



## President’s Message

By Mike Stover, President, OLLI-CSUF

As our annual leadership transition nears on



May 9, I’m proud of OLLI officers and trustees and thankful for all they and other members have done in the past year.

Our new executive team—Vickie Hite as President and Daisy Thomas as Executive

Director—will help the Board of Trustees lead us toward more achievements while organizing unglamorous but critical “back office” efficiency, technology and workflow initiatives.

When I was elected president, I said my goals would be:

- Significant membership and volunteer growth.
- Increased on-campus attendance and activities.
- Relationship building with our campus “partners.”
- Recruitment and mentoring of the “next generation” of OLLI leaders.
- Enhanced Board governance practices, streamlined financial procedures and improved fiscal transparency.

These goals were achieved or substantially addressed because of the OLLI leadership team’s efforts.

Still, many achievements by other OLLI volunteers were equally or even more impressive. Here’s a representative sampling:

- Members organized the largest single-day fundraiser in our history and the best-received Open House and Spring Preview events since the pandemic. Thank you.
- The Collaboration Committee added the Basic Needs Program (BNP) for university students facing critical food, clothing, basic hygiene and

dependent childcare needs. BNP and OLLI’s new aging studies and science undergraduate awards and more generous graduate scholarships for outstanding CSUF students, enhance our reputation as a campus support organization. Thank you, Debbie Kegel, Fran Colwell and Sue Mullaly, for leading these efforts, and Barbara Rosen for organizing a special event with a BNP donation as the suggested admission fee.

• Bob Newcomb’s distance learning team of 30 technical coordinators and student workers turned in a remarkable year, adding 259 recorded class sessions to OLLI’s distance learning library of over 1,100 classes. Thank you.

• OLLI office staffing vacancies put unusual strain on Vice President Technology Jim Monroe, Vice President Membership Debbie Maxwell and Vice President Administration Bill Sampson’s volunteer teams. Thanks to all who helped. Additionally, Harriette Millman also gets my vote as a “volunteerism shining example.”

• OLLI’s dance groups’ off-campus performances expanded to include our new member recruitment outreach. These efforts, including beefed-up publicity, advertising and membership incentives, worked. For the first time since the pandemic, we exceeded our membership goal. Thank you Vice President External Relations Bob Kovacev and his outreach team.

• Classes were added year-round to expand our published curriculum. Thank you to Vice President Programs Ellie Monroe, the Curriculum Committee and the instructors & coordinators who made this possible.

• A new Campus Experiences and Resources Team was launched to alert members of the many university resources and experiences available. Thank you Kathy Gilroy, Kent Morris and Jill Patterson.

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President . . . . . Mike Stover  
 Vice President Administration . . . . . Bill Sampson  
 Vice President Programs . . . . . Ellie Monroe  
 Vice President Communication . . . . . Chris Shaw  
 Vice President Membership . . . . . Debbie Maxwell  
 Vice President External Relations . . . . . Robert Kovacev  
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## Debbie Maxwell, Vice President Membership

By *Chris Shaw, Editor*

Debbie Maxwell joined OLLI in 2016. She served two years on the Board of Trustees as Trustee at Large and was elected as Vice President Membership in 2023. She also serves as Chair of the Membership Committee, Co-Chair of the Friendship/In Memoriam Committee and lead of New Members Orientation.



The Vice President Membership supervises the many volunteer teams that are involved in the hard work of putting the fall and spring membership and registration programs to life.

At the beginning of each semester letters are sent out to OLLI members giving them the information that they will need to renew their registrations for the upcoming term. Of the current 1100+ membership, about 25% need assistance to register online, and a team of volunteers from our Registration and Technical Education Committees (TEC) assist them.

Our Docent Team is involved in our Open House programs where we can have over 150 visitors. It is

our docents' pleasure to provide potential members with tours of the OLLI facilities.

