President’s Message

How I Discovered the Holy Grail of Lifelong Learning

Others who organize lifelong learning programs seek it, but we have it. What is it?

It’s the holy grail - the elusive secret to a sustainable, diverse, and large curriculum serving a largely self-directing community of lifelong learners at a cost affordable to almost everyone.

I’ve discovered it, but I didn’t recognize it’s important until I started to make presentations about OLLI at CSUF to national and international organizations. Next month, I’ll be making another presentation, my third in five months as OLLI president. It is sponsored by the Association of Retirement Organization in Higher Education (AROHE), a national organization comprised of leaders of lifelong learning and service organizations serving retired university faculty and staff. AROHE was founded by our own Betty Redmon when she headed the Emeriti Center at the University of Southern California. (Incidentally, my lodging, travel, and conference expenses are not paid by OLLI.)

What is the secret? It is this: OLLI-CSUF (or its predecessor, CLE) could never exist in anywhere near its current form if it wasn’t for an exceptional level of volunteer contributions and leadership. Robust, sustainable volunteerism is the holy grail for lifelong learning.

President’s...Continued on page 4
Stephen Johnson Receives OLLI’s First Betty Robertson Graduate Award

Stephen Johnson, who graduated from CSUF with a Master of Fine Arts degree, is the recipient of the first Olli Betty Robertson Award of $500, which includes a one-year OLLI membership. As a graduate student at Cal State Fullerton, Stephen earned a 3.98 GPA with a major in Art/Sculpture. Bill Mills, OLLI’s VP, External Relations, presented the award to Steve during the Honors Convocation held Friday evening, May 17 in the Meng Concert Hall of the Clayes Performing Arts Center.

Prior to his MFA studies, Steve had a 30-year career in the health care industry. Following his graduation from UCLA with a BA in Latin American History, Steve spent two years in Venezuela as a community organizer helping the residents improve their living standards. Because he wanted to continue his career in social work, he returned to the US and earned a Master’s Degree in Social Work (MSW) from St. Louis University. Steve was employed as an administrator and psychiatric social worker in the out-patient Department of Psychiatry of Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower for approximately 30 years.

Because he had been interested in art sculpture since he worked with wooden tools in the woodshop on a ranch in Apple Valley where he grew up, Steve decided to retire at age 60 and enroll in art classes at Long Beach City College. He transferred to CSUF where he continued to study art as well as history, philosophy, and English so he would qualify for the graduate program in Art/Sculpture.

Steve said that his “sculptural methods are addition and assembly rather than…casting and carving.” In addition to wood, his materials are Plexiglas and photographic images. You may view some of his art on his website at http://stevejohnsonsculpture.com. Since he would like to open a studio to display his works, hopefully, we will have an opportunity to see the real product someday. At the present time he is displaying his art work in his home.

It is interesting that Steve takes a personal interest in his materials and is especially “drawn to the used and found, particularly the remnants of other processes.” He said that the remnants as a material fit well with the exploration of memory since they come to him with their own history. “As I work, I find myself in conversation with my materials. Used materials have a more distinctive voice and, if I listen carefully before I respond, my work takes on more life,” said Steve.

Although Betty is no longer with us, we know that she would be proud that her first scholarship was presented to Stephen Johnson. He retired from one career and decided to study for an MFA in Art/ Sculpture, so he could pursue a subject that he had been interested in since he was a lad living on a ranch in Apple Valley.

Lorraine Gerni, Editor
OLLI Legend Award Recipients

In OLLI’s 35th anniversary year we are recognizing 28 people who made historically significant contributions to OLLI (including its predecessor, CLE) during the period 1979 to 2000 -designating them as the Legends of OLLI.

The Anniversary Recognition Committee, aided by recommendations from the Anniversary History Committee, decided on the recipients. The first 10 recipients listed below were designated long-ago as either Ex-officio Founders (organizers who were staff at CSUF) or Founders of CLE, plus the then CSUF President. These ten were the first to be chosen for this honor.

