



LLI ChroniCLE

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE at CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

“A Continuing Learning Experience”

April 2020

Volume XXXXI Number 7

President’s Message



My original monthly message was written way before we had to make the decision to shutter OLLI due to the threat of the coronavirus to our vulnerable population. This is a very last-minute revision

of my message, which had contained references to the 40th Anniversary celebrations that now have been cancelled. In these unprecedented times, it is essential that we all heed precautions to stay safe and healthy while we ride out the spread of the virus through our communities.

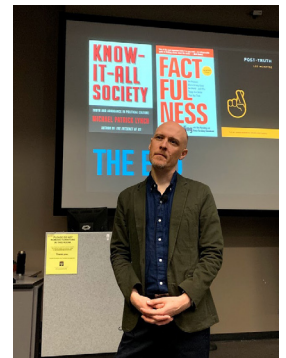
OLLI’s 40th Anniversary celebration has me reflecting on my experiences at OLLI and the changes that have occurred since I first joined in 2003 as a part-time retiree. I have a spring 2005 Blue Book from when I officially retired and became an annual OLLI member. It has that “homemade” look with a light blue cardstock cover printed in grayscale, probably on a photocopier. This Blue Book lists 42 courses and activities. This is a far cry from our current slick, colored Blue Book catalog, which contains over 3 times the number of courses. I also have a copy of the first Blue Book in its current format, and it featured now deceased member, Andy Washington, in spring 2009. I was on the cover of the fall 2010 Blue Book and recalled going over to the University Extended Education (UEE, now EIP for Extension and International Programs) “studio” to have photos taken. Production of the Blue Book must have been carried out by professional marketing personnel at UEE starting in spring 2009.

The evolution of the Blue Book reflects some

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OLLI Diversity Program

On January 23 Dr. Andrew Howat, Professor CSUF Philosophy Department (pictured), presented a talk, “Ideology and Political Communication: A Philosophical Perspective.” This timely presentation, viewed through the lens of philosophy, explored why it has become so much more difficult to participate in constructive conversations about politics. This disciplinary lens provided the audience with a new vocabulary and current research findings with which to analyze and address the political communication problem.



Dr. Howat’s goal was to explain how the post-truth era affects us and to consider what can be done about it. The philosophical lens identifies three main aspects of the post-truth era: polarization, bubbles and echo chambers. Polarization, defined as the distance between partisans, leads to gridlock and shutdowns because of disagreement about well-verified, easily checkable facts. Survey results show widening partisan value gaps and rising partisan antipathy. Two popular explanations for polarization are epistemic bubbles and echo chambers.

Bubbles are created when we don’t hear from the other side, because we live in a bubble of like-minded people. We get news from our friends on social media, most of whom share similar political views. Algorithmic personal filters used by corporations and media also contribute to bubbles. We have the power to pop these bubbles by watching a variety of news programs and by reading articles from different media sources. But

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President Joyce Ono
 Vice President Administration Mike Stover
 Vice President Programs Ellie Monroe
 Vice President Communication Chris Shaw
 Vice President Membership Debbie Maxwell
 Vice President External Relations Janice Jeng
 Vice President Facilities Pete Saputo
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Desktop Publishing: Celia Reynolds, Photographers: Benson Chin, Will Cornell and Janice Jeng..

Debbie Maxwell Vice President Membership



Debbie Maxwell has served as Vice President Membership since September 2019.

Debbie and her husband joined OLLI around four years ago. She has served on the Hospitality Committee

and the membership services teams, helping with the In Memoriam program, OLLI socials, event registrations etc.

The Vice President Membership oversees about 50 volunteers, who participate in one or more of the seven teams within the Membership umbrella. The teams meet during the summer to get organized and plan the upcoming year’s activities, with several follow-up meetings during the year.

The Registration Team assists new OLLI members and renewing members who need help using the online registration system during the fall Open House and Spring Preview. At the beginning of the fall semester, letters are sent to all OLLI

members giving them information on when and how to renew their registration for the coming year.

A Docent Team is also involved with the Open House. The docents provide guests, who may be potential members, with a tour of the OLLI facilities.

The Host Team members greet guests during the Open House and the Spring Preview, escorting guests to the Docent Team, the auditorium and other locations. They serve as ushers in Mackey Auditorium, direct guests to the registration and member photo areas, and manage the waiting line and refreshment area in the Shapiro wing. They are the trouble-shooters of these two annual events, watching for those who seem lost or confused, and offering them advice and assistance.

The 90 Plus Team members identify those who have become honorary members as they reach this venerable age, and they personally invite each 90+ member to participate in the Spring Preview festivities each year. Sometimes it takes a good deal of work to contact these individuals and gather the needed information. 90+ members are asked about their membership history, the kind of volunteering they may have done at OLLI and their preferred flavor of individual cake, which they will receive at the event reception. If needed, the Team arranges transportation.

