President’s Message

By Mike Stover, President, OLLI-CSUF

Did you hear the story of the newly appointed chief executive officer who discovered three letters addressed to him by his predecessor? Well, let me share the text of the first of my letters as outgoing President to OLLI’s new Executive Director.

“On behalf of the OLLI membership, we welcome you. You can count on our support. Please reach out to us to answer your questions and request our advice. We want you to succeed.

“We are motivated to continue to do great things. Still, we need to be clear-eyed about what needs to be addressed.

“OLLI at CSUF, in its 45th year of lifelong learning education and university support activities, is at a crossroads. The organization can rebound to its envied pre-pandemic curriculum and prominence among California OLLIs or stabilize our current membership and programs as our generation of volunteer leadership ‘ages out.’

“Before the pandemic, we reached 1,700 members and offered more than 330 courses, trips, and activities annually. Then, the pandemic occurred, and the campus was closed. OLLI leaders organized Zoom classes within 30 days of the closure, but almost half of our members chose not to learn the new technology and dropped their membership. Despite less member revenue, no reduction in OLLI’s staffing occurred. OLLI began drawing down the account balances of its considerable financial reserves.

“Since the pandemic, membership has steadily...Continued on Page 6

General Meeting/Election

And Ice Cream Social

Thursday, April 18 • 1:30-3:00 P.M.

The OLLI Board of Trustees invites all OLLI members to attend the annual General Meeting/Election. Join us for a brief presentation on the status of OLLI and the outlook for future semesters and to meet and vote to elect 10 new officers and trustees to the Board.

After the election in Mackey Auditorium, we will enjoy our traditional Ice Cream Social in the Shapiro Wing, and you will have an opportunity to meet the nominees.

Short biographies and pictures of the six officer nominees and four trustee nominees follow in this ChroniCLE.

Vickie Hite, Nominee

President

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer

Vickie is a second-generation Californian currently living in Placentia. She is married and has three children in a blended family, plus four grandchildren.

Before there was Costco, there was Price Club, and Vickie worked there. After it became Costco, Vickie was a founding member of the Journeys Program to help develop women in leadership positions. At the time, there were very few women in management at Costco. She worked at the eleventh Price Club in the country, which was in Fountain Valley. She spent thirty years in management at Costco, and had a lot of...Continued on Page 2

Vickie...
Vickie Hite ...Continued fromPage 1

opportunities to do team building and problem solving.

She is justifiably proud of her more than 75 blood donations to the Red Cross.

At OLLI, Vickie is the instructor for “Ukulele: Symposium” and a coordinator for “Tap-ercize.” She is also a member of the Snappy Tappers. She especially enjoys being able to perform with the Snappy Tappers group at various venues around the area.

Vickie was elected Trustee at Large in 2020 and Secretary in 2022. She is currently serving as Treasurer. She is well prepared and well suited for the President position on the Board of Trustees.

Robert Kovacev, Nominee

Vice President Administration

By Susan McNamara, Staff Writer

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

It was Ellie Monroe’s beginning piano course that brought Robert to OLLI. He subsequently attended a broad range of other courses and particularly appreciates the physical, mental and creative challenges of the dance, creative writing and drama courses.

Robert has a wealth of career experiences. He was a CSUF faculty member of the School of Business and Economics for 38 years. As a member of OLLI’s Collaboration Committee he continued the work that he did as a faculty member at CSUF, teaching and guiding teams as they consulted with their business-owner clients through the CSUF Entrepreneurship Program. Robert is a member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

Robert is currently serving on the Board of Trustees as Vice President External Relations.

Robert’s career and volunteer experiences make him an excellent candidate for Vice President Administration.

Jim Di Tota, Nominee

Vice President Communications

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Jim Di Tota was born in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from Miami University in Ohio. He later earned a MBA. He was first employed by Anaconda, a copper and brass manufacturing company sold later to ARCO, in sales and marketing. Over the years he worked in Atlanta, Dallas and Northern California, ending up in Southern California in 1984 where he worked until his retirement in 2018.

Shortly after he retired, Jim heard about OLLI from his neighbor, Margie Sepulveda. Jim liked the social element OLLI offered—interacting with other retirees instead of just sitting at home. He started with “Ceramics” and added “Spanish” a year later. He also enjoys Jim Monroe’s “Boundaries of Science” and Susan Hanna’s and Rick Hearn’s...
Jim Di Tota ... Continued from page 2
“Science for You.” He also joined the “Poker” group.

