Profile
Lois Winter
For Lois Winter, it’s
“Never look back!”

Lois Winter is a pioneer. At the age of 16, she landed a volunteer summer job with the National Park Service at Mt. Rainier in Washington. Her mother had spotted an ad for “boys interested in a worthwhile experience in our national parks.”

That’s right: boys. It was at her mother’s urging that Lois applied and was accepted to participate in one of only two programs (out of 20 in total) then enrolling girls.

Lois never looked back. She worked as a conservation biologist, spending the first and “favorite” 18 years of her career in ten U.S. national parks, from Death Valley to the Everglades. At Zion in Utah, one of her early parks, Lois and a colleague were the first women to wear the traditionally male “Smokey Bear” uniform. (Smokey himself turns 70 this year.)

Lois recently donned the “uniform” of the OLLI Advisory Board. She looks forward “to contributing my skills to help keep the organization strong.” She has been active on many fronts in “this fabulous organization” since she started taking classes in 2008. In fact, she considers OLLI “one of the best reasons to stay in Portland post-retirement.”

She has enjoyed many OLLI classes, among them John Tewhey’s “Geology of Maine,” Bob Bahm’s “History of the Universe,” Tim Baehr’s class on Buddhism, and John Sutherland’s “Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History.” She joined the SAGE Lecture planning committee three years ago, and is excited about a great Tuesday morning lineup this fall. As if she didn’t have enough to do at OLLI, Lois also co-coordinates the Downhill Ski Club, a Special Interest Group.

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Lois hails from the Chicago area, where her mother took her to nearby forest preserves and instilled in her a love of the outdoors. Her National Park assignments included both summer and year-round stints; one of her longest was at Maine’s Acadia National Park in the 1980s. She worked mostly in public education for visitors and also held various administrative positions.

When it came time for college, her spirited mother made Lois a deal: she could either continue traveling the country with the National Park Service in the summer — and attend college close to home — or stay home that summer and then set out for college. She chose the first option and earned bachelors degrees in Biology and Geography from Carroll University in Wisconsin. Later, she received a masters degree in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Maine, Orono.

Lois spent the second half of her career — 13 years — with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, based in Falmouth. She played a pivotal role in completing 30 habitat restoration projects in rivers and salt marshes, and in permanently protecting 40,000 acres of important wetland and upland habitats throughout coastal Maine — benefiting fish, wildlife, and people. Her role involved building partnerships and collaborating with land trusts and many other non-profits, as well as town governments and state and federal agencies. She helped raise millions of dollars to achieve these goals.

After leaving her work with the federal government, Lois became Executive Director of the Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation to focus on habitat protection projects along Maine’s Downeast coast.

Lois has lived in Portland for 20 years with her partner, a retired public school teacher, and their golden retrievers. Unsurprisingly, Lois is an avid organic gardener and has installed solar hot water and photovoltaic panels on their home to reduce fossil fuel consumption. Devoted to environmental causes, she is also on the Board of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. She loves outdoor exploration, especially hiking, bird watching, bike riding, and sea kayaking.

She is also a passionate reader and enjoys Portland’s live theater and music venues. Speaking of which, she has been studying and playing the mandolin for nearly three years. “I practice diligently,” she says, “but I’m not good enough to perform yet.”

We’ll just have to wait.

—Amy Liston

Scotland’s vote will be topic of Oct. 2 program

A program on “Scotland’s Vote: A Referendum for Independence” will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Events Room on the 7th Floor of the Glickman Library on the USM Portland campus.

RSVP is encouraged; call 780-4283. The event is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be served.

The program is co-sponsored by USM’s History and Political Science Department, the University of Maine Law School, and the World Affairs Council of Maine.
OLLI Advisory Board

Autumn Awaits...those words on the cover of our new course catalog beckon all of us back to OLLI for the fall term. Hopefully many of us have signed up for one or more stimulating programs from the wide array of offerings: 62 classes, nine workshops, one instructor symposium and, of course, eight SAGE lectures.

As of mid-August, we had 213 brand-new members. The rest of us should remember to renew our memberships by early October so that we remain on the mailing list and don’t miss any important communications.

