



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Presented By:

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What Does The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Do?

OLLI at CSUCI provides richly varied, high quality, university-level courses, custom-designed for seniors 50 and above. Courses are intended for intellectual enrichment and stimulation, carrying no extrinsic inducements such as grades, credits or degrees. Since inception in fall, 2004, OLLI has offered seniors from 10-14 eight-week courses in fall, winter, and spring sessions. Courses span academic disciplines in the social, physical and life sciences, music and art, history and literature, and popular culture – in short, courses reflect the content of a liberal education. Courses are academically oriented; we do not generally offer personal improvement or skill acquisition classes. Our student members are not preparing for a career, but instead wish to satisfy their intellectual curiosity. Skill acquisition courses are readily available at local community colleges, which, significantly, do not offer intellectual, academic courses specifically for seniors.

Most instructors, including but not limited to CSUCI faculty, possess Doctorates, and the remainder have terminal degrees appropriate to their specialty (e.g., J.D., M.F.A., and M.M.).

What Is The Structure And Composition Of OLLI?

For a single fee, seniors can enroll in an unlimited number of classes in each session in which OLLI membership is current. There are three levels of membership fee: Yearly (all three sessions), Single Session (fall, winter or spring), on single off-campus course. All members have the opportunity to volunteer for one of four critical committees: Curriculum, Member Services, Member Enlistment and Marketing, and Fund Raising. All are supervised by the OLLI Director and an Advisory Board composed of CSUCI faculty and administrators, community members, and OLLI members. For each session of courses, detailed proposals from prospective instructors are first discussed with the Director, then considered by the Curriculum Committee. Proposals that have passed scrutiny are then presented to the entire membership to assess their interest. Thus, all members have input into acceptance of courses that are offered. Members also evaluate all courses and instructors for quality control.

In fall, 2004, OLLI drew 138 members, even though it was new and unknown in the community. Membership grew to 268 in the second full year, as in the third year, we now have 358 active members. The goal is to reach 500 members during the 4th year (April 2007 – March 2008). OLLI members are avid attendees of CSUCI events, such as speaker series, and can be recognized on campus not only by their enthusiasm and maturity, but by the black or red OLLI book bags they proudly carry.

The program is supported by a grant from the Osher Foundation, member fees, and donations. As a member of the Osher Institute family of OLLIs at host Universities nationwide, we benefit from the shared experience of 93 OLLIs. We are eligible to apply for a \$1,000,000 endowment from the Osher Foundation in our 4th year.



OLLI members hang on every word of the instructor in a class on Film and Society.



March 2006 : OLLI members toured Tuscany, Venice, and Florence on our own, custom-designed tour. The tour was preceded by several relevant OLLI courses on the Renaissance, Mediterranean History, Italian Literature, Conversational Italian, and Classical Architecture. The Russian River tour between Moscow and St. Petersburg will be preceded by a course on Music During the Soviet Era and a field trip to the Getty Museum.



OLLI-CSUCI is a member of the Osher Foundation's network of 93 host Universities nationwide.

Where Is OLLI Going?

This question is intended quite literally, in two ways.

First, we are extending throughout Ventura County, extending classes not only to other venues (Thousand Oaks, Ojai, Ventura, Oxnard), but to accommodate boomers and those still working, we are scheduling classes evenings and Saturdays. Second, we have a travel program, which took a group of members on a tour custom designed for OLLI-CSUCI to Italy in March 2006, and on a river cruise in Russia in June 2007. More is on the way.

Another direction in which OLLI is going is toward integration into the intellectual and senior infrastructure of Ventura County. OLLI has working partnerships with the New West Symphony, Rubicon Theater, Ventura College, AARP, Elderhostel, Leisure Village, and California Lutheran University involving cooperation in courses, promotions, and special activities. At CSUCI, valued partners include the Library, Channel Islands String Quartet, and Alumni and Friends Association. OLLI indulges the intellects of community seniors!