

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston



All programs are free and open to members, former members, and nonmembers alike! Summer events and programs are on a first-come, first-served basis. Zoom details for online summer programs will be sent to participants the day prior to the program.

Summer Programming Schedule At-A-Glance

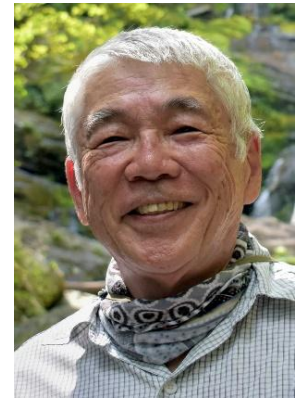
- July 20 – Defiant Loyalty: Art in Captivity (*online*)
- July 21 – Ellis Island: Guarding America’s Gate (*Charles River Campus, Newton*)
- July 22 – AI: Too Artificial? Too Intelligent? Too Much Energy? (*online*)
- July 23 – 1861-1941: 80 Years of National Identity Change through Art (*online*)
- July 23 – *The Duke: Weekly Conversations with the Last Honest Politician* (*Roslindale Public Library*)
- July 27 – TV in the Afternoon: *Happy Days* at OLLI (*online*)
- July 28 – Religion 101: Eastern Orthodox. Faith Learning Excursion to Holy Cross Chapel (*Brookline*)
- July 29 – What Will Be the Economic Impacts of AI? (*online*)
- July 30 – Urine in Good Hands: Female Pelvic Floor Health Strategies (*Thayer Public Library, Braintree*)
- August 3 – A Summer Walk & Talk Social: Saint Pope John Paul II Park (*Dorchester*)
- August 3 – From Lagoon to Empire: The Story of Venice (*Thomas Crane Library, Quincy*)
- August 4 – *They Called Us Enemy* Book Discussion (*Adams Street Library, Dorchester*)
- August 5 – Is AI Leading Us Toward a More Dangerous World Disorder? (*online*)
- August 6 – *They Called Us Enemy* Book Discussion (*online*)
- August 10 – Religion 101: Buddhism. Kurukulla Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies (*Medford*)
- August 11 – Contemporary Life as Seen through Art (*online*)
- August 12 – How Can We Build Human Morality Into AI? (*online*)
- August 13 – AI Without the Hype (or the Hiding) (*Thayer Public Library, Braintree*)

Summer Program Registration Information. Members are encouraged to use the OLLI online registration system to sign up for these events. [Sign-in](#) using your OLLI username and password. Once you are logged in, all summer events will be listed under the [Courses & Programs section](#) (look for Other Programs). Your username and password are still active even if your membership has expired. **Not an OLLI member?** Please email (ollireg@gmail.com) or call (617.287.7312) the OLLI office with the program titles you would like to register for.

Defiant Loyalty: Art in Captivity

Monday, July 20 | 1:30–3:00 noon | Online via Zoom

Resistance took many different forms in the Japanese incarceration camps of WWII: from draft resistance, to saying NO-NO on the loyalty questionnaire, to expressions in art, music, poetry and photography. What you will see is the harshness of their daily lives, being held against their will. Additionally, we will explore the vocational side of the camps, from job training to the many work positions that the Japanese performed, jobs and services that the War Relocation Authority was unable to provide. **Presenter:** For twelve years, **Denny Kato** has been researching the history and events of the Japanese relocation and the incarceration camps in WWII. He and his wife Janet have visited all ten major camp locations doing this research project. Over the past seven years, Denny has been giving lectures on the history of the camps, nationwide via ZOOM for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) for twenty-eight or so campus locations. Additionally, he has given live presentations for several venues, notably the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, the Art Institute of Cincinnati, and the Japan America Society. He has also been the subject of several video profiles, articles, and radio interviews.

