Welcome to Your OLLI! Ready for TASTE?

Registration for TASTE begins on Tuesday, May 31. Here are 25 exciting 2-hr classes to choose from – ranging from history to art and music to science. Surely you will find a few that are fun and interesting.

Be a TASTE Ambassador – It’s Fun! It’s Easy!

Greet your fellow OLLI students in person or on Zoom. Welcome them to the class. If you don’t know them, learn something about them. At the start of class, welcome everyone and thank them for joining the class. If there are any OLLI announcements, Michael will let you know. Ask if there are any questions. Introduce the instructor. That’s it for being an Ambassador. We need 25 for Summer TASTE. Please contact OLLI@csuci.edu to join the fun.

How does Your OLLI Run?

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute started at CSU Channel Islands in 2004 as an endowed grantee of the Bernard Osher Foundation to offer educational activities to adults aged 50+. OLLI is within CSUCI Extended University, where OLLI Director Daniel Banyai and OLLI Coordinator Michael Trainor work.

Assisting Daniel and Michael are Advisory Council Chair Jay Evans (below) and many OLLI volunteers who make the courses and events happen.
Events Team – Ann Lewin

Ann and her Team of volunteers plan, organize, market, and facilitate educationally enriching activities outside of the classroom. They brought us local activities like the Leonis Adobe, Getty Villa and Gibbons tours and the Everglades tour with Ranger Chris. Ann is an intrepid traveler, as you can see, and has led more sedate OLLI tours to Japan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Ethiopia, just to name a few. Ann believes that social events help to engage OLLI members in fun and education activities. The Events Team also involves OLLI members in projects like Food Share and Echo’s Closet.

Curriculum Team – Jerry Clifford

Jerry and his Team of volunteers are constantly looking for new OLLI instructors to keep the curriculum fresh and interesting. Some volunteers have found great new instructors for us at other OLLI programs. The Team reviews proposals every term and recommends courses to the OLLI staff based on content, instructor history, variety and OLLI member interests. The Team prepared an Instructor Handbook to help instructors prepare for the unique instructional opportunities for adult learners. The Team also provides OLLI member feedback to instructors that may be helpful in future classes. In this pandemic time, the Team works with the staff to provide novel forms of instruction – like our hybrid classes which bring in-person and remote students together into one class.

Fundraising & Finance Team – Kathy Asolas

Kathy and her Team watch our money! They work with staff to establish our annual budget and then to monitor and report annually on our fundraising and spending to the Osher Foundation. Kathy works closely with Grace Durst of the CI Development Office to present three free seminars throughout the year for OLLI members on Financial Planning, Estate Planning, and Death & Taxes. The Team also helps the staff to request additional grants from the Osher Foundation and to do other fundraising within the OLLI program. Kathy works with the staff to provide financial assistance to our OLLI members who don’t have the financial resources to take a course.

Membership Team – Donna Swift

Donna and her Team are constantly looking for ways to attract new members to OLLI. With Covid, there were few of the typical tabling events, so she worked with staff on recruiting posters and media ads. She also helps arrange opportunities for OLLI to present at local clubs and community organizations. The Team leads effort to expand the diversity and inclusivity of OLLI membership and works with staff on events like our Cinco de Mayo party with
Professor Stephen Clark. The Team solicits feedback from members to help determine the types of programs, activities and events members want.

**Communications Team – Howard Balentine**

Howard’s Team brings you our monthly newsletters, like this one, to keep OLLI members informed on what is happening. The Communications Team is also responsible for helping design our OLLI catalogs and for distributing the catalogs within the community. They work with staff to produce publicity materials that communicate course offerings and upcoming events for members and the general public. They also help staff improve OLLI’s presence on social media. As we gather for more in-person classes and events, the Team will record the events with photos and write articles for the newsletter.

**Volunteer Coordination Team – Catherine Crowley**

Catherine builds the volunteer spirit in OLLI. After all, without volunteers there is no OLLI. She helps other Teams identify specific volunteer opportunities within the OLLI program – from small- or short-time tasks that can be done in hours to bigger commitments for a season. She works with Team leads to determine position descriptions, time commitments, work efforts, and products that might match a volunteer’s interests. Then Catherine helps OLLI members find just the right volunteer opportunity that fits their interests and availability. Catherine’s Team maintains lists of active OLLI volunteers and lists of members who might like to help in the OLLI program. The Team also keeps records for the University on volunteers’ annual training and activities. The Team will assess annually the health of the OLLI volunteer program, e.g., through annual surveys.

**Become an OLLI Volunteer**

For more information or to become a Team volunteer, please contact Michael Trainor by email at OLLI@csuci.edu. Remember -- you can volunteer for whatever amount of time you are willing to donate.

If volunteering is not your thing, please consider making a cash donation to OLLI. It is as simple as clicking the following link. [Donate to OLLI](#)

**Thank you for supporting your OLLI!!!