**THANK OLLI**

Time. Did you ever try to define it? Why is it that when you are having fun doing something you like, time seems to just fly by? How about when you are thinking about or doing your taxes—what does time do then? The perception of time depends on what we are experiencing at the moment and how our bodies and brains measure the passage of time. The reason we feel the passage of time is that our bodies have clocks in them, such as our heartbeats and our breathing. But biological clocks are not very reliable compared to mechanical or electronic time pieces because our bodies are affected by many things that are outside of our control.

Sean Carroll, PhD. Harvard, in Mysteries of Modern Physics from The Great Courses, points out that "biological networks move faster in smaller mammals and smaller mammals have faster heart beats than larger animals. They also have shorter life spans... Unlike shrews and elephants, human beings are affected by another variable, the culture in which we find ourselves. We all know that different cultures approach time differently. In fact, various studies have been done to try to measure the pace of life in different cultures."

The industrialized nations, and increasing use of high technology by other developing countries, see their pace of life increasing most quickly. " Researchers comparing the pace of life in cities over time have found that over the past twenty years, the pace of life has increased by ten per cent. In areas that are rapidly industrializing, that increase is even greater."

Unlike computers which are programmed to do certain tasks, "the human brain has evolved over billions of years by an incremental process in which random possibilities were tested...Neuroscientists have been able to isolate at least three things that affect our perception of the passage of time: 1. pulses in the brain. 2. sensory input and focus. 3. the accumulation of memories."

Different neurons in the brain do work by pulses and, together, multiple levels of pulses help us perceive time. However they can be affected by stimulants such as caffeine or depressants, such as alcohol. When you are focused on a task, you don't pay as much attention to the outside world, and in some sense, you also don't pay as much attention to your internal clock. Your internal timekeeping device seems to slow while the outside world speeds up. Conversely, time seems to pass more quickly as we age and accumulate more memories. When you were a child, summer seemed to last forever, but when you get older, it seems to rush by. "It may be that when you were young in the summertime, such activities as going to the beach were new to you, but when you get older, you’ve been to the beach and you don't take in as much new information about the experience as a child would. Thus, time seems to pass more quickly for you compared to when you were a child."

So, fellow students, OLLI is helping you to stay young by offering all these courses to stimulate the brain and expose you to new experiences. Einstein said that spacetime is relative. But, each hour has just sixty minutes. How you use them determines your perception of time. Learning keeps you young. As John Steinbeck said, "Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen."
QUANDARY

When I matriculated at the University of Connecticut in the late 1950’s, my tuition, room and board costs were covered by the $110 a month I received from the government as a veteran. When I graduated, I owed nothing. Contrast that with what it now costs to go to UCONN. It is now in the high 20 thousands.

According to Time Magazine, April 28, 2014," in an economy where real wages are stuck in the mud, American students are taking on ever larger loans, almost $30,000 each on average, and default rates are rising at an alarming pace, doubling to over 10% in the past decade. College costs have soared over 33% in the past decade while student debt has ballooned from $56.5 in 2002 to $117.9 billion in 2012 while a degree is more vital than ever. $17,500 is the difference in average, annual, full-time earnings between young adults ages 25 to 32 with a college degree and those in the same age group with only a high school diploma. "We are head over heels in the statistics clearly suggest- for the next generation of students to go into adulthood saddled in debt. And there does not seem to be any relief in sight.

America became a world leader because of our great educational institutions which were crucibles of innovation and research and development. We are losing that advantage as other nations overtake us because of our political inertia and the inability to see any further than the next election cycle. We must become more aware of what is happening in the political arena and start to turn into activists and not let 'George' do it. Education is vital and is especially so as machines have begun to take over the routine jobs that used to make up the Middle Class. We owe it to our students.

RJG

"I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere in the morning."

J.B. Priestly

COOPERSTOWN, NORTHERN CATSKILLS -
OCTOBER 8 and 9, 2014
Has your interest peaked in OLLI's overnight destination to Cooperstown, nestled in the rolling foothills of the Northern Catskills, upstate New York? What better reason to travel the Northeast in October than to visually experience the exquisite foliage and feel the last warm rays of the autumn sunshine.

Your travel committee has previously outlined all the wonderful events extended in this two-day excursion in prior Newsletters, such as:
- A railroad dining experience on the Rip Van Winkle Flyer. This excursion is an excellent way to experience the elegance of yesteryear.
- A visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. Fans of all ages will enjoy seeing a short presentation of a journey back in time and learning about baseball's beginnings. A few highlights include the African-American Baseball Experience and Diamond Dreams, about women in baseball. The entire first floor is dedicated to the Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery.
- Or, A visit to the Fenimore Art Museum, as an alternative for non baseball fans, with a small entrance fee paid at the museum. This art institution is home to an exceptionally rich collection of American Indian art, decorative art and photography. The grounds have formal gardens in a beautiful setting overlooking Otsego Lake.
- Featured lodging is at the Cooperstown Inn and includes breakfast
- A cruise through the locks on the historic Erie Canal. Picture yourself on this short cruise as the Captain explains the importance of the locks and what transportation was like during the 19th Century.
- Lunch is at the famous waterfront Rocky's Grill, overlooking the Erie Canal.

Save your space now - make your reservation with Friendship Tours (860 243 1630) The trip cost for members is $307, with a nominal surcharge of $20 for nonmembers.

