Profile
Domenica Cipollone
One of OLLI’s busiest
Special Interest Group leaders

Domenica Cipollone needed no introduction to OLLI. As Director of USM’s Office of International Programs, she shared office space in Payson Smith Hall with our Senior College — later to become the first OLLI. “We shared the photocopier and coffee machine and we were like Siamese twins. I got to know the volunteers and became friends with Susan [Morrow] and Rob [Hyssong].”

Domenica became involved with OLLI about four years ago, when she retired from USM after 33 years. Since then she has become one of OLLI’s busiest volunteers and a founding member of two Special Interest Groups, and now Chair of the Reflections Committee.

Domenica grew up in Cincinnati, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature at the University of Cincinnati and later worked as an editorial assistant at South-Western Publishing Company in her hometown.

Then it was off to Mexico, where she initially planned to study Spanish at the University of the Americas at Puebla but changed her mind and took a Master of Arts in Intercultural Education instead. She stayed on as Assistant Dean of Students before taking a similar post at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass.

Domenica moved to Maine to fill a position at USM in the Student Life department. She later became Director of International Programs at the University.

During her last year at USM, Domenica worked part-time and began taking OLLI courses ranging from literature and photography to memoir, poetry, and fiction writing.

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“Who decided that OLLI should offer *that* class/workshop/lecture?”

“I certainly hope you are presenting both sides of that issue.”

“I don’t think that sort of course/workshop/lecture should be allowed at OLLI.”

These are all comments I have heard in the last couple of weeks, indicating to me that there is some misunderstanding about our institute. All OLLI classes, lectures, and workshops are led by volunteers. Ideas are generated by those who are interested enough in a topic to donate their time and energy to OLLI to make it happen. I hope you have noticed that people teach their passions and interests, not necessarily their professions.

The OLLI Education Committee (also consisting of all volunteers) works diligently to assure a wide range of courses and workshops led by amazing facilitators.

OLLI is an eclectic, membership-driven organization, composed of 1,500 individuals from diverse backgrounds, dedicated to enhancing lifelong learning. OLLI at USM is a full department of the University. In keeping with USM policy, we do not censor course content unless it is illegal or indecent. At the same time, we do not intend to offer courses in a polemical spirit either, although any course offered at OLLI will naturally reflect the instructor’s viewpoint.

Any OLLI member can propose a course and OLLI does its best to support its members’ desire to teach. Not every course at OLLI will appeal to every student, but neither is anyone compelled to take any course. For OLLI to reject a course concept would deprive a member of the opportunity to share his or her interest and knowledge; it would also deprive our diverse community of the opportunity to learn more about a topic of interest.

If you register for a class and find it is not to your liking, simply come to the OLLI office within the first two weeks of classes and transfer into another class or get a full refund. We will work hard to make your OLLI experience as positive as possible.

I hope this brief explanation helps everyone to understand OLLI’s process. We are not attempting to promote one point for view, but rather we are trying to offer as many educational opportunities as we can.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program
Summary of Member Survey Responses

Following are some of the more interesting results and statistics from the recent OLLI Member Survey. Many thanks to all who responded.

- Approximately 60% of members are female.
- The largest age group is 60–69.
- Most have been members for two to four years and ten percent have been members since OLLI inception.
- Most members take three to four classes per year.
- Almost all members learned of OLLI by word of mouth.
- Virtually all members feel OLLI communication is adequate.
- About 30% of survey respondents are interested in volunteering and 16% interested in teaching.
- More than half would take Saturday classes and nearly half would take mini-courses when offered.
- Many would attend evening presentations similar to SAGE.
- Most feel OLLI is providing what they desire.
- An OLLI course is the most important reason for their participation at OLLI.
- Short trips and excursions are more desired than long trips.
- Special events and special interest groups are somewhat important.
- The most desired classes are history, art, literature, current events, music, writing, movies, computers, health care/nutrition, foreign languages, and sciences.

