

President’s Message

By Vickie Hite, President, OLLI-CSUF



I know the university’s plans to relocate OLLI have caused concern among our members. I ask for your continued patience as our Olli Advisory Task Force works with the university. I recently read two quotes that fit our situation well: “Patience isn’t waiting — it’s how you act while you’re waiting,” and “Patience is

the ability to endure challenges without giving up.”

Your OLLI representatives in SOAR and the Task Force have done an outstanding job providing strong, fact-based responses to the university’s proposals. Their effort has already influenced the discussion positively, and I am confident that with ongoing collaboration we will reach a successful outcome. Thank you for your trust and support.

March 11 is the annual Titan Day of Giving. While some may feel reluctant to donate this year, please remember that gifts directed to OLLI go directly to our organization — not to the University. These donations are vital to OLLI’s financial health and help us maintain low membership fees while supporting key expenses such as parking, staff, classroom materials and social events.

Our budget planning for 2026–2027 is underway, and your contributions help us continue offering \$6,000 in student scholarships each spring, along with membership assistance for OLLI members.

Every gift makes a difference — whether it’s \$10 or more. Together, we can ensure OLLI remains strong, affordable and a source of learning and friendship for all. Thank you for being part of this wonderful community. One last quote: “Give without remembering. Receive without forgetting.”

“Every gift makes a difference...”

New OLLI Board Members Nominated

By Chris Shaw, Editor

All OLLI members are encouraged to attend the General Meeting/Election and Ice Cream Social on April 16 at 1:30 p.m. to meet and vote to elect the new officers and trustees of the Board of Trustees.

In accordance with Nomination & Election Policy 1.2, the Board appointed a committee to nominate candidates to replace 10 of the current OLLI Board members who will be completing their terms of office in May 2026. The Nomination and Election Committee nominated the following OLLI members for election to the Board of Trustees:

- President: Mike Stover
- Vice President Administration: Jim Di Tota
- Vice President Communications:
Larry Holmes
- Vice President External Relations:
Bob Kovacev
- Vice President Technology: Danny Torres
- Secretary: Debbie Kegel
- Trustees at Large: Jim Appel, Timothy Holmes, Bozena Morton, Eileen Walsh

Thanks to the Nomination and Election Committee, comprised of Debbie Maxwell (Chair), Mike Stover, Jay Messner, Judi Marsh, Jill Patterson, Ken Luke and Parliamentarian Phillip Barnhard (non-voting advisor), for recruiting and vetting a fine slate of nominees.

All OLLI members were invited in the OLLI Announcements & Events newsletters and the ChroniCLE last October and November to submit an application if they wanted to be a candidate for a position on the Board. All applicants were considered by the Committee for the positions that are up for election in 2026, 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.

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

President	Vickie Hite
VP Administration	Robert Kovacev
VP Programs	Sue Batie/MaryLouise Hlavac
VP Communication	Jim Di Tota
VP Membership	Debbie Maxwell
VP External Relations	Bill Sampson
VP Facilities	Anthony Gonzalez
VP Hospitality	Lisa Sewell
VP Technology	Paul Herrick
Treasurer	Ann Sparks
Secretary	Renee Cabrera
Chris Shaw (tashawc01@gmail.com), Editor; Valerie Orleans Assistant Editor; William Clark, Keni Cox, Alice Gresto, Elaine Mitchell, Mary Sampson, Staff Writers	
Photography Coordinator: Jim Di Tota	
Desktop Publishing: Corina Pineda	

Annual ‘Titans Give Day’ Coming March 11

By Fran Colwell, Development/Philanthropy Committee Chair

Mark your calendar now for the annual Titans Give Day. Cal State Fullerton will host a whirlwind 24-hour campaign event for you to share your support as “All in for OLLI.”

This is our largest and most important fundraiser of the year! All donations must be made online between 12:01 a.m. and midnight on Wednesday, March 11. Plan to go to the donation webpage and find our OLLI link to make your gift.

Membership fees cover a large portion of OLLI expenses, but it is your generosity that allows our world-class program to thrive, ensuring that we are responsive to member needs and remain financially sustainable. Donations help us improve the quality of our education, accessibility for members, purchase instructional and social supplies, provide support to Aging Studies students, and maintain a grant fund for potential OLLI members who are unable to afford our program.