The Friendship/In Memoriam Team gathers information on ill or deceased members. They send get-well cards to sick or injured members, or those having surgery, and send sympathy cards to the families of those who have passed. Notifications of passings are sent to all OLLI members, including information on services to be held. OLLI members and the families of those lost over the year are invited to attend the In Memoriam event, held each year in April to remember and honor passed OLLI members.

The Information Table Team is present in the RGC courtyard for the first weeks of the fall semester to assist new members in finding classrooms, answer questions about OLLI procedures or just to welcome them.

The Scholarship Committee is a special group of volunteer members, dedicated to recommending

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scholarships for those who need assistance with OLLI membership costs. Their recommendations are made after a formal process of evaluating applications and conducting interviews.

Thanks to each of the volunteers of the Membership Team, who work hard to accomplish the various tasks needed to take care of the membership services for all members of OLLI,
Chris Shaw, Editor

President's...Continued from Page 1

of the changes I've witnessed in OLLI as newer volunteers brought expertise, so more tasks that were previously done by the office staff were taken over by volunteers. I recall the days when instructors used to bring their course descriptions, often handwritten, to the office, which then re-keyed them in Word so they would have an electronic copy for the Blue Book publication. The photographers at UEE's marketing group have now been replaced by OLLI volunteer photographers, and all course descriptions are sent in electronically to nine Section Editors who are managed by Ellie Monroe, Vice President Programs (see Page 23 of the spring Blue Book). Chris Shaw was our first appointed Blue Book editor and has held this position since 2015. I asked him to serve as the editor when I was serving as the Vice President Communications. Before that, the Vice President Communications served as the Blue Book editor, and there were so many components of OLLI's communications emerging, including the weekly online OLLI News Bytes, the OLLI website, the Shapiro lobby electronic bulletin board, the monthly ChroniCLE etc., that it made sense to have an editor for the Blue Book to focus on managing its publication. As you can see from Page 23, there are many volunteers who produce today's Blue Books. OLLI today is thus a volunteer-centric organization, where many tasks are centered and dependent on volunteer expertise and collaboration.

Blue Book production is only one of the many tasks carried out by volunteers. Since most of the work is done by volunteers, it is useful to have backup volunteers, so individuals are free to go on

vacations or, in the worst case, nurse illnesses.

In April, nominees for open OLLI Board of Trustees positions will be elected. Since the in-person General Meeting/Election meeting and Ice Cream Social are cancelled, voting will be done via email. Watch for details in the OLLI Announcements & Events Newsletter and the [special section of the OLLI website](#) devoted to updates of OLLI's operations while we hunker down.

These Board nominees, like the Blue Book editorial staff, have made a commitment to share their expertise and time to support our programs and the 1,500+ OLLI members. Please consider joining OLLI's army of volunteers! In the meantime, exercise common sense and stay well—our OLLI will be back!

Joyce Ono, President, OLLI-CSUF

Ron Osajima, Godfather of OLLI-CSUF Collaboration

Before retirement, Ron Osajima had been a



Chief Information Officer responsible for compiling the needs of a company regarding networking and software development for long range plans. Ron brought those skills to OLLI. Soon he was working with George

Killianey and others on the OLLI Board to collect data on the state of OLLI membership and the curriculum to determine whether changes to the programs were necessary to keep the organization relevant. Study of the data resulted in the identification of long range plan implementation strategies, one such strategy was to provide more volunteering opportunities within the CSUF community.

It was important to create a steering committee with influential people to help develop a collaboration project. Ron contacted Assistant Dean Dave Fromson, who invited other assistant deans to join the steering committee. The assistant deans were supportive and helped to establish

Ron Osajima...Continued on Page 6

Easy Ways to Support OLLI-CSUF After Your Lifetime

OLLI-CSUF is fortunate to be the recipient of several “future gifts” from members. These members have included OLLI-CSUF in their charitable estate plans for approximately \$200,000.

Are you passionate about supporting OLLI-CSUF even after your lifetime? It’s easy to do with a bequest or beneficiary designation. Just name OLLI-CSUF as a beneficiary to receive assets such as retirement plans and life insurance policies after you are gone.

[Bequests](#) are one of the most common forms of planned or deferred giving. Another form, right up there with bequests, is the [beneficiary designation](#). A bequest generally involves a set of instructions in your trust or will for the disposition of the assets comprising your estate. Beneficiary designations are even more simple, and can sometimes be more tax-wise by preventing assets from going into your estate, whether your estate is taxable or not.

