clemson is designed to help you on your journey of discovery. What do we have to offer?



1. Diverse course offerings – Examine any of the OLLI at Clemson University course catalogs and the comprehensiveness of our offerings is obvious, at times possibly overwhelming. Ezra Cornell, explaining his intent in establishing Cornell University, wrote “I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.” We are not as comprehensive as Cornell University but we certainly strive to provide instruction in as many areas as our members support. OLLI can help you learn about great literature, understand the religions of the world, develop proper techniques for kayaking, join Clemson University students on study-abroad programs, keep your garden healthy and so much more. Indeed, if there is something you would like to explore and we don't have a class to help you do so, let me know and we will get on it.
2. Opportunities to be of service to others – A great deal of the work of OLLI at Clemson is done by volunteers. In fact without our volunteers there would not be an OLLI. Every function of our organization relies on volunteers who donate many hours to help assure our success. From the president of our Advisory Board and all the Board members, to the many folks who serve on our various committees, to the classroom instructors and assistants, to the people who volunteer their time in our office, OLLI members provide the underpinnings of all we do.
3. Forming and strengthening friendships – One thing we don't do at OLLI at Clemson University is offer one-on-one tutorials! Every class you take will have other members and place you in the company of other eager learners. We would like OLLI at Clemson to become a community of learners who share a love of learning.
4. A chance to stretch – Woody Allen said “If you don't fail now and again, it's a sign you are playing it safe.” I like to think that OLLI at Clemson is an opportunity to take a risk, a risk that has little potential cost and a great chance of success. OLLI provides the chance to do that thing (go to India, take a sculpting class, hike in the woods, attend an opera, test your capacity to learn new things, teach a class) you may have hesitated to try because you weren't sure you could do it. OLLI can be an adventure, it can be the arena to try something new, it can be a challenge, and it can be an opportunity for not playing it safe.
4. Reasonable costs – The price we pay for things and the return on that investment, is important, and possibly never more so than today. I know that in my house every expenditure receives more scrutiny than in the past and must pass the “is it worth it” test. The price of OLLI memberships, \$15.00, is less than you would pay for a tank of gas, three cans of Progresso soup, a bottle of wine, or a couple of Black Tazo Tea Lattes and muffins at your local coffee shop. The price of a typical OLLI course, \$50.00, is less than you next pair of walking shoes, a Circulon Elite 12-inch covered deep skillet, a Murker Double-Edge Safety razor, or a ticket to a Clemson Football game. I think OLLI meets the “is it worth it” test. I hope you agree!

Fran McGuire,  
Director

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## *CAT Bus Provides Easy Access to OLLI Courses*

It's the start of a new semester and you're excited about a great new OLLI course. Only one problem-the course will take place on Clemson's campus. Panic immediately sets in. Doesn't an on-campus course mean fighting for a parking space? Walking miles to your building? Basically, a frustrating parking experience? No more thanks to the ease and convenience of the CAT Bus. With OLLI's new parking location in the P-1 Parking Lot, the CAT Bus can bring you from your parking location to within a two minute walk of your course building.

Using the CAT Bus to get to your OLLI courses is easy and free. When you register for an on-campus OLLI course, OLLI staff will send you a parking pass and "OLLI CAT Bus Directions". On the day of your class, park in the P-1 Parking Lot and place your parking pass Tiger-side up in your car's windshield. Walk to the back of the parking lot to the CAT Bus stop. Every 8 minutes, a CAT Bus arrives that reads "Tiger Route East". Board this bus and tell the driver where you need to disembark. Your "OLLI CAT Bus Directions" will describe the specific bus stop for your course. Then you simply sit back and enjoy the short ride to your bus stop. Once you leave the bus, use your "OLLI CAT Bus Directions" to walk less than two minutes to your course building! Voila! Once your course ends, simply board the bus again to return to your car. With the CAT Bus, OLLI members have quick, easy, and environmentally friendly transportation to our fantastic on-campus courses.

OLLI members can also use the CAT Bus for courses off-campus or for your daily transportation needs. The free CAT Bus has routes that travel across Clemson, Anderson, Pendleton, Central, and Seneca. For example, if you live in downtown Seneca and are taking an OLLI course at Seneca Presbyterian Church, the Seneca Residential Loop of the CAT Bus can literally drop you at the door of the church! If you live in Central and don't feel like driving to the grocery, hop on the Red Route which stops every 30 minutes at the Central Ingles and Clemson Bi-Lo and Food Lion. So next time you need to travel in the area, check out what the free CAT Bus has to offer. Want to find out more about the CAT Bus including route maps and timetables? Visit their website at [www.catbus.com](http://www.catbus.com)!

