Dear Friends,

A new semester is about to begin, and we have so much to celebrate! You’ll see a fresh look to our [website](#) along with easier navigation and more resources. We’ve discovered new ways to integrate online courses with some fancy flourishes such as virtual field trips. And we’re working closer with OLLIs nationwide to create a stronger network of instructors. More upgrades will be highlighted in future newsletters. Expect to see an [OLLI @ OSU Fall 2020 Catalog](#) in your mailbox around August 24 with online registration opening on August 31. Classes begin on September 21, with one of the best line-ups we’ve ever had. And that’s saying something!

This summer, we had a crash course in online learning, not only for the OLLI staff but also for all of you who gamely participated. While our long-range goals always included adding online options to our catalog of in-person courses, none of us imagined it coming about in this way and under such challenging circumstances. OLLI Online is still under construction—a work in progress. Whatever trepidation we faced in the spring disappeared with the excitement of experimentation and discovering the benefits of adding virtual classrooms to our educational toolbox. We now have the capability to engage with instructors from across the US, visit sites around the world, and reach out to homebound individuals, caregivers and those who live far away from our brick and mortar sites.

I firmly believe that person-to-person learning will return at a future date, and won’t that be a time to celebrate! Whether in person or online, we’ll pursue the joy of learning together.

Robbin Davis
Director
Your OLLI Membership

IT’S HOW WE MAKE THE MAGIC HAPPEN

OLLI staff work a lean program to keep costs, and therefore membership fees, low so as many people as possible can participate. We continue to grow, making improvements so you receive good value for your money while we maintain a sustainable program. For the fall, programming has grown to include:

- Twenty-five 90-minute courses running 6 to 8 weeks each
- Ten or more 90-minute lectures, free for all members & $10 each for non-members
- TED Circles – small group discussions based on the wildly popular TED Talks series
- Evening courses
- Live concert performances
- Local and national experts serving as instructors and guest lecturers, all volunteers!
- Free online cognitive screening in collaboration with OSU’s Dept. of Communication Sciences & Disorders

To get the most out of your membership, this is the very best time of year to join OLLI, renew your membership or give someone a gift membership. And, now...ahem...it’s time to talk about how we do it. As a non-profit membership organization, in order to cover costs, we depend on the funds generated from your dues and course registration fees. We’re delighted to let you know that we have not found it necessary to raise the price! We owe a great deal of gratitude to our volunteers who help run the program, to our instructors and lecturers, and to contributors whose donations through the OSU Foundation support the long-term sustainability of OLLI @ OSU. And, of course, we can’t do this without you. Thanks for joining!

JOIN US
If you haven’t explored the potential of Zoom, we encourage you to give it a spin. It’s free and easy to use. We’ve created a tip sheet and posted it on our web site to get you started or you can go directly to Zoom’s help resources, which are simple and straightforward. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, take a break, and when you’re feeling better, call the OLLI office. We have people who can help. Once you’re set up with Zoom you’ll find all sorts of useful things to do with it. Best of all, you’ll be able to join us for courses, discussions and social activities.

OSU is working diligently to implement a phased re-opening plan, which you can check out here: Cowboys Coming Back: Plan at a Glance. This document is full of tips to help us navigate the new challenges we face both on and off campus. It’s also a good reminder of what we all need to do to protect our health and well-being. As part of the OSU Cowboy community, OLLI is under obligation to follow their lead and do everything we can to protect our members, who typically are in higher risk categories. We’ll continue to hold courses on Zoom through the fall semester and look forward to the time when we can safely meet in person. A decision will be made regarding courses for spring 2021 closer to the end of the year. We’ll keep you posted.
One of the benefits of being on our mailing list is the insider information you receive in the newsletters. Word of mouth is our best advertising, so please share this newsletter with friends and family. Encourage them to get on our mailing list. They may be inspired to join us for one of the lectures and discover how much fun lifelong learning can be. Over the next few weeks, you'll get a peek at upcoming courses and lectures. In the next edition, we'll feature some of those free 90-minute lectures. This week, we’re highlighting the following courses:

**A History of American Studio Craft** with Susan Baley. What makes craft distinct from art? Is it the traditional materials and processes used to create it? And why are craft objects usually separate from art objects? Explore the development of American craft from the Industrial Revolution to the present.

**The End of the Cold War & the Birth of the Present** with David Prentice. Examine the ideological, strategic and political motivations that influenced events between the US and the USSR, the broader geopolitical, religious and economic forces that undermined communism’s appeal worldwide, the spread of Islamic fundamentalism, the Soviet Union’s collapse, China’s rise to global power, the rebirth of liberal capitalism, and the creation of our uncertain present.

**Medication Safety for Seniors & Caregivers** with Dr. Trang Nguyen. On average, seniors take 15 to 18 medications and multiple over-the-counter products, which can be confusing and overwhelming. This class will provide an overview of basic medication safety, including a review of common drug interactions and side effects.

**World Class Museums & Collections.** During these times when we’re staying close to home, museums around the world are reaching out to engage patrons in dynamic ways. Curators offering digital group tours are giving us access to a marvelous new way to visit museums around the world. A full list of tours & lectures will be available soon on our website.