Last year, OLLI raised \$62,000 and we hope to surpass that figure this year. Remember that every dollar contributed is restricted to OLLI’s use only. Please network this opportunity to your family, friends and supporters so that they may also participate.

Even a small donation of \$10 will help and you can contribute as many times as you wish. OLLI will have a single designated “Champion” this year — Jim Ertle — and we encourage you to donate through his webpage link. And consider donating from your IRA as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and/or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The OLLI Office and University Advancement staff can help you set this up (and we accept paper checks), preferably in advance of March 11.

“This is our largest and most important fundraiser of the year! All donations must be made online...”

Stay tuned for weekly newsletter and social media updates with the Titans Give Day website link/QR code, information about the \$100,000+ in time-specific matches and challenges and special day-of activities and snacks outside of the Shapiro Wing. Call or drop by the OLLI office if you have any questions. Staff and volunteers will also be available on Titans Give Day to facilitate your in-person donation.

Thanks again for all that you do to help OLLI remain a strong, vibrant and growing community of life-long learners.



How the Blue Book is Produced: Blue Book Editor & Copy Editing Team and the OLLI Office

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The Blue Book Editor, Jill Patterson, is responsible for the overall design and production of the Blue Book and the accuracy and consistent style of its content. Jill's goal is to produce a quality publication for OLLI members to determine what classes, activities and events (or programs) are available each semester and how, where and when they will be offered.

An article in the January ChroniCLE described how the Vice President Programs' section editors and Scheduling Resolution Team produce the program descriptions for Blue Books. Now, this month's article describes how the rest of the village works to produce the Blue Books.

Any large project needs a production schedule, and that's what the Blue Book Editor, Jill Patterson, creates before the Blue Book production process begins. Jill works with OLLI's Executive Director Daisy Thomas and Vice President Programs Sue Batie & MaryLouise Hlavac to establish target dates for every step of the production process each semester. The production schedule has seven segments. The drafting of program descriptions and scheduling of the program meetings was covered in the January article. Once completed, the Vice President Programs turns over the program descriptions in the order in which they will appear to the Blue Book Editor. The Blue Book Editor and her team of copy editors go over all of the program descriptions closely checking for grammar, spelling, clarity, length, consistency and completeness. They must also modify, as needed, the descriptions' writing style, such as font type and size, punctuation, spacing between sentences and lines, and other formatting for consistency. Their guide for all of this is the Associated Press Stylebook, which is the standard used by Cal State Fullerton publications.

This editing process is a team effort. The copy-editing team includes Susan Hanna, Amy Kernes, Steve Kernes, Alison Sawyer, as well as Jill. They are a talented group of OLLI volunteers who are detail-oriented — the kind of people who would notice a rare error in the L.A. Times or not-so-rare error on the Internet. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering for the team, contact Jill Patterson at jillpatterson@yahoo.com.

The front and back cover pages are produced separately. Information on the Fall Open House or Spring Preview is shown, along with a list of OLLI

programs that are offered to the public for non-members to sample before they join OLLI. Most of the covers' space is dedicated to photos of OLLI members enjoying OLLI activities. The photos are chosen by Jill, along with the Vice President Programs and the Transitions in Retirement Committee Chair Russell MacKeand. It's quite an honor for members to be chosen to have their photo on the front cover, and it's a thrill for the photographer, too. Both the subject(s) of the photo and the photographer are identified on the inside front cover.

Special thanks to OLLI's Photography Coordinator Jim Di Tota and his team of photographers — most recently Hsien Chen, Mary Crouch, Diana Guerin, Kathleen Isenberg and Don Lake — who take portrait photos of members and document most of OLLI's activities and events, capturing OLLI's history in the photo archive. If you want to learn more about volunteering for the team of photographers, send an email to Jim through the OLLI office at olli-info@fullerton.edu.

The non-curriculum section of the Blue Book provides helpful information about attending programs and must be kept up to date. Jill and her editors check this information along with OLLI Executive Director Daisy Thomas. Daisy reviews all of the information in the Blue Book, providing a review from another informed set of eyes. Daisy makes sure everything in the publication follows CSUF standards and avoids any potential legal liability for the University and OLLI.

Jill and her team produce the Day of the Week Index in the back of the Blue Book, providing meeting schedule information from the program descriptions. This index is designed to help members decide on the programs they want to attend while avoiding conflicts with other programs' times and dates on the same day of the week.

