PROFILE
Ron Hager
*Humor provides an element needed for a worthwhile life*

“Humor has a positive impact on both our physical and mental health,” Ron Hager says enthusiastically. He has emphasized this in the three courses he has taught at OLLI since 2010. His classes are lively, with an emphasis on connecting theory with practice.

He helps students reconnect to their unique sense of humor and then provides ways to exercise that humor creatively anywhere: in class, with family, with friends, as well as in everyday situations such as in supermarkets or in line at a bank.

Ron points out that humor is universal and found in every culture, along with music and art. “Laughter is the best medicine, especially among those of us who are dealing with the challenges of aging. When we reach a point when fight or flight is no longer an option, humor can come to the rescue. Laughter helps to defuse anger. It is difficult, if not impossible, to be angry at a person once laughter is involved.”

Further, he points out, a lively sense of humor may be linked with longevity. It seems to loosen the grip of depression, which often visits us as we grow older.

Hager came to OLLI following a long and diverse career in education in the Midwest. He holds a PhD in education from Michigan State University. He earned his BS at Wittenberg University in Ohio and an MS in Guidance and Counseling at Ohio’s Miami University. He was a fellow in Southern Illinois University’s New Exploratory Teacher Education Program (NEXTEP).

*continued on page 4*

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CALENDAR</th>
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| **Brown Bag Lunch**  
Fri., May 4. See page 2 for details. |
| **Walking Club**  
Wed., May 9 and Tues., May 22. See page 7 for details. |
| **Ninth Week**  
Sat., May 12. See page 8 for details. |
| **Occupy Maine**  
May 19. See page 5 for details. |
| **OLLI Night Out**  
Tues., May 22. See page 7 for details. |
| **Excursion to Botanical Garden**  
Thurs., June 21. See page 5 for details. |
| **Museums of Old York**  
| **Trip to Italy**  
| **SAGE**  
Tuesday 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
*Hannaford Hall*  
May 1: “ Courageous Individuals Who Have Sustained Democracy”  
May 8: “Are We Still Playing Energy Poker?” |
NOTES FROM SUSAN

It is with true sorrow that I write this month’s column.

Nancy Payne, one of the founding Board members of OLLI, passed away at the age of 94. Nancy was taking classes this spring and had her artwork on display in the Second Floor Gallery of the Wishcamper Center until mid-March.

She was still very involved with the OLLI Art Committee, attended SAGE regularly, and always took at least one class per term. Nancy taught an art appreciation course at Senior College in the early years. Later, she took classes in art, history, psychology, religion, literature, and politics.

In 2008, Nancy celebrated her 90th birthday as part of the OLLI art show. All proceeds from the sale of Nancy’s art were given to OLLI to support multicultural programming, which helped fund Culture Fest. In addition, Nancy set up an endowment with OLLI listed as one of two beneficiaries.

One of Nancy’s last requests was that her memorial service and celebration of her life be held at the Wishcamper Center. The family requested Saturday, May 12. Initially, I hesitated because that is the day of the OLLI spring celebration, with activities throughout the day – Singers, Players, readers, artists, and collectors.

But then it hit me: What better way to honor Nancy than to have her memorial in the Wishcamper Center on a day when OLLI people are engaged in OLLI activities throughout the building? Nancy’s service is set for 1 p.m. We will schedule OLLI activities around the service to minimize the impact.

I will truly miss this great lady. As I told her so many times, I want to be just like her when I grow up.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

Brown bag lunch: Moderating class discussions

On Friday, May 4, Jack Lynch will moderate a brown bag lunch discussion, “Moderating Class Discussions: Listening to Other Teachers’ Reflections.” Scheduled from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. in Wishcamper 211, this informal, relaxed meeting will be open to all OLLI present, past, and future teachers.

Anyone with an interest in teaching is welcome. There will be no admission charge, and members should bring their own lunch.

By listening to other OLLI teachers describe how they approach teaching, we can expand our “teaching toolbox” of styles, goals, and methods. Participants will be encouraged to develop their own particular style based on their personality, experiences, and ideology.

We will focus on alternative ways to lead discussions that engage the students and take advantage of their knowledge and experiences. Just as OLLI encourages widely divergent content in its courses, OLLI also encourages widely different teaching styles to better serve the diverse backgrounds of its members. (See Jack Lynch’s thoughts on page 6.)

