A Fourth OLLI Site!

A fourth site for OLLI at DU is opening for the Fall 2017 term. The development of this new site, as well as future sites under consideration, are a result of the growth OLLI continues to enjoy. Thus, it is not replacing any of our current sites. This site will be known as “OLLI on Campus,” and will be available to all members, just as the existing three sites – OLLI Central, OLLI West and OLLI South – are open to all members.

Some significant points about this new site include:

- Classes will be held on the DU campus in Ruffato Hall; (arrangements for parking will be included)
- the classes will be offered by professors and staff of Denver-area universities, as well as professionals from local organizations;
- the classes may include an additional charge above and beyond the regular $130 enrollment fee to cover professor stipends as they occur (not necessarily all classes);
- offerings also will be made available to attendees of the Enrichment Program - thus it is not an OLLI only audience;
- offerings are planned to be listed in the three site catalogs for the first term - and potentially beyond;
- the creation of this site allows OLLI Central to continue to focus on class development for our church locations and expands the class offerings in the Central Denver area;
- and finally, the “OLLI on Campus” format provides a slightly different offering for our members emphasizing interaction with faculty members.

The roll-out of this site is being managed by myself and Anne Christner, a long-time OLLI member, Master Facilitator, and former South Curriculum Committee member. In time, this site will be staffed with a dedicated manager in the same manner as our other sites. If you know any professors you enjoy or organizations you think it beneficial for us to contact, please let either Anne (christner.anne@gmail.com) or myself know. (barbara.ratcliffe@du.edu)

As OLLI at DU continues to grow, we will continue to identify new sites, different approaches, and varying programs to enhance the satisfaction of our current members and insure the inclusion of new participants.

— Barbe Ratcliffe

OLLI Library Reopens

The OLLI at DU office includes a small library of books and CD/DVDs either purchased by OLLI for classes, or donated by our amazing members. The library is a free lending library where OLLI members are on the honor system as they take books to read or CD/DVDs to watch for education, or simple enjoyment. The library had been closed for reorganization. The most used items, primarily Great Courses DVDs with their accompanying books and books about history and war, are now housed in the hallway. These items are organized by videos and books, and arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the Course and/or the book. The smaller office off the main OLLI area now holds all other books sorted by genre and name within genre.

Please feel free to come by the OLLI office at 2211 S. Josephine Street near the DU campus to peruse the offerings and borrow viewing/reading pleasure. A listing of all of the items can be found on the OLLI websites: OLLI library link for Central Site: https://portfolio.du.edu/olli under the Facilitator Resources tab or at https://portfolio.du.edu/ollisouth/page/54494 or https://portfolio.du.edu/olliwest/page/47893.
Thinking of Facilitating for OLLI?

By Nancy Cain, Curriculum Committee Chair

If you are wondering what is involved in facilitating an OLLI class, here is a short guide to help. A prospective facilitator will:

- **Develop an Idea.** Perhaps you have a long-standing interest you would like to share, or are inspired by a subject or book from our Classes in Search of a Facilitator list (available on the OLLI Central website at http://portfolio.du.edu/olli/page/54201.) Or you are inspired by something in history, a current event or a science topic you would like to explore.

- **Submit a Proposal.** Download our brief proposal form from the website and submit it to the Subchair in charge of your chosen subject area (listed under Administrative Contacts). You can also contact the Subchair before you write the proposal if you just want to talk it over.

- **Meet Catalog Deadlines.** Your Subchair will provide a calendar of dates when your class description, brief biography and syllabus are due. Our Operations Manager, Darcey Van Wagner, will coordinate with you on the location and time and day of your class, as well as any audio-visual equipment you may need.

- **Facilitator Support.** You will be invited to the Facilitator Workshop, where you can ask questions, discuss common classroom issues and hear experienced facilitators share best practices. You will also receive training on your AV equipment in the classroom you will be using. In addition, you will be assigned a Class Assistant to help you manage attendance and handouts, make announcements, and provide general support.

- **Free Term.** All OLLI facilitators receive a tuition-free term following their class to thank them for their time and effort. They are also honored at a Facilitator Appreciation Event.

