



OLLI ChroniCLE

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE at CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

August 2025

Volume XLVI Number 10

President's Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF



We are coming to the end of our 45th academic year here at OLLI, and what a great year it has been. This year, 850 loyal OLLI members renewed their memberships, and 372 new members joined our ranks, giving us a total community of 1,222 OLLI members. Our goal for next year is to renew all 1,222 of you and add another 300 new members. This would bring our membership back to the 2014 membership level of 1,522. As we look forward to another year of strong growth, I would like to solicit our loyal members to volunteer to be part of our marketing outreach program this summer. If you haven't found the time to volunteer this year, this will be an easy task.

We know that word of mouth, or "tell a friend," is our strongest marketing tool. As loyal members, you know the value of OLLI, both in the classes we provide and the feeling of community that is offered here. Our Curriculum Committee has added nine new classes for the fall, and, along with our favorites, there will be much to keep us informed and involved. Our Open House will be held on August 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. This event helps to introduce prospective members to OLLI and convince them that this is the place to be. To help you become an effective OLLI marketing representative, the marketing team has created a business card that you may pick up in the office to offer to your friends and family. The cards will have a QR code to the website and our Open House information. It is so easy, when you are sharing how you spend your time, to offer the same opportunity to your circle of friends and family and those you meet out in the community.

Here are a few pitch points to have ready:

- All inclusive, unlimited membership of \$295 for 2025-26.
- Free campus parking — CSUF parking fees will be going up this fall.

President's ... Continued on Page 2



By Debbie Maxwell, Vice President Membership

Yes! It is time to jump on the OLLI membership bandwagon for the 2025-26 academic year that begins right around the corner on September 8. The annual renewal fee is \$295. The OLLI office is already processing online renewals. Do yours today!

This year is the most exciting in years. There are 109 courses planned for the fall semester, of which the following 9 are new offerings: "Shelf-Aware: Banned and Challenged Books," "It's Not Easy Being Green," "Italian Renaissance and Beyond-Venice," "Moses: An Unlikely Character," "One God, Three Faiths – Jews, Christians and Muslims in Cooperation and Conflict," "Learn the Recorder," "Spanish Conversation" and "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious." Also returning as a new regular course will be "Cybersecurity Essentials for Seniors," which was a well-received workshop in the spring semester this year. You will also find many special interest groups and social events are planned.

Descriptions and meeting schedules for all programs planned for the fall semester are provided in the Blue Book Program Catalog 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.

We have some exciting trips proposed for this year. Our first day trip will be to Dana Point for whale watching

It's Time to Renew ... Continued on Page 2

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President's message ... Continued from Page 1

- 11 months of classes for just under \$27 per month.
- More than 125 classes, special interest groups and events.
- Great hospitality and social events.
- Mentoring opportunities with university students.
- Discounts to sporting events, concerts and plays.
- OLLI volunteer opportunities to use your skills and talents.

In order to keep our membership fee the great value that it is, we must continue to build our community. When we add new members, we open ourselves to all sorts of opportunities: There is a new history class, Italian Renaissance, for the fall that will be taught by a new member; our American Sign Language class was taught this year by a new member; and there are many other examples of how new members strengthen OLLI.

So, I ask you to invite, recruit, cajole and entice your family, friends and neighbors to join us at OLLI-CSUF. You can make a difference!



Fall Open House

Saturday, August 9th
9:00 a.m.-Noon

At the Ruby Gerontology Center



OLLI-CSUF invites all members and friends to join us for our annual Open House celebration for the fall semester. This in-person event will introduce OLLI to your friends and relatives who are retired or contemplating retirement. Invite them to join you at our Fall Open House,

It's Time to Renew ... Continued from Page 1

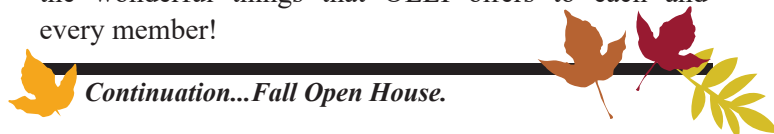
on September 22. Planned overnight trips include a Mexican Riviera Cruise this fall and Taiwan in March of 2026. More great events are currently being curated.

