OLLI’s curriculum is like a compass—a reliable tool that points one in the right direction. Share the ideas that allow your OLLL to cruise to success. Learn how to make sure your curriculum stays afloat without sinking. You want to make sure your courses are equipped to handle an exciting quest. Come with us on a fantastic voyage to learn how you can make your programming better. We welcome you to bring pearls of wisdom that have proven successful, and you may even find some new treasure along the way. Join us as we set sail on a fast, fun-filled adventure to discover the best courses for your OLLL.
Nick Fuentes
OLLI at CSU Channel Islands
Curriculum Idea and Description:
We have a “Taste of OLLI” program where we offer 2 hour single lectures on various topics by instructors who will be teaching in an upcoming session. This is a low cost ($15 per person and a $200 honorarium to the instructor) way for new students to sample the program and also allows our members to preview new instructors and new class ideas. We have started offering a free 2 hour lecture at the local library close to the start dates of our sessions. This is a good opportunity for the community and for our members to bring a friend to see a 2 hour OLLI lecture for free. This has proven a great way to expose our program to the local community and is good for the library as it exposes our members to their various activities. Best of all – there is no marketing cost associated with it – the whole endeavor is free – the instructor volunteers their time, room is free, no admission fee to lecture attendees.

Suzanne Fuller
OLLI at Sioux Falls
Curriculum Idea and Description:
1. One-day bus trip from Sioux Falls, SD to Omaha Nebraska to attend the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting and hear Warren Buffett talk. Through the generosity of OLLI members, we secured the 23 admission badges necessary for admittance. An OLLI class on Buffett’s investing principles was held prior to the trip.
2. Overnight bus trip to Kearney, NE to see the Sand Hill Cranes stop on the Platte River for the night. Magnificent! Had a presentation on the migration at the Rowe Sanctuary prior to going to the blinds for the night landings and then the return to the blinds for the early morning viewing and take-off.
3. Bronze pour at a local foundry. An early city father was being honored and a statue was commissioned for placement at entrance to one of the parks. The artist doing the statue arranged for an OLLI class to hear a presentation on the man’s role in the city’s development and then to attend a pour of part of the bronze statue at the foundry.
4. Toulouse Lautrec lecture, docent tour and lunch at the fine arts center in the Washington Pavilion. The collection of 150 works on paper (posters and lithographs) is on a four-city tour in the United States before it returns to the owners in Greece.
5. Class and tour of the EROS, (Earth Resources, Observation and Science) Center, a major facility of the US Geological Survey. The tour looks at the facility’s data reception, procession, archiving and distribution roles. The are opportunities to explore applications related to global monitoring of the Earth’s surface, the Famine Early Warning System and land cover changes and uses.
6. Preview of the Met Opera: Live in HD Broadcast of La Bohème with a look at Puccini as composer and the opera as a whole.
7. History of the Sioux Falls Stockyards with a look at its impact on the history of the city, state and region.
8. Islamism and the Middle East will be presented by Dr. Tim Schorn. He will look at modern Islamism and the groups we see in the news. He will also provide an update of the current situation in the Middle East – Syria, Iran, Egypt and Israel.
9. Sioux Falls and the state’s rich history in the success of ballooning will be discussed in a session. Sioux Falls is the home of both modern ballooning and the sport of ballooning. This class offers the opportunity to learn the history and achievements of ballooning.
Jerri Mc Lain
OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Curriculum Idea and Description: Speakers’ Series Spurs Class Topics
OLLI at UAH is marking 20 years of lifelong learning. One of our celebrations was a four-part Speakers’ Series. Two of those speakers – Emmy-Award Winning Dr. Doug Phillips, 30-year host of “Discovering Alabama”, broadcast on Alabama’s public television network, and Southern award-winning Author Terry Kay of Georgia whose book TO DANCE WITH THE WHITE DOG was made into a movie starring Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy - generated Winter Term OLLI classes.

Linda D. Derosier
OLLI at Sierra College
Curriculum Idea and Description: California Culture on Film. During this class we will watch films discuss, and examine more closely the following topics directly related specifically to CA. Hollywood, Migrant workers, water ownership, San Francisco’s Sam Spade, Muscle cars, the beach, and youth.

- Film list included:
- Grapes of Wrath
- Chinatown
- American Graffiti
- Sunset Boulevard
- Gidget
- Maltese Falcon

Michelle Riggos
OLLI at Bradley University
Curriculum Idea and Description: During 2013-14, Bradley University will celebrate civil rights past and present in honor of the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In April 2014, an OLLI Study Group will explore the role, significance, and impact of the American press on the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. With the Pulitzer Prize-winning 2006 book The Race Beat as a foundation, the group How Press Coverage Influenced the Civil Rights Movement will feature a number of guest speakers providing perspective, commentary, and engaging dialogue on the media’s role in the movement in the South and in the Peoria area. Featured speakers will include retired Peoria Journal Star editors and reporters and a former Peoria Police Chief. The group will be facilitated by Shelley Epstein, former Deputy Opinion Page Editor of the Peoria Journal Star and Keith Butterfield, former newspaper reporter and retired Caterpillar Inc. manager.

