



OLLI ChroniCLE

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE at CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

“A Continuing Learning Experience”

December-January 2025

Volume XLVI Number 4

President’s Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. Time is moving quickly. As we start to consider resolutions for the new year, I hope that OLLI is on your list.

If you were asked to join our leadership team by the election committee, I hope you said yes. It is an important part of the leadership’s responsibility to build a team that will take us to our 50th anniversary.



If you were asked to join a committee, I hope you found the time to join that team and see what it takes to move a volunteer-centric operation towards its goals.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who made our first crowdfunding attempt a resounding success. We are moving as quickly as possible to make this project a reality for our members with impaired hearing. We will all benefit from this work.

I will be holding a Town Hall meeting in January, watch the newsletters for the date. I would like to share with our members the Board of Trustees goals, challenges and opportunities. I feel there are a lot a questions, concerns and ideas to be shared by the membership with Board. I hope you will join us at that event.

The past seven months have been a lifelong learning experience for me. I see so much of what has driven OLLI to a successful 45-year growth path — an amazing accomplishment when you consider our beginnings with 100 plus members and eight classes. We have much to be proud of, but we must continue to build and grow OLLI so members in the next 20 years will be impressed by our work to keep OLLI the program that helps us expand our minds, our community and our friendships. This will take some change, as there was change from CLE to OLLI, but it is necessary for our future. As Ginger Barnhart says, “Onward!”



OLLI’s 45th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, November 1, 2024

By Lew Livingston, Staff Writer

The 45th Anniversary Celebration of OLLI at CSUF was held in the gorgeous Bacon Pavilion in the Fullerton Arboretum, a covered outdoor space, with attached rooms used for setup and a view of the surrounding fall foliage. It was a beautiful environment on a sunny day. The OLLI Trolley and campus police provided transportation from and back to the Ruby Gerontology Center and the parking lots. A total of 153 people, including 124 OLLI members, plus OLLI staff and invited guests from the community attended. Attire was business casual.

OLLI Executive Director Daisy Thomas thanked CSUF President Ronald S. Rochon, Dr. Amir Dabirian, CSUF Provost, Dr. Eileen Walsh, CSUF Vice President of Academic Affairs, our 2024-2025 President, Victoria Hite, and our board of trustees and members for attending. She acknowledged our use of Tongva and Acjachemen people’s lands.

Vickie Hite gave a brief history of OLLI-CSUF, from its first outreach efforts in 1978, its start as CLE with eight classes, and request for campus property two years later. It took seven years to raise the two million dollars needed for construction of the Ruby Gerontology Center. CLE became OLLI in 2006. During the pandemic, using Zoom to hold classes helped save our organization. This fall, CSUF OLLI paid membership was 1089, with 100 classes. Vickie discussed how OLLI encourages community and relevance, and is run entirely through volunteer effort.

Dr. Bob Kovacev, OLLI Vice President of Administration, discussed the transition of older generations to retirement, leaving behind their old environments while wanting to continue to make

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President Vickie Hite
 Vice President Administration Robert Kovacev
 Vice President Programs Sue Batie
 Vice President Communication Jim Di Tota
 Vice President Membership Debbie Maxwell
 Vice President External Relations Bill Sampson
 Vice President Facilities Anthony Gonzalez
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of invited dignitaries, including Mark Trenchard, co-founder of Solar Shrink (an agricultural technology company); D. Rene Wood, newly retired Senior Deposition Officer at the Riverside County Superior Court; Michael Mahi, CSUF Interim Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications and Brand Management; Cerise Metzger, CSUF Senior Director of Strategic Communication; Dr. Debra Leahy, CSUF Associate Vice President, International Programs; CSUF Police Chief Anthony Frisbee; and Linda Smyth, J.D., CEO of Padilla-Smyth & Associates.

OLLI's officers and members were pleased to have such a beautiful, formal celebration, in which CSUF officials expressed their congratulations and appreciation for OLLI's 45 years of providing services to the senior community and the University. It was an opportunity for OLLI leaders and members to connect with the campus leaders. OLLI plans to host a second, more informal celebration in the Shapiro wing for its members to enjoy in February. If you are able to attend, please plan to come.

OLLI 45th Anniversary ... Continued on Page 1

a difference in the world. Members are lifelong learners, and at OLLI we also have the ability and opportunity to work with CSUF students. Members get to know other members. We have the advantage of being part of the CSUF-associated academic program, and can easily audit classes. OLLI offers a vibrant life after retirement.

