OLLI TAKES A DEEP BREATH
A message from the Executive Director

Needless to say, “these are interesting times.” We are faced with challenges and changes to our daily lifestyles. Our OLLI – our points of contact, socialization, and learning opportunities - is rowing the same boat as every other group in our university, local, and Osher communities. Wow!

What is this doing to us? Let’s look on the plus side: some of us “older” folk are learning new ways to be creative. Some of us are taking that long draw of breath that gives us the insights to stay above the chaos. Some of us are hunkered down and taking the time to clean out and organize our closets. Here at OLLI, we are moving forward with new ways to serve our membership, to stay in touch with you, and keep the learning process moving. Stay tuned for our updates. We have so many collective years of experience in our OLLI population that we can surely find new ways to keep us smiling and healthy.

My February report to the Board, with working updates, has drifted into the past with current health and safety directives taking over. Our own initiatives to keep the OLLI lounge and clubroom sanitized were helpful during Spring Session 1 and still are in place for our administrative team.

Remember…the dynamics of Spring Session 2 are changing. The Summer Session will be given to you in a new format. You have been posted with the most recent updates in emails. Stay tuned for more and watch for OLLI bulletins.

Stay Calm, Carry On Safely, and Wash Your Hands.

Elbow bumps to you!

Lynn

Get ready to Zoom!
Check out what is coming our way. See how Zoom is helping others.

https://blog.zoom.us/?_ga=2.51664105.1730357368.1584560213-1980284104.1573759448

1. HANDS Wash them often
2. ELBOW Cough into it
3. FACE Don’t touch it
4. FEET Stay 6 ft. apart
5. FEEL SICK? Stay Home
Where is OLLI at UTEP regarding COVID-19?

Stay Calm, Carry On Safely, and Wash Your Hands.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UTEP is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of its membership and community on and off the UTEP Campus.

OLLI’s staff and Advisory Board are closely watching the development of the COVID-19 outbreak as it relates to the 124 programs in the Osher network and the El Paso Border Region. The understanding is that the OLLI population is at higher risk due to its age demographic.

OLLI will comply with the University’s policies and procedures to the COVID-19 outbreak and stay abreast of public health initiatives and CDC guidelines.

OLLI at UTEP has implemented the following preventive measures for its common areas when in session:

- Distribution of COVID-19 prevention flyers and related announcements on site.
- Printed reminders to “Stay Calm, Carry On, and Wash Hands.”
- Consistent spray disinfecting of all soft surfaces (i.e. upholstered seating).
- Consistent disinfecting of hard surfaces (i.e. tabletops, desks, handles).
- Multiple units of spray bottles with hand sanitizer and tissues in high traffic areas.
- Reducing contact with shared surfaces.
- Registered and actively attending members will be gifted with 2oz spray bottles filled with purifier for personal use pending availability.
- Seats in classes are already limited to classroom capacity (40 students) and may be lowered for future sessions.
- OLLI members who display any discomforts or physical symptoms of cold, flu, or extreme allergies are advised to remain at home.
- Email announcements to OLLI members with COVID-19 updates and prevention guidelines.
- Updates to the OLLI facebook page and the OLLI newsletter.
- OLLI Membership notifications of any cancellations in course scheduling based on decisions from UTEP’s senior leaders.

Under current conditions:

- All face-to-face classes are cancelled.
- All special interest groups and club meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- Most classes will move to online for Spring Session 2
- Volunteers stay in touch with OLLI members via phone.
- The OLLI lounge and clubroom are closed until further notice.
- Office hours are 1PM to 5PM for phone calls and scheduled appointments.
- Summer Session will be online with a new format and free to all OLLI members

SPRING SESSION TWO starts online on Monday, April 13th. Details to be announced.
GOOD TO KNOW recipes aren't just for cooking

Hand Sanitizer Recipe

¾ cup of isopropyl or rubbing alcohol (99%)
¼ cup of aloe vera gel (to counteract the harshness of alcohol)
10 drops of essential oil such as lavender, or lemon juice
Pour all ingredients into a bowl, mix with a spoon, then wisk to turn ingredients into a gel. Pour into an empty clean bottle.

https://www.healthline.com/health/how-to-make-hand-sanitizer

Disinfectant Spray Recipe

A spray bottle – you can wet paper towels for wipe down, or just spray
1 ½ cups isopropyl alcohol (60% or over – 99% preferred)
2 teaspoons glycerol (optional – moisturizes hands)
1 tablespoon hydrogen peroxide
¼ cup distilled or boiled water
optional: a couple drops of your favorite essential oil

from WIRED online 3/12/2020

20 SECONDS OF SHAKESPEARE for the washing of hands

O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name.
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, and I’ll no longer be a Capulet.
Tis but thy name be my enemy; Thou art myself, though not a Montegue.
What’s Montegue? It is nor hand nor foot, nor arm, nor face, or any other part belonging to a man.
O, be some other name!

