PERSISTENCE...

A message from the Executive Director
Lynn Provenzano

We are back on campus and in Miners Hall! It’s been pleasure to watch UTEP students –masked up- walking on campus and settling into classrooms. Our OLLI has settled into the Fall session with new ways of reaching you in hybrid classes. Thank goodness for our volunteers whose persistence overcame the snags on the learning curve. All classes are working well.

The UTEP community has been saddened by the loss of Dr. Emerita Diana Natalicio. She was an impactful leader, mentor, and role model at UTEP. It was her “persistence” that contributed to her accomplishments in building UTEP into a respected and valued institution. Most of all, she loved the people and the students. OLLI’s Summer 2019 interview with Dr. Natalicio is reprinted in this issue. We will reminisce on the many memorable moments we had with her. Then, we get to carry on with the renewed respect for education, growth and the human spirit.

We continue to float through a sea of uncertainty and change. Yet, thanks to the support of OLLI members, we have managed to stay true to our vision and mission on a course that keeps us connected and engaged. Most of all, we still love our OLLI. That’s the joy of being here.

Stay safe and well...

RECLAIM...

A message from the Advisory Board Chair
Leanne von Mittenwald

The fall semester of OLLI 2021 has been a time for all of us to relearn the art of socialization and to reclaim some form of normalcy after a very long confinement. Although still in the developing stages, our new hybrid classes allow us to offer OLLI classes to our online members and to our in-person members at the same time. The challenges of technology and a virus have taught us that we will always find a way to maintain the high standards that OLLI members have always expected from the OLLI program. We appreciate the loyal support of all of our members as students, volunteers, instructors, and cheerleaders - we could not do any of this without you! Thank you for all you do to keep OLLI strong and healthy!
LEARNING...
A message from the Dean

Welcome you back to UTEP in whatever form that takes: in person, online, or some combination of that. I've said over and over how I was so impressed with how UTEP's OLLI kept learning happening during the pandemic, and it's exciting to see us adapting from that experience to be more creative, flexible, and intentional with how we participate in education post-pandemic.

I know we were all saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Natalicio in September and encourage us to focus on all that she did to lead UTEP to be a model Hispanic Serving Institution first that later became a Research 1 Institution. Dr. Natalicio was willing to push against elitism and the status quo in ways that most people only imagine--or maybe just talk about. She was instrumental in bringing the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to UTEP, and we owe her a great deal for that as well. In fact, as one of my colleagues said: we all owe her so much. She gave us our start and created an environment where we knew our learning could have an impact. I know that to be true. Many of the higher education values I embrace come from this particular environment and her leadership. We are fortunate to be a part of this institution where access and excellence is at our foundation.

As she would always close, “Go Miners!”

Dr. Beth Brunk-Chavez

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER for Osher Institutes

The NRC continues to be a beacon of information to the OLLI network. The NRC hosts Basecamp communication where OLLIs across the country share information that often benefit members with shared classes. Additionally, the NRC continues to offer OLLI leadership monthly webinars to provide insights and resources that support each OLLI’s culture and growth. OLLI at UTEP participated in a webinar last August regarding Controversial Topics. Lynn Provenzano, OLLI at UTEP’s executive director and Lisa Barton, OLLI director at the University of Michigan, presented two distinct viewpoints regarding the discussion and acceptance of controversial topics within their educational communities. It is known that “once you’ve seen one OLLI, you’ve seen one OLLI.” Yet, we have discovered that we are as much the same as we are different. The next national conference for OLLI leadership is planned for Spring 2022. We all look forward to the wealth of knowledge and experience to be shared in support of each and every OLLI member.

Thanks to NRC’s Steve Thaxton, Kevin Connaughton, Stacy Hart Rivera, and Isabel Jane Bethke!

The Osher NRC’s mission is to help Osher Institutes thrive.
https://sps.northwestern.edu/oshernrc/
Sharing the MEMORY

Autumn!!
by Margaret Haddad

Take a big, long sniff. Didn’t do much for you? Now, close your eyes. You are at the High Rolls Apple Festival. There is booth after booth of apples: Granny Smiths, Galas, Winesaps, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Fujis and a myriad other varieties for sale along with cider (both sweet and alcoholic), candied apples, apple butter, pies and cobblers, apple dumplings and cakes. You can take home bushel baskets of apples for your own eating and baking or buy local artisan goods. The aroma of apples along with the accompanying spices of cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger mingle with the cool mountain breeze for a dizzying sensation. Second only to hot chocolate is a large mug of mulled cider to sip on while curled up on the sofa with a good book. Can you smell it?

