



President’s Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF

Here it is March, and we are getting ready for our biggest fundraising opportunity of the year — Titans Give Day — on Wednesday, March 12. Fran Colwell, the chair of our Development/Philanthropy Committee, has a



team all geared up to make this a great event for OLLI, and they will be letting everyone know how to make the most of it. This is a 24 hour event, with the opportunity to pick up corporate matching dollars for meeting certain criteria. We are

excited to maximize our giving and pick up some easy money. Last year we were able to capture \$6,870 in corporate matches. So, you can understand why we get so excited about this event. OLLI will be providing a lunch in the courtyard that day to keep the energy going. Goals and donations will be tracked in real time, so we will know how we are doing all day. We have several OLLI members who will be providing matching dollars for the achievement of specific goals. One of our goals is to get a donation from every state in the Union! So, call your family members and friends and convince them to skip Starbucks for the day and donate to OLLI in sunny California. If we can convince all 1,176 current members to donate \$15, we would gain \$17,640 and win corporate dollars for having the most donors on campus. If you have a donation budget for this year, and you can manage to make March your donation month, your dollars will be matched with corporate funds and create an even greater impact on our philanthropic goals.

The monies that are donated to OLLI during this event will help to keep our operating costs in line, thus keeping our membership fee one of the best values around.

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Annual ‘Titans Give Day’ Coming March 12

By Fran Colwell, Chair, Development and Philanthropy Committee

Mark your calendar now for the annual #TitansGive day. On March 12, Cal State Fullerton will host a fast-paced 24-hour campaign that includes a wonderful opportunity to share your support with OLLI.

This is by far our largest and most important fundraiser of the year! A unique feature of this campaign is that all donations must be made online between 12:01 a.m. and midnight on Wednesday, March 12. On that day, plan to go to OLLI’s donation webpage at

<https://titansgive.fullerton.edu/giving-day/93661department/93794> to make your gift.

While membership fees cover a large portion of OLLI expenses, it is only through the generosity of members and donors that allows our program to thrive. Your financial support will ensure that we are responsive to unique member needs and remain sustainable well into the future. They help us improve the quality of education, accessibility for members, purchase instructional supplies, provide CSUF Aging Studies student scholarships, and maintain a scholarship fund to help cover the cost of classes for potential OLLI members who would otherwise be unable to afford the program.

We have an ambitious \$60,000 Titans Give Day goal for OLLI this year. To reach that level, please consider networking this opportunity to all of your friends and supporters so that they may also participate on March 12. Even a small donation of \$10 will help. Stay tuned for weekly newsletter and social media updates about the Titans Give Day time-specific matches and challenges, including those that reward us for the number of donors who contribute, as well as day-of activities at our OLLI courtyard.

Please contact Fran Colwell, OLLI Development and Philanthropy Committee chair, at franger07@cus.fullerton.edu if you have any questions.

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We also provide scholarships to four CSUF students. One of those is the Betty Robertson Award that is awarded to an older graduate for their achievement and devotion to lifelong learning.

Keep alert for further information in flyers and OLLI newsletter announcements on how you can best participate in Titans Give Day.

I want to thank everyone who submitted an application for the open positions on the OLLI Board. The slate of candidates is shown in “New Board Members Nominated” in this ChroniCLE and their biographies and photos will appear in the April ChroniCLE to prepare you for the General Meeting/Election on April 17. It was so rewarding this year to have so many qualified candidates step forward to be trustees at large. This action helps to build a solid succession plan for leadership in the future. The election committee enjoyed having such a great pool of interested members to work with.

The spring/summer registration period has been very successful, with 141 fall-only members renewing for the rest of the academic year and 82 new members joining us. I have met many of our new members, and the enthusiasm they are exhibiting since joining us is inspiring. Please take the time to greet our new members (they have orange dots on their nametags) and ask them if they need any help navigating their new home at OLLI. They are a great group.

Donna Spradlin’s Reflections on OLLI

By Lew Livingston, Staff Writer

The Betty Robertson Award is granted each year by OLLI in memory of Betty Robertson, “The Godmother of OLLI,” who tirelessly worked to create a program for continuous learning for seniors. The award is given to an older CSUF student graduating with special recognition for their achievement and devotion to lifelong learning.



