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 Editor: Nicole Grant

OLLI on LINE

OLLI @ UTEP

On Campus
 at:
 Miners Hall
 Room 209

(915)747-6280



Your 2018 OLLI

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Welcome to the Second Fall Edition of Olli on Line

Welcome and Bienvenidos to our new Executive Director!

Lynn Provenzano, our new Executive Director, sat down with us for a brief Q & A session. Welcome aboard, Lynn!

Q: Why did you seek the Executive Director position?

I was introduced to the OLLI program 11 years ago and have grown to love the program and the student population. The Osher Foundation developed something that is of great benefit to its members. I see the Executive Director position as an opportunity to be of service in a bigger way to the community.

Q: Tell us a bit about your background.

I have a diverse background in business operations and marketing with major corporations giving me experience ranging from concepts to business development and, ultimately, satisfying consumer needs. Training and staff development have always been a significant part of my work. This evolved into teaching adult communities and the diverse student populations at Vista College, OLLI, and networks of people and organizations interested in personal development.

Q: What is a favorite activity or hobby?

I enjoy creative activities and often sit still to read a book or crochet a blanket. However, my passion has been in non-profit work with the El Paso Society for Musicians of the Future, where I sit as board president, and in alternative healing modalities. My focus specifically is on Pranic Healing and the promotion of health and wellness through its practice, free clinics, meditations, and course instruction.

Q: What OLLI classes have you taught?

I teach meditation as it pertains to healthy living and classes introducing energy work to promote wellness through a greater understanding of the energetic component of ourselves and our environment.

Q: What challenges do you see facing OLLI@UTEP?

This is still to be determined. There are a few issues that will be passed over to me and relationships with the University that will be renewed, revisited, or developed. The goal will be simple- move forward to the benefit of both OLLI and UTEP. We live and work in the same space.

Q: What are some of your goals or ideas you'd like to implement at OLLI?

At this time, my immediate goal is to step in and maintain the good work that has come before me. This program has a committed board, dedicated volunteers, solid membership, and enthusiastic students. Of course, there is always opportunity for growth. So, collaboration among all stakeholders will be key in finding the next good thing to implement.

Thank You for Your Service

In the beginning, Larry was there. In 1991, when The Center for Life Long Learning was being organized, Dr. Lawrence Johnson was among its first instructors. His very first class was titled Modern Myth Makers, and the following year, he taught a course titled Modern Political Novels.

In 2010, The Center For Life Long Learning was accepted into the Bernard Osher Foundation and became known as OLLI@UTEP. Larry was one of three people to help draft the agreement between Osher and UTEP. He was appointed by President Natalicio to be the first faculty liaison between OLLI@UTEP and the College of Liberal Arts. While he held that position he continued to teach for us. When he retired from the university, he relinquished his position as liaison but remained a regular board member and then continued as an ex officio board member of the OLLI Board until 2018.

On a personal note.....when I first became a Board member, I was immediately aware of Larry's value to OLLI@UTEP. As a Board member, he provided us with institutional memory, helped us navigate through the university bureaucracy, and facilitated our problem solving. In 2016, I reluctantly agreed to be interim chair for a year. I was very apprehensive to take on such a challenge. By the time I arrived home after that Board meeting, I had an email from Larry offering his assistance. I gratefully accepted his offer and immediately asked that he remain on the Board in an ex officio capacity. His wise counsel was invaluable to me and to OLLI@UTEP. We have remained cyber buddies ever since. Somehow it suits our shared midwestern sensibilities.

Larry received his PhD from Johns Hopkins in 1972 and began his university career here at UTEP. He was commissioned in the United States Army in 1972 and promoted to the rank of Major General in 2002. He found the military and academic worlds to be complementary and brought his insights and knowledge of one to the other.

In recent years, his classes involved studying the early philosophers, his final classes in 2017/ 2018 being Before There was Monotheism and Proverbial Wisdom. Occasionally in our email conversations I would bemoan the current political or cultural discourse. He would always refer to an early philosopher pointing out that this has been going on for centuries.

Dr. Lawrence Johnson has had a profound effect on the lives of many.....the university students he taught, the military personal he led, the OLLI@UTEP students he inspired and the OLLI@UTEP Board he guided. Thank you Larry for your service to so many.