You are cordially invited to our festive Fall Open House on Saturday, August 9 at the Ruby Gerontology Center from 9 a.m. to noon. Check the announcement in this issue of the ChroniCLE. Don't forget to invite 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. Many classes are recorded so they can be viewed online in real time or later.

Renew your OLLI membership online on your home computer or mobile device by going to the OLLI website at <https://olli.fullerton.edu/>. Select JOIN/RENEW, listed on the far upper right of the homepage. Remember, you will need to have your CWID number and your car's license plate number. If you decide to have your Blue Books and/or ChroniCLEs delivered to you by mail, a \$10 convenience fee will be added to your online registration check-out cart.

Due to high volume, registration help will be dedicated to new members only at the Fall Open House on August 9. Other registration assistance will be available in Room 20 and the OLLI office, with a schedule to be announced in the near future.

We are all looking forward to seeing you here to enjoy this new year at OLLI and to benefit from all the wonderful things that OLLI offers to each and every member!



Continuation...Fall Open House.

visit with our program instructors and coordinators, meet our many volunteers and learn about the 2025-2026 academic year's new and continuing programs.

The Fall Open House presentation will provide information about parking rules, class attendance options (in-person, online or hybrid) and membership benefits. Following the presentation, light refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at olli.membership@gmail.com or phone: 657-278-2446. Additional information will be sent out through the weekly OLLI newsletters. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Aging Studies Scholarships Awarded

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer; Photos by Jim Di Tota

On the afternoon of May 15, 2025, members of the OLLI-CUSF Collaboration team (Sue Mullaly, William Clark, Joanne Hardy, Judi Marsh, Fran Colwell, Sue Batie, Alice Gresto, Jim Di Tota and Anthony Gonzalez) along with OLLI's Executive Director, Daisy Thomas filed into Room 219 in the CSUF Humanities Building, where they were greeted by Professors Melanie Horn Mallery, Jennifer Piazza, Laura Zettel-Watson, Karen Wong and Karen Fazio.

They all came for the presentation of the OLLI Outstanding Aging Sciences Minor Award to three worthy CSUF students: Nora Mahmoud, Ben Le and Lilianna Tchatlian.

Soon the awardees and their families and friends arrived. A tasty array of refreshments greeted all who cared to partake. Starburst candies were strewn across the black draped tables in honor of the CSUF "Star Students" soon to be recognized for their hard work.

Daisy Thomas addressed the crowd, including the awardees, their family and friends, regarding the merits of each of the three awardees.

Nora Mahmoud

Daisy said that OLLI-CSUF was pleased to present The Aging Science Scholarship to Nora Mahmoud, who is a high-achieving Biological Science Major with minors in Aging Science and Criminal Justice at CSUF and demonstrates an exceptional academic record, including a high GPA and research experience focused on the impact of microbes on aging. Daisy congratulated Nora on her commitment to serving aging populations and her aspirations for a career as a geriatric medical specialist or in social work, along with her resilience in overcoming challenges and her dedication to community service. "We are excited to see the impact you will make in the field of aging," Daisy said.

I, Alice Gresto, caught up with Nora by phone while she was in Egypt, visiting with her family (Nora is a first generation Egyptian-American). It was 10 p.m. there. It was cool and humid near the water, and the sound of children was in the background. I asked her how she keeps up with her heavy program of study and her personal life. Does she have one? She replied that she schedules time for herself so she does not burn out in her studies.

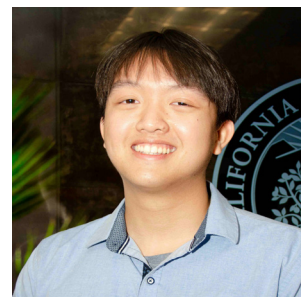


She visits the gym to balance good health with her mental work, to "channel her mind back into herself."

With her background in aging research through the MSTEM STAR Program (CSUF program training students in aging-related research emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and her passion for improving quality of life, she "aims to help older adults and their families navigate the challenges."