When all of these segments are completed, Jill turns them all over to Corina Pineda, OLLI Office Administrator and Graphic Designer III. Corina creates the two program indexes and the overall layout and design of the Blue Book, adding informational fillers provided by Jill, into the final document in PDF format, using a sophisticated desktop publishing system. Her work receives a final check by Jill and her editors and the Executive Director before it is distributed to all OLLI members via email and uploaded to the OLLI website. Corina sends the PDF to the printer to print hard copies to have available in the OLLI office and to mail to members who requested them.

OLLI-CSUF Showcases Learning, Community and Opportunity at Spring Preview

By William F. Clark, Staff Writer

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSUF (OLLI) Spring 2026 Preview, held at the Ruby Gerontology Center, brought together more than 200 current and prospective members for a lively introduction to the upcoming semester's offerings.

OLLI President Vickie Hite opened the program by posing a simple but engaging question to the audience: "What is your passion?" She noted that there are 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes nationwide, and that OLLI-CSUF is often regarded as one of the strongest programs in the country. The reason, she explained, lies in its volunteers. Approximately 99% of our courses and activities are taught or supported by volunteers, a distinction that reflects both the depth of member engagement and the collaborative spirit of the organization.

OLLI Vice President Administration Dr. Robert Kovacev, known to members as "Dr. Bob," followed with an overview of the program's mission to support adults navigating one of life's most significant transitions from full-time careers to retirement. Using the familiar acronym "WIIFM" (What's In It For Me?), Dr. Bob described OLLI's "Positive Learning Experience" model, which offers members access to hundreds of courses, activities and events without the pressures of exams, grades, homework or graduation requirements. "This is learning at its best," he said, emphasizing the opportunity to explore new interests while building friendships and community.

Dr. Bob also highlighted the wide range of

opportunities available to OLLI members, including travel programs, technology support, campus collaborations and mentoring initiatives that connect members with the broader CSUF community.

Vickie later shared a personal reflection on her own retirement journey, encouraging members to consider volunteering as a meaningful way to stay engaged. She reminded those in attendance that OLLI is a place "where learning never retires."

Following the presentations, attendees were invited to tour the courtyard of the Ruby Gerontology Center, where course coordinators hosted information booths representing a wide variety of subjects and activities, including art history, artificial intelligence, language courses, Arboretum tours, wellness programs and volunteer opportunities.

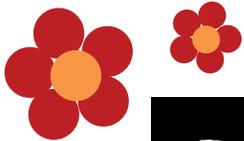
Among the new members in attendance, Paul Jewell expressed interest in courses such as "Writing with Feedback" and participating in an OLLI Book Club, noting that these offerings would provide a welcome creative outlet alongside his responsibilities as a full-time caregiver and CSUF Pollak Library patron.

"Vickie later shared a personal reflection on her own retirement journey, encouraging members to consider volunteering as a meaningful way to stay engaged."

Prospective members Sebastian and Loan Calabro shared their enthusiasm for the opportunity to audit regular CSUF courses through OLLI membership, as well as for travel programs and activities such as "Yoga for the Rest of Us", "Flash Mob" dancing and "Crescendo Chorale." They remarked that they were pleasantly surprised to discover that OLLI encourages members to "expect the unexpected" in retirement.

The event also highlighted the dedication of the many OLLI volunteers who work behind the scenes. Mickey and Tom La Casa were among the members of the Hospitality Committee who contributed to the day's success in preparing lunch for attendees.

OLLI's spirit is about remaining present, staying curious and continuing to build a life that includes learning, friendship and purpose. The Spring Preview indicated that spirit is very alive.



Spring Preview: January 17, 2026
Photos by Mary Crouch & Don Lake



New Member Orientation: January 24, 2026

Photos by Jim Di Tota



Mexican Riviera Cruise

Photos by Judi Marsh



Iconic Architecture of Downtown Los Angeles Tour

Photos by Diana Guerin

“ Los Angeles is renowned for its diverse and iconic architecture, showcasing a blend of styles that reflect the city’s rich cultural history.”