Francine Marasco
OLLI at University of Alabama Tuscaloosa
Curriculum Idea and Description: Around the World Series
This is an ongoing program that features a PowerPoint presentation on a trip or country some
Each member has taken. The presentation is offered once a month and is followed up with a meal. A local restaurant offers a four course meal featuring a menu from that particular place. The meal is offered once a month on a Monday evening. OLLI members may bring their own beverage pairings. The cost is $30 per member and includes tax and gratuity. There is one per month and some of the countries featured have been: France, USA from the days of the American Revolution, Spain, Germany and India. Attendance to the presentations have averaged around 30 people and we have had around 60 to 70 at the dinners. Our members are very happy with the learning experience and the social interaction.

Kevin Oltjenbruns
OLLI at Colorado State University

Curriculum Idea and Description:
Idea: Over a number of terms we have asked a local expert on the Supreme Court to offer a 6-8 week class that would 1) explain a bit of the background of the various justices and how the Court actually “works.”. After that the instructor talks about various cases that are currently in front of the court or have just been recently decided. He discusses various issues with each case and talks about factors that may have an impact on the Court’s ultimate decision. It is an ever-changing course because it is linked to current cases. As a result, many individuals have signed up for this class repeatedly.

Course Description:
The Supreme Court – The Roberts Court and the 2013 Court Term
Utilizing oral arguments and cases from the Court’s 2013 term, we will evaluate the Roberts’ Court and its impact on public life. Central to this Analysis will be the short and long-term effects of decisions concerning same-sex marriage, affirmative action, voting rights, privacy rights, and possible expansion of Second Amendment rights.

Kristy Clark
OLLI at Colorado State University, Fort Collins

Curriculum Idea and Description: In our curriculum committee we brainstorm and seek out new instructors in the community, beyond the more traditional pool of academics. I had taken a range of classes in fiber art from a renowned quilter, and knew how creative and inspirational she is as a teacher. I helped her overcome reluctance to participate in what she viewed as an academic program. Together we came up with course ideas with broad appeal to a wide range of members – last term she taught “The Wonderful World of Color”, and this term her class is, “Awaken Your Creative Spirit—Let’s Make Art!” Both courses filled up. Members responded enthusiastically to her engaging energy and the broad application of her ideas to their gardening, interior design, as well as any art form they explore in their lives.
Lois McCue  
**OLLI at University of South Carolina Beaufort**

**Curriculum Idea and Description:**
For the past few semesters we used a theme and then planned our curriculum around the theme. We chose “The Sixties”. This worked perfectly with the general age population of our members. We started with that theme because it was the 50th anniversary of the assassination of JF Kennedy. When we looked at the 20 different content areas of our curriculum we were able to come up with a class in all of the 20 categories such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, Music of the 60’s, religious issues, Andy Warhol, segregation, Kennedy and so on. It was much easier to keep us focused in planning our curriculum. We have also used the theme “OLLI Goes Outdoors” and “Colors”. In the spring of 2015 we are planning Road Scholar tours to Cuba and Spain so we are using that as our theme to explore art, music, culture, food, history, etc. before the trip - classes that would be valuable if you went on the tour or not.

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Kathy Brunk  
**OLLI at University of Texas at El Paso**

**Curriculum Idea and Description:**
Gizmos and Gadgets  
Since many of our generation seem to have been born without the “I Phone/I Pad, I Nano, I Whatever” gene, we are offering Gizmos and Gadgets to solve your problem. Our instructor is a former Rhetoric and Writing Instructor who moved over to the Tech Support Realm. We are learning about all the social media sites on the web – what is safe, what is fun, what we should avoid. We will discover how to make an Avatar (they seem to be young and skinny! Woo Hoo) We’re learning functionality, creativity, sharing potential (and dangers) and before our class is complete, we will be making a short movie using images and video which we will post on YouTube. We are learning to look at ourselves not in terms of our limitations, but in terms of our possibilities.

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Irene Colsky  
**OLLI at University of Miami**

**Curriculum Idea and Description:**
Each 6-week session we choose a topic of interest and then search the community for six speakers to present different views of the topic, based on their skills and expertise. The University faculty is included in our search, and we have been very successful in obtaining their cooperation. Lecturers have spread the word that our OLLI members are an intelligent and interactive audience, and they enjoy presenting to us. Some of our past series have focused on medicine, dentistry, ethics, international studies, local government, media personalities, and currently, personal safety.