Take another whiff. What comes to your senses? You pile into the car and head north on I-25 about 80 miles or so. You can smell roasting chiles miles before you get to the Hatch Chile Festival. There are too many decisions to make: red or green, enchiladas or rellenos, roasted chile salsa or pico de gallo. People flock from far and wide to indulge in the famous Hatch chiles, their car trunks and pick-up beds full of coolers to ice down the bags of roasted peppers before heading home for a winter’s worth of good eating. My nose is twitching, my eyes are tearing and my mouth is watering!

One more smell. Do I need to say it? Pumpkin Spice Latte!! Not really my favorite. I prefer my pumpkin spice in a pie or a cake or a thick slice of pumpkin bread with my coffee that actually tastes like coffee. But the world almost revolves around the earlier and earlier introduction of Starbucks’ famous drink each Fall. Are you thirsty yet?

Now, close your eyes again and instead of smelling, use your inner vision. Children of varying ages and sizes are playing on a mound of pumpkins out in a field, climbing to the top, trying to pick up the largest one, while mommies and daddies try to get the perfect snapshot. We sometimes gauge the season by the produce it brings; the first watermelon of the summer and the first pumpkin of the fall.

I used to drive past mile after mile of cotton fields on my way to school from the Permian Basin to the Texas Panhandle. The leaves on the cotton plants had served their purpose and had dropped to the ground leaving hard, dark brown boles with snowy white cotton bursting out. The farmers would be harvesting and taking their crop to the local gin. It often looked as though it had snowed as the cotton boles escaped into the air billowing around in the Panhandle winds like clouds in a buttermilk sky.

In the fields of Southern New Mexico it is large crops of long green chiles and jalpenos we see. Some are still green, but others have begun to turn orange then red. I guess it’s our version of the fall colors of the Northeast. All along the way we are greeted with the ubiquitous ristras and wreaths made out of the claret-red dried chiles and corn husks, adorned with ribbons hanging on homes and businesses.

It’s true we don’t have the variety of trees which offer the stunning and intense colors of leaves the way they do in the Midwest and Northeast but what we do have is enough to send our senses into overload and make expatriates long for the Southwest in the Autumn.
The Black Jacket in France
by Marie Livingston

Opening scene... Black jacket in a heap on the floor surrounded by French school children. Abandoned by Marie, who would discover when it was too late that black jacket had slipped away.

I remember the day Marie came into the store and chose to wear me home. We had everyday experiences and occasional adventures over the years. The best adventure was when she took me to France. Our trip in late April of 2013, was timed to be in Paris on her birthday. The first day was gorgeous and sunny, I didn’t leave the apartment. I thought I’d never get out of there if the weather stayed warm. Luckily, Paris weather in the spring can be nice one day, then chilly and damp the next. I did get to stroll along the Seine and later ride on a “bateau mouche” at sunset. She wore me the day she went to Shakespeare and Company and on a long walk to Jardin de Luxembourg.

It was a chilly morning in early May when she took a train to Giverny, I went along. The morning had begun to warm up when we started our walk through the gardens. She took me off and tied me to her bag. A mistake because she had already lost her black sweater tying it to her bag while shopping at Le Printemps. We walked amongst the lovely flower beds alive with color surrounded by hoards of school children. We took a tour of Monet’s home full of color like the garden. I marveled at how wonderful it must have been to live there and see the garden in all its seasons.

Our last stop was the gift shop, Marie loved buying souvenirs. There was a sea of children picking out souvenirs, too. The shop was quite crowded. That’s when I decided to leave her, it was easy really, slipping my arms out of the knot she had made with them. I fell to the floor but she didn’t notice. I knew she would be heart-broken and kicking her self for being so careless when she discovered I was gone.

