



THE NEWS AUGUST 2025

Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

How should we make the most of our retirement years?

For many, retirement may last longer than their working years.

An article in the October 2024 issue of *AARP: The Magazine* featured the story of Dr. Art Ulene, age 88, and the three acts of his life.

His first act spanned 23 years, during which, he served as an Army doctor, a university professor, and later as a television advisor. Ulene commuted 6 million miles from New York to his home in Los Angeles.

Ulene's second act lasted 13 years and focused on what he called "never-ending pleasure." During this time, Ulene and his wife, Priscilla, who have been married for 64 years, traveled to 83 countries. They did this until he began to feel his life lacked purpose.

A friend challenged him to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, which has an elevation of 19,341 feet. Ulene didn't think he could do the climb because he said, "I grew up a whimp." Priscilla heard about the challenge and said she would join him.

Ulene's third act began at age 76. When asked why he embraced hiking, he said, "Because it felt so far beyond my reach." He ended up climbing Kilimanjaro three times.

Like Ulene, OLLI students recognize that a good retirement addresses these essentials elements: physical activity, nutrition, sleep, cognitive challenges, social connection, and environment.

Opportunities to travel, to enjoy intellectual challenges, and to increase social connections are healthy outlets for OLLI students.

“Stay Curious!” Stay Connected!” is our motto. I believe Dr. Ulene would wholeheartedly agree.

~ **Marion Richter**

Mark these dates on your calendar:

Gold Registration opens: Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 8 am

Silver Registration opens: Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 8 am

2025 - 2026 Academic Calendar:

- **Fall Term:** Monday, Sept. 29 - Friday, Nov. 21, 2025
No classes: Oct. 2, Nov. 27, and Nov. 28
 - **Winter Term:** Monday, Jan. 12 - Friday, March 6, 2026
No classes: Jan. 19
 - **Spring Term:** Monday, March 16 - Friday, May 8, 2026
No classes: May 25
 - **Summer Term:** Monday, May 18 - Thursday, July 10, 2026
No classes: June 19 and July 3
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A Journey into the Future

By Judy LaMee

Through OLLI, I've discovered a new passion in my life... and my husband isn't even jealous. In fact, together we went on my journey of discovery, and he shares my joy.

We registered for "Everyday AI: From Brainstorming to Smarter Living" as part of the OLLI Summer Adventures program. Together we journeyed to State College of Florida's Advanced Technology Center in Bradenton for an introduction to a life enriched by Artificial Intelligence tools.

In just two hours, instructor Desh Bagley walked the 22 OLLI participants through a half dozen AI tools, or sidekicks as they're called, providing real-life examples we could all relate to and benefit from.

Topics included:

"Find a recipe using six ingredients already in my refrigerator."

And:

"I want to explore Iceland. Help me plan a seven-day itinerary there, including restaurants and lodging."

During the class, students did practice exercises that were so relatable that we could see ways to apply our new knowledge to our everyday lives.

My initial delight was underscored not long afterward when I was struggling with a Debussy piece on the piano: *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin* (The Girl with the Flaxen Hair). The composer included chords that appear absolutely impossible to play with two normal-sized human hands.

I went to Microsoft Copilot, one of the helpful sidekicks I had just learned how to use. Copilot took me to Debussy's measure 12, where the first such chord appeared and explained in detail how to approach it — in language that could have come from a compassionate college professor.

Just as impressive was Copilot's response to my query, "Plan an exercise program for an 83-year-old woman with a stiff neck." When I showed the response to my physical therapist, he responded, "This could put me out of a job!" He really needn't worry, though, as Copilot isn't programmed to give neck massages — yet.

Copilot even helped my husband and me find a long-lost favorite product by identifying the store, its address, and even the aisle inside the store. Now we can once again enjoy our favorite breakfast buns!

That one two-hour investment of time has answered many more questions for me in ways that have literally changed my life, thanks to OLLI programming.

The course teaser, “Come ready to play, plan, and be amazed at how easy it is to put AI to work for you” more than delivered on its promise. I’m still a novice at this, but I’m officially in the believer column.



Jeff Ryder, Dr. Phyllis Brown, event speaker Dr. Michael L. Thurmond, Lora Wey, and Marilyn Pinsky at the Southern Regional Conference in Atlanta.

OLLI Conference Highlights

By Marilyn Pinsky (Membership Chair)

OLLI leaders were on the move during spring and summer. In April they attended the Osher National Conference in Chantilly, Va., and in June they attended the Southern Regional

Conference in Atlanta. Both conferences offered valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and explore strategies for growth.

I attended the conference in Atlanta, and I was blown away by the opportunities to network and brainstorm with people from all over. After each session, our team got together and compared notes on what we learned.

