

LEARNING LINKS

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CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY



President's Message

Dear OLLI Members,

What a wild and wonderful year this has been for OLLI!

First and foremost, our final paid membership tally for the academic year is 962. We would have liked to hit the magic 1000, but we're counting on all of you signing up again -- plus a lot of new members -- to put us over that top this year. And, the 962 is almost a twenty-five percent increase over our paid membership of last year.

Also, thanks to more and more capable instructors stepping forward and volunteering to teach for OLLI, we were able to offer more classes than ever before in the Fall and Spring Semesters as well as the Maymester. Our volunteer instructors are the backbone of our OLLI program and there is just no way to either overestimate their importance or to thank them enough. Don't ever forget that most instructors spend at least a couple of hours in preparation for each class hour, so that's an enormous time commitment to community service through OLLI.

The sun shown with extra intensity on OLLI twice this past year. As previously announced, the Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded the Clemson University Foundation a one million dollar endowment for OLLI. While we cannot touch the principal, the income provided from this endowment will be very helpful in meeting the new operating expenses we will incur when we move into our own facility. Of course that was the other bright ray of sunshine -- the announcement by Michael Cheezem of the donation of a building in his new Patrick Square development complex to the Clemson University Foundation exclusively for OLLI's use. Patrick Square is just off the intersection of Route 123 and Issaqueena Trail on the east edge of Clemson and the building, the Charles K. Cheezem Education Center, named after Mike's father, will be the centerpiece of the town development.

However -- a big "however" -- these successes of the past year mean even greater challenges for this new academic year. We have to continue to refine our registration process to accommodate the increasing numbers of courses and members. New software is being purchased to accomplish that goal. We need an additional full-time professional to manage a much larger and growing organization. We need to select and pay for the decoration, furnishings, and equipment for our new building. In spite of our growth, we need to maintain our course instruction and member service standards. And, we need to come up with more financial resources to pay for all this. Details to follow...

Ed Krech,
OLLI Board President



OLLI BOARD

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Eleanor McCallum, Curriculum Chair
Karen Stimart, Building Committee Chair
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Joan Pettigrew, OLLI Coordinator
Amanda Turner, OLLI Coordinator
Tracy Mainieri, Graduate Assistant to OLLI

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Letter From The Director

Greetings from OLLI. I would like to use my space in this issue of the newsletter to reinforce one of the foundational principles of OLLI: we are a membership-driven organization relying on the wealth of expertise within the membership and their willingness to be actively engaged in OLLI. Simply put, there would be no OLLI without you, its members. We often view that from the perspective of OLLI's needs and your willingness to meet those needs. But there is of course the other side of being a membership-based organization: what the organization owes to its members.



One of our responsibilities is to provide top-notch classes for our members. I think we have succeeded in doing that. Your curriculum committee consistently provides a comprehensive offering of courses every semester. Many of you may not be aware of the hours dedicated volunteers spend identifying instructors, selecting courses and finding location where the course can be held. With the planning for each semester beginning as soon as the catalog for the upcoming semester is completed, curriculum is a never-ending process. I have seen the course offering for the coming fall and I hope you are pleased with the opportunities that await you.

We also owe our members financial accountability. The membership dues and class fees you pay are our main source of funding. In addition, we receive funds through the support we receive from the Osher Foundation and generous gifts from several of our members. In this issue of *Learning Links* you will see a brief financial report providing information on our income and expenses. It will give you a snapshot of our financial health. As you can see, we are financially sound; however, our expenses are going up and so we will continue to seek ways to keep our costs down while keeping our quality up.

A third thing we owe our members is the chance to be heard and to suggest ways we might improve OLLI. Those of you at our annual members meeting in the spring had the opportunity to ask questions and several of you took advantage of that opportunity. We would like to hear from more of you. If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me. My phone is 656-2183 and my email is lefty@clermson.edu.

Fran McGuire

The OLLI Long Range Planning Committee

I would like to give our Members an update on the progress of the Long Range Plan development and the final phase that now lies ahead of us. As I last reported we were in the process of completing the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis phase of the Plan. The SWOT analysis has now been completed and from the analysis Action Items or Tasks has been developed and responsibility assigned to each OLLI function such as Management, Finance, Marketing, Membership, Curriculum, Staff etc.