Donna Spradlin

Donna Spradlin and her husband Kirt joined Continuing Learning Experience (CLE), the precursor to OLLI, in 2003. Kirt served as President and in a number of other offices. The bench at the Parking Lot J entrance to the Ruby Gerontology

Center (the OLLI buildings) was placed there in his memory. Donna was named Volunteer of the Year in 2009, a recognition system that did not continue after 2011. She and Kirt also originated the 90+ program. For this article, Donna shared her reflections on some events at CLE and OLLI over the years.

In 2004, CLE had its first Baseball Bash at Goodwin Field, the current home of the CSUF Titans baseball team. Dave Musante was able to get the coaches to agree to a date for the event. Tickets for hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, apples and drinks sold for \$10. Leo Shapiro, CLE’s first president, threw out the first pitch. At first, OLLI members occupied the patio next to the VIP room at the top level of the stadium. Some years later, OLLI used the open air patio above third base. Dave and his friends put up tarps to protect our fans from the hot sun and the heat from the barbeques. Up until 2016, the OLLI President usually threw the first pitch, but in 2012 it was Donna’s turn. The last Baseball Bash was scheduled for 2019. It ended at the request of the field’s concessionaires.

Although the CLE board opposed joining Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, CSUF accepted a grant of one million dollars from the Bernard Osher Foundation, and in 2006 CLE became OLLI-CSUF, joining about 100 OLLIs across the U.S. At first, Donna and Kirt were upset, as Leo Shapiro was a close friend who helped found CLE, but they agreed that the decision to change our name and accept the \$1,000,000 was the best choice; we later received a second million from the Foundation which allowed OLLI to expand its programs.

Donna was also on the Trips Committee, which researched and planned trips, circulated the sign-up sheets and made signs for the trips. During the Hollywood Bowl concerts, Kirt and Donna left a little early and held up signs directing OLLI people to the bus.

Donna was also a member of the Hospitality Committee and created “event books” that could be used as a guide for later events. They including spreadsheets of expenses made by Marie Stiegler and photos taken by Kirt and printed by Donna.

Donna... Continued on Page 3

Halloween has always been a popular event at OLLI as members thoroughly enjoyed dressing up for an Egyptian Party. Pete Saputo and Elaine Mitchell borrowed and rented sets and props from a friend in Orange. Dave Musante and Mike Stover arrived in pharaoh costumes, while four young women wore Egyptian princess outfits. Another Halloween event featured many contests and impressive pumpkin carving. A County Fair event included full-sized sheep, a lamb and a cow. This particular event had the help of several young women from the CSUF student population.

Kirt used to take photos of OLLI events for the ChroniCLE and Blue Book. When Kirt passed, Donna carried on his work, taking photos of Hospitality and other major OLLI events. She has a great eye. Many of her photos appeared in the ChroniCLE and Blue Book. Two of her photos were chosen for Blue Book covers because they were so well done.

The use of Zoom to hold classes was a revolutionary change for OLLI. Members like Donna are able to participate in OLLI classes even when they are unable to be there in pers This was a lifesaver for OLLI during the pandemic. Members who had moved away were able to continue "attending" their favorite classes.

When discussing how OLLI is doing today, Donna said she felt OLLI is still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, which resulted in a reduction in membership. In addition, older members have passed away or moved, and many of the local aerospace companies, such as Hughes, that were a source of retirees, are no longer around.

From CLE to OLLI-CSUF, our members' enthusiasm, energy and skills to lead the organization and their desire to teach classes and volunteer have been the keys to educational and enjoyable experiences.

New Board Members Nominated

By Chris Shaw, Editor

All OLLI members are encouraged to attend the General Meeting/Election and Ice Cream Social on April 17 at 1:30 p.m. to meet the nominees and vote to elect the new officers and trustees of the Board of Trustees.

The Nomination and Election Committee nominated the following OLLI members for election to the Board of Trustees:

- President: Vickie Hite
- Vice President Programs: MaryLouise Hlavac
- Vice President Membership: (no nominee*)
- Vice President Facilities: Anthony Gonzalez
- Vice President Hospitality: (no nominee*)

New Board Member Nominated...

