

OLLI at CSUMB Messaging

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I. What is OLLI?

The not-for-profit Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB is administered through CSUMB Extended Education. OLLI at CSUMB provides university-level educational experiences for Monterey County Adults age 50 and better. OLLI Member benefits include participation in a monthly CSUMB Faculty Research Speaker Series, CSUMB parking pass, and two OLLI-specific educational adventures such as “behind-the-scenes” looks of the scientific, artistic, and cultural locales. OLLI members are interested in the sheer joy of learning and the program is invigorating, but not pressuring. There are no final exams, grades, or course credits.

II. The Bernard Osher Foundation

Bernard Osher created the Bernard Osher Foundation in 1977. The Osher Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through by supporting higher education and the arts.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI) are made possible through generous grants from The Bernard Osher Foundation. The Osher Foundation offers grants of \$100,000 a year for up to four years to develop and implement lifelong learning programs. The Osher Foundation \$100,000 grants are available to selected Universities for one to a maximum of 4 years. The Osher Foundation requires a membership of at least 100 persons before an institute can seek a second grant. This membership must be at least 200 persons by the end of second-year funding and 350 members by the end of third-year funding. Upon demonstrated success, the Foundation will consider establishing endowments of at least \$1 million to support individual Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes. Before an endowment gift may be considered, the membership needs to be over 500 persons.

III. OLLI at CSUMB Mission Statement

The not-for-profit Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the California State University at Monterey Bay fosters a dynamic community of lifelong learners 50 years old and better. We do this by providing intellectually stimulating educational experiences and mentally engaging social events.

IV. What is OLLI's Value to CSUMB?

Part of CSUMB's vision is to be distinctive in serving the diverse people of California. OLLI at CSUMB strengthens this vision by addressing the university-level educational needs of the older adult population age 50 and better. Another strong component of CSUMB's vision is learning through community service. CSUMB students have the opportunity to learn and extend their knowledge through community projects. This educational model requires a strong university-community connection. OLLI builds a direct bridge between CSUMB and the dynamic seasoned citizens in our local Monterey County communities. By making OLLI Members part of the CSUMB family, the university creates University advocates within the local communities.

V. Monterey County's Booming Older Adult Population

With its mild weather, rich history, and engaging landscapes it's easy to imagine that Monterey County is an attractive retirement destination. The Monterey County Health Department's 2002 Health Profile noted that one of the peaks in the age of Monterey County's population is in those 55 years and older. The Health Department report continued to assert that this increase "... may reflect Monterey County's desirability as a location for retirement."¹ This thriving older adult population is roughly 28% of Monterey County's total population as opposed to 18% of the United States population. These percentages suggest that mature individuals move to Monterey County to retire and/or that older adults having lived here all of their lives happily commit to remaining in Monterey County maturing with the beauty of the landscape. 28% of the Monterey County population represents an impressive number of people. The Rand Corporation estimated that as of 2005, there were 99,855 adults ages 55+ in Monterey County².

VI. Monterey Needs OLLI

Many Monterey County organizations currently offer courses addressing the educational needs of this booming older adult population. The cities of Carmel, Pacific Grove, Monterey and Salinas all offer older adult curricula through their recreation departments, adult schools and/or senior centers. These educational efforts provide significant value to the older adult population with a major thrust in self-help courses such as yoga, strength building, memory loss support groups, and coping with aging. These offerings also include recreational activities such as arts and crafts, bridge, fun bus trips, and bingo. Often their courses are conveniently delivered at specific retirement communities and when this occurs, course participants are almost exclusively from that specific residence.

Whereas these offerings certainly enrich the lives of Monterey County's older adult community, more can be done to meet the intellectual needs of this mature adult population. No one should believe that once a person has matured and acquired seasoned

¹ Monterey County Health Department, Health Profile 2002, p.13

² The Rand Corp. used 2000 census as a baseline and extrapolated to 2005;

source: <http://ca.rand.org/stats/popdemo/popproj.ca.html>

expertise that they should stop intellectual development. Monterey Peninsula College (a local community college) does offer a “Gentrain” program focusing on Western Civilization from Ancient Egypt through the present. Seniors have found their way to this program and often make up the bulk of Gentrain participants. However, this program does not actually target seniors. Gentrain makes no age expectancy or age requirement for enrollment and makes no structured programmatic goal of developing a community of older adult lifelong learners. In addition, Gentrain tends to have the same individuals deliver Gentrain courses. Participants interested in lifelong learning may want enrichment from a broader source of expertise. Monterey Peninsula College’s Older Adult Program does provide some intellectual college-level courses, but still about half of their curriculum is physical education. For an area with such a large active older adult population, we can certainly do more to meet the intellectual needs of this population.

VII. OLLI at CSUMB’s Differentiated Offering

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB is a dynamic community of Adults age 50 years and better interested in the sheer joy of learning. OLLI members participate in university-level educational experiences, CSUMB faculty research speaker series, exciting field trips, and “insider tours” of scientific, artistic, and cultural locales. OLLI at CSUMB is designed to be invigorating, but not pressuring. Some instructors will give reasonable (and often fun) homework assignments. There are no entrance exams, final exams, grades, or course credits.

VIII. OLLI Charter Member Priveleges

OLLI at CSUMB begins September 1st. Register for individual OLLI offerings or take advantage of this year’s special offer and become an OLLI charter member. Charter members pay a \$149 annual fee or a \$99 semester fee and enjoy membership privileges such as:

- The monthly CSUMB Faculty Research Speaker Series held exclusively for OLLI members.
- Complimentary tuition for three OLLI courses per semester.
- Invitations to OLLI social events.
- A CSUMB parking pass.
- Student discount for CSUMB World Theater events.
- Faculty discounts at the Otter Sports Center, Otter Aquatic Center, and at CSUMB athletic events.
- Early notification of CSUMB events such as the CSUMB President’s Speaker Series.
- Helping build an exciting new program that will serve our community of adults age 50 and better.

IX. The CSUMB Foundation

The Foundation of CSUMB exists to enhance the educational program of the campus; directly serve students, faculty and staff; and provide services to the public. This mission is carried out as a fully integrated part of the campus, fully coordinated with the academic programs. In addition to administering sponsored programs and fund development, the Foundation administers housing programs for students, faculty and staff as well as business enterprises on campus. CSUMB's inclusive mission and central location in Monterey County support OLLI at CSUMB to serve the diverse populations in the 55 year old and better age group. OLLI at CSUMB will be able to serve the upscale early retirees in Pebble Beach and Carmel to the working class adults of Marina, Salinas, and Seaside.

OLLI at CSUMB is administered through the CSUMB Extended Education department. CSUMB Extended Education provides OLLI with:

- Management and leadership structure,
- Personnel and office management,
- Day-to-day functions (mailing, supplies, printing, computer technology services, marketing)
- Grant Administration (\$100K grant Oct 06) , and
- Oversight of OLLI at CSUMB mission.

X. Newsletter Announcement

ARE YOU BETTER THAN 50?

Make this fall special. Join our new Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB and take part in a dynamic community of Adults age 50 years and better dedicated to the sheer joy of learning. Participate in university-level educational experiences, distinguished speaker series, exciting field trips, and "insider tours" of scientific, artistic, and cultural locales. OLLI at CSUMB is designed to be invigorating but not pressuring. There are no entrance exams, final exams, grades, or course credits. Sample OLLI courses include:

- The Foundations of a Modern Iraq.
- The Secrets of the Missions.
- OLLI Writing Circle
- Iranian Cinema.

To register call **582.5500** or visit our web site at: **OLLI.CSUMB.EDU**