“These conferences are always inspiring,” said Dr. Phyllis Brown, OLLI Director. “Everyone is so generous in sharing best practices and resources. The team at the national office is amazing—always helpful, supportive, and engaged.”

“While I’m at an OLLI conference, I always feel motivated and inspired by the positive energy and shared ideas from other OLLIs to bring it back home to ours,” said Jeff Ryder, Chair of the Advisory Committee.

“The sessions are informative and our colleagues from other OLLIs are always eager to share tips and ideas that can make our OLLI even stronger,” said Lora Wey, Assistant Vice President for Strategic Philanthropy.

“I think OLLI members will see some new ideas in the coming year that we picked up in Atlanta.”



Colleen Lundwall (Chair of the OLLI at Ringling College's Curriculum Committee), Bernard Osher (founder of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), and Dr. Phyllis Brown at the National Conference in Chantilly, Va.

Let's get ready to learn

We are excited and ready for the Fall term, which begins on Monday, Sept. 29.

One Fall favorite that you don't want to miss is the **Preview on Friday, Sept. 5, at 1 pm** in McGuire Hall on the Ringling College Museum Campus at the Sarasota Art Museum. The Preview is a great time to meet new and returning instructors and hear about their upcoming classes.

Immediately following the Preview, stick around for the **New Member Open House set for 2:15 pm**. Use this link to download the catalog. <https://olliringlingcollege.org/course-catalog/>

Coming This Fall...

- Artistic Role of the Audience
- Sing From the Heart: A Vocal Performance: A Class for Those Who Love to Sing)
- Improv: Brain Games
- Opportunities for Volatile Markets
- Healing in the Shade: The Art and Therapy of Florida Gardening
- Strategies for a Healthy Home
- Eight Battles That Changed the Course of U.S. History
- The U.S. Manned Space Program
- Situational/Topical French
- Thoreau's Wisdom for Today: Spiritual Insights for a Changing World
- Ploys for Dominance: Recognizing and Disarming Manipulation
- Writing Your Story: Two Pages at a Time

Volunteering is Good for You

In her fall catalog column, OLLI Director **Dr. Phyllis C. Brown** said, "Volunteers are the lifeblood of OLLI. We appreciate everyone who gives their time, talent, and energy to make OLLI the place where people love to learn, connect, and thrive."

Volunteering does a mind and a body good. If you have time and want to make an impact, consider volunteering for OLLI. We will work with you to find a role that aligns with your skills, interests, and schedule.

For more information, contact **Debra Ashby**, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 941-309-5112. You can also email her at dashby@ringling.edu go online and complete an application:

<https://olliringlingcollege.org/volunteer/ringling-college-online-volunteer-application/>

Shared Interest Groups Continue

Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are back. SIGS connect members who enjoy exploring similar topics and learning new skills together. Currently, we have four active SIGs. Remember: You must have an OLLI Gold or Silver membership to participate in a SIG.

Canasta: Marty Betagole (Facilitator). Meets weekly. Contact: thatgirl830@gmail.com

Current Events: Bruce Maggin (Facilitator.) Meets Tuesday afternoon via Zoom twice a month. Contact: sarasotasig19@gmail.com

Joyful Women in Transition: Gail Sussman-Miller (Facilitator). Meets every other week. Contact: gail@inspiredchoice.com

Mah Jongg: Joan Caruso (Facilitator). Meets weekly. Participants must purchase the current mah jongg card. Contact: joancarusoconsulting@gmail.com

A special thanks to **Orlene Hart** for facilitating the canasta and mah jongg SIGs during the summer.

We welcome new member-sponsored groups. OLLIs around the nation sponsor a variety of groups including those that focus on walking, dinner, lunch bunches, wine-tasting, and concert-going. Be creative and see if you can find like-minded people in Sarasota.

To sponsor a group, please fill out the form at <https://olliringlingcollege.org/programs/shared-interest-groups/>

Support Your OLLI

Your contribution, at any level, demonstrates your commitment to OLLI at Ringling College. All gifts are tax-deductible and go directly to OLLI. You can make an annual gift by setting up a monthly, quarterly, or yearly recurring donation. You can even make a donation when you register for classes.

We thank you!

[Donate to OLLI](#)

SARASOTA ART MUSEUM EXHIBITS



Check out the current offerings at our home, the Sarasota Art Museum, by clicking [here](#). There are tours, films, lectures and new exhibits.

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MUSEUM** / Ringling College
of Art + Design

*Lillian Blades: Through the Veil, June 1-October 26,
Sarasota Art Museum. Photo by Harry Sayer.*

The OLLI newsletter staff: Marion Richter (editor), Gary Reinmuth, Anne Perry Moore, Judy LaMée, Tom Miller and Meghan Burrows (OLLI staff).

Stay connected with our updates and share yours. Email: marionr44@gmail.com



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