



President's Message

By Ellie Monroe, President, OLLI-CSUF



As we bring our fall semester to a close, I look back at the year and marvel at how well OLLI has reinvented itself in the midst of this pandemic. I am thankful as I see our former members slowly returning back to campus and I take great joy in meeting all of the new members who are bringing a new vitality to our classes and community. Thanks go out to each and every one of you who are sustaining the essence of the OLLI legacy of community over this past 19 months.

This semester we have seen many of our members attend our in-person programs. Their attendance has shown us signs that our members are beginning to feel safer about returning and experiencing the joy of seeing others face-to-face, even if we are still behind the masks. We still need to remain vigilant at adhering to our current COVID-19 protocols to maintain the level of safety we have all experienced in the midst of this pandemic. Remember, we are committed to provide a safe learning environment for all.

When we return in spring, we will have our new audio/visual system in place. This should improve the online services many of our members have come to enjoy as they attend classes from their homes. Be sure to check out your spring Blue Book; you will find more of our classes will be coming back to campus. Our publications are the tools of communicating with our members, so be sure you are on OLLI's mailing list.

May you all enjoy the upcoming holidays. Take care and stay safe. See you next year! Cheers!!

Fredrick von Coelln, aka Fritz Writing Courses Instructor/Coordinator

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer



Fritz likely wears more hats than just about any other person at OLLI. He currently co-teaches, coordinates or has taught six courses. They are "Write Now!," "Writing with Feedback," "Poetry for Pleasure," "Death Café," "OLLI Flash Mob" and "Publish Before You Perish."

In March 2001, Fritz retired after 15 years of managing a furniture manufacturing company in Whittier. Shortly after a friend suggested he join OLLI.

Fritz attended the writing course "Write Now." But class attendance dropped off, and it was cancelled. Fritz felt people needed a course where they could express themselves. Along with Bob Kovacev, Fritz coordinates "Write Now!" They provide class members a topic to write about in any form: essay, poem, memoir or story. Members share their writing with the rest of the class.

Fritz believed there were writers who wanted to write and receive feedback, so he formed "Writing with Feedback." Most class members are authors, either published or in the midst of publishing. The course focuses on content and understanding—grammar and spelling are secondary. Class members, including Fritz, prefer working through Zoom. All writers email their work to everyone else in advance of class. During class, Fritz shares each story on the screen and writers read their work aloud and invite feedback. Fritz derives a lot of pleasure from helping people in the class publish

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OLLI

ChroniCLE

AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

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Susan Mullaly

Vice President External Relations

By Susan Mullaly

Susan Mullaly was born and raised in Los Angeles County. She earned a B.A. from CSU Los Angeles and a Master’s in Organizational Management from Azusa Pacific College. She worked in sales, marketing, budgeting project management, facility and event management, distributor relations and as Executive Assistant to the CE. Her philosophy was to learn all facets of entrepreneurial and corporate business with a goal of facilitating improved business processes and to develop continuous communication improvement strategies throughout her career.

Susan joined OLLI in 2017. She has served as a mentor for a CSUF ECS student on the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration team where she also assisted in administrative tasks. She was elected Vice President External Relations in 2020.



One of the primary responsibilities for the Vice President External Relations is the Collaboration Committee. The focus of OLLI’s Collaboration Committee is to build and strengthen OLLI’s relationship with the University. We do this by engaging in the following activities:

Consulting collaborations take on many forms and may be with university administrators, faculty or students. OLLI members are often called upon to lend their career expertise to educational situations. OLLI members have helped with students’ job resumes, business plans, statistical analyses, judging exhibits of student projects and even advising professors.

Lecturing is one way for OLLI members to share their expertise; however, the collaboration may not end with the lecture. Students often seek out the OLLI lecturer for career advice and help with their public speaking techniques.

OLLI mentors have generally been invited to work with advanced or graduate student teams, working from 2 to 10 hours some weeks periodically during the semester, to identify and recommend improvements to local businesses or a business plan to start a new business. Or, OLLI members may be matched one-on-one with a student to assist on their “soft skills.”

Tutoring involves one-on-one collaboration between OLLI tutors and students. Tutors work with a student for one or two sessions a week, spending 2 to 4 hours per session with the student, on such things as mastering the course material, writing papers and test-taking.

Sharing life experience collaborations range from a one-time talk about some aspect of their lives that is relevant to what the class is learning to full time participation with the students for an entire semester. Students are moved by some of the stories they hear and are impressed by the OLLI members giving the talks.

OLLI members **share career experiences** on career panels to discuss their experience in industry segments (e.g., insurance, counseling, software project management, real estate, information technology and teaching) and in jobs that the students are interested in within those segments.