We reviewed this total Plan with the OLLI Board at the July 24 2008 Monthly Board meeting and received Board inputs. After Board comments have been incorporated into the LRP we will enter the final phase of the LRP development. The final phase will include reviews with a Clemson University Executive Team which will include the PRTM Department Chair, HEHD Dean, The CU Provost and the CU President.

With the final LRP comments and inputs coming from Clemson University, the Plan will be completed and then published. Now comes the tough phase of any Long Range Plan, the implementation phase of the LRP. This will be accomplished with Action Plans being developed by the responsible OLLI function for each Action Tasks. Once these Action Plans have been developed and implemented our initial Plan phase will be complete. The Long Range Plan will however remain a living document, updated periodically and guiding the future direction of OLLI.

It will have been a long road but a great journey for OLLI.

Don Fuller, Chairperson of OLLI Long Range Planning Committee

Technology and The Spooks

The following article was written by Mr. Carlos Luria, who regularly teaches “Technology and The Spooks” to illustrate the process one dedicated instructor goes through for course preparation and instruction. We offer Mr. Luria and all our dedicated instructors a debt of gratitude for the time and effort that goes into teaching an OLLI course.

When I returned from the field, CIA wanted me to share what I had learned with new hires. “What? Teach? Are you kidding? I wouldn’t know where to begin!” But the Director of Training had heard that song before, and the pointers he gave his instructors bear repeating: **Organize, Illustrate, Anticipate, Challenge and Practice.**

Organize

Start by outlining the information you want to convey, and let *that* determine the length of the course - not the other way around. Organize your material so that each session builds on the one before. If you want your students to remember, begin by telling them what you are *going to* tell them, then tell them what you *have to* tell them, then tell them what you *told* them. It takes such repetition of salient points to insure retention. Finally, end each lecture on an upbeat note that leaves the students hungry for more.

Illustrate.

The old adage is true: “Imagery conveys better than words.” Whenever possible, incorporate slides, photographs, video clips, or graphs. Not only does it eliminate long explanations, but a student's attention is likely to flag if all he hears for two hours is your voice.

Anticipate.

OLLI students are neither inexperienced nor stupid. Anticipate the questions, arguments or skepticism that may greet some of your assertions and have your answers ready. If you hem, haw and fumble, it makes you look ill informed.

Challenge.

Have your students become participants in the process, not simply listeners. Break up into small groups, giving each an issue to tackle, and have them present their findings. Ruth Story is a master at that and gave me the idea. Not only does it get the circulation going; but, by tackling the assignments, the students incorporate what you taught them into their thought processes.

Practice:

If you have the capability, videotape yourself. Then view the tape critically and tighten up where necessary.

Follow these five steps and you’ll keep your audience glued to their seats. . . without using duct tape.

-Carlos Luria





An American in Carpi

About ten years ago I wrote a list I called **Things I Want to Experience Before I Die**. Some people call that a Life List. Some now call it a Bucket List, after the title of the recent movie with Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson. Near the top of my list was this item: Spend a Month in Italy.

So last November, while casually browsing my e-mail, the heading OLLI ABROAD caught my eye. To travel almost anywhere thrills me. To travel to Italy via an OLLI connection became my obsession.

In case you overlooked that e-mail, here is a brief description of the program that caught my eye: OLLI members were invited to join college students who are majoring in education on a study abroad trip to Carpi, Italy. The college students (and I) would live with families and spend mornings (M-F for 4 weeks) in Carpi Public School classrooms (preK-middle school) for the purpose of learning about the highly regarded Reggio Emilia approach to teaching, and to teach the Italian children some aspect of American culture that they might not otherwise encounter.

The Carpi Program was developed and is directed by Dr. David Reinking, the Eugene T. Moore Professor of Education at Clemson. This would be the eighth year Dr. Reinking would take students to Carpi.

Carpi? Where the heck is Carpi, you ask? I did too! Dr. Reinking described Carpi as a very attractive small city in the Po River Valley in the Emilia Romagna area of Northern Italy.

Sold! Sign me up! Whatever it takes, I'm going.

Fortunately, Dr. Reinking decided I was an acceptable guinea pig for this first-ever OLLI member participation. I guess he decided I was a safe bet because I had been trying to teach myself Italian for years, I'm a former high school teacher, and before I retired I was an academic advisor at Clemson so I'm comfortable with college students.