There are many members to our Hosts Team. The Hosts Team members greet our guests during the Fall Open House and the Spring Preview, escort them from the registration areas to the Mackey Auditorium and other locations and provide tours of the OLLI facilities. This team also serves as ushers in assisting members to locate seats in Mackey Auditorium, keeps food areas clear and maintains the line awaiting food service in the Shapiro Wing, and provides general advice and assistance to visitors.

The 90+ Team locates those members who have become honorary members as they reach this magic age and invites them to participate in and be honored at the Spring Preview event. Team members document 90+ members' membership information, like what volunteering they might have done at OLLI over the years, and they get the members' preferred flavor of the individual cake that they will be receiving at the Shapiro Preview reception. If needed, they arrange transportation to the event.

The In Memoriam and Friendship Team gathers information on ill or deceased members. Get well cards are sent to those who are sick or injured, or those having surgery. Sympathy cards are sent to the families of those who have passed. Notices are sent out to OLLI members on the passing with information on services held for these dear friends. OLLI members and the families of those lost over the year are invited to attend the In Memoriam event held each year in April.

The Information Table Team is present in the Ruby Gerontology Center courtyard during the first weeks of the fall and spring semesters to assist new members in finding classrooms, answer questions regarding OLLI procedures or just get acquainted.

The Scholarship Committee is a group of very unique individuals. Through a process of application and interviews, this dedicated group of volunteers recommends scholarships for those who need assistance with OLLI membership costs

The Volunteer Recognition Team is the group that organizes and presents the Volunteer Recognition

***Debbie Maxwell ...Continued on Page 8***

## **TitansGive Donations Break Records**

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

OLLI raised **\$47,560** from 284 donors, up from \$31,328 and 187 donors, which were both previous all-time highs for OLLI.

We achieved corporate matching funds and received \$5,000 from Pepsi for ranking number two among campus organizations in the number of contributors and number three in total contributions.

A special thanks to OLLI members who contributed their funds in matches and challenges to encourage other members to contribute. Those members, plus one anonymous member, were:

- Vickie Hite, Jim & Ellie (Eleanore) Monroe, Charlotte Oliva, Arie Passchier, Donna Spradlin and Pat & Mike Stover.
- Fran Colwell, who donated \$1,500 for the new OLLI Aging Science/Scholarship challenge.

A “match” is a dollar-for-dollar gift from a sponsor, who promises to match all donations until they total a certain amount during a certain time period, effectively doubling those gifts.

A “challenge” is a fixed donation from a donor that goes to one of the 19 CSUF campus organizations, such as OLLI or the Arboretum, that achieves certain donation totals in a certain category. The Pepsi awards for OLLI’s ranking in the “most contributors” and “most contributions” and Fran Colwell’s donation were such challenges.

### **President’s ...Continued from Page 1**

Space limitations prevent publishing a comprehensive list recognizing hundreds of volunteers and acknowledging dozens of volunteer-led activities. These efforts began with the Spring Preview event and membership marketing in January and continued to the Hospitality Committee’s superb holiday luncheon in December.

I also want to acknowledge Vice President Communications Chris Shaw for his tireless service. Few have done more over so many years than Chris.

Two other “legends,” Ellie Monroe and Jim Monroe, are ending their officer terms. They have served as instructors, coordinators, and on the Board of Trustees—Ellie as Treasurer, Vice President

Membership, Vice President Programs (twice) and President and Jim as Treasurer, Vice President Programs, Vice President Technology and President.

Like Chris and me, these leaders have pledged to stay active while opening spots on the OLLI leadership team for others to fill. Let the transition begin!

## **Sue Batie Appointed Vice President Programs**



The Board of Trustees appointed Sue Batie as Vice President Programs to serve the remainder of Ellie Monroe’s term of office ending in May 2025, following Ellie’s resignation on March 13.

