President’s Message

By Mike Stover, President, OLLI-CSUF

Let’s start with a definition that describes this moment for our lifelong learning organization after the worst pandemic in 105 years and the transformational impacts of the Internet on all forms of communication and learning: in·flec·tion point, a noun, meaning a time of significant change in a situation, a turning point.

During my 14 years as an OLLI member, I have never felt as strongly about one thing—OLLI is at an inflection point.

We need your help recruiting more members, volunteers and leaders. Our emphasis now is getting prospective and current members to the annual OLLI Open House on August 5. In addition to existing members renewing their memberships, we need several hundred new members to grow the organization and help us pay our bills.

Yet, more than getting more members is required. Even more important, we need more volunteers at all levels— instructors, coordinators, helpers and leaders.

While our paid OLLI staff provides administrative support, OLLI members do almost everything else— curriculum, instruction, social activities, instructional and facilities support, membership communication and services, university/community outreach and collaboration initiatives, fundraising and more.

Please let me explain why you are needed and the variety of urgent helping roles critical at this inflection point for OLLI.

President’s ...Continued on Page 3

It’s Time to Renew Your Membership

By Debbie Maxwell, Vice President Membership

Yes! It is time to jump on the OLLI membership bandwagon for the new 2023-24 academic year that begins right around the corner on September 11. The annual renewal fee is $275. The OLLI office staff has been preparing and is already processing online renewals. Do yours today!

This year is the most exciting in years. There are over 110 programs planned for the fall semester, of which five are brand new offerings, including “Gender, Sex and Society,” “Religious Literacy Really Matters” and “Orange County Grand Jury in Action.” Also, exciting trips are proposed for this year, including day trips to Long Beach Aquarium & Whale Watching, LAX, LA Union Station & Winery, Balboa Harbor Cruise and LA Mystery Tour. Overnight trips include an Alaska Cruise Tour and Palm Springs/Joshua Tree.

And don’t forget your friends and relatives who are nearly or already retired. They, too, can enjoy all of the benefits of an OLLI membership … the chance to enjoy the same mental, physical and social opportunities that you have. And, even if they can’t come to campus due to mobility limitations or living out of the area, they can still take part in the many classes that are offered on Zoom or livestream and many are recorded so they can be viewed online in real time or later.

You and all of your interested friends and relatives are cordially invited to our festive Fall Open House on campus Saturday, August 5, at the Ruby Gerontology Center from 9 a.m. to noon. Check the announcement in this issue of the ChroniCLE.

You can renew your OLLI membership online on your home computer or mobile device by going to the OLLI website at http://olli.fullerton.edu/ and

It’s Time ...Continued on Page 3
By Bob Kovacev, Vice President External Relations

Bob was born in New York City and grew up in Los Angeles. He graduated from Cal State LA with degrees in engineering and physics and an M.B.A. He earned a doctorate in business administration with an emphasis in entrepreneurship from the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

Bob has had several careers—technologist, international executive and educator. He was recruited in his senior year of college to work as a physicist in the early days of the Apollo Program, responsible for designing the radiation shielding that protected the astronauts during launch and re-entry. Later in his career he was in senior management on the Star Wars National Missile defense program.

As an international marketing and program management executive in the electronics, computer and law enforcement technology industries, Bob travelled extensively throughout the Middle East, Europe, East and Southeast Asia, and Australia. At one point, he was Director of Canadian Operations, for Printrak International, working with the RCMP and local Canadian police agencies to develop the Canadian national fingerprint identification and criminal history systems.

Dr. Kovacev was an educator for over 20 years teaching marketing, finance and entrepreneurship at Cal State Fullerton. During that time, he mentored fledgling companies in the CSUF Start-up Incubator, and started the Finance Department’s first internship program. He is currently on the Board of Directors of a successful firm started by one of his students.

In 2022, Bob was elected OLLI’s Vice President External Relations for the 2022-24 term. One of his primary responsibilities is to strengthen OLLI’s relationship with the University by reaching out to the CSUF community to ensure that administrators, faculty and staff know about our programs and by meeting with the deans from the various colleges on campus.

A major responsibility is to communicate and coordinate OLLI’s outreach programs, both to the Cal State Fullerton community and to the greater off-campus community at large, to familiarize them with OLLI and its mission and recruit new members for OLLI. Bob has re-energized the speakers’ bureau and has made OLLI presentations during appearances of OLLI performing groups and conducted speaking engagements at retirement fairs, organizations and communities, discussing retirement issues and the benefits of OLLI membership.

