Meet John Sutherland—again. Since he was first profiled in these pages in 2006, a few things have changed. He no longer plays golf, his enthusiasm for which may have manifested, in his words, “my tendency toward self-flagellation.” He has two more grandchildren (that makes three), and he and his wife, Kathleen, have become one of the few couples who both teach at OLLI. This year, John joined the OLLI Advisory Board, which he considers “a way to pay OLLI back.”

He chairs the Education Committee, which has two main functions: recruiting OLLI faculty and overseeing the curriculum. OLLI now has 70 faculty, about a dozen of them new this year. The curriculum tends heavily toward the liberal arts, and there is demand for more science courses and more state and local material.

John has taught classes in every Spring and Fall Term for the past 10 years. He is a social historian, with specialties in urban, labor, and oral history. He has taught many classes at OLLI, including “The Way We Were: Topics in American Social History”; “Theodore Roosevelt and his America”; “The Lives and Times of John and Abigail Adams”; and “Ill-Behaved Women: Women in American History.”

He has also team-taught film courses with Draper Hunt, good friend and “master of the anecdote as an instructional tool”; a course with the late Claire Knox, whom he calls “a superb teach-

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John Sutherland (continued from page 1)

er”; and a course on immigration history with his wife, Kathleen. He describes OLLI as having “the most appreciative student body you could ever have.”

This instructor has also taken a number of courses—most, but not all, in history, including two with Fiorello Ventresco, a Chaucer course with Evy Newlyn, and film courses with DeWayn Marzagalli. He says that “the OLLI faculty are great, and I have not taken a course I didn’t like.”

By his own admission, John floundered during high school in South Portland. After graduation, he did a stint in the Navy. When he later applied to college, he was short one science course. A sympathetic admissions officer allowed him to count his previous vocational typesetting class as “technical science.” He earned both a B.S. in Education and an M.A. in History from the University of Maine, Orono. He received his Ph.D. in History from Temple University.

John spent much of his career at Manchester Community College in Connecticut, where he is Professor of History Emeritus and former director of the college’s Institute of Local History. He was also adjunct faculty at the University of Connecticut and at both Eastern and Central Connecticut State Universities.

John’s major oral history project focused on workers at the then-famous Cheney silk mill in Manchester. The secret to oral history, he says, is to “keep your mouth shut” and allow the unsung to tell their stories. He and colleagues also interviewed workers at the Waterbury, Connecticut, brass mills and former AT&T employees in the era of the “Baby Bells.”

A highlight of John’s career was in Cape Town, training local South Africans to conduct an oral history project with anti-apartheid activists. While there, he had the extraordinary experience of meeting with and having his picture taken with Nelson Mandela.

Despite his sometimes lengthy absences, John is a Mainer to the core. He thinks Portland is “fantastic for a city its size.” He and Kathleen, who had a “December romance” after each was widowed, enjoy the theater and the Portland Symphony. They do like to travel, however, and have planned a trip to the Panama Canal. Kathleen grew up in Cairo, so the two have spent considerable time in Egypt. Indeed, Kathleen has led two OLLI trips to Egypt and one trip to Turkey. Altogether, John feels lucky that “my vocation was my avocation.”

John has a fantasy that he will gently exit this life just as his OLLI students have left the classroom and he is erasing the board. That’s this teacher’s love for OLLI.

The feeling, no doubt, is mutual.

—Amy Liston

Course proposals for Spring Term

Are you planning to teach during the Spring Term of 2015? It’s time to submit your proposal! The deadline is November 19, less than three weeks from when this newsletter is posted. Old hands and newcomers—all are welcome!

If you haven’t received the RFP (Request for Proposal) from Rob Hyssong in your e-mail, or if you need help filling out the RFP, Rob can help. Call him at 228-8336.

If you have an idea for a course, and you want to talk to someone, you can e-mail the Education Committee Chair, John Sutherland, at jfern2008@yahoo.com.
Advisory Board

I am writing this column as a spectacular autumn season in Southern Maine is drawing to a close. The Fall Term will be ending just as you read this newsletter and that means that registration for our Winter Term is not far off.

As you know, we will be implementing an online registration process for the Winter Term classes and workshops. The Advisory Board will be working hard to ensure that our members transition smoothly to this new process. Some of us have tried out the new system and have concluded that it is very similar to shopping online.

