

## MEET MICHELLE RUNYON

By Tricia Forbes



A warm welcome to Michelle in the position of OLLI Central Manager. She moved from being a wonderful OLLI Facilitator Coordinator whose support to our facilitators was much appreciated. Her offer of encouragement was enjoyed by all.

Michelle moved from Arizona's Phoenix/Scottsdale area to Denver in 2000 where she and

her family fell in love with everything about Colorado, including the sudden changes in weather and where one gains perspective by gazing at our beautiful mountains.

Michelle attended East High and married her high school sweetheart. They feel fortunate that upon one visit to Colorado to acquaint their daughter with her college, her husband was offered a position in the Cherry

Creek School District. The couple have three daughters and three grand daughters.

Her education is from the various positions/companies she has been involved with. These companies built upon her personality and gifts that she brought to each position, each one shaping what she is capable of doing – which as we know, is a lot!

Michelle loves to travel, investigate new places. She loves studying the unique history of each country. When asked what would be on her “bucket list” if she had one, her reply that she would love to travel to the country of Germany, seeing the historical castles and the lovely countryside.

She enjoys meeting people and discovering each person's unique history. She says she loves being a part of the OLLI program. It challenges her, allows her to meet incredible people. She says she is constantly amazed at all the facets of the OLLI Program. She eagerly looks forward to embracing them all while ensuring our level of excellence.

We think you are incredible too, Michelle!

## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

OLLI Central is so fortunate to have **Michelle Runyon** as manager of OLLI Central. The second endowment from the Osher Foundation provided us the opportunity to fill this important position. As many of you know, I was managing OLLI Central as well as overseeing and directing all of OLLI at DU, which was fine when we were half our size. Having Michelle on board has allowed me to focus on the responsibilities of OLLI at DU as a whole, concentrating on those aspects that affect all sites. In addition to the behind-the-scenes supervision of all OLLI at DU policies and procedures, I now have the opportunity of enhancing and developing additional OLLI-wide joint programming, such as the Summer Seminars,

the International Symposium, the forthcoming wellness program, OLLI WELLAWARE, the educational travel program, our increasingly popular Speakers Series classes.

As all of you are aware, OLLI managers deal with literally thousands of minute details that ensure the high quality of classes that you rightly expect. Most of this is done behind the scenes, many times late at night. Our members deserve the caliber of management that we have and having Michelle taking on these duties at OLLI Central will ensure that every detail receives the attention it deserves. We are so pleased to have her as a part of our management team.

...Vonnie Wheeler, Executive Director



## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE, THE OLLI 2020 REPORT, AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

The long-awaited OLLI at DU 2020 Report is available for members on the OLLI website. It contains the research data the committee studied before preparing the report. It is not intended as a plan, for the OLLI leaders in 2020 and beyond will design their own plan, but rather to communicate the responsibility we feel today in beginning the process of preparing for the changes that research indicates are coming and that will drastically affect the future of OLLI at DU.

From the research it was evident that “boomers” find educational travel extremely desirable. There is also a growing interest among retirees in becoming more actively involved in attaining (or maintaining) a healthy lifestyle. Responding to these interests, OLLI at DU plans to kickoff an OLLI Wellness Program this fall called OLLI WellAware. A committee from all three sites is working on preliminary plans for informative classes and enjoyable activities. Also, OLLI’s second educational trip, this one to Costa Rica, is coming up in early March and is fully subscribed to by OLLI members from OLLI Central, West and South. Check out the OLLI 2020 report at [www.portfolio.du.edu/olli](http://www.portfolio.du.edu/olli).

## OLLI’S RECORD-BREAKING CLASS

More than 400 OLLI members from OLLI South, West, and Central are participating in former **Governor Richard Lamm’s** “Hard Choices” Speaker’s Series class this term. Governor Lamm, a tenured DU professor, is lecturing on “The Aging of America and the World,” “Debt and Intergeneration Equity,” “Health Care in an Aging Society,” “The Future of the American Community,” “Corrections and the Criminal Justice System,” and “Education and School Reform.”

Those attending have undoubtedly noticed the film crew from DU. Thanks to the suggestion of **Ernest Lowry** and arrangements made by **Gordon Appell**, the series is being documented for possible class presentations by other OLLIs across the country and inclusion in a public television series. Once the term is complete and the film edited and produced, we will tell OLLI members how they may acquire a copy.

Our appreciation to Governor Lamm for sharing his expertise and time is best expressed by OLLI members: *“A wonderful and provocative class”* *“thoughtful and balanced presentations on some very difficult issue”* *“If you want to learn about the hard choices we face today, Lamm makes the case with facts, humor and no soft peddling”* *“a real eye opener!”* *“He has the ability to effectively communicate the issues and then offer solutions about what we should do to alleviate the burden from future generations”* *“Governor Lamm is so easy to listen to and understand.”* *“It’s wonderful!”*

## WINTER RECEPTION FUN

The annual winter reception was organized by our Special Events Chairperson, **Mimi Karsh**. Members enjoyed the delightful jazz piano performance by **Larry Washburn** and a satirical video creation of OLLI members and their attempts to get into OLLI classes created by **Bill Dorn**, OLLI member and Emeritus DU Professor.