Our online Newsletter continues to do a great job of informing us about what’s going on at OLLI. However, if you know of a member who does not have access to e-mail and/or a computer, thereby missing out on the Newsletter, please remind that person that the office will be happy to mail a copy of the Newsletter if a request is made each month. (You can also print out the Newsletter for your friend.)

Our OLLI Advisory Board has already been at work. Members spent a day this summer at a retreat, where we began putting together our program for the year. We discussed many ideas, but we’d like to hear yours as well. If you have a suggestion, please feel free to contact me or any one of our Board members.

Thanks, and have a great Fall term!

—Sue Gesing, Advisory Board Chair
susangesing@gmail.com; (967-5660)

New member orientation

Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 1 p.m.

Join us in Wishcamper 102 to meet other new members and learn more about the OLLI experience.

If you plan to attend, please call the OLLI office at 780-4406 to let us know.
As most of you have heard by now, Kali Lightfoot, Executive Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute National Resource Center, is retiring, and the National Resource Center is being moved from USM to Northwestern University in Chicago. Once again, I want to reassure everyone that this move should not have an impact on OLLI at USM.

Though we will certainly miss our colleagues and friends, Fran Myers and Anne Cardale, the NRC and OLLI at USM are two separate entities with separate staff and separate financing.

The greatest loss that I will feel is the retirement of Kali. Kali and I met almost exactly 13 years ago, when I interviewed for an Administrative Assistant job with the newly named Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of USM. At the time, I knew nothing of OLLI, or Senior College. Kali and I hit it off immediately, and as they say, the rest is history.

Kali was visionary. She envisioned a network of Senior Colleges throughout Maine, a network of OLLIs across the country, possibly a network of international programs expanding the possibilities of active and curious older people everywhere. Working with her, I learned the value of volunteers, how to “lead from behind” to bring people along on the journey, to carefully choose which battles to fight, and to always keep my eye on the future.

All these lessons have served me well. Even when our jobs were separated, I was fortunate to have Kali as a sounding board. Her steady advice and counsel calmed me down more than once over these many years.

So as she is about to retire, I want to pay tribute to her leadership, foresight, and vision for OLLI at USM, the Maine Senior College Network, and the OLLI National Resource Center. The membership growth, program expansion, innovation, and camaraderie that she was able to foster under her leadership are truly amazing. Every program she touched flourished. She is highly respected in the field of adult learning and has been a guest speaker all around the country, and even internationally. She will be missed.

But I don’t want this to sound sad. Kali has returned to school, studying poetry in an MFA program. She has recently bought a new home Salem, Mass., to be close to her two adorable, active grandsons. She will be able to spend more time pursuing her many interests and activities.

So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you Kali, not only for what you’ve done for OLLI, but for the opportunities you opened for me. I wish you only the best.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

**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.
OLLI Excursions heads for three city cemeteries

The continuing OLLI Excursion Hidden Treasures History Series will take members to three Portland cemeteries on three October Saturdays: Eastern, Stroudwater, and Evergreen.

Eastern Cemetery is the oldest burial yard in Portland and dates from 1668. This six-acre plot is one of the finest examples of colonial graveyards in New England and home to many of Portland’s earliest settlers, members of religious and ethnic communities, and military heroes through the 1800s.

By the time the cemetery population reached 4,000, there were likely more resting underground than were living aboveground! Ron Romano will explore the earliest history of Portland (known as Falmouth in the day) and the art of Bartlett Adams (1776-1828), a stonecutter whose over 650 carvings and distinctive grave markers are found throughout the cemetery.

Our second Hidden Treasure exploration will take us to the Stroudwater Burying Ground. This hamlet at the confluence of the Stroudwater and Fore rivers was a part of Portland (Falmouth) and by the 1750s became a thriving village and center of the mast trade to Britain. Comprising nearly 500 sites, this cemetery opened in 1727; records go back to 1739. Burial customs of 18th and 19th century Stroudwater Village and the importance of several of the resident families will be discussed by the Tate House docent.

