



OLLI

where learning
never retires...

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU, Chico

olli.csuchico.edu

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2018-2019

LAST YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

- 306 Classes
- 136 Peer Leaders
- 10 Business Sponsors
- \$5k gift from Mr. Osher
- Featured speaker at Osher Institutes National Conference
- Panelist for national webinar on emergency preparedness
- Surpassed annual fundraising goal with a total of \$50,633 contributed by 122 individual members and 10 business sponsors, an increase of 19% over previous year
- 13 new classes, including the CSU, Chico Faculty Lecture Series



Dr. Eric Bartelink, Professor of Anthropology, kicked off the Fall '19 Faculty Lecture Series with a riveting presentation on crime-solving with forensic anthropology. See p3 for more about this new campus partnership.

2018-19 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The long-term sustainability of OLLI was a central focus this year. The implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan, a 30th Anniversary fundraising campaign, and first-time legacy gift commitments highlighted a shift from day-to-day operations to a broader, more comprehensive commitment to the program's long-term future. Additionally, the OLLI Reserve Fund is growing, with more than half of this year's fundraising campaign dollars going directly to OLLI's "rainy day" fund. While donations and volunteerism are at an all-time high, OLLI experienced a drop in overall memberships for the second year in a row, largely attributed to fee increases both years. An additional focus on outreach and recruitment was expanded to help close the gap and a payment plan option was introduced in November, from which OLLI hopes to see more benefit this fall. Thanks to a record level of giving in 2018-19, fees remained flat for the 2019-20 academic year, which should also help stem a further decline in overall membership. Thank you donors! (See page 5 for complete listing of OLLI donors). For more info visit our [budget overview and 2019-20 annual planning objectives](#) page on the website.

OLLI COMMUNITY UNITES WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

On November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire roared through the lives of too many of our members and their extended families and left us all reeling in its aftermath. OLLI staff and volunteers jumped into the void, quickly tracking all 87 members who were directly impacted. With the help of a gift from Mr. Osher, OLLI launched the Wishing Wreath program, whereby members who'd been displaced could request gifts, and members eager to help could respond by fulfilling these wishes with gift cards affixed to a tree. The program helped bring OLLI members together and provided encouragement when needed most.



2018 Holiday Luncheon sponsored evacuees & friends

CROSS DISCIPLINARY FOCUS FOR OLLI GALLERY



The OLLI Gallery in Bradley 2 takes to the skies this fall as various OLLI members share their work and interpretations of what it means to take wing. Open through December

OLLI Gallery Coordinator Maria Cimino has a vision. A member since 2017, Maria spent six years prior to OLLI running a frame shop in Baltimore, MD. “I’ve always loved art,” Maria explained, “The frame shop gave me the opportunity to be creative and help complete the artwork. It was very satisfying to play a small role in the creative process.” Her ability to “frame” the big picture made her transition to the Gallery Coordinator role, a smooth one. “She has a knack for bringing people and concepts together,” explained Carol Cody, the original volunteer coordinator. Maria’s desire to showcase all kinds of art is a perfect fit for this role because it illustrates the wide variety of artists we have in OLLI. Bringing her love of art and creative vision with her to California, Maria is finding meaning in her volunteer work. “I love the versatility that the empty canvas of the gallery walls allows me.” Lucky for us, she is making the most of it!

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS BUILD OLLI COMMUNITY

One of the great benefits of OLLI is the opportunity to make new friends. According to the research, people with a social network have proved to live healthier, happier lives. Making friends has three basic elements: 1) Something in common 2) Repeated meetings 3) An opportunity for conversations of more than standard length. In 2018-19 OLLI went to new heights to create programming that helped inspire new friendships with classes like *Lunch Around the World*, *Cribbage: Learn and Play*, and greater local travel opportunities. Do you have some suggestions for how we can get connected? Let us know via email at olli@csuchico.edu



LECTURE SERIES FEATURES CURRENT CSU, CHICO FACULTY

OLLI Members eager to broaden connections to campus

Last fall, Gayle Womack floated the idea of a faculty-led lecture series, and it took off! More than 140 members enrolled in the spring series and heard from CSU, Chico faculty on a vast array of topics, from anthropology and biochemistry to nutrition, theater, and monsters. This fall, former CSU, Chico Provost and retired faculty member Sandra Flake, has assembled another all-star cast that promises not to disappoint. See the [Fall '19 Class Schedule](#) for more information.

