



OLLIChroniCLE

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE at CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

May 2025

Volume XLVI Number 7

President's Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF

As our annual leadership transition happens on May 8, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all the good works that were accomplished this year. Our Board this year was

comprised of more new members than in previous years. Half of

the vice president positions were held by new members to the Board this year. There were also three new trustees on our team. Along with Daisy as our new Executive Director, you can see that there was a lot of "lifelong

learning" going on this year. I

am more than happy with the forward momentum and accomplishments made this year.

I feel this freshman Board has grasped every challenge presented to them and dealt with them in some very creative ways. I am thankful for our experienced board members who provided institutional memory and guided the Board in moving forward with our new programs. I am grateful for the support of Mike Stover, as my Immediate Past President advisor, and Phil Barnhard, my Parliamentarian. Thank you to Tony Package for mentoring Anthony Gonzalez as our new Vice President Facilities.

At my confirmation a year ago, I advised that there would be change, but not at the loss of our core values. I feel that good progress was made in these areas:

- We moved to TouchNet for our online membership and event registrations successfully.
- TouchNet has made it easier to track and control our socials, trips and special events.
- We have rebuilt our office staff with a 100%

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OLLI-Where We Are and Where We're Going

By Valerie Orleans, Assistant Editor

Finances, marketing, classes, rooms, parking ... all were among the subjects raised at a recent OLLI "Town Hall-style" meeting where members of the OLLI board shared detailed information on "the state of OLLI."

President Vickie Hite opened the session with membership figures comparing the number of current full-year members from 2024-25 with figures from 2023-24. Last year, OLLI had 782 returning members and 225 new members. This year saw 789 full-year returning members and 151 new members.

To boost membership numbers, marketing will become more important. The OLLI Experience will offer three free weeks of OLLI classes (April 7-25) to invite potential members to see for themselves the value of OLLI. Other methods to attract new members may be asking local senior living communities to pay a membership fee that would allow them to offer OLLI's Distance Learning recordings to all their residents.

On the financial front, OLLI fundraising continues to be important as we continue to control our expenses. While there is money in reserves through endowment distributions, the goal is to meet expenses without having to increase the amount of money drawn through this reserve fund. Current fundraising programs include crowdfunding for specific goals (more than \$4,500 was raised for the "Listen Up" campaign this past October), year-end giving (for donors to benefit from tax write-offs), the Titans Give Campaign (this year's campaign drew \$61,918, equal to the amount that would be paid by 237 full-time memberships), and estate planning bequests. There will also be a focus on reaching out to corporate donors.

New programs such as TouchNet, a system to register members, collect class fees/event registrations, and reduce hours for office staff who

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OLLI- Where We Are and Where We're Going

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Vice President Communication Jim Di Tota
Vice President Membership Debbie Maxwell
Vice President External Relations Bill Sampson
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turnover. Our new staff is competent, creative and cordial.

- Our special events such as the University Presidential "Meet and Greet" and our own 90+ recognition and 45th anniversary celebrations were well attended — a return to our strong community.
- We continue to strengthen our collaboration with the University, while benefiting our members. Ellie Monroe's Claves Art Center and Visual Arts Building Tours are a good example. The Cybersecurity Council of CSUF had a very successful presentation with our membership. And we are continuing to reach out to the University to help create other classes.
- Last year, we reset the goal for largest day of giving for the Titan's Day of Giving with a resounding \$61,000+ collected from over 400 donors.
- Our contributions to Tuffy's Closet and the Pantry have provided a constant stream of assistance to the CSUF Basic Needs Program.
- "The OLLI Experience" is a new attempt at an aggressive marketing campaign to help rebuild our membership base by offering three weeks of classes for free to non-members.

I am looking forward to working with the new officers and trustees who are joining the Board this May. To quote Ginger Barnhart, "Onward"!

manage events and trips, will also create savings on deposit banking and state fees.

"The goal is to keep our membership fee affordable for our members," said Hite. "Our memberships are among the lowest of the OLLI programs. UC San Diego, for example, charges \$500 per year. Other universities charge by the course. Most are significantly more expensive than we are. To keep our membership affordable, we'll want to focus on gaining more new members."