Iconic Architecture

Bradbury Building



Cathedral Our Lady of the Angels



Central Library



Bus Ride

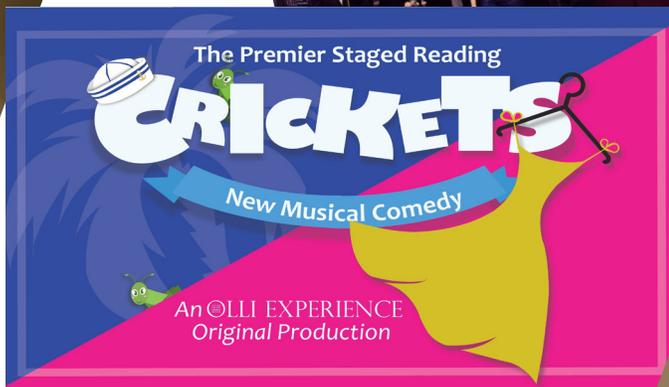


Central Library

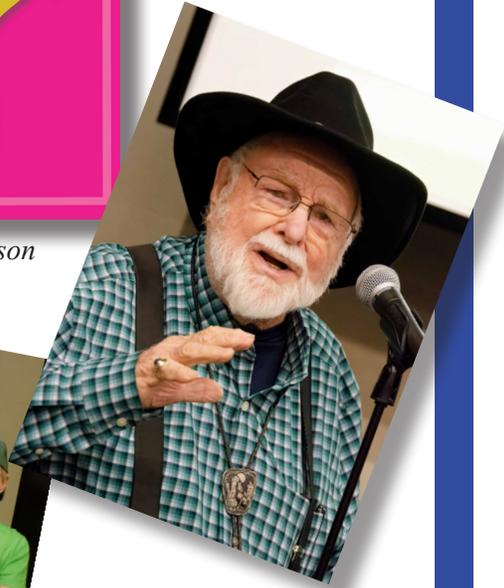


Music Center

Iconic Architecture



Photos by Jim Ditota and Dawn Wilson



Sports Talk Class Welcomes Special Guests

By Carl Richards, Sports Talk Coordinator

At our final class of the Fall 2025 Semester, Sports Talk welcomed two special guests from Cal State Fullerton: Titan Head Softball Coach, Gina Oakes Garcia, and Associate Head Coach, Jorge Araujo. It was a very informative and entertaining session, and after the class Coach Garcia took this selfie of the group.



What's Happening at the Board

By Chris Shaw, Editor

The following are highlights from OLLI's Board of Trustees meeting on January 8, 2026:

- A new proposal will be presented to CSUF President Rochon as part of the proposed relocation solution that would involve renovating and repurposing RGC rooms for more efficient sharing of space with the University.

- President Hite reported that most of CSUF's charges/costs to OLLI are being offset/recovered by services provided to CSUF by OLLI's volunteers through the Collaboration and Basic Needs Programs.

- Work on the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget has begun.

- The OLLI Office contacted members who registered only for the fall semester, campaigning for them to renew for spring. As of the meeting date, they recruited 50 renewals.

- VP External Relations Bill Sampson reported that membership recruiting ads promoting the OLLI Experience were placed in the LA Times OC Pilot and Fullerton Observer. Posts have been made on Facebook and Instagram, and response has been good. Emails were also sent to OLLI's Open to the Public interest list, non-member attendees at the Retirement Workshop, AARP, CSUF Parent/Family Relations Association, CSUF Alumni and Emeriti, non-registered attendees at the Open House and OLLI Experience classes, and community service organizations.

- The Nomination and Election Committee will present the slate of election nominees to President Hite by the end of January.

- Policies and Procedures Committee recommendations were given on OLLI presidents participating in Board deliberations and the approval of new technology courses by the Curriculum Committee. Revision of the Scholarship Policy 5.2 was presented for final approval at the next Board meeting.

- A committee was formed to consider the sale of OLLI swag items, such as polo shirts, T-shirts and hats.

- The Collaboration Program has received numerous requests for OLLI volunteers to assist with CSUF health research studies. CSUF students have also volunteered to participate in OLLI events, which provides more potential students for OLLI's mentoring and career planning help.

- A member of CSUF Sociology interns will be assisting the OLLI Board of Trustees in documenting update Procedures and developing Succession Plans



OLLI

at California State University, Fullerton

"A Continuing Learning Experience"

1979 - 2025: 46 Years of Excellence

Ruby Gerontology Center, Room 7

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How to Get the ChroniCLE

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 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.

Other Sources of Information About OLLI

Website: <http://olli.fullerton.edu>

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