



## President’s Message

On behalf of the OLLI Board of Trustees, I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday, relaxing break and very happy new year. Whether visiting family and friends, travelling or just relaxing, we hope you are taking full advantage of the winter break.



When the OLLI spring semester starts in a few weeks, consider trying a new class or activity. For a more engaging experience, try volunteering either in support of OLLI programs and events, or as part of the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration. More information on these opportunities is available on the OLLI website at [http://olli.fullerton.edu/more\\_info/VolunteerTab.php](http://olli.fullerton.edu/more_info/VolunteerTab.php).

To start off the new year, the OLLI Spring Preview event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 6, 2018 in Mackey and Shapiro. We will present an overview of spring courses and activities in Mackey, and both new and returning members can register in Room 20. Please come to say hello, share some refreshments and take a few minutes to honor and congratulate those members who are 90+ years old.

OLLI spring semester classes start on Tuesday, January 16th. The OLLI office is closed on January 15 for Martin Luther King Day. This is a great week to try a new class as most university classes do not start until January 22. I look forward to seeing you in the new year, ready to join in great activities and courses, and participate in the OLLI experience.

*Jim Monroe, President, OLLI Board of Trustees*

## Behind the Scenes

### Being a Trolley Driver is Fun!

OLLI members are very dedicated when they take on a task. Nowhere is that more evident



than in our volunteer OLLI Trolley drivers. The Monday-Thursday round trip service from Lot G to the RGC currently has 12 regular drivers, 8 substitute drivers and a scheduler to keep everything on track. Typically, drivers helm the Trolley once a week—for a shift of 1.5-2 hours.

“I think the Trolley is a wonderful thing. All the drivers are wonderful. It’s one of the most fun jobs OLLI has,” says Dan Coby, Vice President Communications. Dan enjoys talking to Trolley riders—both as a twice-a-week rider and a substitute driver.

The Trolley carries about 4,400 one-way riders each year. “It takes a lot of people to run this thing,” offers Dennis Fassnacht, a Trolley driver for two years.

“All the drivers are very capable and very careful. Our safety record is outstanding,” says Kay Ressler, a Trolley driver since 2010. Driving the path to and from the RGC takes skill and patience. This includes navigating through pedestrians engrossed in their cell phones, speed bumps and watching out for skateboarders and

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## Bill Purpura—Collaboration Volunteer

Bill Purpura is one of OLLI-CSUF



Collaboration’s most dedicated volunteers. He has more collaboration projects with CSUF than any other OLLI member. He has mentored students in Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Entrepreneurship, and other business classes. Bill was

working at that even before he became an OLLI member.

For several years, he had been Boeing’s liaison with the CSUF School of Business and Engineering. He worked at Boeing for many years, going back to when it was Rockwell, but he became interested in working with mechanical engineering students in 2012. He helped them to work in multi-disciplinary teams on research or industry-related projects and to disseminate their results at different competitions and conferences, representing the Mechanical Engineering Department and the University.

Bill holds an M.A. in mechanical engineering and an M.B.A. from CSUF. He also has Project

Management Certification. He has 22 patents from his work at Boeing. He met his wife at CSUF. She is a software engineer, an area that few women went into at the time. His son is a CSUF graduate, as well as a UCI graduate, who interned at Boeing, and his daughter is also a CSUF graduate. Bill’s parents were OLLI members, making Bill second-generation OLLI member.

Each year Bill volunteers in the Mechanical Engineering Department at CSUF as a guest lecturer on a number of topics related to Systems Engineering, career opportunities, resumé preparation and job interviews. He has also been assisting in the preparation of the students for their annual final presentations in front of faculty, industry and other collaborators. John Jackson, the Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship of Mihaylo College of Business & Economics, described Bill as “a person who can do almost anything:” coaching them on meeting people using eye contact and shaking hands, being a good collaborator and team player, and facing criticism and responding to it.

Volunteering means a lot to Bill. He wants to help students get to where they are meant to be. He wants to ease the students’ lives. He says that he sleeps better at night knowing that he has done that. It helps him pay back the debt he feels he owes. He advises everyone to remember what others have done for them and to pay it forward. He can’t watch people stumble and not step up to help them. He despises bullying and uses brain power to defuse unpleasant situations and wants students to be able to do that too.

The College of Business and Economics and the School of Engineering and Computer Science can always use more volunteers. One might think that Bill and other OLLI members who volunteer in these two colleges are enough, but more are needed. You don’t have to be a former engineer or business person. They need people who can teach students to respond, think, and speak on their feet.

