



OLLI Insider

Volume 21 (September 2024)



Hello everyone! We hope you are enjoying the Fall I session. It is almost time for the Fall II session registration. The catalog for the Fall II session is available on our [CSUCI OLLI](#) website. [Registration](#) for the Fall II session begins on October 7th at 8:30 am and the session runs from October 21st – December 6th. The Fall II session features twelve courses taught by some of your favorite instructors, as well as several new ones.

Check out the Fall II calendar below and view the full class descriptions in our catalog!

Fall II Calendar

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
Mon	10am-12pm	Zoom	Secrets to Longevity (Instructor: Uyeda)	6	1001
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Jews and Movies in America - 100 Years of Achievement (Instructor: Wilcox)	3	1002
Tues	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	The Bear and the Falcon: The Claw and Talon Fight Between Russia and Ukraine (Instructor: Corbett)	6	1003
	1-3pm	Zoom	The Television Canon of Norman Lear (Instructor: McKairnes)	6	1004
Wed	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	The School of Paris and Art Between the Two World Wars (Instructor: Zoraster)	6	1005
	1-3pm	Zoom	Medieval Science: Exploring Insights and Discoveries (Instructor: Dines)	6	1006
Thurs	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Six Famous Assassinations (Instructor: Garlington)	6	1007
	1-3pm	Zoom	Language Myths Debunked! (Instructor: Pereltsvaig)	6	1008
Fri	10am-12pm	Zoom	Finding & Writing Your Story: A Creative Workshop (Instructor: Weibezahl)	6	1009
	1-3pm	Zoom	The Treatment of Native Americans in the US (Instructor: Hensley)	6	1010
	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Cultural Patterns of Creativity (Instructor: Maasdam)	3	1011
	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	National Parks and Humanity's New Realities (Instructor: Davis)	3	1012

Meet Dr. Matt Curtis

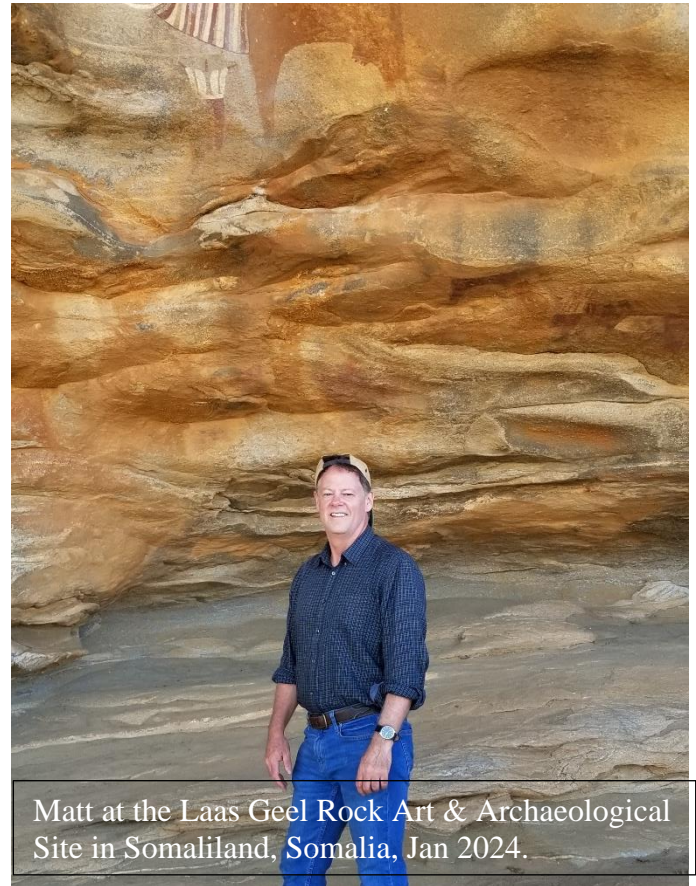
Matt Curtis is the consummate OLLI instructor. He has been teaching CSUCI OLLI students regularly since Spring 2008 -- usually with skulls and bones for us to inspect. In 2011, he brought his mother to class when she asked him a question about the site in China where the ancient terra cotta warriors were found. While Matt had never been, a dozen of the OLLI students had been to Xi'an and provided vivid descriptions of the renowned site.

Matt loves OLLI, especially the many wonderful people he has known over the years. They make OLLI exciting and fun for him. He learns so much from them as they share their life stories. He loves the insightful questions which make him formulate novel approaches to presenting ideas. Matt finds OLLI students enthusiastic, interesting, appreciative, and fun – both in class and at OLLI events.