- **Take A Bow!** We want every facilitator to have fun and enjoy the experience as much as the class does. Those who volunteer join a special group of faculty who gain as much as those with whom they share their talents. Won’t you join us? No experience is required, just a genuine enthusiasm for your subject and a willingness to try something new.

- **Special Note:** The Central Curriculum Committee is now receiving proposals for fall classes. We will be reviewing proposals from now until the beginning of June, and encourage those interested to submit as soon as possible. Thank you so much!

For more information, please contact Nancy Cain, Central Curriculum Chair, at ncainforever@gmail.com.

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Origami in space

Origami facilitator Mark Burger, left, helps display the Space Shuttle origami models his OLLI class made in honor of retired Admiral Richard Truly’s presentation at Central Christian Church on his days as a Space Shuttle commander. At center is Stephen Nadler, facilitator of World History Through Stamps, for whom Truly was a guest speaker before he spoke to a lunchtime OLLI audience.

OLLI Volunteer Fair

Come one, come all to the up-coming OLLI Central Volunteer Fair which will be held Tuesday, April 25, at Central Christian and Wednesday, April 26, at Harvest! Visit the tables to explore various volunteer opportunities available for all members interested in being a part of the organization’s needs. OLLI’s outstanding success is directly dependent upon the volunteer culture, so join us at the locations between 9 and 2:30. Pick up informative hand-outs, visit with OLLI members, and sign up as a volunteer. You’ll enjoy participating and giving. OLLI needs you!
Former Gov. Bill Ritter On Changing Political Winds and the Clean Energy Revolution

Former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter made an outstanding energy presentation on February 21, 2017 that was co-sponsored by OLLI West and CRES (the Colorado Renewable Energy Society). It was given to a full house at the Jefferson Unitarian Church where most of OLLI West’s presentations are held. Making good on his reputation for a sense of humor right from the start, Ritter said he had considered starting with a Unitarian joke but instead offered an Irish-Catholic joke that made fun both of his own heritage, religion and Democratic Party loyalty.

Religion, in a presentation on clean energy, doesn’t initially appear relevant unless one considers the ethical ramifications of how we power our fragile world. But Bill and his wife Jeannie experienced that fragility up close in the 90’s, living as missionaries among Zambian subsistence farmers in arid sub-Saharan Africa. It is farmers like these, he argues, who are first affected by changing climate driven by excessive burning of fossil fuels.

For Ritter there is no debate about manmade climate change -- but he does not expect the federal government to respond to this in the next several years. That is why his efforts, both as governor where he advanced numerous clean energy bills in Colorado and now as a center director at CSU, are focused at the state level.

After leaving the governorship in 2011, Ritter founded the Center for a New Energy Economy which is researching paths that speed up the transition away from fossil fuels toward renewables. Key among the tools they developed is a website that allows states to do their own ‘gap analyses’ by comparing themselves with states which are further along on this path. This enables all states to benefit from the lowering cost and much lower pollution that solar, wind, and energy efficiency measures deliver.

Competition among energy suppliers including the private power companies now selling electricity to the utilities, and competition among the suppliers of wind turbines and solar panels, has led to a dramatic decrease in the cost of wind and solar energy, so that they can now compete with coal and gas generation.

Gas generation has less than 50% of the carbon output of coal plants, and they are a much more suitable partner for renewables, when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine. This is because in an integrated system like that of Xcel Energy, which combines coal, gas and renewable generation, gas plants can be ramped up and down with no increase in carbon output when the wind and solar energy comes on line intermittently. But coal plants cannot. When coal plants ramp up and down as renewable energy comes onto the system, the recycling of the coal plants adds much more carbon output, neutralizing the benefit of the renewable generation.

So Ritter pointed out that CEO’s of power companies are shifting on their own to a combination of gas and renewables, rather than waiting for the government to mandate this. And he doesn’t expect another coal plant to be built in the US in the foreseeable future.

How we figure out how to decarbonize our lives remains a key question for Ritter. He is especially mindful that it’s also an equity question, because how the necessary energy transition plays out could impact poor people in a disproportionate way. If cost increases that result from moving to more renewable generation cause increased energy prices for those on fixed incomes or struggling to get by, this is not equitable. Fortunately with competition, the cost of renewables is going down steadily, providing help.

