

# The OLLI ISLANDER

*Volume 1, Number 1*

**Spring 2005**

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## Welcoming Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of California State University Channel Islands! We expect to publish the *Islander* quarterly, once during each fall, winter and spring OLLI semester, and once during the summer. The newsletter will be distributed to all OLLI members, past and present, and to friends of the Institute on campus and in the community. Distribution will be primarily electronic (*so to receive your newsletter regularly, please be sure we have your current e-mail address*), but hard copies will be available at the OLLI class room during the semester.

The purpose of the *OLLI ISLANDER* (try to repeat *that* rapidly with a mouthful of potato chips!) is twofold. First, it is a means of enhancing camaraderie among members by having an internal organ with which to share information and experiences. Second, it is meant to improve two-way communication between members and administration. Class announcements and posts on the class room bulletin board and the web site have not sufficiently conveyed information, and opportunity for feedback from membership has been sporadic (see the important surveys at the end of the newsletter).

Let me emphasize that while the *ISLANDER* will contain announcements, news of events, and OLLI information, we can not hope to keep you entirely current on all “late-breaking news”. Thus, the newsletter does not replace your most current sources of information about events: the bulletin board in the class room, and the web site. It’s to your benefit to actively check both sources periodically.

In this and succeeding *ISLANDERS*, a number of regular features will be found:

- OLLI news, announcements, special events (speakers, trips, etc.), how OLLI “works”.
- University news about events, talks, etc. that would be of interest to members.
- Information about enrollment for the next session.
- Important contacts at OLLI and the University
- Feature columns about classes (interesting or unusual happenings in particular classes)
- Feature columns about OLLI members with interesting stories to tell.

A few words about the last two features. Early in the semester (or depending on when the newsletter is published, perhaps it has been already done) I will be asking one student-member in each class to serve as a liaison for that class. The liaison will (a) make the occasional announcements in class that are necessary (e.g., remind members to look at the bulletin board!), (b) write brief reports of newsworthy events in the class to be published in the *ISLANDER* (e.g., field trips), and (c) identify class members with interesting life stories for interview by our columnists for newsletter articles.

Assisting me with the newsletter is the Communications Committee (Delores Hunter, Colleen Conway, and Cindy Yoshitomi). **I invite members with internet, writing, and interviewing skills to join the committee by being available to interview members and instructors and write brief features as needed. I also invite volunteers to serve as liaisons in their respective classes.** Please contact me to volunteer for either activity.

So, here it is, the *OLLI ISLANDER*. Take it – it's yours (apologies to Mr. Mulholland).

- Marty Kaplan -

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## OLLI NEWS

Marty Kaplan, Director

**Osher Foundation Grant.** Most members know (it's in the brochure) that we are able to maintain our reasonable fee structure while paying for course instructors, speakers, workshops, course materials and technology, and marketing by means of a grant from the Osher Foundation. The grant may be renewed each year for three years, after which, if we meet Foundation criteria, we are awarded a \$1,000,000 endowment. The first yearly grant began in April, 2004, and we offered our first set of courses in September, 2004.

So much for background. The news is that we applied for a second year of funding and were notified on February 9, 2005 that we were awarded the continuation grant! The acceptance letter was glowing about our accomplishments in the first year. Please drop by my office at 236 Professional Building to see the letter on MY bulletin board. The glow in the letter is thanks to you, our OLLI Originals!

**Fall 2005 Session** Sure, it's barely spring, but we're working on the fall session. The session begins the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>, ending on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. It begins earlier than last year's fall session because we will move to a new room, shared with the library, and they need it in mid-October. On the bright side, the room will be better equipped, especially for sound, and we'll no longer be vexed by off-center screens and a blackboard few can see. As always, current OLLI members have priority enrollment by visiting the web site in late May. Brochures will be printed and mailed in early summer.

There will be an orientation meeting in early August, at the CSUCI conference center – the date will be announced when you enroll.

During April, members will be surveyed in classes regarding their intentions to enroll in a menu of proposed courses. Courses favored by members will be selected for the fall schedule. To aid in indicating your preferences (this is not the actual enrollment) you will be given full descriptions of the candidate courses.