Bob designs promotional strategies, brochures, advertisements and marketing brochures and coordinates media releases and advertising to promote OLLI’s Fall Open House and membership in OLLI-CSUF.

He also coordinates the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Program whose focus is to encourage OLLI members to bring their talents and expertise earned during their lifetimes of experience to CSUF students, faculty and administrators by consulting,
First, some math: death and incapacity tragically take many of our best friends and OLLI stalwarts. Twelve of the 21 members of the 2009-2010 OLLI Board Trustees I joined are either dead or inactive.

The march of time stops for none of us, and there’s no denying that an organization in its 45th year must constantly regenerate itself. This does not mean that past and current leaders and volunteer “superstars” should step down. On the contrary, we need everyone to address our critical challenges of rebuilding our “on-campus” community for optimal intellectual and social interaction while providing the undeniable opportunities presented by virtual or hybrid instruction.

Simply put, we need members to step up (or recruit others) for the critical roles in this organization, including (but indeed not limited to) the following:

• Instructors, hosts and technical coordinators for existing and new classes and activities.
• Social event planners and helpers to join our Hospitality Committee to continue the committee’s legacy of building social connections among like-interests, curious adult learners.
• Administrative assistance for our officers with word processing, graphic design, spreadsheets and simple database needs.
• Data and financial analysts.
• Fund-raising volunteers to ensure that no one is ever turned away from OLLI membership because of their financial resources and to ensure that we can meet our instructional support infrastructure needs.
• Mentors, career advisors and others to join OLLI-CSUF Collaboration to assist university students, staff and faculty in several OLLI initiatives with the university’s various schools, departments and centers.
• Volunteers for dozens of other essential OLLI responsibilities.

So, here’s my question: will you be a helper? Will you help us recruit our next generation of volunteers, super volunteers and OLLI leaders?

Please let me know if you are interested, or know someone who might be, in the above or other volunteer opportunities. Our officers link our pre-retirement skills and post-retirement passions with volunteer roles essential to our lifelong learner community.

Please email me at stovermw@gmail.com or talk with me when we are together on campus or elsewhere. We need helpers!

When you log into the CSUF student portal with your OLLI/CSUF student ID and password, you will get the message “Duo Mobile Activation Required.” Simply click on “Call Me” and you will instantly receive a phone call. Enter the number “1” on your phone and the registration page will open. Then, follow the registration instructions on the webpage for completing the online form.

Information on all programs planned for the next academic year is in the 2023-2024 Blue Book Program Catalog, now covering the whole academic year. Meeting schedules for the fall semester will be in a separate Schedule of Classes and Events publication and on the OLLI website. Links for Zoom or livestream access can be obtained from the weekly Class Information & Updates Newsletter or the OLLI website.

If you need help with the online registration process, email OLLImembership@gmail.com or call 657-278-4012 for assistance. Registration help for both new and renewing members will also be available from our tech team at the Fall Open House on August 5.

We are all looking forward to seeing you here to enjoy this new year at OLLI and to benefit from all of the wonderful things that OLLI offers to each and every member!
Kirt Spradlin
President 2003 - 2004

The Saga of Kirt’s Bench
A Memorial to Kirt Spradlin

You may have noticed a new park bench on the east side of the Ruby Gerontology Center. This is the tale of the long road to the reality of that actual bench vs. the dream of a memorial to one of OLLI’s finest Legends, Kirt Spradlin.

At the time when CLE (Continuing Learning Experience) was transitioning to OLLI, not all members shared the same vision of how to build on the best of the old ways while embracing the best of the new. Kirt was one of the heroes who led the way and, as the 11th President of OLLI’s Board of Trustees, helped to smooth the, sometimes, rocky road.

Kirt continued as an OLLI leader by taking on the Treasurer’s job. He understood the importance of computers and technology as basic to our future, so he volunteered with the Computer Education Committee (CEC). Through the years he was a member of several committees.

Donna, Kirt’s wife, was also an active OLLI volunteer especially on the Trips Committee, as the Baseball Bash Chair, and as a hard-working event planner on the Hospitality Committee. Kirt always supported her efforts and vice versa. Trips to the Jet Propulsion Lab and the Hollywood Bowl were their favorites. At the first Baseball Bash in 2004, Kirt was the catcher to Leo Shapiro’s first pitch; a few years later, Kirt threw the first pitch.

