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## Fall 2025 Course Descriptions

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### 2025 Quantum Mechanics Weirdness

**Instructor:** Jim Beaupre

**Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 AM - Noon | Sept 15 - Oct 1, 2025 (6 sessions) Zoom | OLLI Shares - UAH**

What was the 2022 Quantum Entanglement Nobel Prize about? The microscopic world is very different from the one we experience. Can a particle be in two places at once? You bet! Are things real if we don't observe them? Does empty space actually contain anything? Is Schrödinger's cat dead or alive? What about the multiverse? Tune in, sign up, and explore the wonderfully wacky world of quantum physics.

**About the Instructor:**

*Jim Beaupre* received a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Iowa State University and continued his education as an Atomic Energy Commission Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

### Ancient Life in Alabama

**Instructor:** Bill Deutsch

**Mondays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 8 - Oct 27, 2025 | Pebble Hill + Zoom | OLLI Shares AU**

Alabama is one of the most fossil-rich states in the U.S., and its paleontological history offers a fascinating glimpse into ancient life on Earth. This course explores the state's exceptional fossil diversity in the context of the developing science of paleontology. Participants will examine how people have discovered and interpreted fossils over time—and how these discoveries inform our understanding of Earth's deep past and our place in it today. Optional field trips to fossil museums may be included. The course is based on *Ancient Life in Alabama: The Fossils, the Finders & Why It Matters*, which will be available for optional purchase.

**About the Instructor:**

*Bill Deutsch*, PhD, is a Research Fellow Emeritus in the Auburn University School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences. He has a lifelong interest in fossils and is the author of *Ancient Life in Alabama*.

### Breathe Through It:

### Mindfulness, Relaxation Techniques, and Stress Management

**Instructor:** Jess Taylor

**Mondays, 10:30 AM - Noon | Oct 13 - Nov 17, 2025 (6 sessions) | Zoom | OLLI Shares - UAH**

This course will explore the inner workings of stress and anxiety, practical coping skills, and the practices of breathwork and mindfulness. Classes will include a blend of lectures and opportunities to practice various relaxation, coping, and mindfulness techniques.

**About the Instructor:**

*Jess Taylor* holds a master's in clinical psychology and has experience teaching psychology, conducting psychometry, and working in community-based mental health.

## Chinese Brush Painting

**Instructor:** *Dong Shang*

**Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sept 8 - Oct 27, 2025 | Sunny Slope Kitchen**

Experience a hands-on introduction to Chinese brush painting and calligraphy, focusing on capturing nature's essence through suggestion and simplicity. Traditional subjects like flowers, animals, and landscapes will be explored, reflecting the harmony of Chinese culture. Participants will learn fundamental brush strokes, composition, and spontaneous painting techniques.

**Materials Fee:** \$120, payable at registration – unless you have previously purchased class supplies

**Materials:** Course materials will be provided by the instructor during the first meeting.

### **About the Instructor:**

*Dong Shang*, a native of China with a degree in Art, is an art designer. She immigrated to the United States and has since built a successful career as a freelance artist and art teacher.

## Connections

**Instructor:** *Herb Shivers & Jim Barber*

**Mondays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 8 - Oct 27, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex + Zoom**

This course continues the exploration of the acclaimed BBC series *Connections* by science historian James Burke, which reveals how unexpected links between historical events, inventions, and discoveries have shaped our modern world. Participants will examine how seemingly unrelated moments in history ripple forward to influence technology, society, and everyday life. The Fall 2025 term picks up with Volume 3 and moves through Volume 10, covering topics from the invention of plastics to the accelerating pace of innovation and what it means for individual freedom and privacy. A short recap of the first two episodes from Spring 2025 will be provided at the first session, with recordings available on Canvas for anyone who'd like to review them.

### **About the Instructors:**

*Herb Shivers*, PhD, an OLLI member since 2012, is a retired UAB professor, NASA executive, and licensed Professional Engineer with extensive service in academia and federal agencies.

*Jim Barber* holds a BCE from Auburn University, pursued further studies at Villanova, Houston, and Sacramento State, and brings more than five decades of experience in construction, engineering, and international trade.

## Dementia Diagnosis: Now What?

**Instructor:** *Jay Jones*

**Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Sept 10 - Oct 29, 2025 | Sunny Slope Main Classroom**

This course provides an overview of the clinical causes of dementia, as well as day-to-day care and treatment options for individuals and their caregivers. Participants will also learn practical, hands-on care techniques to better support those dealing with memory-care challenges.

### **About the Instructor:**

*Jay Jones* is a former hospital administrator who is now the chief educator for Right at Home South, a homecare company specializing in dementia care. He is also the co-founder of a respite care day program in Cullman.

## Disease: The Impact of Infectious Diseases on History

**Instructor:** *Michael Canfield*

**Tuesdays, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This course explores how major infectious diseases have shaped historical events, public health systems, and global societies. Each week will focus on a specific disease—its basic science, historical impact, and modern-day relevance. Topics include sanitation, vaccination, treatment, and the future of disease in today's political and scientific landscape.

### **About the Instructor:**

*Dr. Michael Canfield* is a retired family physician, USAF flight surgeon, and former Clinical Professor at VCOM with over 40 years of experience in medicine and global public health.

## English History: Before the Tudors

**Instructor:** *Joseph Kicklighter*

**Tuesdays, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Pebble Hill & Zoom**

This course examines English history in the 15th century following the Plantagenet dynasty, spotlighting the rise and struggles of the Lancastrian and Yorkist dynasties. Special attention will be given to King Henry V and his pivotal role in the Hundred Years' War, along with an exploration of Richard III, both the real historical figure and the myths that surround him. This class will bring to life a dramatic era of English political intrigue, warfare, and royal power struggles that set the stage for the Tudor dynasty.