But I should have fastened my seat belt! The 6 month lead-time to the May 9 departure was some ride: oodles of paperwork, bunches of electronic applications, many attempts to upload photos that the organizers in Italy required.

But wait, there's more! Monthly meetings with the dozen or so Clemson students and Dr. Reinking. Program fee payments. Tuition payments. Health forms. Airline tickets to purchase. Extra excursions outside of Carpi to choose from and pay for. Group Italian lessons. E-mails to the teacher in whose 5th grade class I'd be placed. E-mails to and from the family that was to host me. Finding gifts for my host family, the teacher and her students that were Made in America. (That was a requirement I placed on myself.) Lesson plans to teach "my class" some aspect of American culture. Educational materials (about America) to buy or develop that I would leave with the teacher in Italy. Postcards of our beautiful Upstate South Carolina. Photos of my family and home. A mandatory meeting run by Clemson's Study Abroad Office for everyone in *any* study abroad experience this summer. And on and on.

This certainly wasn't as simple as planning a vacation in Italy! But it was worth every bit of time and attention to detail. And I made it intact and am prepared to counsel future OLLI participants who may be tempted to try it.

Tracy O'Brien Manieri of the OLLI office set up a blog (Web Log -- online journal) for me to record my experiences and impressions while in Italy. That permitted (forced?) me to organize my thoughts as time allowed, and to post

pictures as I was able. Much as I tried, I didn't manage to post an entry every day. Some days and evenings were so busy that it was all I could do to get a shower and hit the sack at midnight or later. I had to be at school at 8:30 A.M., not something this retiree is used to any more.

The blog is still up. (<http://olliabroad.blogspot.com>) If you want to read about the details of this experience, feel free. And please overlook my typos and misspellings. As I said, I wrote much of it late at night. It is designed to be read in this order: April, then May, then June. These links are shown on the right side of the screen. Once you click on a month, scroll all the way to the bottom of the screen to begin reading. You should read from bottom to top. Awkward, but that's how it works.

In my final couple of posts I described why I went and what it did for me. It was a wonderful, surprising, challenging, fun, tiring, stimulating, delicious, satisfying experience. I am so glad I went.

Advice to another adult/retiree:

- treat this as a sort of camping trip that you are not in charge of
- remember, you're not the expert here; be all ears and eyes
- be a kid again; take time to try as many new things as possible
- learn how to use a blog and how to post pictures to it before you go
- try to speak Italian as much as possible and smile the whole time
- don't hesitate to protect your need for rest; don't overdo things
- in the school absorb everything around you; introduce yourself to teachers, custodians, and cafeteria workers
- before you go take time to reflect on American culture and select materials and gifts that represent the best of authentic America. Make it personal.

Linda Law, OLLI Member

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 OLLI Financial Report

We are pleased to present to OLLI membership a Financial Report of our recently completed 2007-2008 Fiscal Year (1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008) in Table 1. OLLI had a record year with a total of 962 paid members. We are continuing to grow our program and offer a wider variety of courses to benefit our members. In order to sustain this growth and enhance member services, the OLLI Board chose to spend Osher Foundation grant funds in addition to those we receive through member course registration to cover a shortfall in income from registration fees.

FY 2007-2008 Income	Income
Balance on Hand (6/30/07)	\$ 32,127
Member Registration Fees	\$ 82,559
OSHER Grant Funds	\$ 29,000
TOTAL	\$143,686
FY 2007-2008 Expenses	Expenses
Human Resources (Staff salaries and fringe)	\$ 68,846
Facilities (Rent, Phones, etc.)	\$ 13,230
Capital Equipment Purchases	\$ 2,774
Office Materials/Supplies, Fees & Services	\$ 4,425
Printing (Catalogs, Newsletters, & Brochures)	\$ 25,217
Postage, FedEx, UPS, etc.	\$ 4,487
Support of Courses, Excursions and Special Events*	\$ 21,041
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,666
TOTAL	\$143,686
* Course Materials, Support, Consulting, Transportation, Member Risk Insurance, etc.	