By the mid-19th century, the concept of cemeteries changed, and landscaped parks of quiet walks and ponds were developed as sanctuaries of art and nature. Bob Riley, docent at the 239-acre Evergreen Cemetery, will explore with us the substance of memory and the cultural landscape through the art, architecture, text, symbolism, and iconography found at this once-rural (and currently active) cemetery founded in 1855.

Eastern Cemetery – Oct. 4
Stroudwater Burying Ground – Oct. 11
Evergreen Cemetery – Oct. 18

Tours start at 10 a.m. and last about an hour. Directions to meeting locations will be sent to participants before each tour. **Participants must be able to hike unaided over uneven ground.**

Each tour is specially arranged for OLLI members and costs $10. You may sign up for the series or singly. Maximum number of participants on each visit is 20. **Deadline is Sept. 26 with no refunds thereafter.**

To reserve, mail your check, made out to OLLI and indicating which tours you are registering for, to OLLI, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104. Call 780-4406 to register and pay with a credit card. You can also register in person at the OLLI office. For further information, call Gael McKibben at 774-7177.
Want to meet and talk with foreign students?

You are invited to join USM undergrad English language learners in International Conversations on Thursdays from 1:15 – 3:15 p.m., Oct. 16 – Nov. 20, in room 133 Wishcamper. This is an opportunity to engage in fascinating conversations with students from countries such as Japan, Spain, Turkey, Haiti, Thailand, Brazil, Korea, Iraq, Congo, and Saudi Arabia.

Classroom instructors will suggest topics and offer interactive activities to keep the conversations lively. There is no charge. Please contact Michelle Perry at mdperry@usm.maine.edu or 780-4586 by Oct. 1 to join the conversations.

“Superbly organized activities...wonderful young adults bravely trying to learn English....friendly fellow volunteers...lots of laughter...and best of all, after each session you come away feeling that you’ve helped the world in some small way.”—Eve Rubins, volunteer

“Meeting, getting to know, and conversing with the international students who take the OLLI Conversations Class is interesting and fun. The two hours of classroom time flies by! The instructors are upbeat, initiate conversational ideas, and make the session enjoyable to everyone. I look forward to each and every class.”—Carolyn Murray, volunteer

—Michelle Perry

Passages: Claire Knox

Claire Knox, longtime OLLI member, former Advisory Board member, and teacher, passed away on August 4. Her obituary appeared online at the Bridgton News site: http://www.bridgton.com/claire-e-knox-78/.

Here is an appreciation submitted to the OLLI Newsletter by John Sutherland:

Claire Knox: An Appreciation

I have been multi-privileged. I was privileged to be a student in Claire’s course. I was privileged to have her as a student in my course. I was privileged to team-teach a course with Claire, and I was privileged to guide an OLLI field trip with her. And my wife, Kathleen, and I were privileged, along with countless others, to have Claire and Jim as our friends.

I observed Claire ply her craft from every conceivable angle in the classroom, and take it from me: the lady was major-league — big-time. Her knowledge of, absorption in, and love for her material was infectious. She disentangled complex literary issues and brought them to life. She was good. And if you don’t believe me, try to read Virginia Woolf without her patient guidance.

We will miss Claire’s classroom erudition. We will miss that bright, cheerful smile. We will miss those peals of joyful laughter. Claire, dear friend, we will miss you. God bless and Godspeed.
Walking Club plans two September treks

Skyline Farm

The Walking Club will start off the fall season on Wednesday, Sept. 10, with a new walk at the Skyline Farm in North Yarmouth.

The 36 acres are part of the Royal River Conservation Trust and feature a walking trail designed by John Morton of the Thetford Center in Vermont. There is a collection of over 30 sleighs in its museum (open in the winter, but here’s a link to some videos: http://www.skylinefarm.org/about-skyline/virtual-visit). We will eat lunch at a nearby home.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, we will welcome autumn with a walk in the Canco Woods off Washington Avenue, followed by lunch at a nearby home. Here is a link to the Portland Trails website for Canco Woods: http://trails.org/our-trails/canco-woods/.

For both walks, we will meet at 10 a.m. to carpool at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford. Bring your own lunch and water. If you intend to walk, you must be a member of OLLI and have signed a release form for the Walking Club.