All are listed showing only the highlights of their many contributions to our organizations:

**Leo S. Shapiro** - Founder, first president, principal fund-raiser for Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC)

**Elizabeth (Betty) Robertson** - Ex-officio Founder, proposed and guided the organization, recruited first leaders, first chair of Computer Education Committee (CEC)

**L. Donald Shields** - CSUF President approved the concept and funding for CLE, signed the CLE Charter

**David L. Walkington** - Ex-officio Founder, initially conceived of an outreach program of continuing learning for seniors, got the project started

**Florence M. Arnold** - Founder, first vice president, initiated first art classes, recruited many new members

**Russell L. Ball** - Founder, initiated What’s in the News for You and coordinated it for 12 years

**Ernest G. Lake** - Founder

**Lucien L. Miner** - Founder, second president, served on Speakers Committee

**E. Ray Nichols** - Founder, Program Committee chair, produced Blue Book for eight years

**Charles L. Ruby** - Founder, principal benefactor of RGC

In addition to the 10 Founders, the OLLI Legend Award will be presented to the following members:

**Anthony Arace** - 10th president, transformed CLE’s office and administration, coordinated Through Their Own Eyes and Potpourri, Volunteer of the Year

**Dick Blake** – VP, Programs, coordinated Eclectics and many other classes, chaired Curriculum Committee

**Luis Cardenas** - Taught Roman History and Byzantine Empire for 30 years, led trips to Rome

**William (Bill) Coston** - Sixth president, RGC fund-raising committee leader, first Spanish teacher

**Ethel & Ken Kamber** - Ethel: Hospitality Committee (including VP, Hospitality), coordinates In Memoriam Reception; Ken: chaired CEC, initiated CLECAT Club; both Volunteers of the Year

**Arnold Miller** - Initiated original major scholarship in gerontology, member CSUF President’s Advisory Board 12 years

**Bryan Moffett** - Curriculum and Travel Committees, led day trip program over 12 years

**Bebe & Jerry Pollack** - Bebe: CEC chair, ChroniCLE editor, VP, Communications, trustee; Jerry: coordinated member registration and mailing crew, continues to write “Let’s Stroll” column for ChroniCLE

**Ted Shapin** - Organized computer training program and PC labs, maintained lab many years, taught computer classes, typeset original Wisdom Exchange book

**Kirt & Donna Spradlin** - Kirt: 11th president, treasurer, photographer, CEC; Donna: chaired Baseball Bash Committee, coordinated hospitality events; both Volunteers of the Year

**Cheryl Svennson** - Initiated Wisdom Exchange, taught it for 25 years, organized first Wisdom Exchange book

**Gordon Shaw** - Third president, RGC building

**OLLI Legend... Continued on page 5**
President’s …Continued from page 1

organizations.

The importance of volunteerism as our organizing principle is my core message wherever I talk about OLLI at CSUF, whether it is at the International Elder Education and Intergeneration Learning Conference in Taiwan, the OLLI National Conference in Carlsbad, California, or AROHE in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The elusiveness of discovering and applying the holy grail was apparent at a meeting Ron Osajima and I held among the California OLLIs before the start of the national conference. Many OLLIs in California and elsewhere use mainly paid instructors for their classes and significantly rely on paid staff for not only administrative support but program leadership. That works for many of them, although the number and diversity of curricular offerings for such programs generally fall well short of ours. The cost of paid instructors is almost certainly reflected in their higher costs and dues structure.

Volunteerism is evident everywhere we turn at OLLI here at CSUF, from the OLLI Trolley drivers that greet us outside Lot G, to our more than 100 instructors and coordinators. These volunteers are in addition to the hundreds in support and leadership roles. Moreover, the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration also involves hundreds of volunteers every year in service to the University.

Volunteerism may seem obvious to us, but its scope and success here remains one of the most provocative parts of my presentations to others. Sustaining volunteerism as our organizing principle is no accident. It requires both leaders and followers. It also requires campus executives, especially our dean, who grant us almost unprecedented flexibility in shaping and organizing our curriculum and activities.

In support of this, I am pleased that the recognition of volunteerism will be the central focus of our capstone anniversary event, the Gala 35th Anniversary Recognition Luncheon on October 11. Who will we recognize? There are hundreds of outstanding members to choose from, but some extraordinary individuals top every list of potential honorees. Beginning with this edition of the ChroniCLE, we are announcing individuals who have been selected to receive the OLLI Legend Award for their volunteer contributions during our critical, initial years (1979-2000). Next edition, we will announce the recipients of our new OLLI Volunteer Award for service since 2000.