## **Members’ Generosity Supports CSUF Students’ Success: Basic Needs Update**

*By Debbie Kegel, Collaboration Committee*

OLLI’s Basic Needs Initiative launched in January. This program makes it easy for members to help students improve academic performance and wellbeing. Members may contribute non-perishable food, lightly used clothes, hygiene products and school supplies for pre-k children.

Through members’ generosity, in the first quarter 2024 we have collected more than 315 pounds of food, 400 articles of clothing and nearly 100 hygiene products. These donations make a big difference to students who are hungry, are about to start their professional careers or have other needs.

Our program is currently designed for food in bottles, cans and packages only. The Collaboration Committee is exploring program expansion allowing you to bring home-grown fruits and vegetables to OLLI on designated days for immediate pick up by the Pantry. Stay tuned for more details and upcoming dates.

See the CSUF Basic Needs flyer included with the email distribution of this ChroniCLE.



## Fran Colwell Receives Prestigious Award

By Keni Cox, Assistant Editor

OLLI member Fran Colwell is a 2024 recipient of Cal State Fullerton's Vision and Visionaries



Award, the highest honor conferred by the university for CSUF alumni and community friends.

Established in 1994, the Vision

and Visionary Award recognizes “distinguished achievement and dedication to the Titan family” and honorees’ multiple contributions to the university.

Inspired by the first Earth Day in 1970, Fran worked as a forestry aide while in college and graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. degree in Forest Watershed Management. His career trajectory included the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada and Colorado, the US Forest Service in Arizona, Colorado and the Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests in California. Locals may appreciate his participation in the development of the flagship Big Bear Discovery Center, where he served as its first Director.

As Director of Public Services at the San Bernardino National Forest, Fran managed a large staff and multi-million-dollar budgets. Accomplishments included the creation of outdoor recreational opportunities for millions of visitors each year. At his retirement in 2012, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Region of the US Forest Service in recognition of 40 years of conservation and professional service. Retirement opened more doors—he joined OLLI in 2015.

Fran carried his commitment to the environment and education to OLLI and CSUF. As reported in the OC Register, he was walking to an OLLI class one day when “he discovered the Arboretum.” He asked how he could help. The retired forester lent his experience and expertise toward development of, in his words, “a progressive vision of Arboretum infrastructure and use” including improved support of student engagement and plant conservation, his twin passions. Fran served as

President of the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum for three years, guiding the Friends’ support role in the transfer from the Joint Powers Agreement to CSUF and leading the transfer of 1.4 million dollars stewarded by the Friends to the university.

Fran received his Vision and Visionaries Honorary Alumni award on February 24.

In an email to the ChroniCLE, Fran wrote, “One thing I’d like to emphasize for OLLI members right off is that we **all** have a story to tell about our lives, our careers, our passions. I was very fortunate to be recognized as an honorary CSUF alumnus on behalf of my support of the newly named Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton. Many others at the Arboretum, OLLI and CSUF are also accomplishing great things.”

In support of creating an improved future for the world, Fran and his wife Sandy Koizumi sponsor CSUF student interns in the Arboretum’s Engaging Environmental Experiences (E3) program and have mentored students in Environmental Studies and the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences.

“Sandy and I believe it’s really important to help in any way that we can that next generation of conservation leaders.” (OC Register, March 21).

Fran Colwell was elected OLLI Trustee at Large and will be installed on the Board of Trustees at their May 9 installation meeting.

## Blue Book Returns to Semester Format

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The experimental restructuring of the Blue Book to an annual program catalog and separate semester Schedule of Classes and Events is returning to a more traditional format.

A Blue Book Program Catalog for the 2024 summer session will be distributed by the end of April. It will include full class/event meeting schedules in both the program descriptions and in a day-of-the-week index in the back of the catalog. Many members expressed their preference to return to this format.

Some information that was not directly related to the programs was removed and will be included in a new, annual Member Handbook, which will be published prior to the fall semester.