A [retirement plan or IRA](#) is typically the largest source of assets that generate taxable income when paid to a beneficiary. More than half of your retirement plan assets could be subject to income and estate taxes. Therefore, if you are considering a gift to OLLI-CSUF after your lifetime, it is usually better to leave taxable assets to us and give nontaxable assets (such as stocks and real estate) to your loved ones.

Maybe you once needed [life insurance](#) for your loved ones, but now your family’s requirements have changed. Why not use the insurance policy to help advance OLLI-CSUF? Not only will you make a substantial gift at a relatively low cost, but it is revocable at any time should you need to change your plans. You can designate OLLI-CSUF as the beneficiary for a percentage of your life insurance policy’s death benefit.

Next Steps

[Contact Hart Roussel](#) at 657-278-5429 or hroussel@fullerton.edu for additional information on bequests or beneficiary designations and how they can help support OLLI-CSUF.

Talk to your financial or legal advisor to learn which assets will or will not trigger taxable income when paid to a beneficiary.

In Memoriam

The In Memoriam event in remembrance of OLLI members who have passed away since spring 2019 that was scheduled for Friday, April 10 has been canceled.



We plan to have the presentation of the names and pictures of members on the OLLI website for access to view by OLLI members and bereaved families. Watch the Announcements & Events newsletter for details.

Coronavirus-Related Information

Up-to-date information about changes in OLLI’s classes, events and other activities affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is on the OLLI website under [Course and event changes](#) (including COVID-19) on the home page.

Additional official information about this health emergency is available at the following websites:

- [Cal State Fullerton](#)
- [Orange County Health Care Agency](#)
- [California Department of Public Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

If you name OLLI-CSUF in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID.

Legal Name: OLLI-CSUF c/o Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Foundation, 2600 Nutwood Ave., Ste. 850, Fullerton, CA 92831, **Federal Tax ID Number:** 33-0567945.

When you have updated your trust or beneficiary designations, please take a moment to tell us about your intentions. Many donors share their estate plans with us by using our online Gift & Bequest Designation form (<https://giving.fullerton.edu/bequestdesignation/>).

Hart Roussel, Director of Planned Giving, University Advancement, CSUF

Spring Preview Meeting Held January 4, 2020



This year's Spring Preview program provided members and guests information about OLLI's history and benefits, the spring semester lineup of courses and events and volunteer opportunities. It featured a tribute to our growing 90+ Club members, many of whom were in attendance.

OLLI Vice President Administration Mike Stover kicked off the meeting by acknowledging OLLI's Board of Trustees, and those members in the audience, then he introduced Christina Kim, Associate Director, Project Management in CSUF's EIP division. Christina related Cal State Fullerton's commitment to supporting OLLI on campus. Mike then pointed to OLLI's 40-year history, starting as Continuing Learning Experience (CLE), and went on to describe OLLI and its benefits. He also gave a parking update for the spring semester. Mike acknowledged past presidents and 90+ Club members in the audience.



The program continued with a presentation by Ellie Monroe, Vice President Programs, discussing some of the more than 130 courses and events listed in the spring Blue Book, featuring social events and new programs. Dr.

Joe Lawton discussed the health advantages of attending his Medical Series and, of course, his infamous Jazz Series, and Russ MacKeand discussed the Transitions in Retirement program. Janice Jeng, Vice President External Relations, talked about our impressive OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Program with the University. Debbie Maxwell, Vice President Membership, promoted volunteer opportunities within OLLI.



Mike ended the program by inviting members and guests to the coffee and cake reception, provided by the Hospitality Committee, where they had an opportunity meet and greet OLLI's revered 90+ Club members.

New member solicitation is not the focus of this event, as much as the Fall Open House is, but OLLI gained 71 new members during the spring registration period.

Chris Shaw, Editor



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Dr. Howat concludes that bubbles are not the post truth problem.

Echo chambers are the post-truth problem, and they exist because we don't trust the other side, because we live in an echo chamber designed to discredit them. Echo chambers are harder to counter-act. It involves building trust in reliable sources of evidence and breaking down trust in unreliable sources. The main problem with counter-acting echo chambers is the proliferation of spaces where counter-evidence is actively discredited.

Armed with information about polarization, bubbles and echo chambers, Dr. Howatt analyzed what processes are involved in political communication and why there are communication failures. Political communication involves two distinct processes, rational deliberation and partisan cheerleading. Sometimes we misunderstand one another's actions and intentions. There are different actions and intentions associated with these processes, and confusing them increases polarization. Faulty deliberation occurs when political partisans sincerely believe falsehoods, whereas cheerleading happens when partisans say they believe falsehoods regardless of whether they believe them or not, in order to support their team. Researchers are trying to determine how much of post-truth disagreement is faulty deliberation and how much is cheerlead.