Ben Lee

Daisy congratulated Ben Le for his academic excellence in Computer Engineering and his strong commitment to aging-focused research through the MSTEM STAR Program. She commended his on innovative research on assistive robotics and technology aimed at enhancing the lives of older adults, along with his ability to apply technical skills to address challenges in aging and his aspiration to pursue graduate studies in robotics to make an impact. She said, "Ben is a promising future leader in assistive technology development and a testament to what can be achieved through hard work and vision."



Ben shared his thoughts with me that although he was a good student, excelling in math in high school and enjoying computer games, he had no idea what he was going to do in college. His grandmother encouraged him to study medicine. College gave him the freedom to study whatever he wanted, and there were so many choices.

He noticed a poster on a wall inviting students to Aging Science classes and programs. He checked out a mentoring program and ended up with a retired elementary school teacher, Carol Beener, from whom he learned many life skills that would help him for the life ahead. He then took an Aging Science class with Professor Fazio.

The MSTEM STAR Program gave him further insight and research skills. He developed an interest in medical devices for older adults. His most recent project is recording memory processes of older adults using electroencephalograms to study age-related cognitive changes, which he plans to test in the near future.

***"OLLI Outstanding Aging Sciences
Minor Award to three worthy CSUF
students: Nora Mahmoud, Ben Le
and Lilianna Tchatlian."***

Aging Studies Scholarship ... Continued on Page 4

Lilianna Tchatlian

Daisy congratulated Lilianna Tchatlian, a biochemistry major pursuing research in aging studies, particularly focused on Alzheimer's disease. Daisy said that as a student in the MSTEM STAR program, Lilianna demonstrates her commitment to science.



Lilianna intends to attend medical school, potentially specializing in anesthesiology, and she gained experience through a UCLA internship exploring genetics. Daisy said, "Her commitment, experience and future goals, along with her strong qualifications and interest in working with older adults, show a bright future ahead for both her and the aging population."

In my interview with Lilianna, she said, "One of my most significant achievements is my individual research project on developing new therapeutics for Alzheimer's Disease under the mentorship of Dr. Stevan Pecic. Through the MSTEM STAR Program, I had the opportunity to engage in hands-on research, working with potential Alzheimer's research candidates." She also noted, "My work in Alzheimer's research has reinforced my passion for medicine and strengthened my commitment to pursuing medical school. It has given me a deeper appreciation for the importance of innovation in patient care and has prepared me to approach medical challenges with a scientific and research-driven mindset."

"Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful to me, not only as a recognition of my work but also as a reminder of the people who make it all possible."

After receiving the award, Lilianna told me, "Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful to me, not only as a recognition of my work but also as a reminder of the people who make it all possible. Even though I live away from home, I make it a priority to stay closely connected with my family. They've been my biggest supporters throughout my journey, and their encouragement constantly motivates me to push forward. Balancing research and work can be demanding, but I've learned to manage my time with intention. I make sure to carve out time for regular calls and visits whenever possible.

Their love and belief in me help me stay grounded, and they are always at the heart of everything I do."

Leading up to the awards event, OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Chair Sue Mullaly and Collaboration members William Clark, Ruth Femke, Alice Gresto and Fran Colwell served on the awards committee. This scholarship was open to any CSUF student pursuing a minor in Aging Studies or Aging Sciences. Preference was given to those interested in pursuing graduate fields of study related to aging and those demonstrating interest in a career related to aging.

The honorees each received an award of \$1,500. This scholarship, established in 2024 by the OLLI-CSUF Board of Trustees, is funded by annual contributions from members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State Fullerton (OLLI-CSUF).



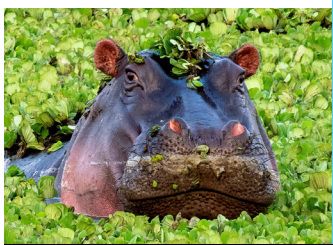
L-R, Daisy Thomas, Nora Mahmoud, Ben Le, Lilianna Tchatlian and Sue Mullaly

OLLI Phocus Photography Club's 2025 Photo Contest

Seventeen Phocus Photography Club members submitted a total of 91 entries in the following categories: Animals, Humor, People and Scenery. All club members voted online, not knowing the photos' photographers. At the May 13 club meeting, the members present voted Diana Guerin's "Connected Gaze" the Best in Show Award.

