



OCTOBER 21, 2021

The OLLI UPdate

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



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Hi Friends!

OCT. 21, 2021

When we say, "there's more to come" we really mean it.

Next week we'll start two new courses; **European Union** with Dr. Jerry Croft (read our profile on Dr. Croft below) in Stillwater and **Free Family History** online taught by Chad Williams of the Oklahoma Historical Society and Jan Davis from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. All of these folks are amazing people. You won't want to miss them - honest.

There are a couple of other opportunities awaiting your enrollment too: **"Continuum of Knowledge: Native Women Artists"** with 108 Contemporary director, Susan Bailey. She'll present info on a current exhibit at 108 Contemporary titled, "The Space Between: Anita Fields & Molly Murphy Adams," both Oklahoma-based Native artists. Should be a very interesting talk in Tulsa.

Speaking of interesting talks . . . the **Human Sexuality** course in Tulsa has been a great class but with not nearly enough participants! If you're in Tulsa, this one would be to jump into and still enroll in; it has four more weeks to go. Click [here](#) to enroll in any of these I've mentioned.

Pulled on a couple of long sleeved shirts this week — feels weird but sure am loving the cool morning temps — the puppies, not so much. They've been shivering like the Polar Vortex is here.

Kindly,

ROBBIN

Your OLLI Director

NEWS YOU CAN USE

COURSE INFO & UPDATES YOU NEED TO KNOW



The course about the European Union has been delayed by one week. The instructor, Dr. Jerry Croft, was concerned about Covid and wanted to postpone a bit. He's ready to go now. We didn't want anyone to be confused since this class is keeping its full run of four weeks, which means it will end one week after our fall session is over. (See next page for a profile on Dr. Croft.)

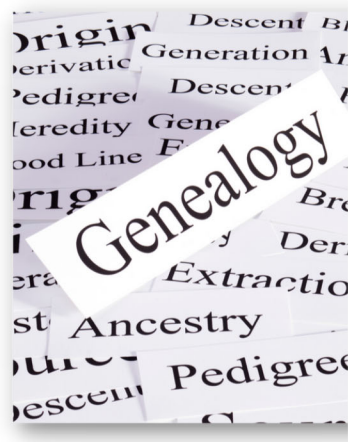
What Every American Should Know About the European Union

Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. 4 weeks. In person.

Stillwater Public Library.

New start date: Tues., Oct. 26.

Sign up
[here.](#)



Another course that will run one week past our normal session end date is the online class about finding free family and community records online through digitized archives and museums. The dates have not changed for this course, we just wanted to mention that it's starting Oct. 28 and ends Nov. 18.

Free Family History

Thursdays, 10 a.m.- noon.

4 weeks. Online. 10/28-11/18.

Sign up
[here.](#)



A new class is just now on the books! Check out this one-time online class on Friday, Nov. 5, from 10-11 a.m. About the class: Broadband, or high-speed internet access, is becoming increasingly important for many aspects of today's society. Dr. Brian Whitacre will talk about the "digital divide" in broadband access in Oklahoma, and his research showing how broadband matters for rural economies. He will demonstrate some online tools to check out the broadband situation in your own community and discuss options for improving both broadband availability and adoption. More about Dr. Whitacre [here.](#)

Digital Divide: Broadband in Oklahoma

Friday, Nov. 5, 10-11 a.m.

Free. Online.

NEW!

Sign up
[here.](#)

From the Heartland to the World

OLLI INSTRUCTOR DR. JERRY CROFT

This Kansas native is a well-regarded international expert.

Sunflower State-born, Sooner State-schooled and with professional careers in both Cowboy and Hawkeye country, Dr. Jerry Croft was the youngest professor emeritus in Oklahoma State University history when he was named so at the age of 51.

Born in Anthony, Kan., a town of a couple thousand just about 12 miles north of Oklahoma, Croft sought higher learning at the University of Tulsa. He earned his Ed.D. in 1971 at TU and later joined the faculty at Oklahoma State in Stillwater.

He taught cultural geography, the geography of Oklahoma, and the geography of Europe for 25 years at OSU and “enjoyed every minute of it.” His specialization in geographic education allowed him to use grants to bring other educators from all over the state to the Stillwater campus for workshops. While at OSU, he regularly played basketball during the noon hour with other faculty members from across campus. Not surprising for an all-state athlete in both basketball and football as a boy in Kansas.

When his wife Dr. Laurie Croft (also a TU grad) accepted a position at the University of Iowa, the couple pulled up stakes and headed north. Mrs. Croft began working at IU’s Belin-Blank Center, where she focused on developing teachers who could work effectively with gifted students, not only in America, but also in other countries. Mr. Croft was asked to teach International Studies at the university in Iowa City. He became professor emeritus of geography and international studies, and he soon earned high marks from his students for his teaching ability.

Interest in the larger world became the family business, so to speak. Son Jay followed the Doctors Croft into education as a junior high social studies teacher in Oklahoma. Daughter Jennifer lived and worked abroad in Europe and South American, most notably in Poland and Sweden as a translator for Olga Tokarczuk, a Nobel Prize winning author. Jennifer, a published author herself, won the Man Booker prize for her translation of Tokarczuk’s novel *Flights*. (Jennifer has her [own Wikipedia page](#).) Youngest daughter Anne Marie was a “Make-A-Wish child when she was only six years of age due to a brain tumor.” Dr. Croft says of her, “she remains the bravest person I have ever known.” Sisters Jennifer and Anne Marie were both students in TU’s academically gifted program.

Careers have given this globally aware family the opportunity to travel and engage with the world abroad.

