



AT THE
UNIVERSITY
OF GEORGIA®

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WHAT HAS COVID GIVEN US?

By Scott Mason

I know we don't want someone to give us Covid. That's clear. Some of us had bouts of Covid or have family members who have had serious Covid. There's not much good to be had with Covid.

But let's take a look at a few positive things Covid has given us. Particularly those among us who are old-er!

The first thing that comes to mind is that now most of us now know how to Zoom. We learned to set up meetings, admit people to meetings, turn on and off video and audio. We ALL learned a charade to say, "We can't hear you!" or "Your mike is DEAD!"

Some creative OLLI members learned to put a photo or a gif behind their Zoom image. I saw an awfully lot of people visiting the same desert island with its waving palm tree. I myself co-opted Cezanne's art studio for my own. We also learned to neaten up our background, light our faces, make our voices clear, and lots of other broadcasting skills:

- Do not walk or wander with a connected laptop or cell phone or your audience gets dizzy and may urp.
- Be careful about the microphone. Keep the dog quiet. Keep the children quiet. Keep your spouse quiet. If you have an open mike, you are just inviting Murphy's Law to sponsor background comments you didn't want to be heard. How many among us have heard a husband/wife brouhaha in the middle of a meeting?
- Be careful of your background. We've all seen the kids and the pets, and some have seen the unaware spouse wander into frame semi-clothed. It used to be we could keep neighbors at the door when the house was a mess. Now the mess gets broadcast hither and yon.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Dawn Torcivia



Dawn Torcivia

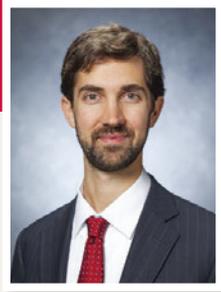
When my husband, Bob, and I were thinking about retirement, we researched different areas in the state. We both wanted a place where Bob could cycle safely and one that offered opportunities for learning and cultural enrichment. That's when I discovered OLLI@UGA, one of the major factors in deciding to move to the Athens area. When I joined, I attended a New Member Orientation. It was there that I learned OLLI is more than just classes. There are social events, SIGs, and opportunities to volunteer and meet people. I didn't realize what an important part volunteers play in making OLLI the great organization it is.

Every term OLLI offers a great selection of classes due to the recruiting work by the Curriculum Committee. Members share ideas and contacts to develop a quality catalog of classes. Don't worry if you are new to Athens. This group will show you how to book former instructors and reach out to new presenters who might be local, national, or even international.

Hospitality is the committee that plans fun social events such as membership picnics, tailgates, and holiday parties. In the past these gatherings have included Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, and Holiday socials. If you enjoy planning and working on events, this is the place for you!

The Membership Committee develops ideas on how to reach out to new members while also addressing the needs of our current members. Committee members write welcome notes to new members, distribute OLLI postcards in the community, reach out to members to renew their OLLI membership, present New Member Orientations, and bring creative and innovative ideas to the group.

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Tim Meehan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To be or not to be, that is the question. Or, more correctly in these times, “to see or not to see” – to see our families, our neighbors, our OLLI friends. Even with new COVID variants emerging, we as an organization seek ways to move forward optimistically, but with our eyes wide open. We continue to keep some protocols in place but expand the number of ways to participate in person and online.

We are continuing to bring in-person classes, both at River’s Crossing and across town. There will be more seats available in each class than in late fall, though not yet returning to

standing-room only. We do continue to encourage our members to wear masks on campus premises for both your protection and for the protection of other people. Even though we like seeing you in person, we do have a wonderful slate of Zoom classes, given by presenters who cannot come to Athens in person – make sure to check them out.

We have a full slate of Lunch and Learns this spring, with a mixture of fun, entertainment and meatier lectures. Please remember that the date for registration for the Lunch and Learns is a week before the lunch in order to be able to provide accurate catering numbers to Trumps. We will operate about 75 percent capacity, which means you need to act fast for the popular luncheons.

Following the success of our picnics in 2021 (thank you Hospitality

Committee), we will continue to offer more social events in-person. One of my favorite work activities is being able to meet all the new members at these events – and it’s a great way for our members to meet as well.

We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you happen to have friends who you think would benefit from being in OLLI, please point them in the direction of our website (olli.uga.edu). If you have a group that you would like us to come and talk to, please let me know so that we can get something on the books.

To paraphrase Shakespeare (again), “we know what things are, but know not what they may be.” We continue to serve our members and look for further ways to engage everyone in our learning community.

BOOM BASH SENIOR EXPO IN APRIL

By Tracy Coley



Boom Magazine, an OLLI sponsor, is hosting the Boom Bash Senior Expo, its first-ever resource fair for people 50 and over, on April 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Athens Country Club on Jefferson Road. Partnering with the Athens Community Council on Aging, *Boom Magazine* publisher and founder

Betsy Bean (an OLLI member) says she is aiming to bring in around 35 vendors to showcase their services and resources. OLLI@UGA will also be there with a table to promote its programs and services to potential members. Vendors across several industries are invited to participate, including health, wellness and medical specialties; recreational activities and clubs; housing and caregiving agencies; retirement and financial planning

companies; real estate agents; aging resources; and home services. In addition to visiting with vendors, expo guests will enjoy entertainment, fitness demos, seminars, and door prizes.