Pictured on right: Professor Asa Mittman at The Morgan Library & Museum in New York City, where his medieval monsters were exhibited in 2018.



OLLI “ANNEX” PROVIDES MEMBER SERVICES ON SITE

The Social Chico supports intergenerational “campus” concept.

Having a remote campus presents challenges when the primary office is located more than a mile away. To help bridge this gap, OLLI opened a new service counter outside its largest classroom, Bradley 2, at The Social Chico complex, formerly known as Craig Student Living.

Staffed on a rotating basis by office employees and volunteers, the “OLLI Annex” provides face-to-face member services and quick solutions to frequently asked questions. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and our increased presence there has fostered additional outreach, like the bright red book cart donated by OLLI member and peer leader Maureen Fredrickson. Located in front of the OLLI Annex, the cart encourages members to drop off a book they’ve enjoyed and pick up another. Browsing the cart has proved a good conversation starter!

However, keeping the OLLI Annex staffed on a regular basis is more difficult than anticipated, and we’re hopeful to increase our presence there in 2019-20 with your help. Responsibilities include meeting and greeting members, answering basic questions, and directing messages to the home office – all for which we would happily provide some basic training.

If you would be interested in volunteering for a few hours each week, please contact the OLLI office by phone, (530) 898-6679 or e-mail, olli@csuchico.edu.



Pictured on left: Book cart donated by Maureen Fredrickson

Pictured on right: Close up of OLLI Annex, located at the Social

OLLI PLAY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FIFTH SEASON

OLLI members direct, write, and perform in Annual Play Festival



Four original plays featured more than 30 creative people—writers, directors, actors, and stage hands—all OLLI members, many of whom are new to theater. The Blue Room Theater downtown was host for the fourth time, providing some of their experienced staff to assist in bringing the productions to life. Festival founder Pam Loyd compares the experience to the kind of excitement we discovered as children, remarking on how being part of a play production brings people together with a shared sense of community like none other. The Play Festival Committee is already making plans for the 2020 spring production, with a December 13 deadline for play submissions. Thinking about getting involved? See the [Fall '19 Class Schedule](#) for Joan Cleveland's class, *Fundamentals of Acting Workshop*, Pamela Loyd's *Writing Short Plays*, Sydney Wilde's *Storytelling and the Oral Tradition*, or Velda Stubbings and Carolyn Ayeres class, *Writer's Workshop*.

One 2019 play explored what happens when superheros retire. Pictured left to right: Nancy Good, Lon Halley, and Ron Jones. Hint: they didn't lose their powers!

ADVISORY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP OPENING NEW DOORS

Advisory Council Chairman William Tefteller brings experience and compassion to his leadership role

A newly restructured Advisory Council format was productive, with five new members serving alongside eight continuing members. Monthly meetings operate as workshops, where AC members work in groups to advance individual projects. This hands-on engagement, in addition to regular financial reports and policy-making, has proven to be both productive and gratifying, with volunteer leaders taking ownership of some of OLLI's most important initiatives.

One of the strategic priorities of the 2018-19 Advisory Council was to create more innovative classes and activities. Thirteen new classes were added to the schedule, including the **CSU, Chico Faculty Lecture Series** that launched in spring. A **Lunch Around Town** class, tested this summer, emphasized ways to bring members together socially. These classes really struck a chord with members, who are looking for new ways to connect with campus and with each other.

The Advisory Council is also **expanding OLLI travel opportunities—locally and abroad!** Following the lead of several other Osher programs in the 123-member network, OLLI Chico is partnering with Overseas Adventure Travel (O.A.T.) and Grand Circle Cruise Line to enrich the “field trip” portion of the OLLI curriculum. Please take a moment to [tell us where YOU'd like to go!](#)



OLLI Chico Advisory Council hosts members of OLLI at UC Davis



Photo courtesy of Overseas Adventure Travel

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