MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to OLLI, and to our 15th year at SSU!

With record turnout at our Open House/Course Preview last month, it was clear that the OLLI community is buzzing about our fall offerings. Our beloved Gray Matters newsletter will continue to be published in both digital and hard copy formats, three times each term. My thanks to Chris Alexander, OLLI Program Assistant, for taking on the task of authoring Gray Matters this year. You will still hear my voice from time to time, as I rely on this vehicle to share updates, insights and achievements with all of you, especially in this milestone year. I look forward to seeing all of you on campus as the leaves begin to change color, and sweaters emerge from storage. Happy fall!

Carin Jacobs
Director

NEW INTERIM DEAN OF EXTENDED AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Dr. Robert Eyler officially took leadership as Interim Dean of the School of Extended and International Education (SEIE) on July 7, 2015.

Dr. Eyler was raised in Sonoma County. He received his BA in Economics at California State University, Chico and earned his MA and PhD in Economics from the University of California at Davis. His many academic achievements and professional and service oriented activities can be viewed at: www.sonoma.edu/exed/misc/bio.

Rob Eyler talks fast, walks with purpose, multitasks with various technological devices, and yet still is able to give you his full attention. He appears to be full of boundless energy and as the new Interim Dean of the SEIE, he looks forward to being of service to many individuals. The School of Extended and International Education is the most far reaching of the academic units on campus and as Interim Dean he has the opportunity to provide educational access to a broad, community-based population.

One of Rob’s goals is to bring a sense of teamwork to the staff. The importance of cross training staff and coming together as a group are high on his list of priorities. He hosts a bimonthly Coffee With Rob get-together on Tuesday mornings, creating the opportunity for SEIE staff to socialize and stay connected. He looks forward to getting to know everyone on his staff, enriching their lives, and giving them the support they need in having their voices heard.

Rob has always enjoyed teaching and believes he will finish his career in the classroom. He found economics to be a nexus of financial interactions, history, and physics, all subjects he wanted to pursue in college. His first economics teacher convinced him that economics was his fate. As a boy he admired Winston Churchill and describes him as the ultimate statesman (person), as well as author, historian, and humanitarian. Rob enjoys golf, tennis, collecting wine, all kinds of outdoor activities, and the many opportunities he’s had to travel.

Please join us in welcoming Dean Eyler to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Rob will be teaching Understanding the International Economy for OLLI in Spring 2016.
OLLI’S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of 15 years at Sonoma State University, The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute invites you to the inaugural Ed Stolman Memorial Lecture, “What is an Honorable Life?” presented by special guest Michael Krasny, Bay Area author and host of KQED’s Forum. Please join us on Monday, October 19th at 5:30 pm in Person Theatre at SSU.

Tickets are $30 each, exclusively for OLLI students. Tickets can be purchased at SSU Student Center Information & Tickets Desk, or by telephone at 707.664.4246. Tickets can also be purchased online. View this link on the OLLI website: sonoma.edu/exed/olli. Please note that the deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday, October 16 at 6:00 pm.

EDUCATIONAL TOUR TO CUBA!

OLLI Instructor Tony White, will lead an educational tour to Cuba, December 3–11, 2015. Tony is teaching From Columbus to Castro, a History of the Cuban People on Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 am beginning September 30.

To share more about this exciting trip, Tony will give a presentation in Cooperage on Wednesday, October 7 at 11:45 am and be available to answer questions. For more information, contact Tony at tonwhite@sonic.net or 707-538-9129.

OLLI SCIENCE CLUB – OUTSTANDING WOMEN SCIENTISTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

The OLLI Science Club will be on hiatus during the Fall 2015 term. Coordinator Phil Harriman will be devoting time to his class, Outstanding Women Scientists of the 20th Century. Please join Phil on Tuesday afternoons from 1 – 3 pm beginning September 29th in Cooperage at SSU. Phil will be featuring a number of notable women scientists, highlighting their interesting life stories as well as the significance of their research. The OLLI Science Club will return in the Winter 2016 session.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that the OLLI community mourns the passing of Yvonne Norrbom. Yvonne died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on May 29th. She and her husband Eric have been loyal and generous supporters of OLLI and served as ambassadors this past year. Yvonne lived a rich life volunteering at numerous venues throughout Sonoma County. She was a supporter of the Green Music Center, Monterey Bay Aquarium, San Francisco Opera, Doctors without Borders, Social Advocates for Youth and various other social, environmental and animal rights organizations. Yvonne’s love of travel took her to Spain, France, England, Scotland, Ireland, Mexico, and New Zealand as well as all around the United States. Our deep-felt condolences and thoughts are with her beloved husband Eric. She will be truly missed.

PRE-CONCERT TALKS FOR OLLI AT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER

Please join us for “Musical Insights,” a new series of pre-concert talks exclusively for OLLI students! These talks will take place in Green Music Center 1058 next to the Box Office, and offer a “behind the scenes” look at the many active spaces of the GMC. Talks are free with purchase of performance ticket, and presented by SSU Music faculty, including orchestral director Alexander Kahn. More information with dates and performers will be provided in the next issue of Gray Matters.