At the time of Kirt’s passing, the Hospitality Committee claimed him as an honorary member. He always got the best behind-the-scenes pictures. A successful OLLI future needs a strong base, so Kirt photographed all OLLI functions. A picture can be worth a thousand words, and Kirt recorded OLLI’s life in pictures.

Kirt and Donna rarely missed an event and travelled with several OLLI trips including going to New Zealand, where a real Maori Chief made Kirt an honorary chief. The “chief” also helped clean up after OLLI events. Kirt Spradlin was a gentle man and a gentleman, an excellent example of an OLLI leader.

Kirt’s Bench, from the first ideas to the final installation, is the product of many hours of dedication and persistence by many, many OLLI members and staff. The project began in the days after Kirt’s passing, June 14, 2020. The kernel of something substantial that would be seen, and used, and serve as a reminder of a special OLLI leader, started in the Hospitality Committee and soon spread across OLLI.

At this same time, many members had become aware of the need for an accessible spot to wait safely for their pick-up drivers. A bench installed just outside the RGC courtyard and under a friendly small tree might be a good solution. Matching other courtyard benches, it is made of recycled plastic with a lifetime guarantee against sun damage and it needs no maintenance—all qualities Kirt would approve. Donna and her family approved the memorial to Kirt that would be engraved on the bench. The Board supported the idea; purchase orders would be written; but then … the pandemic and campus closure put the whole project on hold!

In 2022, the campus began to come alive again; however, many departments were impacted by backlogs of delayed projects and the channels of approvals and scheduling had changed personnel and guidelines. OLLI members and staff put greater effort into finding and navigating new roads to success.

Finally, the bench was ordered, delivered and assembled (by an OLLI member) in time for a dedication by CSUF President Fram Virjee at OLLI’s 2023 Spring Preview. The actual installation was completed on May 2, 2023. Donna and her family, along with many OLLI members, came together at the RGC to honor their own at the unveiling of Kirt’s Bench. Have a seat.
Remembering a Super-Volunteer and Former President Kirt Spradlin
Upon the Dedication of Kirt’s Bench

Photos by William Cornell, Bonnie Harrington & Donna Spradlin

Kirt was Honorary Chief for the Day by Maori Chief in New Zealand

Donna Spradlin remembering her husband

Kirt cleaning up for 2008 Open House

Throwing “second” pitch at Baseball Bash in 2013

Kirt and Donna at Holiday Luncheon

Kirt and Donna in western costumes and moustaches

Kirt & Leo Shapiro in 2003

Kirt photographing the Volunteer Appreciation in 2018
Parking Permits Going Virtual

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Starting September 1, 2023, all OLLI members will be issued virtual parking passes. Cal State Fullerton is doing away with hang tag parking permits to park on campus. Instead, each member’s car will be registered with CSUF’s Parking and Transportation Services, and cars parked on campus will be monitored by campus parking control officers electronically to confirm that they have permits to park.

The parking permit registration process was added to OLLI’s online membership registration and renewal system for 2023-2024 academic year renewals. You will be asked for your car’s make, color and license plate number on the membership renewal form. You will no longer need to hang a parking permit on your rearview mirror. Your car will be registered to park any time in any parking lot or parking structure on campus that is authorized for OLLI members (see the Parking & OLLI Trolley Information section of the Blue Book).

Here are some additional details:
• Only one vehicle may be initially registered for each member. Members may call Parking and Transportation for a single day “omit exceptions” up to two times a month if they drive a vehicle other than their registered vehicle. [A special procedure is required to permanently add additional vehicles to the permit database.]
• When vehicles are sold or otherwise transferred, the replacement vehicle may be added through an online form on the CSUF Parking and Transportation website.
• Online registration is effective within 48 hours upon the periodic updating of the virtual permit database.
• Visitors must purchase a single-day, virtual parking permit (currently $10.00) through the Park Mobile app on your cellphone (credit cards only) at http://parkmobile.io/. Physical paper parking permits, which were previously purchased through vending kiosks, are no longer issued. Visitor permits are valid in all student parking lots and structures, but are not valid in Lot J, adjacent to the RGC, nor the student housing lot. Permits are not required Fridays after 5 p.m. nor on Saturdays and Sundays.
• Guest speakers must have a virtual, single-day pass, requested at least 72 hours before their parking date. The day permit fee of $10 will be waived if the attended OLLI course is identified.
• Vehicles without a valid permit will be issued a parking citation requiring payment of an $80 fine ($160 if not paid within 21 days), unless appealed. Generally, Parking and Transportation will grant one appeal per semester if the permit holder submits a written request with good reason on their required form.
• Additional information about the process is available at Automated License Plate Recognition (LPR) - Parking and Transportation Services | CSUF (fullerton.edu).
• OLLI Vice President Administration Bill Sampson is the “point person” in getting questions answered about the new parking permit system.