He volunteers as coordinator for “Ceramics” and the “Phocus Photography Club.” Over the last three years, Jim has attended most of OLLI’s general meetings and social events taking photographs as lead for OLLI’s Digital Image Archive.

Jim is currently serving on the Board of Trustees as Trustee at Large, and he is well prepared to serve as Vice President Communications.

Bill Sampson, Nominee
Vice President External Relations

By Bill Sampson, Vice President Administration

Bill was born in Chicago and moved with his family to California in 1960. Graduating from UCLA, Bill began his career as a manufacturer’s representative for various home décor companies for the next 38 years, ending with his retirement from Hunter Douglas Window Fashions in 2012. Bill then spent several years doing consulting work for various companies, finally retiring again in 2019, which is when he joined OLLI.

Bill has volunteered as a member of the Trips Committee where he has coordinated trips to LAX airport, the Rose Parade and The Hollywood Bowl, among other trips.

Bill has served on the Board of Trustees as a Trustee at Large and Vice President Membership. Bill is currently serving as Vice President Administration, where he works with the CSUF administration to assure that OLLI remains a vibrant part of CSUF.

Bill is currently nominated to be the Vice President External Relations. In this position he will be responsible for University liaison, research grants, the Speakers Bureau, OLLI-CSUF Collaboration, long range planning, external publicity and relations, and membership recruitment. His past experience and volunteer responsibilities make him well-prepared for his new duties.

Paul Herrick, Nominee
Vice President Technology

By Mary Sampson, Staff Writer

Paul Herrick comes to this position, having had experience in an electrical engineering career, during which he worked for a series of commercial computer companies as a Product Safety Engineer. That was preceded by working for Rockwell International’s Autonetics Division. His educational background is a degree in Electrical Engineering from Wichita State University. He has also been an AV operator at his church for twenty years. He has been involved with live audio and video mixing for a number of years.

Paul developed an enthusiasm for teaching through nearly forty years as a weekend ski instructor in Big Bear and Mt. Baldy.

Once he joined OLLI in 2021, the Technology Education Committee and tech coordinator roles were obvious paths to learn about. He has been Vice Chair of the TEC as well as tech coordinator for “Science for You” and other courses.

Paul joined the OLLI “Genealogy Research” course in 2021 and is a coordinator. He is also an assistant instructor in the “Classical Guitar: Beginning” course.

His wife Joan has been an OLLI member since 2012, and Paul accompanied her to OLLI public events before he joined the organization in 2021.

Renee Cabrera, Nominee
Secretary

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

Music is Renee’s first passion. She left college to join the United States Air Force Band in 1974. After leaving the Air Force she was employed by the University of California, Irvine for 28 years at UCI Medical Center in Orange, California, where she had administrative and financial responsibilities including Pharmacy Office Manager, Administrative Analyst and Senior Analyst. Before she left UCI her duties included...
Fran Colwell, Nominee
Trustee at Large

By Kathy Gilroy, Staff Writer

Fran Colwell’s career and volunteerism exemplify his dedication to public service.

While attending the University of Arizona, Fran launched his 40-year career in woodland and recreation management by working as a seasonal forestry aide.

After graduating in 1977 with a degree in forest watershed management, Fran moved around the western United States as he took on positions of increasing responsibility for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Among his achievements, Fran served as the San Bernardino National Forest Director for Public Services and managed a large staff to create and direct recreation opportunities for the public.

In 2012, Fran retired with his wife Sandy to Placentia. Soon after, Fran began volunteering at the Fullerton Arboretum as a Channel Islands biome steward and guide before eventually becoming a strategic planning advisor and President of the Friends of Fullerton Arboretum. Fran joined OLLI in 2015 and became an active member, serving as a Trustee at Large and as a member of OLLI’s Grants, Collaboration, and Development and Philanthropy Committees.

Fran’s past service as Trustee at Large, coupled with his management experience and skills, make him a great choice for the position of Trustee at Large this term.

MaryLouise Hlavac, Nominee
Trustee at Large

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

MaryLouise is a Southern California native daughter, born in Lynwood and raised in Compton. She graduated from CSUF in 1980 with a degree from the College of Business and Economics, Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting.

She continued her association with CSUF, serving as President of the Alumni Association. Her desire to serve has led her to other leadership positions at CSUF, including the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center and Alliance for the Performing Arts in support of the College of the Arts.

She joined Deloitte, Haskins + Sells upon graduation. She also held several financial, accounting, and project management positions at Rockwell/Boeing Corporation and was the Executive Director and General Manager of a not-for-profit, BCEF, Inc.

