



# THE ORICL ORACLE

April 2022

A Biannual Newsletter of the Oak Ridge  
Institute for Continued Learning

## Murray Martin ORICL Memorial Fund established

The ORICL board of directors has established a Murray Martin Memorial Fund to honor Murray Martin, 86, who died on March 6, 2022, after a courageous six-year battle with multiple myeloma. The Martin family has endorsed the board proposal to establish the fund.

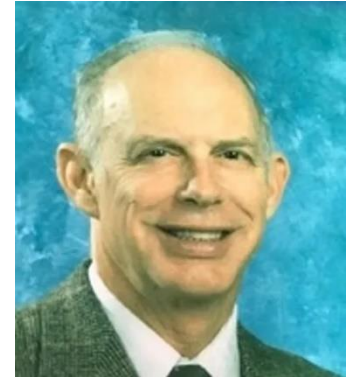
Known to be passionate about education, he taught 35 courses, including travelogues and music and art history classes. Previous and current Board members best remember his service as chair of the Board's Curriculum Committee for 15 years, from 2006 through 2021.

Because his leadership was partly responsible for the high quality and diversity of courses enjoyed by ORICL members this century, the Board invites all members to consider contributing to the memorial fund. It will be used to support educational activities for the community, including lectures of general interest.

Murray was born on June 22, 1935, in Regina Saskatchewan, Canada. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in experimental physics from the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. There he met his future wife, Fay, who had arrived from Jamaica to pursue an M.A. degree in biology. Both Murray and Fay have long been known by Oak Ridgers as skillful, prize-winning amateur tennis players. ORICL members often saw them teaching or attending classes.

In 1964 Murray and Fay moved to Oak Ridge where he spent his professional career with the Data Project in the Physics Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He later headed the Nuclear Data Group and became editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Nuclear Data Sheets*.

Murray loved music and left a fabulous collection of compact-disc recordings of classical music, operas, and other music that will be donated. During many worship services at The United Church, Chapel-on-the-Hill, Murray played the piano while accompanying the church organist, Alice Lyman.



Remembered as a devoted father, his four children recall that "he always answered the phone with a smile in his voice that made you feel the world was a welcoming place. To see his face light up and the hugs he gave, to be a child of Murray, was to know you were loved immensely."

On a 2018 trip to Trieste, Italy, where he served as one of the leaders at an international workshop in theoretical physics, a conference organizer described him as "an outstanding scientist" with "countless achievements." His concluding remark is one many ORICL colleagues of Murray would applaud: "Above all, he was a kind, thoughtful, courteous and respectful person, who offered his wisdom selflessly and cared for his colleagues and students dearly."

Murray's rich and rewarding life will be celebrated at a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 28, at The United Church Chapel-on-the-Hill, 85 Kentucky Ave., Oak Ridge. To donate, please make checks payable to ORICL and note "Murray Martin Memorial Fund."

## Thank you for your donations; more are needed

The ORICL board thanks our many members who have made donations to ORICL above and beyond the standard tuition of \$125 a year. Many of these donations came through sustaining memberships, as well as through generous contributions from members who recognize the importance of ORICL classes, trips, and other activities to their quality of life. However, more donations are needed to help ORICL weather the COVID-induced decline in membership.

As many of you know, ORICL used to have an annual membership ranging from 400 to 500 continuous learners. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our membership has dropped to about 325 members. Some people were understandably reluctant to attend in-person classes wearing masks even though the local infection rate was declining. (See **Donations** on Page 4)

## Diversity Team applies for grant for ORICL program

ORICL has partnered with the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club (ORBRC) to apply for a Rotary grant to present a series of talks from noted lecturers about interesting aspects of the history of various ethnic and racial groups in our community. The proposed lecture series is entitled “Roots of America.” The decision on the grant award should be made in a few weeks, but there are plans to proceed with the program in some form even if the grant is not awarded.

The ORICL Diversity Team (Alfreda Cook, Linda Holmes, Ruby Miller, Benito Gonzalez, Ann Rigell, Chuck Darling, Carolyn Krause, Cassandra Osborne,

Becky Rushton, and Jim Palmer) worked with ORBRC to put the grant proposal together. The goal is to provide shared experiences from different ethnic/racial elements of the Oak Ridge community in order to generate awareness of such experiences across the population.

