A Brief History of OLLI at USM

✧ 1997 (Fall), six 8-week courses offered on Fridays only after much work by Rabbi Harry Sky and USM Administrator, Terry Foster.

✧ 2001, Sr. College at USM became the first Osher Lifelong Learning Institute with a major endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

✧ 2004, the Osher Foundation created a coordinating office for its 100+ OLLIs around the country. USM was chosen as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute National Resource Center.

✧ 2007 (Spring), OLLI at USM hit 1000 active members for the first time.

✧ 2008 (Fall), OLLI moved into its new home in the Wishcamper Center on the Portland campus of USM, and began offering classes 5 days a week.

✧ 2009, the National Resource Center and OLLI at USM were separated into two departments of USM.

✧ 2010 (Fall), OLLI at USM expanded its program to offer classes one evening and Saturday morning.
Welcome to New Members!

This handbook is designed to inform and orient you to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at USM. It includes basic information about how the Institute operates and the many experiences available to you.

Additional OLLI information can be found in our catalogs, our monthly Newsletter and on our web site: www.usm.maine.edu/olli
**OLLI’s Mission Statement**

OLLI at USM is committed to providing for its members a wide variety of stimulating courses, lectures and workshops and complementary activities in a creative and inclusive learning community.

**General Information**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine is a membership organization of people 50 or older that offers a variety of courses and activities. OLLI has no entrance requirements, no tests and no grades. It is learning for the joy of it.

*Membership* is $25 per year (July-June) and is required for participation in any OLLI course or activity.

OLLI at USM offers *four terms* of classes per year; Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Fall and Spring terms are 8 weeks long, while Winter and Summer are 6 weeks long.
A wide variety of classes are held Monday through Friday, with evening classes and Saturday workshops being offered in the Fall and Spring terms.

In general, morning classes run from 9:30-11:30 am, afternoon classes run from 12:45-2:45 pm and Thursday evening classes run from 6:45-8:45 pm. Saturday workshop schedules vary depending on length.

*SAGE*, our Tuesday morning lecture series, offers 9 individual lectures in the Fall and Spring terms. Pre-registration is encouraged, though at-the-door registration is possible if space allows.

*Tuition* is $50 per course. Saturday workshops cost $15 for a single session workshop or $25 for a three-day or full-day session. SAGE is $50 for 9 lectures or $7 each at the door as space allows.

*100% refund* is available if you cancel by the end of your second class. No refund is available after that. Generally, there are no refunds for OLLI annual membership or individual SAGE lectures.

In addition to courses, workshops and lectures, OLLI offers a variety of trips, educational events and special activities throughout the year.
Stay Informed

Catalogs
OLLI at USM produces four course catalogs per year. In addition to courses, each catalog contains information concerning class books and materials, current special interest groups, registration procedures, scholarship availability, class placement lottery, student privileges, special accommodations, OLLI staff, names of the current OLLI Advisory Board members and a campus map.

Newsletter
OLLI at USM produces a monthly Newsletter. Beginning in the spring of 2011, the Newsletter is available online at the OLLI website in addition to print form. The Newsletter provides informative and interesting news about OLLI programs, trips, events and people.

Website
The OLLI at USM website www.usm.maine.edu/olli contains a vast amount of information about the Institute and is updated regularly. It is the first place to look for answers to all your questions.
**Email messages**

Often called E-blasts, short email messages are the quickest way to get information to the membership. The OLLI Advisory Board has set a policy that only OLLI information will be sent via email (no advertising, no recruiting and no promotion for outside groups) and your email address will never be shared with anyone except faculty members of classes in which you are enrolled.

**Literature Racks**

Two literature racks in the Wishcamper Center serve as distribution points for information OLLI members might find interesting and helpful. These include community information as well as OLLI information. You are welcome to take any information found in these racks. The racks are located on the first floor directly across from the elevator and at the top of the staircase on the second floor, just outside of room 205.
Volunteer at OLLI

OLLI at USM is a volunteer organization. All faculty members and lecturers at OLLI are volunteers. Committee members, office volunteers, and the mailing crew, all volunteer their time, helping to keep the cost of membership and classes as low as possible.