Ruth A. Bassett, OLLI@UTEP Board of Directors, Past chair

CHANGING WORLD LECTURES

The Changing World Class consists of a series of lectures featuring renowned UTEP faculty and movers and shakers in the El Paso community. The topics address issues of world, national or local

importance. The lectures are well attended and audience participation is encouraged during the question and answer segment. Participants are encouraged to invite a friend and introduce them to OLLI. The lectures take place Wednesdays in Geology Bldg. 123 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM.

October 31: Dr. Ivonne Santiago – El Paso Water Situation.

November 7: Dr. Kathleen Staudt – Peace Corps at UTEP.

November 14: State Rep Joe Moody – State & Local Politics.

November 21: No Class – Thanksgiving Week.

November 28: Ellen Smyth – Future of El Paso Recycling.

December 5: Jay Banasiak – El Paso Trolley.

Said Larbi-Cherif, OLLI @UTEP Board of Directors

OLLI Honors Veterans

Sunday, November 11 is Veterans Day, and it will be nationally observed on Monday, November 12. OLLI@UTEP thanks all of our veterans for their service to our country and invites you to stop in the OLLI lounge on Monday to view photos of our OLLI veterans.

HALLOWEEN WAS GOULISHLY GOOD!

Social Chair Liz Highsmith reports that our Halloween party was fun and tasty. Many thanks to those who helped put out a great spread of pizza, fried chicken, deviled eggs that looked suspiciously like spiders, and lots of sweet treats. We spied some witches, a farmer, and an Audrey Hepburn look-alike among the crowd. And Jim Smith's large and enthusiastic class enjoyed classic spooky Halloween music.

OLLI Book Club News: The Man Who Invented Christmas

The December selection is *The Man Who Invented Christmas* by Les Standiford. The popular biography tells the amazing story of a dispirited, debt-ridden Charles Dickens publishing a little book, *A Christmas Carol*, which revitalized the holiday and made him famous. Reviews state that sentimentalists and Scrooges alike will enjoy the book. The next club meeting is at noon on December 13.

Crystal, in Her Own Words (from our new Administrative Secretary)

I was born in a very rural magical place in the North of Mexico. The craziest Sunday you can imagine. My father was an 80 year old religious minister from Colorado and my mother was a 45 year old Mexican nurse when I came to this earth. You can say I was destined to be an old soul. My childhood was precious.

Small towns are treasures in this modern and urban age; my town was full of stories and traditions, but not a place to stay if I wanted to pursue a college career. When I turned 20 years old, I moved to El Paso. At the beginning, people used to make fun of my accent--it didn't matter if I spoke English or Spanish. My accent in Spanish was unfamiliar for the people of Ciudad Juarez, and my English was minimal at that time.

To be honest, when I arrived to El Paso, the only "American" things about me were my last name (Brown) and the little I knew about Abraham Lincoln.

Since I was very small, I dreamed about traveling all over the world. My dream came true when I went to Peru when I was 23 years old. I worked in the top of the Andes building a children's home, then went to Machu Picchu. Then at age 24, I went to live a summer in New York volunteering for a small church of Kewchua indigenous people of Ecuador. I graduated college in 2016 and then went to Guatemala, to a small town to build a house. In 2017, I left to India and lived there 6 beautiful months. I really like to travel and camp and take pictures of people and places. I am much honored that after such crazy traveling adventures I can come and learn from OLLI students.

Crystal Brown, OLLI@UTEP Administrative Secretary

Kardemumme rolls and bollers!

Have you recently had the good fortune to be offered a homemade, delicious cardamom roll ("Kardemumme") by a friendly Olli member as you were going to class? Or perhaps he offered you a hot cross bun last year? If so, you've had the pleasure of meeting Kjell Hansen.

Our Norwegian OLLI@UTEP member hails from Kristiansand, a city on Norway's southern coast. Kjell divides his time between Norway and El Paso and especially enjoys OLLI classes while he's in El Paso. In fact, Kjell stated that OLLI has changed his life, and he's enjoyed meeting so many people through OLLI. Some of his favorite classes have been border history, art history, orchestra/classical music, and Celtic spirituality.