At the end of the day I was in the lost and found. Marie was back in Paris, bereft I’m sure. By the end of the week I began to question my decision to slip away. Then one of the volunteers in the gift shop asked if she could take me home. Thus began my life in France.

I knew she missed me and may have even been some what jealous that I was living in France and she was not. I did miss her sometimes myself, but I loved my new life. I am really quite old now and a bit frayed. I hang in the hallway off the kitchen of the house I’ve lived in these past several years. I get to go out now and then to bring in something from the garden. Mostly I get to rest and remember all the events of my life.
Diana Natalicio was named president of UTEP in 1988. During her long and
distinguished career with the University, Dr. Natalicio has also served as vice
president for academic affairs, dean of liberal arts, chair of the modern
languages department and professor of linguistics. Her sustained
commitment to provide all residents of the Paso del Norte region access to
outstanding higher education opportunities has helped make UTEP a
national success story.

During Dr. Natalicio’s tenure as president, UTEP’s enrollment has grown
from 15,000 to over 25,000 students, who reflect the demographics of the
Paso del Norte region from which nearly 90% of them come. More than 80%
are Mexican-American, and approximately 5% commute to the campus from
Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Since 1988, UTEP’s annual budget has increased
from $65 million to more than $500 million. UTEP is designated as a
Carnegie R1 university, recognized nationally for both the excellence and breadth of its academic and
research programs. UTEP’s annual research expenditures have grown from $6 million to nearly $95
million per year, and doctoral programs from one to 22 during this same period. To accommodate
steady growth in enrollment, academic programs and research, the university has recently committed
nearly $400 million in new and renovated facilities expansion in science, engineering, health sciences,
and other student quality-of-life related infrastructure.

Dr. Natalicio has served on numerous boards including the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), Rockefeller
Foundation, Trinity Industries, Sandia Corporation, U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC),
American Council on Education, National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME),
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and Internet2. She was appointed by President
George H.W. Bush to membership on the Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic
Americans and by President Bill Clinton to the National Science Board, where she served two six-year
terms, including three two-year terms as NSB vice-chair.

In 2017, Dr. Natalicio was named one of Fortune magazine’s Top 50 World Leaders. In 2016, she was
honored with the Hispanic Heritage Award in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and she was
included on the 2016 TIME 100 list of most influential people in the world. In 2015, The Carnegie
Corporation of New York honored Dr. Natalicio with its prestigious Academic Leadership Award. In
2011, the President of Mexico presented her the Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteco, the highest
recognition bestowed on foreign nationals. She was inducted into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame,
honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at The University of Texas at Austin, and awarded
honorary doctoral degrees by St. Louis University, Northeastern University, Victoria University
(Melbourne, Australia), Georgetown University, Smith College and the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo
Leon (Mexico).

A graduate of St. Louis University, Dr. Natalicio earned a master’s degree in Portuguese and a doctorate
in linguistics from The University of Texas at Austin.

President’s Biography provided by UTEP
The Strategic Leadership Role of Dr. Diana Natalicio at UTEP

Dr. Natalicio’s 30-year tenure as president of UTEP reflects major achievements. Having spent years coming through the ranks of professor and administrator positions in the College of Liberal Arts, she was aware from the time of her appointment of the special demographics being served by UTEP. So her first goal was to make sure that the population of the university matched that of the area. Having grown up in St. Louis, where there was no public university at the time of her college years, she felt strongly about this demographic need as a mission of public universities.

Dr. Natalicio had remarkable success with the implementation phase of strategic planning, which she credits to her tenacity. This implementation phase includes the attainment and allocation of necessary resources in order that goals be accomplished.

When the university’s population proportions reached the goal, she took on the second goal of making UTEP a Tier I research university. Many in the university community and El Paso in general thought this second goal did not fit well with the first. Again, Natalicio’s tenacity kept the university moving forward toward giving this unique population further opportunity of new doctoral programs along with the research faculty, buildings, and apparatus that had to be built up. In 2019 the Carnegie Foundation announced its plan to award R1 status to UTEP. So Natalicio’s second major goal had been met.