Membership Scholarship Application

By Fred Shecter, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Scholarships for OLLI membership are available for those having financial hardships. Applications can be requested through the OLLI office by phone or sending an email to olli-info@fullerton.edu. Completed applications must be returned to the OLLI office no later than Friday, August 4, 2023 for the fall 2023 semester. Each applicant will be contacted to set up an interview with the committee shortly after the application due date.

OLLI is on Instagram

To add to OLLI’s social media presence, OLLI now has an Instagram page. If you or your friends and relatives want to follow OLLI on social media, you can access our Instagram page at https://www.instagram.com/ollicsuf/.
OLLI also has a Facebook page at https://www.Facebook.com/OLLICalStateFullerton.
Fall Open House
Saturday, August 5
9:00 a.m.-Noon
At the Ruby Gerontology Center

The OLLI-CSUF Board of Trustees cordially invites all OLLI members, past and present, and all of their friends and neighbors to come to the annual Open House celebration. This year’s in-person festivities will introduce everyone in attendance to the many benefits OLLI provides to members. Everyone who is retired, planning retirement or even contemplating retirement is welcome to join us to visit the displays of the myriad classes we offer, meet the instructors and coordinators, discuss with the many volunteers the benefits of the various programs offered in the 2023-24 membership year.

Attendees will be able to see live examples of the various entertainment and performing groups that are available for members to join. Everyone can attend the very informative presentation by some of our officers and learn about the many courses offered, the flexible attendance options available and the many benefits of being an OLLI-CSUF member. Following the presentations, light refreshments will be served and visitors will be free to chat with one another in the pleasant surroundings of OLLI’s own courtyard area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email at olli.membership@gmail.com or phone (657-278-4012). Additional information will be sent out through the OLLI newsletters. We are looking forward to seeing you there on August 5!

Appointments to the OLLI Board

Phil Barnhard was appointed for another year as Parliamentarian at the May 11 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Phil has been Parliamentarian for many years, and this appointment was to officially confirm his continuing position on the Board of Trustees.

Jay Messner was appointed Trustee at Large on April 13, replacing Lois Monroe, and will serve the remaining year of Lois’ term.

Renee Cabrera was appointed Secretary on May 11, replacing Vickie Hite, and will serve the remaining year of Vickie’s term. Vickie Hite resigned as Secretary to accept her election for a two-year term as Treasurer.

Lisa Sewell was appointed Vice President Hospitality on June 8. There was no candidate for Vice President Hospitality for the 2023 election.

OLLI Volunteer Help Needed—Technical Coordinators

Help keep OLLI hybrid classes operating smoothly.

Technical coordinators are needed to facilitate the hybrid classes that are offered in-person and online.

If you plan to attend a hybrid class, consider becoming a technical coordinator. Even if your classes already have technical coordinators, help is always appreciated.

Training is provided at your own pace for your particular class.

Contact Jim Monroe at james.monroe@csufullerton.edu.
Every year OLLI selects one outstanding Masters in Gerontology graduate student to be recognized for his or her exceptional contributions to the field of gerontology. This year the Masters in Gerontology Outstanding Graduate Award was presented to recipient Patricia Kuresa-Boone by OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Chairperson Susan Mullaly at the Aging Studies Honors and Awards Banquet in the Titan Student Union’s Titan Theater on May 22. The award is supported by a check from OLLI for $1,000.

Patricia has had a varied career before becoming interested in work with aging individuals. She had previously worked with children at Olive Crest as a direct care specialist working with teens. Before attending CSUF, she pursued a business law degree at Chapman University. After taking some time off to deal with her own health issues, she knew that she no longer wanted a business law degree. She transferred to CSUF, majoring in Human Services with a concentration on mental health and preparing to go into the Master in Social Work program.