**We need your feedback!** We have aimed to provide educational experiences beyond our central mission of providing classes. These include workshops, a speaker series, trips, and a film series. The idea is to supplement academic, intellectually-oriented classes with a broader menu of experiences relating to health, personal, and financial enhancement. However, attendance at extra course events, such as noontime lectures and the trip to Italy, has been spotty. Before we invest more time and money into these experiences, we want to survey the membership for its desires. At the end of the newsletter are several surveys that can be easily completed and returned via e-mail reply, regular mail, or printing and leaving in the class room. **Your feedback is important to whether we continue these extra-class programs.** Lack of feedback would send a clear message that these events are not needed.

I would also appreciate feedback on my idea for a regular film festival on Fridays at noon at the Science Auditorium. I have in mind showing classic films from the “Golden Age”, with commentary (think TCM). Each semester would be built around a particular theme (e.g., ground-breaking musicals, portrayal of women, different types of comedy). Subject of course to the particular film, would you attend, even if you had no class on Friday?

**There’s an elephant sitting in the room....parking!** Yes, parking is a problem. Not so much finding a space (believe me, the space situation on this campus is better than most I’ve been to), but the cost. I know it adds up, at \$6 a pop. But there are alternatives. Many have discovered the joys of Vista, i.e., parking free at the Centrepont mall or Oxnard College in Oxnard, or the Metrolink station on Lewis Road in Camarillo and riding the VISTA Bus. Others have created car pools in their classes. But consider buying a CSUCI student semester pass. It’s about \$130. If you take both the winter and spring OLLI sessions, you need only the CSUCI spring pass, and it’s economical if you’re on campus more than one day a week. In the fall, when we have only one 8-week session, you can return your pass before the middle of the university fall session and receive half your money back. Thus, each OLLI session would cost about \$65, which is economical if you are here twice a week, more so if you share the cost with other riders. And, with a semester pass, you could drop in at any time to attend university events, go to the library, see Friday films or speakers, etc., without weighing whether the event is worth \$6.

**Partial list of courses being proposed for next year (2005-2006)**

Film Scores; Social Psychology; Early Film and Photography; History of Jazz; Musical Theater; Everyday Physics; Geology; Language and Culture; Literature Translated to Movies; Architecture; Human Evolution and Diversity; Art of the Harlem Renaissance; Boccaccio; Philosophy; Europe Between the Wars; Tribalism & Conflict, Oceanography; Meteorology (Weather).....and more!

**Upcoming Physics talks (see class bulletin board for details)**

*Einstein and Lasers* (4/7, 3 PM, Science Auditorium)

*Gravitational Lensing: Einstein's Unfinished Symphony* (4/21, 3 PM)

**And finally.....** I know I'm nagging, but good gOLLI, to know what's going on and to take advantage of opportunities, become habitual bulletin board and web site watchers!

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**Important Contacts**

Marty Kaplan, Director	<a href="mailto:marty.kaplan@csuci.edu">marty.kaplan@csuci.edu</a> ; 437-8583
Institute Assistant (questions regarding fees, enrollment, updating information, etc.)	<a href="mailto:osher.institute@csuci.edu">osher.institute@csuci.edu</a> Phone: 437-2748; FAX: 437-8859
OLLI web site	<a href="http://www.csuci.edu/exed/osher.html">www.csuci.edu/exed/osher.html</a> ;
University Police	437-8444
University Parking	437-8432
Information about University closures, roads	437-8444
CSUCI Library	437-8561
Ventura County Transportation	<a href="http://www.goventura.org">www.goventura.org</a> ; 800-438-1112
ADA (rides for those with mobility problems)	983-0691
CAT (dial-a-ride in Camarillo)	988-4228
Camarillo Health Care District	482-9382
Oxnard Senior Services Office	385-8019
Ventura Senior Programs	654-7745
Area Agency of Aging	<a href="http://www.aaa.countyofventura.org">www.aaa.countyofventura.org</a>
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute	CSUCI, One University Dr., Camarillo CA 93012

**OLLI Committees**

**Curriculum Committee**

Nancy Kochevar  
Ann Lewin  
Tom McKiernan  
Lynn Santamaria

**Events Committee**

Eileen Martinez  
Pat O'Neil  
Margaret Nesbitt  
Jim Sumner

**Communications**

Colleen Conway  
Delores Hunter  
Cindy Yoshitomi

Please feel free to contact any committee members with your thoughts about their respective duties. Please contact Mary Kaplan to volunteer for a committee.