**About the Instructor:**

*Joseph Kicklighter*, a retired professor of Medieval History from Auburn University, has been teaching at the university since 1975 and still teaches there part-time. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of the South and obtained his Ph.D. from Emory University. Since 2015, he has also been teaching for OLLI.

## Exploring Watercolor

**Instructor:** *Margee Bright-Ragland*

**Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00 PM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This class explores the exciting medium of watercolor, covering basic techniques, color theory, composition, and self-expression. Designed for both beginners and experienced painters, the course encourages participants to share knowledge and enjoy the creative process together. Have fun with watercolor and build your skills in a supportive, hands-on environment.

**Materials:** Students will supply their own materials.

**About the Instructor:**

*Margee Bright Ragland* is a retired Professor of Art from Georgia State University. She holds an MFA in Painting from Georgia State and a BFA from Auburn University.

## Fall Mysteries

**Coordinator:** *Harold Bruner*

**Tuesdays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Throughout this course, participants will explore several mystery novels and engage in group discussions. Each discussion will be led by a different member of the class, providing diverse perspectives and insights into the mysteries being studied.

## Finding Your Balance: Understanding the Vestibular System

**Instructor:** *Tina Hooks*

**Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00 PM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Sunny Slope Main Classroom**

*Please note: This class will not meet on Sept 23 or Oct 21.*

Dizziness...we've all felt it at one time or another, but have you ever wondered why? In this course, you'll be introduced to the vestibular system—a major component of your sense of equilibrium. We'll explore its anatomy and physiology, look at common vestibular disorders, and discuss practical strategies for improving balance through everyday activities and simple exercises.

**About the Instructor:**

*Tina Hooks* holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from Auburn University (1992) and a master's in physical therapy from Western Carolina University (2002). She has over 25 years of physical therapy experience, with a focus on neurological and vestibular conditions for the last 15 years. She retired from practice in 2023.

## Hinges and Twinges: Active Adult Exercises

**Instructor:** *Deborah Manasco*

**Wednesdays, 2:30-4:00 PM | Sept 10 - Oct 29, 2025 | AUUF**

Enhance your flexibility, strength, and balance through standing and chair exercises aimed at promoting functional fitness. Focus on building muscle memory, improving mobility, and preventing falls with movements inspired by everyday activities. A light cardio component is included to encourage safe motion and boost confidence. Participants can work at their own pace in a comfortable and supportive setting.

**About the Instructor:**

*Deborah Manasco* is a retired law practitioner with the State of Alabama. She holds undergraduate studies in Health, PE, and recreation and is a certified therapeutic horsemanship instructor through PATH, Intl. Deborah has taught Active Older Adult exercise classes at various institutions and is an avid equestrian.

## History of Western Art

**Instructors:** *Dr. Anne Leader & Alice Novak*

**Mondays, 2:00-3:30 PM | Sept 8 - Oct 28, 2025 | Pebble Hill**

Explore the major styles, meanings, and social contexts of Western art and architecture. Each term picks up where the last left off, with no prerequisites required. This fall, sessions cover Hellenistic through Late Roman art. Dr. Leader will teach the first six classes, and Alice Novak will lead the final two. Schedule may adjust slightly based on prior coverage and travel.

**About the Instructors:**

*Anne Leader*, PhD, has taught art history at universities including UNH, Kean, CCNY, SCAD-Atlanta, and OLLI at Auburn. *Alice Novak* teaches Contemporary Art for OLLI and co-taught with Dr. Leader in Spring 2025.

## Intermediate Hikes

**Instructors:** *Harold Bruner*

**Tuesdays, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Meet at Chewacla State Park**

**Participants will need to pay the entrance fee of \$4.00 in person (People 62 and older are \$2.00)**

Embark on a course tailored for those seeking longer distances and a faster pace than the shorter Monday hikes at Chewacla. Most hikes will span approximately 3-4 miles, offering an invigorating outdoor experience. A small day pack and water are suggested.

**Required:** At least one hiking pole is mandatory; two poles are preferred.

**About the Instructor:**

*Harold Bruner* has hiked extensively in the U.S. and Canada and, more recently, in northern England. He has led hikes for OLLI for the last six years. As a forestry graduate of Purdue, he worked in the forests of the Midwest for many years. Since moving to Auburn in 2014, he has enjoyed biodiversity and many hiking opportunities in Alabama.

## iPhone Skills 2025: Best Practices and Tips

**Instructor:** *Mike Akins*

**Tuesdays, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Sep 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2025 | Pebble Hill**

This course gives iPhone users—any model, any skill level—a chance to build essential skills through guided practice. Learn how to save time, navigate features more easily, and get the most from your device. Sessions include answers to common questions and insights into the latest iPhone updates.

**About the Instructor:**

*Mike Akins* is a writer, amateur video maker, and personal tech guide. He holds a PhD in International Relations and an MS in Educational Technology.

## The Instruments of Folk and Roots Music

**Instructor:** *Mike Reinke*

**Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00 PM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Zoom only | OLLI Shares AU**

Explore the rich history, cultural context, and evolution of American folk and roots music in this multimedia Zoom course. With audio-visual presentations and lively discussion, participants will examine the origins of folk music, including African-American and Anglo-American traditions, the folk revival of the 1950s-60s, and the transition to Americana. This term focuses on the instruments of folk and blues music, with new content each session. Includes optional recordings, glossary, and supplemental materials.

### **About the Instructor:**

*Mike Reinke* is a retired Auburn University professor and award-winning educator who has been teaching for OLLI at Auburn since 2016. His popular folk music course sequence features new content each term and is streamed via Zoom with support from music consultant Pat Wictor.