In addition to proposing “Roots of America,” the Diversity Team, formed last calendar year, has been working to enhance the diversity of the ORICL Board, to increase community awareness of ORICL by making presentations at various local organizations, and to broaden ORICL programming to reach a wider audience.

*Submitted by Jim Palmer, Diversity Team Chair*

## Mark Banker offers a creative take on historical subjects

Mark Banker, retired from Webb School in Knoxville, taught advanced placement US history, Tennessee history, and Southern Appalachia history. He has taught at both the high school and college levels, received several awards, and published several books and articles. As an ORICL instructor since 2018, he has led ORICL field trips to local sites of interest and taught the following courses which have challenged participants to think about historical topics in new ways:



- Reflections on JD Vance’s *Hillbilly Elegy* and the Question of Appalachian Identity
- History of East Tennessee & Southern Appalachia
- Appalachia on Our Minds: East Tennessee & Southern Appalachia in Film, Fiction, Documentaries and Memoirs
- The United States and the World Since 1945 – Prologue to our Puzzling, Polarized Present (two different formats)
- United States History as a Story of Becoming
- Our Foundational Story Goes to the Movies: Evolving Cinematic Takes on America’s Native-Newcomer Encounters

Mark submitted his answers to the following questions about his motivations for teaching and his plans for a new course..

Q. Why do you volunteer for ORICL?

A. ORICL allows me to continue my love of teaching – minus faculty meetings and grading essays! Of course, teaching for ORICL is much more humane than the five classes per day/five days a week routine that defined most of my teaching career. I love teaching and sharing my accumulated knowledge and insights into the human experience with energetic, curious learners. After teaching in conventional settings for 40+ years, I find it invigorating to teach persons closer to my own age who experienced much of the same history that formed me. Teaching individuals with backgrounds in math, science, and engineering is particularly different, fun, and challenging.

Q. What is your philosophy of volunteerism?

A. I believe all of us have creative gifts that are enhanced when they are shared with others. I was fortunate to have a career that paid me to share my calling. Being able to continue this in retirement as a volunteer is a privilege.

Q. What else do you wish you could do for ORICL?

A. Ideas for future classes pop into my head regularly. For Fall 2022, I am considering offering a course that would explore the similar histories of Oak Ridge and Los Alamos, New Mexico – prior to, during, and after the Manhattan Project years. This would draw from my personal experiences and my accumulated knowledge of the histories of Tennessee and New Mexico and the experiences of students enrolled in the course. My envisioned end-product of this might be a Power Point presentation that I could periodically share at both the Oak Ridge and Los Alamos sites of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

(See **Banker** on page 4)

## Local librarians offer resources in ORICL's summer session

This winter my friend gifted me with an action figure for my birthday, to honor the heroic, underappreciated librarian. As the packaging states "In a world where information swirls around us like a tornado, librarians are there to keep it all organized for us and let us know about the best of it. The Librarian Action Figure is an homage to those warriors of the printed (and electronic) word."



For ORICL's summer session, four local librarians are offering their expertise to guide us through our summer term of learning. Member of the Oak Ridge Public Library (ORPL) staff, Mike Stallo, will return to guide a walk through the historical neighborhoods of Oak Ridge, sharing his wealth of information about the times and stories about the residents of the city.

William Guin has been a familiar face at ORPL for a while. He also is an adjunct instructor in the English Department at Pellissippi State. He is also a poetry fan so he chose to offer a course on the "Life, Loves, and Poetry of Emily Dickinson." Also from ORPL, Director Julie Forkner will introduce ORICL participants to the library's newest free online collection of movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows on **hoopla**. She will guide the class through the subscription process and demonstrate how to access the offerings.

Surprise! You can also have enlarged, free access to the state regional library collection of digital materials (READS) by getting a Clinch River Regional Library card. Debra Mattingly is the assistant director at this library located in Clinton. She has been a librarian in multiple states for 42 years (what a heroine). Realizing that some Oak Ridge residents might want to access the digital offerings but not drive to Clinton to secure a card, Debra has arranged for ORICL participants to receive their cards immediately at the class.