When her husband, Ed, retired, he joined OLLI. He loved the program and invited her to join him. She did. Soon she was helping out with the Hospitality Committee. She began working with Debbie Maxwell on OLLI Membership. She is on the “Cooking Potpourri” team.

MaryLouise is a fan of the programs offered at OLLI by the instructors and students in the CSUF Music Department. She will be a real asset to us as a Trustee at Large.
Chris Heaton, Nominee
Trustee at Large

By Elaine Mitchell, Staff Writer

Chris Heaton is a child of immigrants. His English-born parents thought the Phoenix climate was too harsh and relocated the family to Newport Beach when he was just one. Chris feels like a SoCal native, but did go as far as Santa Barbara for his geology degree. He spent 3½ years at Unocal in Brea, but he thought education offered more career opportunities. In addition, he felt it was a “better fit” for his talents and interests. He got his Masters at CSUF and his teaching certificate and spent the next 30 years as a Troy High School science teacher.

Chris has recently come to OLLI and is furthering his personal goals by attending “Spanish,” “Classical Guitar” and “Introduction to Watercolor Painting” classes. Chris is also a swimmer and bicyclist and hopes to find other cyclists who are interested in longer trips.

With his belief in public education, which is commensurate with his values and evident by his dedicated, extended career at Troy, it is no surprise that Chris is supportive of lifelong learning. He has wasted no time in volunteering as a nominee for Trustee at Large. Chris said, “I like OLLI and recognize an opportunity to support the community.”

Jay Messner, Nominee
Trustee at Large

By Keni Cox, Assistant Editor

Originally from Wisconsin, Jay Messner has been a SoCal resident since he was eight. He attended Fullerton High School and married his childhood sweetheart, Kathy. Jay earned his degree in Chemical Engineering at UCSB and worked in the Aerospace Industry for almost 40 years. He spent half of his career in Engineering Management.

“That’s my nerdy side,” he said. “I enjoy all kinds of athletics and am an avid golfer, having played since I was 10.”

Jay retired in 2020. Post pandemic, he quickly became active in OLLI. He is a tech coordinator for a wide range of Zoom, hybrid classes and special events.

Having been asked to fill a mid-cycle opening, Jay is currently a trustee at large on the Board. He is impressed by the leadership at OLLI and enjoys being part of a diverse group of educated and interesting people.

“I am aiming to expand the value of my OLLI membership and volunteering is one way to do that; the Board of Trustees is a way to get more familiar with the operations of OLLI and potentially consider greater leadership roles.”

Jay and Kathy live in Brea. They have two children. Their daughter, Angela, earned her degree at CSUF.

LAX Airfield Tour &
Flight Path Museum Visit
Wednesday, April 17

Join us as we visit the sixth-busiest airport in the world—Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)—for a behind-the-scenes airfield tour. See LAX’s historic Hangar 1, ongoing construction projects, various aircraft like the A380 and Dreamliner, and cargo and corporate jet operations. We will also visit the Flight Path Learning Center & Museum, the only aviation museum in Southern California located on airport property. The museum is full of exhibits on aviation’s golden years, a DC-3 plane and one of the largest collections of flight attendant uniforms in North America.

We will head to The Proud Bird for lunch on your own after the airfield and museum tour where a multitude of dining options are available with incredible views of planes landing at the airport.

The $45 price includes bus transportation, tip and snacks on the bus.

Sign-ups begin in the OLLI office on April 1 and end April 12, limited to a total of 54 members on this trip. Complete the coupon from the flyer included with this ChroniCLE’s email distribution, on the OLLI website or in the OLLI office.
increased, an updated strategic plan is being prepared, and fundraising is robust. Hybrid (on-campus and live streaming) and Zoom-only classes, allowing many members to stay home at times, reduce the impact of increased membership on campus infrastructure such as facilities and parking, allowing OLLI to grow beyond 1,700 members without the significant facility challenges encountered before the pandemic. That’s important because revenues from 600 more members are necessary to end our continuing budget deficits without reducing our programs or ambitions.

“Even more critical than money, more members mean more volunteers, instructors, class coordinators, and new and replacement volunteer leaders for non-staff-led functions such as curriculum, facilities, technology, fundraising, hospitality/special events, trips, campus collaborations, and membership communication and services.

“We have learned that increased reliance upon ‘super volunteers’ to carry an ever-increasing workload is unrealistic. Respite is therapeutic not only for caregivers but also for many of our overstressed and overworked volunteers.