## Introduction to Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide to Getting Started with Building Your Family Tree

**Instructor:** *Michael W. Moore*

**Thursdays, 2:30-4:00 PM | Sept 11 - Oct 30, 2025 | Sunny Slope Main Classroom**

This course covers the basics of web-based genealogy research. Whether you're just starting out or have hit a roadblock in your family history search, learn foundational skills along with tips for more effective research. The class will explore various online resources and companies that can help you build your family tree and also touch on DNA testing and its role in genealogical studies. Students are encouraged, but not required, to bring a laptop.

### **About the Instructor:**

*Michael W. Moore* is an amateur genealogist with over 20 years of experience researching family history. He has attended and completed several national and international genealogy workshops and courses.

## Irish Culture: Literature, History, and Music

**Coordinator:** *Steve Harrison*

**Wednesdays, 2:30-4:00 PM | Sept 10 - Oct 29, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This team-taught course offers an engaging overview of Irish culture through the lenses of literature, politics, economics, and music. Weekly sessions will be led by topic-specific instructors, each bringing unique insight into modern and historical aspects of Ireland. The course is designed to complement the OLLI Travel tour of Ireland planned for May 2026.

### **Planned Schedule:**

- **Sept 10:** *Introduction and Yeats as Poet of Irish Culture* - Steve Harrison
- **Sept 17:** *Preview of OLLI Travel Tour to Ireland* - Rebecca Kelley
- **Sept 24:** *Yeats as Poet of Irish Political Turmoil* - Steve Harrison
- **Oct 1:** *Contemporary Irish Literature* - Jon Bolton
- **Oct 8:** *Contemporary Irish Literature* - Jon Bolton
- **Oct 15:** *Political Communication in Ireland* - Ralph Kingston
- **Oct 22:** *Current Political and Economic State of Ireland* - Ralph Kingston
- **Oct 29:** *Irish Music* - James Goldstein

### **Presenter Bios:**

*Steve Harrison* has taught numerous OLLI courses on poetry and Jungian psychology.

*Jon Bolton* is a former professor of English at Auburn University and specializes in Irish literature.

*Ralph Kingston* is a professor of history at Auburn University and has a deep knowledge of Irish politics and economics.

*James Goldstein* is a former professor of English at Auburn University and a regular performer of Irish music in Auburn and Opelika.

## Step-by-Step Sock Knitting

**Instructor:** *Lori Moore*

**Wednesday, 9:00 am - 10:30 pm | Sept 10 - October 29, 2025 | Sunny Slope Kitchen**

Discover the art of knitting socks from the top down using double-pointed needles (DPNs). Designed for knitters who can already knit, purl, cast on, and yarn-over, this class will guide you through new techniques such as the Kitchener stitch, picking up stitches, and turning heels. By the end of the course, you'll complete at least one sock and gain the confidence to knit more on your own.

A simple pattern will be provided, but you're welcome to bring a pattern of your choice as long as it meets the class guidelines. Please note: This course will not cover the Magic Loop method or bottom-up patterns.

Because DPNs can feel awkward and challenging at first, this class is not recommended for absolute beginners.

### **About the Instructor:**

Lori Moore brings her passion for knitting to this hands-on course, sharing her skills, experience, and love for the craft in a supportive and engaging environment.

## Line Dancing: Beginners

**Instructors:** *Betsy Keown & Wanda Knight*

**Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 9:45 am | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Jan Dempsey Dance Studio**

Get ready to have fun while learning the basics of line dancing in this 45-minute class. You'll master easy-to-follow steps set to an eclectic mix of music, including tunes from Glenn Miller, Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and more. Line dancing is not only enjoyable but also a great workout for both body and mind. Please wear comfortable shoes without taps and bring a water bottle to stay hydrated.

### **About the Instructors:**

Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for sixteen years and teaching for the past ten. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

Wanda Knight has been line dancing for over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown in several classes.

## Line Dancing: Intermediate

**Instructors:** *Betsy Keown & Wanda Knight*

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 10:45 am | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Jan Dempsey Dance Studio**

This intermediate class is perfect for those with some line dancing experience looking to build on their skills. Dance to a variety of music, including Glenn Miller, Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and more. Line dancing is not only enjoyable but also provides an excellent workout for both body and mind. Please wear comfortable shoes without taps and bring a water bottle.

### **About the Instructors:**

Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for sixteen years and teaching for the past ten. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

Wanda Knight has been line dancing for over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown in several classes.

## Local Naturalists

**Coordinator:** *Gary Wagoner*

**Mondays, 2:00 - 3:30 pm | Sept 8 - Sept 29, 2025 | Annex & Zoom | OLLI Shares**

A team of eight local naturalists will guide this multi-disciplinary course, exploring topics such as botany, ichthyology, ornithology, geology, and ecology. Each instructor will share their unique expertise and personal observations, offering insights into the remarkable natural diversity of our region. This course provides a deep dive into the natural world through the eyes of those who have spent years studying and appreciating the environment around us.

## The Lyrics I Love

**Instructor:** Sam Hurt

**Mondays, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sept 8 - Oct 27, 2025 | Sunny Slope Main Classroom**

If you enjoy meaningful lyrics and lively discussions, this course is for you! Each session will focus on three to four songs, with lyrics provided for group discussion. Participants are encouraged to bring their own favorite songs for future sessions. We'll begin with selections from Jimmy Buffett, John Prine, and Randy Newman, and adapt the playlist based on the group's interests. Future sessions may feature patriotic, inspirational, and faith-oriented songs. Come share in engaging conversations through music!

### About the Instructor:

*Sam Hurt*, a lifelong learner and OLLI student, is a retired Army Colonel, high school science teacher, and former US Army Aviation doctrine team leader.

## Monroeville Literary Festival Book Club

**Coordinators:** Scott Bishop & Jay Lamar

**Fridays, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12, Jan 10, Feb 13 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Zoom | OLLI Shares AU**

Join this special OLLI Shares class to explore the work of remarkable Southern authors featured at the Monroeville Literary Festival, taking place February 26-28, 2026, at the courthouse made famous by *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

This collaborative book club highlights the best of contemporary Southern literature, with participating OLLIs focusing on works by distinguished festival authors.