## **Become a Friend of OLLI**

Member fees pay only a portion of OLLI's expenses. Though our endowment from the Osher Foundation helps supplement member fees, as we expand our program additional costs will need to be met by individual, corporate, and foundation fund-raising. Members, non-members, and businesses are encouraged to become "Friends of OLLI" by making tax-deductible contributions. Such contributions can be to the general fund, or for specific purposes such as member scholarships, technological equipment, classroom needs, and instructional support for courses and the speaker series. To discuss donations or to donate for a specific purpose, contact [marty.kaplan@csuci.edu](mailto:marty.kaplan@csuci.edu).

## **SURVEYS (Please complete and return by 4/8 via mail or email)**

### **Speaker Series**

The past two sessions we had a speaker series at 12:30 on some class days. We had a broad range of talks. The goal of the speakers program was to expand the menu of experiences for members beyond the academic substance of the 8 week courses. The speakers were well-publicized by announcements in class, and programs on the class room bulletin board and on the web site. However, attendance was very low to most events. If few people wish to attend noon talks, scheduling them is a waste of time, energy, and money. We wish to poll the membership to learn the types of talks that would draw attendance, and whether to continue the series. To draw conclusions, it is important to have a prompt and sizable response from members; lack of response would reflect lack of interest in continuing the series.

Please respond to the following questions on the basis of what YOU would do, not what you think others might want. We want to assess the memberships' readiness to attend special speaking events (typically during the 12-2 period) based on the type of speaker. At this point we are not seeking specific speaker recommendations. For each speaker type, please indicate whether you would be likely to attend (a) on a day you have a class, and (b) on a day you don't have a class by checking all the alternatives that reflect a likelihood that you would attend.

<u>Speaker topic</u>	<u>On a day I have a class</u>	<u>On a day I don't have a class</u>
A topic directly related to my class	( )	( )
An intellectual topic not part of any of my classes	( )	( )
A non-academic talk about seniors and health	( )	( )
A non-academic talk about legal/financial issues	( )	( )
A non-academic talk involving skill acquisition (e.g., video production, internet surfing)	( )	( )

### **Travel Tours**

Following the lead of other OLLIs who have had success in organizing member trips, we developed a trip to Italy (June 1-10). This trip was custom-planned to incorporate hotels in more picturesque locations, more in-depth experiences, and other features. The choice of venue was based on its relevance to several courses offered this year. However, very few CSUCI-OLLI members signed up for it. Thus, we would like to survey the membership as to whether future trips are feasible. Please check those alternatives that reflect whether you would join a future trip. Trips would be in the summer, mid to late March, or mid to late October, when classes are not in session. Do not check any alternatives if you are unlikely to join any trip. **[next page]**

- I would enroll in a trip to a European destination ( )
- I would enroll in a trip to an Asian (inc. Australia) destination ( )
- I would enroll in a trip within the U.S. ( )
- I would enroll in a trip to Central or South America ( )
- I would enroll in a more unique (also expensive!) trip,  
such as Iceland, Antarctica, Pacific Islands ( )

**Workshops**

Another attempt to broaden our OLLI program is to add special, shorter workshops dealing with health, personal, legal, and financial issues. These would typically be offered for 4 consecutive, 2 hour sessions on Saturdays. The aim is to supplement our regular academic courses with experiential, non-intellective courses. However, preliminary enrollment figures for our spring workshop, on Health Enhancement, do not justify the expense. Hence, a survey is offered for your consideration. Please check all that apply to you.

Depending on the specific topic, I would attend a Saturday workshop on personal or health enhancement. ( )

Depending on the specific topic, I would attend a Saturday workshop on financial or legal issues. ( )

I would attend a workshop if it were held on a weekday evening. ( )

I would attend a workshop if it were held at noon, on a weekday ( )

**Film Festival**

I would attend free showings and talks about classic films on Fridays, at noon, in the Science Auditorium (depending, of course, on the film):

- Only if I have a Friday class ( )
- Whether I have a Friday class or not ( )
- Rarely or never ( )