Table 1 OLLI FY 2007-2008 Financial Summary

Last year we had considerable expenses associated with renting space at the Trinity Wesleyan Church in Central. This space served us well; however, we have worked out more cost effective arrangements for the new year. We also are looking hard at other expenses we can cut without affecting the quality of service to our members. Specifically, printing and mailing costs are about 18% of our budget. We expect to save costs on our quarterly *Learning Links* newsletter by offering our students the option of receiving the newsletter via the web. We will, of course continue to mail copies to members who desire a printed copy.

The FY 2008-2009 OLLI budget will be published in our next *Learning Links* newsletter.

The OLLI Curriculum Chairperson Eleanor McCallum

Get ready to be “fired up” to learn! Eleanor McCallum, who has taught literature in the OLLI program since 2004, is the new chair of the curriculum committee. Charged with creating, developing, and implementing courses for OLLI, the curriculum committee welcomes Eleanor’s leadership skills and enthusiasm for life-long learning. Eleanor and the committee anticipate providing OLLI members with a wider variety of courses and learning experiences. Recognizing that OLLI members lead very busy lives, many courses will be shorter in length and modified in presentation design.



Hailing from Lexington, Kentucky, Eleanor received her Bachelor’s degree in English and Drama from Transylvania University and a Master’s degree in Library Education/Media from the University of Georgia. Eleanor served most of her teaching career in Tampa, Florida, where she worked at all levels of education in both the public and private sectors. As a media specialist at the secondary level, Eleanor was primarily involved with curriculum development and staff training. She was also involved with community and church adult learning programs. One of her treasured experiences was the opportunity to work in France teaching English grammar to French students...using popular music!

Retiring in 2003, Eleanor, and her husband Patrick, moved to South Carolina to enjoy their family and the varied outdoor activities that the Upstate has to offer.

Eleanor’s passion for education and learning epitomizes a Yeats quote: “Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire.” OLLI members “light (your) fire” and learn something new!

Joanna Steffes,
Curriculum Committee Member

Did you know. . .



- that Danielle Dahl won first place in the Scenes From The Upstate category of the Spring 2008 OLLI Photography Contest.
- that Meg MacArthur won first place in the Nature Category and the People In OLLI category of the Spring 2008 OLLI Photography Contest.
- that you can read the rules of the new Fall 2008 OLLI Photography Contest, find out what prizes are being given, and view all the photographs from all contests on the web site at WWW.CLEMSON.EDU/OLLI
- that OLLI is offering a record 95 different courses for the Fall 2008 OLLI Semester, which begins on Monday, September 8, 2008.
- In addition to our standard multi-session courses and traditional “Lunch and Learns,” we are offering excursions, travelogues, and special events that last from a couple of hours to all day.

2008-2009 OLLI Member Benefits

In developing our Annual Membership Program, we have secured a number of membership benefits for you in addition to providing you with exciting and varied course offerings throughout the year. Please be prepared to show your OLLI membership card when accessing each of these benefits.

Your membership benefits include:

- 1) OLLI at Clemson University Student Photo Identification Card (Replacement ID card \$15.00). Temporary ID cards are sent with your first receipt. You will be notified of opportunities to have your picture made for your permanent ID card during open registration.
- 2) All OLLI Newsletters and Catalogs published during the academic year.
- 3) Free enrollment in several Lunch & Learn sessions.
- 4) Attendance at OLLI social events.
- 5) Attendance and voting privileges at the Annual OLLI Membership Meeting.
- 6) Free admission to the Clemson Players dress rehearsals at the Brooks Center.
- 7) Free Clemson University Library privileges.
 - Facilities will be open and resources available for on-site use.
 - Reference assistance shall be available at no cost.
 - Borrowing privileges include ten books from the regular circulating collection for a period of one month with one renewal.
 - Members are responsible for overdue materials, outstanding fees, and any other charges.
- 8) Discounted products and services from local merchants.
 - 10% discount at Campus Copy Shop in downtown Clemson.
 - 20% discount on picture framing at Clemson Variety & Frame Shop in downtown Clemson.
 - 10% discount at Tiger Lily Flowers and Gifts in Clemson.
 - Discounted rate of \$27 at Anytime Fitness in Clemson.
 - Free Consultation and up to 80% off products at Arbonne Skincare & Nutrition in Clemson.
 - Order 2 dozen cookies from Cakes Extraordinaire and get 3rd dozen for ½ price.
 - 10% off total ticket – alcohol excluded at TD’s Restaurant in Clemson.
 - 10% off total ticket – alcohol excluded at Paesano’s Italian Restaurant on Blue Ridge Blvd. in Seneca.
 - 10% discount on the cost of one entree at Blue Heron Restaurant and Sushi in downtown Clemson.
 - Buy 1 ticket from Foothills Playhouse and get another of equal or lesser value for ½ price.