Curriculum development and instructor succession is another area of focus.

"How do we attract instructors and coordinators for the classes we currently have and those we might like to add in the future?" Hite asked.

Currently 120 courses are offered each semester as well as summer courses.

"We're reaching out to our members to see if there are any particular classes they'd like to teach," she said. "We added some new classes this year, such as 'Mah-Jong,' 'American Sign Language' and tips for surviving cancer, and we will continue to add new classes in the future. We're interested in offering an ESL class and are offering programs on topics such as cybersecurity, especially as it affects seniors. With the cybersecurity program, we are working with graduate students who will work with OLLI members to help them protect themselves from phishing and scams."

In closing, Hite emphasized that OLLI is dependent on volunteers to teach classes, serve on committees, help with hospitality for various events, fundraise, and help promote the program. "If you are interested in teaching a class or helping in other areas, let us know," she said. "Just as there are many opportunities for learning, there are also opportunities to develop community and continue to ensure that OLLI remains a success."

The livestream recording of this Spring Town Hall is available on Vimeo through the OLLI website at:

<https://vimeo.com/1065947142/853ad55544?share=copy>

Thanks to Board Members for Serving OLLI

The members shown below of OLLI's Board of Trustees will complete their terms of office on May 8 and all but four of them will be succeeded by new officers and trustees that were elected at the General Meeting and Election on April 17.

The exceptions are: Anthony Gonzalez was appointed Vice President Facilities in September 2024 and he was nominated to continue for a new term as Vice President Facilities; Ann Sparks was appointed Treasurer in May 2024 and was nominated to continue for a new term as Treasurer; and there were no nominees for Vice President Membership nor Vice President Hospitality.



Sue Batie
Vice President Programs

Vice President Programs



Debbie Maxwell
Vice President Membership

Vice President Membership



Anthony Gonzalez
Vice President Facilities

Vice President Facilities



Lisa Sewell
Vice President Hospitality

Vice President Hospitality



Ann Sparks
Treasurer

Treasurer



Annette Lauritzen
Trustee at Large

Vice President Hospitality



Maggie Giles
Trustee at Large

Trustee at Large



Joanne Hardy
Trustee at Large

Trustee at Large



Chris Milord
Trustee at Large

Trustee at Large



Tony Package
Trustee at Large

Trustee at Large

Thank you.

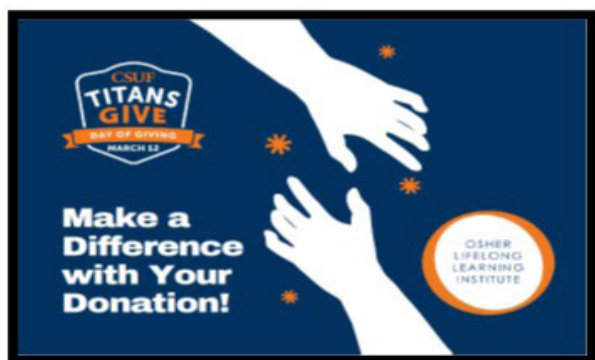
Titans Give Day: A Great Day for OLLI!

*By Fran Colwell, Chair, Development/
Philanthropy Committee*

Titans Give Day has ended and the final results for OLLI are in! The words “thank you” do not adequately express our gratitude to every supporter who donated during the record-breaking 24-hour marathon on March 12. Our goal was to reach \$60,000. Your generosity for our most important fundraiser of the year was overwhelming as we soared to (an updated) \$61,918 from 460 donors! This is way, way up from last year’s huge \$47,560 raised from 187 donors.

Here are a few details. The Board dollar-for-dollar match to celebrate our 45th anniversary was more than met. OLLI competed for PepsiCo corporate matching funds and placed second university-wide in both total donors and total dollars raised. Our own Dennis Wilson placed third with 109 donors as one of the winners of the PepsiCo Champions Challenge. Mike Stover was fourth and received a “Surprise Champion” award from CSUF Titans Insider. Tom Hut placed a very respectable ninth. All of our champions did a super job of rallying their supporters. And we also received a significant amount of matching funds throughout the day (and night) from the many Titans Give Day hourly challenges. Check out the OLLI Challenge leaderboard for all results:

<https://titansgive.fullerton.edu/giving-day/93661/departments/93794/leaderboards>



Cal State Fullerton also set new records. Our Titan community set out to raise \$725,000 from 2,900 donors ... and ended up raising more than \$940,000 from 3,909 donors in all 50 states to support participating causes.

