



President’s Message

By Mike Stover, President, OLLI-CSUF

The start of fall semester classes is an exciting time for me. I teach, attend other OLLI classes,

engage in duties as an officer and interact with the OLLI and CSUF community.



Yet, the most exciting activity is meeting new members. We are fortunate that more than 150 have joined our community. For these new members, the

start of a new term can be a time of discovery and bewilderment. We can help them in their transition.

I remember my first semester on the Cal State Fullerton campus. As a newbie, I wanted answers to such questions as:

- How challenging will it be to find a parking place?
- What classes and activities should I try?
- May I take a course even if I miss its first session?
- Where can I eat on campus?
- What campus facilities and services are open or available to me?
- Where are the room numbers on classrooms and labs?

Besides being enriched by knowing more like-interest individuals, helping new members belong makes “business sense.” As marketing guru Bob Kovacev reminds me, the first rule of communications is to let others know, “What’s in it for you?”

Here are three of those reasons:

- New members expand the life experiences of every class they attend.

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Well-Attended Fall Open House

By Chris Shaw, Editor



This year’s Fall Open House at the Ruby Gerontology Center was well-attended, thanks to a village of volunteers led by our creative and energetic Vice President External Relations, Bob Kovacev. The Board fully backed Bob, authorizing advertising in the LA Times, OC Register and Fullerton Observer in addition to promoting OLLI at community events and fully utilizing all of our standard media outlets, plus a special emphasis on social media (Facebook and Instagram) this year. Bob’s advertising campaign slogan was “The Spotlight’s on OLLI,” with a special bright golden logo highlighted by spotlights designed in-house (see graphic).

A whopping 243 guests attended the Fall Open House (up from 151 last year), and 87 of them joined OLLI as new members during the event. The computer lab and Room 19 were staffed with eight volunteers plus Celia Reynolds in the OLLI office, led by OLLI’s Board Trustee and Archivist/Historian Joanne Hardy, to help new and current members enroll for the new academic year. Many more people registered online later from home or came back to the campus during the following week for help from Joanne’s registration team.

About 15 tented exhibit booths in Lot H plus a couple of classrooms presented information on OLLI’s various courses and activities. An information table, staffed by Vice President Administration Bill Sampson, was set up in the

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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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 Vice President Hospitality Lisa Sewell
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 Chris Shaw (tashawc01@gmail.com), Editor; Keni Cox, Assistant Editor; Kathy Gilroy, Alice Gresto, Elaine Mitchell and Mary Sampson, Staff Writers

Desktop Publishing: Celia Reynolds

Chris Shaw, Vice President Communications

By Chris Shaw, Vice President Communications

My job as the Vice President Communications is to oversee a large assortment of electronic and print media that communicate information to OLLI members. Some of these also represent OLLI to the public.



The **Blue Book** course catalog, OLLI’s oldest (going back to 1979) and most relied-upon source of

information, is printed each semester. It focuses on describing the courses and events offered and their schedules, but it goes beyond that, providing information, maps and other references. I am the editor and the four copy editors are Judy Alter, Susan Hanna, Steve Kernes, Jill Patterson and Ann Sparks. A great number of other people also contribute. They are listed under Editorial Staff in the Blue Book.

The **ChroniCLE** also goes back to OLLI’s roots. This newsletter is published like a newspaper and emailed to all members monthly (except July

and December), and is available in printed form. It reports on what is going on at OLLI, giving profiles and photos of programs, events and activities and the people that make it all happen and provides detailed information on administrative functions and changes at OLLI. I am the editor of the ChroniCLE; Keni Cox is assistant editor; Alice Gresto, Elaine Mitchell, Mary Sampson and Zona Gray are staff writers; and Celia Reynolds of the OLLI office handles desktop publishing. If you wish to submit anything for publication consideration, you can email me at tashawc01@gmail.com.