“Harm caused by university financial and workflow ‘plumbing’ requires lots of attention. Thankfully, Treasurer Vickie Hite, Extension Financial Director Sharon Ting, and Accounting Assistant Ying Lu have identified several bottlenecks and worked with university staff to remove, avoid, or better craft our transactions. This effort must continue. Members waiting months for reimbursements, some with thousands of dollars in pending reimbursements, must end.

“The staff you now lead is excellent, respectful, and pleasant. Your leadership and mentoring will benefit them in enhancing teamwork, professional development, and productivity initiatives.

“Working together, the best years of OLLI at Cal State Fullerton can occur. We are rooting for you … and I fervently hope you’ll never need to read the ‘other two letters I’ve left for you.’

--Sincerely, Mike Stover

(Oh, do you want to know what I wrote in the other two sealed letters to the OLLI Executive Director? I’ll keep the second confidential, but my blunt advice in the third letter was “Start writing three letters to your successor!”)

Come Along on the College of the Arts Tour!

By Kathy Gilroy, Staff Writer

If you’ve ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in the production of a CSUF theatrical performance, you now have an opportunity to find out! This spring semester, Vice President Programs Ellie Monroe has arranged guided tours of CSUF’s College of the Arts at the Clayes Performing Arts Center. The tours are each two-hours long and comprehensive in scope. Interested OLLI members should watch their OLLI Announcements & Events Newsletters later this spring for opportunities to register for the May 3 or May 10 tour.

For an idea of what the College of the Arts tour is like, look no further than the February 2 tour led by College of the Arts’ Associate Dean Dave Mickey. A specialist in theatre sound design, Dave took OLLI members onto the stage of CSUF’s oldest theater, known as the Little Theatre, to talk about the intricacies of projecting light onto the stage, moving the stage sets automatically, and using microphones and speakers to project the orchestra’s music and the actors’ voices onto the audience. OLLI members learned that CSUF students sign on to work on theatrical performances for the length of time that it takes to produce them, which can be up to a year.

Moreover, 90% of what goes into producing a theatrical performance—including the design and execution of the stage set, sound and lighting; the creation of the costumes; the rehearsals and performances by the orchestra and actors—is done by students from start to finish. The other 10% is done by professors who teach the students by working alongside them.

After the tour of the Little Theatre, Dave led OLLI members backstage to the Paint Lab, where OLLI members marveled at the murals and the huge scaffolding that students use to hang and move the stage scenery that they paint. Then, OLLI members visited the Small Props Room that stores...
pillows, dishes and other small items for the set; the Large Props Room that stores tables, chairs and other large objects; the Large Props Studio with its woodworking equipment that is used to make large props; the Scenery Production Studio that creates the multi-dimensional background scenery; the Sound Lab with its state-of-the-art equipment and recording booth; the Costume Design Lab where new costumes are made and old costumes are stored and altered; the Makeup and Costume Studio where student actors put on their makeup and costumes; and the dance and theatrical studios where students can go to practice their craft.

Next, OLLI members toured the intimate Hallberg Theatre, where the audience sits around all four sides of the stage; the somewhat larger James D. Young Theatre, where the audience sits around three sides of the stage; and the grand Meng Concert Hall with its wonderful acoustics where, like the Little Theatre, the audience sits facing the front of the stage. Dave explained that performing at theatres with different stage/audience seating configurations helps student actors acquire the skill of speaking to audiences from different angles.

Dave encourages OLLI members to come to the CSUF theatrical, dance and musical performances to support the students in their work. OLLI members are eligible for the Titan price when purchasing tickets in advance for non-fundraising events.

Performances are given at the Clayes Performing Arts Center’s theaters or at the Grand Central Theatre at 125 North Broadway in Santa Ana. OLLI members can choose to purchase tickets in person at the Clayes Performing Arts Center’s box office window, by phone at 657-278-3371 or online at https://artstickets.fullerton.edu/TheatreManager/1/online?event=0. For more information, visit the College of the Arts’ website at https://www.fullerton.edu/arts/events/cpac_boxoffice.php.
What’s Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI’s Board of Trustees meeting on February 8, 2024:

• The Spring Preview event was one of the most successful in OLLI-CSUF history attracting 118 new members as of February 8. The total membership is 1,160.

• Hiring a new administrative manager may not be completed until April. The top candidates will tour the OLLI facility, monitor some OLLI programs, meet OLLI members, make a presentation, answer questions and meet with OLLI staff.

• Negotiations with CSUF on parking charges for next fiscal year have begun. CSUF’s Extension and International Programs (EIP) has been split into two independent components. OLLI will remain with Extension under CSUF Associate Vice President Eileen Walsh. The Board thanked Dean Leahy for her past support of OLLI.