People with skills in the real world are needed to volunteer and share knowledge, to impart what is and is not acceptable. Even after retiring, you can “rejoin the world” by establishing relationships

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scooter riders.

“People are always glad to see me and are always happy to ride,” says Linda Lockwood, who started driving this semester. “I think it’s a wonderful service,” Bill Coner says. “Some members wouldn’t be able to come to OLLI if it weren’t for the Trolley” because they have to park so far away.

“We’re helping fellow OLLI members and we’re saving the money that would be paid to drivers,” Rod Collier notes. “And being a driver is fun!”

The OLLI Trolley launched in fall 2008 and was funded by a grant from the Osher Foundation. Initially the CSUF police department hired students to drive the Trolley at a cost of about \$3,700 for fall and spring. At today’s rates, the cost would be about \$4,900.

Because OLLI relies on volunteers for almost everything else, Dave Musante (OLLI’s president at the time) suggested training OLLI members to be Trolley drivers for fall 2009. “It’s gone pretty smoothly,” he says. “Some drivers stay on for a long time, but new drivers are always needed so it’s an ongoing process.”

Leroy Lathrop and Pete Saputo worked with Dave to develop a plan for volunteer drivers. All three have been longtime drivers in the program. Leroy coordinated all the scheduling for the early years.

OLLI Trolley drivers need to qualify for a permit to drive on CSUF property. This requires a background check, taking online courses and a driving test in the Trolley with a CSUF police sergeant. Drivers then need to be recertified every three years.

“People appreciate the Trolley and they appreciate the driver,” Fassnacht says. “I get a lot of thank yous, especially when it’s hot!”

Many thanks go to our OLLI Trolley drivers over the years. Current drivers include Robert Bernstein, Rodney Collier, Bill Coner, Jobeth Cooper, Dennis Fassnacht, Leroy Lathrop, Linda Lockwood, Jan Miller, Dave Musante, Kay Ressler, Patti Schmidt and Marie Stiegler. Substitute drivers include Patti Chikahisa, Benson Chin, Dan Coby, Jim Ertle, Susan Hanna, Gerald Mann, El Jay Overholt and Warren Wilson.

New drivers are always welcome—and needed.

If you are interested in driving the Trolley, please contact Michelle Sanford (657-278-4271, [msanford@fullerton.edu](mailto:msanford@fullerton.edu)) or Patsy Burns (657-278-4274, [pburns@fullerton.edu](mailto:pburns@fullerton.edu)) in the OLLI office. Nancy Hill, *Communications Specialist, UEE/IPGE, CSUF*

## **OLLI Authors Sign Books at Fullerton Library Event**

The Fullerton Library hosted an OLLI Authors Day on Saturday, October 14, where the public was able to meet OLLI members who have written



books. The public then had an opportunity to buy signed copies from the authors, and they did purchase many books.

The picture shows the following OLLI members holding their books (their book titles follow their names): Front: Carmine Casucci (“Felix Wises Up”); Second Row: Lis Leyson (“Boy on a Wooden Box”); Rayleen Williams (“The Rumble Grumble Roar”); Ruth Shapin (“One Human Family”); Ann Casas (“The House of Tomorrow”); Shirley Jordan (“Benjamin Brown”); Third Row: John Blaydes (“Educators Book of Quotes”); Fritz von Coelln (“Charlie’s Challenge”); Jeanette Reese (“It Wasn’t Supposed to End this Way”); Ron Baesler (“God’s Rejected King”); Shirley Smith (“Live Your Life or Life Will Drag You Along”); and Debra Holland (guest speaker “Singing Montana Sky”). Not shown is Jack Wheatley (“Limericks From the Earth”).

A similar event, “Author’s Day at Pollak Library,”—a program under OLLI’s curriculum—was held on December 7 at CSUF’s Pollak Library. OLLI members, University students, faculty and staff, and the public were invited to meet authors from both OLLI and CSUF, hear about their back-stories and buy signed copies of their books.

## OLLI Collaborations with CSUF Students

This fall, the Collaboration Team engaged in several CSUF student support activities. Here are just two of our recent collaborations:

### OLLI Members and the Center for Scholars



(Guardian Scholars/ Abrego/ President's Scholars)

On October 11, a group of OLLI members and students

representing the Center for Scholars came together for an informal mentoring event. The purpose of this event was for OLLI members to provide career insight to students beginning their academic careers at CSUF.



The students were engaged and interested in hearing from our

members about “real life” workplace situations, as well as individual career paths and past college experiences.

