



## Members' Handbook



### Welcome to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Pitt

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in the College of General Studies at the University of Pittsburgh offers an array of courses and events for adult learners who are primarily age 55 or older. The atmosphere is intellectually challenging but without the stress of tests or grades. Our members enjoy interacting not only with outstanding faculty and fellow adult learners but with younger college students.

Welcome to the OLLI learning community. This handbook was prepared to provide you with information about OLLI and its organization; how to take full advantage of its benefits; and the expectations and responsibilities of membership.

Updated July 2011

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## **OLLI Vision Statement**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the College of General Studies aspires to create a dedicated intellectual environment for older adult students, nurturing a lifelong passion for learning.

## **OLLI Mission Statement**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute fosters lifelong learning through courses and programs that engage the learner, provide social interaction, and enrich lives. The Institute's faculty, which includes University of Pittsburgh professors and emeriti, challenges participants to understand the cultural forces of today, to interact socially and intellectually with one another, and to live empowered lives.

## **History of OLLI at Pitt**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Pitt was established through a \$100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation received by the College of General Studies in July 2004. The grant enabled the college to greatly broaden the scope of programming available to adults ages 55 and older. Since 1974, the College of General Studies offered older adults the opportunity to audit undergraduate courses through a program first called the College Over Sixty then the Third Age Learning Community. The new Osher Lifelong Learning Institute features both undergraduate course auditing and a new type of program—five-week OLLI courses just for members.

The inaugural term for OLLI was spring 2005. At that time OLLI at Pitt was one of 48 OLLIs at colleges and universities throughout the country and the only OLLI in Pennsylvania. That first term we offered 19 OLLI courses and had 121 full members and 187 associate members.

Now, we offer over 50 OLLI courses each term and have more than 800 members during the academic year. By the fall of 2008, we were one of 122 OLLIs throughout the country, including five in Pennsylvania. In addition to Pitt, the others in the state are located at CMU, Penn State, Temple, and Widener.

The Bernard Osher Foundation supported our program with a \$100,000 annual grant for three years. In June of 2007, we were awarded a \$1 million endowment by the Foundation. Among the stipulations for a program to be considered for endowment funding was having at least 500 members. The Foundation has offered to consider adding another \$1 million to our endowment when our membership reaches 1,000. Though the endowment secured a permanent place for OLLI at the University of Pittsburgh, the income it returns is less than \$40,000 and is considerably less than the \$100,000 annual grant previously received from the Osher Foundation. Additional funding is being sought from other sources. (See the section titled OLLI: How It All Began to find out more about the growth of OLLIs across the U.S. and the Resources section for Web site addresses for the Bernard Osher Foundation and the OLLI National Resource Center.)

## Contact Information

OLLI Staff

Judi Bobenage, director  
412-624-7072, [bobenage@pitt.edu](mailto:bobenage@pitt.edu)

Patricia Szczepanski, program assistant  
412-624-7912, [pjs27@pitt.edu](mailto:pjs27@pitt.edu)

Assistance is also provided by Steve Lander

Phone number for general information about OLLI and to register: 412-624-7308

Fax number: 412-624-5461

Web site: [www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher](http://www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher)

Campus Location: Fourth Floor, Cathedral of Learning

Mailing Address: OLLI, Fourth Floor, Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Office Hours:

OLLI staff is available Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
College of General Studies reception/registration desk is staffed Monday – Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## 1. General Membership Information

### A. Membership Levels

You may join OLLI for the entire year or for a term. Annual membership includes three consecutive terms and represents a considerable discount off the single term fees. Term membership is available and applies just to the current term. A term membership can be converted to an annual membership if the conversion is made when registering for the following term. An associate membership level is available to those people wanting to take advantage only of the undergraduate course audit benefit.

### B. Membership Benefits

These membership benefits are available to the annual and term members only:

- Registration in an unlimited number of OLLI courses. (See information under OLLI Courses.)
- Registration in up to two undergraduate course audits per term. Registration in additional course audits is available at \$25 each. (See information under Auditing Undergraduate Courses.)
- Receipt of a photo ID that provides access to University services including campus buses and shuttles and borrowing privileges at Hillman Library. (See item 6. A. Photo Identification Card under University Services and Policies.)
- Discounts for tickets to many cultural events. (See item 6. B. PITTARTS Cheap Seats Program under University Services and Policies.)