Another attribute exemplified by Dr. Natalicio is her persistent world view, especially apropos of a leader on an international border. Her support for faculty and students traveling for international research and study is well known. Serving 2 five-year terms as a trustee for the Rockefeller Foundation, she had the opportunity of exercising her oversight duties in several African and Asian countries. This experience amplified and strengthened her world view.

Dr. Melanie Treviño

Dr. Treviño is an associate professor (retired) from UTEP’s College of Business Administration, specializing in strategic international management. She is also a long-time OLLI member.

Recuerdos & Reminiscing

When I became the OLLI Director back in 2014, one of the first meetings I had was with President Natalicio.

We had a common experience of spending time in Brasil; Dr. Natalicio as a grad student and a few years later I was there as a Peace Corps Volunteer. We spent a good part of the meeting reminiscing about our shared experiences, places we had visited and Brazilian food we had enjoyed! We quickly lapsed into speaking Portuguese!

On every other occasion that we met, we moved right into Portuguese and that was just fine by me! It considerably brightened my whole experience on the UTEP Campus. Dr. Natalicio had this great facility for making one feel welcome and valued!

Ian Wilson
DR. DIANA NATALICIO TALKS TO OLLI

OLLI INTERVIEWS DR. NATALICIO
From left: Lynn Provenzano, Dr. Melanie Trevino, Dr. Natalicio, Nicole Grant

ABOUT THE INTERVIEW

After Dr. Diana Natalicio announcing she was retiring after thirty years at the helm of UTEP, interviews began to pop up in numerous newspapers—the Austin American Statesman, Dallas Morning News, El Paso, Inc., UTEP’s Prospector, etc. News stations ran interviews and UTEP organized lively, creative events such as Fun with the Bun and Thank You for Thirty (more on these later). OLLI at UTEP was thrilled to learn that she had granted us an interview! After the initial euphoria, reality set in: what to ask her, especially after she had already given so many interesting, informative interviews? Would she be bit weary of all the questions? All fears were dispelled once we sat down with her for an hour-long chat. She is so warm, gracious, funny, well-spoken and interesting—the time flew by as we laughed, reminisced and looked to the future. We recorded the interview (thank heavens the cell phone didn’t die on us!), and for the most part, the interview is direct quotes from her. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did talking to the wonderful, unique Diana Natalicio.

Nicole Grant, OLLI on LINE editor

EARLY DAYS

She had heard about programs for mature adults from faculty, friends, professional colleagues and said “I had it in my head that this is something that we should do.” In typical can-do fashion by enlisting faculty and community leaders (such as Herbert Schwartz of The Popular), she gave the green light to establish the program known as the Center for Lifelong Learning. She commended the passion and teamwork of those early founders. The Osher grant came years later as well as the new name Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, or OLLI. As she was talking about OLLI, she mentioned working with Ian Wilson, former OLLI Executive Director: “I was very fond of Ian; he has a global perspective that I find refreshing.” When told that Ian was asked to write up some memories of working with her, she quipped “Ah, a tell-all! Well, I used to love for him to visit because I got a chance to speak Portuguese.”
PARKING

Yes, Dr. Natalicio brought up the thorny issue of parking on campus! We were discussing some of the challenges in placing and keeping OLLI on campus: “Well, we’ve had issues with parking and other things and trying to solve all those things while at the same time serve our students well is a challenge.”

There was, at times, a thought to locate OLLI off campus, but she feels programs such as OLLI should remain on campus, and that the whole idea is to create a (university) environment.

OLLI, FINE ARTS AND EL PASO PRO MUSICA ON CAMPUS

“One of the hopes (when CLL/OLLI was established) was that we would engage the participants (OLLI) in our (UTEP) fine arts programs, and while we’ve had an increase, I don’t think it’s where it needs to be. Some of that has to do with the fact that the performances are in the evening and people don’t like to drive at night.”

She’s pleased that El Paso Pro Musica, now housed on campus and collaborating with the UTEP music department, has infused such energy into the department. “Our students can graduate and say they’ve had master classes with the Juilliard String Quartet, Itzak Perlman, and that’s made a huge difference in their future careers. The Pro Musica performances present showcases for the fine arts students and offers wonderful exposure for UTEP students.”

WILL SHE TEACH A CLASS AT OLLI?