- Treasurer: Ann Sparks
- Trustees at Large: Eileen Gomez, Diana Wright Guerin, Debra L. Kegel, Judi Marsh, Britt Wachsmann

In accordance with Nomination & Election Policy 1.2, the Board appointed a committee to nominate one person to be elected by the general membership to replace each Board current member who will complete their term of office in May 2025. All OLLI members were invited via emails, OLLI Announcements & Events newsletters and the ChroniCLE last October and November to submit an application if they were interested in being a candidate for the election. All applicants were considered by the Committee for the Board positions up for election, and their deliberations were confidential and independent of the Board. Any applicant who was not chosen by the Committee could petition the Committee to be placed on the ballot; no petitions were received.

Thanks to the Nomination and Election Committee, comprised of Chair Sue Batie, Mike Stover, Jay Messner, Joanne Hardy, Linda Callen, Linda Lockwood and Parliamentarian Phillip Barnhard, for recruiting and vetting a fine slate of nominees.

Short biographies and pictures of all the nominees will be featured in next month's ChroniCLE.

** If the Committee nominates no one for this position, and no OLLI member submitted a petition to be on the ballot for the position, the Board of Trustees may appoint an OLLI member to this position.*



Hundreds Attend Spring Preview to Learn More About OLLI

By Valerie Orleans, Assistant Editor

The courtyard and classrooms were packed on January 11 as new OLLI members, current members and others who were curious about what OLLI offers attended the Spring Preview held January 11.

OLLI President Vickie Hite welcomed the crowd by asking, “What’s your passion? Chances are, we have a class that can help you develop that.” She pointed out that this spring, 86 courses are offered in seven different categories as well as 14 special interest groups. New courses include “American Sign Language for All Ages,” “Navigating Cancer: A Survivor’s Perspective” and “Smart Money Moves: Expert Strategies for Financial Planning.”

She also noted the upcoming OLLI trips including visits to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles, a “behind the scenes” tour of LAX and more. Plans are also underway for an international trip to Taiwan.

“I encourage all of you not to say ‘no’ to new experiences,” she said. “One of the classes I said yes to when I started in OLLI was tap dancing. I loved it so much, I became an instructor ... then I became involved as a member of the Board of Trustees. Now I’m president. I encourage everyone to try something new and get involved. You’ll meet new people, learn new skills and enrich your lives.”

“The people in OLLI are interested in learning,” said Robert Kovacev, Vice President Administration, who also addressed the crowd. “Retirement is one of the biggest changes in people’s adult lives. At OLLI, you’ll learn, discover new passions, develop new friendships and give back through mentoring programs that pair our members with students at Cal State



Fullerton.

“What’s especially great is that there are no exams, no term papers, no grades, no requirements,” he continued. “You can even audit college courses (with instructor permission) and we’ll help you do that.”

During the morning hours, teachers of many of OLLI’s classes staffed tables where visitors could inquire about courses, learn more about OLLI’s many types of activities and get a preview of topics that might be addressed during the upcoming semester.

OLLI members Barbara Rosen and Britt Wachsman, coordinators of the “Eclectics” program that features different speakers on a variety of topics every other week, provided details on upcoming programs.

Carol Carson invited attendees to consider the “Drawing for the Fun of It” and “Watercolor Workshop” courses that are offered. “This is a supportive group and many of our students enjoy drawing and painting because it helps them reduce stress.”

Dave Cortez and Ellie Page offer insight into how to become happier in the “Finding More Wisdom and Joy in Retirement” classes they offer. “We help members learn to live in peace and develop resilience to deal with life’s challenges,” David said.

Jim Medici was encouraging the members in the crowd to consider becoming a member of the Crescendo Chorale. “Don’t worry if you can’t sing well,” he said. “We all have a lot of fun and enjoy each other.”

Rayleen Williams was recruiting members for the Concert Band and Jazz Band. “We have lots of folks who haven’t played an instrument since high school,” she said. “Concert Band is a nice way to get back into playing. Although you may have forgotten how to play, it usually comes back pretty quickly.”

Teachers of the various languages taught at OLLI (Spanish, French and German) also welcomed visitors, as did Dawn Wilson who is teaching the new sign language course this semester.

Following the auditorium program, attendees gathered for a luncheon of sandwiches, chips, fruit, vegetables and cake.