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They also suggest actions that may lead to jobs. One professor commented that these panels are excellent, because they enable the students to validate what they are learning in class against real life experience.

OLLI members are ideal **research test subjects**, particularly for studies related to aging. Most studies require little time by participants. Research topics have included: Advance Directives, Exposure to New Technology, Walking While Talking, Fraud Among the Aging and Women Aging Well.

Please join us in working with CSUF students, faculty and staff to support student success as well as bring diversity to our young scholars. More information about OLLI-CSUF Collaboration opportunities is on the [OLLI website](https://ollifullerton.org/). If you would like to volunteer, contact Susan Mullaly at smullaly@csu.fullerton.edu.

CSUF Program Welcomes Back Elderly Community In-Person

By Amber Juarez, CSUF Daily Titan [© 2021 [Daily Titan](#), used with permission.]

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), a Cal State Fullerton program that allows retired or semi-retired people to enroll in courses to continue learning in a university setting, has returned in-person as well as online.

OLLI membership is open to anyone who wants to continue their education, no previous college education needed.

Ellie Monroe, the program's president, said the program's goal is to provide learning opportunities for its seniors. "We do it by having classes there and basically providing them with another social kind of activity," Monroe said.

The program offers a wide range of courses including health, art, science, music, technology help, retirement, writing and dance. OLLI members are also able to audit any course at CSUF with the instructor's permission.

Linda Manzo, an OLLI member since 2014, said the variety of courses provided was her favorite part about the program. "I just got out of a science class, that's Science for You, and this

semester we're talking about physical health. Other classes I've had were beginning drawing—I had no idea that I knew how to draw," Manzo said. "Just going in there and having someone talk to us about drawing and how to draw, it was a marvelous experience."

This semester OLLI is offering both in-person and online courses. Monroe said that when the university shut down last year due to COVID-19, OLLI trained both instructors and members on how to use Zoom. "We had several engineers, our technical guys, go in and start experimenting with it and experiment with some of the instructors on how to do it. So they had probably a two or three-week time period," Monroe said. "They tried different instructors with different classes and started pulling them together and learning what the different features were for using Zoom."

She said that OLLI had over 200 volunteers who provided support during the transition from in-person to online to keep 50 to 111 classes running.

When it came to teaching members how to use Zoom, OLLI provided workshops for members. Monroe said that sometimes they brought members on campus to show them how to use the new technology. Monroe said another way they taught members how to use Zoom was through a software named Teamviewer, which allowed them to have access to members' computers so they can show them how to work with Zoom. "Teamviewer allowed us to see the desktops and actually be able to control the desktops of the user that we were trying to help," Monroe said.

Now that some of the classes are being taught in person, OLLI is making sure that its members stay safe during this time. Members are not allowed to enter any indoor event without a mask and masks must be worn at all times. They are also not permitted to eat or drink inside the classrooms and should do so at the provided outdoor facilities.

Monroe said OLLI has a high COVID-19 vaccination rate. "Most of our members—probably about 95% of our members—are all vaccinated. We have a very high percentage of vaccinated individuals. So it's a lot different mixture than the campus, it's much higher," she said.

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their writing.

In “Poetry for Pleasure” course, Fritz is the go-to guy for getting the poetry anthologies published. Poetry books used to be published by a printing company. Now, the books are published on KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) in paperback, Kindle or hardcover. The most recent anthology, “Grey Matters: Poetic Synapses,” is now available in all three formats, thanks to Fritz. Fritz has arranged for all the books of poetry to be available on Amazon. He has also helped Lorna Funk, Ruth Shapin and Edith Bockian self-publish.

Fritz created another writing course called “Publish Before You Perish.” This course invites people to dig out material that they have written, stowed away and perhaps forgotten about. They get it whipped into shape with Fritz’s assistance and attempt to get the works published. Material can be poems, stories, creative articles or even letters to the editor that have not been published. Fritz gives one-on-one assistance with proofreading and formatting and direction on how to publish in the media or in a blog. He has helped publish many books. The biggest was a 2,000-page book of Bible commentary by Ted Proffitt. He assisted Jack Stewart with a 30-page chapbook of poetry.

Fritz also helps coordinate “Death Café.” This course got started six or seven years ago at the instigation of Hank Smith. Later, Jeanette Reese became the driver of the class, and Fritz handles the technology. Kellie Simpson shares duties with Fritz and Jeanette. The class will go on hiatus in the spring after some memorable discussions on the theme of death in poetry and art and events such as the New Orleans Funeral that saw the class dancing with parasols throughout the patio several years ago.