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

Margaritas opens OLLI Night Out season

Welcome back for our new season of OLLI Night Out!

Sizzle was in short supply this summer, so we are starting out at Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, located at 242 St. John St., Portland. Our group will meet there on Monday, Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. Parking is available on site.

Here’s their Web page: http://www.margs.com/locations/portland_st_john_street.

Please reserve your place no later than Saturday, Sept. 17, by calling or writing me.

Hope to see you soon.

—Barbara Bardack
OLLI Night Out Coordinator
865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net
Senior Moments

Nancy Freund Bills’s memoir piece, The Myth, has won the $1,000 first place award in the Memoir/Essay category of the 83rd Annual Writer’s Digest Writing Competition. Her piece will be published in the competition collection. There were more than 6,000 entries in five categories.

OLLI member Natalie Murray has published her first book of poetry, Lemon-Drop Day, an eclectic collection of observation, curiosity, and life stories. For details and information contact Natalie at dmurray4@maine.rr.com.

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

Science Reading Group formed

The Science Reading Group is a new Special Interest Group that is open to all OLLI members interested in learning about or keeping up with science. The group will meet monthly on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon at 3:15 (exact dates and room to be determined in early September).

The first reading, “E = mc²,” is available from the Great Books Foundation website (http://store.greatbooks.org/media/wysiwyg/Science_sampleunit.pdf). Start at page 28 (or at page 26 to start with a brief essay on Albert Einstein). Further readings and topics will be determined based on the interests and recommendations of the group and may include additional Great Books readings or Scientific American articles.

We do hope that you will join us! For additional information, and to be notified of assigned dates and room, please contact Elizabeth Housewright at ehousewright@gmail.com.

HOLLIDAY FOLLIES

Calling all performers. We want you! The OLLI Follies are back. Darrell Morrow and Lynne and Rick Gammon will be coordinating what is sure to be an afternoon of merriment and delight.

The show will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. We’re eager to showcase our abundant and varied talents. So singers, dancers, instrumentalists, poets, comedians, actors, sword swallowers, and anyone else longing for a moment in the limelight, send a description of your act by Oct. 1 to Lynne at lgammon65@gmail.com.

We’ll get back to you with the specifics. Let’s make this a HOLLI JOLLI event!
Standing Committees at OLLI

An old joke goes, “A camel is a horse designed by a committee.” That’s cute, but it’s definitely not true of OLLI’s several Standing Committees.

Most of the courses and activities we enjoy at OLLI would be impossible without the volunteers who serve on committees.

OLLI at USM has two kinds of committees. **Standing Committees** persist from year to year and are involved in fulfilling the ongoing mission of OLLI. **Ad-hoc committees** are formed to study a particular issue or to create and manage specific events, such as *Wrinkle in Time* or *One Book, One Community*.

But it’s the Standing Committees that are responsible for the day-to-day activities that we enjoy. Standing Committees are established by the OLLI Advisory Board, and the Chairs of the committees are appointed by the Chair of the Advisory Board. The Standing Committee Chairs in turn appoint OLLI members to serve on the committees.

Here’s a list of the committees and their descriptions, adapted from the Advisory Board’s “Standing Committee Charges.”

The **Executive Committee** meets as needed to address issues brought to its attention for review and action; it also monitors implementation of the strategic plan. The committee is led by the Chair of the Advisory Board.

The **Education Committee** shapes the curriculum and recruits faculty, lecturers, and workshop instructors. The purpose is to provide a wide variety of educational opportunities for OLLI members in a creative and inclusive learning community.

The **Community Committee** coordinates, plans, and implements a wide range of member opportunities for cultural enrichment and community engagement. The committee offers excursion-type trips to OLLI members. The committee also approves the formation and activities of all Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

The **SAGE Committee** plans and implements a series of Fall and Spring term lectures.

The **Communications Committee** oversees the production and distribution of the monthly *OLLI Newsletter* and other publications, such as *Reflections* (our annual arts and literary journal) as directed by the Advisory Board or as requested by the OLLI administration. It may respond to requests from other organizations for information or articles.