A schedule of talented Alabama voices—including Dr. Don Noble, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Alabama and host of "Bookmark" on Alabama Public Television; former Alabama Poet Laureate Jennifer Horne; and Jay Lamar, founding director of the Alabama Book Festival—will lead engaging discussions on the Harper Lee Award and Truman Capote Prize recipients, along with other outstanding Alabama writers.

Stay tuned as additional authors are announced for Alabama's most exciting literary celebration—honoring legendary voices and discovering new Southern storytellers.

## Nazi Fascism: From Cultural Roots to Catastrophe

**Instructor:** Jay West

**Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Zoom Only**

This course explores the cultural, philosophical, and political developments that shaped fascist ideology in Germany. We'll trace how 19th-century ideas about nation, race, and power evolved and how thinkers like Wagner and Nietzsche were later drawn into nationalist narratives. Discussions will consider how myth, propaganda, and historical memory contributed to the rise of Nazism and what these lessons suggest about truth and ideology today.

### About the Instructor:

*James (Jay) West, PhD*, is a retired professor with a doctorate in Russian History from Princeton University. He taught for 39 years at Trinity College and Middlebury College and continues to lead courses for OLLIs across the country, including Auburn and the University of Vermont. He lives in Middlebury, Vermont.

## Opelika Community Theatre presents Creative Aging Senior Theatre

**Instructor:** Marty Moore

**Tuesdays, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Sept 9 - Oct 14, 2025 | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Discover the many benefits of Senior Theatre, including improved memory, cognitive skills, and social connections.

Through character study, storytelling, and performance, participants will engage in self-discovery and enjoy the camaraderie of working together. This course highlights how involvement in theatre can enhance daily living activities (ADLs), promote a positive outlook, and improve overall quality of life. Evidence from similar programs nationwide demonstrates the positive impact Senior Theatre can have on the health and well-being of older adults.

### About the Instructor:

*Marty Moore*, the owner of Opelika Theatre Company, has a passion for sharing the art of theater with others.

## Operas That Are Not Italian

**Instructor:** *Elizabeth Aversa*

**Mondays, 9:00-10:15 AM | Sept 8 - Sept 29, 2025 | Zoom | OLLI Shares**

Although opera originated in Italy, there are wonderful operas from countries such as Russia, Finland, Hungary, and even the U.S. This course will explore lesser-known operatic works from across the globe and offer participants the opportunity to enjoy and discuss their musical richness.

**About the Instructor:**

*Elizabeth Aversa* is a retired University of Alabama faculty member. Though her career focused on library and information science education, she has been a lifelong opera enthusiast thanks to her parents and husband, with whom she has attended performances ranging from the Met to UA's own Opera Theatre.

## Personality, Philosophy, and Power: A History of America's Political Party System

**Instructor:** *Richard Rhone*

**Tuesdays, 1:30-2:45 PM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Zoom | OLLI Shares**

Despite George Washington's early warnings, political parties quickly became a defining force in American politics. This non-partisan course examines the historical development of the U.S. party system from the nation's founding to the present day, exploring how parties have evolved in response to key personalities, crises, and cultural change.

**About the Instructor:**

*Richard Rhone* has taught American history with OLLI for more than a decade following careers in public education and child advocacy. His teaching spans the Colonial era to the post-Civil War West, with an emphasis on historical personalities and the social side of history. He holds a doctorate from the University of Alabama.

## The Quest for Self-Regulation

**Instructor:** William "Bill" Confer

**Mondays, 8:30-10:00 AM | Sept 15 - Oct 6, 2025 (4 sessions) | Zoom | OLLI Shares - UAH**

The ability to delay gratification when tempted and to self-restrain when provoked are necessary skills for successful adaptation—but they don't come easily. This course explores key psychological principles for improving self-control and impulse regulation, illustrated through practical applications in addiction recovery (temptation) and anger management (provocation).

**About the Instructor:**

*William "Bill" Confer, Ph.D., ABPP*, practiced clinical psychology for 38 years and is board-certified in two specialty areas.

## Religion and the First Amendment: Separation of Church and State in Historical Perspective

**Instructor:** *Gary Furr*

**Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Pebble Hill**

"Separation of Church and State" has been under fire in our current context. This is not surprising given the novelty of the founders' creation of a state in which religion was both allowed to flourish yet free of the political ties of European nations from which most colonists came. Religious freedom was an extraordinary and unprecedented contribution to the world. This course explores the origins of that freedom and the ongoing debates surrounding its meaning, including tensions between science and authority, the fear of secularism, and the decline of institutional religion. Topics include the rise of the Religious Right, global fundamentalism, and the current culture wars, all framed by the question: How can we return to a principled—not political—understanding of Church-State separation in a diverse and pluralistic society?

**Note:** Dr. Wayne Flynt will lead the course session on September 9.

**About the Instructor:**

*Gary Furr* is Pastor Emeritus of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. He holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Baylor University and served as an adjunct instructor at Samford University and Beeson Divinity School from 1995 to 2005. He has authored or contributed to seventeen books and numerous articles.

## Trees of Alabama

**Instructor:** *Nancy Loewenstein*

**Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Sunny Slope Main Classroom & Auburn University Arboretum**

This course offers an in-depth look at identifying Alabama's trees and shrubs using morphological characteristics (like leaves, twigs, fruit, and bark) and ecological traits (such as preferred habitat and range). You'll also learn the basics of botanical terminology, plant taxonomy, and scientific naming, and how environmental factors shape tree forms and distributions. After two indoor sessions to cover foundational concepts, the class will meet at the Auburn University Arboretum for hands-on field identification.

