



The OLLI UPdate

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



AUGUST 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, when I was working at the Oklahoma History Center, I received a phone call from a woman named Ruthann who was looking for a speaker for a class on Oklahoma history. Since I tended to get all the "weird" calls no one else knew what to do with, I tried to help. Shortly there after, I received a packet of OLLI catalogs in the mail for our volunteers. After flipping through, I thought, "what an amazing program!" Little did I know that all these years later I would be overseeing the program. Fate? Serendipity?

When I accepted the OLLI Director position, I looked forward to being the "cruise director" of this amazing program because I enjoy introducing others to learning opportunities. I had no idea of all the tiny details that go into every course we develop. As I look over the 25 courses and 10 single-lectures we have available for you to enjoy this fall, I am amazed at how all the tiny details come together. I am also amazed at how many hands it takes to bring them together.

The OLLI curriculum volunteers started discussions for the fall session many, many weeks ago. As this was our first time to work together rather than in the individual locations, we were able to bring all of the energy and ideas together and believe we have assembled a list of interesting and enticing courses that you will enjoy. I thank all of the curriculum volunteers for rolling with the flow and understanding how important, now more than ever, that we have an engaging list of courses. I hope you are checking the list of courses on the website because we continue to add to the list of single-lectures. Don't hesitate to let us know how we can help you have an enjoyable and educational fall session.

Kindly,
Robbin
OLLI "Cruise" Director



OLLI OFFICE * 405.744.5868 * OLLI@OKSTATE.EDU



United Way

LIVE UNITED

Tuesdays, 1pm-2:30pm, Heidi Braver facilitator

How much do you know about United Way?

Do you know that United Way is engaged in nearly 1,800 communities across more than 40 countries and territories worldwide?

Do you know they're focused on creating community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen the cornerstones for a good quality of life? Those cornerstones are education, financial stability and health.

Do you know that United Way serves everyone (including you!) in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Stillwater and Bartlesville? There's a lot more to learn about this wonderful institution, and that's why you need to enroll in this course.

Heidi Braver, Director of Volunteer Experience for Tulsa United Way, will open your eyes to the unequalled work being done in all our communities--not just Tulsa--through United Way. This class entitled, **Tulsa United Way**, is for informational purposes only. It is not a solicitation for funds. It's a way for all of us to become aware, not only of Tulsa United Way, but of Stillwater, Oklahoma City and Bartlesville United Way as well.

Online registration opens on August 31. More information about this course and others can be found on our [website](#).



Small Groups, Big Ideas

TED CIRCLES

Mondays, 5:30pm–7pm, Marty Heitz facilitator

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks of 18 minutes or less. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics--from science to business to global issues--in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.

TED Circles is an open platform of small groups that engage in conversations about ideas. Circles watch and discuss a TED Talk and then share takeaways to consider each other's perspectives and create a global conversation. That conversation needs everyone, so we hope you'll join. Circles can take place 100% virtually, helping communities stay connected, especially now. In addition to monthly themes, there is special programming each month about what's going on in the world so Circles' discussions are as meaningful and relevant as possible. This video illustrates [how Circles work](#) and why TED believes in them.

We at OLLI believe in them, too! This fall we're hosting a TED Circle or two on Zoom. The theme for September is ***Leading with Curiosity***. TED provides a list of conversation starters for each video to get the discussion rolling. The number of Circles we host depends upon how many of you wish to take part. Depending on how many members enroll, we might be in need of a few volunteer facilitators. Could that be you? Drop us a line if you want to take a more active roll! We can use your help.

TED Talks are viewed by millions every day, and their popularity is no surprise. With more than 3,500 talks on every subject imaginable, if you're not already a fan, you will be soon.

Check it out: [The 25 Most Popular TED Talks of All Time](#)



Smoke billowing over Tulsa, OK, during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

Community Advancing Conversation

LIVESTREAMING

OSU's third installment in its Community Advancing Conversation series features a presentation by **Phil Armstrong** on the **1921 Tulsa Race Massacre**. The event will be livestreamed at OState.TV Sunday, Aug. 30, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Phil Armstrong, project director of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, will speak about the history of the massacre and the Greenwood District's subsequent and contemporary resiliency.

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A with a panel that includes members of the OSU Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Council.

For more information on this series and the presentation, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Many of you have taken Phil's OLLI course by the same name which we offered this past summer. We are very pleased that Phil has agreed to teach this course again for OLLI. His course will be offered on Mondays, Sept. 21 to Nov. 9. Phil says, "The goal is to educate people on the history of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and the work of the Centennial Commission leading all Oklahomans and all citizens to a journey toward racial healing and reconciliation," he said.

Thank you, Phil.