Tracy Mainieri,  
Assistant to the Director

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### *Did you know...*

- OLLI members John & Carol Turner were the grand marshals of the Six Mile Christmas Parade in 2008.
- OLLI instructor Warren Carpenter was featured in the Seneca/Clemson Daily News article about his skill at woodturning and teaching turning to our OLLI members in the December 13<sup>th</sup> issue.
- OLLI member Gail Rabai had an artistic work on display at the Historic Ballenger House in the Blue Ridge Juried Arts Show during the month of February.
- OLLI members Richard & Joyce Klein took a vacation trip to Australia in February and their photos have been posted on the Destination: OLLI web page.
- Any OLLI member can pack the OLLI flag in their luggage for photo opportunities while traveling outside of the Upstate and the OLLI office would welcome their photos.



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*Winners of the Fall 2008 Photo Contest*



Nature Category 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Heron in Hiding Crooked Creek Lake by Norma Wayco



Nature Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Duck by Jane Murphy



Scenes From The Upstate Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Sunrise and Morning Mist by Norma Wayco



Scenes From The Upstate Category 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Leaves on Water by Bob Miracle

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## Winners of the Fall 2008 Photo Contest



People In OLLI Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Jumping Off Rock by Jean Snellings



People In OLLI Category 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
David Smith's Photography Class by Betty Kinback

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## Getting to Know You

*We're introducing a new feature in this issue: profiles of active OLLI members. Tell us what you think and if you'd be willing to tell us your OLLI story.*

You will not meet a more involved member of OLLI than Mariette "Ette" Ruppert. A native of Connecticut, Ette has lived in this area since 1978, when she accepted a teaching position at Clemson University in biology.

She is currently transitioning from teaching General Biology and University Success Skills to a more typical retiree's routine: taking and teaching OLLI courses, and spending as much time as possible enjoying our beautiful outdoors, and helping others to do the same.

Ette taught Hikes in the Hills with Bill Bridwell several times. She and Bill will take a group of OLLI members on a daylong outing during Maymester to the Highlands Biological Station's Botanical Garden where they will have a guided tour by a staff horticulturalist on Thursday, May 14th.

When asked what she enjoys most about OLLI Ette says, "The great variety of classes offered, the knowledgeable and enthusiastic instructors, and the interesting and thoughtful folks that one meets on outings and classes, making OLLI a real community of friends, new and old."

Ette seems to capture the essence of OLLI in describing her dreams and goals for her retirement: "My new career goal in retirement is to become an even better naturalist, so as to help folks enjoy being out in nature, with the hope that, if they know the flowers, trees, etc., and the special places around here, they will pass along their enthusiasm to their children and grandchildren, and in doing so, insure the future conservation and preservation of these unique habitats and species. I've also recently been 'bitten by the travel bug,' having recently returned from an OLLI-sponsored trip to Egypt. I'm looking forward to others."

If you like to spend time with warm, friendly, knowledgeable people, spend some time with Ette. She's one of the many treasures we're proud to call our own.

Linda Law

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## Spring 2009 Photography Contest

The Fall 2008 OLLI Photography Contest came to a close on Friday, November 28, 2008. The Spring 2009 OLLI Photography Contest opened Monday, February 9, 2009. If you missed entering the fall contest, now is the time to enter the Spring 2009 OLLI Contest. **This is your chance to have your favorite photographs published in OLLI publications!**

### Contest Rules

All photos must be relevant to OLLI and express the spirit of our program. The photographs shall be taken during this current photography contest period (February 9, 2009 through March 31, 2009). The subject of the photograph must reflect OLLI in one of the following categories:

- Nature (wildlife/wildflowers)
- Scenes from the Upstate
- People in OLLI

We especially want to encourage photographs of OLLI students in classroom situations that depict students actively participating in and enjoying the OLLI classroom experience.

The contest opens February 9, 2009 and ends with the submission of all photographs by March 31, 2009. Contest winners will be announced April 14, 2009, and scholarships awarded in time for the Fall 2009 Session sign-up period.

### Submission Guidelines

Photos shall be submitted in a JPG or TIFF format. Please specify with your submission the category of your entry. Entries in multiple categories are welcome and may be submitted to the following address on CD ROM:

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Clemson University  
Post Office Box 340738, 287B Lehotsky Hall  
Clemson, SC 29634-0738**

Photographs may also be e-mailed to the following address: [OLLI@clemson.edu](mailto:OLLI@clemson.edu). E-mailed photographs shall **not** be compressed files.