CSUF President Rochon, who became the tenth president of CSUF on July 22, 2024, also spoke. Dr. Rochon has worked in higher education for three decades, and came to us from the University of Southern Indiana. He received his bachelor's degree at Tuskegee University and his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Illinois. He said that with the significant problems of aging comes wisdom and patience. He talked about the importance of younger generations and elders as often-ignored elements in society, and in the context of lifelong teaching.

The tasty lunch, catered by Titan Eats, included a selection of "sliders," (small bun sandwiches containing chicken, turkey or roast beef), numerous vegetable and fruit choices, and dessert dishes such as cookies and lemon bars, plus beverages.

The celebration was also attended by a group



*Vickie Hite, President,
OLLI-CSUF*



*Bob Kovacev,
Vice-President,
OLLI-CSUF*



*Daisy Thomas
Executive Director
OLLI-CSUF
Dr. Eileen Walsh
Associate Vice-President
Academic Programs
Dr. Ronald Rochon,
President CSUF*

Vice President Administration

Robert Kovacev

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Bob Kovacev was elected to a two-year term as Vice President Administration in 2024.

Bob previously served on the Board of Trustees as Vice President External Relations and is a member of the OLLI-CSUF Collaboration Committee and coordinator for the “Write Now!” and “Authors’ Central OLLI-CSUF (ACOC)” courses.



Bob 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. He earned a doctorate in business administration with an emphasis in entrepreneurship from the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

Following careers as a technologist, program

*“ Dr. Robert Kovacev
was elected to a two-year
term as Vice President
Administration in 2024. “*

manager and international marketing executive, Bob was a CSUF faculty member of the School of Business and Economics for over 20 years.

OLLI’s Vice President Administration oversees the implementation of the organization’s Policies and Procedures and acts on behalf of the President in their absence. He works with our office staff and the OLLI Archivist/Historian Joanne Hardy, and he works with various campus departments such as athletics to negotiate reduced costs for OLLI members to attend campus events. In his role as Vice President Administration, Bob coordinates closely with OLLI’s President Vickie Hite, Executive Director Daisy Thomas and the CSUF Associate Vice President of Academics Dr. Eileen Walsh.

OLLI is governed by written statements

of policy and procedures defining steps for carrying out the policies. These conform to OLLI’s Constitution and Bylaws and with policies of the University. To insure compliance, the Vice President Administration appoints the chair of OLLI Policies and Procedures Committee and serves as an ex-officio member of the Committee. Current committee members are Joanne Hardy (Chair), Phil Barnhard, Jim Monroe, Chris Shaw, Ann Sparks and Mike Stover.

Ruby Gerontology Center

How it Came About

Chris Shaw, Editor

OLLI’s home on the Cal State Fullerton campus is the Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC). The facility includes six individual, but connected, single-story buildings, which house: a multipurpose room (Shapiro Wing) at one end; the Mackey Auditorium at the other end; with classrooms, conference rooms, computer laboratories and the OLLI office between them; all surrounding an open-air courtyard. Construction of the building commenced in August 1987, and it opened a year later.

Prior to 1988, the members of the Continuing Learning Experience, or CLE (now known as OLLI) were meeting in the Mahr House, now known as the George Golleher Alumni House, located on State College Blvd.

CLE started in 1979 with 27 members. Within three years membership had grown to nearly 400. They knew they needed more room to support their growing organization, so they decided to raise private donations to construct a new home for CLE.

Cal State Fullerton agreed to provide the land for the building and be responsible for maintenance, if CLE raised the funds to build the facility. CLE and CSUF agreed to share the facilities as a gerontology center with the following goals:

- To coordinate educational programs for understanding adult development and aging.

Ruby Gerontology Center ... Continued on Page 5

OLLI's 45th Anniversary Celebration: November 1 at the Arboretum

Photos by Jim Di Tota, Matt Gush (CSUF), Kathleen Isenburg & Donald Lueder



Let's Celebrate our 45th Anniversary



Fun Day!



Meet our OLLI Staff



good food!



All Smiles!



- To conduct interdisciplinary research to advance knowledge regarding aging and later life.
- To expand opportunities for professional growth and development for those interested in gerontology.
- To foster productive intergenerational activities in educational and research projects.
- To make the skills and knowledge of the university available to the region to address issues related to aging.
- To provide opportunities for lifelong learning and service for older adults through Continuing Learning Experience (OLLI).