**About the Instructor:**

*Nancy Loewenstein*, PhD, recently retired from serving as an Alabama Extension Specialist at Auburn University, where she taught Dendrology (tree identification) for 17 years. She holds a PhD in Tree Physiological Ecology from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a master's in Forest Biology from Virginia Tech, and an undergraduate degree in Forest Management from Auburn.

## The Science of Climate Change

**Instructor:** *David Keellings*

**Wednesdays, 1:30-2:45 PM | Sept 10 - Oct 1, 2025 | Zoom | OLLI Shares**

This course introduces the science behind climate change through an exploration of Earth's atmosphere, physical processes, and observed impacts. Participants will examine potential future consequences and explore possible solutions, drawing from current research in climate extremes like heat waves and hurricanes.

**About the Instructor:**

*Keellings* is a former faculty member at the University of Alabama and now teaches at the University of Florida. He has taught with OLLI for six years and specializes in climate extremes, including hurricanes and heat events.

## Shorter Hikes at Chewacla State Park

**Instructors:** *Harold Bruner*

**Mondays, 8:30 am - 11:00 am | Meet at Chewacla State Park**

**Participants will need to pay the entrance fee of \$4.00 in person (People 62 and older are \$2.00)**

Enjoy a thorough introduction to nearby Chewacla State Park with shorter weekly hikes of 2-3 miles. We will visit Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, and Hidden Falls and cover most of the trails in the park. A small day pack is suggested.

**Required:** At least one hiking pole is mandatory; two poles are preferred. A small day pack is suggested.

**About the Instructor:**

*Harold Bruner* is a retired forester who now hikes for fitness and pleasure. He has hiked extensively in many U.S. and several Canadian provinces. Having spent more than 60 years in Indiana and Florida, he now enjoys the biodiverse landscape of Alabama.

## Silver Sneakers

**Instructor:** *David Tillman*

**Mondays & Fridays | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | FitLife**

**All registration for this class is managed through Max Fitness.**

Max will be offering Silver Sneakers classes to OLLI members twice a week. This workout includes fall prevention drills and exercises to improve strength and endurance. A chair and handheld weights or tubing are provided and recommended. You must either sign in as a gym or Silver Sneakers member to take advantage of those classes.

**OLLI members will be offered a FitLife membership at a special discounted price. Check your insurance to determine if Silver Sneakers is covered at no cost.** If not, you can join Max for \$25 monthly, provided you sign a 6-month contract. This OLLI-exclusive package gives full access to the gym, waives the \$49 enrollment fee, reduces the 18-month commitment to 6 months, and reduces the monthly fee by 17%.

**About the Instructor:**

*David Tillman* is a certified Silver Sneakers instructor.

## Social and Protest Movements of the Sixties

**Instructor:** Larry Gerber

**Thursdays, 2:30-4:00 PM | Sept 11 - Oct 30, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex + Zoom**

### OLLI Shares

The 1960s were a time of profound social and political transformation in the United States. This course explores the major movements that defined the decade, including the Civil Rights Movement, the Antiwar Movement, the Counterculture, the Women's Movement, and the rise of the New Right. Participants will examine how these movements challenged traditional norms and reshaped American society and politics through historical analysis and group discussion.

#### About the Instructor:

Larry Gerber is a retired Auburn University history professor who specializes in 20th-century U.S. history. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he personally experienced many of the social and political movements of the 1960s.

## Start Speaking German: A Relaxed and Fun Beginner Class, Part 5

**Instructor:** Julia Knappenberger

**Thursdays, 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sept 11 - Oct 30, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

Ready to learn German at an easy, relaxed pace? This beginner's course introduces the basics (A1.1 level) through interactive lessons focused on speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking for a refresher, this class offers plenty of practice to build confidence in a supportive environment. Participants will use the *Momente A1.1* textbook and workbook to cover practical language skills, with the option to continue next semester for full completion of the A1.1 curriculum. Perfect for travel or connecting with German-speaking friends!

**Required workbook:** *Momente A1.1*, Publisher: Hueber

Kursbuch: [Link to Textbook](#)

Arbeitsbuch: [Link to Workbook](#)

#### About the Instructor:

Julia Knappenberger has taught German beginner classes at Auburn University since August 2018. She is also a master's student at a German university, where she is completing her studies and gaining internship experience

## Staying Active - Day Hiking

**Instructor:** Harold Bruner

**Thursdays, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm | Sept 11 - Oct 30, 2025**

**Meet at Sunny Slope by 8:45 am unless otherwise directed.**

This class is designed for more advanced hikers and may involve challenging terrain. To join, you should have a moderate fitness level and prior hiking experience at these distances. Hike locations will alternate between Chewacla State Park and the other sites we typically visit. The Chewacla hikes will begin at 8:30. For the out-of-town hikes, we will carpool and leave Sunny Slope at 8:30. The Chewacla hikes will be up to 10 miles with options to exit after 3-4 miles. The out-of-town hikes are often in the 5-10-mile range. Participants typically carpool from Sunny Slope to our out-of-town destinations. At the end of the term, you will be assessed \$5 for each time you ride with the carpool. The money will be distributed among the drivers to offset their expenses.

**Required:** Demonstration of your hiking proficiency before the first class.

Two hiking poles. A small day pack is suggested.

#### About the Instructor:

Harold Bruner has hiked extensively in the U.S. and Canada and, more recently, in northern England. He has led hikes for OLLI for the last six years. As a forestry graduate of Purdue, he worked in the forests of the Midwest for many years. Since moving to Auburn in 2014, he has enjoyed the biodiversity and many hiking opportunities in Alabama.