OLLI BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS
Each of OLLI’s directors were busy in February. Here are a few of the highlights.

Publicity
- Shari Schwartz reported that she and Lynn were on KTEP, the UTEP PBS radio station, to promote spring semester classes.

Newsletter
- Nicole Grant reported that OLLI will have an opportunity to interview UTEP President Heather Wilson in June.

Events
- Leanne von Mittenwald gave OLLI spring catalogs to all members of the Plaza Classic Film Festival board and answered questions about classes, etc.
• Leanne was the guest speaker at the Westside Rotary meeting and spoke about OLLI's history, OLLI@UTEP, requirements for a program, and our classes and catalogs. She gave the 2020 Spring catalog to all in attendance and spoke after the meeting to several individuals who had questions. She also spoke with Desilu Wines and they will be offering a future wine class.

• Valentine's Day(s) - Our table was full of goodies (thanks to all who contributed) - homemade and store-bought - and a good time was had by all!

• FHAR donations - Our ongoing project with FHAR was very successful. Our members have generously filled the donations' boxes with food items, personal items, and cleaning products, and we have donated six gift cards to help students in need. The FHAR representatives have been very appreciative. They let us know that we are their best supporters! We have donated so many items that they now have a storage area, not just a filing cabinet, to store all of the donations.

**UTEP PARKING INFORMATION**

*Parking is not an issue today because we are not on campus now.*

*For future reference - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY*

It was brought to our attention that many OLLI students have parked in lots outside of their designated parking lots or have failed to display permits properly and they have been cited. Here is a reminder regarding cross parking rules that parking and transportation enforces.

**Cross Parking**

- Is allowed in Silver Premium Perimeter and Blue Perimeter lots AFTER 3:00 pm. From 4pm to 8pm, any current and valid UTEP parking permit on display is allowed to park on these areas.

- Is allowed in the UTEP Sun Bowl and Schuster Parking Garage AFTER 4:00 pm. From 4pm to 8pm, any current and valid UTEP parking permit on display is allowed to park on these areas.

- Is allowed in Brown Remote Reserved lots AFTER 5:00 pm. From 5pm to 8pm, any current and valid UTEP parking permit on display is allowed to park on Brown Remote.

- Is allowed in Green Remote lots with any current and valid UTEP parking permit from 7am to 8pm.

- Is allowed in Red/Orange Inner-Campus lots AFTER 5:00 pm (Except for Red Zone WI1, or Reserved parking, that is designated and enforced 24 hours, 7 days a week).

Another issue brought to our attention is that many OLLI members have been cited for Failure to Display Current Permit and Permit Not Properly Affixed. Please be advised that when displaying your permit there should NOT be anything obstructing or covering the permit, the best way to check is when you exit your vehicle to take a look at your windshield and see if you can see your permit clearly without any issues, if you cannot see it neither can the officers on the field so please adjust it accordingly.

*If you have requested and have not picked up your permit in the OLLI office, you risk being cited. The OLLI office is not responsible for your citations. However, we will follow up on the status of pending parking permits.*
MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

MARIANELA, IN HER OWN WORDS

Marianela Milner joined the OLLI board a few months ago and serves as our Secretary. This is our introduction to you from Marianela.

“This summer, 10 years ago, I became a "retired educator." I had been a high school counselor and elementary school teacher, and prior to joining the school system I was a Registered Dental Hygienist for 10 years. Life was great as a young professional and young mother/wife with two children and my hubby, Tom!

When I retired, I thought, "What to do now that the kids are grown up and gone? How am I going to make the second half of my life even BETTER than the first half has been?" I decided to work on my bucket list and it has been non-stop action since then:

1. I have been a docent (museum tour guide) at the El Paso Museum of Art for 9 years
2. I have been a El Paso County Master Gardener for 8 years
3. I have been a Trans-Pecos Master Naturalist for 7 years
4. I have been a member of the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club and El Paso Chapter Native Plant Society for 10 years
5. I have been a UTEP OLLI student for 4 years

I have enjoyed participating as a volunteer in our El Paso Community. I love experiencing what is happening all around our El Paso area in different ways.

In between activities, my husband Tom and I love to travel! We have been to 34 different countries and we need only 14 more US states to visit and 2 more continents to finish our travel bucket list!