All participants were pleased with the outcome and are looking forward to the next event.

### Mentor Program for the School of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)

Also in October, volunteer OLLI mentors participated in a “Meet and Greet” with ECS students.

ECS is excited about this pilot program. They have identified a need for expanding ECS students’ horizons beyond the “nerdy” mandatory academic requirements. They’re hoping exposure to our members who have real-life experience will help the students with their “soft skills.”

Even though there were not as many students as expected, the ECS trial program coordinators were able to pair all OLLI mentors with students for the rest of the fall semester.

## Spring Preview Meeting (Open to the Public)

Saturday, January 6, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Mackey Auditorium and Shapiro Wing

OLLI’s Spring Preview Meeting, open to members and the public, will provide an overview of the courses and events offered to OLLI members during the spring semester, which begins on Tuesday, January 16.

Following the program in the Mackey Auditorium, we will honor our 90+ members, and light refreshments will be served in the Shapiro Wing.

Membership registration will also be available during the event.

Parking is free on Saturday, and the OLLI Trolley will be available to transport you and your guests from the State College Parking Structure on Gym Drive, off State College Boulevard.

## Change in Coffee Donations

The university has been reviewing cash handling practices throughout the campus. As a result, OLLI coordinators will no longer collect the donations for coffee service in Shapiro AB to take to the OLLI office.

From now on, please deposit your coffee fund donations into the locked container mounted on the wall adjacent to the coffee window. The container will be emptied periodically by office staff. A sign clearly indicates the container is for coffee fund donations.

Please deposit the exact amount you wish to donate; coordinators and office staff can no longer make change.

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As you can see, our OLLI members are activity supporting CSUF students in a tangible and rewarding manner.

For more information about mentoring or coordinating projects, please contact Janice Jeng at [d-jjeng@sbcglobal.com](mailto:d-jjeng@sbcglobal.com).

*Janice Jeng, Vice President External Relations*

A Night at the OLLI Museum – October 28, 2017



## 100 Years and Still Going Strong

Myron Bantrell smiles and shrugs when people ask him the secret of



reaching his 100th birthday. “It’s just ... be happy,” he offers.

The La Habra resident recently enjoyed visiting

with his friends and sharing a big cake at his centenarian birthday party hosted by OLLI on October 17 in the Shapiro Wing.



Bantrell says he joined OLLI-CSUF 25 years ago when it was Continuing Learning Experience (CLE) “to have something to do!” OLLI now offers more than 300 classes each year, and Bantrell’s current favorites are “French,” “German,” “The Strategy of Poker” and “The Caesars: Might and Madness.”

He says OLLI is “absolutely the greatest thing invented for older people—for the education and the fellowship ... the people are what I enjoy most.”

Bantrell arrives at OLLI on a mobility scooter, because walking any distance causes severe back pain. But that doesn’t stop him from lying on the floor each morning and going through special exercises “to keep my legs strong so that I can keep walking.” Fortunately, the back pain disappears when he sits or lies down.

He doesn’t adhere to any special diet to maintain his health. “I eat what she puts down in front of me,” he says laughing and pointing to his wife of 52 years, Genevieve (who prefers “Pumpkin”), age 91. Their family includes two children (two others have passed away), nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

“Myron’s an inspiration,” says his German teacher Elizabeth Strauss, CSUF lecturer for the Department of Modern Languages. His interest in German started in high school and increased in

college when he had to learn it to keep up with the latest developments in chemistry.

A native of Rochester, New York, Bantrell graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in chemical engineering. During World War II, he was a lieutenant in the Navy and served as an ordnance officer. Later, he joined Eastman Kodak where he worked on radio proximity fuses. These fuses developed during the war were a technological innovation that more accurately detonated bombs and anti-aircraft shells.

With a move to California in the late 1960s and a job with Aerojet-General, Bantrell became part of aerospace history. He was a program manager for parts of the lunar lander—the fuel and oxidizer tanks, as well as the boiler system. In addition, he made several trips to Cape Canaveral to confer on his project.

Bantrell smiles when talking about his past, but he’s much more interested in enjoying the moment he is in now. If you have any doubts, just try beating him at poker.