The fundraising committee was co-chaired by Leo Shapiro and Bill Coston, who enlisted a number of senior volunteers, well-known for their activities



Leo Shapiro

supporting the university. Among those, I am proud to say, was my father, Gordon Shaw. Gordon also participated in the design of the buildings □ it was his idea to install moveable walls in the Shapiro Wing to facilitate a variety of uses of the space. They raised \$2.1 million, no small amount in those days, none of which came from either the State of California or CSUF. That \$2.1 million paid for the entire facility, including the building, equipment, furnishings and landscaping. All of the donors can be found listed on the wall of the Shapiro Wing that faces the courtyard.

The Ruby Gerontology Center was named after one of its principal donors, Charles L. & Rachael E. Ruby. Dr. Charles Ruby was a noted civic leader, who helped to bring the new California State University to Fullerton in 1959 and was a founding

member of CLE in 1979. Two other principal donors received recognition: Mackey Auditorium was named after Dr. Francis G. Mackey, and the Shapiro Wing was named after Leo Shapiro, who was CLE's first president.

Pictured in the RGC groundbreaking picture are, from left: Jewel Plummer Cobb (CSUF President), Leo Shapiro, Charles L. Ruby and James Roosevelt (son of FDR).

The fundraising committee convinced a number of local governments to contribute to building the RGC, including Orange County, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Brea, Placentia, La Habra and Fullerton. They also enlisted contributions from a number of corporations, including one that continues to have a close tie to OLLI, the St. Jude Medical Center. Many of the doctors who are instructors for our "Medical Series" classes today are from St. Jude. Even more impressive were the individual donors and planners who were CLE members, like Ruby, Shapiro, Mackey and my own father, who put their money and their time and effort into designing and building a venerable center that has enabled OLLI to develop its current exceptional quality and diversity of courses and events. Our thanks go to these visionary charter members, who set the standard for volunteerism at OLLI.



Leo Shapiro, second from left, was among those who celebrated the groundbreaking in 1985 for the Ruby Gerontology center at Cal State Fullerton. Pictured with him, from left, are Jewel Plummer Cobb, former CSUF president; the late Charles L. Ruby, for whom the center is named; and James Roosevelt, the keynote speaker for the Nov. 20 celebration.

"The Fundraising Committee was co-chaired by Leo Shapiro and Bill Coston." OLLI-CSUF

OLLI Trip to Alaska

By Margie Mota, OLLI Member

OLLI's trip to Alaska took place August 28 to September 10, 2024 — one week on a Princess cruise ship and a second week on land. Our group of eight people began the cruise at Vancouver, Canada. The accommodations and service aboard ship were gracious. Guests were provided with lectures on marine environment and land features. There was a variety of shipboard entertainment, and the food was excellent.

The views between Vancouver and the port of Whittier (near Anchorage), consisted of island and mainland scenery, close-up views of glaciers and occasional breaching whales. Naturalists gave talks on animals, climate and ecosystems. Along Alaska's Inside Passage, there were day-long stops at Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway where passengers could disembark and explore. One couple in our group took an old-fashioned train ride for a sentimental journey inland to a location an ancestor had journeyed to during the Alaskan gold rush.

Our group left the ship at Whittier and traveled north by train to Princess's McKinley Lodge. While rolling through a wilderness landscape, the narrator in our train car provided insights about trees, animals and the history of the historic railroad we were riding on. It seems that all the train personnel and bus drivers that we eventually met were chosen for their knowledge, but also for their gregarious personalities and sense of humor. The land travel portion of the trip covered many a mile. Alaska is vast, but the train and bus rides turned out to be learning and laughter on wheels.



Margie Mota & Ken Luke on Grand Princess in Glacier Bay

At McKinley Lodge, our education continued. On a cloudless day, one can view Mt. Denali from the lodge. It is the highest peak in North America at 20,310 feet. A lecture was given about the requirements to be allowed to attempt scaling

Mt. Denali. The talk was given by a woman climber who manages the base camp along with her climber husband. Prospective climbers are not even allowed to fly to the base camp and land on the glacier unless they had pre-qualified with a climbing permit. This regulation has undoubtedly saved lives.