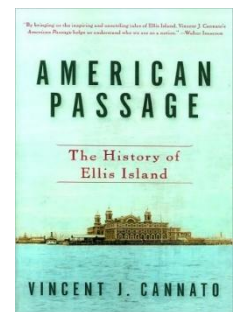


Ellis Island: Guarding America's Gate

Tuesday, July 21 | 10:30–11:30 a.m. | Charles River Campus, Newton (former Mt. Ida College)

100 Carlson Ave, Newton, MA 02459

Ellis Island was known for years as both the Gateway to America and the Island of Tears. From the 1890s to the 1920s, some 75 percent of immigrants to America entered the country through New York. It has been estimated that some 40 percent of Americans have at least one immigrant that passed through Ellis Island. This talk will describe the history of Ellis Island, how immigrants were processed there, and the evolution of American immigration law during this time. **Author/Presenter: Vincent J. Cannato** is associate professor of history at the University of Massachusetts Boston where he teaches courses on New York City history, Boston history, immigration history, and twentieth-century American history. He is the author of *American Passage: The History of Ellis Island* (HarperCollins, 2009); *The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and his Struggle to Save New York* (Basic Books, 2001); and co-editor of *Living in the Eighties* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

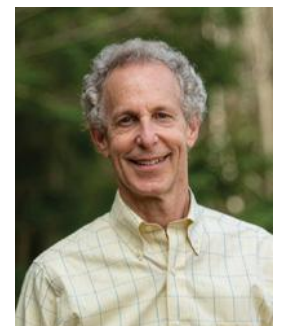


Osher at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series

AI: Too Artificial? Too Intelligent? Too Much Energy?

Wednesday, July 22 | 9–11:30 a.m. | Online/livestream

Dan Reicher, will discuss his take on AI from several perspectives: fast growing applications; problematic uses; political and financial considerations; and his own experience with this transformational technology. Importantly, he will examine the massive energy and water demands of the AI data centers and how to address them. At the same time, Dan will consider ways that AI might accelerate the clean energy transition—and help address climate change—by improving electric grid operations, increasing industrial energy efficiency, and managing building energy use. **Presenter: Dan W. Reicher** is an entrepreneur, investor, policymaker, lawyer, and educator focused on clean energy and climate change. Reicher has served three U.S. presidents, testified before the U.S. Congress more than 50 times, led the launch of Google's pathbreaking climate and clean energy work, oversaw a \$1.2 billion annual clean energy R&D budget as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy, and co-founded the nation's first investment firm focused exclusively on renewable energy project finance.



Beyond the Frame: American History through Artworks at Smithsonian American Art Museum

1861-1941: 80 Years of Change

Thursday, July 23 | 10–11:30 a.m. | Online via Zoom

Beginning with the Civil War and stretching through WWII, artists' depictions of America during troubled times reflect a changing national identity. The presentation and art depicted will trace the sweeping economic, social, and cultural evolution of the United States from the onset of the Civil War through the brink of World War II. About the ***Beyond the Frame*** series: Artists give us a window on American life, often reflecting the cultural and social climate of the time in which they work. Explore the question, "What does art reveal about America?" as you examine better- and lesser-known aspects of American history to reframe your perspective. Join study group leaders as they facilitate an examination of America through artists' eyes in **three discussion-based sessions**, each focused on a separate era: Early America (July 1); 1861-1941: 80 Years of Change (July 23); and Contemporary Life (August 11). **Zoom Note:** The Smithsonian uses the "waiting room" feature for its online presentations. Participants will be placed in a waiting room after they click on the Zoom link. A few minutes prior to the start of the presentation, the assistant will admit you into the actual Zoom classroom.

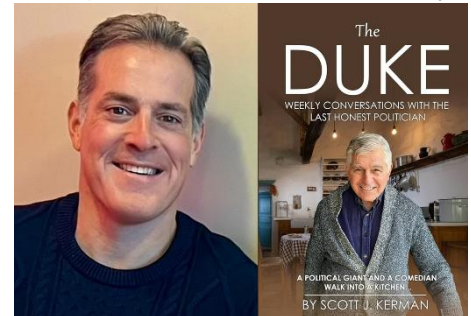


Author Talk/Program – *The Duke: Weekly Conversations with the Last Honest Politician*

Thursday, July 23 | 6:00–7:00 p.m. | Roslindale Branch of the BPL (4246 Washington St, Roslindale, MA 02131)

Drawn from years of friendship and weekly conversations, author and humor columnist Scott Kerman presents a funny, candid, and engaging look of former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in his book, *The Duke: Weekly Conversations with the Last Honest Politician*. More than a political discussion, this interactive program explores leadership, public service, friendship, family, and the human side of a public figure most people thought they already knew.