When asked if she would teach a class at OLLI, she said she would be interested in doing something but promised herself she wouldn’t make any commitments at this point. She stated “I’m going to travel and sort out my life and just breathe.”

“I do think OLLI is an extremely important program, but I don’t want any management responsibilities. That’s why I rented a condo—I don’t want to have to manage anything, including my life, I think! But every now and then, to share some things I’ve been thinking about.”

“I speak a lot outside El Paso, and I sometimes think it’s a shame the sharing takes place elsewhere. But I am trapped in a role here where I’m not as free to speak. But now I will be, and I’ll be dangerous!” She added that she’s jokingly threatened colleagues that she’ll write a tell-all book.

TWO BOLD GOALS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

When asked if she had achieved her goals, Dr. Natalicio had this to say:

“The big issue in higher education today is what everyone’s calling social mobility, and it’s just that we’re not educating the lower income students. However smart they may be, they just don’t get a chance. And without that college degree you just don’t get that stepping stone to a better life.”

“I am very committed to the idea that there has to be a strong commitment to the public. I didn’t have access to a public university. But the problem is that the public universities strive for prestige, they want to be like the privates. What’s the matter with that? Well, everything! You know, it just doesn’t work,
so I’ve been trying to get public universities to change the narrative to rather than fight each other for trying to achieve a U.S. New & World Report ranking, to say how are we going to serve our public mission? We’re here, for a mission! So I am just absolutely driven by that idea because I know the importance of higher education in my own life, I see it in the lives of our students, and for anybody with talent to be denied an opportunity to get an education — well, that hurts all of us, it really does! So, that’s my passion.”

“We had two bold goals: one was to align our student demographics with those of the surrounding region: we should look like El Paso; you assume talent crosses all ethnic, gender, socioeconomic boundaries, you should look like the region from which you draw 90% of your students. But we didn’t look like that. It was about access. And so we have been able to achieve that first goal. And so now that we offer access to those students, the second goal was to offer those students a high quality education as well, and that means offering research and doctoral programs. That was to insure that we just didn’t offer the students an open door on the front end, but we also gave them a quality education on their way to a degree so that when they get out in the market place they can use their diploma to get really good jobs or go on to graduate school. And we achieved that goal this year with the R1 status, which is like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for higher education. It’s a very big deal in higher education to be an R1.”

“People told us we couldn’t do those two things simultaneously. They said ‘You can’t be a research university if you’re going worry about the poor kids in your city.’ And I said we have to worry about them. Now our model is being used by a lot of universities and some surprising universities are inviting me to come and talk. These are big R1 universities, and they don’t look anything like their population. And this is becoming a big problem for many public universities. One of the reasons for our success is that we understood our ecosystem and our responsibility to our population.”

**SOME OF HER AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Enrollment: from 14,056 to 25,151
Hispanics enrolled: from 53% to 80%
Budget: from $65 million to $500 million
Research expenditures: from $6 million to $95 million
Doctoral programs: from 1 to 22
Endowment: from $20 million to $241 million
Source: The University of Texas at El Paso

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Dr. Natalicio was the driving force in establishing a program in continuing education for mature adults. She started with the CLL (Center for Lifelong Learning program) which became OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) through an endowment from the Osher Foundation.

*We will remember her for her leadership and love for students of all ages.*
A SHOUT OUT TO OLLI’s CLASSROOM HOSTS
Thank you!

We are back on campus!
...and online, too.
It has taken many hands, minds, and effort to keep our OLLI classrooms online and in-person.

Thanks to the OLLI volunteers who stepped up to learning and honing new ways of delivering courses to our OLLI students. Even though we’ve had safety guidelines in place for the OLLI lounge and offices, we’ve been able to work hybrid classes and enjoy each other in-person.

OLLI’s success is due to the services and support of our volunteers!

Classroom Hosts:
Karen Fraser
Don Smelser
Tom Harding
Marie Livingston
Leanne Livingston
Mary Harris
Rich Dand
Fred Eiland
Jill Boyea
Stan Deming
Marianela Milner
Thanks to staff, too!
Lily Dueñas
Kristian Mancillas

A SHOUT OUT TO ALL OLLI VOLUNTEERS
Thank you!

We’ve said it before and we are saying this again...