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Dawn Gaymer  
**OLLI at Western Michigan University**

**Curriculum Idea and Description:**
**Understanding Sustainability**
Many view sustainability as essential to the continuation of human life on earth. In the broadest sense, sustainability refers to the integration of environment, economic and social initiatives. This includes global stewardship and resource management. Four independent sessions have been designed to further explore current thought and dimensions of sustainability.

- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Global Marketplace Food Safety and Food Sustainability
- Cities of Sustainability
- Freshwater

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Ron Noyes  
**OLLI at Oklahoma State University**

**Curriculum Idea and Description:**
**When the Wolf Came: The Civil War in the Indian Territory:** Making a class come alive with a 3-day trip

OLLI at OSU’s multi-site curriculum often contains Indian History classes due to the immense interest of often overlooked and buried history. Our OLLI is fortunate to host a historian and professor who has worked extensively with the Indian population, researching, collecting oral histories and photographs. The end result of Dr. Mary
Jane Warde’s intensive research for our class was the recent publication of her book, When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory.

Our OLLI held a 6-week, 12 lecture-hour course attended by 91 students. At the conclusion of the class, OLLI @ OSU held a 3-day, 2-night trip, attended by 39 OLLI members. We visited many of the historical sites covered in the course. Our trip agenda included visits with many tribal leaders, presentations from docents at battlefields, lunch at tribal complexes. Between walking the ruins of cemeteries and visiting gravesites, we spent time reading transcribed oral histories. The stories told us “the other side” of the Civil War, the transformation of nations of indigenous people and the destruction of an entire way of life. Following is a description of the course:

The impact of the Civil War in the Indian Territory extended across the United States, yet this aspect of the American Civil War is usually ignored outside Oklahoma’s borders. It affected every one of the Indian Territory’s 100,000 inhabitants—dividing, impoverishing, and decimating the Indian, white, and black population. We will cover this most crucial period in Oklahoma’s history, including Indian national politics, Indian international relations, Indian slavery, battles, daily life for soldier and civilian, and the long-term, far-reaching consequences for Oklahoma and the nation. The course material will be presented from the perspective of those who lived it, using oral history, diaries, letters, newspapers, and military reports.

Dr. Mary Jane Warde has taught at Oklahoma State University (OSU), Langston University, Tulsa University, Phillips University, and Northern Oklahoma College. She holds a B.A. from the University of Tennessee, Martin, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. She retired in 2008 as the Indian Historian at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Now a private contractor-consultant, Mary Jane works in historic preservation and museum exhibit research. Her published works include George Washington Grayson and the Creek Nation, 1843-1920 and Now the Wolf Has Come: The Civilian Civil War in the Indian Territory, winner of the Muriel Wright Award in 1994 from the Oklahoma Historical Society. We welcome Mary Jane back as she begins her third semester teaching with OLLI.

Tony Meluskey
OLLI at Widener University

Curriculum Idea and Description: For the last three years Widener University’s OLLI has conducted a course titled “Current Events”. This course is a free form moderated session of up to 30 participants discussing items of interest from the past week or two. These sessions provide the opportunity for individuals of widely varying backgrounds and educational levels to express their unconstrained views. The moderator provides suggested topics each week but the actual direction(s) of the discussion(s) are left to the participants. The variability of the topics—national, international, local, technical—provide opportunities for everyone to express a view colored by their own particular expertise or depth of knowledge and to learn from other’s views.

Maralie BeLonge
OLLI at University of New Mexico

Curriculum Idea and Description: OLLI at UNM has been offering Memoir and Memoir into Fiction writing classes for four years. The classes are from 4—8 weeks long depending on the semester and students write, read and submit work for critique on a weekly basis. Reading your work is encouraged but not mandatory. We organized a reading for some of the students last November with great success. 11 readers participated in “The Time of their Lives” which was attended by family, friends and members of the larger Osher community. We promoted the event with bios and photos of the readers on our website, and then uploaded clips of the readers at the actual event. The readings were followed by a potluck dinner. Another event is planned for May 4th with the same format and different readers.
Nancy Schlenke
OLLI at San Francisco State University
Curriculum Idea and Description:
We try to tie classes in with upcoming cultural events such as art exhibits, symphony, opera etc. Classes may include a field trip toward the end of the lecture series.

