

## Monthly Highlights

■ Remember, if SVSU is closed due to adverse weather conditions, OLLI classes and meetings are also cancelled. Call the University Weather Line for an up-to-date report: 964-4477.

■ Eric H. Holder, Jr. will be the keynote speaker for the Great Lakes Bay Region's MLK celebration on Wednesday, January 25. Holder was the 82<sup>nd</sup> Attorney General of the U.S. from 2009 - 2015. The program will be held in the Malcolm Field Theatre and begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are free, but limited. Tickets are available in the SVSU Ryder Center, just inside the doors of the top of the north ramp. Call 964-4068 for more information.

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## February Monthly Meeting

*Wednesday, February 8, 2017*

*SVSU Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms*

**8:45 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:30 a.m. Welcome & Announcements**

### OLLI Salutes Jo Brownlie

*Presented by past and current OLLI Chairs*

SVSU introduced its new Institute for Learning in Retirement at a Fall Kick-Off Symposium in September, 2001. By the end of that first year the Institute had 250 members and offered 46 classes. Fast forward to 2017. Our organization is now approaching 2,000 members, we offer 250 classes a year, 50 trips, and 21 Interest Groups.

At our February meeting we will review our many milestones and achievements under the innovative leadership of Jo Brownlie, our OLLI Director since day one. Since Jo will be retiring in February, this will be a good time to reflect and consider how OLLI has enriched the lives of hundreds of people throughout our region. Whether you are a new OLLI member, a charter member, or fall somewhere in between, please join us as we take this opportunity to celebrate and thank Jo for her contributions and passion for our OLLI.



## Upcoming Events & Monthly Meetings

**Saturday, February 4**

**Tai Chi/QiGong Festival**

**9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Curtiss Hall - Banquet Rooms**

**Wednesday, March 8**

**Monthly Meeting, *A Place Called Presque Isle***

**Presenter: Janet Young, Author**

**Curtiss Hall - Banquet Rooms**

**Wednesday, April 12**

**Monthly Meeting, Jazzy Musical Entertainment**

**by The New Reformation Band**

**Curtiss Hall - Banquet Rooms**

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The *Adventurer* is published monthly for SVSU-OLLI members at Saginaw Valley State University. Reprints of this newsletter may be obtained by calling (989) 964-4475.

Hello OLLI friends,

Sometimes a book stops you in your tracks, and you need to sit down and think about it. That's how When Breath Becomes Air hit me.

First it was about the title of the book. I just could not figure it out. It turns out that it comes from a line in a poem, "You that seek what life is in death, now find it air that once was breath" in which poet Baron Brooke Greville admonishes us to "make time, while you be, but steps to your eternity." Use your limited time well.

The book is written by Paul Kalanithi, a 36 year old neurosurgeon who was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic lung cancer in May 2013 and died two years later, in March 2015. Several of his essays have been published: "How Long Have I Got Left" in the New York Times in January 2014, "Before I Go" in Stanford Medicine, Spring 2015, and "My Last Day As A Surgeon", published in a January 2016 New Yorker. The essays are remarkable for their honesty and lyrical writing. Dr. Abraham Verghese writes in the Foreword to the book that "out of his pen he was spinning gold".

The essays, and the book, are also about time, and about what we do when we face death more directly, knowing time is strictly limited. There is so much more here. For Paul, it was the decision that he must keep going. As he says, quoting Samuel Beckett, "I can't go on. I'll go on."

Leslie Sanders, OLLI Advisory Board Chair



## SVSU - OLLI Welcomes New Director



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Katherine Ellison has accepted the OLLI Director position and will begin working on January 9. Katie is not new to OLLI as she has offered history classes for us since 2014, and she been an adjunct history professor at SVSU since 2012. She is also the managing director of History Geek Consulting LLC, an historical consulting firm which specializes in professional historical writing, research and presentations. She earned her bachelor and master of arts degrees in education and history from Central Michigan University before completing her doctorate in modern U.S. political history at Western Michigan University in 2013.

Katie, who resides in her hometown of Hemlock with her husband Phillip, is very involved in the community. She is the current president of the Hemlock Public School Board of Education and the Hemlock Area Historical Society. Outside of politics and history, she enjoys running, playing with the Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw and the Saginaw Area Concert Band, baking and traveling.

Katie was the 2010 recipient of Western Michigan University's All University Teaching Effectiveness Award and the WMU Department of History Teaching Effectiveness award at the Ph.D. level.

To facilitate a smooth leadership transition, Katie and Jo will work together until Jo's retirement on January 31.

## OLLI Award Two Study-Abroad Scholarships



Lindsey Weber

For the third year, OLLI has provided two \$2,500 Travel Abroad Scholarships to SVSU students that are participating in a faculty-led study abroad trip. This year we had 38 applicants.

This year's winners are Kathleen Moon, an exercise science/physical therapy major who will be traveling to Ecuador this summer, and Lindsey Weber, a nursing major who will be traveling to Ireland in March during spring break. Upon their return, each winner will make a short presentation at an OLLI monthly meeting about their experience.



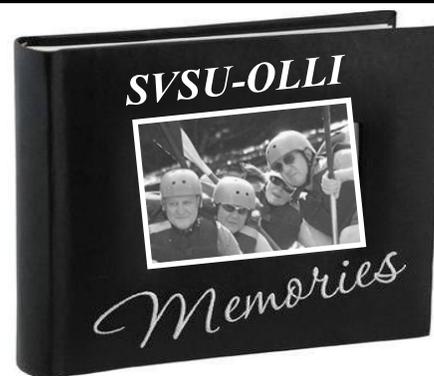
Kathleen Moon

## Share OLLI Memories for Jo's Memory Book

A Memory Book is being created to celebrate Jo Brownlie's retirement. This book will enable you to share with her your memories of classes, trips, meetings, interest groups and social events; or even how OLLI has been an important part of your life. Just a short note will do on the enclosed form.