“We couldn’t do it without you!”

The diverse skills that volunteers bring to OLLI contribute to the caring and rich culture of our OLLI community.

Volunteers are the lifeline for your OLLI and the greatest examples of OLLI’s vision and mission.

Fall Office Support:
Jamie Ackerman
Jill Boyea
Janet Dand
Rich Dand
Fred Eiland
Liz Farrelly
Karen Fraser
Tom Harding
Mary Harris
Maggie Jackson
Steve Jerman
Marianela Milner
Tom Prokopchuk
Mark Pumphrey
Susan Sobin
Leanne von Mittenwald

Office Support
Stay Connected Phone Calls
Class Attendance Takers
Committee Members:
  • Volunteer
  • Membership
  • Events
  • Marketing
  • Curriculum
Catalog Distribution
Tech Assistance
Photography
Instructors

OUR VISION
The Osher Life-Long Institute (OLLI) at the University of Texas at El Paso aspires to be a premier membership organization for adults over the age of fifty (50) in an aging demographic through continuing education and social integration - with an expanded reach - to positively enhance mature adult lives in the El Paso Border Region.

OUR MISSION
The Osher Life-Long Institute (OLLI) provides opportunities under the umbrella of the University of Texas at El Paso to enhance the enjoyment, meaning, and direction of all adults over the age of fifty (50); to stay connected; and to support their good health and wellness in an aging community through diverse course offerings in continuing education, social activities, volunteerism, intergenerational experiences, and any other special services.
“It has been a long time since we were able to get together and celebrate. A big part of the OLLI experience has always been the time we share outside of the classroom. The OLLI clubs have provided a chance to chat with friends in online meetings as well as meet up at movies, restaurants, museums, and parks. OLLI members are always welcome to join us at any of the club meetings and events. The dates and times are located on the first page of the Master Calendar.

The new Events Committee has been working on plans for several exciting events for this fall.

**November 6th - OLLI ONLINE AUCTION #1** begins. In order to showcase all of the unique items donated by our very generous OLLI members, we will host several auction and raffle events throughout the fall and spring semesters. This first event will begin online and end at a viewing at the home of Karen Frazer. Bidding details will be emailed to all members at the end of October, so watch your OLLI bulletins, olli-Utep Facebook page, and your email for more on this event.

**November 13th - OLLI AUCTION VIEWING EVENT** 11:00-1:00. Karen Frazer is hosting this event at her lovely home to give you a chance to view the auction items up close before making a final bid. Those unable to join us will be able to bid online until the final winners are announced at 1:00! This event is free to all OLLI members.

**December 13th - MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND A MOVIE 2:00** - Join us at Cinemark West Theater for our annual Membership Meeting. Then stay for Steven Spielberg’s newly released WEST SIDE STORY and the chance to win some fabulous prizes! Watch for ticket information and other details in your email and OLLI bulletins.

The Events Committee would like to thank the members who donated the incredible items for our OLLI auctions. We were overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity.

*Current Events Committee members:*
*Liz Highsmith, Karen Fraser, Leanne von Mittenwald (chair)*

OLLI at UTEP has a QR code for easy access on your smartphone to the OLLI website!
Volunteers have continued our usual activities of calling and emailing members, recruiting new members and participating in committees for curriculum, marketing, membership, and volunteering. This Fall, as COVID-19 restrictions eased, volunteers supported OLLI office staff in person during the Fall annual membership renewal and registration for classes and in person as hosts for hybrid classes. Others helped as hosts for online classes. Another volunteer in-person activity was the distribution of cookies and fliers (promoting OLLI for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles) to UTEP students, visitors and employees at a table just outside Miner’s Hall during UTEP’s Homecoming week. We have found that working with and visiting others in person and on campus has been very rewarding!

The Volunteers Committee has met three times since June and will host another all-volunteer Zoom meeting on November 22, 2021. We hope you will let us know how volunteers are doing as supporters of OLLI, what more we might do and how you may help us.

Come join us as a volunteer!