The **Marketing and Resource Development Committee** identifies donors and solicits support for OLLI, subject to University policies.

The **Nominating Committee** identifies and recommends new Board members. The committee also proposes Advisory Board officers from among existing Board members.

The Chairs of the Standing Committees are listed on page 3 of the *OLLI Newsletter*, in the list of Advisory Board members. You can get in touch with them by calling the OLLI office.
What do older adults really want?

Politicians and advocates attempt to develop policies and programs that meet the wishes of older adults. However, what are the wishes of older adults? Not only can you and the person down the block have different opinions about an issue, but even you may have different opinions on an issue from day to day! How do policy makers craft programs when preferences can be unstable?

Charles A. Smith, assistant professor at the University of Southern Maine (USM), in collaboration with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), invites you to participate in a study that attempts to examine preferences of older adults as they relate to programs and services, and how those preferences may be influenced by environmental factors and cues.

The anonymous, voluntary study, which will be conducted online, is anticipated to take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. For everyone’s privacy and safety, all information is anonymous, no e-mail addresses or other identifying information will be shared, and no computer viruses will be transmitted.

In the first week of October, all OLLI members with an e-mail address on file (unless they request to be removed from the mailing) will receive an e-mail from OLLI with a link to the anonymous survey. The subject line of the e-mail will be Study of Preferences.

Participation is entirely voluntary. However, your input would be greatly appreciated. It is hoped that knowledge gained can be used to inform future policies and programs for older adults. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Smith at USM_OLLI_Study@gmail.com. (For those of you typing in the address rather than clicking on it, the spaces are actually underscores.)

Results of the completed study will be made available to OLLI members in the summer of 2015.

—Susan Morrow

OLLI / USM Student Privileges

OLLI students are USM students and thus are entitled to many of the perks available to all USM students.

- An OLLI-designated USM ID card
- Ability to add “Husky Bucks” to your ID card for tax-free use at any of the USM dining facilities, and many vending machines on campus
- Access to the USM library
- Access to the USM computer lab
- Access to the USM computer store
- Access to the USM campus Wireless Internet with log-in and password setup
- Access to the USM bookstore
- Support for students with disabilities
- Assistive Listening equipment available through the OLLI office
- USM student discounts on sporting events, theater and music performances, dining and selected local services; (for a list of special discounts, see http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/university-community-recreation-fitness-discount-offerings)

For discounts at non-USM companies and providers, it’s always wise to confirm by phone or e-mail. Also, some organizations offer better discounts for seniors or AARP members than for USM students. The OLLI office can help you if you have questions or need assistance.
Fall term reminders

- OLLI Fall term classes begin Monday, Sept. 15. To see what classes are still available, call 780-4406 or visit the OLLI office. If your class calls for required or recommended readings, check the USM Bookstore in the Woodbury Campus Center across Bedford Street from the Wishcamper Center.

- SAGE lectures will resume Tuesday, Sept. 16. To register call 780-4406, visit the OLLI office, or send your registration to OLLI SAGE, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104.

- OLLI has negotiated a deal with USM whereby OLLI pays for parking in the garage so members don’t have to. Simply push the button to gain access to the garage. The exit gates will open automatically as you leave. Also, be aware that during USM’s Fall and Spring terms, the parking garage fills quickly. Plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before your class starts.

- Except for the handicap spaces, we are not allowed to park in the surface lot at the rear of the Wishcamper building. To park in a handicap space anywhere on campus, you must have a State of Maine handicapped placard or license plate. There are 20 handicap spaces in the parking garage and eight in the parking lot directly behind the Wishcamper Center.

- As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please wear your nametag to OLLI classes and events. If you don’t have one already, please pick one up at the OLLI office. Note: Your nametag is not the same as your OLLI/USM student photo ID.

- Please turn off your cell phone, pager, or any similar device when you come to class. And please don’t come to class wearing perfume, after-shave, or other fragrances. Some students are allergic to them.

Check your e-mail, OLLI Newsletter, the literature racks in the hallways, and the OLLI website (www.usm.maine.edu/olli) for details about OLLI events, trips, and Special Interest Groups.