Profile
Crispin Bolese

Teaching has long been close to Crispin Bolese’s heart

“I love to teach,” is Crispin Bolese’s explanation of how he came to teach an OLLI course on African politics.

Crispin’s credentials for the course can be traced to his university teaching in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he was a lecturer at the University of Kisangani. While there, he earned a B.A. in administrative and political science. He later taught at the Kigali Independent University in Rwanda. He did research in administrative science, taught introductory courses in political science, and guided students in their research on such topics as democracy and ethnicity in Central Africa.

The rising violence forced Crispin to flee with his wife and young child to Kenya and then to Atlanta, Georgia, in 2001. There he was an assistant and substitute teacher in a Montessori school, where he taught French (his native language) and later monitored the computer lab for a school of budding geniuses.

However, Crispin found Atlanta’s crime rate threatening and, like many other refugees, found his way in 2006 to Portland. Here, he sought to strengthen his background in political policy and management at USM’s Muskie School of Public Service.

But first he had to improve his English, so he began taking courses in English as a Second Language. During that time, he spent more than four years as a direct support specialist at Goodwill Industries, helping clients with developmental disabilities to get into the workforce, and maintaining documents needed for the state.

Crispin got his M.A. in public service and management from the Muskie School in 2010. He also became involved in the study center at the Riverton Park housing development, aiding students from second grade to graduate school. “Students coming here as refu-
**Crispin Bolese (cont’d from page 1)**

gees have problems in learning how to study and do homework.”

At about that time, the Muskie School was asked to provide someone with Crispin’s skills to help organize the Opportunity Alliance, which was replacing the People’s Regional Opportunity Program. The Alliance, formed in 2011, seeks to help people build better lives and stronger communities, meeting the needs of individuals, families, and communities throughout Maine. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Opportunity Alliance, Crispin suggests ways to improve quality of service, aids in consultation, and oversees volunteer management.

When OLLI was seeking a lecturer for a course on Africa, Crispin’s name came up. He was eager to teach the course, but he wanted to expand it from Central Africa to include the whole continent. Thus, the course became “Introduction to African Politics.” He covered the basic concepts of African politics—from Tunisia through the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, to South Africa—and presented case studies to illustrate the political struggles in some of the countries. While Crispin continues to establish himself in the community, he may offer another course to bring OLLI students a more up-to-date understanding about that volatile region.

—Don King

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**NOTES FROM SUSAN**

OLLI is growing. As you know, OLLI membership runs from July to June, USM’s fiscal year. We ended 2012–2013 with 1,586 members, an all-time high for OLLI. Since July, we have welcomed 343 new members.

Not everyone who was a member last year has re-joined yet, but we must consider that they might. This level of growth requires the Advisory Board to constantly review policies, schedules, pricing, and offerings to guarantee that OLLI is prepared for the future.

Maine’s population is currently the oldest in the US, with an average age of 43. That means that in seven years, half the population of Maine will be age-eligible for OLLI or one of the other Senior Colleges. The big question is, “Will we be ready?”

One focus this fall has been OLLI’s Thursday evening classes. Not only do Thursday evening classes offer OLLI an opportunity to grow, they also allow us to reach out to age-eligible people who still work a typical daytime job. Six classes, with a total enrollment of over 80, have been well-received by the OLLI community.

The buzz around Thursday evenings has been growing. I encourage you to consider teaching or attending Thursday evenings in the Spring to be part of OLLI’s expansion.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

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**Snow Closings**

As winter approaches, we want to tell you about the OLLI snow policy. If USM closes on account of the weather, OLLI is also closed. You can find out at any time by calling The USM Storm Line at 207-780-4800. This is quicker and more accurate than storm-closing announcements on the radio or TV.
Olli Advisory Board

I hope you are all still enjoying your classes this fall.

The OLLI Book Sale is fast approaching on Nov. 8 and 9. If you have books to contribute, please bring them to the OLLI workroom on the second floor by Nov. 7. Remember that as OLLI members you have first choice if you come to the sale on Friday, Nov. 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. It is open to all on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The OLLI Raffle began Oct. 28 and will continue through the week of Nov. 4. All proceeds benefit the OLLI scholarship fund, so please help out by buying chances to win two free OLLI classes or a membership and free class.

Given our steady growth over the past 15 years, and our expectation that this trend will continue, the Advisory Board is beginning discussions for managing our growth so that OLLI can provide the same level of access and service to our members in the future.

—Dick Sturgeon, Chair
dicksturg13@gmail.com

Downhill skiers to meet

The Downhill Skiers will meet Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. in Room 203 in Wishcamper to plan the coming season.

This is what we plan to do at the meeting:

1. Find and meet active downhill skiers.
2. Find skiers interested in coordinating ski trips. (It’s easy!)
3. Discuss discount skiing rates.
4. Begin scheduling ski trips.

If you can’t come to the meeting and want to ski with us this winter, please call one of the Downhill Ski Co-coordinators: Lois Winter at 871-8029, or Pris Nelson at 772-3438.
A Wrinkle in Time
Echoes of a bygone era

In March 2014, OLLI will offer a program that examines an era when the rich got richer and the poor got poorer, when young scantily-dressed women shocked society with sexually provocative dances, when Congress grappled with a divisive immigration bill, when communities were divided by decisions about teaching evolution or creationism, when millions of Americans used an illegal substance that created a permanent criminal class, when modern art and music offended many audiences, when world governments were in a near-constant state of chaos and upheaval, and when bankers and businesses routinely bought political influence in Washington.