Road Trip

Lyn Land didn't have an inkling what she wanted to study when she came to Oklahoma to attend college. She knew this was where she wanted to be because it was warmer than her Iowa home, but other than that, she didn't have a feel for how she should chart her course. The scope of her interests, reflected in her transcript, left her with a good deal more credits than she needed to graduate, with the scale tilted in favor of the sciences--so graduate she did, with a degree in chemistry. Not that having a degree in hand clarified her vision for a career. It would have been impossible to predict the road Lyn might take, but as it turned out, it was definitely the scenic route.

By the time Lyn retired, she had worked in medical research, served as a childbirth educator in a women's prison, as a police and fire dispatcher, and, finally, for the State Health Department as an advocate for families of children with special needs. A couple years ago, Lyn became a member of OLLI@OSU, where she found a new way to satisfy her curious mind. She immerses herself in as many courses as she can fit into her day. That's not unusual for OLLI members, who typically enjoy multiple courses each term. What is outstanding about Lyn's approach to learning is her drive--sometimes as much as 160 miles. One way.

If you're guessing that Lyn must really like driving, you're right. She loves it. From her home in rural Oklahoma, Lyn has attended OLLI classes in all four of our cities and looks forward to every trip. "I enjoy the drive because it gives me time and space to think about what was covered in the lectures and class discussions," she says. "It's an opportunity to clear my mind of the small things like shopping lists and running errands. I'm free to think about what I'm learning."


Lyn has a longstanding desire to write about her childhood, but she faced an obstacle. She doesn't like to write, so she decided to enroll in an OLLI writing course. She says, "Getting into classes with people who do write has been good. Everyone shares their work and eventually the process of writing became less intimidating." She signed up for two more writing courses after that.

Lyn points out that she's learning not just from the instructors, but also from the conversations she has with people outside the classroom. "There's just a different feel--a special feeling--in the OLLI classes. Everyone is interested in learning," she says. "I'm so hooked on OLLI, I couldn't move anywhere that didn't have these classes." Lyn Land is the epitome of a Lifelong Learner.



Can You Hear Me Now?

ZOOM QUICK TIPS

Tip #1: "Can you hear me now?" How many times have you said those words? When you enter a Zoom room, your microphone may be muted and your camera may be off. Look for the little microphone and camera icons in your toolbar. If the icons have a  over them, they're turned off. Touch or click the icon to toggle on and off.

Tip #2: How do you know if your device's audio and video are working properly? Here is a quick and easy way to find out: ["Join a Meeting" Test](#) Note: This is a simulation, not an actual meeting.

Tip #3: The name that identifies you onscreen can be changed in your Zoom profile, if you have one. To change your name, click on this link <https://zoom.us/profile>. It will ask you to log in, and when you do, it will open your Profile page. Look for your name at the top of the page. Click on the "edit" button located to the right of the name. The edit button is in tiny print and easy to miss. Be sure to save your changes. *A Zoom profile is not required to participate in OLLI Zoom rooms.*

Tip #4: Identification and your privacy both matter to us. In order to maintain your privacy, you can change your onscreen name without making a permanent change to your profile name. After being admitted to the Zoom classroom, click on the Participants icon, which will open up a list of all the participants. Click on your name to open a menu giving you the Rename option. Change your onscreen name here to your first and last name for the duration of the class. You will need to change this in each class you attend.

Tip #5: Why is it important to identify yourself through your Profile page? Class rosters are part of OLLI's record-keeping. When you enter a Zoom room, we make sure your name is on the roster and count your attendance. If your Profile name doesn't identify you clearly, we have a dickens of a time figuring out who you are, and the bigger the class, the more daunting the task! Please help us out and change your onscreen name.



LINKS

STAY CONNECTED

This page is a quick reference to important links from previous issues of OLLI Updates.

- [Cowboys Coming Back: Plan at a Glance](#) OSU's phased re-opening plan during the Covid-19 pandemic. OLLI is under obligation to 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. A decision regarding courses for spring 2021 will be made closer to the end of the year.
- [Fall 2020 OLLI @ OSU Course Catalog](#) Online registration opens on August 31, and classes begin on September 21. We encourage you to register as early as possible.
- [OLLI @ OSU Home Page](#) Scroll down to the bottom for Quick Links to OLLI resources.
- [Join or Renew a Membership](#) Memberships begin on July 1 and expire on June 20 of the following year.
- [Volunteer Form](#) Become an instructor, moderator, facilitator or helper for the spring 2021 term, which begins in February.
- [Zoom Guide for OLLI Members](#) A tip guide to get you started on Zoom.
- [Zoom's "Getting Started" Page](#) A quick-start guide for new users.