*Submitted by Becky Rushton, Curriculum Chair*

### ORICL Board Members

Chuck Darling, President  
 Jim Rushton, Vice President  
 Lois McKeever, Treasurer  
 Becky Rushton, Curriculum Committee Chair  
 Syd Ball  
 Pat Bryan  
 Benito Gonzalez  
 Linda Holmes  
 Carolyn Krause  
 Ruby Miller  
 Jim Palmer  
 Ann Rigell  
 Jackie Rylander  
 Miriam Wankerl

### Staff

Susan Perry, Office Administrator and Secretary to the Board  
 Melanie Neal, Assistant Office Administrator

### ORICL Office

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 Closed Fridays May 13 through Jul 29

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[www.roanestate.edu/oricl](http://www.roanestate.edu/oricl)



@ORICLRSCC

ORICL is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization in partnership with Roane State Community College.

## Take Time to Thank a Librarian!

**April 16, 2022**  
 is  
**National "Thank a Librarian" Day**

Thanks to those library heroes who agreed to share their knowledge with ORICL this summer.



**Donations** (Continued from Page 1)

Others were reluctant or unable to take virtual classes presented through Zoom. As a result, many long-time members chose not to enroll in classes in 2020 and 2021.

Now, it is relatively safe to take in-person classes. Participants are generally wearing masks and sitting at a distance from classmates who are not family members or close friends. Many participants are becoming more comfortable with Zoom classes and are finding them enjoyable. So, the ORICL Board is hoping that our membership numbers will soon climb to the level needed to sustain ORICL.

While we are waiting for a membership increase, additional contributions from our generous members are welcomed to help pay the salaries of our two dedicated staff—Susan Perry and Melanie Neal—and defray the required expenses related to registration, provide copying services, and purchase needed classroom supplies and equipment. The ORICL Board hopes you will respond to this critical need for financial support. We also need your help in recruiting new members and in persuading previous ones to renew their memberships. Word of mouth is the best publicity. To make a donation, visit [www.roanestate.edu/oricl](http://www.roanestate.edu/oricl) and click on the “Donate to ORICL” button. For information about making a tax-reducing donation using part of your required minimum distribution or making a future bequest, click on “Ways to Donate to ORICL” under the header “ORICL Information.”

ORICL CALENDAR FOR APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER	
Apr 19	Registration for Summer Term Opens
Apr 29	Winter/Spring Term Ends
May 30	Holiday – RSCC and ORICL Closed
Jun 2	Deadline for Fall Class Submissions
Jun 6	Summer Classes Begin
Jul 4	Holiday – RSCC and ORICL Closed
Jul 20	Fall Catalogs Mailed
Jul 29	Summer Classes End
Sep 5	Holiday – RSCC and ORICL Closed
Sep 12	Fall Classes Begin
Oct 4	Deadline for Winter/Spring Class Submissions
<b>NOTE</b>	<b>RSCC and ORICL will be closed every Friday beginning May 13 through July 29</b>

## Treasurer’s Report for August 1, 2021-March 31, 2022

This financial report covers the period through March 31, 2022, for the fiscal year August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022.

ORICL’s main sources of income are membership dues and donations. Annual membership dues collected in the fall totaled \$36,000 and the dues collected for the winter-spring term totaled \$3,060, giving ORICL an income from dues of \$39,060. Donations received in 2021-2022 totaled \$7,460. By comparison, membership dues collected for 2019-2020 were \$48,323 and the dues received in 2018-2019 were \$53,060. This decrease in membership dues explains the loss in income over the past few years.

ORICL’s expenses include salaries, catalogs, registration software, and credit card fees. So far income received for the first eight months totaled \$50,996.94, not enough to keep up with our expenses of \$51,947.55.

By March 31, ORICL’s savings in a money market account totaled \$28,844.07. We must supplement our checking account with monthly withdrawals of \$5,000 from the money market account. Our investments in a TD Ameritrade account totaled \$170,630.37.

*Submitted by Lois McKeever, Treasurer*

### Class Assistants Needed!

Volunteers are needed for the fall term, especially for hybrid classes (those that are conducted simultaneously in-person and through Zoom). Assistants are responsible for monitoring online entrants to the class and for collecting questions for the instructor. If you are willing and able to assume these duties, please contact the ORICL office. THANKS!

**Banker** (Continued from Page 2)

- Q. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you while volunteering for ORICL?
- A. Realizing that for the first time in my 40+ years as a teacher I was younger than many of my students!
- Q. What is the hardest thing about volunteering for ORICL?
- A. Other than this spring’s technical snafus due to changes in Roane State’s hardware arrangements for showing films, I have found nothing particularly difficult about teaching for ORICL. I enjoy working with Susan and Melanie and teaching students who enjoy learning.