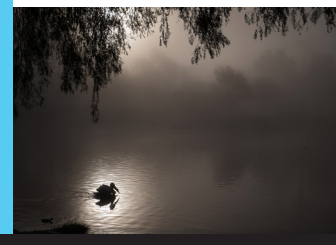


**Animals 1st
Diana Guerin
"Connected Gaze"**



Humor 1st
Mary Crouch
 “Hippo With a Hat”

Scenery 2nd
Diana Guerin
 “Peaceful
 Silhouettes”



People 1st
Donna Judd
 “Kenyan Orphans”



New Programs Added

These two programs were added to the summer session curriculum too late to be published in the Summer Blue Book. They will continue to be offered in the fall semester. You will be able to find the fall semester class meeting schedules for these new courses in the Fall Blue Book and on the OLLI website.

Navigating Cancer — A Survivor’s Perspective

Newly diagnosed cancer patients and their caregivers are often at a loss where to start or even how to navigate the complexities and many issues involved in fighting any cancer. Most often, the diagnosis is unexpected and overwhelming. Often the patient and caregiver don’t know where to turn and yet know that time is of the essence as many cancers grow very rapidly with deadly consequences. This class will provide general information, resources and a forum to help both initially and on an on-going basis as patients and caregivers navigate cancer. The instructor is Tom Arai, and the coordinators are Tom Arai and Paul Herrick.

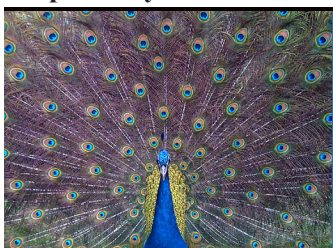
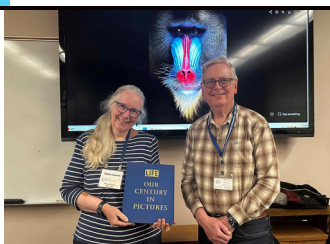
American Sign Language for All Ages

American Sign Language is a valuable language to learn, and the ability to engage and communicate with the hearing impaired is a great benefit. This course will provide a basic level of skill to communicate with a spouse, friend or grandchild, and, if you yourself are hearing impaired, communicate more comfortably in a wide variety of situations. This course will introduce the ASL alphabet, concepts, words and signing styles. As the class continues, your knowledge and ability to communicate will continue to expand and grow as you explore this beautiful language. The instructor is Dawn Wilson, and the coordinator is Linda Callen.



Scenery 1st
Don Lueder
 “Sunset
 Oceano Dunes”

**Best in Show
 from Don
 Lueder**
Diana Guerin
 photo by John Price



Animals 2nd
Eileen Halcrow
 “Show Off”

Humor 2nd
John Price
 “Who Needs Toys”



People 2nd
John Blaydes
 “Barrel Racing
 Near Fall”

The Tao of Philanthropy

By Fran Colwell, Chair, Development and Philanthropy Committee

As we look forward to another year of learning and social opportunities at OLLI, I am reminded that a big part of our success as a self-sustaining organization is rooted in philanthropy — our love for humanity expressed by giving of “time, talent and treasure.” That “treasure” includes your annual campaign contributions and planned gifts. They supplement membership fees to help balance the budget, fund improvements at the Ruby Gerontology Center, support instructors, their classes and special events and provide OLLI member tuition scholarships and intergenerational support for CSUF students. Your generous gifts are critical to OLLI’s continued success.

I started wondering how this philanthropy enriches not only OLLI and the university community, but also ourselves. And I thought perhaps it may be thought of as a Tao. In East Asian philosophy and religion a Tao is a road or path, a way in which one does something. We all look to find the right balance in our lives. Making a

long-term impact by aligning giving efforts with our core values and goals is part of that balance. So essentially Tao is about approaching philanthropy with empathy, wisdom and meaningful intention.

And, importantly, it becomes a reciprocal relationship that benefits both the giver and the receiver.