### C. Donations to OLLI

Your tax-deductible donations to OLLI will go a long way in support of scholarships, courses, and special events. You may make a donation when you register for courses by indicating your donation on the registration form. Donations are also accepted online at [www.giveto.pitt.edu](http://www.giveto.pitt.edu) where you can direct your donation to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Checks should be made payable to University of Pittsburgh.

### D. Refunds

Because full membership includes unlimited OLLI courses and an array of benefits, the membership fee is generally nonrefundable. However, if a refund is requested before any benefits have been used and before any classes have been attended, the request will be honored.

Membership in OLLI is nontransferable.

### E. Release Forms

Members registering for off-campus events and trips and for courses that may have an associated risk are required to sign a waiver releasing the University and the instructor from liability and agreeing to assume all of the risks related to participation in the activity.

## 2. OLLI Courses

The OLLI courses address a mix of disciplines, including social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, art, and writing, as well as personal enrichment courses. Many courses are repeated, though with varying frequency. Some courses are consistently popular and are offered each term; others may be repeated once every year or less often. Most courses have no prerequisites, none require a degree, and there are no exams or grades. The intention is to support learning solely for pleasure.

Courses are offered during three terms each year—fall (September – November); spring (late January or early February – April); and summer (May – July). Each term offers two five-week sessions of courses. A week break between the two sessions is used for make-up classes and events. During spring term this week coincides with the University's spring recess.

Courses typically meet once a week for an hour and 50 minutes during the five-week session. Some courses such as those in foreign languages and T'ai Chi, meet for 10 weeks, and some courses such as film, meet for two hours and 50 minutes each week. Courses are taught by current and emeriti Pitt faculty and other experts from the community. With more than 50 courses offered each term, OLLI has something for everyone.

#### A. Course Registration

You may register for an OLLI course, space permitting, until its start date. Some courses have limited enrollment and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis; others may be canceled due to low enrollment. We encourage you to register early to avoid the risk of a course being filled or canceled due to low enrollment. If the course for which you are registering is filled, you will be notified by phone and placed on a waitlist. When space opens those on the waitlist will be contacted in the order their registrations were received.

#### How to Register

- **By mail:** Send completed registration form with your check or payment information to:  
University of Pittsburgh  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Fourth Floor, Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
- **By phone:** Call 412-624-7308 with MasterCard/Visa information Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (Phone registration is **not available** for audit courses.)
- **By fax:** Fax completed registration form to 412-624-5461 with MasterCard/Visa information.
- **In person:** Bring your completed form to the College of General Studies' reception/ registration desk, fourth floor, Cathedral of Learning, Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- **Online:** If you are already a member and have no payments due you may register online at [www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher](http://www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher). Go to the Registration page for details.

#### B. Course Confirmation

You will receive a written confirmation of your course registration. The confirmation includes the exact course location and any texts or special materials required. If you do not receive your confirmation, call 412-624-7308 to confirm your enrollment and the course location.

#### C. Course Locations

Most courses are held on the Oakland campus in the Cathedral of Learning and nearby buildings. Some courses are held in libraries in surrounding communities and at local cultural institutions, such as Carnegie Museum of Art and the Pittsburgh Zoo when they are sponsoring the course. The catalog listing will indicate if a course is being held off-campus. A campus map is included in each catalog to assist members with locating campus buildings.

#### D. Course Materials and Texts

If a course requires a text or other materials, those items will be indicated on your confirmation. If required, a materials list will be included with the confirmation or sent

separately prior to the start of the course. Assignments to be read for the first class are sometimes sent to registrants prior to the start of the course. If the course has a required text, copies of the text are available at The Book Center, 4000 Fifth Avenue, in a special section for OLLI on the ground floor.

E. Course Evaluations

Members are asked to complete an evaluation of each course at the last class meeting. Evaluations provide important feedback to the instructor and to the program. If you are going to miss the last class, please pick up an evaluation form in the OLLI office or lounge or print one from the Members page of the OLLI web site ([www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher](http://www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher)), and return the completed evaluation to the College of General Studies' reception desk on the fourth floor of the Cathedral of Learning. Completed evaluations should be submitted within two weeks of the last class meeting.