## Thanks to Outgoing Board Members for Serving OLLI

These members of OLLI's Board of Trustees will complete their terms of office on May 9 and will be succeeded by new officers and trustees that were elected at the General Meeting and Election on April 18. Bill Sampson and Bob Kovacev are both continuing on the Board. They were elected Vice President External Relations and Vice President Administration, respectively. Renee Cabrera was elected to continue as Secretary.



**Mike Stover**  
President



**Bill Sampson**  
VP Communications



**Chris Shaw**  
VP Communications



**Bob Kovacev**  
VP External Relations



**Jim Monroe**  
VP Technology



**Renee Cabrera**  
Secretary



**Jay Messner**  
Trustee at Large



**Kent Morris**  
Trustee at Large



**Sue Mullaly**  
Trustee at Large



**Jill Patterson**  
Trustee at Large

## There's Lots to Do on Campus, and CERT Wants to Tell You All About It!

*By Kathy Gilroy, Staff Writer*

You can get up-to-speed quickly on what's going on at OLLI by consulting the monthly ChroniCLE and OLLI's three weekly newsletters: namely, the Class Information and Updates Newsletter, the Open to the Public Newsletter, and the Announcements & Events Newsletter. But for news of upcoming Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) activities and events, you need only scroll down to the CSUF Events and Links section of the Announcements and Events Newsletter, because that is where OLLI's new Campus Experiences and Resources Team (CERT) publishes news of CSUF's upcoming athletic games, theatrical performances, arboretum events, lectures and other campus activities.

CERT, whose members include Trustees at Large Jill Patterson and Kent Morris and Newsletter Editor Kathy Gilroy, was formed last October for the purpose of acquainting OLLI members with the various campus-related benefits that they have by virtue of OLLI having a physical presence at CSUF. There are a lot of interesting, entertaining and fun things taking place on campus, and CERT wants to tell OLLI members all about them!

Each week, CERT searches the campus websites to select upcoming campus experiences that CERT believes will be of interest to OLLI members. The resulting roster of curated campus events is published in the CSUF Events and Links Section of the Announcements & Events Newsletter, which is the same newsletter that OLLI uses to announce its own upcoming events. Having news of OLLI and campus events in the same newsletter makes it easier for OLLI members to plan ahead and make the most of the upcoming events. For example, the March 4 edition of the newsletter reported events that made for a fun Friday evening out, starting with OLLI's Chuck Wagon Social and progressing to the campus carnival and the 8 p.m. student jazz concert.

In furtherance of its goal of acquainting OLLI members with their campus-related benefits, CERT has also added pertinent information alongside the campus links that appear lower down in the CSUF Events and Links Section of the Announcements &

Events Newsletter. By clicking on the campus links, OLLI members can access websites for Cal State Fullerton; Titans Athletics Events; CSUF Theatre, Dance, and Music Performances; the Arboretum and Botanical Garden; the CSUF Events Calendar; and LinkedIn Learning. The information that CERT has added alongside the campus links is meant to enhance OLLI members' use of the websites. For example, OLLI members who go to the campus link for the Titans Athletics Events website are informed that "general admission seating at all regular-season Titans Athletics home events (excluding Big West Conference championships or NCAA postseason events) is free to any OLLI member and a guest upon presentation of the member's current OLLI membership badge at the event's will call table" and that "admission is based on ticket availability and is on a first-come, first-served basis."

CERT also has plans to link the Announcements & Events Newsletter to "An Essential Guide to Key Campus Venues for OLLI Members" that is currently being drafted. When completed, the guide will include information that OLLI members can use to navigate the campus and take part in CSUF activities that are open to OLLI members, including dining on campus; getting a cup of java at one of the Starbucks Coffee Shops; working out at the Student Recreation Center; purchasing Titan Discount Tickets for theatre, dance, and music performances; visiting art galleries at the Visual Arts Center after construction is completed there; attending Titans Athletics sports events on campus; making use of the services at the Pollak Library; and so much more!