Mo Mathews, Lois Calvert and Hilary Carlson deep in conversation



Future, current and past curriculum chairs: Nancy Cain, Anita Leitner and Art Strasburger

## CAN YOU TEACH AN OLD SENIOR TO USE THE WEB?

By Art Strasburger



To that challenging question I respond with a resounding “maybe!” It depends on who is teaching and how well designed is the program. Well, it looks like I’m the teacher and *Portfolio* is the program. So it’s a no-brainer!

For all you facilitators looking to lessen the burden of getting information to your class without having to spend 8 hours at the Xerox machine or spend hundreds of dollars on ink for your printer, *Portfolio* offers simplicity, user friendliness, and saves time. Every class can have its own web site. It can be as fancy or as plain as you like. And I will be available to answer your questions, help when you stumble, or laugh at your mistakes (with you, not at you).

In a very weak moment, I was cajoled into taking the newly created position of **OPPPP (Olli’s Practically Perfect Portfolio Person)**. So, if you want to use it for your class, give me a call. [artstras@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:artstras@alumni.princeton.edu) 303-738-0380 (home) 720-984-4903 (cell)

Eventually we plan to have an introductory one-hour course; but, until then, I can give you the help you need to get started. There is a learning curve, so don’t wait ‘til the last minute.

P.S. No, I am not on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, J-Date or Christian Mingle

## FIELD TRIP TO GOLD HILL

This past fall The Colorado History class took class members from all three sites on a field trip to historic Gold Hill, Colorado. We were greeted in the yard of the famous Gold Hill Inn by members of the Gold Hill Historic Society who gave an informative and amusing history of the area while we enjoyed a glass of wine and a glorious sunset. Then it was on to an extraordinary dinner in the rustic, historic inn.



## QUOTE SUBMITTED BY AN OLLI MEMBER

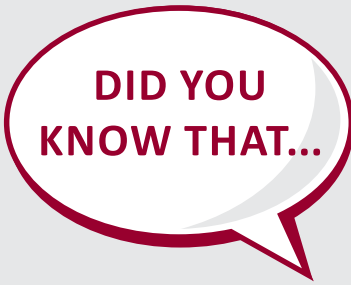
*“If we choose only to expose ourselves to opinions and viewpoints that are in line with our own, studies suggest that we become more polarized, more set in our ways. But if we choose to actively seek out information that challenges our assumptions and our beliefs, perhaps we can begin to understand where the people who disagree with us are coming from. If you’re somebody who only reads the editorial page of **The New York Times**, try glancing at the page of **The Wall Street Journal** once in a while. If you’re a fan of Glenn Beck or Rush Limbaugh, try reading a few columns on the **Huffington Post** website. It may make your blood boil; your mind may not be changed. But the practice of listening to opposing views is essential for effective citizenship.”*

...Barack Obama in a speech at the University of Michigan

# OLLI CENTRAL LOOKING FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

by Vonnie Wheeler

There are so many interesting stories about OLLI members that are just waiting to be told. WE NEED A NEWS team! If any of you creative writers are agreeable we would really appreciate your becoming our Central newsletter editor. Many of the articles about up-coming events, etc. will be supplied to you, but we would love to expand the newsletter beyond announcements to include human interest stories, humorous anecdotes, community activities, members' accomplishments, etc. Once we have an editor we can develop a news team that will uncover stories that would be of interest to all. I have been writing the newsletter, but aside from our member profile it contains little more than announcements. I'm certain someone could make it a lot more interesting. Hope to hear from you!! Thanks.



OLLI West member, **Alicita Hamilton**, recently published a memoir titled "Missy Hamilnook Reflects" (Missy Hamilnook is what one of her very young students called her.) The book is about her 20 years as an early childhood educator with both at-risk and normally developing children in a preschool of a university speech-and-hearing clinic. Woven throughout the memoir are two other stories – the interface of a professional life with a personal world and the impact of social change generated by the civil rights and women's movements of the 1960's and 1970's. Books may be obtained from [www.bookcrafters.net](http://www.bookcrafters.net) and other online bookstores.

## DISCOVER THE FUN OF VOLUNTEERING

During the week of April 21, OLLI volunteers will be on hand before class and during the coffee break to discuss OLLI volunteer opportunities.

As a membership organization we depend on volunteers for leadership and assistance. All of the classes we value are led by volunteers. The curriculum we offer is the result of the hard working members of the Curriculum Committee. Valuable advice is offered by our volunteer Advisory Board. Additionally, there are the behind-the-scenes workers helping in the OLLI office. The success of our program comes from these volunteers.

Stop by the Volunteer table, and find out about becoming a part of OLLI's volunteer team. There are opportunities to help in many ways, specifically as a class assistant, a member of the OLLI Newsletter staff, a class facilitator, a member of the Curriculum Committee, a volunteer assistant on the office staff (including computer in-put), or a member of the new Wellness Program (OLLI WellAware).

In the meantime, if you have any questions, or if you would like to start right away, talk to our OLLI Central Manager, Michelle Runyon, who can be reached at [michelle.runyon@du.edu](mailto:michelle.runyon@du.edu) or 303 507 0882.

## IN MEMORIAM

*We will miss the contributions of this dedicated OLLI member*  
**Jerry Gray**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 3** Winter term ends
- March 9 - 16** Costa Rica trip
- March 24** Spring term begins
- May 15** Spring term ends
- June 4** Summer Seminars begin



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*"Thank you for considering OLLI in your estate planning"*

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