## Tales of Discovery, Plunder, and Colonization: History and Adventures from the Caribbean and Alaska

**Instructor:** Lawrence Edward Grinter

**Mondays, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Sept 8 - Oct 27, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This course compares and contrasts key episodes in the discovery and development of the Caribbean and Alaska. Topics include Columbus's voyages, the Spanish Main, the Atlantic slave trade, piracy, Cuba, Alaska's native settlements, Russia's colonial legacy, Seward's Folly, and the Klondike gold rush.

#### About the Instructor:

Lawrence Edward Grinter, PhD, is Professor Emeritus at the Air War College. He earned his doctorate from UNC

Chapel Hill and has taught at the National War College, Georgetown University, Auburn University, and in courses for OLLI at Auburn and OLLI at AUM.

## ***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow:* Auburn University Common Program**

**Instructors:** *Caroline Gebhard, Ann Beale, Maiben Beard*

**Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 PM | Sept 9 - Sept 30, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This course explores *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin, Auburn University's Common Book selection for 2025. Named one of *The New York Times'* top 100 books of the 21st century, the novel traces the creative and emotional partnership between two childhood friends—one male, one female—who become celebrated video game designers. Set in the 1990s and early 2000s, the novel delves into themes of friendship, ambition, grief, identity, disability, collaboration, and resilience. No gaming experience is needed to appreciate the story's rich, character-driven exploration of human connection. Participants will be encouraged to attend public Common Book events at Auburn University in September, including a campus visit by the novel's editor. The course will conclude with an intergenerational discussion session featuring students from the AU Honors College Book Club (date and time TBD). Free copies of the novel will be provided to the first 25 registrants through support from the Common Book Program.

### **About the Instructors:**

*Caroline Gebhard* is a Professor Emerita of English who taught literature for more than 28 years at Tuskegee University. She holds a PhD in English from the University of Virginia.

*Ann Beale* is a longtime book club participant with master's degrees in social work and elementary education.

*Maiben Beard* develops and manages statewide outreach programs in the arts and humanities through the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center at Auburn University. She holds a BA in Art History from Emory University.

## **Too Tired to Care: Acedia and the Modern Soul**

**Instructor:** *Kathy Reed*

**Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 11 - Oct 30, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

Though the term has faded from common use, acedia describes a profound state of spiritual apathy or restlessness. This course explores the historical roots of acedia, examines its manifestations in contemporary culture, and invites participants to reflect on personal experiences of acedia—considering it as both an obstacle and a doorway to deeper spiritual growth.

### **About the Instructor:**

*Kathy Reed* serves as Co-Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Auburn. In 2023, she completed a Doctor of Ministry degree, developing a deeper appreciation for how spirituality and culture shape one another. She values discussion-based teaching and is continually enriched by the diverse perspectives and life experiences of those around her.

## **Utopia and Terror in the 20th Century**

**Instructor:** *John Parr, PhD*

**Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This video-based course, taught by Professor Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius and published by The Great Courses, examines a fundamental question of the 20th century that remains relevant today. The past century saw unprecedented bloodshed, with wars claiming over 40 million lives and government-led persecution, mass murder, and genocide taking another 170 million. This course explores the ideologies—Fascism, Nazism, Communism, and others—that promised utopias and total solutions to society's problems but instead brought devastation. Includes video lectures plus discussion. Planned to continue in Winter 2026.

### **About the Instructor:**

*John Parr, PhD*, served 22 years in the US Navy, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander. He was Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Evansville (Indiana) from 1988-2010. He holds degrees from Auburn University and the Naval Postgraduate School and has been an OLLI member and Auburn resident since 2013.

## **Walk This Way**

**Instructor:** *Bob Banks*

**Thursdays, 8:30 am - 9:30 am | Sept 11 - Oct 30, 2025 | Meet at Auburn Public Library**

Join this weekly program designed to help participants develop a consistent walking exercise routine. Each Thursday, attendees will meet at the Auburn Public Library to learn about the numerous benefits of walking and enjoy local walks together. This course welcomes both novice and veteran walkers, providing a supportive and informative environment for all.

### *About the Instructor:*

Bob Banks is an avid runner. He is a retired ALFA insurance professional.

## **Wheel-Thrown Pottery**

**Instructor:** Gary Wagoner

**Mondays, 9:00 -11:00 AM | Sept 8 - October 27, 2025 |Jan Dempsey Arts Center**

**Course fee: \$110 payable to OLLI** (covers the costs of clay, glazes, firing, use of tools, and venue rental)

Open to beginners and experienced potters, this class will cover the basics of throwing on the potter's wheel. Students will learn essential skills such as centering, opening, pulling walls, and forming. As the course progresses, participants will create various shapes, including cups, bowls, vases, and pitchers. Additionally, there will be opportunities to work with glazes and other forms of surface decoration. Class participants can elect to use the studio on another day for practice—more details will be provided.

### **About the Instructor:**

Gary Wagoner holds an MFA in Ceramic Art from SUNY College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He developed the Ceramics curriculum at Auburn University and taught all levels of pottery and clay sculpture there for 35 years.

## **Where on Earth is the U.S.?**

**Instructor:** Doug Stowell

**Tuesday, November 4, 12:45-2:15 PM | Zoom Only**

How does the U.S. compare in meeting the challenges of 2025? This program examines some 24 topics—GDP, wages, taxes, trade balance, tariffs, environment, energy, education, healthcare, climate change, immigration, safety, prosperity, happiness, and more—using a “Top 10” format that offers a quick snapshot of the U.S. rank relative to other nations. Sources include international surveys by highly credible and impartial organizations.

### **About the Instructor:**

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran who has worked in both the U.S. and EU markets. He launched Market Resource Associates in 2008 and today conducts opinion research on global issues. Doug presents Zoom programs for more than 80 organizations worldwide.