Ritter points to new majorities of people across the political spectrum who understand that climate change requires action, and who favor renewable energy. And he reminds us that there’s a growing network of cities and businesses around the US and around the world who have committed to their own version of a climate action plan.

To learn more about Ritter’s efforts you can find the video at the CRES Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr81EUb2qVJfimmlJmxEHV. Or check out Ritter’s recent book: Powering Forward: What Everyone Should Know About America’s Energy Revolution.

• Longtime OLLI facilitator Sheldon Friedman’s The Satin Sash, his sequel to The Velvet Prison, is available on Amazon and other e-book websites in Kindle and paperback formats. It picks up where the Velvet Prison leaves off with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The lives of Travis Kane, his friends and his family change dramatically when the U.S. enters World War II.

• OLLI facilitator/member Frank Schneider co-founded the COBRAS in 1993, a seniors development/racing club focused on individuals who love the sport of cycling and race or are interested in learning to race. COBRAS also is a social club that hosts weekly team rides and that organizes seven weeks of time trials for all ages each April and May at Cherry Creek State Park.
Volunteering in a Membership Organization

By Paul Simon, OLLI Central Manager

A year and a half after I became OLLI Central Manager, it’s clearer than ever that volunteers form the main ingredient and foundation of the organization.

It starts with the fine gentlemen and ladies who contribute their time as facilitators – more than 100 of them in the 2016-2017 academic year. There simply wouldn’t be an OLLI without them.

The facilitators work closely with the Curriculum Committee and its sub-chairs of the various disciplines – all of whom are volunteers – in a process that produces dozens of excellent classes presented in our three eight-week terms. Then there are the class assistants who support the facilitators, the greeters who welcome you at each of our class sites the first two weeks of each term, and of course the members of the Advisory Council who collaborate with the staff for the long-term strategic direction, visions, and goals of our membership organization.

Two things bring this to mind now: 1) our upcoming Volunteer Fair in which we will share opportunities with our members with the goal of building up our oh-so-valuable volunteer teams and 2) a fascinating presentation on “Volunteer Engagement in a Multigenerational World” that I heard early in April at the 2017 Osher Institutes National Conference.

At the Volunteer Fair at Central Christian Church on Tuesday, April 25, and at Harvest Bible Chapel, Wednesday, April 26, you can chat with volunteer leaders and learn about opportunities to engage and enjoy. We know that as OLLI Central grows, an expanded volunteer corps is essential.

That Osher conference that I attended with Barbe Ratcliffe, OLLI at DU’s executive director, brought together directors and key volunteer leaders from the 120 Osher Institutes around the country. The talk about the multigenerational world, coincidentally enough, came from Beth Steinhorn, president of the Fixler Group here in the Denver area.

She cited numbers from volunteermatch.com that 2.8 million Americans volunteered in 2015, contributing 7.8 billion hours. That doesn’t surprise me because as governor of the Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District (a service organization) I’m very familiar with the contributions of volunteers.

Volunteerism is an accepted role for members of the older generation, or those born before 1946. Beth noted that these “traditionalists: prefer structure exhibit strong work values and ethics.

Baby Boomers (like me), however, are looking to better understand an organization’s value and how their skills will be utilized and to serve in positions with opportunities for impact and results. Baby Boomer men value using their skills while Baby Boomer women value gaining new skills. Boomers are twice as likely as their younger counterparts to pass up an opportunity absent clear value.

Members of Generation X, born after 1964 and at the lower end of OLLI-eligibility age wise, desire a creative environment and diverse work experiences. They look for informal, open communication and use technology to communicate.

Whatever their difference, however, members of those three generations have common ground. They all desire flexible schedule, aren’t interested in long-term commitment in terms of volunteering and expect their organizations to meet their needs. They also value trust and want respect.

Beth’s presentation was fascinating and also instructive for OLLI. She did provide tips on how to build multigenerational teams and how to sustain them. But it was her final point that struck close to home for me -- the importance of demonstrating and maintaining a sense of humor. I love it!
Around DU: The Knoebel Institute for Positive Aging

Saturday, October 15th, ten OLLI at DU members were invited to participate in morning ‘Design Thinking’ Sessions being held just prior to the Grand Opening of the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging. This institute, a one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary research facility headed by Dr. Lotta Granholm-Bentley, is bringing the brightest minds to bear on the issues of aging with a focus on positive aging.