Three weekly electronic newsletters are emailed to members: the **Class Information & Updates Newsletter**, edited by Ginger Barnhart, **Announcement & Events Newsletter**, edited by Kathy Gilroy, and **Open to the Public Newsletter**, edited by Melinda Wiltsie. They provide weekly curriculum updates and timely event and administrative announcements to members, plus important stand-alone emails with time-sensitive information. The three editors assist one another, working as a team. Instructors, coordinators, Board officers and event sponsors may submit items for the newsletters; see the instructions for submission listed at the end of each newsletter.

An **electronic bulletin board** in the lobby of the Shapiro Wing lists the schedule of classes for the week, plus rotating slides which provide topical information. The bulletin board is maintained by Melinda Wiltsie.

The **OLLI website** holds a vast array of information for members and the public, including the full schedule of courses, with descriptions, for the entire semester at <http://olli.fullerton.edu/>. The webmaster is Dan Coby, and he is assisted by editors Ginger Barnhart, Michele Frankel, Lorelee Page-Ortez and Bev Risse. A short-cut button can be downloaded from the homepage by clicking on **OLLI ON YOUR PHONE/TABLET**, so you can more easily access OLLI’s website.

The **Digital Image Archive** is OLLI’s repository of all photos and videos taken of OLLI members and activities. Photography Coordinator Jim Di Tota maintains a cadre of volunteer photographers who attend and immortalize OLLI’s events and

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- They are a future source of volunteers and instructors.
- They are OLLI's public relations "ambassadors" to their friends and acquaintances.

New members are easy to identify. They have a red dot on their OLLI name badges. When you see "the dot," here are five ways to welcome new members:

- Say hello and welcome to our community.
- Engage them in conversation in classes or before or after.
- Answer their questions or help get them answers if you are not sure.
- Share your insights on what you like about OLLI and the CSUF experience.
- Invite them to share a cup of coffee.

Before turning the page to another topic, I want to give a shout-out (Is that still fashionable to say?) to our "Strategy of Poker" coordinators and members for doing an excellent job of welcoming new members. They are a shining example of how to do it right.

I want to say thank you. Since my appeal for volunteers in the last two ChroniCLEs and the recent OLLI Today and Tomorrow Forum, I have received several offers of assistance.

However, some of our highest needs remain. These include more instructors and new class proposals, live streaming technicians, publication designers, hospitality event organizers/helpers, publicists, researchers and seasoned MS Office or Google software assistants to help OLLI officers and project leaders manage their workload.

Ongoing help is also invited for OLLI-CSUF Collaboration projects, which provide various one-time, short-term or ongoing opportunities to help CSUF students and assist campus faculty and staff.

If you can, be a helper.

Please keep sharing with me your advice and suggestions. I look forward to talking with you at the RGC or responding to the emails you send me at stovermw@gmail.com. I welcome them!

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middle of the courtyard to provide answers about the new virtual parking permits and other questions.

Mackey Auditorium was not available for the program this year; it was closed due to renovations. The smaller Shapiro BCD venue was utilized with monitors set up in three rooms around the RGC for the overflow to view the program, which worked out well.

President Mike Stover kicked off the program by thanking the more than 100 OLLI members who worked on staging the Open House and welcomed the packed audience, which were almost all non-member guests. Mike shared how his involvement with OLLI over the years transformed his life and gave him a meaningful retirement.

Cal State Fullerton was represented by Extension and International Programs Dean Debra Leahy, who trumpeted the concept of lifelong learning and the added benefit of making friends at OLLI. She praised OLLI's multi-faceted support of the University. Provost Amir Dabirian welcomed new members to this large (40,000 students) university. He encouraged OLLI members to come to campus, join in CSUF activities and interact with and support the university's students.

Mike went on to briefly talk about OLLI's 44-year history at CSUF, 129 courses and activities, 1,100 members, our self-built Ruby Gerontology Center facility, support by the Osher Foundation and the many University privileges. OLLI's 200 volunteers were touted for producing everything, short of the administrative and financial support of the four-person staff in the OLLI office, including instructing/coordinating most programs. Mike also announced the new virtual parking permit system.

