Profile

Dick Leslie

Bringing his business knowledge to help raise funds for OLLI

“I’ve been on vacation for seven years.”

So says Dick Leslie, tongue firmly in cheek, of the interval since his retirement. This newly-minted member of the OLLI Advisory Board has, it turns out, been a busy man.

Having lived for decades in Yarmouth, Dick came to OLLI two years ago, though he had known of it for some time. He was attracted by the title of the first class he took, “The Art of Producing a Daily Newspaper,” which was presented by the staff of the Portland Press Herald. He loved it. He has also enjoyed Fiorello Ven- tresco’s “Europe at the Turn of the Century” and “The Era of the French Revolution,” as well as Richard Parker’s “The Constitution of the United States.” This fall, he is enrolled in “The Roman Empire” with instructor Dick Budd.

Last year, Dick joined the OLLI Marketing and Resource Development Committee at the suggestion of his longtime friend Jim Thorne, who is chair of that committee and is on the Advisory Board. Dick’s business and marketing background is most welcome in both roles. He says of the committee, “We need to constantly evaluate our purpose” as to fundraising goals. At present, the committee is focusing on scholarships for OLLI students. Dick’s input helped make last spring’s raffle the most successful to date.

Dick grew up in Warwick, Rhode Island, and earned a degree in chemical engineering from MIT. He worked in Michigan for a few years after college and then taught chemistry at Tilton School in New Hampshire. He then discovered he preferred the business world and went on to get an MBA from the Tuck School of Busi-

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ness at Dartmouth.

Thus began a varied 30-year career with L.L. Bean. During the 1980s, he managed the use of the company’s customer data base. In the 1990s he co-managed Bean’s international business during a period of rapid growth. This work involved extensive travel, mostly to Japan, England, and Canada.

In the 21st century, Dick’s responsibilities shifted to the expansion of L.L.Bean retail stores inside the U.S. He identified sites for new stores and negotiated with developers on the real estate side. He feels fortunate to have been involved in so many aspects of the business, to have traveled widely, and to have helped the company grow, both here and abroad.

Another big positive about his career at L.L. Bean is that he met his wife Jean there in 1985. Their pre-wedding honeymoon consisted of a 520-mile canoe trip on the Yukon River. It took them and the rest of their small group 15 “unbelievable, fantastic” days to complete.

As you might expect, Dick also enjoys other outdoor pursuits, especially hiking. He has climbed all of New England’s 4,000-foot peaks, the last of them in 1988. He has been an avid cross-country skier, bicyclist, and white-water canoeist. In September, he and Jean completed a 40-mile self-guided walk by the sea and countryside in Cornwall, England.

Dick joined the OLLI Advisory Board with much experience on other boards of directors, including those of PortTix, the Portland Symphony, Tilton School, the Royal River Conservation Trust, and the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. He is pleased to be able to contribute his extensive knowledge and skills to the betterment of OLLI.

And what is to come? “I’m new to OLLI, so I don’t know where I’m headed,” he says. Asked if he might join the faculty, he replies wryly, “I don’t know what I would teach---there probably are not a lot of students here who want to learn basic chemistry or the principles of direct marketing.” Overall, he has a “much better appreciation” for what OLLI has to offer. “It’s not just about taking courses, there’s so much more to do...different things for people with different tastes.”

“It’s a community,” he says, “and we want to make it more of a community.”

—Amy Liston

### Layout Editor Wanted

After many years of faithfully laying out our Newsletter, Jo Morris would like to pass the torch. We’re looking for someone who is adept with Microsoft Publisher. Skills should include managing and positioning images, creating and using text boxes, and flowing text across columns and pages. We provide a template with the information that is static from month to month, plus some general design elements.

The schedule is usually tight: we need a turnaround of about two days. Once you’re familiar with the process, you should be able to complete your work in a few hours per month.

If you’re interested, e-mail me at tbaehr@aol.com. Thanks!