“Our goal is to provide information to those who have been thinking about or looking for resources for themselves or relatives in a fun, open, and inviting atmosphere,” Betsy says. “Looking for resources can sometimes be overwhelming and intimidating, and this expo is the perfect place to do your research and talk to people in these industries and get questions answered all in one space. And we’re grateful to the Athens Country Club for providing a beautiful, accessible space with plenty of free parking.”

For more information about the Boom Bash, contact Betsy Bean at betsy@boomathens.com or (256) 454-4595.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT – WUGA-FM

By Greg Mitsoff

“Making a difference in quality of life by delivering programs that inspire curiosity about and engagement in the world, the arts, and the human condition” is a mission statement that sounds as if it might be OLLI@UGA’s. In fact, it belongs to radio station WUGA-FM, a valued sponsor of OLLI@UGA. We are indeed fortunate to have a sponsor whose mission complements OLLI@UGA’s goal of offering opportunities for intellectual, social and cultural enrichment in the Athens area.



news, educational shows, music, and entertainment programs developed through partnerships with National Public Radio and Georgia Public Broadcasting.

To stay aware of listeners’ interests and issues in the Athens area, WUGA relies on the Community Advisory Council, a group of volunteers who attend WUGA board meetings, review the station’s programming goals, and

make recommendations on specialized educational and cultural needs of the community.

WUGA has been a part of the Athens community since 1986, when the station was established at UGA’s Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Programming from the Georgia Center studios continues to this day and includes national and local

Many of WUGA’s 66 programs cover topics of interest to OLLI@UGA members. Browse the complete list of shows on the WUGA website, www.wuga.org/programs. As you tune in to WUGA, listen for their public-service announcements in support of OLLI@UGA.

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN *cont’d from pg 1*

The Marketing and Communications Committee communicates OLLI news and events to members and the community. They collaborate with other committees to help their events and initiatives be successful. They also publish a newsletter, the *OLLI Times*, several times a year. This is a creative group of people who can use your writing, editing, and marketing skills. Photographers are always welcome.

Since OLLI is a non-profit organization, the Fund Development Committee is another active group. They work on the Annual Fund Drive and investigate other fund-raising ideas. Just this year several members created the Class Sponsorship Program where members can sponsor an OLLI class in recognition or honor of a particular person, interest, or event.

Our Finance Committee oversees OLLI’s financial policies and procedures to ensure its fiscal soundness. They develop yearly budgets and review the status at their monthly meetings.

There are many opportunities for members to get involved. Go to the OLLI website, hover over **About** at the top, then click on **Volunteer**. Take a look and see where you might enjoy contributing your skills and time.

OLLI is a stellar organization because of the dedication of our volunteers. Please consider joining one of our committees. It’s a great way to meet people, develop some extraordinary friendships, and contribute to keeping OLLI a thriving and fabulous organization.