COME ONE, COME ALL!!
The next event of the OLLI Clubs & Activities Committee is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us for a Spring afternoon of nostalgia at the Barker Museum at 1188 Highland Ave. in Cheshire 06410, for a small fee of $5.00. The museum houses one of the country's largest collections of character toys & artifacts, spanning fifteen decades of American history. Come and reminisce about the good ole' days.

The RSVP date of May 14 and other details will be outlined in the flyers at the information table and the OLLI Café tables.

See you there!
OLLI CAFE

April 25, 2014
“Baptism by Fire” – The Combat Experiences and Motivation of the C.V.H.A.
This talk will focus on the motivating factors of the volunteers who fought in the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery. Learn what prompted the men to enlist and the factors which drove the soldiers to risk their lives in combat and continue to face the horrors of war after they had experienced the battle at Cold Harbor during the Civil War.
Shane Makowicki is a recent UConn graduate. A History major, with a minor in political science, his senior thesis was on this Civil War topic. He completed an internship at the Litchfield Historical Society assisting with the Civil War camp for kids and he has also lectured on the topic. He hopes to earn a Ph.D. in U.S. Military History.

May 2, 2014
From Frustration to Freedom: Overcoming Obstacles & Adversity

Charlie Collins has been legally blind since the age of 13 from juvenile macular degeneration.

OLLI Make-Up CLASSES!

10:00 AM VA-414 Watercolor / Zonas Friday May 23, room 102D
10:00 AM LW-431 Homer’s Odyssey / Rizzo Friday May 9 room #327
10:00 AM CO-404 Digital Photography / Freeman Friday, May 9 room #317
1:15 – 2:45 PM CO-405 Google / Freeman Friday, May 9 room #317
1:15 – 2:45 PM HW-414 Healthy Food / Sirignano Tuesday, May 6 room #119
11:40 AM – 1:00 PM PR-409 Reading Gospels / Bradley Friday, May 23, room #203
1:15 – 2:45 PM CL-423 Javier Bardem moved from #217 to #324 beginning Friday April 25

OLLI POETRY COFFEE HOUSE
2nd Thurs at John Bale Bookshop –10:00am
Contact Denise Whelan (denisewhelan@yahoo.com)

OLLI BOOK CLUB
Contact: Nancy Via at nvia@sbcglobal.net
May 19 The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman
All meetings of the book club will be held in room 102D, UConn, Wtby at 1:00 PM 3rd Monday
When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, my 13 grand kids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Noble talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead. Well, it was not a good relationship...

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions, checking bathrooms, and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look.

RQ
MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Sports have always been an integral part of Edward “Ned” Conlan’s life. Ned chuckled as he recalled that he took his wife Joyce to a basketball game on their first date.

Ned grew up in the Cracker Hill section of Waterbury located on the top of Willow Street. Local lore claimed the name came from the thought that people in that area were better off than others in Waterbury and could afford the luxury of buying crackers, he said.

Ned’s interest in sports began as a young child when he accompanied his dad “Ebbie” Conlan, the Sacred Heart High School basketball coach, to practices. “Sports kept me out of trouble” but then his father was city truant officer and knowing “that helped keep me in line.” As a Sacred Heart student, Ned played football, basketball, and ran track. The former running back was captain of the team at Sacred Heart and continued his education at St. Bonaventure University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1961.

Ned said he wasn’t good enough to become a professional but he always remained connected to sports through coaching and later officiating.

After college, Ned began substitute teaching in Waterbury and became a teacher in special education at Webster School. Ned earned his master’s degree in physical education from University of Bridgeport and his 6th year certificate in special education at Southern Connecticut State University. Eventually, he became the first teacher in special education at Kennedy High School and worked in that area from 1965 to 1969.

In the 1960s, children deemed in need of special education were simply grouped together without regard to their specific issues. Children with Cerebral Palsy, for example, were placed in a class with pupils affected by Down syndrome and pupils whose testing showed low IQs. Vast changes in the field have resulted from research and improved understanding of many impediments to learning and diversity of learning differences, abilities and styles.

Working with children in special education “gave me patience,” Ned said. “To this day, I like working with kids, handicapped or not.”

But “being an athlete” and having such a strong love of sports, Ned moved back to the gymnasium in 1969 as the PE teacher at Kennedy. About 1975, he transferred to Crosby High School and stayed until retiring in 1995. His career included coaching assignments as an assistant basketball coach at Kennedy High School and assistant football coach at Western Connecticut State University.

Ned began officiating where “you get a different perspective on the game” He loved and still loves the camaraderie among officials that has led to many life-long friendships. He was thrilled to be part of the crew working the 1989 Yale-Harvard football game. He said that annual contest for years was “the biggest game in the country.” He doesn’t remember the score but recalls that Harvard won before 72,000 people at Yale Bowl.

Today Ned is a scout for the National Football League - not for players but for possible candidates to officiate games. While the public doesn’t always believe it, officials work solely to ensure the game is “fair” and played by the rules, he says. He tells young officials working high school games to always remember that every game played is “the most important one” to the players. Ned is teaching an OLLI class titled “the Official Game.”

He has been inducted into the Connecticut Football Officials Association Hall of Fame and also the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame for his work.

His wife Joyce has understood about the hours and nights spent away from home at sporting events. Joyce and Ned have season tickets to both the UConn men and women’s basketball teams and rejoiced over the 2014 dual national championships. The Conlans will mark their 50th wedding anniversary in July. —Mary Ann Martin
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