—Tim Baehr, Managing Editor
OLLI Creative Arts Committee
Fall 2014/Winter 2015 Wishcamper Gallery Exhibit

The current exhibit in the Second Floor Gallery at Wishcamper features photography by Dennis Sheehy, Marti A. Snyder, and John Sutherland, and photography and folk art by George Crockett. Proposals for the Spring/Summer Exhibit of 2015 are now being welcomed; to submit your work, please contact Sidney Lincoln, 207-781-7309 or linck7s@maine.rr.com. You are among OLLI’s many creative artists, and we would like to display your work! Get in touch — O.K.?

Can you communicate?

The Communications Committee is looking for new members. We meet once every six weeks. We’re looking for people interested in communicating about OLLI to the OLLI world and beyond. If you’re interested, contact Janet Stebbins (jjstebbi@maine.rr.com).

Senior Moments

Big congratulations to Eric Jensen, an OLLI poet of outstanding merit, on the publication of his book, Bittersweet Battles and Other Adventures. You may remember his poetry from several editions of Reflections over the years.

[Send us a note about your publication, award, or the like: ollinews@usm.maine.edu.]
“How do we find out what’s going on at OLLI?”

You’d be surprised how many times the office staff hears this question. If you’re reading this article, you’ve already discovered one of our primary communication tools. OLLI volunteers produce a monthly electronic Newsletter. When the Newsletter Committee is finished working its magic, every OLLI member receives an e-mail announcing the Newsletter with a live link in the e-mail.

And past Newsletters are archived on our website at www.usm.maine.edu/olli. If you do not have e-mail, just call the OLLI office and a black-and-white copy will be mailed to you. But we encourage you to check it out online, in full color. It’s really a lovely publication. *If you’re reading the Newsletter on-line and you want a paper copy, you can print it out yourself! You can even select the pages you want.*

And speaking of our website, if you haven’t checked it out lately, you should. Lots of interesting information is available in one spot — course catalogs, SAGE brochures, Newsletters, forms, articles, and calendars.

Four times a year, course catalogs are mailed to every member. We no longer mail them to non-members since the catalogs are posted online. Our catalog lists courses, workshops, Special Interest Groups, and lots of general information concerning dates, times, class cancellation procedures, and registration information. If you prefer to receive a copy of our catalog in the mail, be sure your membership is up to date.

OLLI often uses e-mail “blasts” to inform members of special events and reminders. These e-mails are often brief, but timely. Please be sure to keep your e-mail address current and let us know if it changes. We promise to never share your e-mail with anyone but the faculty members of the courses you are taking.

And finally, OLLI has two literature racks in the Wishcamper Center — one at the top of the stairs on the second floor, and one directly across from the elevator on the first floor. All information in the literature racks is for anyone to take. Anyone is welcome to put announcements in the literature racks. They’re a great place to find community announcements, catalogs, Walking Club dates, Special Interest Group schedules, and interesting events at USM. Please be sure to check the racks when you’re in the building.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

**NOTES FROM SUSAN**

**OLLI volunteering opportunities**

Taking OLLI classes and interested in becoming more involved? There may be opportunities to volunteer on a committee or help with a special event such as the Book Sale, an OLLI fair, and so on.

If you’re interested, e-mail the volunteer coordinator Dick Sturgeon at dicksturg13@gmail.com or fill out a volunteer interest form available at the volunteer desk at OLLI.

Dick will get back to you and help make a connection when volunteer opportunities arise.
Advisory Board

Did you know that the OLLI Advisory Board is guided in its program planning by a three-year action plan developed in 2012?

Four major goals were identified: (1) increasing the number and variety of stimulating courses, (2) managing OLLI effectively, (3) maintaining and strengthening a sense of community among all members, and (4) optimizing the relationship with the University of Southern Maine.

At the Advisory Board retreat this August, we discussed our progress on the action items specified under each goal and concluded that we are making good progress, particularly in providing a good number and variety of stimulating courses and in working to foster a sense of community.

Of course, there is always more that we can do.