When staying at the second Princess lodge near Denali National Park, we bus-toured and hiked within the park, observing moose from a distance and Alaska's state

bird, the ptarmigan, up close. Our guides reminded us of things we learned at our previous lodge, namely how dangerous Alaskan wildlife can be. Humans typically run afoul of bears or moose. Moose are responsible for more human fatalities, year after year, than bears.

While on the Denali Park bus tour, we were delighted to listen to a native Alaskan lady speak about her tribe's traditional lifestyle. The speaker was in our age range and talked about how her life was different from her mother's generation. Some things have changed over the years, but the rules these native communities abide by center around two traditional ideas: what can individuals do for the good of the group and what can the group do to ensure survival? Alaskan weather makes you reckon with such things.

Our last stop was Fairbanks, where we again stayed at a Princess lodge. Members of our group took a side trip to see gold panning and part of the Alaskan pipeline. From Fairbanks, we flew home through Seattle.

Now home, we are still pinching ourselves to see if we really made this incredible trip, or did we just dream it? We loved Alaska and the cruise to get there.

The picture shows Margie Mota and Ken Luke on the Grand Princess in Glacier Bay, taken by Ken Luke. Our thanks to the OLLI Trips Committee, chaired by Ken Luke, and to Barbara Stocker, who was the lead for the arrangements.

Spring Preview (Open to the Public) Saturday, January 11, 9 a.m.-Noon Auditorium/Shapiro ABCD

As we continue to celebrate our 45th year at CSUF, this annual event will give us the continued opportunity of spreading the word about the "gem" that OLLI at CSUF is. We learned from the Fall Open House held in August that most of our new members were brought to that event by our existing members. Help us build on that momentum by bringing your friends, neighbors and relatives. Together you can visit rooms that will have many of our instructors available to answer your questions about their upcoming spring semester classes. Your guests can pop into Room 20 to register for the semester. Be sure to tell them to bring their vehicle information (license plate number, make and model) along to make that a seamless process.

After the 10:00 a.m. presentation in Mackey Auditorium, complimentary light refreshments will be served in the Shapiro Wing.

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

For more information about OLLI, call 657-278-2446, email olli-info@fullerton.edu or visit our website's "Welcome to OLLI" page: <https://olli.fullerton.edu/aboutollicsuf/Welcome.php>.

HALLOWEEN HAUNTING SOCIAL: OCTOBER 26, 2024

Photos by Jim Di Tota,



BOO!



TRICK OR TREAT



SPOOKTACULAR



Lew Livingston New ChroniCLE Staff Writer

By Lew Livingston, Staff Writer

Lew Livingston was born in Chicago in 1947. A year later, his family moved to Burbank, California, where he attended elementary school through high school. He graduated from California State University, Northridge with a B.S. and M.S. in Engineering, and had a 41-year career in engineering in Southern California, first in software integration at System Development Corporation and then in thermal engineering for the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, and related projects at Rockwell International, McDonnell Douglas and Boeing.

After Lew retired from Boeing in 2013, his wife, Maureen McConaghy (who coordinates “Wisdom Exchange”), told him about OLLI’s benefits, in particular the opportunity to audit CSUF classes. Lew joined OLLI in January 2014, signing up for a guitar class. Having worked in Japan in 1975 and vacationed there several times, and having studied Japanese elsewhere, he also began auditing a CSUF Japanese class. He subsequently audited at least one class and sometimes two, every spring and fall semester from 2014 through 2021. The classes varied from Japanese to English literature to philosophy.

Most recently Lew has participated in OLLI’s courses, “Writing with Feedback,” “Cribbage,” “Great Books” and “Short Stories.”

Lew and Maureen live in the city of Orange. They have two daughters, who live in Los Angeles and Tucson, Arizona.



Helen (left) and Bryan Ebert compare their wingspan with a California Condor on a bird watching trip to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Photo by Fran Doble.

“Listen Up!”

OLLI Crowdfunding Campaign Results

By Fran Colwell, Development/Philanthropy Committee

Crowdfunding is a way for Cal State Fullerton causes, including OLLI, to annually engage with their networks and raise funds for a specific goal through the collective efforts of many people.

OLLI’s first major fundraiser for the academic year, “Listen Up!” was held from October 15 through October 31. Our campaign goal was to raise \$4,500 towards the purchase of electronic equipment to enhance hearing aid effectiveness in classrooms.

