

OLLI at Auburn Spring 2021 Course descriptions and instructor biographies

Birding Basics – A21201

Bill Deutsch, Instructor

Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 8:30 – 10:00 am

Meet at Sunny Slope unless otherwise instructed.

Enrollment limited to twenty students.

Face masks and socially distancing of at least six feet are required.

This course is primarily for the beginning birder, and will be field-oriented. Inside class time will be used to talk about the natural history of birds, bird identification by sight and ear, identification aids, attracting birds around the home, and local birding locations. Most of our class time will be spent outdoors birding in the Auburn area at local parks and nature centers. Optional weekend field trips will be offered.

*Bill Deutsch is an aquatic ecologist who enjoys birding as a hobby. He has birded in Alabama, in other parts of the US, and in several countries with an emphasis on natural history of birds and bird photography.

Children of World War II Tell Their Families' Stories – A21202

Frank Broz, Instructor

Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 10:15 – 11:45 am

This class will have OLLI members and guests relate their family's participation in WWII. This will not be limited to the battlefield but to the home-front as well. Frank Broz will act as a facilitator and place the stories of each participant in historical perspective. The goal of the class is to remember the contribution and sacrifice of what has been called the "Greatest Generation" and to keep these memories alive in their families.

*Frank Broz has a degree in History from Loyola University of Chicago. With a background in facilitation since retirement he has taught several courses on military history for OLLI at Auburn.

Chinese Brush Painting – A21203

Dong Shang, Instructor

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Enrollment limited to twelve students.

Chinese Brush Painting supplies may be ordered from Dong by emailing her at dongshang@hotmail.com. Dong will deliver/mail the package to you. Please mail a check to Dong at 1700 Olivia Way; Auburn, AL 36830 or transfer the payment to her Zelle account at 2293476293.

Chinese painting Supplies: 3 bamboo brushes, Chinese Ink, Chinese watercolor Paint, Rice paper (54x27") 5 sheets

This hands-on course is an introduction to Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. Chinese painting attempts to capture the essence of nature. It is the art of using suggestion and simplicity to imply reality. The sense of harmony that pervades Chinese culture is expressed in the traditional subjects of flowers, animals, and landscapes. Learn the basic brush strokes, composition, and spontaneous-style painting techniques.

*Dong Shang is a native of China and has a degree in art. An art designer, she immigrated to the United States, where she has worked as a freelance artist and an art teacher.

Connect with Nature in Alabama with the iNaturalist App – A21204**Mike Akins, Instructor****Wednesdays, March 31, April 7, 14, 21 (four weeks) • 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

If you enjoy nature and want to be able to observe and identify any plant or animal anywhere in Alabama, this course is for you. This is a short course to help you connect with nature with a guided review on using the iNaturalist app on your mobile phone. The iNaturalist app helps you sharpen your skills for identifying plants and animals. The app provides a way for you to connect with (and contribute to) a large library of information and a network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn more about nature. With an informal mix of presentation, conversation, and practice, we cover everything you need to learn fast and get the most from using the iNaturalist app.

*Mike Akins is an independent writer, videographer, and online learning producer who collaborates with teachers, creatives, and entrepreneurs. He lives in Opelika, AL with his wife Betsy. Mike and Betsy are active OLLI members.

East Asian Politics and US Policy – A21205**Lawrence Grinter, Instructor****Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 12:45 – 2:15 pm**

This course combines US foreign and security policy as they relate to and interact with East-Asian countries. Topics include comparisons of Biden and Trump emphases, and US relations with China, the Philippines, Japan, the two Koreas, and the South China Sea. Important historical realities, and current events, are explored. Discussion is encouraged

*Lawrence Grinter has taught with OLLI at Auburn for the past four years. Prior to that he taught in Auburn's Political Science department. For the previous 35 years he taught East-Asian and US policy topics at the Air War College and the National War College. He made 32 visits to Asia, and was stationed in South Korea and South Vietnam.

Europe in the Middle Ages, Part III – A21206**Joseph Kicklighter, Instructor****Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

In our spring term we shall discuss various aspects of the later Middle Ages, a period of three centuries or so in which the medieval world undergoes great changes. We shall consider the Black Death and Hundred Years War as well as the Church and its concerns. In other talks we'll discuss Dante the poet and his take on the world as well as the proliferation of English kings in these centuries!

*Joseph Kicklighter has been teaching with OLLI for five years after teaching history at Auburn University for the past forty. He has a PhD from Emory University in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Evolving Technology and Humanity in the 21st Century – A21207**John Frandsen, Instructor****Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 12:45 – 2:15 pm**

In this class we will discuss the nature and effects of evolving technologies on the quality and survival of human societies.