## **Writing Our Lives**

**Instructor:** Terry Ley

**Mondays, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Sept 8 - Oct 27, 2025 | Pebble Hill**

“Our lives are like patchwork quilts,” writes Richard L. Morgan in *Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave*, “and as we age, we detect the patterns we have woven and seek to understand them.” In this class, you’ll explore your life’s patterns and the stories they inspire. Revisit memories, reflect on them, write about them, and share your stories in a welcoming circle of peers.

### **Required Textbook:**

Mary Karr, *The Art of Memoir* (Harper, 2015). ISBN-13: 9780062223067

### **About the Instructor:**

Terry Ley taught high school English in Iowa before joining Auburn University as a professor of English education. He has been leading *Writing Our Lives* for OLLI for seventeen years.

## **Writing Poetry: Recollection, Revelation, and Revision**

**Instructor:** Ken Autrey

**Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM | Sept 10 - Oct 29, 2025 | Pebble Hill**

This course examines strategies for writing and revising poems, with practice in both free and formal verse. Poetry will be considered as recollection—drawing on personal experiences and memory; as revelation—discovering insights in the present; and as revision—shaping and refining material into finished work. Sessions include discussion of sample poems and writing techniques, along with drafts that participants choose to share. All levels of writers are welcome, from beginners to experienced poets.

**Materials Fee:** \$5 (covers duplicating costs and a chapbook of student work prepared after the course).

### **About the Instructor:**

Ken Autrey taught poetry workshops for many years at Francis Marion University and has led this class for OLLI multiple times. His work has appeared in numerous magazines, and he has published four chapbooks and a full-length poetry collection.

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## Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for a SIG.

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### Exploring Artistic Expressions: An Open Studio (SIG)

**Facilitator:** *John Willer*

**Thursdays | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Sunny Slope Annex**

Discover and experiment with different artistic mediums, including acrylic paint, oil paint, pencils, and pastels. Engage in hands-on activities and guided discussions to gain insight into various techniques. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, you'll have the chance to find your unique artistic style while being part of a supportive community. Participants are welcome to use any medium they prefer but must bring their own supplies. John Willer will be available to provide assistance and guidance as needed.

### Be well; Do good work; Keep in touch.

**Facilitator:** *Janet Deutsch*

**Wednesdays | 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Sunny Slope Annex**

This SIG uses current articles and media to explore what it means to "Be well," "Do good work" (or even make "Good Trouble"), and "Keep in touch" at this stage of life. The first three weeks will focus on wellness, followed by two weeks on doing good, and conclude with two weeks on maintaining meaningful connections. Emphasis is placed on sharing perspectives, moving a bit (refilling coffee cups and stretching legs), and building supportive conversations in a relaxed setting.

### Greece Travel Group (SIG)

**Coordinator:** *Scott Bishop*

**Fridays, 1:00-2:30 PM | Aug 15, Sept 12, Oct 10, 2025 | Sunny Slope Annex**

This special interest group is for members participating in the upcoming Greece trip. Gather with fellow travelers to explore Greek history, culture, and language, build connections, and prepare for this shared adventure. Sessions may include readings, documentaries, local outings, and guest talks to enrich your experience before departure.

### Looking At Photography with a Critical Eye (SIG)

**Facilitator:** *Curtis Shannon*

**Thursdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room**

If you have ever wondered why contemporary photography is interesting and how to engage with it, this Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you. Join us as we explore the power of observation, the nature of photographs, developing a critical eye, mapping photographs, and picturing the South.

### Meditation (SIG)

**Facilitator:** *Leslie Beard*

**Mondays | 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm | Sunny Slope Annex**

The OLLI Meditation SIG meets weekly to meditate and build a supportive community for meditators of all levels and disciplines.

### (Play) Mahjongg (SIG)

**Facilitator:** *Kim Scarborough*

**Wednesdays | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Sunny Slope Kitchen & Main Classroom**

You must have had some previous experience playing. Please note that there won't be any formal instructors available, as this is not a course for learning the game. It's an opportunity to meet and play with other game enthusiasts. OLLI provides 12 cards and one set, but please bring your own cards and game sets if you have them.

## **Secular Buddhism Study Group (SIG)**

**Facilitators:** **Leslie** Beard & Gary Wagoner

**Mondays | 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm | Sunny Slope Annex**

This study group provides an opportunity, through shared readings and discussion, to explore Buddhist teachings and practices in a secular and contemporary context. It will focus on the precepts of Buddhism as a practical and ethical philosophy.

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## OLLI Presents

OLLI Presents programs are free and open to the public—no OLLI membership is required to attend.

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### Brown Bag Series

Bring your own lunch (BYOL) and join us for these engaging learning sessions.

**Wednesdays | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Pebble Hill**

Date	Presenter	Title
Sept 10	Walt Waltosz	What can you do with an Auburn Engineering degree?
Sept 17	Carolyn Barske Crawford & Brian Dempsey	Branching Out: The Public History of Trees
Sept 24	Philip Juras	Inspired by William Bartram: Southern Landscapes by Philip Juras
Oct 1	Paul Dewey	The Defining Shared Years of Truman Capote and Harper Lee: 1959-1967
Oct 8	Dr. Sharony Green	Zora Neale Hurston: Reclaiming a Literary and Folklore Legend for Alabama
Oct 15	Patricia Foster	A Marriage in Startled Air: Patricia Foster Reads and Reflects
Oct 22	Jesse Teel	Operation Grow: Supporting Military Veterans in Agriculture
Oct 29	Bill Deutsch	Scopes "Monkey" Trial: A Centennial Revisit

## OLLI Presents: Creative Nonfiction Intensive with Patricia Foster

October 13-16, 2025 | Morning & Afternoon Sessions | Sunny Slope Annex & Pebble Hill

Join award-winning essayist and memoirist Patricia Foster for a weeklong creative nonfiction intensive. Known for her work on family, memory, and Southern identity, Patricia brings decades of experience from the Iowa Writers' Workshop to help participants deepen their writing practice and shape personal narratives. Through hands-on workshops, individual conferences, and a public presentation, participants will gain tools and insights to tell their stories with clarity and confidence.