Two of the action items that we identified as priorities for this final year of the plan are (1) developing strategies to expand and strengthen the involvement of volunteers to serve on committees and assist with other tasks and projects, and (2) conducting a survey of members and analysis of results in 2015.

As a step in addressing the first action item, we designated a board member, Dick Sturgeon (dicksturg13@gmail.com), as Volunteer Coordinator and contact person for members wishing to get involved. Plans for creating a volunteer survey will begin this fall.

Please feel free to contact an Advisory Board member if you have ideas or concerns. Names are listed in every newsletter and catalog.

Online registration coming to OLLI!

“‘The times they are a-changin’” at OLLIs across the country, and soon at our OLLI. As a part of USM’s Professional and Continuing Education (PCE) Division, OLLI is about to introduce a new software system that will allow us to register and pay for our OLLI course and program offerings from either our home computers or computers available to us at Wishcamper.

A team of OLLI Advisory Board members and OLLI staff is creating training sessions to ensure that all OLLI members understand and feel comfortable using the new system. We expect to have the new system in place in time for Winter Term registrations. For those unable to use online registration, the phone and mail-in process will still be available.

Stay tuned for further information.

—Susan Gesing, Advisory Board Chair

susangesing@gmail.com; 967-5660
SAGE Notes

Ever wonder how long it takes to put a SAGE season together? Everyone on the SAGE Planning Committee is always keeping their eyes open for potential speakers and regularly adding new names to our master list. But the actual planning for, say, this fall season began in earnest about a year ago. Back then, we identified about half of the speakers we wanted for this fall and got an informal commitment of interest from them.

Then, during last spring’s series, we completed the list of people we wanted for this fall and contacted all the speakers to finalize commitments and select specific dates for each speaker. As you can see, the planning begins early and continues for many months. It takes a lot of time to produce a SAGE season; we are always working on two seasons at the same time.

But now, back to work! We’ve got the next spring and fall series to work on. See you Tuesday mornings at SAGE.

—Bob Bahm, SAGE Chair

SAGE off to a great start

The first SAGE lecture, on September 16, was a presentation by Bill Nemitz, columnist for the Portland Press Herald. His talk covered the candidates for Maine Governor, with insightful assessments of their policies and personalities. He made no prediction about the likely winner in November and noted that the Press Herald has instituted a policy of not endorsing candidates.

With an opinion piece three times a week, Nemitz’s column generates a lot of e-mail and phone messages. He shared with us some of the more entertaining responses he has received.

Remember to pick up a CLYNK bag at the office for your deposit bottles and cans! Proceeds benefit OLLI.
Walking Club to explore Phippsburg and Kennebunk

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, we will have a guided tour of the Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area in Phippsburg. We are fortunate to have Laura Sewall, director of the Conservancy, with us to talk about its history and the effects of climate change on Maine’s largest undeveloped barrier beach. Don’t miss this very special hike. Lunch will be at the popular North Star farmhouse restaurant. Visit the website at http://www.bates.edu/harward/bmm/.

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, we will explore an area new to us, part of the 65-mile long Eastern Trail. We will walk in Kennebunk, crossing over the Maine Turnpike at one point.


We will eat lunch in Kennebunk. More on the starting point later.

For both walks, you may bring your own lunch or buy it. We will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. to carpool. Please bring a few dollars to give your driver to help with gas.

Both of these walks may be a little longer than usual, but the terrain should not be difficult. Keep in mind that the weather is changeable in the fall and dress in layers.

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

OLLI Night Out: Let’s meet at the tavern

What better way to greet the chill of fall than to gather together at a cozy tavern!

Our October OLLI Night Out will once again be at The Foreside Tavern in Falmouth. Located at 270 Route 1 at Bucknam Road, the restaurant features traditional starters, sandwiches and salads — including my favorite: Grilled Flat Iron Steak Salad. Don’t miss this outing! Visit the Foreside website here: http://www.theforesidetavern.com/.

Save the date: Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 5:30 p.m. Call or write me to reserve your place by noon Monday, Oct. 13. I look forward to being with you all.