Probably the most active program that Fritz coordinates is the “OLLI Flash Mob.” Jeanette took this idea to Fritz a few years ago. He readily agreed. The “OLLI Flash Mob” has performed in many venues: the Quad at CSUF, the Brea Mall, local retirement facilities and at Fullerton’s annual music festival. Participants saunter in randomly. Suddenly, someone starts recorded music and the group assembles and performs. Fritz set up non-public video training on YouTube, so Flash Mob members

Spring Preview (Open to the Public)

Saturday, January 15 • 1-3 p.m.

Mackey Auditorium and Shapiro Wing

All OLLI members and their guests are invited to attend our first general meeting of the year to inform you of the status of OLLI and the many opportunities that are available to its members. This event also honors those OLLI members who have reached the age of 90—our 90+ Club.

After the presentation, free light refreshments will be served in our Shapiro facility.

This is the ideal time to ask questions about the campus activities, OLLI classes, the benefits of membership and much more. Our friendly volunteers offer assistance in our registration lab if needed. For more information, call 657-278-2446, email olli-info@fullerton.edu or visit our website: <http://olli.fullerton.edu>.

Free parking is provided, with shuttle service from State College Parking Structure (enter on Gym Drive, off of State College Boulevard).

Get the Calendar from the Office

The monthly Calendar is no longer distributed with the ChroniCLE. Drop by the OLLI office for a hard copy or call (657-278-2446) or email (olli-info@fullerton.edu) the OLLI office for an electronic copy, which is now updated throughout the month.

can practice at home. This year they once again costumed and made up as zombies for Halloween and danced to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” at the Fullerton Farmers Market. As always, they were a big hit.

I asked him if he has ever regretted saying “yes” so many times when asked to teach or coordinate a class. He said he didn’t. OLLI has become the predominant thing that Fritz does because he enjoys it so much.

Welcoming Back Members to Campus

By Chris Shaw, Editor

On Saturday, September 25 in the Shapiro Wing and courtyard, the Welcome Back OLLI Social provided an opportunity for OLLI members to gather with old friends, who had been absent for so long during the pandemic, and meet new members in a casual, fun environment.

The event was attended by over 70 enthusiastic members.

OLLI's famous and popular Flash Mob opened the festivities with one of their routines, led by Jeanette Reese.

A light luncheon was served. Food and drinks were provided and donated by Mickey & Tom La Casa and Ellie & Jim Monroe. Mark & Tracy Hammel, Tom & Mickey La Casa and Debbie & Loren Maxwell set up and served the food.

Bill Cunliffe's Jazz Students provided music throughout the event, sponsored by Ellie and Jim Monroe.

\$1,090 in donations to OLLI were collected through an auction of gift baskets, donated by Renee Cabrera, Mickey La Casa and Ellie Monroe, and ceramics pieces, donated by these members of "Ceramics I": Carolyn Arabia, Terry Condon, Pat Dapkus, Waldene Henkhaus, Kathy Mathews, Lois Monroe, Jill Patterson, Kathy Reicks, Mary Townsend and Janann Zechmeister.

Other OLLI members who helped put on the event were Tony Package and Lorraine Van Pelt. David Hardy, Ken Leech, Pete Saputo, Warren Wilson and various members of the Friday Poker classes helped set up and tear down the event.

Everyone had a great time.



OLLI Members Contribute Time, Talent and Dedication to CSUF Student Success

Chris Milord, OLLI-CSUF Mentor

What do you visualize when you think about students attending university? It's likely that most folks would picture students going to and from class, navigating parking lots to find a space, taking notes in class or participating in extracurricular activities. Of course, during abnormal times such as the pandemic, one can visualize them taking part in distance learning.

Of course, there is much more to it than that. Most students have to juggle school and work in order to complete their education. They also develop relationships with employers, professors and other students. Handling all of these responsibilities can be challenging, and that is where members of OLLI can lend a hand with their expertise.

Since 2010, OLLI members have volunteered to participate in scores of collaborative activities with CSUF students in a number of subject areas. They do this to keep alive intergenerational learning on the part of both OLLI members and CSUF students. OLLI volunteers have much to offer in the spheres of life experience and accumulated wisdom, while the students also offer their own ideas regarding current education, career paths and technology. Students often meet with OLLI members at the Ruby Gerontology Center to interview them on a range of topics.

The many roles that OLLI volunteers can choose from include consultants, lecturers, mentors, research subjects, specialists, tutors etc. They can utilize their knowledge and skills to help students navigate university life with confidence, determination and success. Volunteers impart valuable advice on learning soft skills such as communication, conflict management, leadership, organization, time management, social relations etc. These skills are just as critical as are the academic skills of computing, reading and writing.

