These words inspire me every day to continually explore opportunities and best practices to fulfill OLLI’s mission.

The past year, just as the previous, presented us with many challenges and questions. When would it be safe to reopen our classrooms? Would members be willing to come back? Could we successfully offer hybrid classes to both those who wish to continue to stay home and those who wish to return to the physical classroom? And how do we keep everyone safe?

Following the guidelines of our host university, WVU, OLLI’s Board of Directors voted to offer the summer 2021 term on Zoom and in-person outdoors while we prepared to reopen classrooms at the Mountaineer Mall in Morgantown and the Schoenbaum Center in Charleston to host in-person classes and events for the fall 2021 term. With financial support from the John Mathew Gay Brown Family Foundation and the George D. Hott Foundation, OLLI was able to purchase supplies and equipment to facilitate a return to the classroom.

Some instructors who had chosen not to teach on Zoom submitted proposals to teach in-person during 2021-22. Others choose to wait a little longer. During the fall term, OLLI offered 56 classes and events: 22 were held in a hybrid manner, 34 in-person only, and 10 on Zoom only. Several classes for which the instructor was not present in the classroom were also streamed to rooms at the Mountaineer Mall and the Schoenbaum Center for members who were unable to participate via Zoom at home. Although in-person attendance has been low for individual classes and events, over 275 different members and friends attended at least one session in-person between October and June.

We also began to define OLLI’s new normal. Seating in classes at the Mountaineer Mall was reduced by a third, providing additional space between chairs and a more comfortable environment. Instructors were encouraged to offer their classes in a hybrid format, allowing for both online and in-person learning opportunities. Several information sessions were held for instructors interested in teaching hybrid classes and the internet service at the Mountaineer Mall was upgraded to handle the additional use. Both of these changes are highly likely to remain long after the pandemic subsides.

In April, Bev Kerr, OLLI’s board president, and I attended the Osher National Conference in Denver, hosted by the Bernard Osher Foundation and the OLLI National Resource Center. We attended several workshops, presentations, and networking socials over two and half days, many focused on helping OLLIs across the country shape their future and rebuild their programs. The overall take-aways from the conference were that many OLLIs are facing challenges similar to ours in finding the most effective ways to reach potential new members and the best ways to serve our current members in our uncertain and constantly changing environments.

As we rebuild our membership base, with an annual goal of a 10% increase, we were encouraged by the Osher Foundation to do so with intention, embracing our new reality while meeting the needs of the different populations that we serve.

This past year was just the beginning of rebuilding OLLI at WVU. Determining what the future might look like is a top priority of the OLLI Board of Directors, staff, members, and friends in 2022-23.

We encourage your feedback and participation and thank you for your continued support.

Jascenna Haislet
Director, OLLI at WVU
Sponsors & Partners

OLLI at WVU continues to grow as an organization with the unwavering commitment and generosity of our patrons, partners, and supporters. We acknowledge and thank the following:

- The Bean Counter
- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- The City of Morgantown
- Collette Travel
- Mountaineer Mall
- Schoenbaum Center
- The Shack Neighborhood House
- The Village at Heritage Point
- West Virginia University, President’s Office
- WVU Community for Retired Faculty
- WVU Foundation
- WVU School of Public Health (SPH)

The Bernard Osher Foundation

The Bernard Osher Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through the support of lifelong learning institutes such as OLLI at WVU. The Foundation was founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected businessman and community leader. The Foundation has now funded 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes on campuses of colleges and universities from Maine to Hawaii. Funding for OLLI is contingent upon membership growth goals, so membership matters. To learn more about The Bernard Osher Foundation, please visit their website at www.oshерfoundation.org.

Contact Us

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Morgantown, WV 26501

We recommend calling ahead or making an appointment as office hours may be limited.

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(2021-22)

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Nominating Chair: Vacant
Irving Goodman Annual Aging Lecture Series (IGALS) Chair: Stan Cohen

Staff

Jascenna Haislet, Director
Michelle Klishis, Professional Technologist
Diane Cale, Program Assistant
Susan Martino, Program Assistant
564 Members

9% ↑

Over 1,250* non-members served

* includes non-members on the Friday ebulletin list who receive on a weekly basis general information of interest to older adults, and about events at OLLI, WVU, and around the community.

158 classes, lectures, interest groups and workshops

14 community events

122 on Zoom

127 in-person

136 volunteers, including instructors

17 scholarships for 7 recipients
**Income**

Grants: $29,771  
Individual Donations: $37,226  
Earned Income: $50,220  
Endowments: $73,462  
WVU Support: $72,050

**Sources of Earned Income**

- Morgantown Registration: 46%
- Morgantown Membership: 25%
- Charleston Registration: 13%
- Sponsors: 1%
- Trips Commissions: 9%
- Charleston Membership: 6%

**Expenses**

- Programming: $1,092  
- Administrative Costs: $49,590  
- Return to Classroom: $4,939  
- Facilities: $37,641  
- Personnel & Fringe Benefits: $184,352

**Expenses Distribution**

- Programming: 0%
- Administrative Costs: 18%
- Facilities: 14%
- Return to Classroom: 2%
- Personnel: 66%
The generous financial contributions of members are vital to the future of OLLI at WVU. A solid foundation of support from the membership demonstrates to the Osher Foundation and other potential funders that OLLI can achieve sustainability for years to come. Membership fees, interest from the endowment, and state support only cover a fraction of our expenses. Donations help pay the rent, provide class materials, provide scholarships, and much more. With your help, we can continue to offer the highest quality educational, cultural, and social experiences possible. (Names listed as submitted by donor.)

OLLI members, friends, and supporters donated $66,997 to our program in the last year.
Thank You to Our 2021-22 Donors

David & Kimberly McCluskey
Clark & Allyson McKee*
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John Mathew Gay Brown Family Foundation
The Bernard Osher Foundation

* sustaining donor

Donations

$66,997 from

201 OLLI members and 34 friends
Engaging classes and enthusiastic volunteering lay the foundation for a successful OLLI, offering a variety of educational and social opportunities for its membership. The faculty and presenters of OLLI at WVU deliver both by volunteering to teach an OLLI course. Thank you to our 2021-22 faculty and presenters for sharing your knowledge, passion, and time with the members of OLLI at WVU.

Hilary Attfield
Michael Attfield
John Beall
Rabbi Joe Blair
Sally Brown
Melora Cann*
Corina Chang
Matthew Clark
Andy Cockburn
Judy Cohen*
Stan Cohen*
Jay Cole
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