For example, I felt deep gratification and hope while attending a recent Aging Studies Program graduation ceremony, knowing that OLLI provided their students with scholarships. This is the intrinsic joy and fulfillment that comes from giving and contributing to the well-being of OLLI and CSUF, a positive emotion that can be a powerful motivator for philanthropic activity.

Look for more giving opportunities soon, including fall crowdfunding, end-of-year annual campaign, and our “big one,” the 2026 Titans Give Day. Thanks again for all you do to make OLLI successful.

New Mailing Fee for Blue Books & ChroniCLEs

By Vickie Hite, OLLI President

Remember the good old days, pre-COVID, when we would all pick up our Blue Books on campus? We would search through the boxes arranged by zip code, grab our Blue Books while on campus, and happily head home clutching new editions. Then COVID hit. As a way to keep in touch and encourage members to continue to attend virtual classes, we converted to mailing the Blue Books and ChroniCLEs to your home. Now, we need to go back to the good old days.

Even though most of us are back on campus on a regular basis, and the Blue Books and ChroniCLEs are emailed to all members, available online on the OLLI website, and printed copies are available for pick up in the office, we are still mailing out more than 700 printed Blue

Books each term and approximately the same number of ChroniCLEs, 10 months of the year.

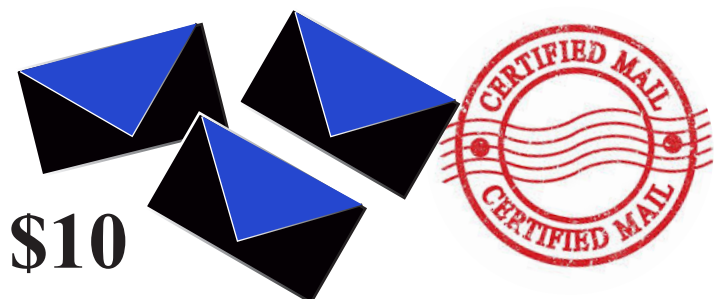
This is obviously a significant expense that can and should be reduced.

Beginning with the fall term this year, printed Blue Books and ChroniCLEs will be available for pick up on campus. And digital copies will continue to be emailed to all members and available on the OLLI website for your convenience. If you decide that you prefer to have printed copies of both publications mailed to you, there will be a \$10 annual fee (\$5 for one) added if you choose that option during the registration process.

This fee will be waived for our 90+ Club members.

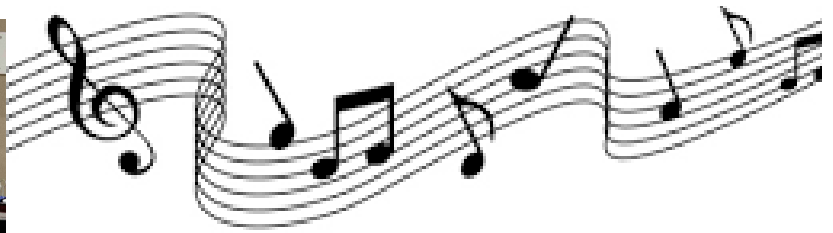
We look forward to seeing you on campus, and if you need printed copies, you are welcome to stop by the OLLI office and pick up these publications when you are here.

“If you decide that you prefer to have printed copies of both publications mailed to you, there will be a \$10 annual fee (\$5 for one) added if you choose that option during the registration process.”



May Musical Medley Extravaganza Concert

Photos by Jim Di Tota and Diana Guerin



Membership Scholarship Application

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 1, 2025 for the Fall 2025 Semester. Each applicant will be contacted to set up an interview with the committee shortly after the application due date.

Appointments to the Board

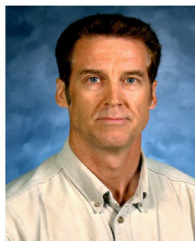
Debbie Maxwell was appointed Vice President Membership at the May meeting of OLLI's Board of Trustees. She will serve a one-year term of office, ending in May 2026. She had just completed her two-year term as the elected Vice President Membership. She was appointed to continue serving in this capacity when no one was nominated to replace her in the 2025 election.



