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4-10-2013

### Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI): A Program of the Gerontology Institute

Wichian Rojanawon

University of Massachusetts Boston, [wichian.rojanawon@umb.edu](mailto:wichian.rojanawon@umb.edu)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston

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#### Recommended Citation

Rojanawon, Wichian; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston; and Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston, "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI): A Program of the Gerontology Institute" (2013). *Office of Community Partnerships Posters*. 142. [https://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp\\_posters/142](https://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters/142)

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# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

A Program of the Gerontology Institute

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies



## Summary

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston is the largest lifelong learning program in Massachusetts. It was established in 1999 as a learning community to enrich the intellectual, social, and cultural lives of adults aged 50 and older.

One of our objectives is to build a sense of community – a social connection among members. In addition to our courses, we offer this opportunity through several social events a year: a holiday party, a Boston harbor cruise, museum trips, attendance at theatre events, overnight trips, and international trips.

OLLI has helped the university to secure over \$4 million endowments from the Osher Foundation and state matching funds. Part of the funding is used to provide scholarships to at least 10 undergraduate students each year.



## Results/Impacts

- Over 60 retired and current UMass Boston faculty volunteers to teach courses and seminars
- Over 1,000 OLLI members who come from 80 cities and towns in Massachusetts
- Over 100 courses and 80 brown bag seminars and a dozen or more cultural events offered each year
- Class locations at UMass Boston, Plymouth's Cordage Park, and Hingham Public Library
- Alliance with Stonewall Communities, a Boston-based nonprofit serving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors

## Approaches and Methods

- Recruit and engage current faculty and staff in community service through teaching
- Reconnect retired faculty and staff in providing meaningful services to the university
- Provide teaching opportunities to graduate students with stipends
- Have OLLI students act as goodwill ambassadors for the university

## Next Steps

- To improve the quality and diversity of our offerings and activities
- To expand our community partners in promoting lifelong learning for older adults
- To increase our intergenerational programs and provide opportunities for more engagement between younger students and OLLI students



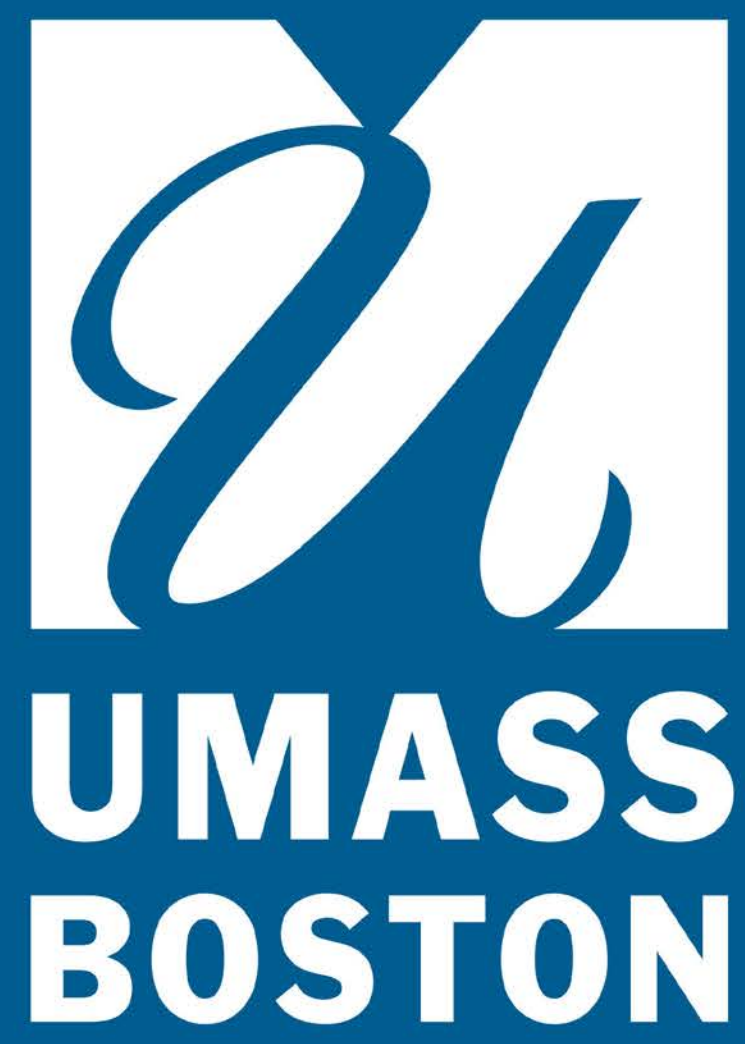
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