John Dorcey
OLLI at the University of Michigan
Curriculum Idea and Description:
Lecture Series (6 lectures in 6 weeks) titled The Arab Nations – Tensions, Turmoil, Transitions. Resulted in record enrollment – 453 registered and average attendance of 330 +/- 40. Specific lectures included
1. 20th Century History of the Middle East,
2. an eye witness account of the demonstrations in Tahrir Square and their implications,
3. Islamic Law and its role in modern nation states,
4. the Arab Spring, its genesis and its impact throughout the Arab World,
5. the struggle for regional domination between Iran and Saudi Arabia including the dichotomy of identity politics along Islamic sectarian lines, and the use of visual images (and social media) in fostering dissent and winning international support for the uprisings.

Simultaneously, a day trip (busload of 60 +/- members) was offered to some local mosque along with a lunch at a Middle Eastern restaurant. This trip generated so much interest that two additional trips were arranged – and both were fully subscribed.

Betsey Selkowitz
OLLI at Berkshire Community College
Curriculum Idea and Description:
1. Showcasing the Berkshires: In this series we look at what and how we grow, create, purchase, conserve and consume with a focus on inspiring Berkshire entrepreneurial and non-profit ventures that enrich and instruct our lives from the food we eat, to the art we love, to the clothes we wear and the candles that light up our lives.
2. One instructor/group per session
3. Examples of past presenters:
   - one of the top 10 chocolatiers in the country;
   - exquisite silver hollowware designers;
   - land preserving non-profit;
   - candle maker/bee keeper;
   - renowned basket maker;
   - for profit manufacturer of high quality frames, prints and award winning letterpress greeting cards;
   - sour dough bread bakery;
   - local farm raising meats high in omega-3 fatty acid teaching about heritage breeds, genetic diversity and the importance of supporting local agriculture;
   - director of a farmer’s market with several of the vendors present;
   - ice cream and cheese makers;
   - site visit to for profit mega business – Pine Cone Hill, Dash and Albert Rugs Annie Selke Home, etc. We use our imagination to choose local stars each winter session. Enrollment is always
very high. Keep having to find larger classrooms
1B. Architectural Gems: Selected Sites: visits to outstanding examples of architecture from a meticulously restored Lutyens Elizabethan style home to a stunning Japanese inspired contemporary home designed by Maya Lin (designer of Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC) to a poetic composition of steel, glass and aluminum inspired by the Grand Canyon; and a Charles Moore home to name a few. Limited to 15 people chosen through a lottery.

Ellie Browner
OLLI at Florida International University
Curriculum Idea and Description: For a number of years OLLI@FIU has offered art tours to local museums. I had always assumed these tours were all about “the art”. What I have recently discovered is that the tours are far more! Lead by our very competent instructor, the tours brings to life “all the things Miami/South Florida has to offer”, a stunning example of OLLI community outreach! During the en-route bus tour students learn about interesting landmarks and tidbits of Miami’s colorful history. The tour destinations highlight the burgeoning Miami Art scene (for example, our beautiful new Perez Museum and the growing “Miami art district” showcasing established, as well as, up and coming artists). And, the “taste of Miami” lunch selections highlight Miami’s culturally eclectic cuisine. These tours are an OLLI opportunity to “pass it forward” as those of us who live here build an impressive list of “what to do in Miami” to share with visitors and friends because - “we learned it at OLLI”!

Barbara S. Calhoun
OLLI at Kennesaw State University
Curriculum Idea and Description: Federalist Papers

Historical Project: Researched for a year by 4 OLLI Instructors. It is a class format with each of the instructors presenting followed by class discussion.
Judith Janes
OLLI at University of Pacific
Curriculum idea and Description:

Bird Safaris
One of our most frequently suggested programs is our birding excursions. Hundreds of bird species travel the Pacific flyway giving our members a new experience regardless of the season. Summers introduce a plethora of hummingbirds while wintering Sandhill cranes appear in the thousands. Initially we hired bus transportation, which limited attendance. Now sites are chosen within easy driving distance. The excursions are led by a local bird expert who has led bird walks since 1976 in and out of the US.

Aleta E. Staton
OLLI at University of Connecticut
Curriculum Idea and Description:
The Managed Course: A multi-session, multi-presenter course. We have used this idea for a few years at OLLI at UCONN. A subcommittee of the curriculum committee selects a topic “Medically Speaking,” “Not Your High School English Class,” and recruits 4-6 presenters to teach one session each to create excitement around one topic.

Carol Bernard
OLLI at the University of Delaware in Wilmington
Curriculum Idea and Description:

Community involvement through differing types of courses and lectures.

1. “Hike Into History” invites members to attend small museums related to local history and then participate in a 3 – 4 mile hike.

2. “Ending Hunger” is a course that explores the problem of hunger in Delaware and offers opportunities for members to volunteer.

3. “Friday Afternoon Lectures” are free and open to the public to draw people into the experience of lifelong learning hopefully encouraging them to join. This semester the local PBS station is previewing films from their “Independent Lens” series.