Bob Kovacev followed Mike with an analysis of all the learning and social benefits at OLLI and the many other values of membership, including opportunities to give back to the community.

OLLI's Vice President Programs Ellie Monroe invited the audience to tour the facility, stop at the booths to learn more about our programs, enjoy the food and entertainment, and be sure to let OLLI's hosts help them enroll as members in Rooms 19 and 20.

Entertainment was provided at the east entrance

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Fourth of July Celebration and Veterans Recognition • June 29, 2023

Photos by Jim Di Tota & Donna Spradlin



Fall Open House • August 5, 2023

Photos by Mary Crouch, Ana Price & Donna Spradlin



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to the RGC courtyard both before and after the program by a host of OLLI's best performers, including the Voci d'Oro Chorale, Ukulele Ensemble, OLLI Flash Mob, Line Dancing Workshop and Strings and Things Music Jam.

The video of the Fall Open House program is available to view online on Vimeo anytime. Link to it from the Welcome to OLLI webpage at <http://olli.fullerton.edu> or [click here](#).

New Course: Geology of Orange County

There are few places in the world that provide a better geological laboratory than Orange County. From our neighborhoods to the city streets, geologic features and processes are all around us. Orange County has been affected by each earthquake we feel or rainstorm that washes our cars. The landscape around us has undergone drastic changes in a relatively short span of geologic time. Where we now have parking lots and tract homes, an ocean once existed, erupting volcanoes dotted the landscape and huge mammoths walked. Earthquakes eventually caused the land to rise out of the ocean forming the local hills and mountains. Even today, our "backyard" geology influences our everyday lives. This can be observed by where we build homes and roadways, how we mitigate geologic hazards and where we search for resources.

Instructor Richard Lozinsky will explore the major rock units, structures, geologic hazards and conclude with the geologic development of Orange County.

The coordinator is Ellie Monroe, and this one-class seminar will be offered Tuesday, October 10 at 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. in the Auditorium.

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/>.



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take portraits of OLLI members, which are used in OLLI's Blue Book, ChroniCLE, Transitions in Retirement brochure and various other publications and presentations for members and the public.

Finally, our newest and most exciting communication medium is OLLI's social media presence. OLLI's **Facebook** page and **LinkedIn** are managed by Renee Cabrera. We have two **Instagram** pages, one managed by Rosalind Charles that is dedicated to OLLI's Collaboration program, aimed at CSUF students and professors, and another **Instagram** page managed by Michele Frankel that is aimed at the public in general. These social media outlets are being utilized to reach a whole new generation of potential OLLI members. This provides another fun way for members to keep up with what's going on at OLLI, in addition to promoting OLLI to the public.

I am fortunate to have these talented and committed volunteers on the Communications Team.

Lifelong Learner, Luz Horn

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

The Betty Robertson Award is granted each year by OLLI in memory of Betty Robertson, "The Godmother of OLLI," who tirelessly worked to create a program for continuous learning for seniors. The award is given to an older CSUF student graduating with special recognition for their achievement and devotion to lifelong learning.

This year's award winner is Luz Horn, graduating with a Master of Science degree in Nursing.

Her's is a story of adjustments and perseverance as she conquered the many challenges she has faced in her life, beginning as a Mexican immigrant when her family moved to the United States in 1969.

She faced culture shock as she began to learn English in her new surroundings. In time, she was even welcoming Cuban refugees to Horace Mann Elementary School in Anaheim, understanding what it felt like to be a new arrival in a different country.

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Her mother began working in 1975 and Luz stepped up to help care for siblings and managing the household while attending high school. She began to dream of a nursing career; however, her dreams were derailed by marriage.