We will be providing training—Advisory Board volunteers will be available to work in small groups or one-on-one with members to help them feel comfortable registering in this new way. Mail-in or in-person registration will still be available.

Have you seen this new face in the OLLI office or in the halls of Wishcamper? We’d like to introduce Steve Thaxton, a graduate student in the USM School of Education and Human Development Master’s Program in Adult and Higher Education.

Steve has been working with the OLLI staff and the Advisory Board on two projects: upcoming training for the new online registration system and a membership survey that will come out in early 2015. He is also an OLLI student, in Bill Sadler’s “Designing the Life You Want: Navigating Your Third Age” course, and a volunteer—on the OLLI office desk Thursday mornings.

Steve came to his graduate program after a long career in broadcasting all across the country, but for 13 years right here in Maine (behind the cameras) at WCSH 6. Welcome, Steve!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

—Susan Gesing Advisory Board Chair susangesing@gmail.com; 967-5660

Common courtesies

For the comfort of your classmates, please remember:

- Turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Don’t wear perfume, cologne, or scented skin products. Some people are allergic to them.
- Wear your name tag.

Your instructor and other students will thank you.
Class registration changes are coming to OLLI beginning with the Winter Term. Starting in December, OLLI students will be able to register online for OLLI classes. Once the system goes “live,” registration and payment can be completed on any device with an Internet connection.

OLLI is part of Professional and Continuing Education at USM. Together we have been searching for a database, setting it up, and training to use it for almost two years! We are all very excited that we are about to see all our work come to fruition.

OLLI will still publish four catalogs per year. We will still mail catalogs to all members. We will still post the catalog on the OLLI website. But once you choose your courses, you click on a website link, and in a few easy steps, you can register and pay for your classes. You will know immediately if you get into the class or if it is full. If it’s full, you can add yourself to a waiting list, just like now.

The only change is that we can no longer hold a lottery for classes. Registration will all be on a first-come, first-served basis. The date and time that registration opens will be announced well in advance so everyone will know. OLLI will hold training sessions to help you set up your OLLI account and provide step-by-step handouts for the process. The OLLI Board will even hold registration sessions in the Wishcamper computer lab to coach you through the process.

In addition, the OLLI office will have one computer dedicated to online registration only. Anyone is invited to use it, and the OLLI staff will be happy to coach you. Over the next month or so, you will be receiving a lot of information concerning the new database/registration system. If you have ever shopped online, you will be able to navigate this new system. If you have never shopped online, you’ll be amazed at how easy it is!

If you don’t use a computer, come in and see how easy our new system is.

Registration forms may still be mailed or dropped off in the office, and they will be processed ASAP. Phone-in registrations will be accepted with credit card payment, as they are now.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program
Fall 2014
OLLI RAFFLE

SUPPORT the OLLI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WIN!! FREE OLLI Classes

3 Tickets for only $5.00

BUY TICKETS IN THE FIRST-FLOOR LOBBY
October 27 – November 7

Drawing is Friday, NOVEMBER 7 at 11:45 a.m.
Reflections now in print

Reflections, OLLI’s yearly journal of art and literature, was officially published on Thursday, October 23, and distributed to contributors and friends. A reception was held in the Forum, with speeches by Pat Budd, Chair of the Reflections Committee, and Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program. We were also treated to a reading by Anne Cyr of her poem, “Moss in a Bottle.”

Many thanks to the Reflections Committee for their hard and diligent work: Pat Budd, Janet Stebbins, Pat Walsh, Claire Knox, Tan Larrabee, and Denney Morton. And congratulations to all the writers, artists, and photographers.

You can pick up a free copy of Reflections at the OLLI office.

Anne Cyr

Susan Morrow

Pat Budd
Walking Club members to take off for Cape Elizabeth, South Freeport.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, walkers will enjoy a series of woodlands and wetlands along the Gull Crest Trail in Cape Elizabeth. Lunch will be at a nearby home.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, we will visit the Powell Point Trail, part of the Freeport Conservation Trust in South Freeport. This trail winds through the woods up a couple of short, steep hills and ends with a lovely water view of Casco Bay. We will enjoy lunch at a nearby home.