F. Course and Class Cancellations

A **course** may be canceled if it fails to meet a minimum enrollment number. In that case efforts will be made to notify enrollees a week before the course is to begin.

If a **class session** needs to be canceled, class members will be notified as soon as possible. If time permits, email notifications will be sent. If there is short notice class members will be notified by phone. Every effort will be made to make up the missed class. (See also item 6. H. the University's Severe Weather Policy under University Services and Policies.)

G. Course Conduct Guidelines

OLLI members are expected to respect the sanctity of the learning environment and embrace the concept of a civil community. Additionally, for all OLLI classes your responsibilities include:

- Be on time and do not leave classes early unless arrangements have been made with the instructor.
- Do not eat in the classroom.
- Mute or turn off your cell phone.
- Attend only courses for which you registered.
- Do not register for a course unless you can attend the class sessions. If you will miss more than two of the OLLI class sessions, please do not register for the course.
- If you registered for a course and then find you won't be able to attend, please formally withdraw from it.
- Classes are open to members only, so do not bring a guest to class. (An instructor is not in a position to approve bringing a guest to class.)
- Be courteous and listen when the instructor, another student, or a staff member is speaking.
- Please attempt to do class assignments so that you can participate fully in the class.

### 3. Auditing Undergraduate Courses

Each OLLI catalog lists courses from the School of Arts and Sciences and the College of General Studies that have been approved for auditing by OLLI members. Typically, no more than four OLLI members are allowed seats in a course. In auditing a course you receive no credit and generally do not participate in homework and exams.

Courses from these departments are not available for auditing: Computer Science, Film Studies, and Physical Education

A. Course Registration

The deadline for course audit registration is the end of the add/drop period for the term. Registration as an OLLI auditor does not guarantee a space in the course. If you arrive at the course and all seats are filled, you may need to drop the course and select an alternate. If seats

are not available in the class, please notify the OLLI office that you will drop the course and let the office know if you are registering for an alternate course.

Once the term begins you may add and drop courses only during the add/drop period. For the fall and spring terms the add/drop period is the first two weeks of the term. For summer sessions, the add/drop period is very short. Refer to each term's OLLI catalog for these important dates. (See item 2. A. How to Register, under OLLI Courses for procedures for submitting your registration.)

B. Registering for Courses not Listed in the OLLI Catalog

If the course you have selected is not listed in the OLLI catalog but is listed in the University's schedule of classes you may request special permission from the instructor to audit the course. Complete the special permission section on the registration form, or attach an e-mail from the instructor granting permission to audit the course. (The University's schedule of classes is only available online. You can access the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) and the College of General Studies (CGS) courses at [www.courses.as.edu](http://www.courses.as.edu) and the entire University schedule at [www.pitt.edu/registrar](http://www.pitt.edu/registrar). The OLLI office also prints a copy of the SAS and CGS courses and makes it available in the OLLI lounge.)

C. Course Confirmation

You will receive a written confirmation of your course registration that includes the day(s) and time the course meets and the exact course location. (A campus map is included in each OLLI catalog.)

D. Course Cancellations and Changes

The courses and curricula are subject to change at any time by the official action of the University of Pittsburgh. OLLI is not responsible for notifying you if a class has been canceled or changes have been made in class meeting times, days, and location. Before your class begins, we urge you to contact the academic department directly to verify location, dates, and times of your course(s). Academic department phone listings are included in the OLLI catalog.

E. Refunds

You can change or drop courses and register for additional courses during the add/drop period. If you decide to drop your course selection during this period, and you paid a fee for your course, the fee will be refunded. No refunds will be issued after the add/drop period.

F. Textbooks

Buying the textbook(s) for a course is at your discretion. At the Book Center, textbooks for audit courses are shelved by department, catalog number (4-digit number), and class number (5-digit number). Take your OLLI confirmation with you to buy the correct books. Some auditors share textbooks, some purchase a previous edition or a used copy, and some use online book sellers as a cost-effective way to secure a text that they want for a course.