Her son began to experience health issues and she was dealing with domestic violence, resulting in her battle with depression and thoughts of suicide. Despite the emotional turmoil, she found the courage to leave her husband and focus on building a happier life for herself and her children. With her parents support she returned to school and graduated as a Licensed Vocational Nurse in 1986.

In 1997, Luz began working at the Clinic for Women, but she soon faced the news of her father's diagnosis of prostate cancer. She moved back in with her parents to support them during this difficult time, reinforcing her role as a "pillar of strength" for her family. After her father passed away in 1998, she returned to school and earned her Bachelor Degree in Nursing, despite on-going hardships including the death of her mother.

Luz states that she found solace in achieving her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse. Her nursing degrees allow her to advocate for evidence-based practices for children in the educational systems, especially those in special education. She aims to bridge the gap between parents and providers, providing guidance, resources and communication to ensure the best care for children's health. She has returned to her old school district to serve the special needs of families in the Horace Mann Elementary School neighborhood.

Encouraging those seeking a college degree later in life, she says, "It is never too late to pursue your dreams. Take one step at a time, remember it is not a race. Embrace challenges and don't be afraid to fail; perseverance is key. Consider taking a computer class to familiarize yourself with its use. Find joy in what you do, as passion and determination will lead you to success."

Luz will receive her award on Saturday afternoon, September 26 at the OLLI Welcoming Social gathering in the Shapiro wing. The award includes \$1,000 and a year's free membership in OLLI-CSUF. She will spend the award on post grad education. Luz is indeed a lifelong learner.

Griffith Observatory Trip Wednesday November 15

The Griffith Observatory is Southern California's gateway to the cosmos. We will see live shows in the Planetarium and explore multiple astronomy exhibits, each focusing on a unique aspect of observation.

We will take a bus to the observatory in the afternoon, then explore the many astronomy-related exhibits and see two 45-minute planetarium shows, one about the origins of the cosmos and the other about what it took to put life in the universe. We will eat dinner on site, on our own, at Wolfgang Puck's Cafe at the End of the Universe. After it gets dark, weather permitting, we will look at the heavens through telescopes.

Sign-ups are now open for OLLI members only at the OLLI office.



GET TO KNOW
THE **CALENDARS** BUTTON
ON THE OLLI HOMEPAGE

! tip

olli.fullerton.edu

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OLLI CALENDARS:
• Today at OLLI

It's where you'll find the most up-to-date information about class changes.

Important: Read OLLI's Newsletters

It can't be overemphasized how important it is to read the weekly newsletters that OLLI sends to you by email. They provide important information you need to keep up with changes in program meeting schedules, conditions on campus and other news at OLLI.

If you unsubscribe from any OLLI email, you are automatically unsubscribed from all OLLI emails by our email distributor, including the Blue Book and ChroniCLE. Please contact the OLLI office at olli-info@fullerton.edu if you are not receiving OLLI's weekly emails.

OLLI Welcoming Social

Saturday, September 23

1 p.m.-3 p.m. • Shapiro ABCD

Join us for an afternoon filled with fun, games, music, refreshments and, above all, a chance to get to meet new members and returning OLLI friends.

Light refreshments will be served along with the chance to win a variety of prizes.

Help us celebrate the new academic year together!

Get it From the Source

By Chris Shaw, Editor

I received a question from a member asking if they can revoke their permission to use their picture in OLLI promotions.

As the Vice President Communications, I responded that if I receive such a request from a member, I will do what I can to prevent the use of their picture in our various publications published in the future. That is possible for photos of individuals and small groups, but it is problematic to spot specific people in candid, group photos of members in classrooms, meetings and social activities at OLLI. One further caveat is that permission cannot be withdrawn for any specific publications, such as the ChroniCLE and Blue Book, that have already been published and are in use.

If you have a question, send it in an email to Chris Shaw at tashawc01@gmail.com. I will find the right person to get the right answer for you. I'll also share your question and answer in the next ChroniCLE, because if you wondered about something, other OLLI members may have wondered the same thing.