—Dick Sturgeon, Chair, OLLI Advisory Board

CLYNK — keep those bottles and cans coming!

Our CLYNK recycling program has been a great success so far. Just pick up a pre-stickered CLYNK bag from the OLLI office, toss in your recyclable cans and bottles, and drop it off at Hannaford’s. OLLI automatically gets money from this.

Don’t miss these OLLI Excursions

There are still spaces available for two upcoming OLLI Excursions. To sign up call the OLLI office (780-4406).

- The June 21 trip to Boothbay, Maine, and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, with OLLI’s own Stephen Jenks as docent. Details: Anita Jones (797-3612). $55
- The July 6 trip to the Museums of Old York to visit this extraordinary treasure of 18th Century Maine buildings, artifacts, and individuals who shaped Southern Maine. Details: Liz Johnson (773-1904). $50
Cipollone (Cont’d from page 1)

Domenica formed a Mah Jongg group when Susan contacted her after hearing that someone was interested in the game. She had taught the Chinese version in USM’s Continuing Education Program for several years. “So I placed a blurb in the OLLI newsletter and calls and e-mails came in from women who wanted to play the American version. So with Susan’s and Rob’s help I set up the Special Interest Group.”

There are now 20 members of the group; from 3 to 14 of them meet year-round on Mondays and Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m. “It’s basically a women’s game in the US,” she says, “although one gentleman has joined and is doing quite well.” Two of the original members have now taught Mah Jongg at OLLI and brought more members to the group.

The second Special Interest Group Domenica took the lead in forming was the Recorder Ensemble. “Although my instrument was the flute, I also played the recorder. I had taken Faith Varney’s Recorder Ensemble class. At the end of the last class I stood up and asked if anyone wanted to continue to play together. Several members said yes, and since I know the administrative procedures it was easy to get it recognized as a Special Interest Group.

“Three or four of the original players are still there, and we’ve been joined by others. The group numbers 14 with a professional band director volunteering his time to lead us in performing for Ninth Week.” The Recorder Ensemble meets Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. year-round.

The group has appeared at Portland’s Longfellow School to introduce the students to the instrument. “The first time we demonstrated the recorder for over 80 elementary school students. The next year they had their own recorder band and joined us in the program.”

One course she has taken up is quite utilitarian: Martha Marques’s “Knitting — With Extras.” “It gives me a chance to watch TV and finish a sweater I started when I was a teenager.”

—Don King

And the winners are...
The OLLI raffle to raise money for scholarships raised $642.

And the winners are —
Rich Machlin, a membership and a class
Dona Siatras, two classes.
First OLLI Collectors’ show is a promising start

Rick Tomazin admits that, while only five OLLI members exhibited at the first Collectors’ Day during OLLI’s Spring Celebration, he was encouraged by Rob Hyssong’s comment that the first OLLI Art Show also drew only five exhibitors.

“I was inspired by Terry Foster’s 1950s music and culture class, when he suggested we bring in 1950s memorabilia. Ever since my days growing up south of Pittsburgh and Washington, I had been collecting sports items, particularly those relating to the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers. So I brought in two tables to the [Art] Show, and that’s when Laurie Jensen started urging me to have a [collectors’] show.

The Community Committee approved, and I was in business with a notice in the OLLI Newsletter.”

Rick estimates he has more than 3,000 items, including newspapers, issues of Time, Life, and MAD Magazine. Besides sports memorabilia, he’s also collected news accounts of Clinton’s impeachment and the death of Ronald Reagan.

Why do people collect? “It’s because of a love of history in my case,” he says. Others who exhibited at this year’s show displayed owls, postcards, seashells and rocks, kaleidoscopes, Mad Magazines and books, and U.S Mint Silver Proof Sets.

Rick believes that, after seeing this year’s collections, members will be encouraged to show their collections at future events. “My philosophy is, you establish an event, do the best you can, and that’s fine with me.”

—Don King
Join us in Italy!

OLLI has a wonderful trip to Italy lined up and would love to have you join us! The trip will take place from November 10 to November 18.