At the October 11 luncheon, we will honor both groups, plus several deceased members who provided organization-wide leadership in the past five years. We will also recognize our long-time members (10 years and over) and the “Spirit of OLLI Today” in each of our principal volunteer areas.

Mike Stover, President
stovermw@gmail.com

Coming Events

**Anniversary Art Exhibit**
In Progress Through May 2015
First Floor Entry, Pollak Library, CSUF
Coordinator: Betty Redmon

**Annual OLLI Open House**
Saturday, August 9, 2014
Ruby Gerontology Center
Coordinator: Mike Stover

**CSUF Concert Under the Stars**
Saturday, September 13, 2014
Field Next to Titan House, CSUF
Coordinator: John Blaydes

**Gala 35th Anniversary Recognition Luncheon**
Saturday, October 11, 2014
Titan Center, CSUF
Coordinators: Linda Lockwood & Barry Escoe

**Eclectics: “The Story of OLLI, 1990-2014”**
Monday, October 27, 2014
Mackey Auditorium
Presenters: Mike Stover, Charlotte Oliva, Barbara Talento & Warren Wilson
SPECIAL EVENTS

Jazz at Hollywood Bowl

6:00 pm, July 9
Parking Lot A

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Best of Eclectics I

10:00 am, July 8, 22
CD

CLASS / EVENT / NEWS

OLLI Legend ... Continued from page 3

committee, taught travel classes, Volunteer of the Year

Barbara Talento - President twice (13th & 16th), VP, External Relations, trustee, initiated wellness and flu shot clinics, coordinated Exploratory Discussion, writes Nutrition News for ChroniCLE, Volunteer of the Year

Lloyd & Virginia White - Virginia: editor of ChroniCLE, coordinated Mac classes; Lloyd: VP, Administration, trustee; both taught PC & Mac classes

OLLI’s birth and its subsequent 35-year growth to the vibrant provider of lifelong learning and activities for retired and semi-retired adults that we enjoy today is the direct result of the voluntary work of exceptional people. The Legends of OLLI, while outstanding examples, are just some of the many hundreds of people who volunteer their time and effort to administer the organization, contribute money, initiate new programs, instruct or coordinate classes and activities, and, yes, drive the OLLI Trolley.

Chris Shaw, Associate Editor

Editor’s Note: Next month, we will profile “OLLI Volunteer Award” recipients for service from 2000-2014.

SPECIAL THANKS to all the volunteers who helped with the June ChroniCLE mailing: Jean Bryant, Don and Inez Fallis, Dar and Norine Fredrickson, Karen Katz, Bob and Sue Knepper, Joan Lebsack, Jerry Pollack and Marie Stiegler.

Fullerton Honors OLLI’s 35th Year

Mayor Doug Chaffee (left), Fullerton Mayor, received a proclamation from Bill Mills, former OLLI Vice President of External Relations, commemorating our 35th Anniversary during a council meeting on May 20th; numerous OLLI members also were in attendance. Bill presented Mayor Chaffee with a certificate for Fullerton’s financial support for the construction of the Ruby Gerontology Center. A few council members can be seen in the background.

CSUF President to Speak

President Mildred Garcia will be the featured speaker at the Honor the Spirit of OLLI Recognition Luncheon to be held from 11:30 to 12:30 pm on Saturday, October 11, 2014, in the Titan Student Union. Be sure to mark your calendars with this most important date of our 35th Anniversary Year when OLLI members of 10+ years will be honored. Mike Stover, OLLI president, will serve as Emcee. Look for more information on the Recognition Luncheon in the August ChroniCLE.
OLLI
at California State University, Fullerton
“A Continuing Learning Experience”
1979 - 2013: 34 Years of Excellence
Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7
P.O. Box 6870
Fullerton, California 92834-6870
(657) 278-2446

Dated Material
Do Not Delay Delivery

OLLI Emails
OLLI members who would like to receive weekly e-blast messages from the OLLI office are asked to send a request, with your e-mail address, to Jeff Harter at ollinewsbytes@hotmail.com, as for:
   a) Request to be added (or re-subscribed) to the email list.
   b) Questions about why they are not receiving OLLI emails.
   c) If you would like to receive your monthly ChroniCLE electronically.

OLLI Website
http://olli.fullerton.edu
Contact us at ollinewsbytes@hotmail.com