G. CourseWeb (Blackboard) Access

If the course you are auditing uses online materials through CourseWeb (sometimes referred to as Blackboard), you can request that a computing account be opened for you to access the materials. To set up the account contact Pat Szczepanski in the OLLI office. Once your account is set up, you will be notified of your username and password along with instructions on how to access CourseWeb. You will need to give your instructor your username, and the instructor can add you to CourseWeb for the course.

Once your account is established, you can give your username to the professors of other courses you audit, and they can provide access to their CourseWeb site for you.

H. Course Conduct Guidelines

As participants in the University community, OLLI members are expected to support the

University's commitment to civility in the learning environment. Additionally, in a University course you audit follow these guidelines:

- At the first class introduce yourself to the instructor as an OLLI audit student. Ask the instructor to what extent you can participate in class and adhere to that policy. Many, but not all, members of the faculty encourage OLLI participation in class discussion. However, please use discretion and do not dominate class discussion.
- Provide the instructor with your email address so that you will receive any announcements and messages regarding the course. Be sure to regularly check your email.
- If you disagree with something an instructor says, speak privately with the instructor after class. Do not use class time for this.
- Remember you are a guest in the class and your behavior reflects positively or negatively on the entire OLLI program.

#### **4. OLLI Committees and Volunteer Opportunities**

##### **A. OLLI Committees**

OLLI couldn't function without the dedicated service of the members who volunteer. You can contribute your ideas and expertise by volunteering to serve on an OLLI committee. Each committee has a different function and time requirement. Below are the current standing committees; ad hoc committees are formed from time to time. You are welcome to join a committee at any time by letting the OLLI staff know of your interest.

- **Advisory Committee:** Represents the membership in providing advice on the general direction, program, services, and policies of OLLI. This committee meets three times a year though other, special meetings may be called and ad hoc committees may be formed.
- **Curriculum Committee:** Brings forward recommendations for course topics, instructors, and speakers; contacts potential instructors; reviews course proposals; and helps to build each term's schedule of Osher courses. This committee holds two meetings to plan each term; six meetings per year.
- **Events Committee:** Identifies and helps plan events that are non-curricular, both on and off campus, as well as social events and activities. This committee meets twice to plan the Fall Fling and other times on an as needed basis.
- **Membership committee:** Identifies tactics for promoting the program and growing the membership while also attending to retaining current members. The committee meets once per term.
- **Newsletter Committee:** Helps to develop the newsletter as a communication vehicle and to gather and write the newsletter contents. Three newsletters are produced each year.

##### **B. OLLI Ambassadors/ Speakers Bureau**

OLLI Ambassadors are members willing to share their enthusiasm about OLLI by speaking to groups in the community. Training is provided, and Ambassadors are sent in teams to make the presentations. Contact the OLLI office if you are interested in becoming an OLLI Ambassador.

We also seek members' help in collecting data about groups or organizations that they are involved with or know of that would welcome a speaker at a meeting to talk about OLLI. These might be book clubs, church groups, service clubs, professional organizations, or retirement groups. Please provide the OLLI office with this information.

##### **C. Other Volunteer Opportunities**

Members are recruited for one-time activities, such as helping with the Open Houses held before each term, and for other events.

## 5. OLLI Events and Services

Besides providing an array of courses for members, OLLI offers events such as socials, day trips, single-session programs, and overnight trips. Take advantage of these to get to know your fellow members.

### A. OLLI Events

During the fall term OLLI holds the Fall Fling as a kick off to a new learning year. During the spring term, OLLI offers a January mini-session comprising three days with a morning and afternoon lecture each day, and participates in the Allegheny County Library Association's One Book/One Community event. Periodically, OLLI holds lecture luncheons featuring speakers from the University or other organizations; single-session lectures; tours of local businesses and attractions; day trips; and multi-day trips. (See item 1.E. Release Forms related to waivers required of participants.)

Some events have fees and others are included with your membership. For events that have an associated fee, the general refund policy is that a full refund will be issued only if the withdrawal occurs at least three business days prior to the event. A full refund for day trips is issued if the withdrawal occurs by the registration deadline. Withdrawals after that date are subject to a 50 % cancellation fee.

### B. OLLI Newsletter

A newsletter is distributed to the membership each term and is posted on the OLLI Web site. Back issues of the newsletter are available in the OLLI lounge. The newsletter includes a director's message, profiles of members and instructors, announcements and upcoming event listings, and articles written by members. The newsletter committee welcomes and encourages contributions from members.