• CSUF is recruiting a new president and a new provost for the University.

• The Board discussed in detail the operating budget, capital plan etc. Although expenses exceed income from member dues, substantial reserves are available from donations and endowment income, and OLLI is still in a solid and fiscally responsible position for sustainability.

• An increase in the annual membership registration fee from $275 to $290 was approved. The fee for fall only or spring and summer will be $160.

• The Betty Robertson Award and the Masters in Gerontology Award were increased from $1,000 to $1,500 each.

• Two new awards/scholarships for $1,500 each were established for CSUF Aging Science Minor students, funded by philanthropic accounts.

• A new Campus Experiences and Resources Team (CERT) was established. Members are Kent Morris, Jill Patterson and Kathy Gilroy. They will research non-OLLI-sponsored campus experiences and resources and communicate upcoming activities and events to members. An essential guide to CSUF venues is in the works.

• The Nomination and Election Committee’s chair, Joanne Hardy, reported the slate of nominees for the Board election: Vickie Hite for President; Robert Kovacev for VP Administration; Jim Di Tota for VP Communications; Bill Sampson for VP External Relations; Paul Herrick for VP Technology; Renee Cabrera for Secretary and Fran Colwell, Chris Heaton, MaryLouise Hlavac and Jay Messner for Trustees at Large.

• Board members were encouraged to get involved in the TitansGive annual fundraiser on March 6.

• Ellie Monroe confirmed that OLLI members are entitled to a 10% discount at the Titan Food Court and Starbucks.

• OLLI’s annual Open House event will be on August 10.

Volunteer Recognition Reception

April 20 • 1 p.m.-3 p.m. • Laurel Student Housing

The month of April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and OLLI recognizes our volunteers and their generosity in sharing their talents and time to make OLLI a great community. Volunteers are at the heart of our organization and make OLLI a dynamic and successful part of the university.

OLLI members are invited to this social and presentation to thank and acknowledge the volunteers. Join us at this special reception to honor those who have served in various capacities to assist OLLI with its many diverse programs during the past year. They make OLLI at CSUF one of the very best in the country.

A midday meal will be provided during our social hour, followed by a presentation. Additional information will be provided through the OLLI newsletters the OLLI website and flyers posted around the OLLI facilities.

Registration is required. See the flyer for details.
Email Scam Alert

By Technology Education Committee

Recently, many OLLI members have received emails that appear to come from other OLLI members, asking them to click on a link. One case appeared to be an event invitation using the Punchbowl invitation service. The other asked you to click on a OneDrive link. Mousing over the links revealed them to be from unrelated, and likely malicious, sites.

Please be very careful when opening any links in emails, regardless of the sender.

Do not enter any personal information, including your email address, on these sites.

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Poetry for Pleasure

By Alice Gresto, Staff Writer

“Poetry for Pleasure” classes meet Thursday afternoons from noon to 2 p.m. throughout OLLI’s full academic year. Poetry written by the class poets are published in “Poetry for Pleasure” anthologies and are available on Amazon. Royalties are donated to OLLI. Selected poems from these anthologies will appear in the ChroniCLE periodically.

1965 Penn Jersey Girls League Champions
(For my younger sister Cecilia Ann Mary Michalowski, twin to Peter John Paul)

Nineteen young teens disciplined enough to make summer baseball practice daily. Coach stresses fielding, hitting, good sportsmanship.

The girls double play
hit triple baggers
slug it outta the ballpark--
play well enough to celebrate after each victory.

Beating all opponents, Lopatcong Lassies become the team to emulate--the Champs--proudly don their caps sit for group portrait, enshrined in the High School Awards Case forever.

By Veronica Michalowski

A graduate of California State University, Fullerton, Veronica received her B.A. and M.A. in Fine Arts, Design and Photography.

Her career focused on ideation, branding, marketing, merchandising, packaging and display design. She has received both national and international recognition for exceptional design, including two CLIO awards which recognize creative excellence in advertising.

In Memoriam Coming

April 12 • 3:30-4:30 p.m. • Shapiro ABCD

In Memoriam is a gathering of OLLI members who wish to remember those who have passed away since spring 2023. A silent PowerPoint presentation will show the names and pictures of those OLLI members. A reception of light refreshments will follow. All OLLI members and bereaved families are invited to take part in this occasion for conversation and fellowship.
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 ollinesbytes@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://oll.fullerton.edu
Email: olli-info@fullerton.edu

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