Where has Fall semester gone? As you receive this last newsletter of the term, barely two weeks of OLLI classes will remain. I am saddened by that prospect, and I know that many of you are too. After the semester ends, there will be seven loooong weeks before classes begin again on February 4, 2013.

In the interim, where will we get the infusion of intellectual stimulation, self-awareness, sense of community, and pure fun afforded by OLLI? True, we could practice our French, study history and science, stay abreast of current events and the hot topics of the day, write, meditate, read a book, go birding, or watch an opera or an Italian film on our own. But somehow, without the knowledge and guidance of the peer leaders and the richness of discussion and exchange of ideas with classmates, the experience is just not the same. If you should happen to see me in mid-January wandering around glassy-eyed and disoriented, just know that I am suffering from OLLI withdrawal. Gently point me in the direction of home and firmly tell me that OLLI classes will soon begin.

Someone might read what I have written so far and say, “That guy has a problem. He needs to get a life!” Okay, I admit it. I am addicted to OLLI. What can I say? As addictions go, an OLLI one is not bad to have. When I first sampled a few OLLI classes in Spring of 2006, I had no idea I would become so enthralled with it. That is why I encourage ALL OLLI members to tell family, friends, colleagues in other organizations, and people new to the community about OLLI. If others at least know that OLLI exists and are aware of what it has to offer, there is a chance that they will give it a try; if they give it a try, there is a good chance they will get hooked on OLLI just like I did.

Although I lament and remind you that Fall classes are nearing an end, I do have some good news to report. Take heart! Planning is well underway for our Spring semester, and, if the course offerings are any indication, an enlightening and enjoyable experience is in store for OLLI members. I have said it before and will say it again, “Peer leaders are the backbone of our organization.” When you consider that they are unpaid volunteers, it makes the time and energy they put into teaching and facilitating classes that much more awe-inspiring. If you have not let your peer leaders know how much you appreciate their classes, please try to do so before the end of the semester.

**WE ARE THANKFUL FOR PEER LEADERS!**

Realizing how integral peer leaders are to our OLLI’s success, a concerted effort was made to recruit and mentor peer leaders for Spring 2013. As part of that effort, our first-of-its-kind Peer Leader Development Workshop was held in October. Peer leader Sue Monroe played a key role in the planning and implementation of the workshop. That training and the Curriculum Committee’s hard work in recruiting peer leaders have paid dividends. There will be approximately 60 OLLI classes offered in the Spring. For the Spring of 2012, we had about 40 classes. Congratulations to Program Director Ann Nikolai, Sue Monroe, and William Tefteller and his Curriculum Committee.
The 2012 OLLI National Conference was held at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs in November, courtesy of the Osher Foundation. The three-day invitational event was by far the most informative, inspiring conference I've ever attended because of the open nature of the Osher leadership and all 300 participants. By “open nature” I mean that Kali Lightfoot, Executive Director of the OLLI National Resource Center, pronounced during opening session, “We like to encourage thievery!” With that in mind, I pursued each session with an ear toward good ideas and insights I might take away to build more value into our program for the widest possible audience. Some of our members seek academic rigor, for example, while others are more interested in the social dynamics of peer networking. Some want field trips and even international travel-related opportunities, while others are interested in meaningful volunteer opportunities on campus. One highlight of the conference for me was the extent to which many successful OLLIs draw on their members’ experience and participation rather than large annual fees, faculty stipends, or individual charges per class. Instead of high costs and charges, volunteerism is the currency. By volunteering to lead classes, join a committee, create publications, or market to the community, we add value of the best possible kind. And we can continue to operate this way as long as we continue to volunteer.

Last Spring we offered 40 classes. The curriculum committee is currently reviewing 64 course proposals for Spring 2013. For those of you who submitted volunteer hours, I’ve counted more than 4,000 hours to OLLI since January 1 – and this from less than half of our total volunteers!

At each conference, Osher requires the program director and one other member to attend, for whom all conference, hotel and food expenses are paid. William Tefteller accompanied me this year because Jerry and I determined that a strong curriculum is the heart of our program. In this issue William talks about his experience at the conference and what he learned. I think you’ll see, and certainly what was most humbling for us, is that while we clearly have an active membership and growing levels of involvement, we fall short of Osher’s standard for 100% participation. We initially scoffed at the notion, until we met OLLI members that have hit that mark.

With curriculum committees comprised of 50+ members and newsletter volunteers including cartoonists, reporters, photographers, and designers, it becomes easier to see that volunteering takes many shapes that do not always involve a huge time commitment. Whether part of a committee, leading a class, contributing a photograph for the newsletter, or donating money to scholarships, there is a role for everyone. With giving as our currency, we will stay less reliant on traditional fee increases and other charges that many of our sister organizations depend on.

Perhaps most humbling of all was Bernard Osher himself, who has attended every conference since the first in 2005 and who addressed the conference participants at the opening session in Colorado last month. Here is a man who has dedicated nearly a billion dollars to supporting education, starting 40 years ago with scholarships for traditional students. He later recognized the dire needs of re-entry students, many of whom return to school while working one or more jobs or raising one or more children. And when he better understood the importance of the bachelor degree in our changing workplace, he gave enough money to the vocational and technical colleges in his home state of Maine to convert each one into AA-degree granting institutions, allowing students the option to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Since 1977, the Osher Foundation has been supporting mature students and in 2001 awarded the first endowments for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, now numbering 117. His deep belief and participation all three days of the conference demonstrated a conviction beyond just personal interest. Mr. Osher believes emphatically that he has a duty to make the world a better place. His message to all of us was clear: we too have a duty to enlist our members in creating not only better lives for ourselves, but for our larger community, and, in so doing, improving the quality of life for everyone.