### C. OLLI Lounge

Located at 464 Cathedral of Learning, the Osher lounge is your place to relax, meet with others, and socialize. Here you will also find information on programs and resources of interest to OLLI members. The lounge also holds a lending library where members may donate books and borrow or keep any of the books there.

### D. OLLI Web Site

The program's website at [www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher](http://www.cgs.pitt.edu/osher) lists general program information, course offerings, registration information, and a members' page that includes timely announcements and downloads of the Members' Handbook and some forms.

### E. E-mail Updates

The OLLI office (via Pat Szczepanski, [pjs27@pitt.edu](mailto:pjs27@pitt.edu)) sends out email updates and announcements as needed to members who have provided email addresses. Some Internet service providers (ISP) may block our email because they think it is spam. If you are not getting email announcements from OLLI, you may need to indicate to your ISP that OLLI is an approved sender.

### F. OLLI Special Interest Groups

OLLI encourages members seeking others with a common interest to form extra-curricular special interest groups (SIG). The SIGs are member-led and managed, though the OLLI staff will assist members interested in forming groups by promoting the group to the membership.

### G. OLLI Scholarships

Partial scholarships for OLLI membership are available to those needing financial assistance in order to participate in OLLI. Scholarship applications are available at the OLLI office and at the College of General Studies reception/registration desk, fourth floor, Cathedral of Learning.

## 6. University Services and Policies

### A. Photo Identification Card

Panther Central, Litchfield Towers main lobby, 412-648-1100, [www.pc.pitt.edu](http://www.pc.pitt.edu). Hours: Sunday – Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.

All new or continuing OLLI members must have a valid OLLI photo ID issued at Panther Central. If you are a new member, you will need to provide the OLLI office with your date of birth in order for an ID to be issued. You will be contacted by the OLLI office via email (or by phone if we don't have an email address for you) to let you know that you may go to Panther Central for your ID. Take positive photo identification with you when you go to Panther Central to get your ID.

If you are a continuing member you will be contacted by the OLLI office via email (or by phone if we don't have your email address) the month after your ID expires to let you know that you may go to Panther Central to get your updated ID.

### B. University Computing Account

On request, OLLI members will be issued a computing account that provides access to CourseWeb, the University's site for online course materials, and to the library's e-reserves and journals through the University Digital Library. Both of these resources can be accessed from your home computer or another computer. To request an account, contact Pat Szczepanski at the OLLI office.

Once an account is opened for you, you will receive a user name and password and instructions on how to change your password, set up a link to access CourseWeb, and access e-reserves.

### C. PITT ARTS Cheap Seats Program

929 William Pitt Union, [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu)

PITT ARTS sells Cheap Seats to 11 different arts organizations. OLLI members can avail themselves of this fabulous opportunity to purchase deeply discounted tickets at the student price unless otherwise indicated for the venue. A listing of venues and performances available through the program is printed every two months. Copies of the listings are available in the Osher lounge and at the Web site listed above.

Reservations for tickets must be made in person by completing a reservation form located in the hallway outside the PITT ARTS office at 929 William Pitt Union. You may purchase up to four tickets for a performance unless otherwise noted. Tickets will be waiting for you under your name at the appropriate venue one hour before the performance. Please follow these guidelines when purchasing tickets:

- You must bring your Osher ID with you when you come in to buy your tickets and be ready to show it to PITT ARTS staff.
- Know the performance you want to attend and the number of tickets you want to purchase before you arrive to purchase tickets. PITT ARTS telephones are not available for your use.
- The deadline for ticket purchase is different for each venue and is indicated on the boxes in the hallway outside the PITT ARTS office.
- PITT ARTS does not accept orders by fax, phone, or U.S. Mail.
- Tickets are final sale, and cannot be refunded or exchanged after you submit the form with payment at the PITT ARTS office.
- You will not receive a receipt for your purchase.
- These tickets are best available seating, and that is why they are so cheap.