You can either drop the form off in our office, mail it in, or send a message by e-mail if you are out of town to Debra Piotrowski, [dapiotro@svsu.edu](mailto:dapiotro@svsu.edu). We would like to get your thoughts in quickly so that we can have the book finalized for her at the February meeting.

*Help us fill this book with lots of memories from SVSU-OLLI friends!*



## Current OLLI Interest Groups

- Board Games:** Ted McLaughlin, (989)790-9587, [tshorty@chartermi.net](mailto:tshorty@chartermi.net)  
**Bridge:** Matt Skowronski, (989) 684-6402, Marilyn Bechtel (989)894-1089  
**Buddhist Psychology:** Eric Devos, (989)964-4329, [devos@svsu.edu](mailto:devos@svsu.edu)  
**Choral Singing:** Rose Kohut, (989)790-1883, [obsessedreader@hotmail.com](mailto:obsessedreader@hotmail.com)  
**Cross Country Skiing:** Pam Young (989)781-2759, [pamelaroseyoung@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaroseyoung@gmail.com)  
**Current Events:** Carol Gohm, (989)574-5862, [cgohm47@gmail.com](mailto:cgohm47@gmail.com)  
**Cycling:** Linda Ackerman (989)781-2961, [lmackerman50@gmail.com](mailto:lmackerman50@gmail.com)  
**Dinner:** Deborah Bula, (989)781-1126, [dbretired610@gmail.com](mailto:dbretired610@gmail.com)  
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**Guitar:** Mike Juengling, (989)607-2509, [mikejuen5@gmail.com](mailto:mikejuen5@gmail.com)  
**Kayaking:** Dan Dauer (989)753-6038, [dauerhome@juno.com](mailto:dauerhome@juno.com)  
**Knitting:** Barb Weadock, (989)792-8839, [barb@weadock.net](mailto:barb@weadock.net)  
**Lunch:** Rita Grasso, (989)781-4725, [ritaolli11@yahoo.com](mailto:ritaolli11@yahoo.com)  
**Music Collegium:** Eric Nisula, (989)964-4307, [epn@svsu.edu](mailto:epn@svsu.edu)  
**Pickleball:** Edith Sommers, (989)751-3819, [edithsommers@charter.net](mailto:edithsommers@charter.net)  
**Ping Pong:** Carol Lagalo, (989)752-9857, [lagaloc@yahoo.com](mailto:lagaloc@yahoo.com)  
**Readers Theatre:** Rose Kohut, (989)790-1883, [obsessedreader@hotmail.com](mailto:obsessedreader@hotmail.com)  
**Recreational Biking:** Vicki Shrope (989)615-0317, [vshrope@yahoo.com](mailto:vshrope@yahoo.com)  
**Stamp & Coin Collecting:** Robert Bula (989)781-1126  
**Theatre:** Bonnie Rowell, (989)799-3102, [bjrowell43@yahoo.com](mailto:bjrowell43@yahoo.com)  
**Walking:** Mike Michaels, (989)799-5090, [mikem24108@live.com](mailto:mikem24108@live.com)

## Cycling Group Concludes Another Great Year!



Under the leadership of OLLI member Linda Ackerman, the Cycling Interest Group biked over 20,000 miles collectively from April 11 through November 7 this past year. Sixty-one members participated in at least one of the 31 rides offered.

The rider with the most miles was Jerry Hausbeck who rode 1,082 miles and participated in all 31 rides. Linda, who missed two rides, came in second with 998 miles.

## Tai Chi/QiGong Festival Saturday, February 4, 2017

Escape cabin fever and come join the fun! Transform your quality of life as millions of Chinese have. "The ancient art of Tai Chi uses gentle flowing movements to reduce the stress of today's busy lifestyles and improves health," according to the Mayo Clinic.

Students and teachers from around the state will explore the latest developments and techniques. This event will be hosted by OLLI's Tai Chi teacher and founding member of Cloud Hands Michigan, Jim Bush. The sessions focus on interesting aspects of these arts, led by outstanding instructors from around Michigan. Sessions will be relaxed and suitable for beginners as well as more advanced practitioners. There will be sufficient breaks, with lunch included in the cost. Wear comfortable clothing for movements. Please note that swords or weapons are not allowed per University policy.

### **Registration:**

Time: 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: SVSU Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms  
Cost: \$30 (includes lunch) until January 27  
\$40 (includes lunch) after January 27

Call OLLI Office (989)964-4475 to register, or go to [www.svsu.edu/olli](http://www.svsu.edu/olli) to register online.

## Class Highlight Manipulating Genes: Promise or Peril? (201)

Our understanding of genetics and the technology that has developed in this field recently are so remarkable that scientists and lay persons alike ponder on the potential effects of genetic engineering. In this class we



will consider the molecular biology that is the underpinning of this genetic revolution. We will explore what genetics has discovered about our own heredity, what alterations to the genome can be done now, and what direction this science may possibly take in the years ahead. The class will be facilitated by OLLI member and retired science teacher Bob Enszer. Discussion will center around Teaching Company information from *Understanding the Science for Tomorrow: Myth and Reality* by Jeffrey C. Grossman of M.I.T. and *Understanding Genetics: DNA, Genes and Their Real-World Applications* by David Sadava, with Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, and Scripps Colleges. We will also draw from the recent issue of *Scientific American* magazine entitled *The Future in Nine Big Questions*.

**Thursdays: January 19, 26, February 2 & 9, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**  
**Price: \$27 Members; \$54 Non-Members**  
**Room: C129**



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