

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at NC State University (OLLI)
NC State Continuing and Lifelong Education
2021-22 Annual Report Highlights**

- The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at NC State offered 114 courses, 66 lectures, 20 study trips, and three events with a total enrollment of 5,874.
- OLLI offered 119 in-person lectures/courses and 61 Zoom lectures/courses, for a total of 180 offerings. The drop in enrollment was disappointing (5,874 vs. 6,786 in FY21), but not surprising given the continued COVID-19 surges and the age group that OLLI serves. Additionally, seat counts for in-person learning and study trips were kept purposely low to allow for distancing.
- Membership totaled 1,091, a six percent increase from last year's 1,030, but still far from pre-pandemic levels of 1,700+. OLLI did return to a more typical member renewal rate of 73%, with 27% of the members new to OLLI; of the 73% returning members, 16% were returning to OLLI after a break of a year or more. Twenty-two of the OLLI members accessed the program via Zoom and lived outside of the greater Triangle region (an expected decrease compared to last year's 37).
- Fifty NC State current and emeriti faculty, staff, and students, from 25 different campus units, presented courses/lectures/study trips to the OLLI program. In addition to NC State faculty, 38 instructors came from other colleges and universities, with the remaining 94 instructors drawn from the community. Of the 182 instructors, 24 were also OLLI members. Ten of the Zoom instructors lived outside of the Triangle region; this way of connecting with subject experts is one of the positive outcomes of the pandemic and one that will continue.
- Engagement with OLLI gave NC State faculty the opportunity to educate members of the general public about the importance of the university's mission and research impact, which meshes well with OLLI's goal to encourage members to stay current on a wide range of topics. This year, faculty presented their research on subjects such as climate change, CRISPR, space exploration, American politics and international relations, DEI, the COVID-19 pandemic, astrophysics, aquaculture, natural resource management, home horticulture, and bio-archaeology. NC State students presented a course on GLBT issues, which resulted in multidirectional and intergenerational learning.
- Despite the challenges that COVID brought, OLLI staff and members of the Program Development Committee and Subcommittees had a great success rate of bringing in new instructors and new content -- 86% of courses and lectures were newly developed for this program year.
- The ability to offer study trips was still impacted by COVID restrictions, but 20 study trips were offered; six of the trips were OLLI-only experiences, unavailable to the general public and developed by OLLI's assistant director. Seven of the trips were in partnership with NC State units and connected members with the research and programs of the university.
- OLLI continued its relationship with the NC State Office of Sustainability, providing information about OLLI programs that had sustainability themes, as the university defines the term; 37% of OLLI offerings included sustainability themes, a rate consistent with previous years (34 courses, 32 lectures, and eight study trips).
- OLLI assisted Beth Ritter, professor of practice of Human Resource Management with Poole College of Management, with research she was conducting on knowledge transfer during the retirement process. OLLI staff connected her with NC State OLLI members and nine other Osher programs whose members also participated. More than 200 responded to the survey, including 70 OLLI at NC State members. A paper with the results of this research is in the process of peer review.
- In the fall, OLLI collaborated with Robin Kube, senior lecturer of foreign languages and literature at NC State, to launch Conversations and Coffee with international students. This

new initiative pairs OLLI members with international students so the students can improve their conversational English, and OLLI members learn more about the students and their backgrounds. More than 20 international students were connected with OLLI members in this inaugural year, and several had opportunities to enjoy meals in OLLI member homes.

- OLLI was able to close 2021, its 30th anniversary year, with two in-person events -- the fall picnic and the Seasonal Celebration -- and the anniversary was noted at both events.
- In NC State's fourth Day of Giving, OLLI had its best showing yet. OLLI members, friends, and staff made 394 gifts to OLLI totaling \$15,705. OLLI won the midnight to 1 a.m. Most Gifts Challenge, which resulted in \$1,000 in Bonus Funds. OLLI finished #4 on the University Priorities Leaderboard, which earned \$2,671 in Bonus Funds. And OLLI finished #6 on the Power Your Pack Leaderboard, which compared 2022 results to previous years and earned OLLI an additional \$1,223, and bringing the grand total for the day to \$20,599.
- Twenty courses/lectures/study trips gave OLLI members the opportunity to develop their cultural competency, through subjects such as literature, history, economics, African-American genealogical research, and reflective courses on unconscious bias and race. The courses were developed both by OLLI's Program Development Committee and an ad hoc committee that meets periodically to identify course topics and strategies to advance this work.
- OLLI members once again contributed generously to NC State's Feed-the-Pack on-campus food pantry. Two weeklong food drives, which included classroom donations and drive-through collections, once in November and again in late March, collected a total of 2,034 lbs. of food, a new OLLI donation record. This is the fourth year that OLLI has organized these food drives.
- OLLI members returned to a more normal schedule of group volunteer activities. OLLI's volunteer coordinators organized six group volunteer activities with four area nonprofits: three experiences with Note in the Pocket, once with North Raleigh Ministries, once with Habitat Restore, and once with Learning Together.
- On end-of-course evaluations, participants gave an average overall rating of 4.7 for both instructors and courses, and a rating of 4.8 for their overall OLLI experience (on a 5-point scale, where 5=Excellent). Evaluations for the study trips were also strong, with respondents giving an overall rating of 4.8 for those educational experiences. These ratings compare favorably with previous years. Eighty-four percent of members enrolled in courses attended throughout the course, which continues an upward trend of engagement and course satisfaction (for comparison, 83% maintained attendance in FY21; prior to FY21, a more typical rate had been in the 75% range).
- The following quotes are a small sample of the hundreds of comments that members made on the course evaluations about how the program impacts their lives:
 - "Wonderful experience, I smile every time I walk into the building on my way to class."
 - "Every course in this season's catalog is something of interest to me. It's like being in a candy shop. I want everything."
 - "I've never been disappointed in an OLLI class, lecture or trip. Those of you who put this program together do a remarkable job. I'm so glad a friend made me aware of OLLI. I look forward to remaining a part for a very long time."
 - "This was my first OLLI course and I loved it! I intend to register for other courses in future."
- Comments from study trip participants are similar:
 - "I always feel as though I've been a part of something special after these study trips."
 - "This study trip enhanced my mental well-being during this time of isolation. This was my first group outing in almost two years."
 - "OLLI study trips always go to places I didn't know about, and I always learn something new about NC, which I love."