While it may seem that this would be a program about the problems Americans face today, the program, in fact, focuses on a period almost a hundred years ago.

A Wrinkle in Time, sponsored by OLLI’s Education Committee, is a cultural event that explores the impact of specific eras on our life today. Offered bi-annually since 2007, the symposium series has examined Vienna in the 1880s, San Francisco in the Summer of Love, and the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair.

In 2014, A Wrinkle in Time will present “The 1920s: The Age of Prohibition, the Charleston, the Scopes Trial, Flappers, and the Harlem Renaissance.” A series of speakers will highlight these and other topics about the decade; presentations will be followed by guided sessions for the exchange of ideas on important parallels between this era and contemporary issues.

Previous A Wrinkle in Time programs have proved to be extremely popular and well-reviewed. Further information about A Wrinkle in Time: The 1920s will appear in the Winter 2014 OLLI course catalog.

Be sure to register as soon as you receive your Winter 2014 catalog (but not before — the OLLI office will NOT take pre-registrations). Previous Wrinkle in Time programs have sold out quickly, and space is limited.
Senior Moments

**Formerly “Did It!”**

Send us a note about your publication, award, or the like: ollinews@usm.maine.edu.

Reflections, OLLI’s journal of literature and arts, has just been published. Too many contributors to list individually, but they and the Reflections Committee did a superb job.

Tim Baehr’s story, “Hobart,” was just published in Silly Tree’s first anthology, Scared Spitless. The book is available electronically and in print on Amazon.

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**OLLI members get first dibs at the Book Sale!**

The OLLI Book Sale takes place on Friday, Nov. 8, from 3 to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. As in previous years, there will be tons of books to choose from.

Friday is for OLLI members only — we get first choice. Saturday is for OLLI members and the general public.

Stop by Wishcamper Room 102 and browse!

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**Save the dates!**

**OH, COME ON!** …. Stay after class to enjoy what your friends at OLLI have planned to delight and entertain you. Mark your calendars for the following performances:

OLLI Singers Special Interest Group, **October 31, 3:00–3:30 p.m., Room 102**

Savor the sounds of our wonderful Singers!

Recorder Ensemble Special Interest Group, **November 5, 11:45–12:15 p.m., Room 102**

The Recorders have become expert at making beautiful music!

Line Dancing Class, **November 5, 12:15–12:30 p.m., Room 102**

Dance demonstration from a cross-cultural dance class.

Reader’s Theater Performance Class, **November 6, 3:30 p.m., Room 133**

Our talented actors bring stories and characters to life.

OLLI Senior Players Special Interest Group, **November 8, 3:00 p.m., Room 133**

Short plays performed by an amazing group of actors.
Announcements / Calendar / Special Events

Walking Club heads to Yarmouth, Freeport

**Wednesday, Nov. 13:** Walking Club members will walk at the Community Gardens in Yarmouth through a mature forest with many varieties of trees. We will eat lunch at a nearby home.

**Tuesday, Nov. 26th:** We walk at the Freeport Land Trust in South Freeport, which provides lovely views of the ocean at trail’s end.

As usual, we meet for car-pooling at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. Bring your lunch and water. If you have questions or want to join us, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

Lunch Out at Macaroni Grill

Elegant but casual, [Macaroni Grill](#) will be our next dining spot.

Since many folks have asked for places to visit in daylight hours, we will be having lunch at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The restaurant is located at 415 Philbrook Ave. in South Portland, just off the Maine Mall Road.

Menu specialties include many tempting choices…and you may appreciate the posting of calories beside each selection.

Your reservation must be in by Nov. 11. Please call or write to be included.

—Barbara Bardack, 865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net
Online survey will be coming soon

[This is a message from Mike Brady, of the OLLI National Resource Center.]

Periodically we like to take a demographic snapshot of the OLLI community at the University of Southern Maine. The information we gather in this survey will help the administration understand who attends our program and will also help with future planning. In addition, this time the results of the USM survey will be compared with similar surveys that will be administered at a number of OLLIs across the United States. Comparative data will be shared with OLLI members in a future newsletter article.

A short while after the November newsletter is published, you will receive an e-mail in which there will be a link to our online survey. The survey itself is short and should take less than five minutes to complete. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary, but we hope you will respond to help us to update our own demographic profile and also be part of a larger national research initiative.

Thank you.

Too many books from too many classes?
The OLLI Library can help!

Please consider donating your no-longer-needed or wanted class books from OLLI classes to your OLLI lending library.

Duplicate copies of books will be passed along to the upcoming OLLI Book Sale or one of the area libraries’ book sales.

All books from both OLLI book groups are also happily accepted. Please put your donated books on the designated shelf in the left-hand far corner of the library. Thanks.

—OLLI Library Committee

Remember to pick up a CLYNK bag at the office for your deposit bottles and cans!

OLLI photographers to meet Nov. 21

The OLLI Photography Special Interest Group meets on the third Thursday of each month. We are a group of photographers who meet to share our interest in photography and encourage each other to become better photographers.

All levels of interest and ability are welcome.

The next meeting is Nov. 21. Contact Sharon Hickey at sharonlh@gwi.net for time and place, or for more information.