Goatee--or Not--That is the Question

"Should I keep it?"

Overwhelming "yes!" My poetic peers poll

A no or two

Nevertheless, scholarly validation

Humble sophistication, transcending derivation

Don Quixote jousting at windmills

Squire and virgin, quest personified

Shakespeare! Bard's tenacious incarnate

Romeo, oh Romeo, proletariat acclaim

Wizened sage! Hermit on the plinth

Philosophic mores, mystic sustenance

Caveat

"She won't kiss me!"

"Should I keep it"?

Overwhelmingly "no!"

Validation

A happy wife is a happy life!

By Fritz von Coelln

Fritz retired from the real world in February, 2001, became an OLLI member that March taking Creative Writing--based on a quick write, Lorna Funk suggested I attend Poetry for Pleasure. What a pleasure it has been--seven anthologies later, we are contemplating our eighth. Concurrent with the academic journey he served OLLI as VP of Programs and Curriculum Committee Chair. He introduced, conducted and coordinated dozens of classes, Current classes include: Write Now, Writing with Feedback, Authors Central OLLI-CSUF, Publish Before You Perish, Poetry for Pleasure and Flash Mob.

Submitted by Alice Gresto



What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on August 10, 2023:

- The Fall Open House hosted 243 guests, up from last year's 151 guests. Analysis of the event's strengths and weaknesses will be done by the Board in a separate meeting in September.
- Dean Leahy congratulated the Board and all OLLI members who worked on the Fall Open House, stating it had great energy, great conversations and a positive vibe.
- Member registration for the new academic year was 521 as of August 9, which is 8.7% higher than last year at that point in time.
- A systems glitch delayed reactivating lapsed, returning members.
- An analysis of the effectiveness of the advertising for the Fall Open House will be done. Susan Snell pointed out that demonstrating ad effectiveness is very difficult; effectiveness is usually determined by multiple contacts with prospective members.
- Ed Batson and Susan Snell are co-chairs of the new OLLI Ad Hoc Research Committee.
- Ed and Susan reported that OLLI's member retention averages 50% of existing members and only 10-20% of new members, which is typical for such institutions. A key goal for OLLI will be improving retention by better engaging members. They conducted a brainstorming session with the Board for ideas to better engage members.
- The volunteer form that new members complete as part of their registration will be reviewed, and follow up will be done.
- Vice President Programs Ellie Monroe is working on fast-tracking new programs for OLLI's curriculum. Five new programs will be offered in the fall semester, and she is working on more to come for fall.
- Resolutions being addressed: inspection approval of Mackey Auditorium renovation in time for fall classes; approval for the Alaska trip; and feedback on the Blue Book restructure.
- A principal objective in long term planning is to reshape OLLI's organizational structure to achieve long-term goals.

- A temporary employee, Michelle Bjornlie, was hired for the OLLI office to help with the large backlog of work.

- Purchase of a new laptop computer for loaning from the office was authorized.

- A systems glitch delayed registering members to audit CSUF classes.

CSUF has a new president, Dr. Sylvia Alva.

New Courtyard Coffee and Fellowship

Photo by Ana Price

By Renee Cabrera, Secretary & Curriculum

Committee Co-Chair

What is better than the fresh fall air and the aroma of coffee to start the day? Join us in the OLLI Courtyard for coffee as the fall semester begins at OLLI. Coffee will be available Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. beginning September 11 through September 22.

Take a courtyard seat on the new, beautiful and comfortable tables and chairs while enjoying a cup of coffee. Take a few minutes to say hello and engage in friendly conversation before classes begin or come by after class. We are looking forward to continuing what began last summer by OLLI members Linda Lockwood, Claire Curran, Edward Dunvan and Liz Lincoln.

We are also exploring a lunch time pick up for OLLI members, and we welcome your feedback. At the coffee station, there will be a questionnaire for your ideas and preferences. Come join us for a cup of coffee, fellowship and conversation.





OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

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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

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