Dr. Howat then posed the question: What can we do? He then shared the caveat that we don't fully understand these problems yet, so he was pretty skeptical about the solutions he was about to offer. Bubbles can be popped with cognitive hygiene, a practice that is designed to preserve or enhance your body of beliefs. This involves listening to others in an open-minded or epistemically humble way. Information we share with others should be justified by evidence and shared in a humble manner. Our uptake should include actively seeking out information that conflicts with our beliefs and considering whether we are mistaken. To combat partisan cheerleading many people have stopped discussing politics at the dinner table. Dr. Howat suggests a new norm that calls for affirmative consent before we talk to anyone about politics.

Asking the questions, Why do you want to talk about politics? and What do you hope to get out of the conversation?, can encourage reflection and prevent family-fracturing arguments.

As we move further into the 2020 presidential election the information presented in this talk can be used to help us gain an understanding of the political polarization and argumentative breakdown that surrounds us daily and guide us to more constructive communication. Happy bubble popping!

Susan McNamara, Staff Writer

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connections within the university.

In 2010 OLLI member Jane Moon established connections with Cynthia Grauvogl in the School of Nursing. Student nurses have since been visiting OLLI to observe the "well elders" in action and conducting interviews with individual class participants to learn what makes healthy seniors "tick." Retired teachers were recruited to help nursing students edit and improve their report writing skills.

More OLLI members made connections. Ellie Monroe worked with the CSUF School of Music and soon OLLI was providing opportunities for students to perform concerts in front of live audiences at the Ruby Gerontology Center. In support of CSUF's Concert Under the Stars, one quarter of the attendees are from OLLI, giving strong financial and moral support to CSUF students. Marge Osborn obtained student tutors to work with OLLI members who wanted to play in a band. Then she obtained a student to conduct the OLLI musicians in concert. And Lee Ann Donaldson, who has been involved in Collaboration projects in the areas of counseling, human services and psychology, reports that CSUF instructors and administrators "... are delighted to see the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration involved with the students and faculty.

Collaboration continues to evolve as volunteers invite others at OLLI to join them in the interactions with students and departments on campus. OLLI-

Ron Osajima ... Continued on Page 7

General Meeting and Election

The annual General Meeting/Election and Ice Cream Social that were scheduled for April 16 has been canceled. The election of new officers and trustees will be done via email to all OLLI members. Those who don't receive emails will receive a letter in the mail.

Biographies and pictures of the six officer nominees and four trustee nominees were included in the March ChroniCLE. These nominees submitted applications for open Board of Trustees (Board) positions during the application process last October and November. Applicants were then vetted and nominated by the Nomination and Election Committee, acting independently from the Board.

Please vote to elect all nominees onto the Board of Trustees, and consider applying for positions opening next year. In particular, the Board needs new trustees, whose job is to learn how OLLI works and how the Board operates. Trustees have a voice by participating in the discussions and voting on the decisions that determine the future of OLLI.

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CSUF Collaboration now has connections with every school within the University.

The latest reports regarding our aging community indicate that people are living longer, and are more productive in giving back to society. Collaboration gives members of OLLI the opportunity to give back through university volunteer work. Those interactions are beneficial for students as they wipe away old stereotypes and begin to realize that there is life after 60. In our mobile society we often miss the generation connections which can be developed within our collaborative contacts.

Alice Gresto, Staff Writer



Did You Know? When the building of CSUF's student housing reduced available parking at the RGC, it was OLLI's only two-time president Barbara Talento who thought up the OLLI Trolley and worked to make it feasible in 2008.

To see CLE/OLLI's complete historical timeline, go to the OLLI website at <http://olli.fullerton.edu> and click on About OLLI-CSUF.

Special Events

Events Requiring Registration

Volunteer Recognition/40th Anniversary

April 5 • 2-5:30 p.m. • Titan Student Union
Event suspended.

Old Town Orange

May 21 • 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. • EV Free Church
Event canceled.

No Registration Required

Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

March 21 & 28 • 9:30-11 a.m. • Shapiro ABCD
Event suspended.

In Memoriam

April 10 • 3:30-4:30 p.m. • Shapiro ABCD
Event canceled. The slide presentation may be available online. Watch newsletters for details.

General Meeting/Election

April 16 • 1:30-3:00 p.m. • Mackey/Shapiro
Event canceled. Voting will be done via email.
Watch newsletters for details.

Coming Up

(dates subject to change)

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) • Canceled.

OLLI Summer Dinner • June 13

4th of July/Veterans Recognition • June 25

Hollywood Bowl • July 30

More Information

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." Watch for updates in future ChroniCLEs and OLLI Announcements & Events newsletters.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

“A Continuing Learning Experience”

1979 - 2019: 40 Years of Excellence

Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7

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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 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 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