Lisa Sewell was appointed Vice President Hospitality at the May meeting of the Board. She will serve a two-year term, ending in May 2027. She had also just completed her two-year term as the elected Vice President Hospitality, and she was appointed to continue serving in this capacity when no one was nominated to replace her in the 2025 election.



Chris Milord was appointed Trustee at Large at the May meeting of the Board. He will serve a one-year term of office, ending in May 2026. He was appointed to replace MaryLouise Hlavac for her remaining term as Trustee at Large. MaryLouise resigned as trustee to accept her nomination and election as Vice President Programs.



What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on May 8 and June 12, 2025:

May 8 Meeting

- Outgoing Board members were thanked and given Certificates of Appreciation, and newly elected Board members were installed.
- Phil Barnhard, long-time Board Parliamentarian, was appointed to continue in that capacity for another term.
- CSUF no longer allows free parking on campus on the weekends. OLLI members' parking passes do cover weekends, but non-members attending weekend open-to-public classes are affected.
- Board VPs have started planning for the Fall Open House.
- Deputy Provost Walker reported that CSUF student enrollment in the fall will be over 43,000.
- Two CSUF construction projects will impact OLLI. A fire road will impact the north side of the RGC near the Arboretum. An Engineering and Computer Science Innovation Hub southwest of the RGC will impact Gymnasium Drive. Access to the RGC will be from East Campus Drive along the 57 freeway.
- Corina Pineda, Administrator and Graphic Designer in the OLLI office, is taking over production of the Transitions in Retirement and other marketing brochures, and she will be assisted by Nicole Zuniga.
- Board appointments: Lisa Sewall appointed VP Hospitality; Debbie Maxwell appointed VP

Membership; and Chris Milord appointed Trustee at Large.

- The 2025 Fall semester will begin on September 8 and end on December 13; no classes will meet until the intersession begins on January 5, 2026. The OLLI Experience will return during that intersession. The 2026 Spring Semester will begin February 2, 2026.
- The first OLLI Experience was very successful with 88 participants and 13 new members signing up.
- Executive Director, Daisy Thomas said she is focused on maintaining and expanding OLLI's academic courses and continuing a robust array of courses, activities and events.
- This year's instructor/coordinator training will occur in August and September. Only those who have been at OLLI for less than two years must attend the training in person; members for two or more years may satisfy the requirement by viewing a video and signing the paperwork.
- The Collaboration Steering Committee had their annual meeting with CSUF assistant professors on June 30.
- Debbie Kegel announced that clothing amounting to \$6,000 in value has been donated, and she thanked those who contributed.
- More than 500 notes of appreciation to volunteers were received from members this year, which was a huge success.

June 12 Meeting

- Fall semester registration begins July 15.
- The Blue Book has an urgent need for new section editors. The Events section will change to show the VP or committee as the coordinator hosting the event.
- The coming, new Salesforce system will be the new repository for all of OLLI's historical and current membership information. It will also replace the Constant Contact system for distributing

newsletters and other emails to members. Additional volunteers are needed.

- OLLI office staff member Rishitha Bathini is OLLI's new Data Systems Engineer. She is redesigning the OLLI website to have a cleaner look, have voice assistance and be easier to read and navigate. Dan Coby and his volunteers will continue to update the website.
- New Mackey Auditorium equipment will be installed in the fall.
- President Hite is working on consolidating OLLI's philanthropic funds.



Front Row sitting L-R Paul Herrick, Judy Marsh, Vickie Hite, Phil Barnhard
Standing: L-R Daisy Thomas, Eileen Gomez, Debbie Kegel, Britt Wachsmann
Sue Batie, Jim Di Tota, Renee Cabrera, Ann Sparks, Diana Wright Guerin, Sean Walker
Back Row Standing: L-R Bill Sampson, Bob Kovacev, Anthony Gonzalez, Mike Stover, Jae Messner, Fran Colwell

OLLi *Board
Members*



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

1979 - 2024: 45 Years of Excellence

Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7

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Not Receiving OLLI Emails?

If you have unsubscribed in response to **any** OLLI email, you have unsubscribed from **all** OLLI emails, 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 ollinebytes@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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Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/ollicsuf/>