When asked, "Which is your favorite activity? I can honestly say that coming to OLLI classes is right on top! In the past 4 years that I have been taking OLLI classes, I have learned SO much! The saying, "The More You Know, the More You Realize You Don't Know!" or "The More You Know, the More You Grow!" expresses perfectly how I feel about being an OLLI student. OLLI classes have opened up new opportunities to learn and grow and meet such fabulous people. Everyone brings to the OLLI classes their lifelong experiences and their stories that enrich the OLLI experience so much!

As your new OLLI Executive Board Secretary, my main goal is to communicate with our members what is happening within our OLLI Community via Executive Board Minutes and Facebook postings.”
MARY HARRIS

Mary joined the board this month and will serve as our Membership Chairman.

She has been volunteering at OLLI for several years, serving on the Registration Committee, as a class monitor helping to take the role in classes, and distributing catalogs to doctor’s offices, senior living facilities--- anywhere she thinks senior citizens might pick up a catalogs and become interested in joining OLLI. She recently spoke about OLLI at the Providence Memorial reunion to spread the good word. Mary holds a Masters Degree in Social Work and worked primarily in health care settings. She’s newly retired and, luckily for us, decided to contribute her volunteer time to OLLI. Mary enjoys travel, reading, table tennis, golf swimming, and daily walks with her mutts. Her goals for OLLI are to each out to community agencies and organizations and disseminate OLLI literature and provide education and to work in collaboration with fellow board members.

CAROYLN AWALT

Carolyn joined the board this month and will serve as our Speakers’ Bureau Chair

Carloyn is an active OLLI member that brings a fortuitous wealth of information in education and training during this time of adjustments and change. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor, Information Systems Management, for the University of Maryland University College and is a retired Assistant Professor from the UTEP College of Education. Her Ph.D is from the University of Texas at Austin in Curriculum and Instruction. Her dissertation title was Moving from the classroom to online teaching: A study of change in faculty attitudes and practice (2003). Carolyn is also and active member of the community and currently serves as Vice-president of the Board of Directors for the Insights El Paso Science Center.

LET’S BE FRIENDS! OLLI@UTEP IS ON FACEBOOK

OLLI is on social media! If you are a Facebooker, check out our page. We’d love to post your photos. Share your out and about experiences, travels, and, of course, when you and your friends have been on campus or in class. Many thanks to Marie Livingston and Marianela Milner for creating and maintaining OLLI@UTEP on Facebook.
OLLI@UTEP members opened their pantries and pocket books again to support FHAR (Foster, Homeless, Adopted Resource), a worthy campus organization and a terrific resource center here at UTEP. FHAR assists students who have graduated out of foster care, find themselves homeless, or in need of an emergency financial boost. Gift cards in small denominations ($10-$20) from Walmart, Walgreens, Target CVS, Dollar stores, as well as from the UTEP bookstore and fast food places will help these students immensely. Last spring OLLI members donate over $500 in gifts cards.

When the call went out from FHAR recently for hygiene, school and household supplies, we stepped up to the plate again. Many thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause. Our ongoing project with FAHR continues to be very successful. Our members generously filled the donation boxes with food items, personal items, and cleaning products, and we donated six gift cards to help students in need.

The FHAR representatives were very appreciative. They let us know that we are their best supporters! They now have a storage area, not just a filing cabinet, to store all of the donations. Many thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause. Keep up the good work, OLLI!

OLLI BOOK CLUB PARTICIPATES IN THE BIG READ ON THE BORDER

April is the month for the annual Big Read on the Border sponsored by UTEP. The book chosen this year is Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea. The OLLI book club read the book and recently enjoyed a lively discussion. Inspired by the movie The Magnificent Seven, it’s a humorous and gripping account of young people leaving their village in Mexico to recruit heroes from the United States to rid the village of dangerous bandidos. It’s an easy read, very funny, poignant and wise. UTEP will present the novel as a play. The May book selection is The Day the World Came to Town by Jim Defede.

UTEP’s Mining Books had Elizabeth Acevedo’s novel, The Poet X, on its March reading list. The Mining Books discussions have been cancelled until further notice. It’s still a good read.
PERSPECTIVES ART EXHIBIT
Postponed until 2021
The exhibit will be wonderful when we get there.
Here is a preview of our talented OLLI artists’ work.

*Flower Shadows*
Watercolor by Marie Livingston

*XO*
Photograph by Laurie Sayward

*Peras*
Oil on Canvas by Lucy Michal

*Sequel*
Oil on Canvas by Suzanne Pindar

More featured artwork to come. Watch for upcoming OLLI bulletins.