To view the auditorium program, visit the OLLI website, click on Livestream/Recordings and choose Spring Preview, or click on:

<https://olli.fullerton.edu/classes/live/spring2025/Sp2025SpringPreview.php>



OLLI PREVIEW

Spring Preview Saturday January 11, 2025
Photos by Hsien Chen, Mary Crouch, Jim Di Tota & Diana Guerin



Appreciating OLLI's Volunteers

By Chris Shaw, Editor

In an effort to show OLLI's appreciation for their volunteer work for OLLI, President Vickie Hite and Vice President Membership Debbie Maxwell have been popping in on committee meetings and class meetings with little, nominal gifts, but big THANK YOUS, to individual volunteers, as shown in the photos, below.

OLLI at Cal State Fullerton is a volunteer-centric organization, meaning that all of our classes, social events and other activities for OLLI members are created and delivered by volunteers — almost all of which are OLLI members — who are giving back to the senior community and the students and faculty of CSUF without any remuneration. Without this army of volunteers, OLLI cannot exist.

Volunteers may not receive any money, but they do get something of value — they experience the joy of using their skills, knowledge and wisdom to give back to the community. And it's an opportunity to meet new people and develop new, meaningful friendships by working with other OLLI members in producing something of value.

You, too, can volunteer for any of a myriad of volunteer opportunities. Just go to the OLLI website at <https://olli.fullerton.edu/> and click on "Volunteer" in the top banner. You will find a long list of opportunities, listing who to contact by sending an email to the OLLI office at olli-info@fullerton.edu. Address your email to the contact person listed, and the office staff will forward your email to them.

1. Claire Curran recognized by (center) Debbie Maxwell (left) and Vickie Hite (right) for instructing/coordinating "Critics' Choice: The Movies."

2. Dan Coby gets a THANK YOU for being Webmaster of OLLI's website, instructing/coordinating OLLI Tech Help and assisting in "Bridge, Duplicate."

3. Judy Alter (seated) gets recognized for co-chairing the Curriculum Committee, copy editing the Blue Book and instructing "Artsy: Museum

Masterpieces" and "Great Books."

4. Melinda Wiltsie (left) gets a THANK YOU for co-editing the OLLI newsletters, Shapiro display and website editing; and Ginger Barnhart (right) for co-editing the OLLI newsletters, coordinating Constant Contact emails and website editing.

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Dr. Mackey's Auditorium

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The Mackey Auditorium, the jewel of our Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC), was named after Dr. Francis “Bud” Mackey. Dr. Mackey made a major donation toward building the RGC, particularly intended for the auditorium, because he believed in the concept of the Continuing Learning Experience (CLE, the predecessor to OLLI) as a benefit to the senior community and Cal State Fullerton. Dr. Mackey also used his influence with the Orange County medical community to help fund the auditorium, and they raised \$350,000 in his name.

Mackey Auditorium was the result of Dr. Mackey's dream to build a state-of-the-art, multipurpose facility that could be used for general lectures, research and entertainment. He believed the auditorium would serve as a learning center and a social center for both the University and CLE/OLLI, and also benefit the medical community by supporting gerontological learning and research. It has been used extensively for these purposes over the years.

The 230-seat auditorium, which opened as part of the new RGC facility in August 1988, was designed as a high-technology theater/auditorium. The auditorium included state-of-the-art audio-visual display and videotaping capabilities. Originally, each seat included an audio outlet plus an audience response mechanism that was used for research and data acquisition, as well as aiding the audience in participating in discussions and Q&A. The audience response system did not survive over the years, but the auditorium has been continually updated with the latest audio-visual systems.

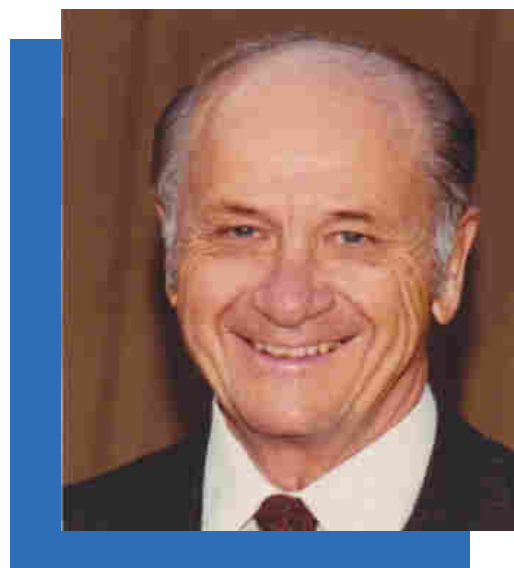
Dr. Mackey was one of Orange County's most renowned physicians. Originally from Warren, Ohio, he graduated from Ohio State University Medical School in 1943, then served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. After the war, he moved to Fullerton and opened his internal medicine practice. He was the first cardiologist at St. Jude Medical Center, and when he retired from his cardiology practice, he became the Medical Director at St. Jude. He was the driving force in establishing the first inpatient rehabilitation center in