For both walks we will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring your lunch and water. Walking sticks would be useful. We hope to see you there.

If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

OLLi Night Out goes to lunch

Our November event will be lunch at Macaroni Grill in South Portland. Last time we had a big crowd who stayed on for conversation and digestion. We were made very comfortable and were contented with food and service.

My choice for this lunch will be sausage and potatoes ... will it be like my home-cooked version?

Save the date: Noon Tuesday, Nov. 18.

You can reserve your place by calling or writing before noon on Monday, Nov. 17.

Ciao!

—Barbara Bardack
865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net
Prelude to coming attractions

**Monday, Nov. 10, Room 133, 1:00 p.m.**  
Reader’s Theater (RT) Class celebrates the end of OLLI’s fall term with a rousing rendition of six sketches for your enjoyment and delight.

As a treat, punch and cookies will available to you just prior to the show.

**But WAIT, There’s More … You’re In For Another Treat!**

**Friday, Nov. 14 (Bring your lunch.)**  
Recorder Ensemble, Room 102, **10:00 a.m.**

OLLI Singers, Room 102, **10:45 a.m.**

Line Dancing Class, Room 102, **11:30 a.m.**

**Noon in the Forum**  
Bring your own Brown Bag Lunch; cookies and punch will be provided.

**THEN …**  
OLLI Senior Players, Room 133, **1:00 p.m.**

*Comedy, drama, music, singing, and dancing ... what more could you ask for? Join us on November 10th and 14th to celebrate and enjoy all that is OLLI. What fun!*  

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**Important reminder from SAGE**

Because of the steady increase in OLLI members eager to attend SAGE lectures, seating cannot be guaranteed to preregistered members after **9:20 a.m.**

At that time any remaining seats are released to non-preregistered guests. Please make every effort to arrive by 9:15 to be assured a seat. Thank you.

—The SAGE Committee

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**Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!**

Oh the weather outside is frightful  
But the fire is so delightful  
And since we’ve no place to go  
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Just a friendly reminder: When USM closes or delays opening because of the weather, **OLLI is also closed or delayed.** The best source of information is the USM Storm Line at 780-4800. **It’s not a good idea to rely on TV or radio announcements.**
**OLLI Follies Update—or—“Good News, Bad News”**

**Bad News:** Because of various conflicts, the Follies Committee has found it necessary to postpone the show until spring.

**Good News:** You have more time to prepare your act! We have received some wonderful ideas from several of you, but we’ll need a few more to fill the bill come spring! So, please be thinking of how you can brighten the Follies stage with one of your many talents.

If you’ve participated in previous shows, you know how much fun the spotlight and camaraderie can be. If you are new to OLLI’s talent-sharing forum, then don’t miss this opportunity to discover how easy and exciting it is to contribute to a truly entertaining event.

Stay tuned for more details.

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**“One Book/One Community” (OBOC) at OLLI**

In past years, OBOC at OLLI has been a one-day event celebrating a Maine author and one of the author’s books. Various workshops are held exploring topics from the book, and the author usually attends the event and delivers the keynote address. The event typically runs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and includes lunch.

The committee is hard at work finding an author and mapping out the event. Watch for further information in the OLLI Newsletter, including dates, cost, panelists, and which book you’ll want to read ahead of time!

—Paula Johnson, Chair, Community Committee

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**Symposium on teaching styles at OLLI enthusiastically received**

On a rainy Saturday morning last month, 26 OLLI members gathered in the Wishcamper Center to discuss the variety of teaching styles employed by OLLI instructors. The symposium was organized by Jack Lynch, who was interested in how other teachers approached their classes.

Of the folks who came, some had taught many courses, some just one or two, and some were contemplating teaching a course. Three experienced instructors—Joy Larrabee, Sherrie Chapman, and John McLaughlin—had been asked to moderate parts of the discussion. Each had roughly a half hour to describe their personal views and lead a wide-ranging discussion.

Participants were able to talk and listen to each other, hear and question how particular instructors thought about teaching, and most importantly, got to experience different styles of group leadership. The final segment of the workshop was an open discussion of teaching styles at OLLI.

The four moderators had extremely varied and well-thought-out approaches to teaching. It was clear that this diversity of styles in teaching and our mutual acceptance of that diversity is a key strength of OLLI.