Audience members often say it feels like sitting at the kitchen table listening in on the conversations. The presentation includes audience Q&A and signed books will be available for purchase following the program. We are thankful for the collaboration on this program with the Roslindale Branch Library. **Author/ Presenter: Scott Kerman** is currently the humor columnist for *The Eagle Tribune*, where he writes the popular weekly column, *World According to Scott*. He is the author of eight books, including the widely read four-book *World According to Scott* humor series, which has built a loyal and growing following. His recent book, *The Duke: Weekly Conversations with the Last Honest Politician*, has generated strong buzz, sold-out events, and media attention. Scott is also the host of the long-running Boston sports talk show, *The Grandstanders Live!* and spent over 20 years as a stand-up comedian, with appearances on HBO's *Live from the Aspen Comedy Festival*, Comedy Central, and numerous national television programs. Scott grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from American University in Washington, D.C.



TV in the Afternoon: *Happy Days* at OLLI

Monday, July 27 | 10:00 a.m.–12 noon | Online via Zoom

Clear out the furniture, put away the cellphone, put on your favorite t-shirt-- we are going to recreate a beloved TV show. The past you say? It is all here still...Fonzie, Richie, the gang, Arnold's Drive-In. You will be sent a script a week before we meet. Participants will be invited to read parts aloud. It will be as fun as it was when we made plays in the living room.

Acting experience is not necessary. No memorization! Just reading the play together. **Programming**

Note: A minimum of 10 people is needed for this event to occur. **Presenter: Margarita Bonifaz** started her 33-year teaching career with a teaching fellowship at Smith College. She taught Drama in Amherst Schools for over twenty years. She believes in the power of theater to create joy, strengthen individual voice, and encourage community. The collaboration and energy in a Drama room, even on Zoom, is inspiring. Margarita has led classes at OLLI in writing, novel study, and drama.



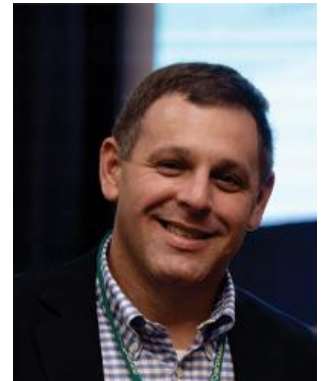
Osher at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series

What Will Be the Economic Impacts of AI?

Wednesday, July 29 | 9–11:30 a.m. | Online/livestream

Artificial intelligence represents a transformation comparable in scale to electricity or the internet, yet most business leaders are approaching it as simply another productivity tool. Wheeler will argue this is a fundamental strategic error with consequences extending far beyond individual companies to the broader economy and workforce. Drawing on his experience living through the internet transformation—where companies like Amazon reimaged everything while others like Sears merely optimized existing models—Wheeler will examine why the current moment demands urgent rethinking, what's at stake when leaders prioritize short-term efficiency over long-term transformation, and what becomes possible when change is embraced correctly. He will explore specific examples across industries, discuss implications for the next generation entering the workforce, and explain why the choices being made today will determine economic outcomes for decades to come.

Presenter: Patrick Wheeler serves as Executive Director of the Center for Digital Strategies at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, where he has established himself as a pioneering force in artificial intelligence education and technology leadership development. As an early advocate for AI education in business schools, Wheeler launched Dartmouth's first generative AI programming in early 2022 and co-created Tuck's inaugural AI-focused course in 2023. He founded and leads the Dartmouth AI Conference, now entering its fourth year in 2026 as it celebrates the 70th anniversary of AI being established as a field at Dartmouth, growing from 150 to 400 attendees. Wheeler's teaching philosophy emphasizes that organizations must fundamentally rethink their strategy and operations for AI rather than simply applying it for efficiency gains—a perspective informed by his experience navigating the early internet transformation and cloud revolution.