Thanks to the generosity of 41 OLLI members, we exceeded our goal by raising \$4,785! A special thank you to Vickie Hite, Fran Cowell and Mike Stover for donating matching funds. Although the formal campaign has ended, gifts may still be made by visiting the OLLI webpage and clicking on the ‘Donate’ tab at OLLI ‘Today and Tomorrow’ fund.

These donations will be used to embed audio induction loops in the walls of Shapiro rooms ABCD, allowing OLLI members who use hearing aids to continue their lifelong learning journey with enhanced audio capabilities. Hearing assistive technology allows people with hearing aids or cochlear implants to receive sound that is filtered for background noise directly into their hearing devices.

Motion Picture Academy Museum Trip Coming Wednesday, February 12

Join us as we visit the Motion Picture Academy Museum on the Miracle Mile as we celebrate the art and science of movie making.

This year, the museum has new exhibits on Hollywood’s Jewish founders and how they created the industry and how it became the global influence center it is today, along with many other exhibits. We will stroll through all four floors of the museum, then head to the rooftop plaza for a breathtaking view of Los Angeles from Hollywood to downtown. After the museum, we will go by bus to Canter’s Deli.

Sign-ups begin Monday, January 13 on the OLLI website, using the new TouchNet system, or in the OLLI office. See the flyer for more trip details



What's Happening at the Board



By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meetings on October 10 and November 7, 2024:

October 10

- OLLI's first crowdfunding campaign, "Listen Up!," was completed October 31 (see report in this ChroniCLE).
- Executive Director Thomas is building a Social Media Team, including OLLI volunteers, OLLI Staff and CSUF Marketing and Communications staff, to promote fundraising and increased membership.
- A new Data Systems Engineer position is being developed for the office.
- Beginning with the spring Blue Book, classes that are recorded for Distance Learning will be noted.
- President Hite reported the following concerns from members: scheduling classes too close together; kitchen not properly maintained; and instructors need to provide printed copies of reference material.
- Membership total as of September 30 was 1064.
- Nomination and Election Committee members are Sue Batie (chair), Mike Stover, Jay Messner, Joanne Hardy, Linda Callen, Linda Lockwood and Phil Barnhard.
- Additional funds were approved to complete the permanent installation of cameras with the auditorium upgrade.
- There was discussion on socials and similar programs regarding who is responsible, how they are related and who pays for them with the goal of having a robust set of social activities every semester that are affordable.
- Debbie Maxwell was appointed chair of the committee to plan and execute the 45th anniversary celebration.

November 7

- The crowdfunding drive was very successful, and hearing aid technologies are being evaluated for installation.
- Executive Director Daisy Thomas said the

45th Anniversary Celebration on November 1 was amazing and well received by the community at large, and it gave OLLI's leaders a great opportunity to meet the new CSUF President Rochon.

- A second 90+/45th Anniversary Celebration, that is more personal and member-centered than the November 1 celebration, is scheduled for February 14. Past presidents will speak and recognize our 90+ Club members.
- MaryLouise Hlavac is heading a new ad hoc Social Committee with the goal of putting all social programs under one umbrella for cohesive scheduling and budgeting.
- The Holiday Luncheon will provide a special donation opportunity for CSUF Basic Needs program. This has been a highly successful program for OLLI, donating 1100 items for the Career Closet, 924 pounds for the Food Pantry and 657 hygiene items for the Children's Center.
- The annual Spring Preview is scheduled for January 11.
- Funds from the Computer Education Donation Fund were authorized to purchase new computers for the Room 20 classroom.
- Planning has begun for the Titans Give Day scheduled for March 12 with the aggressive goal of doubling last year's very successful donations total to OLLI.
- The Policies and Procedures Committee proposed deleting the word "civility" from OLLI's policy and Commitment to Positive Member Experience statement to align with CSUF's revised policy.
- Joanne Hardy recommended using special events funds to cover shortages of sign-ups for events to eliminate the need to cancel them.
- President Vickie Hite proposed an OLLI Town Hall meeting in January to give members the opportunity to discuss common concerns, like the budget, state of OLLI and other concerns and feedback.
- Two more people have been hired to assist in the office.

"The Crowdfunding drive was very successful, and hearing aid technologies are being evaluated for installation."



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

“A Continuing Learning Experience”

1979 - 2024: 45 Years of Excellence

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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.



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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.

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