She started noticing her mother’s aging processes—vision and hearing problems, as well as heart issues. As an eldest daughter, she started advocating for her mother by doing some research to better understand her mother’s medical procedures.

In the graduate program, Patricia gained a deeper understanding of the aging process, including the social, biological and psychological issues that older adults experience. She gained knowledge of ethical and policy issues related to aging. The graduate program allowed her to take advantage of an in-patient hospice care unit internship with VITAS at UC Irvine, where she provided emotional support to patients and their families. During her internships she worked with patients with dementia and Alzheimer’s.

Patricia advocates for the rights of older adults during end-of-life care, helping to provide information about the best possible care to patients and their families. This ensures that patients receive the necessary support and assistance to maintain a dignified end of life. Her career aspiration is to find an organization with a mission alignment with her values and beliefs in advocating for older adults in end-of-life care, and offering support and education to families and helping patients and families navigate the various healthcare systems and providing grief counseling.

Patricia is well-aware of the prevalence of ageism and how it affects older adults’ opportunities and experiences in different domains. She believes that the aging sector can promote intergenerational knowledge exchange and collaboration to combat this issue. Her thesis project brought together OLLI members who shared their life journeys with college students. As an example of enlightenment about aging, she sees OLLI’s Flash Mob group as an excellent way for younger people to experience what older adults can do.

Patricia plans to continue volunteering in the community and at UC Irvine’s hospice care unit, as well as the Project LIFE program at CSUF-OLLI. She also plans to continue research that will help direct her toward future employment opportunities. She is very appreciative of receiving the Outstanding Graduate Award from OLLI.

Blue Book Program Catalog and Schedule of Classes and Events

The newly annualized Blue Book Program Catalog and the new Schedule of Classes and Events are designed to complement each other.

In addition to the traditional information about OLLI in the front of the Blue Book Program Catalog, it will now have the descriptions for all the programs planned for the entire academic year—fall semester 2023, spring semester 2024 and summer session 2024. Each program description will indicate in which semester(s) and/or session it will be offered and how often it
Following are highlights from OLLI’s Board of Trustees meeting on May 11, 2023:

• Outgoing Board members [see May ChroniCLE] were presented with Certificates of Appreciation.
• Newly elected Board members [see June ChroniCLE] were installed on the 2023-24 Board of Trustees.
  • Phil Barnhard was appointed Parliamentarian.
  • Renee Cabrera was appointed Secretary.
  • President Mike Stover shared his leadership priorities for his term as president.
• Hiring temporary office staff to help during the current staff shortage is being researched.
• Mike will host OLLI Today and Tomorrow Forums on Zoom at noon on the Mondays following each Board meeting (second Thursday of the month) open to all OLLI members to discuss important issues and solicit feedback.
  • EIP Dean Leahy discussed ongoing changes in CSUF staff, including the retirement of President Virjee and change in CSUF Provost.
  • Updates to the officers’ appointed positions were requested by VP Communications Chris Shaw.

Following are highlights from OLLI’s Board of Trustees meeting on June 8, 2023:

• Lisa Sewell was appointed Vice President Hospitality.
• President Stover’s current focuses: 1. Member outreach about their OLLI experience; 2. Supporting the Hospitality Committee with their goals; 3. Planning the Open House on August 5; 4. Improving coordination between OLLI and CSUF support departments; 5. Coordinating the rollout of CSUF’s new virtual parking permits; and 6. Finding a chair for the Development/Philanthropy Committee.
• Membership now totals 1,118, including 230 new members.
• The breakdown of membership fees for partial-year enrollment was announced: Full academic year = $275; one semester (fall or spring) = $160; summer session only = $90; two semesters (fall & spring) = $200.
  • Brainstorming was done on increasing membership, recruiting new volunteers and bringing more members back on-campus to increase members’ social interaction.
  • Mackey Auditorium renovations have begun. It may not be done before the Open House.
  • Extensive work is underway in preparation for the Open House.
  • Campus parking permits will be virtual beginning September 1 [see details in this ChroniCLE].
  • The Bring a Friend event to encourage social interaction on campus was successful and more such social events will be planned.
  • Administrative Manager Patsy Burns advised that auditing of CSUF courses is not available in the summer.
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 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 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

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