

Fostering healthy aging through learning



Dear [informal salutation],

The town of Davis is near and dear to Donna Sanders. She has lived in the leafy college hamlet for more than fifty years, working as a fifth-grade teacher for the Davis School District and becoming a part-owner of a small bookstore in town. After retiring, Donna says she missed the connections and stimulating environment of books and learning that both of her careers provided.

As an English literature major in college, Donna became intrigued by OLLI when she heard about a class titled “Best American Short Stories of 2010,” taught by Rene Viargues. She enrolled and hasn’t looked back. “I have taken that class every year since,” she shared. “We’re now up to ‘Best Short Stories of 2023.’”

While initially focusing on literature, she has explored less-familiar subjects along the way, taking classes on topics such as the music of Emmylou Harris, growing tomatoes in Davis, recent Supreme Court decisions, and space exploration, to name a few. “I can’t pick a favorite, as every class has added something different and interesting to my learning experience.”

Over the years, Donna has often volunteered as a classroom aide and currently serves on the Curriculum Committee. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with and learn from so many knowledgeable and fascinating people,” she said.

Building social and intellectual connections is essential for maintaining health and well-being. At OLLI, we are committed to developing intriguing programs and classes to connect a wider OLLI audience with UC Davis research and activities.

Your gift to OLLI supports lifelong learning in a vibrant community as an essential element of healthy aging. Please join Donna as a donor and support us by giving today!

With gratitude,

Lisa Smith-Youngs
Program Director

Anne Hawke
OLLI Advisory Council
Fundraising Chairperson



“There truly is an OLLI community, and it’s a perfect place to make new friends who also share the love of learning.”

DONNA SANDERS