*Nancy Hill, Communications Specialist, UEE/IPGE, CSUF*

### Save the Date—Spring Sock Hop Saturday, February 3

The third Spring Sock Hop will be held from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, giving OLLI members and their guests an opportunity to reminisce about their “Happy Days” and dress in their favorite high school outfit. The event begins with cheerleaders introducing a variety of performing groups at a Pep Rally in the Mackey Auditorium, followed by an old-fashioned high school meal. Then dance to ‘50s and ‘60s era rock ‘n’ roll dance music. **Watch for registration details in the OLLI News Bytes.**

*Bill Purpura ...Continued from page 2*

with students and experiencing the satisfaction of making people’s lives easier as Bill Purpura has done. If you are interested in working with CSUF students and faculty, please contact OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Committee Chair Janice Jeng.

*Mary Sampson, OLLI-CSUF Collaboration*

## Special Events

### Events Requiring Registration

#### **LAX Airfield Tour and Flight Path Museum Visit**

Thursday, February 1 • 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • Depart CSUF Lot A

You get a behind-the-scenes airfield tour, including A380 and Dreamliner aircraft and cargo and corporate jet operations, plus a visit to the Flight Path Learning Center & Museum. **Signups begin January 10.**

#### **Spring Sock Hop**

Saturday, February 3 • 4 p.m.-9 p.m. • Mackey Auditorium & Shapiro Wing

See details in the separate article in this ChroniCLE.

#### **California Coastal Princess Cruise**

March 10-17, 2018

**Now open to friends and family.** Sail from Los Angeles to San Francisco, then to Monterey, San Diego and Ensenada, before returning to LA. Cabin selection determines the price, which includes transportation from CSUF to LA Harbor, and all meals, entertainment, informative lectures and activities aboard the Ruby Princess. Passport or passport card is required. **Signup deadline is December 20.**

Flyers and sign-up coupons for events requiring registration will be available in the OLLI office, and on the OLLI website at <http://olli.fullerton.edu/> under “CLASSES/ACTIVITIES” - “OLLI EVENTS” or “DAY AND OVERNIGHT TRIPS.”

### No Registration Required

#### **Spring Preview Meeting**

Saturday, January 6 • 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. • Mackey Auditorium & Shapiro Wing

The program will be an overview of the courses and events available in spring, followed by light refreshments. OLLI's 90+ members will be honored. Membership registration will be available.

#### **New Member Orientation**

Thursday, January 11 • 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. • Shapiro ABCD

This is for new members to learn more about OLLI, meeting other new members and members of OLLI's Board of Trustees. Light refreshments will be provided.

## OLLI-CSUF in the News

### **Ray Young in the Orange County Register**

The November 23 edition of the Orange County Register recently ran an article about OLLI-CSUF member Ray Young's lecture on “Malls Discounters & Amazon: Retail Competition in the Internet Age,” which Ray gave on November 2 as part of our fall semester's Eclectics II series.

Another experienced OLLI member with much to share with us, Ray is a professor emeritus at Cal State Fullerton and a retired urban planning consultant.

See the article “How can OC's retail centers survived?” on the first page of the UF: Cal State Fullerton section at <http://ocregister.ca.newsmemory.com/>. Click on “Editions” and open the 11/23/17 issue.

Thanks to our ChroniCLE staff writer, Denny Bean, for referring this to us.

### **Myron Bantrell in the Fullerton Observer**

An article about OLLI member Myron Bantrell appeared in the early November issue of the Fullerton Observer on the occasion of his 100th birthday. You can read it at <https://www.fullertonobserver.com/>, click on “Past Issues” and it's on Page 19 of the early Nov 2017 issue.

Denny Bean, ChroniCLE staff writer, provided the information for the Observer's article.

## **Jodi's Hack Attack**

I had this sweater that I really liked, but it had a grease stain on it. Was it in an inconspicuous place? Noooooo! It was front and center for all to see. Nowhere to hide. I hope I enjoyed whatever I ate, because it was with me a long time.

I tried everything for a long time to get it out. I had an almost empty bottle of shampoo sitting by the sink to remind me to buy more. Hmmm, shampoo is supposed to remove oils and dirt from your hair, so why not try it. Bingo—it worked! Who knew shampoo could take a stain out of clothing!?

When all else fails, give it a try, but test it in a hidden area first.

Do you have a great tip or comment? Send it to [firstclassjodi@yahoo.com](mailto:firstclassjodi@yahoo.com).

*Jodi Chistin, OLLI Member*



## 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. If, for any reason, you are **not** already receiving OLLI emails about upcoming classes, events and special notices, you can subscribe (or re-subscribe) by going to <http://tinyurl.com/olliEmailSignUp> 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 and calendar for the upcoming month with links to view or download the publications. You can also access the most recent ChroniCLEs and calendars through links in the weekly OLLI News Bytes 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)