Your donation will go directly to the OLLI Today and Tomorrow Fund. You are making an incredible impact on our classes, programs, accessibility and Aging Studies Program students. While membership fees cover a large portion of our expenses, your continued financial support ensures that we are responsive to member needs and remain sustainable.

Finally, we’d like to hear from you! How might we improve our efforts in Titans Give Day 2026? What worked for you and what didn’t? If you have any comments or suggestions, please email at olli-info@fullerton.edu or drop a note off at the OLLI Office in RGC Room 7.

DO You Really NEED HARD COPIES of the ChroniCLE and Blue Book Mailed to You?

Chris Shaw, ChroniCLE Editor

Sylvia, a new OLLI member, recently emailed the OLLI office, asking to be removed from the ChroniCLE snail-mailing list. She said that, since she reads the ChroniCLE when it comes via email, she realized she doesn’t need the printed copy.

I replied: “I have removed you from the ChroniCLE snail-mailing list ... Thanks for notifying us and remember not to check the box requesting a mailed copy in your next OLLI membership renewal form in the fall. Electing to rely on the electronic versions only of the ChroniCLE and Blue Book, and declining to request printed copies, saves OLLI the expense of printing and mailing those publications and keeps our membership fee as low as it is (and saves some trees, too). ... Of course, you will continue to receive the emailed copies that go to all members.”

Do You Really Need Hard Copies... Continued on Page 7

A Peek Into Some Classrooms at OLLI

Photos by Jim Di Tota and Vickie Hite



Crescendo Chorale



*American
Presidency*



Ceramics



Mah-Jong



Cybersecurity



Science For You



Strings & Things



Fly Fishing

Florence “Flossie” Arnold OLLI’s Champion of the Arts

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Florence Arnold, known affectionately as “Flossie,” was the first Vice President of CLE (OLLI’s predecessor organization), reporting to CLE’s first President, Leo Shapiro, from 1979 to 1981. Her name is inscribed on a plaque outside the OLLI office



door as one of CLE’s Founding Committee members, and she was one of the most ardent supporters of the fledgling organization, recruiting many new members.

When the founders were debating the name of our organization, she was adamant that the title not include the word “senior,” resulting in the name Continuing Learning Experience (CLE). She coordinated an art class during the first CLE semester in 1979, a study group called “What You Always Wanted Know About Art (And Were Afraid to Ask).” She brought in CSUF art instructor and art critic Irmeli Desenburg, and they discussed art, promoted local museums and conducted a field trip to a nearby art exhibit. She was so well-known and so popular that CLE gave her a gala 80th birthday party in 1980, where she received a cap, gown and Phi Beta Kappa CLE key.

Flossie was born in Prescott, Arizona in 1900 to a miner and a farm girl from Missouri. After getting her music degree from Mills College in Oakland, California, she took a job teaching music in Sacramento. Flossie married Archie Arnold, and they moved to Fullerton, near Archie’s family. She began teaching music in Placentia in the 1920s.

In 1950, an unlikely experience pushed Flossie’s life in a new direction. She recalled, “Adrienne [her daughter] was in high school and I was taking her down to summer school at Fullerton High School. As I was walking down the hall, Arla Smith, an art teacher, saw me and grabbed me by the arm. She said, ‘Come in and sit down. I need twenty people to keep this class going this summer. Of course, I don’t have enough people, so just sit there.’ Being an accommodating person, I sat

down, and she gave me a brush, a pencil and some paper.”

Flossie quickly discovered a passion for painting. She joined together with a group of other local artists, and they started taking “art trips.” She enrolled in art classes at Fullerton College, and began showing her paintings in gallery and museum exhibits around California □ eventually showing her works in Madrid, Copenhagen, Florence, Rome, Milan and Venice. With her newfound passion for art, Flossie began a mission to bring arts and culture to north Orange County.