This is an amazing initiative launched after ten years of consideration and study. The OLLI attendees debriefed their perceptions of the different Thinking Sessions identifying how best OLLI at DU might become involved in positive aging endeavors. We continue to develop a relationship between the Center and OLLI at DU. Dr. Granholm-Bentley and I are in discussion on how to bring the research and the experiences of OLLI members together to create knowledge for us all. The Knoebel Institute for Positive Aging is another unique collaborator for OLLI at DU and conveniently right on our doorstep!

At a Snail’s Pace….

OLLI at DU is slowly entering the electronic age. Although the online registration is taking much longer than anticipated (and we are not still not certain when it will be available for OLLI) there are other online tools we are beginning to take advantage of.

DU is highly engaged with a software system called Qualtrics. This is the system we used for the Vail survey that many of you completed. DU uses this system widely for gathering survey information. The OLLI West campus tested the program at the end of the Winter term, and the Central and South campuses are planning on utilizing this software to capture the evaluation feedback at the end of Spring term. Using this system allows all individuals to respond, whether they are in class when the evaluations are handed out or not. Also, the data will be electronically tabulated to reduce the time to provide feedback to our facilitators and Curriculum Committees.

A second system we have just discovered is the iModules system, also used extensively at DU. This system will replace our current email blast system, allow you to register for special events online and pay for those special events by credit card. Training for that system occurred in March, and we plan to begin using it for communication processes and special events during the Spring term.

Although these systems are unrelated to our online registration, they are at least steps in the direction of automation and savings. We will continue to move forward into the electronics age, even if it is at a snail’s pace.

Part of the University Plan

In January we received great news. OLLI has been approved to be a part of the site feasibility study of the University of Denver master campus plan. University College is also a part of this plan. Deborah Armstrong, Associate Vice Chancellor of University Development, will be working with Dean Michael McGuire, myself, and several other individuals as we move forward in this feasibility study of an on-campus dedicated facility. Vonnie Wheeler laid the foundation for OLLI to be approved as part of the study. As we move ahead, I will keep you apprised of our successes along the way.

This process, IF we are successful at each of the stages, could easily take eight to ten years from this point to completion and into a new structure. And even then we could only expect that structure to house our OLLI Administrative Staff and our OLLI Central classes. OLLI West and OLLI South campuses would continue as would any other campus we open in the meantime.

Connecting with the Vail Centre

In January each of you received an email request to complete an online survey regarding the Vail Center in Vail, Colorado. Thanks to each of the wonderful members who completed the survey. The results confirm that the vast majority of OLLI members are not interested in the offerings of the Vail Centre. Therefore, at this time, we will not be pursuing further partnering with the Vail Centre.

Several individuals did show interest in the possibility of taking classes at the Vail Center. Todd Wallis of the Vail Centre recommends connecting directly to them via their website. The link for that connection is https://vailcentre.org/.
Mark Your Calendar

April 20
Midday Morsels. “Hunger in Colorado.”
Central Christian Church, 11:45 – 12:45

April 25
Volunteer Fair.
Central Christian Church, 9 -2:30

April 26
Volunteer Fair.
Harvest Bible Chapel, 9-2:30

May 11
Town Hall Meeting.
Central Christian Church, 11:45 – 12:45

May 19
Spring Term Ends
(except for scheduled makeup classes)

June 10-19
Worldview Spain trip

July 24
Fall Catalog Posted

August 7
First Draw for Registration

September 11
Fall Term Begins

October 20
Hot Topic Luncheon

OLLI Central Advisory Council
- Bonnie Payne, President
- Tom Bieging, Vice President
- Glenn Cooper
- Anita Leitner
- Barbara Lilly
- Pam Murdock
- Sydney Myers
- Dick Reinish
- Lois Kay (new)

OLLI Central Curriculum Committee
- Nancy Cain, President
- Marjie Clark (term ending)
- Jay Baugher
- Nan Morehead (new)
- Richard Passoth
- Deanna Manchion
- Dede Pahl
- Larry Matten
- Eileen Wigginton

In Memoriam
Jan Marino

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