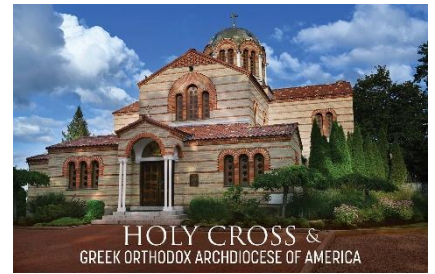


Religion 101: Eastern Orthodox – Faith Learning Excursion to Holy Cross Chapel

Tuesday, July 28 | 1–2:30 p.m. | Hellenic College Holy Cross (50

Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445)

Join OLLI on an excursion to the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, a graduate school of theology that educates and forms Orthodox Christian men and women for service to the Church and society. Participants will learn the basic tenets of Orthodoxy spirituality. This campus (the Hellenic College Holy Cross) is in Brookline, close to Jamaica Pond. This summer, OLLI has put together in-person excursions into the local communities as an opportunity to learn about different religions and faiths. These faith learning excursions will visit different places of worship as a way for participants to gain a basic understanding of that religion, how it is practiced, and what are its underlying principles. Participants will also get a chance to view the actual place of worship and when appropriate, learn about the history, architecture, and purpose of the building. Transportation is not provided.



Urine in Good Hands: Female Pelvic Floor Health Strategies

Thursday, July 30 | 10–11:30 a.m. | Thayer Public Library, Braintree (798 Washington St, Braintree, MA 02184)

Throughout this 90-minute lecture, we will discuss the anatomy and function of the female pelvic floor. Participants will also learn about the various types of urinary incontinence, and strategies to improve and mitigate urinary leakage. **Presenter: Katharine Magri** is a Physical Therapist with 13 years of experience working in outpatient orthopedics. She graduated from Simmons University with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2013. In 2018, she expanded her clinical practice to include treatment of pelvic floor conditions, having been certified through Herman and Wallace. She has been practicing pelvic health since and treats conditions such as urinary/bowel incontinence, prolapse, IBS, endometriosis, and other chronic pelvic pain conditions.

Summer Walk & Talk Social – Saint Pope John Paul II Park

Monday, August 3 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. | Saint Pope John Paul II Park

(Hallett St, Boston, MA 02124)

Enjoy a morning walk with OLLI members and guests as we explore Saint Pope John Paul II Park, located in Dorchester along the Neponset River. A combination of flat trails and gentle inclines, all paces are welcome as we chat and talk about whatever may be on our mind. More specific directions will be sent out to those that sign up. Free parking.



From Lagoon to Empire: The Story of Venice

How a Floating City Rose to Rule the Seas – and Still Fights to Survive

Monday, August 3 | 6:30–7:30 p.m. | Thomas Crane Library, Quincy (40 Washington Street Quincy, MA 02169)

This presentation traces the remarkable 1,500-year journey of Venice from a desperate refuge built on mudflats after the fall of the Roman Empire to a dominant maritime and commercial power that connected Europe with the riches of the East. Told in four acts, the program shows how geography, trade, naval innovation, and pragmatic politics created a tiny but global empire; how that wealth was transformed into unparalleled art, architecture, music, and civic culture; how shifting world trade and

Napoleon's conquest ended the republic; and how the city has continually reinvented itself to survive modern threats from mass tourism to rising seas. It is a story of resilience, ingenuity, and identity, revealing how a city with almost no natural advantages became one of history's most influential and enduring places. We are thankful for the collaboration on this program with the Thomas Crane Library in Quincy.

Presenter: Michael J. Ranieri graduated from St. Francis College in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in history and from St. John's University in New York with a Masters in Chinese studies in 1974 where he also taught Chinese History and Mandarin. After his career as a banker, Michael shifted his focus from finance and began researching, writing, and lecturing on a variety of subjects. He wrote a column in an Oregonian newspaper, titled, "Asia Watch," while working on cruise ships as a destination lecturer specializing on the history and development of cities in Asia. More recently, he has devoted his time to researching his family's roots in Italy and has published a book titled, *Nonno and the History of Our Family*. Michael has also written five articles for *Primo* – a magazine for and about Italian Americans. Michael is currently president of the board directors of the Italian Cultural Society of Naples, FL, Inc. and is married to Joyce Fan-Hwa Ranieri who has had a distinguished career in teaching both in Hong Kong and the U.S. Michael and Joyce, reside in Bonita Springs, Florida.