*John Frandsen is a biological scientist, professor, and retired Army officer with a longstanding, intense interest in international affairs dating at least from his attendance at a National Defense University seminar in the late 1970s.

Getting Comfortable in the Digital World – A21208

Sonny Dawsey, Instructor

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 10:15 – 11:45 am

Increasingly sophisticated products such as computers, smartphones, tablets, and smart TVs have brought power and complexity into our lives. This Zoom course is a continuation from last Fall, and it will continue the discussion on devices, apps, and software which have become part of our everyday lives. Though most concepts are applicable across different platforms, the class will mainly deal with Android and Windows systems. Class participants are urged to ask questions and contribute information. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

*Sonny Dawsey is an Emeritus AU Professor of Geography. He frequently used computers and digital communications during his professional career, and his interest in technology has continued after retirement. He has taught several courses for OLLI on computers, maps, physical geography, human geography, and various regional studies.

The Great Influenza: Three Disciplinary Perspectives – A21209

Larry Gerber, Ken Nusbaum, and Mary Ann Rygiel Instructors

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Enrollment limited to thirty students.

The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History is a historical study of the 1918 flu virus and its worldwide impact. John Barry originally wrote this Keck Award winning book in 2004 and provided an updated afterword in 2018. The book is an investigation of the American scientific and medical, political, and cultural and public information contexts of the 1918 pandemic. This class examines the origin and spread of the disease in the United States, as described by Barry, from three disciplinary perspectives, historical, scientific, and literary, over the course of six classes, each class led by a specialist in those three disciplinary fields. The perspective from history, led by Larry Gerber, will focus on the relation of the pandemic to the nation's mobilization for the Great War, and the impact of the pandemic on the Versailles Peace Conference. The scientific content, led by Ken Nusbaum, will be an introduction to viruses and infectious diseases. He will also draw parallels between influenza and coronavirus, and he will talk about the missteps in treatment occurring then and now. Literary aspects of Barry's book, led by Mary Ann Rygiel, include character, conflict, style, and tragedy. It is recommended that students read the book, available online through Amazon. However, reading is not required to sign up for the course.

*Larry Gerber was a Professor and Head of the Auburn University History Department.

*Ken Nusbaum was a Professor in the Auburn University Veterinary Medicine School.

*Mary Ann Rygiel was a teacher.

Great Masters: Robert and Clara Schumann – Their Lives and Music – A21210

Jane Brown, Instructor

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 10:15 – 11:45 am

In this course by Professor Robert Greenberg you meet the Schumanns—brilliant, gifted, troubled, and unique in the history of music. Robert Schumann (1810–1856) and his wife Clara Wieck Schumann (1819–1896) have earned a distinct place in the annals of Western music. As a couple with a two-career marriage—he as a pioneering critic and composer, she as one of the leading concert pianists of Europe—they were highly exceptional in their own time though they seem very contemporary in ours.

*Jane Brown retired from teaching in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Auburn University. She took piano lessons growing up, played with her high school band, studied early music after taking up the recorder, and currently plays violin with the Auburn Community Orchestra.

How Winston Churchill Changed the World – A21211

Jim Barber and Herb Shivers, Instructors

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 8:30 – 10:00 am

Few individuals personify the tumultuous story of the 20th century more than Winston Churchill. Great Britain's most celebrated statesman, Churchill didn't just live history—he made it. His was a fascinating journey that would take him from the dawn of the Edwardian Age to the dawn of Beatlemania; from the days when the British Empire ruled the seas to its twilight as the preeminent global power; and from the chaos of two world wars to the equally fraught tensions of the Cold War era. In *How Winston Churchill Changed the World*, enjoy a thorough, multifaceted exploration of Churchill's life, accomplishments, complexities, and legacies. Over the span of 24 lectures that unfurl like a great story, you will delve into Churchill's military leadership during World War I and World War II; his personal relationships with family and friends; his abiding passion for history, literature, and public speaking; and his political relationships with historical giants like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, and Queen Elizabeth II. With Professor Shelden as your authoritative guide, you'll embark on an unforgettable adventure through the 20th century in the footsteps of the one man who helped not just Great Britain but all of humanity prevail during violent, dangerous times.

*Jim Barber is a recently retired construction engineer/contractor with four-score and a dozen years of experience that are cheerfully and thankfully in the past. He is working on his advanced degree in geezerhood and, specifically, serial napping and advanced grumpiness.

*Herb Shivers is a long-time OLLI member who teaches at UAB and has taught for OLLI at Auburn several times in the past.

