Never too old to learn

Clemson's Lifelong Learning program offers dozens of classes

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CLEMSON — Clemson University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) wants to prove you're never too old to learn.

Pat Smart, director and Clemson University Presidential OLLI liaison, said, "OLLI was created so that we could provide to older adults the opportunity to continue to pursue their education interests, recreational activities and socialization."

This program is open to any adult who is 50 years or older, and you must be a member of OLLI in order to take advantage of the courses being offered. The goal of OLLI is to make learning fun and interactive while strengthening the community and allowing the participants to make friends from their area.

"The OLLI program is member lead and member run, which means that the members are encouraged to participate in the planning of programs and events," Smart said. "We have a board of advisors, which are all volunteers."

Each semester there are a number of courses offered at low registration costs. These courses aren't your typical college courses since there are no exams, no prerequisites, no credits and no formal lecture halls. There is an annual membership fee of $30, which includes benefits such as access to all OLLI courses, free "lunch and learn" programs, OLLI newsletter, invitations to OLLI social events, library privileges at the university and Clemson Connection Program with lectures, entertainment, and facility access.

These courses are offered at the Charles K. Cheezem OLLI Education Center, as well as at other venues in Oconee and Pickens counties. Some courses aren't held in a classroom, whereas others are a mixture of classroom and field trips.

For more information about OLLI and courses offered, visit clemson.edu/OLLI or call (864) 633-5242.