We will bus from USM to Logan Airport, Boston, and fly to Naples, Italy. We will visit Naples, Sorrento, the Isle of Capri, Pompeii, and Rome. We’ll drive along the Amalfi Drive, visiting Positano, Scala, and Amalfi. In Rome, we’ll visit Vatican City, including St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican Museum, and the Sistine Chapel.

All meals are included except two lunches.

The cost is only $2,719, double occupancy. A deposit of $350 is due with registration. Registration deadline is June 15, with the balance of the trip due by Aug. 25. We are already half-full, and we will not be doubling this trip, so sign up today.

Complete trip details are available in the OLLI office.

Save those books for the fall book sale

After the big success of the OLLI Book Sale last November, we’re doing it again! Keep saving those books you finish this summer and those you were reading by the winter fire because there wasn’t enough snow to ski.

We can’t provide storage for books until later in the year, so find a shelf in the closet, begin your donation library, and then wait for our gathering call. We have big plans, and they start with you!

Book Club continues through the summer

The OLLI Book Club will continue to meet through the summer, from 3:00 to 4:30 on the third Thursday of the month. For details, get in touch with Elsa VanBergen (evanbergen@maine.rr.com).
Announcements / Calendar / Special Events

OLLI members invited to special exhibition

Special tours of *The Triumph of the Passenger Ship: Highlights from the Norman H. Morse Ocean Liner Collection, 1870–2010* will be conducted for OLLI members on two days in July at the Osher Map Library in the Glickman Library.

林肯·佩恩，海事史家和特邀策展人，将提供展览的概述，其中包括照片、小册子、宣传海报和船只计划图等物品——这些物品一起捕捉了海上旅行的精神、魅力和冒险，从1870年到20世纪中期，再到它在21世纪的衰落。佩恩是《东海岸：缅因州的海事史》(蒂尔伯里屋，2000年)一书的作者，以及即将出版的《超越海洋：世界海事史》(阿尔弗雷德A·诺普夫)一书的作者。

参加人数限制在25人，每人只能参加一次。参观将于7月10日和7月31日(星期二)下午11:15到12:15举行。OLLI成员可以联系OLLI办公室进行注册。

For a preview of the exhibit, visit [http://usm.maine.edu/maps/exhibition/305/home](http://usm.maine.edu/maps/exhibition/305/home)

Walking Club plans two adventures in June

NOTE: We are changing the order of the walks for June, hoping to catch the peonies in bloom.

**Wednesday, June 13:** We will be at Gilsland Farm for the annual peony extravaganza.

**Tuesday, June 26:** We will enjoy the Cliff Walk at Prout’s Neck in Scarborough. If you are not carpooling from Back Cove, plan to park at the state park (on the ocean side) for Scarborough Beach. After our walk we will eat our lunches at a nearby home.

For both walks, those who are carpooling will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. Bring your lunch and the usual sunscreen, bug dope, and water.

Call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 with questions. Please remember to renew your OLLI membership for the coming year.

Last OLLI Night Out of the season

The June OLLI Night Out every year is the last of the season. It will be held at Uncle Don’s Spurwink Country Kitchen on Route #77 in Scarborough on Tuesday night, June 12, at 5 p.m. Spurwink Country Kitchen is a “Maine kinda place.” It has been in existence since the 1950s and features seafood and other delicious entrees and homemade desserts. Just for OLLI folk, that night will include live entertainment. If you would like to join us, please e-mail Terry at [tfoster@maine.edu](mailto:tfoster@maine.edu) or leave a message at his USM phone, 780-4895.
**Paying tribute to Nancy:** Tony Payne, one of Nancy Payne’s sons, recalls humorous events of his mother’s life at the memorial service held during the OLLI Celebration Ninth Week events. Nancy, one of the founding Board members of OLLI, was taking classes this spring and had her artwork on display in the Second Floor Gallery of the Wishcamper Center. She had taught an art appreciation course at Senior College in the early years.