Introduction to Art History: From Dürer to David and Delacroix – A21212

Anne Leader, Instructor

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 10:15 – 11:45 am

The continuation of *From Duccio to David*, this course introduces students to the historical and intellectual content of Western art with a focus on the painting, sculpture, and architecture from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Europe in terms of history, style, meaning, and social context. Artists studied include Caravaggio, Bernini, Rubens, Velazquez, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Boucher, Fragonard, Goya, David, and Delacroix. All are welcome.

*Dr. Anne Leader has taught Introduction to Art History at the University of New Hampshire, Kean University, The City College of New York, SCAD-Atlanta, and OLLI at Auburn.

The Life of Birds – A21213

David Newton

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 12:45 – 2:15 pm

***The Life of Birds* series can be seen on Amazon Prime.**

The Life of Birds is a BBC documentary hosted by naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough, which addresses the evolution and habits of birds. Each of the episodes discusses how the huge variety of birds on Earth deal with a different aspect of their day-to-day existence. During this term, six of the ten episodes will be utilized.

*David Newton is a retired member of the faculty of Auburn University. His interest in conservation and the environment began during the countless hours spent along the bayous and in the woods near the home of his youth in northwest Mississippi. In retirement, he and his late wife Raye traveled extensively, visiting all seven continents, concentrating on natural history. He has organized numerous classes concerning environmental and natural history topics for OLLI at AU.

Line Dancing – A21214**Betsy Keown, Instructor****Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 2:30 – 3:30 pm • AUMC portico****Face masks and socially distancing of at least six feet are required.**

This one-hour class will introduce students to line dancing. Basic steps and dances will be taught. We will dance to a variety of music - everything from Glenn Miller to Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and many more. Not only is it fun, but great exercise for the body and the mind. Wear comfortable shoes, preferably not rubber-soled.

*Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for more than twelve years and teaching for the past seven. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

Media Savvy and Book Smart: Auburn University Library Orientation – A21215**Tommy Brown, Juliet Rumble, Todd Shipman, and Jaena Alabi, Instructors****Monday, April 19; Tuesday, April 20; and Wednesday, April 21 • 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

Space is limited. Learn how to find books using the library's catalog and find magazine and newspaper articles using the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL). You will better understand how the library is organized and what services are open to OLLI members.

*Jaena Alabi, Tommy Brown, Juliet Rumble, and Todd Shipman are librarians at the RBD Library.

Nietzsche, Wagner, and the Origins of Post-Truth – A21216**Jay West, Instructor****Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6 (six weeks) • 8:30 – 10:00 am**

We invite you to participate an interesting and challenging adventure in music, philosophy, art and history as we trace the origins of elements of our contemporary world back through the patterns of German culture from 1850-1945, and explore what French philosophers did with this heritage in the late 20th century. This course will be challenging. Nietzsche was a radically unconventional thinker, and a complex and obscure one as well. We'll begin reading his first work, *The Birth of Tragedy* and one of his last works, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Nietzsche went insane shortly after finishing *Zarathustra*. But within the labyrinth of his thoughts are to be found the origins of many later developments, from Martin Heidegger through the Nazis to the Post-Modern thinkers Derrida and Foucault. Thus it might be argued that "Post-Truth" begins there.

*James West earned his PhD in Russian History from Princeton. He taught at Trinity College (Hartford) for 24 years, and Middlebury College for 15 years. Retired now, he worked in OLLI NWU Chicago for the last two years. James has recently returned from two years in Petersburg, Russia, where he taught at the European University. His permanent residence is Middlebury Vermont, but is in Auburn while his wife is a visiting scholar.

Poetry Writing: Models from 6 Contemporary Poets – A21217**Ken Autrey and Wendy Cleveland, Instructors****Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 8:30 – 10:00 am****Enrollment limited to 22 students.**

This course will address strategies for writing and revising poems using as models the work of 6 prominent contemporary poets: Daniel Anderson, Ann Fisher-Wirth, B.H. Fairchild, Louise Gluck, Linda Pastan, and Natasha Trethewey. The class will discuss sample poems, write regularly, and occasionally look at drafts from class members.

*Ken Autrey taught university poetry courses and has published three poetry chapbooks. His work has

often appeared in magazines and anthologies. He has taught poetry writing previously with OLLI.

*Wendy Cleveland is a retired high school English teacher and the author of the poetry collection *Blue Ford*. She has published poetry in various magazines and has previously taught Ekphrastic Poetry with OLLI.