### D. Hillman Library

3960 Forbes Avenue, 412-648-3330 (reference desk), [www.library.pitt.edu](http://www.library.pitt.edu)

After you are a confirmed OLLI member and have your OLLI Photo ID, you may borrow from Hillman Library. OLLI members hold "Program patron" status. For this status, the loan period is 28 days. Materials may be renewed in person if they are not requested by someone else, but they cannot be renewed online or over the phone.

E. Parking and Transportation

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Parking Garage off Bigelow Boulevard and the Sennott Square Garage off Oakland Avenue may have parking spaces available at an hourly rate.

Once you are registered and wish to purchase a parking permit for late afternoon or evening audit courses, contact the Parking Services Office at 204 Brackenridge Hall, 412-624-4034.

Evening parking permits enable you to park in designated lots beginning at 2:50 p.m. or 4:50 p.m. Permits are not available for daytime parking.

Many PAT bus routes stop at convenient locations in Oakland. Persons aged 65 and older may ride PAT for free at all times by presenting a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Senior Citizens Identification card or a Medicare card at the time of fare payment. Visit [www.portauthority.org](http://www.portauthority.org) to find the routes that travel through Oakland. Printed PAT schedules are available on campus at various locations, including the McCarl Center lounge on the fourth floor of the Cathedral of Learning and on the main floor of the William Pitt Union.

F. The Book Center, University of Pittsburgh

4000 Fifth Avenue, 412-648-1450 (textbooks new and used), 412-648-1454 (school and art supplies), [www.pitt.edu/~bookctr](http://www.pitt.edu/~bookctr)

The Book Center carries texts used by both the OLLI and University courses. Required texts for OLLI courses are located on the ground floor in a special section reserved for OLLI textbooks. Textbooks for University courses are shelved by department. Book Center staff can help you locate your textbooks.

G. Campus Buses and Shuttles, [www.pts.pitt.edu](http://www.pts.pitt.edu)

Your OLLI photo ID allows you to ride campus buses and shuttles, which serve the campus, north and South Oakland, the Biotech Center, and Chatham University via an intercampus route. Schedules are available in the OLLI lounge and the Web site listed above. (PAT buses are not available for use with your OLLI photo ID.)

H. Accessibility

To ensure accommodation, please contact the OLLI office at 412-624-7912 to inform us of your needs at least two weeks before the start of the course.

The Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS) located at 216 William Pitt Union (phone at 412-648-7890, TTY at 412-383-7355, or on the Web at [www.drs.pitt.edu](http://www.drs.pitt.edu)) provides a broad range of support and services to assist students with disabilities, including help with accessibility to classrooms and transportation needs within the campus limits. Contact DRS by phone or visit the Web site for more information.

I. University Severe Weather Policy

OLLI follows the University's severe weather policy. Any changes to normal University operations will be announced on major radio and television stations. Off-campus audit classes are automatically canceled when the University closes or when Mt. Lebanon High School closes. Off-campus OLLI courses are automatically canceled when the library or other facility where they meet closes. If the University's main campus or off-campus site is not closed, it is up to the instructor to determine if the class will meet.

In the event of an OLLI course cancellation, it will be posted on the Osher Web site; members

will be notified as soon as possible; and a class make-up time will be scheduled. If you are unsure as to whether a course will meet, you may also call 412-624-7308. Please use your discretion as to the weather and your safety.

## 7. Links to Additional University Resources

The links below are provided in addition to the information and links mentioned elsewhere in the handbook.

- Campus Map, [www.tour.pitt.edu](http://www.tour.pitt.edu) A campus map is also printed in each OLLI catalog.
- Academic Calendar can be accessed by going to Pitt's home page, [www.pitt.edu](http://www.pitt.edu) and clicking on the Calendars link.
- Course Descriptions and Schedules for School of Arts and Sciences and College of General Studies courses, [www.courses.as.pitt.edu](http://www.courses.as.pitt.edu)
- University Complete Schedule of Classes, <http://www.registrar.pitt.edu/registrar.html> (This is a large file.)
- Music at Pitt for concert and recital schedules, [www.music.pitt.edu](http://www.music.pitt.edu)
- Pitt Repertory Theatre, [www.play.pitt.edu](http://www.play.pitt.edu)
- Kuntu Repertory Theatre, [www.kuntu.org](http://www.kuntu.org)