Contact Education Committee Chair Joan Aldrich at aldrich1822@gmail.com for further information about this event.
**ADVISORY BOARD**
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Joan Aldrich, Education Chair
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Lenore Fleming
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Paula Johnson
Joy Larrabee
Jack Lynch
Denney Morton

OLLI members are invited to attend Advisory Board meetings, which usually take place on the second Friday of the month. Check with the OLLI office for time and place. Please contact the chair if you wish to address the Board.

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**WEBSITES**
Maine Senior College Network
www.maineseniorcollege.org
OLLI National Resource Center
www.osherr.net
OLLI at USM
www.usm.maine.edu/olli

**OLLI NEWSLETTER**
OLLI Office:
Wishcamper Center 210
P. O. Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300

Phone: 207 780-4406 or 1-800-800-4876
TTY 1-207-780-5646
Fax: 207 780-4317
E-mail:
ollinews@usm.maine.edu

Don King, Editor
Jo Morris, Layout Editor
Tim Baehr, Managing Editor

Please send newsletter material to the OLLI Office via our e-mail.
Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month before the newsletter is published.

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**OLLI Advisory Board**

As we move through a full and excellent array of spring term classes it is not too early to begin looking forward to OLLI’s summer offerings.

There will be 19 courses offered and they are as appealing as the current term courses.

The catalog is at the printer so watch for Rob’s e-mail soon. There will likely be a lottery for some classes in the summer term, which will run from June 26 to Aug. 2.

I draw your attention to the notice elsewhere in the newsletter regarding the OLLI Celebration during Ninth Week. It is a great chance to share successes, with a number of members making presentations from their courses.

Thanks again to the almost 700 members who completed the recent member survey. The results are being utilized by our committees as they plan future courses, events, and activities.

—Dick Sturgeon, Board Chair
sturgeon@usm.maine.edu
773-3174

**Ideas and support for those who want to teach at OLLI**

If you’re interested in teaching at OLLI, the Education Committee is available to help. Leave a note in our office mailbox or e-mail the Chair, Joan Aldrich, at aldrich1822@gmail.com. We can hook you up with a faculty mentor, help develop your course concept, help divide course content into six or eight sections, or answer any other questions or concerns you might have.

Ideas to consider:

- Team up with a friend — split the responsibility and share the fun of creating a new course.
- You don’t have to be an expert on the subject; the most important prerequisite is your passion for the topic.
- Put together a series of guest lecturers, related to a single topic; you coordinate and have overall responsibility for the course.
- Offer a minicourse or workshop.

Impromptu workshops offer a new concept, designed to accommodate hot-button news topics, without the usual lead-time needed for catalog publicity.

Contact us for more information.
Ron’s career in education focused on innovation and change. Unknown to him at the time, his education was influenced by Sputnik. The Russians’ beating us into space in 1957 with their satellite suggested that the United States was falling behind in the race for technological superiority.

As a result, much money and research were directed toward improving public education. The emphasis was on curriculum change in science and math, along with exercising more creativity in the classroom. Excited by innovation, Ron entered his first teaching job with a passion to change the system. Being young and naïve, he soon faced reality: Schools in general were not interested in change.

After several moves with his wife and four sons, he found fertile ground for change in the Chicago suburbs. He helped pilot an innovative open school and found himself surrounded by creative, innovative thinkers. In 1971 Ron joined the Department of Education at Ohio Wesleyan University. Later, he moved on to Doane College outside Lincoln, Nebraska, to direct a nationally recognized career development program.

Hager relocated to Portland after his wife Barbara was offered the job of Executive Director of the newly formed Portland’s Downtown District in late 1992.

Ron came to OLLI three years ago and offered his first course, “Elder Tales.” A year later he offered “Humor, a Life Jacket in a Sea of Change.” Both courses were well received, and he realized that he felt more at home in the embrace of humor. His course this spring is “Humor and Creativity: Exploring the Relationship.”

As this course comes to a close, Ron looks forward to a summer of gardening. He and his wife, a Master Gardener, have created a showplace for neighbors and friends. Their unique garden has been featured several times on the “Secret Gardens of Portland” tour. “But you’d better keep that a secret,” he quips.