### Digital Image Requirements

Images should be submitted in JPG (at high quality) or TIFF format. Images must be in natural color. They should also be identified and dated, and include camera-recorded metadata. **Digital images will NOT be returned.**

### Photo Subject Restrictions

Photos must be appropriate for publishing on the OLLI website or in publications such as the *Learning Links* Newsletter. The OLLI office and photography contest judges retain sole discretion as to what constitutes inappropriate content. Recognizable photographs of fellow OLLI participants are acceptable since all OLLI participants have granted permission for the use of their photographs in OLLI publications.

### Prizes

We will award two OLLI Scholarships for the Fall 2009 Session for the winner in each of our three categories and one OLLI Scholarship to the runner-up in each category. Each scholarship will entitle the winner to enroll in one OLLI course with no tuition charge. Announced course-specific material or supply charges shall still apply. Winning photographs will be published in future Learning Links Newsletters and other OLLI publications or promotional material. This contest is open to OLLI members only. Therefore, you must be an OLLI member at the time your photos are submitted to the OLLI office.

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## *Things Didn't Always Go So Smoothly With Jocassee Gorges Class*



Now entering its seventh year, the Jocassee Gorges class has seen quite a transformation from its earliest days.

We've followed a pretty familiar format for the past five or six years, with some outstanding guest leaders joining us, but that first year or so was a little rough around the edges. The course got its start in Spring 2003, mostly due to a conversation between retired Clemson professor (and one of the founders of the current OLLI program) Ann James, and Tom Kohlsaas, who was at that time head of DNR's Heritage Trust Program. (Tom has since retired.) Tom

knew that I was moving up to Clemson in Fall 2002 to work on Jocassee Gorges education and recreation, and Ann thought it would be a good idea to have a class that visited some of Jocassee's beauty spots.

The Jocassee Gorges class debuted in March 2003, and our first session was held in the auditorium of the Clemson DNR office. Those first participants suffered through several hours of me prattling on about goodness-knows-what and a couple of videos that could barely be seen, since the bulb on the digital projector was about to expire. Since that perfectly dreadful experience, we've never held another Jocassee Gorges class indoors!

One of our earliest trips was a drive up to Jumping Off Rock. Because I felt like participants would be missing out if they didn't have some sort of hike, we took a brief detour on the way up and walked in a ways to see a pretty miserable-looking little waterfall. I still recall the look on people's faces when we got there, as if to say: "You walked us all the way back in here to see THIS?!"

We ended that first season with a fairly adventurous kayak paddling trip on Lake Jocassee. It was a gorgeous day, and when we put on the lake at Devils Fork State Park, the water was as smooth as glass. However, those familiar with Lake Jocassee weather conditions know they can change in an instant, and after about an hour, we found ourselves in some pretty scary-looking waves with a bunch of beginning kayakers! Luckily, we made it back to the landing with everybody upright, along with some valuable lessons about how to make things better the next go-round!

Greg Lucas works in conservation education and recreation with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources at its Clemson office. He is a member of the OLLI board.

Greg Lucas,  
OLLI Board Member at Large

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## *Charisma and How to Get it*

What is it that makes for a compelling and charismatic performance in speakers or other presenters? It is simply an expression of uncompromised honesty, integrity and congruence combined with charm and a skillful ability to communicate a clear message. Scholarship in performance studies begun by the Russian theater director Constantine Stanislavski and developed over the last 70 years have yielded the simple techniques required for irresistible and confident personal presentation. It can be learned. Bill Bruehl will introduce, the fundamentals in the course titled "*Charisma and how to get it*" at a special event during Maymester on Saturday, May 16th from 1 to 4 pm. Students are encouraged to bring texts with them they might wish to play with. It could be a monologue, a speech, a song. Your choice.



Those interested in a more detailed discussion of the subject will find Dr Bruehl's book, *The Technique of Inner Action, the soul of a performer's work* at Amazon.com.

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## Who Is This Lady?



Can you help solve a mystery? This photo was taken during an OLLI Jocassee Gorges course several years ago to Pinnacle Mountain. The tiger paw petroglyph was a great tie-in to Clemson but we do not know the identity of the lady wearing the shirt. If you know the lady's name or you are the lady pictured please contact the OLLI office at [OLLI@clemson.edu](mailto:OLLI@clemson.edu) or 656-6912. Thank you.

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