CERT looks forward to seeing you around campus! For more information about CERT, check out the OLLI webpage at [https://olli.fullerton.edu/more\\_info/OLLICERT.php](https://olli.fullerton.edu/more_info/OLLICERT.php).

### OLLI's Social Media

To add to our Facebook presence (<https://www.Facebook.com/OLLICalStateFullerton>)



OLLI now has an Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/ollicsuf/>.





# Spring Hospitality Event, Nethercutt Museum Trip & Chuck Wagon Social

*Photos by Jim Di Tota & Donna Spradlin*





## Using the CSUF Pollak Library

By Jim Monroe, Vice President Technology

OLLI members may continue to use the Pollak Library resources, but the process has changed slightly, making it easier for our members.

### Online Resources

There are a set of guest user computers located on the first floor of Pollak Library North open to the public. To log in, use your OLLI-CSUF username and password.

### Checkout Library Materials

A guest library card is no longer required. Use your California driver's license or state ID to checkout library materials.

OLLI members are classified as Special Borrowers.

- Number of items: 10.
- Loan period: 28 days.
- Renewal: one additional 28-day period prior to an inventory check.

These rules apply for most of the circulating collection (books and government documents). Other items may have more limited loan periods or are non-circulating for most users.

### Printing

Printing requires a guest account obtained at the Student Genius Center. A valid photo ID, such as driver's license or state ID, is required for getting a guest account.

Add funds to your guest account at the Titan Card Desk.

Funds expire at the end of the day, so we recommend adding the exact amount needed for printing.



OLLI members (rear left to right) Joe Chirco, Chris Ryan, Nancy Chirco & Joanne Hardy and (front left to right) Ira Rosenberg, Nancy Rosenberg, Jim Medici, TUFFY & Susie Arii cheering on the Titans at a CSUF basketball game.

## OLLI Office Payments Now Cashless

By Vickie Hite, Treasurer

The OLLI office is now cashless for payments of any kind. The office will only accept checks or credit cards for payment of trips, social events or any other payments.

While checks are an acceptable form of payment, the preference for payment is your credit card. Checks require special handling per university guidelines and create cash handling concerns. If there is an event that is cancelled, the member would have to wait 10-14 days to receive a refund on their payment by check. Credit card refunds can be handled in less than 72 hours. So you can see that credit card transactions are a cleaner method of payment.

Credit card payments can be processed by the staff or by OLLI members at the computers located in the office. By using credit cards, we reduce the workload of our office staff and save on handling fees.

Thank you for your compliance with this change.

## California Scene Painting Museum Trip

A trip is planned, subject to approvals, to view California scene paintings from 1890 to the present. On June 5 we plan to visit two museums, Langston Museum of California Art at UCI in Irvine and Hilbert Museum at Chapman University in Orange, that both specialize in California landscape and scene paintings.

Watch for announcements in the OLLI Announcements & Events Newsletter confirming the trip with sign-up dates and a flyer with a sign-up coupon.

### *Debbie Maxwell ...Continued from Page 8*

Reception each spring to acknowledge the hours of volunteer service that these members provide to OLLI.

The OLLI Vice President Membership is involved with just about every aspect of dealing with OLLI membership. If you'd like to be a part of this dynamic group, please feel free to contact me at [debmaxwell53@gmail.com](mailto:debmaxwell53@gmail.com).



## What's Happening at the Board

*By Chris Shaw, Editor*

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on March 14, 2024:

- President Mike Stover proclaimed that OLLI's Open House, Spring Preview and TitansGive events all exceeded expectations.
- TitansGive day results were a great success with both total donations and number of contributors increased by more than 50% over last year.
- Total membership rose from 1,160 to 1,172 in the last month.
- Interviews of all candidates for OLLI's Executive Director have been completed, evaluations have been done and an offer has been made to the chosen candidate.
- Ellie Monroe resigned her position as Vice President Programs, and Sue Batie was appointed to serve the remainder of her term to May 2025.
- Administration of OLLI is being transferred from CSUF's Extension & International Programs to Academic Programs, headed by Associate Vice President Eileen Walsh.
- The fiscal year 2024-25 Operations Budget and Three-Year Capital Plan were approved.
- Currently, member fees do not cover all expenses. Earnings from OLLI's endowment and donations cover the deficit. A three-year plan is underway to increase membership, so that fees will fully cover expenses by fiscal year 2026-27.
- The OLLI office now only accepts checks and credit card payments. No cash is accepted.
- CSUF Parking & Transportation has agreed to extend OLLI's parking agreement for another three years with minor details to be settled.
- Parking Lot J, next to the RGC, is expected to be regraded sometime in July.
- Proposed changes in OLLI policies regarding scholarships and refunds were introduced, to be voted on at the next Board meeting.
- Vice President External Relations Bob Kovacev is working with a team of CSUF students to review OLLI's leadership environment and atmosphere. A report will

follow in May.

- The Volunteer Recognition Reception planned for April 20 will include a special film about aging that features three OLLI members.

## Coffee, Coffee, Coffee Everywhere And It's Pretty Good to Drink

*By Pete Saputo, Vice President Facilities*

OLLI has a new Keurig coffee maker in the kitchen. This is a commercial grade machine that should take care of our everyday needs.

I have hooked up a water filter system to the unit that eliminates the need to fill the tank. Much research went into purchasing a unit that wouldn't create plastic waste (the ever-present coffee pods), and found a company that has developed a compostable pod that will break down in the environment. The San Francisco Bay Coffee Company (SFBCC) developed the pod replacing the top hard plastic ring with a biodegradable ring and not using the plastic container for the coffee. It has a simple paper filter sack that contains the coffee and acts as the coffee filter while brewing. These pods are available at Smart & Final.

This is part of OLLI's effort to eliminate and recycle as much plastic waste as possible on campus.

We started with a very dark brew that was quite strong and finally went with a medium roast in both regular and decaf varieties. The coffee is being met with quite good approval with a minimum of preparation and cleanup required.

Our existing coffee brewing systems will remain in place for heavy uses such as socials and hospitality events.

The coffee pod system is not a cheap way of getting a cup of coffee, but we are working on a method of contributions to satisfy the cost and the University's methods of collection. Several options have been proposed, including monthly or weekly donations to the coffee fund or perhaps members buying the SFBCC pods and donating them. Let's discuss the avenues and come up with a solution that is amenable to most, if not all.

"Have a cuppa" and enjoy.



## OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

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### **Not Receiving OLLI Emails?**

If you have unsubscribed in response to **any** OLLI email, you have unsubscribed from **all** OLLI emails, including the ChroniCLE emails. If, for any reason, you are **not** already receiving OLLI emails about upcoming classes, events, the ChroniCLE and special notices, you can subscribe (or re-subscribe) by going to <http://bit.ly/OLLISubscription> and entering your email address, first name and last name.

If you still have trouble receiving emails from OLLI, send an email to [ollinewsbytes@hotmail.com](mailto:ollinewsbytes@hotmail.com) and include your name and email address.



### **How to Get the ChroniCLE by Email - Save Trees and Stamps!**

Unless you elected not to receive emails from OLLI, you are currently receiving an email each month announcing the new ChroniCLE for the upcoming month with links to view or download the publications. You can also access the most recent ChroniCLEs through links in the weekly OLLI newsletters and on the OLLI website.

If you are receiving the ChroniCLE in the mail, but no longer want it mailed to your home, send an email to [olli-info@fullerton.edu](mailto:olli-info@fullerton.edu) with **your name and address** stating: "Do **not** send me a ChroniCLE in the mail." If you ever need the printed version, copies are always available in the OLLI office.

### **If you Need to Contact OLLI**

Website: <http://olli.fullerton.edu>

Email: [olli-info@fullerton.edu](mailto:olli-info@fullerton.edu)

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