

OLLI Insider

Volume 1

Greetings OLLI Members & Friends,

Welcome to our October Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy hearing about things that are happening within our OLLI community at Cal State Channel Islands.

Fall 1 Courses

We are starting the academic year off very well with around 400 OLLI members enrolled in fourteen courses. With no class-size limits, you can take any class you want, and you don't have to enroll at midnight. Many OLLI students like the Zoom format because they can relax in their pajamas, not drive in traffic, and not worry about parking. We also are welcoming back some of our favorite instructors, like Bill Garlington, Owen Doonan and Nick Santa Maria.

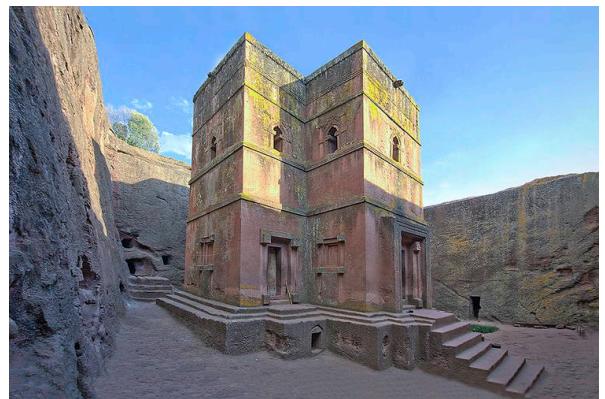
OLLI Travels

Have you ever wanted to see real archeological digs where people are discovering artifacts thousands of years old? How about seeing a totally different country with distinctive people and a fascinating culture? OLLI members did both in a trip to Ethiopia with our own Matt Curtis this past January.

Matt is an anthropological archaeologist who has carried out archaeological fieldwork and museum research in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the USA. He is a former Fulbright fellow and has been co-principal investigator of a National Science Foundation-funded archaeology project in southwestern Ethiopia. Matt has taught many of us about archaeology since 2008 and is currently teaching a fascinating course on non-human primates.

Prior to our Covid quarantine, our relentless events leader, Ann Lewin, arranged to have Matt lead a small group of OLLI members on a two-week tour of Ethiopia focusing on archaeology, history, and landscapes. The group arrived in the capital city of Addis Ababa and visited the National Museum of Ethiopia, with the famous "Lucy" fossil, and the former palace of the Emperor Haile Selassie. During their journey they saw many wonderful sights:

- Lalibela with its eleven rock-cut monolith churches carved straight out of volcanic bedrock (right). This World Heritage Site is still a living holy site for Ethiopian Orthodox Christians.
- The ancient capital of Aksum with a stela field strewn with giant monoliths carved out of single pieces of stone to mark graves sitting above royal tombs.



- Simien Mountains National Park (right) where the group walked among a troop of over 100 gelada monkeys as they foraged for grass roots near the cliffs' edges.
- Sites Matt and his colleagues have investigated, including two rock shelter sites, one with cave paintings and one with deposits that may date back 10,000 years or more.



For foodies, one morning meal was the regional specialty Kitcha fir fir (spicy seasoned flat bread, eggs, and yogurt), fatira (crispy wheat pancake with honey) and avocado or mango smoothies. Of course, everywhere they drank famous rich Ethiopian coffee. Traditional dinners were equally delicious, sometimes with Azmari musical entertainment or a Tigrayan dancer.

Ann and the Events Team have plenty of other travel ideas, both local and far, when the Covid-19 virus abates and lets us leave Zoom and our houses.

Fall 2 Courses

This year OLLI will not have a Fall TASTE program. Instead, OLLI will offer fifteen 4-week courses starting on Monday, November 16 – a week after the end of Fall 1 classes. The catalog will be sent out electronically the first week of October. Registration will begin on Monday, November 2. You will have an exciting and varied program of 4-week courses to choose from. Remember, your OLLI membership is good for the entire academic year, so please take advantage of the Fall 2 courses.

Advisory Council Report

The Advisory Council held its first Zoom meetings on Aug 6 and Sept 3, when the elected volunteers and OLLI staff had a chance to begin planning our future. We discussed the structure of Fall classes, the OLLI-imposed membership fee, and the registration process. Most of the Teams have recruited volunteers, but there are still positions available. Following the CSU guidance, OLLI courses will continue the Zoom format through the academic year. We are investigating whether small-group, face-to-face events, within Public Health guidelines, will be possible for our OLLI members.

Call for Volunteers

You appreciate the value that OLLI brings to our community. OLLI is supported by volunteers like you. To continue our wonderful program, would you please share some of your precious time with the OLLI program? We have opportunities for specific, short-term activities or for longer-term involvement, whichever you prefer. How about becoming a class ambassador for a course you take? It is easy. For more information or to volunteer, please call Michael Trainor at 805-437-1694 or email OLLI@csuci.edu.



Enjoy the rest of your Fall. Please stay safe, be well and take care of one another.

Your OLLI Advisory Council Volunteers