Greetings from the NRC
May 2024

For most of us in the US, April showers do indeed bring May flowers. Here in Chicago, gardens had the advantage of an early spring. The copious tulip crop is well into bloom. And on our downtown Northwestern University campus, purple tulips generally dominate, honoring the revered school color. It's the season of visible renewal and growth hoping for brighter seasons ahead. That anticipation is palpable on all our college campuses. It's one of the benefits of being part of our higher education hosts – truly factories for learning and growth. For those of us whose Osher programs are held on or near to the campus, we often enjoy walking alongside students as they head to end of year classes and finals. Soon we'll catch glimpses of their excitement surrounding graduation celebrations. It is an annual, nostalgic reminder of those times in our own lives and the many possibilities ahead.

This month we feature stories of activities and courses from OLLIs in the District of Columbia, our own campus at Northwestern, and from the deserts of New Mexico and Arizona. While the spring flora might vary between these locations, the creativity and expression bloom similarly for each. We hope you get a few ideas you can explore in your own OLLI gardens.

Wishing you a delightful month of May,
OLLII AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
Celebrating Longtime Instructors
At OLLI at American University (AU), there are 42 instructors who have been teaching for at least 10 years—a couple have even surpassed 25! In January, these instructors (or Study Group Leaders) were honored in a Study Group Leader (SGL) Spotlight email series. Each week, a handful of SGLs were highlighted for their respective accomplishments both at OLLI at AU and throughout their lives. Many instructors also provided quotes on what OLLI means to them: a space for intellectual growth and exploration, the opportunity to pursue their passions, and a tight-knit community with shared values.

This series culminated in a special event honoring longtime instructors and their dedication to OLLI at AU. Specially designed books including pictures, the classes each instructor taught over the years, and bios were gifted to the instructors to take home. The books and program from OLLI at AU’s Executive Director, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Curriculum Committee Chair honored these longtime SGLs for their generosity of talent and time, and for being the heart of OLLI’s community.

The presentation was followed by a reception where members and instructors mingled and reminisced on their time at OLLI at AU over hors d’oeuvres and refreshments.

Submitted by: Sara Beatty, Programs and Projects Coordinator, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University

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OLLI AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

OLLI Members Perform at the Famous Goodman Theater
A unique partnership between OLLI Northwestern and The Goodman Theater created a rare opportunity for select OLLI members to perform at this internationally renowned theater.

Using themes of the play *Nacerima Society* by the renowned playwright, best-selling author, and poet Pearl Cleage, members shared their stories in a showcase performance. The room was filled, the energy was high, and the audience support was palpable. The members did not disappoint! Member performances were personal, poignant, humorous, and powerful. Their words moved the audience to laugh, cry, sit in contemplative silence, and experience a few ah-ha moments.

The evening didn’t end there. Members and their guests then attended the *Nacerima Society* play together in order to have that shared experience.

And there’s more! OLLI at Northwestern University and The Goodman Theater are planning a spring event focused on the captivating works of August Wilson. Together, members will watch the play *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*. Members will again be featured in a storytelling showcase performance as they share their personal stories on the themes of the play.

The Goodman Theater is known for its quality of productions, depth and diversity of artistic leadership, and excellence of its many community and educational programs. Therefore, this partnership not only enhances the experiences of current OLLI members, but it is also a great opportunity to reach prospective members and those that will increase the diversity of the Institute’s membership.

Submitted by: OLLI at Northwestern University
Osher Institute at University of New Mexico

New Mexico History

**Course Length:** Single session 2-hour classes run across several weeks (8 hours)

**Course Instructor:** Angelo Cervantes is an avid genetic genealogical researcher. He pioneered the study of Anthropological Genetic Genealogy with the creation of the New Mexico DNA Project. He’s a key lecturer on the study of Anthropological Genetic Genealogy for various historical and genealogical organizations. Mr. Cervantes teaches Advanced Placement History at Albuquerque High School.

**Course Delivery:** In-person

**Course Description:** Although these classes run as single session classes, they are a series from instructor Angelo Cervantes on the genealogical connection to New Mexico. In this series, the classes examine the history of the original genetics, the connection to the Iberian Peninsula, the lineage relationship to New Mexico, and explore the reality of Rome’s beginnings. Participants explore the connection between Roman colonization of the Iberian Peninsula and its impact on the descendants of the peninsula. Classes contain films and discussions on which New Mexico families show the DNA markers that are most identified with this ancient civilization.

Classes in this series are:
- The Roman Connection to New Mexican Families
- The Phoenician Connection to New Mexican Families
- The Carthaginian Connection to New Mexican Families
- The Suebi Connection to New Mexican Families

**Of Note:** This class is enrollment for single sessions while being part of a series. There is a core group of members that take the classes consecutively as the topic of genetic history runs through the series. However, the individual classes are structured to stand alone and allow members to take a single class (and many do). Additionally, this class runs in the early evenings, typically starting at 4pm.
What is a Woo-Hoo? A Woo-Hoo is one of those wonderful, amazing, out of the box experiences at an OLLI. All Osher Institutes have the opportunity to submit and showcase their Woo-Hoo for peer Institutes at the Osher National Conference. The Woo-Hoos are shared during general sessions at the conference, and attendees vote on their favorites. The following is one of the top six winners from the 2023 Osher Institutes National Conference held in San Diego in October.

**OLLI at Yavapai College Offers English as a Second Language**

OLLI at Yavapai College implemented English as a Second Language classes in 2023, and they filled quickly. In collaboration with the college’s Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, the first OLLI class focused on communication with health care providers. Subsequent classes built on language skills, focused on functional language acquisition. Although the college offers ESL classes, they are restricted to legal residents. OLLI offerings have no such limitation and serve a critical need.

**CAREER OPENINGS IN THE OLLI NETWORK**

**Job Board**

- Osher Educational Coordinator  
  **University of Missouri**

- Lifelong Learning Coordinator  
  **Coastal Carolina University**

- Program Associate, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Administrative Assistant 1, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Boise State University

Administrative Assistant 3, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University

PT Assistant II, OLLI Prescott
Yavapai College

Administrative Specialist CL3, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Southern Maine

Is there a staff opening at your Osher Institute? Please send it to us at oshernrc@northwestern.edu

National Resource Center for Osher Institutes, Northwestern University
Wieboldt Hall, Sixth Floor, 339 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611