

Live Inspired!

News and Updates from the Fresno State OLLI

Hi from Jill!

It looks like early next week our temperatures will break into the 90s as what I call the "fight between the seasons" begins. I define the fight as one season trying to hang on while the next works to make its entrance. There's always lots of back and forth.

I'm grateful that we had a nice, long spring and most of us were able to appreciate it due to being at home.

A giant **thank you** to the 177 folks who donated their remaining spring fees to OLLI. We are very grateful for your generosity and your kindness!

For those who requested refunds, we already processed credit card refunds. Members who paid by check should have their refund within three weeks or so.

I hope you are staying healthy and keeping connected to those who matter to you. It's hard not connecting in person, but there are so many methods to see and hear those you care about and I hope you take full advantage of the technology around you.

Jill

Jill Wagner is the Executive Director of the Fresno State OLLI

OLLI Fall Semester

The questions we get most are:
Will OLLI have a fall semester?
Will we be back on campus in fall?

Quick answers:

YES - OLLI will operate in fall. And we have no idea if we will be able to meet in person.

The COVID situation changes daily, based on all of us doing our part to limit the spread of this virus. We cannot make any promises about things beyond our control, but we ARE operating in fall.

We are planning on an all-online learning fall semester and know this isn't our members' optimal wish. We know you want to be on campus, and we want that, too.

But for planning sake, it's smarter to prepare for an all-online semester and then open up to in-person learning (if allowed), then to plan an on-campus program and have to cancel and reorganize as online.

Bringing OLLI members together is the tenet of our program and we cannot wait until the day we can safely do that.





In Praise of Good Leadership

by Lanny Larson

These are difficult times, especially for Fresno State OLLI Executive Director Jill Wagner and Program Manager Deni Dukic.

One day they were running the biggest, most-diversified OLLI program ever on this campus. The next, classrooms were closed.

I should have been worried, but I wasn't because I've known Jill and Deni since their Fresno State student days, and watched them grow into strong leaders who inspire others and resolve problems with innovative ideas, flexibility and tireless work ethic.

I was confident, although they faced many challenges, including:

- Could OLLI sessions move to other venues or times or online?
- What about refunds?
- Would members forgo refunds to help OLLI financially?
- How would members and instructors be notified?
- What could be salvaged for another term?
- When might classes return?

Jill and Deni faced down the challenges, while working off-campus, and also started this newsletter to keep us connected.

As a member, instructor and OLLI Advisory Council member, Jill and Deni's teamwork in this emergency touched me in various ways – all positively. Jill and Deni's leadership promises a greater Fresno State OLLI helping all of us to “live inspired.”

Lanny Larson is a retired reporter and editor, an OLLI member and instructor, and a member of the Fresno State OLLI Advisory Council.



OLLI memories: (top) Attendees at a Texas Hold 'Em course; (middle) Paul Kaser leading a film class; (bottom) Members touring a model railroad display.

Online Resources

TED Talk from a Brain Researcher

Brain researcher Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor studied her own stroke as it happened and has become a powerful voice for brain recovery. Click [HERE](#) to view her talk

Love Letters to Strangers

When Hannah Brencher experienced depression after finishing college, she wrote letters to strangers (something we can all do!). See what happened. Click [HERE](#)

Wanting more History? EdX offers many self-paced, free online courses in video form at their website. Click [HERE](#) to see the offerings

Science-based Keys to Well-

Being Dr. Richard Davidson says that well-being is learned. Watch his 13 minute talk [HERE](#)

Member Input Welcome!

We want to hear from you! Are you crafting, cooking, collecting or learning online? Share what you have been doing, or send a photo. You may see it in an upcoming issue.

Send your info/photos to:
jiwagner@csufresno.edu

Zoom Video Conferencing

Zoom is video conferencing software that keeps people connected and is being used extensively at Fresno State for online instruction. It's likely OLLI will host Zoom courses in the future.

Click [HERE](#) for info on using Zoom on your desktop computer

Click [HERE](#) for info on using Zoom from phone or tablet