## 8. Links to OLLI Network Sites

- OLLI National Resource Center, [www.osher.net](http://www.osher.net)
- The Bernard Osher Foundation, [www.osherfoundation.org](http://www.osherfoundation.org)  
OLLI National Resource Center on Twitter, [twitter.com/NRCOLLI](https://twitter.com/NRCOLLI)

## 9. OLLI – How It All Began

The Bernard Osher Foundation is a charitable foundation established in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a businessman and community leader. His philanthropy has benefited a wide range of educational, cultural, and other nonprofit organizations primarily in his native Maine. The foundation's interests are education, the arts in the San Francisco Bay Area and in his home state of Maine, and integrative medicine at a select group of institutions.

In early 2001, the Foundation provided an endowment grant to the University of Southern Maine, which had a successful Senior College in operation. This gift provided additional opportunity for the University to improve and extend the excellent programs already being offered. Senior College changed its name to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Next, the Foundation contacted Sonoma State University, a member of the California State University (CSU) system. In the summer of 2001, it awarded Sonoma State University a \$100,000 grant with up to two renewals at the same amount assuming progress in establishing and developing a lifelong learning program.

During the fall and winter of 2001, the Maine and Sonoma programs continued to make excellent progress in serving older adults in their respective communities. The Foundation was pleased with the results and decided to join the lifelong learning field in a significant fashion. The concept of a network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes was compelling, and requests for proposals were sent to the remaining campuses in the California State University system as well as to those in the University of California (UC) system.

In November 2002, the Foundation Board awarded initial grants of \$100,000 to six campuses in the CSU group and four campuses of the UC system. A separate award was made to the University of Vermont. In February, 2003, four more CSU and UC campuses were awarded Osher

Foundation grants along with the University of Hawaii at Manoa. With these additional grantees, the Foundation was supporting Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes on 18 campuses in four states.

In an effort to expand and further diversify the network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, another Request for Proposals was issued in mid-September 2003 to nearly 30 colleges and universities in California and across the nation. In February 2004, the Board of Directors of The Bernard Osher Foundation approved first-year operating grants of \$100,000 each to 23 institutions of higher learning. Though the emphasis of most grants up to this time had been on start-up programs, in mid-2004 the Foundation provided grants to strengthen existing programs across the country.

The Foundation continues to solicit proposals from new and existing programs. At the end of 2010 there were 118 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Several of these programs have also received a \$1 million endowment, having met criteria set by the Foundation.

### **Characteristics of the OLLIs**

The Foundation is not highly prescriptive in the type of lifelong learning program it will support. Its main concern is to support the creation of new programs or the strengthening of existing programs in lifelong learning at college and university campuses. There is considerable variation among the Osher Institutes; each is encouraged to use the organizational structure that best fits its community. Their common characteristics, however, are: Non-credit educational programs specifically developed for adults who are at least age 50 and older; university connection and university support; volunteer leadership and sound organizational structure; and a diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating courses. Each Osher-funded program is designated as the "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at X" and uses a logo which consists of a simple circle with the words "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute" arranged within.

### **The National Resource Center for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes**

The National Resource Center for the Osher Institutes was established in 2005 at the University of Southern Maine with Kali Lightfoot as the executive director. The National Resource Center provides opportunities for communication among the individual Osher Institutes, and a Web site for general reference at [www.osher.net](http://www.osher.net). The Web site shows locations and provides links to all OLLIs and provides many resources for programs and members, including a Life Story Center.

Additionally, the National Resource Center publishes an annual academic journal, *The LLI Review, The Annual Journal of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes*. The Journal is a peer-reviewed publication presenting original research and engaging commentary related to learning among older adults. It publishes work by members of the OLLI national network, gerontologists, and educators working in the field of older adult education. The Journal also includes the writings of older learners in an eclectic mix of memoirs, brief fiction, and poetry. It is edited by Michael Brady, Ph.D., Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Southern Maine. (Copies of *The LLI Review* are available in the Osher lounge.)

### **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Conference**

In order to provide a forum for the exchange of information and to encourage cooperation among members of the OLLI network, the Foundation supports an annual two-day conference. Each OLLI is represented by a two-person team composed of a staff member and an OLLI member. Information from the year's OLLI Conference is posted on the National Resource Center Web site.