

Tere Shelton: learning for the love of it (continued)

by Judy LaMée

She especially loves the smaller classes that provide the most interaction with her fellow students. She tries to take 2-3 physically active classes, such as yoga, each term. But her interests are eclectic: a few standouts include “15 Centuries of Christian Thought,” “Real Housewives on the Overland Trail,” “Whole Foods/Plant-based Diet,” and “Frank Lloyd Wright.” She cites a love of learning, and quickly adds a plus many of us share: no homework and no tests! She is quick to add: “The instructors are great!”

When she lived in Charlotte in the 1970s, Tere fell in love with North Carolina. After many years living in Alabama and Florida, she especially appreciates the mountains in and around Asheville as well as having four seasons. She moved here from St. Petersburg, Florida, nearly two years ago.

Her career centered around the law, having passed the bar in Alabama and Florida. Her focus was estate planning, insurance and financial planning. The University of Alabama graduate has a strong resumé of elder issues involvement. She enjoys giving back to the community; her volunteer work includes 15 years serving on the boards of All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, 19 years with Salvation Army and 19 years with the American Heart Association. She includes among her many loves America, the University of Alabama, her son, daughter and grandchildren.

Tere enjoys making new friends, and has found OLLI a natural place to make that happen. She appreciates learning about the life experiences of others and has found it easy to meet up for coffee or lunch with fellow members. It has been a natural way for her to expand her circle of friends.

“Asheville has so much in the way of outdoor wonders and beauty to offer me each day. I can see myself growing old taking OLLI classes and walking and lunching with friends and family (with a huge smile on my face) at Biltmore.” It’s easy to say Tere has found her happy place.

Tere provided what she calls her life picture to accompany this story. She chose the photo in her late 40s and plans to use it, as needed, the rest of her life. If, in the future, people say: “90 years old? She looks good!” she will be pleased and smiling.