

# OLLI Insider

## Volume 14 (July 2023)



OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

at CSU Channel Islands  
*Curiosity Never Retires*

### FALL I 2023

Registration Opens August 7th

Session Dates:  
August 21st - September 29th



California State  
University

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The Fall I OLLI session is now open for registration! Classes will begin on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Exciting course topics include literature, art, science, music, and more! The catalog can be found on our website and here: [Fall I Catalog](#). Registration for the Fall I session can be found here: [Fall I Registration](#).

## Meet Bill Wakelee



Bill Wakelee has a red OLLI bag! He has been a loyal, active OLLI member since 2004 when classes started at CSUCI. He and his wife Marcia took classes in the Bell Tower when Broome Library was still an architect's dream. They often joined friends Gail and Jerry Schrum, a retired psychologist, for the morning drive to Ojai where Dr. Bill Garlington lectured in the Little House on "Existentialism: From Dostoevsky to Sartre". Bill worked with the Ventura County Mental Health Department and became very familiar with the campus when it was still Camarillo State Mental Hospital. He described some of that history in the OLLI three-part series on the history of CSUCI last May. He represented the County after a new law in 1969 required a judicial review of every decision to hospitalize a person involuntarily beyond a very limited time. Bill was the Assistant Director for VC Mental Health as state agencies encouraged outside placement of

individuals, which in turn, led to decreased services at state hospitals and increased cost to local agencies.

Eventually, Bill took early retirement at 55 and started a new life with Marcia living for 23 summers as a Forest Service Visitor Center host. Totally off the grid, they drove two hours from Fresno up a one-lane road past Shaver and Huntington Lakes to a historic cabin at 7,400 feet with a million-dollar view of the John Muir Wilderness Area. In the off-season, he volunteered with the Park Service at the Channel Islands National Park, where he continues as a guide at San Miguel, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands.

Maybe Ann Lewin will get Bill and his son Dan, CSUCI Emeritus Professor and Interim Provost, to host an OLLI tour to the Channel Islands to see the Island Fox and Island Jay.



## OLLI Wine Social Event

On Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, President Richard Yao welcomed the OLLI members to an OLLI-hosted Wine Social on the CSUCI campus. President Yao spoke about the impact the OLLI program is having on Ventura community and shared his vision for growing a partnership with the undergraduate population. Dr. Jill Leafstedt, Dean of Extended University and Digital Learning, also spoke about the significance of OLLI and introduced the other campus leaders in attendance, including CSUCI Provost Dr. Mitch Avila and Vice President for University Advancement Ritchie LeRoy.

OLLI Director Daniel Banyai gave a warm welcome with words of appreciation to our OLLI members, volunteers, staff, and instructors. 95 people were in attendance, including longtime and brand-new OLLI members, OLLI staff, faculty, and campus partners. The event was an opportunity to gather as a community, celebrate the start of Summer Taste, and test our knowledge after OLLI-instructor Patti Ridenour's wine seminar. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a wonderful success.



### OLLI Members visit the Land of Fire and Ice



During the third week of July, 25 OLLI members took a breathtaking, adventure filled trip to Iceland, where they witnessed the beauty of majestic water falls like Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss with their cascading waters leaving everyone in awe. They also explored black sand beaches, and glaciers like Vatnajökull and Solheimajokull, and the ever-changing landscape due to the receding glaciers.

They visited both dormant and active volcano sites. And they observed from a distance, the recently erupted active volcano on Reykjanes peninsula. The highlights of the trip included the boat rides offshore to watch the nesting bird populations, including Puffins, a ride in a duck boat on a glacial lake to observe calved floating icebergs, and a visit to a geothermal power generation plant. OLLI members tasted the Icelandic cuisine including fermented shark, which is a local delicacy!



## Upcoming Events

### Trips to NOAA, Oxnard, Port of Hueneme, and Santa Barbara Zoo



OLLI Events Team has planned two more local trips this summer. The first trip will be to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) facility in Oxnard on August 16, 2023. Interested OLLI members will drive themselves to the facility. The second trip to the Port of Hueneme will be a repeat of the May visit to the Port on August 17, 2023. The registration information was emailed in mid-July. Both these trips are currently full. There is also a scheduled trip to Santa Barbara Zoo on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration information about the trip will be sent as we get closer to the date.

### Trips to Arabian Kingdoms and Baltic Countries:

Ann Lewin, OLLI Events Team chair, has planned a trip to three Arabian Kingdoms -- Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman in February 2024 and a trip to the Baltic, which includes Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in July 2024. For More information, please contact Ann at [alewin@webtv.net](mailto:alewin@webtv.net).



### Be an Ambassador to Upcoming Fall I session – It’s Fun! It’s Easy!

We need ambassadors for Fall I session. As an ambassador, you will welcome your fellow OLLI students in person or on Zoom and get to know them better. The OLLI staff will let you know if there are any announcements. You will ask if there are any questions and introduce the instructor. That’s it for being an ambassador! Please contact [OLLI@csuci.edu](mailto:OLLI@csuci.edu) to join the fun.