Spring Mysteries – A21218

Margaret Kouidis, Ellen Sherling, Mary Burkhart, Marnie Leonard, and Harold Bruner, Instructors

Wednesdays, March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5 (six weeks) • 10:15 – 11:45 am

Books in order in which they will be discussed:

Mosley, W. (2020). *Devil in a Blue Dress*. Washington Square Post. ISBN: 9781982150341.

White, J. (2009). *The Abyssinian Proof*. W.W. Norton and Company. ISBN: 9780393333725.

Hillerman, T. (2001). *The Best American Mystery Short Stories of the Century*. Mariner Books. ISBN: 9780618012718.

Welcome to curling up with a good book on a cool and breezy spring evening. Choosing and directing discussions of the books listed above in order are Margaret Kouidis, Ellen Sheling, Mary Burkhart, Marnie Leonard, and Harold Bruner.

*All of these instructors have been members of the Mysteries class for several terms and have led past book discussions.

Staying Active: Shorter Hikes at Chewacla State Park – A21219

Harold Bruner, Instructor

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 2:45 – 4:45 pm

No class fee, but you will need to pay the entrance fee of \$4.00 (People 62 and older are \$2.00)

Face masks and socially distancing of at least six feet are required.

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

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

Strolling Leisurely Toward an Understanding of the Structure of Sucrose – A21220

Peter Livant, Instructor

Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6 (six weeks) • 10:15 – 11:45 am

Friedrich Wöhler, a famous German chemist, wrote that organic chemistry appeared to him, "...a monstrous and boundless thicket, with no way of escape..." He wrote that in 1835! Is organic chemistry today less monstrous, less forbidding than then? Probably not, but in this course we will stroll about Wöhler's Boundless Thicket having no illusion that we are seeing the full breadth and depth of organic chemistry. Our goal will be to understand a few things rather than to "cover" a lot of things. Rather than stroll in an entirely random fashion, which might not be everyone's cup of tea, we will stroll semi-randomly toward a goal: an understanding of the chemical structure of table sugar, namely sucrose.

The district of the Boundless Thicket that we will inhabit is spectacularly gerrymandered. We will (or might) ask: "What is an atom?" "How do atoms connect to each other?" "When a chemist uses the word 'structure,' what exactly does she mean?" "How does a chemist write the structure of a molecule on paper?" "What are isomers?" "Why does an organic chemist carry a mirror in her brain?" "How does a chemist experimentally determine the structure of a molecule?" "Is it true that all altruists gladly make gum in gallon tanks?" We will not venture into the neighborhoods of the Boundless Thicket labeled: how to name compounds, quantum

theories of chemical bonding, how to synthesize compounds, and what reactions organic compounds undergo and the gory details thereof.

*Peter Livant taught Organic Chemistry, mostly, for 39 years in AU's Chemistry Department. Prior to that he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Guelph, in Canada; before that, a postdoctoral fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He came to Urbana from divine Providence, RI, where he eked out a Ph. D. at Brown University, having earlier obtained his B. S. at City College of New York. His life before that was remarkable, albeit not in any way relevant to this course.

Whatever Happened to Folk Music? Part III – A21221

C. Mike Reinke, Instructor

Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 2:30 – 4:00 pm

The continuation of a sequential, multi-term course, with slide-based Zoom presentations that explore the origins and evolution of American folk and roots music. It features numerous audio and audiovisual examples of songs that range from centuries-old British ballads, to popular songs during the so-called “folk music revival,” to songs released in the last 10-20 years, best classified as “Americana.” It incorporates the folk music of African Americans and discusses how this music was separated commercially from Anglo-American folk music. In Spring Term 2021, we will finish “Anglo-American Ballads” and begin “Black and White Roots Music Intertwined: Occupational and Religious Songs.”

*C. Mike Reinke grew up in the fifties and sixties during the peak of the folk music revival. While in retirement, he has developed a pronounced avocational interest in the history of American folk and roots music and in how this music has influenced American culture. He has been working on an OLLI course sequence on the subject for approximately two years.

Writing Our Lives – A21222

Terry Ley and Cathy Buckhalt, Instructors

Mondays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 (six weeks) • 8:30 – 10:00 am

Enrollment limited to thirty students.

Book: Lara, A. *Naked, Drunk, and Writing*. ISBN 978-1-58008-480-2.

“Our lives are like a patchwork quilt, and it is only in the evening of life that we can see the pattern of what we have woven” (Richard L. Morgan, *Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave*). We all have life stories to tell! Here is an opportunity to reclaim your memories, write about them, and share them with a receptive audience of peers. We will write each Monday morning, responding to stimulus prompts provided by the instructor. Recommended homework: finishing and revising what you have begun in class and reading self-selected memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies.