—Don King

Great trip, fabulous price

Join fellow OLLI members Nov. 10 to 18 for a trip to Sorrento and Rome including the Vatican Museum, St. Peter’s Basilica, and The Sistine Chapel. Also included is a full day trip to the Isle of Capri.

The price is just $2,769 (by credit card) or $2,719 (cash/check) and includes $668.37 in taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges, as well as $239 for travel protection insurance and most meals.

Flyers are available in the OLLI office with the detailed itinerary.

A $350 deposit is required with your registration, and final payment is due Aug. 25. We need a minimum of 35 travelers; the maximum we can accommodate is 50.

Register early so you won’t be disappointed. Deadline for registration is June 15.
OLLI Excursions’ trip to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens  
Feathers and Foliage:  
Celebrating Bird and Plant Interactions in Maine

Reserve early for the Thursday, June 21, visit to this much requested destination in Boothbay, Maine. We will depart by bus at 9 a.m. from the Wishcamper Center at USM. The all-inclusive price of $55 per person includes buffet sandwich lunch, entry fee, transportation, and driver’s tip.

The theme for 2012 at the Gardens is Feathers and Foliage, focusing on the garden’s collection of wild and cultivated plants. Docents will have maps available, and as a special treat, OLLI’s own Stephen Jenks, a summer docent, has agreed to meet and talk with us during lunch.

The gardens are located on a 248-acre site, much of which is developed into separate theme areas, including the Garden of the Five Senses and Rhododendron & Perennial, Woodland, Children’s, and Kitchen gardens. The site also includes a permanent outdoor sculpture collection scattered throughout the different landscapes, changing art exhibits in the Visitors’ Center, a café, and a gift shop.

Golf cart shuttles transport visitors to stops at various destinations, but visitors must be able to walk through the individual gardens on rustic trails and terraced pathways following the natural topography. Please wear clothing and shoes appropriate to the weather and walkways.

To reserve, mail your check, made out to OLLI, to OLLI, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104, or call 780-4406 to pay with a credit card. You may also register in person at the office. There will be no refunds after June 8.

For additional information call Anita Jones at 797-3612 or Johannah Hart at 773-4046.

What Occupy Maine could mean to you

If you have been wondering what the Occupy Maine movement is all about, an upcoming impromptu workshop may be of interest to you.

Entitled “Occupy Maine,” this informative workshop will take place in Room 102 in the Wishcamper Center on Saturday, May 19, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The goal is to provide not only some historical context, but also an in-depth look at what’s happening inside the movement right now. Several Occupiers will talk about their diverse roles within Occupy Maine. There will be opportunities for small group discussions as well as large group questions and answers. The workshop fee is $15, and advance registration is required. You must be an OLLI member to attend.

What better way to gain an understanding of, and perspective on, this current effort to address the perceived need for reform of our political and economic institutions?

To register, visit the OLLI office or call the office at 780-4406.
Happy 6th of July!

While you are still in your Fourth of July history celebrating mode, you can experience an exciting trip to The Museums of Old York. Friday, July 6, is the day for the OLLI trip to this extraordinary Maine treasury of 18th century buildings and artifacts. You will be introduced to the individuals who shaped this town as you tour their homes and public buildings.

On arrival at the Parsons Center in York, small groups, with their own docent in period costume, will tour the Emerson-Wilcox House (1740s), the Old Burying Ground (oldest headstone is dated 1706), and the Old Gaol (1719).

The Gallery houses exhibits of 17th and 18th century artifacts. Its collections include the Bulman crewel bed hangings and other priceless objects, many of which have been requested by other museum exhibitions.

In the afternoon we will participate in hearth cooking (cookies) and fabric-making demonstrations and have a math lesson in the schoolhouse (no test!) We will snack on those very cookies and sip cider before we leave. Check out www.oldyork.org for more details.

Lunch is on your own at Rick’s All Seasons Restaurant, just across the street from the museum’s campus. If you want to brown bag it, the large patio outside Jefferd’s Tavern is the perfect spot.

Departure is from the Wishcamper Center at 9 a.m.; return is at approximately 5:30 p.m. Cost is $50 per person, including driver’s tip. Deadline for registration is June 22. Send your check to OLLI, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104, reserve in person at the OLLI office, or call the office at 780-4406. There will be no refunds after June 29.

For questions or further information, call Liz Johnson (773-1904) or Lila Fried (767-2660).