The entire detailed and most current list of member benefits can be viewed at

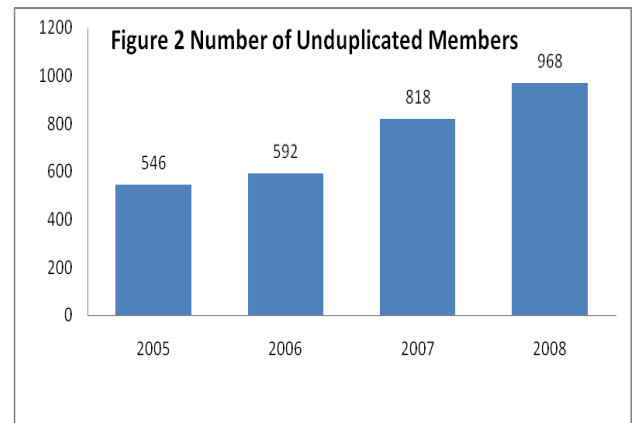
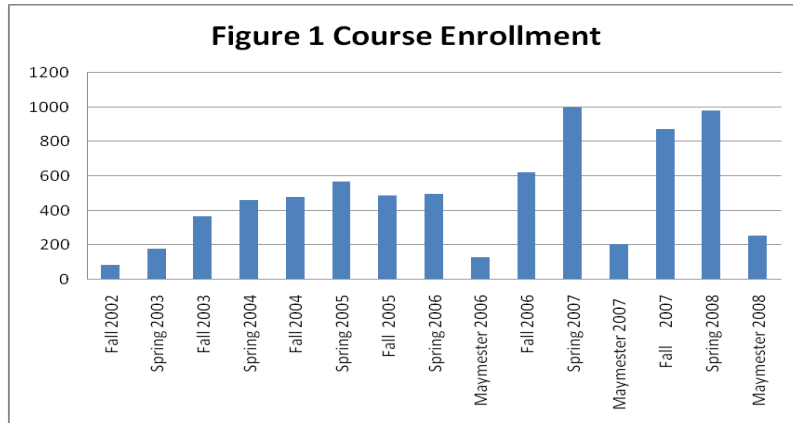
WWW.CLEMSON.EDU/OLLI/MEMBERSHIP.PHP

A New OLLI Facility

In response to a record number of classes offered for the Fall 2008 Semester and to better serve our Oconee County students, OLLI has secured a new facility in Seneca, the Seneca Presbyterian Church. Classes as diverse as cooking, Yoga, and digital camera instruction will be taught in our new location. A total of eighteen multi-session courses, eleven special events and four “Lunch & Learns” are scheduled. There is easy access to the facility with plenty of adjacent parking. Seneca Presbyterian Church is located in downtown Seneca at 115 W. South First Street. Open House is scheduled for August 27, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. (Send OLLI your name and phone number to reserve a space to OLLI@CLEMSON.EDU.) **May we count you in?**



Register and be a part of OLLI growth!



OLLI at Clemson University began in the Fall of 2002 with a course enrollment of 85 and has grown to a Spring 2008 enrollment of 982 (Figure 1). Beginning in 2006, as an experiment, we added Maymester to provide our members with a few classes during the month of May. Maymester began with a class enrollment of 130 and has grown to 257 during 2008. Beginning in 2005, we were required to provide the Osher Foundation with the number of “unduplicated paying members” on a yearly basis (Figure 2). We chose to provide that information on a Clemson University fiscal year basis. That metric is used by the Osher Foundation to judge the growth performance of all OLLIs. In 2005, we had 546 unduplicated paying members. This enrollment has now grown to 962 for FY 2007-2008, reflecting a membership growth of 77 % since 2005. With over 95 courses planned for the Fall 2008 semester, we anticipate continued growth. We hope to see you in one or more of our exciting Fall 2008 courses!