Current Volunteers Committee members:
Jill Boyea, Tom Harding, Liz Highsmith, Steve Jerman, Julieta Paez, Jim Rolph, Don Smelser, Karen Fraser (chair), Mary Harris (membership liaison), Mark Pumphrey (marketing liaison)

As I wind down my 2 year position as the UTEP - OLLI Secretary, I reflect on the last 2 years, and I think, "Wow!" What a 2-year whirlwind of change! Having to go through the transition of navigating through Zoom to attend all the Advisory Board and Strategic Planning Committee Meetings has been a great experience. My responsibility was to take the minutes at these meetings. It has been fun and a delight to be a help in bringing the UTEP OLLI Program in an exciting and positive direction with a wonderful group of people that work so hard to bring to the members the best that it can be, especially during this pandemic period.”

The front cover features Michael Faulkner’s watercolor painting “Sleeping Parrot” and the smiling Julieta Paez on the back cover. Look for the Spring catalog in mailboxes in mid-December.
Mark Pumphrey  
Marketing Committee Chair

“The OLLI Marketing Committee meets once a month online on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. All OLLI members are welcome to attend as our guests to offer your ideas for marketing the OLLI program effectively to potential OLLI students and potential OLLI instructors; and to the UTEP and El Paso area communities at large. Please request the meeting link from either Mark Pumphrey at mpumphrey@att.net or to Lynn Provenzano at laprovenzano@utep.edu. You may also contact us directly via email to share your ideas.

Since the last OLLI newsletter, the Marketing Committee has continued its efforts to create marketing videos featuring OLLI students and instructors that will be used to promote OLLI; begun a OLLI T-Shirt project as a marketing tool; planned an OLLI Ambassadors’ program based on the “Each One Reach One” model; supported the Volunteer and Membership committees in their projects; supported OLLI Board projects such as planning for the silent auction and other fundraising efforts; participated on the Curriculum Committee; supported OLLI-UTEP Administration in the collection and dissemination of information in the Catalog and the Bulletin; and responded to suggestions offered by OLLI members and instructors. Tanya von Mittenwald does a report on social media each month for the Marketing Committee meeting, and we hope to assist her in promotion of the use of Facebook and other social media tools for marketing OLLI.

The committee welcomes Bradley Roe as a new Marketing Committee member!”

Current committee members:  
Monica Gomez, Leanne von Mittenwald, Lynn Provenzano, Bradley Roe, Mark Pumphrey (chair), Greg Thompson (guest-joint projects), Tanya von Mittenwald (guest-joint projects)

Mary Harris  
Membership Committee Chair

“This past three months have been very busy. Over 500 catalogs were distributed to multiple sites, including but not limited to all open libraries, all open Senior Centers, Retirement Villages, CVS/Walgreens and VFW posts. Also to doctors’ offices, Albertsons, hair salons and some P.T clinics. Monte Vista at Coronado Retirement and Assisted Living Community has joined OLLI and zooms in to enjoy classes.

Some of our members, who are active in various community organizations, reached out with OLLI@UTEP information on line. Posting on the Nextdoor app also occurred. Media outlets, such as UTEP online and local radio stations, were contacted by one member. A KTEP radio interview with Lynn Provenzano was also arranged by a committee member.

Three of our committee members participated in giving out cookies and OLLI fliers to UTEP students during homecoming week outside of our home base at Miners Hall. All members continue to reach out to the community and surrounding areas with Each One Reach One in mind. We welcomed our newest member, Michael Faulkner, in August.

Current committee members: Waynene Sradlin, Betty Kennedy, Oscar Estrada, Sue Sobin, Jamie Ackerman, Janet Pendygraft, Karen Fraser, Michael Faulkner and, Mary Harris (chair)
“We may be in October but spring is in the air where the curriculum committee is concerned. Recently, the curriculum committee delved into the approval process of proposals for building the Spring 2022 curriculum. This included an overarching view of courses, lectures, and a new walking tour series.

The committee is continuing to address new ways of course delivery (online, in-person, and hybrid) in line with the OLLI budget: to review the balance of course categories and available instructors, and the work toward building engaging courses to be presented in the Spring 2022 catalog. The playground of courses has changed with the UTEP campus open. There are opportunities to accommodate more OLLI members with hybrid and online classes. Welcome to Linda Shubeck and Carol Malloy to the committee!