Orange County, which evolved into a model inpatient and outpatient facility at St. Jude for rehabilitation of stroke, orthopedic, cardiac and other conditions. He was also a pioneer in the development of the medical culture in Orange County. Dr. Mackey was named Physician of the Year by the Orange County Medical Association and Distinguished Physician of the Year by St. Jude.

After many years of ignoring his own doctor's suggestion to have routine tests for colon cancer, Dr. Mackey discovered he had it and made it his cause to promote early detection. He spoke at wellness forums and medical gatherings, preaching the value of tests like colonoscopy for those over 50, which he believed would have saved his own life and would ultimately save thousands of lives.

Dr. Mackey died in 2001 at the age of 84 of colon cancer, but not before he published a book about his own experience, from diagnosis to chemotherapy, titled “Why Die of Colon Cancer?” He self-published his book at a cost of \$57,000, because he feared he would die before he found a publisher.

Dr. Mackey's support of the RGC and CLE/OLLI established a connection between St. Jude and OLLI that remains today in the form of Dr. Joe Lawton's popular “Medical Series” classes, instructed by prominent doctors from around Southern California, many from St. Jude.



Francis Bud Mackey

LAX Airfield Tour & Flight Path Museum Visit Coming Wednesday, April 9

Join us as we visit one of the busiest airports in the world — Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) — for a behind-the-scenes airfield tour. See historic Hangar 1, various aircraft like the A380 and Dreamliner, and cargo and corporate jet operations. We also will visit the Flight Path Learning Center & Museum, which features exhibits from the golden age of flight in Los Angeles to the recent history of the southern California aerospace industry.

We will head to The Proud Bird restaurant after the airfield and museum tour for lunch.

Please be aware that, because we will be visiting areas of the airport not usually open to the public, the TSA and LAX will require each participant to provide their drivers license or passport.

“ one of the busiest airports in the world — Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) “



“ Sign-ups begin Wednesday, March 19 in the OLLI office. See the flyer for more information. “



LAX



What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on January 9, 2025:

- Planning has begun for OLLI's annual Titans Day of Giving on March 12, adding networking to OLLI members' friends and family this year.



- Small Asks Program is being developed to increase members' volunteerism.
- Treasurer Ann Sparks has begun work with Board officers on the 2025-26 fiscal budget.
- The OLLI office has implemented the Touch Net system for members to pay all fees online and will soon implement the Sales Force system to enable the office to directly control all email contacts with members and member IDs.
- Purchase was approved for licensing fees to use the new Touch Net and Sales Force systems.

- Membership VP Debbie Maxwell reported that spring semester registration included 52 mid-year renewing members and 20 new members for a total membership of 1,114.

- Renee Cabrera reported on a new All Things Social Committee that is working on ideas to better organize, fund and publicize all social events.

- Debbie Maxwell reported on planning for the 45th Anniversary Celebration on February 14.

- Purchase was approved of a high-end computer for the OLLI office to enable the office staff to use advanced graphics software to produce both the ChroniCLE and Blue Book.

- The President, VP External Relations and Executive Director are evaluating the creation of a new committee to focus on marketing OLLI to the public.

- 90+ membership criteria will be revised to allow free membership sooner after the qualified member turns age 90.

- Sue Mullaly reported on OLLI Collaboration's volunteer results and donations to OLLI's Basic Needs Program over the previous year.

- The Volunteer Recognition Program recently recognized Ginger Barnhart, Melinda Wiltsie and Judy Alter.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

“A Continuing Learning Experience”

1979 - 2024: 45 Years of Excellence

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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 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 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

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