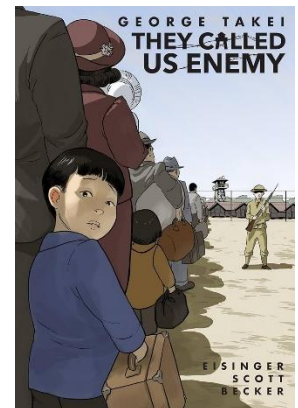
OLLI Reads Summer Book Discussion

They Called Us Enemy

Tuesday, August 4 | 10:30 a.m.–12 noon | In-Person (Adams Street Library)

Thursday, August 6 | 10:30 a.m.–12 noon | Online via Zoom

They Called Us Enemy is an autobiographical graphic novel by George Takei, co-written with Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott, and illustrated by Harmony Becker, detailing Takei's childhood experience in Japanese American internment camps during World War II. The book recounts his family's forced removal from their Los Angeles home and imprisonment in camps in Arkansas and California, exploring themes of courage, loyalty, and the impact of legalized racism on his family and his own coming-of-age. The story comes to us through a child's eyes, but the questions Takei wants us to consider are grown up: What does it mean to be an American? And who gets to decide? It is a New York Times bestseller and award-winning work that serves as a powerful reminder of this period in American history.



OLLI Reads is a community reading project created by OLLI's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. OLLI members, friends, and neighbors are enthusiastically invited to read one book over the summer, then gather (in person or on Zoom) to share ideas and enjoy each other's company. Our past OLLI Reads were: *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, *There There* by Tommy Orange, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, and *Being Heumann* by Judith Heumann.

Osher at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series

Is AI Leading Us Toward a More Dangerous World Disorder?

Wednesday, August 5 | 9–11:30 a.m. | Online/livestream

AI lies at the heart of the strategic competition between the U.S. and China, including the use of AI in intelligence, cyber and military operations. As AI adoption accelerates in the national security space, the

American people and their elected representatives must grapple with a number of critical questions: How will AI change the future of deterrence and warfare? What ethical issues will the use of AI in national security raise? What norms or principles should serve as guardrails for the use of AI? How do we get other nations to embrace these norms? And how do we train a whole generation of military officers to ensure human accountability for AI-driven outcomes on the battlefield? **Presenter: Michèle Flournoy** is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of WestExec Advisors, and a Co-Founder, former Chief Executive Officer, and now Chair of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). Michèle served as the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy from February 2009 to February 2012. She was the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense in the formulation of national security and defense policy, oversight of military plans and operations, and in National Security Council deliberations. She led the development of the Department of Defense's 2012 Strategic Guidance and represented the Department in dozens of foreign engagements, in the media and before Congress. Prior to confirmation, Michèle co-led President Obama's transition team at the Defense Department. In January 2007, Michèle co-founded CNAS, a bipartisan think tank dedicated to developing strong, pragmatic and principled national security policies. She served as CNAS' President until 2009, and returned as CEO in 2014. In 2017, she co-founded WestExec Advisors, a strategic advisory firm.



Religion 101: Buddhism – Kurukulla Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies

Monday, August 10 | 10:30–11:30 a.m. | Kurukulla Center (68 Magoun Street, Medford, MA 02155)

Curious about the Tibetan Buddhism? Then join OLLI as we are invited to visit the Kurukulla Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies in Medford. Kurukulla Center's mission is to provide a community of support for those who are studying and practicing the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Participants will hear from the local teacher, Geshe Tenley, about his journey and be invited to tour their facility. This summer, OLLI has put together in-person excursions into the local communities as an opportunity to learn about different religions and faiths. These faith learning excursions will visit different places of worship as a way for participants to gain a basic understanding of that religion, how it is practiced, and what are its underlying principles. Participants will also get a chance to view the actual place of worship and when appropriate, learn about the history, architecture, and purpose of the building. Transportation is not provided.