*Current Curriculum Committee members:* Ruth Bassett, Suzanne Hunter, Marie Livingston, Leanne von Mittenwald, Linda Shubeck, Lynn Provenzano (chair), Mark Pumphrey (marketing liaison).

**A note on OLLI Finance**

The annual membership renewals and fall registrations have supported the onset of this new academic year. However, with OLLI members traveling and taking advantage of activities opening up, many have delayed getting back into the swing of OLLI activities until spring. So, plan to see fundraisers. Donations are welcome. We are working to stay within our budget yet bring the same quality programming to you. Thanks to the OLLI committees/members, who have been a great support, in generating the resources needed to support our OLLI.

*Current Finance Committee members:* Sonya Villa Saenz, Lynn Provenzano

**Administrative Update**

The whirlwind of activity has not stopped as we have tackled the return to campus, hybrid classes, compliance, and system issues. We said goodbye to our work-study student, German Juarez, welcomed and said goodbye to work study student Humberto Carrillo. We gratefully welcomed Kristian Mancillas back to the office with us. All office activities are streamlined to continue working with safety guidelines. Air purifiers are working non-stop. Hand sanitizer is readily available. The lounge is open for the lending library and some hybrid activity. Announcements and administrative updates can be found in the weekly bulletin to keep you informed. Thanks for your patience as we navigate the learning curves of change!

*Current Office Staff:* Lily Dueñas (administrative assistant), Kristian Mancillas (work-study student), Lynn Provenzano (executive director)

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**Did you know...**

that the weekly OLLI Bulletin will be soon be printing its 80th issue?

The OLLI members have been an integral part of announcements, community updates, shared artwork, stories, and experiences. It keeps our OLLI community connected. Thank you!
Janet Dand
Past Chair Advisor

“I want to share some important information with everyone about how you can maximize your OLLI membership benefits. I know we all enjoy the wonderful classes and instructors OLLI offers, and many of us usually feel a little sad when the six week session comes to an end. However, are you aware OLLI offers an opportunity to learn, share, and make new friends on an ongoing basis? I am talking about joining one of the wonderful clubs OLLI now offers.

When I started at OLLI six years ago, there were no clubs in which to partake. Now your membership offers access to book discussions, opportunities to share and improve your language skills in French and Italian, develop your photography skills, watch films and discuss your reactions, and explore local restaurants all on a continuing basis. Most of these clubs do not break throughout the year. In addition, you can join any club without attending classes; you just zoom in during the time listed on the Master Calendar and give the club a try! No commitment is necessary, but if you are like me, you will be hooked!

Janet Dand hosts the monthly OLLI Book Club.

Sonya Villa-Saenz
Extended University Advisor

“From K-12 schools to colleges and universities, the coronavirus pandemic has forced all institutions across the country to shut down and rely on the internet to deliver classroom content. For many of us, our first experience with “learning online” has been a frustrating exercise in adapting to sudden changes, overseeing our children’s, grandchildren’s and even our own classroom assignments (often confusing), and figuring out new tools like Zoom and other platforms for course with varying results.

That being said, remote learning and online learning couldn’t be more different. Before the pandemic, Extended University had been successfully relying on online learning and creating seamless content to reach thousands of students and assist them in reaching their personal and professional goals with our convenient and flexible programs and courses designed to meet the needs and demands of our online students. Now, more than ever, there has never been a better time to be an online student whether it be a traditional student (not sure how this is defined at the moment), working professional and/or one for leisure such as the OLLI student. Easy-to-use, readily available digital learning tools create an educational environment where personalized learning for all is now possible. Extended University’s goal is to provide access to the resources you need and to help you enhance the knowledge and skill to navigate in this new digital world we now live in.

Thank you!”
One Last Note

Thanks to Rich Dand for his fantastic idea to reach out to UTEP students to connect their relatives and family friends to the OLLI community.

OLLI volunteers spoke with more than 300 students during UTEP’s homecoming week, passing out these flyers and Grandma’s Cookies outside of Miners Hall.

Do you like UTEP Campus life?

OLLI

Social
Educational
Exciting

Your parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles might also!

Learning Never Gets Old

Send them the OLLI weblink.

utep.edu/olli
915-747-6280