### Schedule:

#### Monday, Oct 13

9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Workshop (Sunny Slope Main Classroom)

#### Tuesday, Oct 14

12:00 PM-5:00 PM – Individual Conferences (Sunny Slope Conference Room)

#### Wednesday, Oct 15

11:30 AM-1:00 PM – Brown Bag Public Presentation (Pebble Hill)

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM – Light Lunch provided

2:00 PM-5:00 PM – Workshop (Pebble Hill)

#### Thursday, Oct 16

9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Wrap-up Session (Sunny Slope Conference Room)

### About the Presenter:

**Patricia Foster** is a professor emerita at the University of Iowa's MFA Program in Nonfiction, where she taught for 25 years. She is the author or editor of eight books, including the memoir *Written in the Sky: Lessons of a Southern Daughter*. Her essays have been widely published and honored in national journals and anthologies.

This program is made possible with support from the **Alabama State Council on the Arts**, the **Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts**, and the **Alice M. Leahy Memorial Endowment Fund for Excellence**.



*Alice M. Leahy*  
Memorial Endowment  
Fund for Excellence

## OLLI Presents: Poetry Workshop with Jason McCall

**Monday & Wednesday, December 8 & 10, 2025**

Sunny Slope Annex | **Registration opens October 1, 2025 (more details to be announced in an upcoming OLLI Digest)**

Explore the power of poetic expression in this two-session workshop led by acclaimed writer Jason McCall. Participants will engage in writing prompts, close readings, and collaborative discussions – all designed to spark creativity and deepen their poetic voice. Open to all experience levels. Bring your notebook—and your imagination!

## OLLI Presents: Non-Fiction Workshop with Jason McCall

**Tuesday & Thursday, December 9 & 11, 2025**

Sunny Slope Annex | **Registration opens October 1, 2025 (more details to be announced in an upcoming OLLI Digest)**

Discover the tools of compelling storytelling in this non-fiction-focused workshop. Through hands-on prompts, readings, and group discussion, participants will learn to shape narrative ideas into short non-fiction that connects with readers. Ideal for both new and experienced writers.

**Note:** Participants may register for one or both McCall workshops.

## Optional Personal Consultation with Jason McCall

**Friday, December 12, 2025**

Sunny Slope

Participants from either workshop may sign up for a brief, one-on-one consultation with Jason McCall to discuss their writing, ask questions, or receive feedback. Sign-up details will be shared during the workshops.

### About the Presenter:

Jason McCall is the author of *Silver, I Can Explain*, *Dear Hero* (winner of the 2012 Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize), *Mother, Less Child* (co-winner of the 2013 Paper Nautilus Vella Chapbook Prize), *Two-Face God*, *A Man Ain't Nothin'*, and *What Shot Did You Ever Take* (co-written with Brian Oliu). He co-edited *It Was Written: Poetry Inspired by Hip-Hop*, holds an MFA from the University of Miami, and teaches at the University of North Alabama.

This program is made possible with support from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts, and the Alice M. Leahy Memorial Endowment Fund for Excellence.



*Alice M. Leahy*  
Memorial Endowment  
Fund for Excellence

# Register for OLLI at Auburn University Courses

Welcome to OLLI at Auburn University! Whether you're looking to pursue a new interest or enhance your existing skills, OLLI has something for everyone.

## Important Information for New Members:

- **Weekly Courses:** Most courses meet **once per week** unless otherwise noted. Be sure to check the course descriptions for specific meeting days and any additional details.
- **Weekly OLLI Digest:** Stay informed with the **OLLI Weekly Digest**, delivered to your inbox every Sunday. It includes updates, event reminders, and important announcements.
- **Name Tags:** All members will receive an OLLI name tag, which can be used for entry into OLLI events and for riding **Tiger Transit**. Please wear your name tag when attending classes and events. Name tags for new members can be obtained in the front office.
- **Registration Period:** Registration for the upcoming term begins on **August 20, 2025**. Sign up early to secure your spot in your preferred courses!
- **Waitlist Information:** Don't be discouraged if a course is full and you're placed on a waitlist. We **actively monitor waitlists** and work diligently to move members into open spots as they become available. You'll be notified if a spot opens, so stay tuned!

## Membership Term and Benefits:

- **Membership Term:** Your OLLI membership is valid from **August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026**.
- **AU Community ID Card:** For \$25, enjoy access to Auburn University resources such as parking permits, library privileges, and Tiger Transit.
- **Discounts and Perks:** OLLI members receive exclusive discounts at the Auburn University Bookstore, Auburn Oil Co. Booksellers, Village Friends, Jule Collins Smith Museum Store, and on GPAC-presented performances at the Gogue Performing Arts Center.
- **Fitness and Wellness:** Enjoy discounted rates at Max Fitness of Auburn and the opportunity to join **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**.

Membership & Academic Fees Category	Amount
Annual Membership	\$50
Academic Fee per term (Unlimited Courses)	\$85 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
New Academic Fee per term (Single Course)	\$40
Summer Academic Fee (Unlimited Courses)	\$40
All-Inclusive (Membership and Fall, Winter, and Spring Academic Courses)	\$290
All-Inclusive Plus (Membership and Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer Academic Courses)	\$330

- **Membership Requirement:** OLLI membership is required to enroll in courses each term.
- **Special Interest Groups (SIGs):** Membership-only events; no additional academic fee required.
- **Course Specifics:** Please review course descriptions for any special requirements, such as additional materials or supply fees.

**Registering is Easy!** Scan the QR code to access the registration page directly. We look forward to having you join us!

**Need Assistance?** For registration help or any questions, feel free to contact the OLLI office at **334-844-3146** or **olli@auburn.edu**.