As the CSUF-OLLI Collaboration has become better publicized, opportunities for both OLLI volunteers and CSUF students to mutually benefit have increased. For example, in the Mihaylo

School of Business, volunteers can evaluate Fast Pitch presentations by students. Moreover, they can mentor small groups that launch a new venture or create a proposal to improve an existing business. This mentoring is available every semester with new classes and new groups of students. At the end of the semester, OLLI members often serve as panelists that judge student projects.

Likewise, in the School of Engineering, OLLI members have had the privilege of serving on a panel to assess projects that students design and build. Other schools that offer opportunities include the Schools of Communications, Education and Nursing. OLLI members can assist students with their Communications Marketing Capstone Projects. They can also mentor prospective teachers and conduct mock interviews for teachers interviewing for teaching positions.

In the School of Nursing (SON), there are plenty of opportunities. Volunteers can act as research subjects in the field of gerontology and convey their perspectives on aging, health etc. They can also volunteer at the SON Writing Center and assist students with their writing skills as they work on research papers. Some OLLI members even teach some mini-courses.

It is likely that more opportunities for lifelong learning and shared expertise will open in the future either in online formats or in-person mentoring. Volunteers can approach these opportunities as a second career path that can promote wellness and participation in the university community. Both the OLLI volunteers and the students benefit tremendously from these experiences, which can add meaning and purpose to their lives as influencers.

OLLI members interested in sharing their skills and knowledge by helping CSUF students can find opportunities in the Collaboration announcements in the weekly OLLI newsletters or contact Vice President External Relations Sue Mullaly at smullaly@csu.fullerton.edu.

What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

OLLI's Board of Trustees met on October 14. Following are highlights from that meeting:

- The OLLI office accountant vacancy is expected to be filled shortly.
- Fall semester offers 105 programs of which 53 are offered on campus and 52 are online only. Of the 53 on campus, 32 are hybrid (both in-person and online). More in-person programs are expected for the spring 2022 semester.
- Several glitches with the new equipment and providers to transmit online programs were resolved by VP Technology Bob Newcomb and his team.
- As of October 15, membership now totals 1,017, including 94 new members and 40 members qualifying for the 90+ Club. Some members requested refunds because certain programs were not offered on campus.
- OLLI is working with the campus Police Department on a new agreement for usage and maintenance of the trolley vehicles.
- Purchase was authorized of four computers for the OLLI office to replace old equipment.
- The monthly calendar of classes/events will no longer be published with the ChroniCLE, because program schedule changes render it incorrect. A continuously updated version is available from the OLLI office.
- Starting with the spring 2022 Blue Book, the Index by Date (back of the book) will be redesigned into a Day of the Week Index, designed like the index of links for online classes in the newsletters.
- Bus transportation for OLLI's trips will continue to be provided but requiring masks.
- Board positions up for election in April 2022 are: president (Ellie is eligible for one-year reelection), VP administration, VP communications, VP external relations, VP technology, secretary and four trustees at large.
- Nomination and Election Committee members were appointed: Mike Stover (Chair), Renee Cabrera, Michele Frankel, Patrick Flynn, Alice Gresto, Joyce Ono and Phil Barnhard.
- "OLLI Coffee Hour – Messages from the

Board" will be held once a month to inform OLLI members and answer members' questions.

Reporting Vaccination Status Required

CSUF updated the following COVID protocols, which apply to OLLI:

1. Masks are required indoors on campus until at least the end of 2021.
2. OLLI members who have not attested to their vaccination status can no longer access the CSUF student portal.

OLLI members are not required to be vaccinated, but unvaccinated members are limited to attending online programs and cannot attend in-person programs on campus.

All OLLI members must report their vaccination status.

If you have not yet reported your vaccination status, go to the CSUF website at <http://www.fullerton.edu/>, click on Student Portal and navigate the two-factor login (select Call Me, and press "1" when you receive the call). The system will automatically require you to complete a short, confidential form. That's all you need to do to regain access to the student portal. But if you still have a problem, contact the OLLI office for help.

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Sue Batie, an OLLI member since the fall of 2017, said she feels safe attending in-person classes and events at OLLI. "I'm fully vaccinated, that's number one, I don't have any underlying health conditions, that's number two, and with all the rules and regulations about being safe and I think most of the people are fully vaccinated because of our age group, so I'm not worried," said Batie.

Monroe said she is proud of the program's accomplishments and the level of expertise and dedication the organization, members and volunteers have put into making it successful during the pandemic. "Even in the midst of the problems that we had, the uncertainties that we lived with every single day because we don't know what COVID is going to do, these people have basically gone and met the challenge and they've come above everything," Monroe said.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

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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 News Bytes 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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