How to Volunteer

OLLI is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please speak with the OLLI office or any member of the Advisory Board. They will arrange for you to be in touch with the chair of the committee which interests you.
What is Expected of Volunteers

- Promptness: Always show up on time.
- Responsibility: Attend meetings and follow through with things you volunteer to do.
- Initiative: OLLI is always looking for new ideas. Share your ideas with committee chairs or Board members, and be willing to get involved if your idea is given the green light.

What Volunteers can expect

- Clear and professional communication from your leader.
- Appreciation for your time and effort.
- Training as necessary.
- One free class per year.

If you feel there are deficiencies in any area, you should talk with a Board member or OLLI staff member.
Volunteer Opportunities

Advisory Board

OLLI’s policies and procedures are set by the Advisory Board within the parameters of USM policy and in collaboration with the OLLI staff. Board members serve a 3-year term. The Advisory Board has 7 standing committees: Executive, Education, Community, Volunteer, Communications, Resource Development, and Nominating.

Each of these committees has a chair person who is a member of the Advisory Board.

Committee members

Committee members are asked to serve by the chair of the committee. Members serve a renewable one-year term.
Faculty
All faculty and lecturers at OLLI are volunteers. Anyone wishing to teach a course should speak with any member of the Education Committee or OLLI staff.

Office Volunteers
OLLI volunteers staff the main reception desk in the office. Ten volunteers work 3.5 hours each week assuring coverage at the desk from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Office volunteers log their time and use the hours for free courses and excursions.

Mailing/labeling crew
Each month a crew of volunteers label and tape the OLLI Newsletter. Extra hands are always welcome.
OLLI Affiliations

Department of USM
OLLI is a full department of USM and as such is granted all support, rights, and responsibilities of any USM department. These include media support, use of printing services, USM student ID cards, computing support and library privileges. OLLI pays standard USM rates for all services such printing catering, facilities maintenance, etc.

Bernard Osher Foundation
Bernard Osher created the Bernard Osher Foundation in 1977. The Osher Foundation, located in San Francisco, seeks to improve quality of life through support to higher education and the arts.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI) are made possible through generous grants/endowments from The Bernard Osher Foundation. The Senior College at USM was the first Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The name change was part of the conditions of the endowment. OLLI at USM's endowment is held by the USM Foundation. The annual interest generated by the endowment helps support the OLLI at USM program
OLLI National Resource Center

The National Resource Center of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI) is housed at the University of Southern Maine (USM) and serves as the national center for the current network of 118 lifelong learning institutes.

The Bernard Osher Foundation established the National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes in 2004. The Center is not a governance body, but is rather a center for dissemination of best practice models. Each Osher Institute reflects the culture of its own university and its learning community. The National Resource Center exists to facilitate the exchange of opinions, solutions and experiences among institutes throughout the country.

Maine Senior College Network

The Maine Senior College Network is an organization of the states' 18 Senior Colleges (including OLLI at USM), that exchanges information and collaborates on the development and operation of the locally governed programs. The Network is housed at USM and is instrumental in the exchange of ideas among Senior Colleges from Fort Kent to Wells.
Benefits of OLLI Membership

Some of the membership benefits include:

- a free OLLI designated USM student photo ID.
- Discount parking in the USM garage
- Access to the USM libraries, computer labs and bookstores.
- Preferential mailing of course catalogs
- A USM email account
- Access to USM’s on-campus wireless internet with log-in and password setup
- USM Student discounts and special offers listed at www.usm.maine.edu/sullivan complex/ucfr.html

Check this website regularly for the most current offerings.
Special Interest Groups

OLLI has a number of Special Interest Groups. These groups offer no instruction, but a chance for like-minded people to get together to share a common interest. Special Interest Groups are intended to be a social activity rather than an educational one. Participation in a Special Interest Group is free and open to all OLLI members. Each group has a volunteer coordinator to answer your questions. Every OLLI catalog has a listing of current Special Interest Groups and their coordinator.

Current Special Interest Groups:

- Senior Players
- Outdoor/Walking club
- OLLI Book Club
- Mah Jongg
- OLLI Night Out
- Recorder Ensemble
- Ski Club
Contact us

By phone: 780-4406
By email: olli@usm.maine.edu
By mail: OLLI at USM
         P.O. Box 9300
         Portland ME 04104
In person: 210 Wishcamper Center