Beyond the Frame: American History through Artworks at Smithsonian American Art Museum

Contemporary Life as Seen through Art

Tuesday, August 11 | 10–11:30 a.m. | Online via Zoom

Americans entering the post-War era experienced a boom time clouded by global uncertainty. Artists grappled with how to reflect America's changing social and political landscape. Analyze and interpret works made in response to various movements, and ponder together works that ask us: "What does it mean to be an American today? About the **Beyond the Frame** series: Artists give us a window on American life, often reflecting the cultural and social climate of the time in which they work. Explore the question, "What does art reveal about America?" as you examine better- and lesser-known aspects of American history to reframe your perspective. Join study group leaders as they facilitate an examination of America through



artists' eyes in **three discussion-based sessions**, each focused on a separate era: Early America (July 1); 1861-1941: 80 Years of Change (July 23); and Contemporary Life (August 11). **Zoom Note:** The Smithsonian uses the "waiting room" feature for its online presentations. Participants will be placed in a waiting room after they click on the Zoom link. A few minutes prior to the start of the presentation, the assistant will admit you into the actual Zoom classroom.

Osher at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series

How Can We Build Human Morality Into AI?

Wednesday, August 12 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon | Online/livestream

NOTE: This session lasts until 12:00 noon

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now being used to make many lifechanging decisions in medicine, law, transportation, the military, business, and other areas. Critics object that using AI in these areas is inhumane and too likely to lead to harm, unfairness, and other moral wrongs. I will admit these dangers but reply that these decisions can be made safer and more ethical by building human moral values into the AI decisionmaker. Our team does this by surveying human moral judgments at two levels and then correcting for ignorance, confusion, and partiality. To show how our methods work in practice, I will demonstrate our websites, report initial empirical findings for kidney allocation and dementia, and finally discuss potential future applications to criminal law, transportation, business, and the military. **Presenter: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong** was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and attended the Hotchkiss School, Amherst College (BA 1977), and Yale University (PhD 1982). He taught at Dartmouth College 1981-2009 and at Duke University since 2010. Sinnott-Armstrong is Chauncey Stillman Distinguished Professor of Practical Ethics in the Department of Philosophy and the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University with secondary appointments in Duke's Law School and Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. He has served as co-chair of the Board of Officers of the American Philosophical Association. Sinnott-Armstrong has published eight books, 21 edited collections, and over 250 articles and chapters in leading venues, including top journals in psychology, law, and philosophy. His research has addressed a wide variety of central issues in applied ethics, empirical moral psychology and neuroscience, epistemology, informal logic, and philosophy of law, religion, and psychiatry. His current focus is on moral artificial intelligence, political polarization, and various topics in moral psychology and brain science, including free will, consciousness, and moral responsibility.



AI Without the Hype (or the Hiding)

Thursday, August 13 | 10:30 a.m.–12 noon | Thayer Public Library (798 Washington St, Braintree, MA 02184)

Most conversations about AI quietly sort people into one of three tiered camps: jumping in without looking, refusing to engage at all, or going along with it because everyone else seems to be. None of those feel great, and none of them leave you feeling like yourself. This session is built for a fourth option. We'll learn the words you actually need, look honestly at what's at stake, and practice having real conversations about all of it with each other. By the end, you'll know more, worry less, and feel like the person making the choices again. **Presenter: Kira Troilo** founded Art & Soul Consulting and directs rooms for a living. Before consulting, she spent two decades in theater as an actor, choreographer, director, and board member, which is where she learned how to make a roomful of people brave enough to say what they actually think. Her work has helped teams at Harvard, Stratford Festival, Boston Lyric Opera, and corporate organizations have honest conversations about AI. She last presented for OLLI in 2024.

Learning For The Love Of It! – About OLLI at UMass Boston

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMass Boston is an inclusive, member-powered organization that offers educational and cultural programs to inspire adult learners ages 50+. Our non-credit courses are taught by volunteers, and there is no homework, tests, or grades. The organization is funded by The Bernard Osher Foundation and is part of a nationwide network of 123 OLLI programs. At UMass Boston, OLLI is housed in the Gerontology Institute, a part of the Manning College for Nursing and Health Sciences. For more information, please visit our website (www.umb.edu/olli) or contact our office via email (ollireg@gmail.com).



at UMass Boston