Class discussions: Listening to other teachers’ reflections

Thoughts by Jack Lynch

The Brown Bag Lunch discussion for May 4 is about alternative ways to encourage and moderate discussions in the context of a two-hour OLLI class of about 20 people.

Sometimes the ideal size for a discussion is three to five people. This size offers the best opportunity for all members to have a good hunk of “air-time” and offers each person the opportunity to hear different perspectives. For this reason, some teachers divide their classes into smaller groups, if doing so fits in with the course’s overall goals.

Perhaps the most important factor in leading a discussion is understanding what one’s objectives are. This is a personal question with many equally valid answers. OLLI encourages instructors to teach whatever content they feel comfortable with—you don’t even have to be an expert in it. I think the same goes for teaching style.
Walk Club heads for Topsham and Wells

On **Wednesday, May 9**, we will walk at the Cathance River Nature Preserve at Highland Green in Topsham. This is a repeat of a popular walk from last year, featuring beautiful scenery along the river.

On **Tuesday, May 22**, we will be walking at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells.

Both trips leave from the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford. Please be at Back Cove a few minutes early so that we may leave promptly at 10 a.m. For both walks, bring your lunch, water, and sunscreen, and beware of insects and ticks. If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

**Did it!**

*[Editor’s note: We hope to continue this column, listing OLLI members’ accomplishments outside OLLI. We have some simple rules: Announcements must be (1) only for yourself; (2) no more than three lines; (3) about only publication, inclusion in an art exhibit, an award, or a similar achievement; (4) about something that happened within the past month. Submit to ollinews@usm.maine.edu. Include contact information for the Newsletter editors.]*

OLLI Players performer **Marcia Leonard** has published a murder/suspense novel, *Fingerprints*, and will be speaking at the Portland Public Library Friday, June 1, at noon. The book is available at local book stores and at Amazon.com.

Writing classes veteran **Susan Pickford** is publishing her memoir, *Removing the Habit of God: Sr. Christine’s Story*, through CreateSpace on Amazon.com. The memoir will be available as a paperback and an ebook in June.

**OLLI Night Out for May**

Have you been to Portland’s newest German restaurant, Schulte and Herr? Located at 349 Cumberland Ave., this little eatery is mighty good.

OLLI members and friends are invited to OLLI Night Out at Schulte and Herr on Tuesday, May 22, at 5 p.m. It’s a BYOB place, if you’re interested.

Parking is on the street or in the parking garage across from the restaurant. To make reservations, just leave a message for Terry Foster at 780-4895. Let him know how many will be in your party. *Es schmeckt gut!* (It tastes good!)

**Did you know?**

As an OLLI/USM student you can have a free USM e-mail account and be able to access the USM wireless network called “Tempest.” It’s all free.

All you need to do is go to the USM help desk in the USM computer lab in Luther Bonney Hall. Tell them you’re an OLLI student and explain what you want, and they will help you set it up.

**OLLI Collectors’ Day showcase**

During OLLI’s Spring Celebration (Ninth Week, May 12), join us to show off your collection of ticket stubs, Hummels, antique glass, quilts, sports memorabilia, or whatever you collect. We will be in room 205 all day. Please let me know if you need a full 5-foot table or half a table. I will take the first 15 exhibitors. Call me at 797-6873.

—Rick Tomazin
OLLI celebrates us!

You're invited! Please come to OLLI’s Spring Celebration, affectionately known as “Ninth Week.” We are celebrating the end of the semester—who we are and what we do!

When: Saturday, May 12. Where: Wishcamper Building. Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will begin with coffee and donuts in the Atrium from 9 to 9:30 a.m., followed by fiction and poetry readings and performances in Room 133.

There will be performances by the OLLI Singers, Players, and Recorder Ensemble. Throughout the day, please visit the Art Studio, the art and photography exhibits, and the collectibles gallery.

Please bring your own brown bag lunch. We will provide cold drinks and dessert in the Muskie Forum from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Let’s break bread together and support all of our OLLI friends.

At 1 p.m. there will be a memorial service for Nancy Payne, who passed away recently. She was a founding Board member of our organization. (See “Notes from Susan” on page 2.)

Remember to keep your calendar open for May 12. It will be a day of music, laughter, and enjoyment for all! The OLLI Community Committee looks forward to seeing all of you then.

—Paula Johnson, Event Chair