Flossie started the Orange County Art Association. She also helped to found the “Night in Fullerton,” staging the first event in 1966 to help promote and showcase local art and culture. Most interestingly, Flossie founded Cal State Fullerton’s Art Alliance and was the organization’s first President.

For the rest of her life, Flossie worked hard to help build a real arts community in Fullerton as a member of the American-European Cultural Exchange, a member of the City of Fullerton Cultural and Fine Arts Commission, Chairman of Bicentennial Committee for Art in Public Places for the city of Fullerton, and President of Muckenthaler Cultural Center’s annual “Florence Arnold Children’s Art Scholarships Exhibition.” For her 85th birthday, the City of

***“I don’t want to live
without color. I don’t want
to live without art.”***

Fullerton presented her with the “Key to Our Hearts.”

Flossie’s artwork has been featured in the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Art Week Magazine, Chaffey Community Art Association Museum, Fullerton College, Fullerton Library and the Archives of American Art in the Smithsonian Institute. Flossie stated, “I don’t want to live without color. I don’t want to live without art.” And that is the legacy she left to OLLI at Cal State Fullerton, which continues to have a rich tradition of courses, shows and excursions devoted to the arts.

If you checked the box in your membership registration form requesting the ChroniCLE and/or the Blue Book and you find that the electronic versions that are emailed to you are sufficient for your needs, please send an email to the OLLI office at olli-info@fullerton.edu requesting to be taken off the ChroniCLE and/or the Blue Book (snail) mailing list.

Meet Nicole Zuniga: New OLLI Office Staff Member



*By Nicole Zuniga, Membership
Services Specialist*

I'm excited to be joining the OLLI at Cal State Fullerton community and to have the opportunity to serve as the new, part-time Membership Services Specialist working at the OLLI office's front desk.

A little about me: I'm an alum of Cal State Fullerton and I come from a background in banking, marketing, public relations and retail. I've spent time working in customer service and membership support, and I'm eager to apply my experience here to help members get the most out of their OLLI experience. Though I'm new to this role, I'm looking forward to building connections with our members and assisting wherever I can.

I'll be working closely with members to assist with membership services, class questions and any other needs that arise. I'll be in the office regularly, and I'm excited to meet everyone and contribute to making OLLI an even better place for all members.



What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

Following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on March 13, 2025:

- President Hite reported "amazing" results of the Titan's Day of Giving, receiving 460 donations, compared with 284 last year, equaling \$61,918.
- The CSUF Computer Science Center provided certified graduate students to present a limited three-class course on cybersecurity and tech clinic for OLLI members in March and April.
- President Hite and Executive Director Thomas are working with CSUF Philanthropic Foundation to better document and monitor their management of the income OLLI-CSUF receives from the Osher Foundation's endowment earnings.
- Nicole Zuniga was hired as a part-time Membership Services Specialist, working at the front desk in the OLLI office and assisting with auditing and financial processes.
- OLLI's fiscal 2025/2026 budget was reviewed and approved by the Board.
- VP Membership Debbie Maxwell reported that we had a successful 45th Anniversary and 90+ Celebration with a great turnout, including 30 members of the 90+ Club. Debbie gave special thanks to Mickey La Casa's team for the food, the OLLI trolley drivers and Mike Stover for his fun jeopardy game.
- VP Administration Bob Kovacev reported that the Marketing Committee is sponsoring The OLLI Experience program. For three weeks, from April 7 to April 25, the public will be invited to attend any OLLI classes for free with free parking included. This is being promoted through local newspaper ads, press release, posters, social media, CSUF alumni and OLLI members' friends and family to generate new members.
- OLLI is collaborating with CSUF Health Studies on a research grant on a tool for Alzheimer's Disease.
- Purchase of a video conferencing camera for Room 9 was approved.
- Lisa Sewell resigned as Vice President Hospitality as of March 13.
- Debbie Kegel reported that 30 pounds of food was donated during the second Reverse Farmer's Market, and that donations to the Pantry and Tuffy's Closet have totaled 299 articles of clothing, 30 items of hygiene products and 354 nonperishable items since the beginning of the year. OLLI is one of their top donors.



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

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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 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.

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