Kjell enjoys classical music, especially the piano, cooking for friends, and, fortunately for us, baking! For his bread, or 'bollers,' he uses a sourdough starter that he brought from Norway, and he estimates his starter has logged in excess of 50,000 air miles! Always on the lookout for good ingredients, he has gone to brew shops in El Paso to obtain malted barley and buys his flour in 50 lb bags. Kjell especially likes to use old Norwegian recipes and exotic spices in his culinary adventures, and he has been in a wine club in Norway for 35 years. In El Paso he experiments in making different salsas and pico de gallo.

An electrical engineer, Kjell has been in electrical contracting and now does lighting design, indoor and outdoor, in both Norway and here in El Paso. When asked what brought him to El Paso, he replied, with a huge smile, "Love!"

KNIT 1, PURL 2 OLLI Knitters Hard at Work

In the English Yorkshire dales, there is a village whose people were known as the Terrible Knitters of Dent. The industry of this village was knitting, at its height during the Napoleonic period, and the villagers knitted wherever they went, to and from market, in church, standing at the stove preparing a meal. A descendent of these 'terrible knitters' is amongst us and teaching an OLLI knitting class--- Linda Larbi-Cherif. She hails from Yorkshire, her maiden name was Dent, and she has been knitting since the age of 5. Her family comes from the village of Dent. We sat down with Linda and asked her some questions.

Q: You have been a knitter for a long time---why do you enjoy it?

All children learned to knit around five years old when I was going to school. Our first project was mittens and they aren't easy. I was a very poor knitter. But if you've learned to overcome many mistakes, it makes it easier for you to teach.

Q: What are some of your favorite items to knit?

My favorite items to make are sweaters for our grandchildren and baby blankets for Project Linus.

Q: Talk a little bit about the class: are there some beginners in the class; what are some challenges in teaching a knitting class?

The class is for beginners. Most of the students have never knitted before and one lady is left handed so that's interesting. I try to make the class fun because learning a new skill is difficult. If someone makes a mistake I tell them that it's part of the process of learning something new. I am so proud of the persons who have persisted.

Q: There is a man in the class---do many men knit in your hometown area of Yorkshire?

Men have always knitted and were probably the ones who invented it. Most men I knew when I was growing up knew how to knit; a male cousin of mine was a fabulous knitter and designer.

Q: What are the benefits of knitting for seniors?

Knitting can be a challenge to learn but it is very good for the brain to learn new things. It's good for brain plasticity and good to keep arthritic hands moving. One lady was told that she should learn to knit by her physical therapist. Another lady no longer bites her nails and also sleeps better because she finds it calming.

Q: What are some favorite OLLI classes you have taken?

Jim Smith's Beatles class, Grace Haddox's Shakespeare classes. But I love them all, really.

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

December 8 - **OLLI Membership Meeting and Reception for Dr. Larry Johnson** - 5pm
Fox Fine Arts Building
"Poets of the Piano": Special Lecture & Recital – 7:30pm
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall

January 8, 2019 - **Registration for the Spring 2019 Session**

Find something you're passionate about and keep
tremendously interested in it.

- Julia Child

- **OLLI CLASS PICTURES** --->>>>>

THIS CLASS IS FOR THE BIRDS!! OLLI BIRDERS ON A CRISP SATURDAY MORNING AT ASCARATE PARK



Instructor John Groves (right) leads intrepid Olli birders



It's cold, but we're happy birders.



Look, it's a Common Loon!



Birding sure is fun.



Lots and lots of ducks!



In the classroom, learning to use our binoculars with instructor John Groves.

KNIT 1, PURL 2: OLLI KNITTERS HARD AT WORK!



Jim Richardson



Marie Livingston



Instructor Linda Larbi-Cherif (right) helps Carolynne Ayoub



Ann Floyd

CHEF LUGO'S "SEASONAL SENSATIONS"



OLLI STUDENTS LEARN BY DOING!

RAPT ATTENTION TO CHEF LUGO'S DEMONSTRATIONS



CHEF LUGO FILLETS THE SALMON!

...AND AFTER EVERY CLASS A FEAST!



NEAL LOCKE JUGGLES KNIVES DURING THE FRENCH AND FRANKISH SPIRITUALITY CLASS