Meeting with other leaders from around the country to engage in lively discussion and share ideas was refreshing and exciting. This Spring I will lead a weekly Brown Bag Lunch activity for the purpose of bringing members together to share ideas. I encourage you to join me in expanding this discussion, and I also encourage everyone to think about joining a committee and becoming more involved. Remember, giving of our time and generosity is our currency at OLLI at CSU, Chico – a tradition of which we should be proud.
**OLLI Conference: My View**  
*by William Tefeteller*

With our curriculum as a driving force for what brings value to our organization, I was selected to attend this year’s annual conference. And frankly, the experience was humbling. I attended sessions with leaders who sit on committees 50-members strong! I began to see my task here not so much as something to master and take charge of, but as an opportunity to build interest and room for more voices. I discovered that in creating a larger committee, the organization benefits from deeper resources, more fresh ideas, a stronger network, and ultimately a curriculum that better reflects its membership. Here are some examples of what other OLLIs are doing with curricula:

- George Mason University uses 10 Curriculum Resource Groups to plan 367 courses and 70 special events.
- Coastal Carolina University offers 500 courses, workshops, excursions, clubs and events each semester. They accept subjects submitted by prospective instructors and use registrations and evaluations to determine which courses to offer.
- University of Delaware’s Curriculum Committees solicit and approve 500 courses, workshops, excursions, clubs and events each semester.
- University of California at Santa Cruz has 400 members organized into 48 special interest groups and offers few classes.

Sharing similarities and differences among programs was very helpful, reflecting the nature of the whole event. While it was tempting to simply copy other successful programs, the message was clearly to mine our own OLLI and follow the path our own membership charts.

I was reminded to reach out to all our members and encourage broad participation on our committees, to encourage taking ownership of OLLI by being involved.

I close with an excerpt from the final session, a humorous lesson in overcoming tech phobia and fatigue led by Adriane Berg, CEO of Generation Bold. The session was described as follows:

“Have you begun talking to your computer? Does it answer back? Are you frustrated by friends, family or colleagues who resist the computer and other technologies? Or are you one of them yourself? Discover why some of us resist technology while others embrace it, how to overcome resistance in yourself and others.”

Ms. Berg pointed out some interesting demographics:

- Boomers own more technology appliances than any other age group.
- Women over 50 are online more than teenagers.
- In 2012, 53% of people over 65 have internet access.
- 80% of people over 65 live in their own homes.

Presentation materials can be found on her website:  

OLLI member Elizabeth Shepherd answered the call and contributed this cartoon to the newsletter! She is a 2-year OLLI member, taking Meditation this semester. Thanks, Elizabeth, for sharing your talent with us!

“Gramps, how come you have handlebars on your skateboard?”

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Dick Leahy passed away on October 30 and was memorialized at a service in Chico on November 3. In addition to being an active member of OLLI for some years, Dick was a Marine Corps veteran, career teacher, accomplished artist and a devoted husband and father.

Polly Gilbert died October 24. A resident of Chico since 2003, she was an involved OLLI member. Polly is remembered for her endless nurturing, high energy, adventurous spirit, and courage in trying Times, as well as for her cooking and hospitality. A private service has been held in Chico and a November 24 memorial service took place in Stafford, Virginia.
KEY DATES
FREE: December Online Registration Tutorials!
Monday–Thursday, December 3–20 9 am-1 pm
OLLI staff will walk you through the process and show how it works, so you will be able to register online with confidence this Spring. Call the office to make an appointment now (898-6679).

Spring Class Preview:
Tuesday, January 15 10 am–noon
Learn more about what’s on the academic menu for Spring: sample first-time offerings by new peer leaders, experience the flavor of old favorites, and learn new ways you can participate in this feast for the mind.

Opening Day of Registration:
Thursday, January 17 9 am
OLLI Volunteers Here to Assist! Just like we did last Fall, our team of volunteers will join us in the OLLI offices to assist members without computers, starting at 9 am on the day of registration. Come in and register with us!

Cost: If you paid the annual fee of $75 in August, you owe nothing for Spring. If you are not currently enrolled, the fee for Spring registration is $50.

HELPFUL TIPS
Registering online is the fastest, easiest, and most democratic method available. Technology is obviously not immune to glitches; however, we can also encounter problems with U.S. mail registration. Additionally, the cost and personnel expenditures associated with large mailings are prohibitive and can lead to human error.

TIP 2: Remember Your Member ID
Included in your Fall registration packet was a card with your membership ID number. If you no longer have this number handy, you can call the office between now and registration and we’ll look it up for you. And, when the online registration “goes live” on January 17, the Login prompt on the registration page of the OLLI website will include a “Look-Up ID” button as another option.

TIP 3: Buddy-Up!
There’s more than a month before registration opens. Identify someone in class who is “wired” and can assist you on the morning of registration. Driving to a friend’s house instead of paying for parking and waiting in line on campus can help reduce stress associated with “getting there first!”

’TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING….
Please help maintain our tradition of support for re-entry students by making a tax-deductible donation payable to CSU, Chico State University Foundation Fund #7217, with Prime Timers’ Re-entry Scholarship on the memo line. Over $500 has been raised to date! Mail checks to OLLI Office at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, CSU, Chico, Aymer J. Hamilton #118B, Chico, CA 95929-0792.

OLLI CLASSES FOR SPRING TERM 2013 BEGIN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4 — SEE YOU THERE!

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