—Barbara Bardack
Lascala2@comcast.net; 865-2009
Special Interest Groups at OLLI

Special Interest Groups at OLLI go beyond classroom instruction to offer like-minded OLLI members opportunities to meet for fun, activities, and intellectual stimulation. Since times and locations may change, it’s always a good idea to check with the coordinator before joining a group. There is no class tuition for Special Interest Groups, but your membership needs to be current.

**Book Club**
Members meet the third Thursday of each month in Room 103 from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. to discuss readings from a variety of genres, including contemporary novels, biographies, memoirs, short stories, etc. Contact Elsa van Bergen at evanbergen@maine.rr.com for more information.

**Bridge Club**
Those who enjoy playing bridge for fun are welcome to join this group every Wednesday in the Forum or in Room 103 from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Contact Dottie Clark at dclark50@maine.rr.com for more information.

**Elders for Future Generations**
This is an ongoing, peer-facilitated exploration of the advocacy role seniors can play in shaping policy to promote the well-being of future generations. It meets in Room 113. Contact Fred Brancato at opus2@maine.rr.com for more information.

**History Book Club**
Members read and discuss one work of history on the second Wednesday of each month in Room 205 from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Works include social, political, economic, and foreign policy history as well as biography, autobiography, memoir, and historical fiction. Contact Sue Gesing at susangesing@gmail.com for more information.

**Mah Jongg**
Join players every Monday and Friday in Room 103 from 3:15 to 6 p.m. at Wishcamper. National Mah Jongg rules and cards are used. Contact Domenica Cipollone at domenica@maine.rr.com for more information.

**OLLI Night Out**
Come enjoy good food and good company with fellow OLLI gourmands who meet periodically at local restaurants. Watch the **OLLI Newsletter** for upcoming dates and locations.

**OLLI Singers**
This group, supported by an experienced accompanist, meets at 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays in Room 102 to have fun singing familiar and new music from our archives and suggestions from the singers. All are welcome. Contact Henry Warren at hewarren3@outlook.com for more information.

But wait! There’s more! See additional Special Interest Groups on the next page.
Outdoor/Walking Club
Outdoor enthusiasts gather twice a month for invigorating walks in interesting places. They meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford and carpool. Walking schedules for the year can be found in the OLLI office and in literature racks in Wishcamper. Contact Rae Garcelon at raeallan@aol.com for more information.

Photography Club
Shutterbugs at OLLI at USM meet and learn from each other while sharing their love of photography. Meetings are on the third Thursday in the Library. Contact Sharon Hickey at sharonlh@gwi.net for more information.

Recorder Ensemble
In addition to having fun making music together, the Recorder Ensemble also may perform at OLLI at USM events and venues. It meets Tuesdays in Room 103. Contact Domenica Cipollone at domenica@maine.rr.com for more information.

Senior Players
Thespians perform staged readings twice a year at USM and off campus on several occasions. Senior Players is open to all OLLI at USM members. The group meets Thursdays in Room 203. Contact Allan Mills at aljeevbr@gmail.com for more information.

Science Reading and Discussion Group
Read and discuss selections from various sources (Great Books science discussion series, “Scientific American,” etc.) to promote science literacy and interest. The group meets on the third Tuesday in Room 113. Contact Elizabeth Housewright at 869-5137 or ehousewright@gmail.com for more information.

Ski Club
A seasonal outlet for downhill and cross-country skiing enthusiasts, the club welcomes new and returning members. Check the OLLI Newsletter in season for schedules. For downhill skiing, contact Pris Nelson at pris.nelson47@gmail.com or Lois Winter at lwinter@maine.rr.com for more information. For cross-country, call Bev Blair (799-5043), Valerie Wisch (650-2061), or Susanne Maarten (650-8433, texts preferred).

Wine-Tasting Club
Learn about wine from a professional during monthly, evening tastings at a local, foodie-friendly restaurant. Featured cheese and wine pairings, plus an appetizer, cost $35 per person per event. Contact Jack Lynch at jlynch001@maine.rr.com for more information.