OVER 60 DIFFERENT SPRING CLASSES AVAILABLE

Check out the class catalog at
Olli.uga.edu/catalogA

We're



Ramsey Center Tour



Class: Mock Trial



Class: Plants in Design

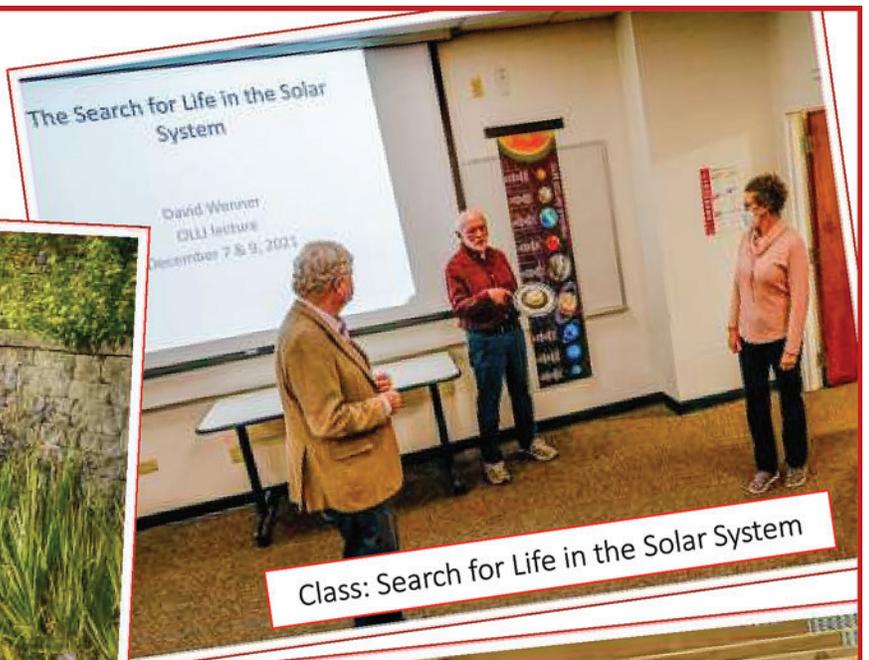


Lunch and Learn: Dynamic Courtroom Moments

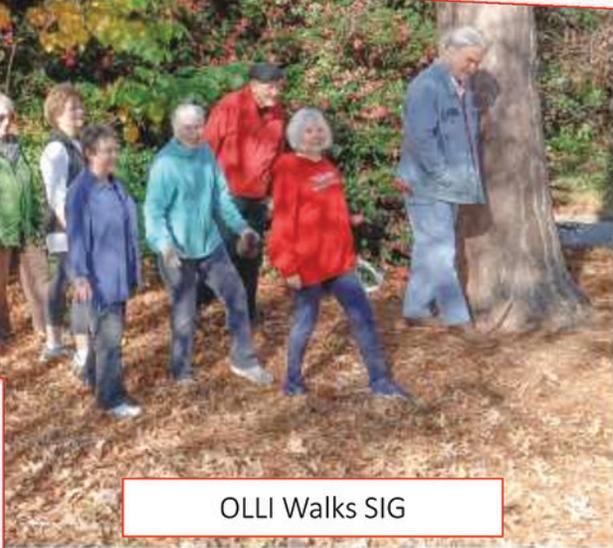
OLLI!



PictureThis! SIG



Class: Search for Life in the Solar System



OLLI Walks SIG



OLLI Picnic



Class: Plants in Design

WHAT OLLI MEMBERS LOVE ABOUT ATHENS

By Ann Allen

Hospitality, music, sports, good food, nature, and art are just a few items on the “What I Love About Athens” lists of OLLI members. Whether new to the area or long-time residents, everyone has an opinion on how our community enhances our life experiences.

Check out these comments:



“UGA football and participating in the Silver Dawgs program are my favorite things about Athens,” says **Chuck Terry**.

“I love almost everything about being back in Athens, especially being close to my daughter and lifelong friends,” reports **Teresa Hobson**. “Walking on the Firefly Trail is a new pleasure.”



Linda DiPietro enjoys the many opportunities to meet new people through engaging in OLLI classes and activities, volunteering locally, walking and biking, and more. “We have an incredibly diverse population of people with interesting life stories.”

“It’s great to be in a setting where I can share photography tips and organize outings for OLLI members,” says **Gary Whiting**.



Paula Keam notes that “my favorite thing to do in Athens is attend a concert at the UGA Performing Arts Center.”

“The variety of UGA athletic events and outdoor locations like Dudley Park and the North Oconee River Greenway are high on my list of what I enjoy about Athens,” explains **Martha McFerron**.



“We are privileged to have rich music and arts offerings in Athens,” says **Rosemary Woodel**. “I’ve been to as many as four different musical events in one week and always try to go to most of the shows at the Lyndon House, the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation, and the Georgia Museum of Art.”

“Lunch at Heirloom Café,” adds **Madeline VanDyck**.



It is most likely not a coincidence that what OLLI members like about Athens is reflected in many of the classes and activities offered by OLLI@UGA. Who doesn’t enjoy the chance to expand their knowledge of or skills in something that they are already passionate about? At the same time, OLLI provides a venue for exploring new topics and experiences that could eventually be added to “favorite things about Athens” lists.



Thank you to this issue’s contributors

- Ann Allen
- Tracy Coley
- Scott Mason
- Tim Meehan
- Greg Mitsoff
- Chuck Murphy
- Dawn Torcivia

WHAT HAS COVID GIVEN US?

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My family learned that we could use these skills for weekly family meetings that were supposed to run half an hour but usually grew into 90-minute productions. I have talked to my niece more since Covid started than I did previously in two or three years.

Beyond all that, we are now able to participate in international meetings. I belong to a quilting group of people who live all over the USA, Canada, and the Western Hemisphere and to another whose members are mostly in Europe. Lots of quilters in England, Portugal, and Spain.

Covid also helped teach us about YouTube, that wonder of technology, that melding of an encyclopedia, *MacGyver*, entertainment, and *Books for Dummies*. Is there any skill left unrevealed by YouTube? Flow painting? Quilting? Woodworking? Cleaning? Auto repair? Even how to machine a perfect ball bearing! My wife enjoyed Ted Talks about a wide variety of subjects. I learned how to make my own YouTube recording, how to include others in the show, and how to show documents. I can now lead online meetings with confidence.

So, Covid hasn't been a total waste, although it can feel that way. There has been some positive give-back. But all things considered, I'd rather that Covid had never popped up.

Thank you OLLI partners and sponsors for your continued support.

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WUGA Radio

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