As for Dr. Croft, he loves the process of teaching and learning, which is a boon for the OLLI @ OSU program. He will be sharing his lifetime of study and knowledge about an important institution that came into being after the Second World War — the European Union. (See previous page for details about that course on Tuesday afternoons in Stillwater starting Oct. 26.)

Text and information from:

[Chapman Legacy Society, University of Tulsa](#) and

[My Struggle with Leukemia](#) | [CLL Society](#), this is Dr. Croft’s 2021 essay titled “My Struggle with Leukemia.” He writes about living with leukemia in his 50s, thru his 80s.



Photo from Croft family Facebook



Afghan Family Project

OSU PARTNERS WITH GROUPS TO SUPPORT THOSE COMING TO OKLAHOMA

The Afghan Family Project is planning to welcome up to 40 Afghan families to Stillwater. Oklahoma State University is partnering with Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma (CCEOK) as they work on gathering items, money and services to help these families who left their homes with sometimes only the clothes they were wearing.

Several departments on the OSU-Stillwater campus are contributing to the project. The English Language and Intercultural Center is providing English as a second language and intercultural instruction. Housing at a reduced rate is being offered by Housing and Residential Life, which is also providing access to the Family Resource Center. Parking and Transportation Services is transporting families with bus service. Student and faculty volunteers will serve as volunteer translators in Dari, Pashto, Farsi and Urdu.

OSU continues to explore other ways to help and has called for departments or campus organizations wishing to contribute to contact the School of Global Studies and Partnerships, which is spearheading the university's effort. Details for community members and for weekly updates, click [here](#).

NOT JUST STILLWATER

Hundreds more families are slated to resettle in Oklahoma. Catholic Charities is the sole refugee resettlement agency for Oklahoma and has efforts in other communities. For information on the Tulsa area: [Refugee Resettlement | Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma](#). For Oklahoma City: [Refugee Service | Catholic Charities of OKC](#). For a fact sheet providing an overview of the Oklahoma resettlement efforts, click [here](#).

Did you know "Afghani" refers to money, not humans? For a fact sheet about Afghans themselves, click [here](#).

AUTHOR READING: Wed., Oct. 27

IN PERSON AT OSU CAMPUS LIBRARY

Oklahoma State University English Professor Aimee Parkison will be reading from her new book *Sister Séance* on **Wed., Oct. 27, at 6 p.m.**, Edmond Low Library Reading Room (on the OSU Stillwater campus). The book will be available for purchase at the reading or you may buy from [Kernpunkt Press](#). This special event is sponsored by the Creative Writing Association and OSU.

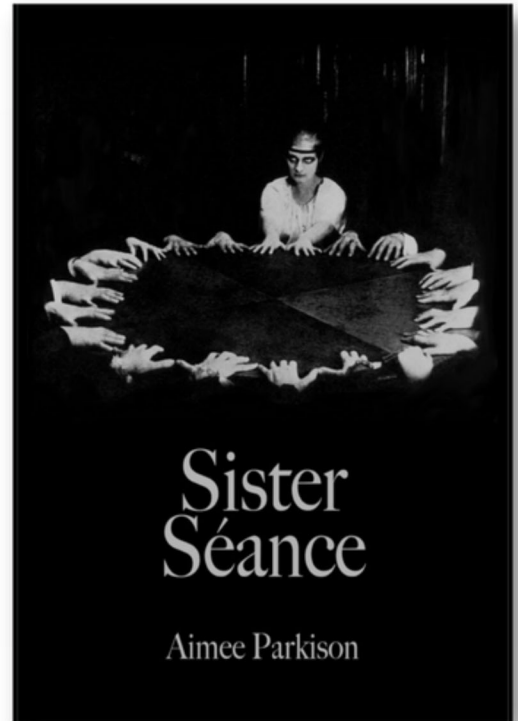


ABOUT THE BOOK

Set in Concord, Mass., just after the Civil War. Spiritualism is sweeping the nation when a Halloween celebration calls for a traditional “dumb supper,” a dinner party where no guest may speak but must convey needs and desires through nonverbal communication. Mysterious intruders shock the guests into confronting their pasts, uniting abolitionists, freed people, former slaveholders, a matchmaker, the single women who are boarders, wounded Civil War veterans and a female photographer pregnant with the child of her former slave. This project was supported by an American Antiquarian Society William Randolph Hearst Creative Artist Fellowship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aimee Parkison is a professor of English (Creative Writing—Fiction) at OSU. Click [here](#) to see her other books.



From our OLLI Friends in Arizona Discovering Mars: A History of Observation and Exploration of the Red Planet

Monday, Nov. 1 at 3:00 p.m. (Okla time)
Free Live Online Zoom Webinar. Sign up [here](#).

Co-Author William Sheehan discusses his latest University of Arizona Press publication, *Discovering Mars: A History of Observation and Exploration of the Red Planet*. The book vividly conveys the way our understanding of this other planet has grown from earliest times to the present.

The story is epic in scope — an Iliad or Odyssey for our time, at least so far largely without the folly, greed, lust and tragedy of those ancient stories. Instead, the narrative of our quest for the Red Planet has showcased some of our species' most hopeful attributes: curiosity, cooperation, exploration, and the restless drive to understand our place in the larger universe. An amateur astronomer most of his life,



Dr. Sheehan is a leading historian of astronomy, with 20 books to his name, including *Planets and Perception*, *Worlds in the Sky*, and (with Dale P. Cruikshank) *Discovering Pluto*. The Main Belt Asteroid 16037 Sheehan was named in his honor.