Matt graduated with a BA from UC Santa Barbara (Summa Cum Laude) in 1992 and finished a PhD in Anthropology at Univ of Florida in 2005. He has over thirty years of archaeological field and laboratory experience in Africa. His research interests include the origins and development of ancient complex societies in the Horn of Africa, East Africa, and the southern Red Sea area. He has directed archaeological research and cultural resources management in Kenya and Eritrea and was the co-principal investigator for a National Science Foundation project in southern Ethiopia between 2005 and 2013. Matt led a trip to Ethiopia, especially for OLLI members in early 2020, which included some of his archeological research sites. He directed an international team of researchers in a regional archaeological survey project in northern Ethiopia before war broke out in 2020. He returned there in January 2024 to find much devastation of cultural heritage sites. He is now working to help with conservation efforts of post-war archaeological sites.

Matt has two sons who are taking quite different directions from dad. His oldest graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in film and digital media. He is now a wildland firefighter working for the Bureau of Land Management in Utah. His younger son is at UCSB studying history and enjoying his summer SCUBA diving in Australia.

If you missed Matt's class in Fall I, be on the lookout for 2025. You will appreciate why Matt is the consummate OLLI instructor who shares his passion for archaeology with his OLLI friends.



OLLI Members Visit Baltic Nations



OLLI members recently embarked on an enriching journey through Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, immersing themselves in the rich history and culture of Eastern Europe. Their adventure began in Kraków, Poland, where they explored the Wawel Castle and Cathedral, wandered through the Old Town, visited Jagiellonian University, and descended into the

historic Wieliczka Salt Mine. The group also paid their respects at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp and visited the poignant Museum at Schindler's Enamel Factory where they came upon a photograph of Holocaust survivor and our own OLLI member, Celina Karp Biniarz, displayed among the photographs of other survivors rescued by Schindler, including her parents. A stop at the Jasna Góra Monastery, on the way to Warsaw, to view the revered Black Madonna added a spiritual dimension to their travels.



In Warsaw, the group marveled at the Royal Castle, strolled through the Old Town Market Square, and followed the Jewish Ghetto Route. They also visited the Frederick Chopin Museum and the grand Wilanów Palace and Park. Crossing into Lithuania, OLLI members explored Kaunas, admiring its castle and Art Deco District, before heading to Vilnius to visit its Cathedral, Gediminas Tower, and Trakai Castle. The journey continued with a visit to the Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai, a powerful symbol of faith and resistance.

In Latvia, the group admired the grandeur of Rundāle Palace before arriving in Riga, where they explored the medieval streets, Riga Castle, and the vibrant seaside resort of Jūrmala. Finally, in Estonia, they wandered the medieval streets of Tallinn and explored Lahemaa National Park, visiting historic manors and the unique Vodka Museum. This journey offered OLLI members a deep and diverse experience of Eastern European heritage.



Upcoming Events

Haas Automation Inc., Oxnard



In October, the OLLI Events Team arranged a tour of Haas Automation, Inc. facility located in Oxnard on October 8th. This free, drive yourself tour is limited to 11 persons via registration only. Haas Automation began manufacturing an automated machine tool builder in 1980 and currently has become the largest manufacturer of automated machines for machine tooling in the United States. Registration opens September 11th.

Romeo and Juliet – Opera



On November 17th, the OLLI Events Team has arranged a trip to Dorothy Chandler Pavilion- the Opera House in Los Angeles, to attend the opera Romeo and Juliet composed by Charles Gounod, with soaring melodies, based on the Shakespearean tragedy of forbidden love. The trip will include bus transportation, a boxed lunch, and a ticket to the opera. Registration opens on October 24th.



Camarillo Ranch House



On December 18th, OLLI members will have an opportunity to visit the Camarillo Ranch House for a Docent-led tour. The house will be fully decorated for the Holidays at this time. This self-drive tour will include a lunch on the Ranch House grounds. Registration opens November 20th.

Be a Fall II Session Ambassador – It's Fun! It's Easy!

We need eleven ambassadors for the Fall II session. As an ambassador, you will have the opportunity to welcome your fellow OLLI students in person or on Zoom and get to know them better. You will also introduce the instructor at the beginning of class. OLLI staff will let you know if there are any announcements. That's it for being an ambassador! Please contact OLLI@csuci.edu to join the fun!