*Terry Ley taught high school English in Iowa before coming to Auburn University, where he was a professor of English education. He has taught Writing Our Lives each OLLI term for fourteen years.

*Cathy Buckhalt is a retired teacher from Opelika Middle School and Southern Union State Community College. She also was associate director of the Sun Belt Writing Project for many years.

Your Health Care Advocate – A21223

Keith Campagna, Instructor

Tuesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 (six weeks) • 12:45 – 2:15 pm

Enrollment limited to fifteen students.

This course will address: Why Health Care Advocacy? What does HC Advocacy entail? Types of Advocacy? When is Advocacy needed? Who can be your advocate(s)? What is Advance Care Planning, and why is it vital? Group discussion and case studies will be interspersed within the presentations.

*Keith is a retired AU School of Pharmacy faculty member, who has taught a previous version of "Your Health Care Advocate" for OLLI in 2013-2014, then entitled "Patient Advocacy". His professional experience includes faculty appointments (AU, UAB & U of IL), clinical practice (inpatient medicine services and outpatient pharmacotherapy clinic), and a nine-year stint in pharmaceutical industry as a Medical Sciences Liaison.

**Brown Bag Lunch and Learn: Free and Open to the Public. From Noon – 1pm.
Facebook/OLLIatAuburn.**

April 7 Sarah Wolak presents Five months in the Green Tunnel: a thru-hiker's journey on the Appalachian Trail

Sarah will be sharing her experiences thru-hiking the 2,175-mile long Appalachian Trail solo as a young woman in 2005-- the highs, the lows, the moments, absurd and profound, and above all, the awesomeness of Trail Magic in all its forms.

Sarah Wolak grew up in south Florida, in a family that loved taking month-long summer camping trips around the country and exploring the outdoors. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, and then went on to work as a field biologist in all sorts of ecosystems in Missouri, Florida, New Mexico, Oregon, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Montana. During these nomadic years she fell in love with backpacking, and was inspired by a fellow field biologist's tales of hiking the Appalachian Trail. She decided to hike the trail herself before heading to graduate school at the University of California, Riverside. In California she met her husband, and after graduate school the two of them moved to northern Scotland, where he worked as a post-doctoral research fellow. Four years and two children later, they found themselves moving to Auburn, Alabama. She now spends her time caring for their two boys and propagating thousands of native plants for her fledgling native plant nursery. Her boys are only up to about 5 mile hikes so far, but she fully intends to take them with her when she thru-hikes the Appalachian Trail again - hopefully in 6 more years.

April 28 Che Ka presents *Research Expedition to the Antarctic and Perspectives from an Auburn Graduate Student*

In this presentation, Che will describe a recent and exciting research cruise to Antarctica led by Auburn professor and Schneller Endowed Chair, Kenneth Halanych, as well as four other collaborating professors from across the nation. This 14-week expedition was made possible by four grants funded by the National Science Foundation for the purpose of studying invertebrate animals living in the waters surrounding Antarctica. One of the big goals of this cruise is to use genomics (or DNA studies) to better understand how climate change is affecting biodiversity and species distribution in an area of the world being rapidly transformed by climate change. As one of the 20 scientists who embarked on this important research journey, Che will also share his personal experiences and research activities. Learn more about the expedition at [Icy Inverts](#).

Originally, Che Ka's family is from Senegal, and he came to Auburn when he was 14 years old to attend school and has happily lived here ever since. He was not always the science enthusiast that he sees himself as today but has developed an unquenchable love for the subject through his education at Auburn University. As a student, he was inspired to study science after meeting passionate professors like Dr. Halanych, Dr. Christine Schnittka, and many others. His long-term goal is to continue doing research as a scientist and eventually teach science. He wants to use the skills he gained through the program at Auburn

to promote effective science communication, increase scientific literacy, and inspire others to pursue a career in science as he was inspired by the great people at Auburn University.

May 5 Mike and Judith Ballard present *Building an Experimental Aircraft*

On average, 1.5 RV aircraft are completed and flown for the first time every day. There are over 10,000 of these aircraft flying in the US, far exceeding the Cessnas and Pipers. Mike Ballard will show you how to build one in your own basement or garage, and then become certified by the FAA to fly anywhere.

Mike served in the US Air Force as a jet pilot from 1965-1970, becoming a Delta Airlines pilot upon his military discharge. He retired as a Delta Captain in 2002 after 32 years' service. Then with the able assistance of his wife Judy, herself a licensed pilot, he began building experimental aircraft in his garage in Lanett, Alabama. The Ballards are enthusiastic members of Auburn's OLLI.