I realize that it would have been more appropriate to address spring registration difficulties in the March OLLI Newsletter, but the deadline for my March column was February 1st, before I was aware a problem existed.

As many of you know, some of the course offerings for the spring 2012 semester filled to capacity and not everyone was able to get into all of the classes they tried to register. This has happened in the past but seemed to be more widespread this semester. Frustration and disappointment were felt by a number of OLLI members, especially those who made a special effort to return registration materials very quickly.

What happened could be considered a “perfect storm” of contributing factors. First, while the fall semester began with 607 OLLI members and 48 class offerings, the spring semester began with 769 members and 41 course offerings (one of which was subsequently cancelled). Thus, there was an increased probability that some people would not be able to get into all of the classes they wanted. What happened next could not have been planned for. In the past, mailed-in registrations came to the OLLI office in manageable amounts that could be processed efficiently and in a timely manner. Due to illness-related staff shortages, the U.S. Post Office in Chico held mail that included registration materials for several days. The OLLI office did not receive any mail until two or three days after expected. When the mailed registrations did finally arrive, there were 270 pieces the first day and 100 pieces the next day. Even though prompt in mailing their class requests, some people did not get into all the classes wanted. Program Coordinator Linda MacMichael and Program Assistant Maureen Knowlton have taken some unwarranted criticism for a situation caused by factors beyond their control. We need to keep in mind that these are both part-time positions with many responsibilities (ask to see their job descriptions sometime).

How can a similar situation be prevented from happening again? Although there is probably no simple answer, part of the solution might be online registration. Debra Barger, who oversees OLLI as Dean of the Center for Regional and Continuing Education at CSU, Chico, is pressing hard for online registration to be in place for OLLI’s fall 2012 semester. Also, by the time you read this column, the OLLI Board will have started discussing possible solutions to problems that occurred during the registration process this semester.

In closing, I encourage you to attend the April 11th General meeting at the Masonic Family Center. This is OLLI’s annual business meeting. The agenda will include review of the 2012-2013 budget, elections, the President’s Annual Report, and recognition of fall 2011 and spring 2012 peer leaders, retiring officers, and committee chairs and their committees.
OLLI AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

By Linda Hubly

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Santa Clara University is California’s oldest operating institution of higher learning. Founded in 1851 by the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit, Catholic university now serves 8,846 students on a 106-acre campus. SCU joined the lifelong learning Osher network in 2005, the same year that Chico State did.

OLLI @ SCU classes are taught by current and retired SCU faculty members and independent scholars, not peer leaders as we have here at OLLI @ CSU, Chico (although some of our peer leaders are also retired faculty). Instructors are paid a portion of the class fee. Long classes (5 weeks) cost $75; short classes (1 to 2 sessions) cost $35. Classes are on a quarter system, not a semester system as we have. In the summer, although they don’t hold classes, they have a social event to keep everyone interested in OLLI.

The detailed course catalog is on their informative website and registration is online. They also offer evening and Saturday classes, although attendance at evening classes is slim, according to Program Coordinator Andrea Saade. “People just like to be home after 5 pm,” she says.

The most unique characteristic of the Santa Clara OLLI may be the scope and strength of their volunteer program. Besides the 34 volunteers who serve on committees such as the Advisory Board, Curriculum, Membership, Finance and Office Operations committees, there are over 65 classroom “hosts and ambassadors.” They are the ones who take roll in classes, assist the instructor, make announcements, distribute handouts, and are there “in case the unexpected happens.” There is a Coordinator of these volunteers and an orientation/training session for classroom hosts each quarter.

Classes offered cover topics such as architecture, history, films, religion, communication, archaeology, frontiers of science, art history, mindfulness and compassion, music, literature, armchair traveler, and economics. They also have a “Distinguished Speakers Series,” with a talk on an important and topical subject each quarter. The most recent one was “You Gotta Have Heart: the Status and Future of Cardiovascular Medicine” by Dr. Robert Robbins of Stanford University.

There’s even more enticement to join the OLLI group at SCU: There are destination learning trips, special interest groups, and discounted or free admissions to campus programs such as at the de Saisset Museum, Music at Noon and Ethics at Noon lectures, the Center of Performing Arts, and athletic events.

WANTED! WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

The OLLI newsletter needs to be your newsletter. Writers are welcome to contribute special features such as the series on other OLLI groups or on topics of interest to our OLLI members. OLLI-related pictures (special classes and events, field trips, etc.) are needed too. If you are interested in writing or sending photos, contact newsletter editor Marian Milling: mnmilling_2000@yahoo.com or 530-864-2269

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME!

OLLI is always eager to hear your ideas. Suggestion boxes in Craig Hall & AJH classrooms are checked weekly — just drop your comments into the slot. If you want a reply, include your name and phone or e-mail.
OLLI CLASSES GET ACTIVE

It’s both social and serious when the *Cribbage: Learn to Play* class meets at Sycamore Glen on Wednesdays.

First they talk, then they walk — at OLLI’s *Let’s Walk* class each Friday morning in Bidwell Park.

Chico State is Having a Party and You’re Invited!

Help Chico State celebrate its 125th anniversary at the Chico State Expo 125 on Saturday, April 14 from 1 to 5 pm. This special community open house will have activities for all ages (bring the family) and will feature “No Quiz” lectures taught by our very own Mary Brashears, Scott Perry, and Robert Main. There will also be tours galore of university attractions, performances, and refreshments! More information is available at www.csuchico.edu/125.

Invite Your 55+ Friends to Join OLLI in Fall 2012

At the March 14 General Meeting, Dean Debra Barger of Regional and Continuing Education at Chico State and our Strategic Planning Committee presented the new Policies and Procedures that were included with your March newsletter. One of the most exciting policy changes is the reduction of the age requirement for OLLI membership from the current 60+ to the new 55+ (or retired). As before, spouses of members may become members at any age. We’ll be welcoming new 55+ members with public announcements, but be sure to tell your friends to check out all OLLI has to offer!

Another change is the new streamlined 7-member Advisory Council, which replaces the 15-member Board. Our Nominating Committee has developed a list of nominees for elected positions on the AC, which is included with this newsletter and will be presented for a vote at the April 11 business meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, April 11**
  Annual Business Meeting
  Noon, Masonic Family Center

- **Friday, April 13**
  *Table Mountain Wildflower Tour*
  10am-noon, Table Mountain

- **Wednesday, May 9**
  Annual Spring Luncheon
  (see registration form on next page)
  Doors open 11:30 am, Turandot Restaurant

**Fall 2012 OLLI Calendar:**

- Classes begin: Tues., September 4
- Veterans’ Day: Mon., Nov. 12 (no classes)
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 19-23 (no classes)
- Classes end: Friday, December 14

Special Occasion

A portion of the April 11 business meeting will be reserved to acknowledge our OLLI volunteers. Join us for a special reception and Volunteer Recognition.

**Reception:** 11:30 to noon
**Volunteer Recognition:** Noon to 12:15
**Business Meeting:** 12:15 to 1pm
OLLI SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 9, 2012 - Doors open 11:30 am – Lunch at 12:00 noon
Turandot North China Restaurant, 1851 Esplanade, Chico
Entertainment by California Heat Barbershop Chorus

Banquet-style menu includes: spring rolls, green onion pancake, corn egg flower soup, walnut prawns, lemon chicken, Manchurian beef, sliced fish with black bean sauce, sweet and sour pork, vegetable delight, sauteed green beans, vegetable chow mein, vegetable fried rice, steamed rice, plus tea, fortune cookies, and ice cream.

Name _____________________________________________________________________________________

Guest _____________________________________________________________________________________

$16.00 per person (non-refundable)  Reservation deadline: April 30, 2012
Make check payable to: CSU, Chico Research Foundation and write “OLLI” in memo portion of check.

Mail form and check to: Maureen Knowlton, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,
CSU, Chico, Aymer J. Hamilton 118B, Chico, CA 95929-0792

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, CSU, Chico
Aymer J. Hamilton 118B, Chico, CA 95929-0792  •  www.rce.csuchico.edu/usher  •  Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 – 1 pm

Program Coordinator: Linda MacMichael, 898-5858, lmacmichael@csuchico.edu
Program Assistant: Maureen Knowlton, 898-6679, mknowlton@csuchico.edu

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Treasurer: Frank Womack, 332-9414
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