It's Never Too Late

Variety of Classes Offered for 50+ Students

Alyssa Malfatti, Staff Reporter

Can you imagine about fifteen 50 and older students learning for pleasure? OLLI, also known as Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, provides this group of older students the opportunity to learn topics they are interested in. Due to the student's decision of topics and speakers these courses provide a self-sustaining learning environment.

These days it is getting harder and harder to have time for oneself. Adults have to worry about getting kids or grandkids places, errands, and their day to day activities. "I am retired from my main job, and these classes keep me active in my intellectual capacity," said Mary Conway, a student of the OLLI courses. OLLI courses give adults the opportunity to take classes they never thought they would have time to take.

OLLI classes are unique because students are more engaged due to their decision of the topics and the subjects they are interested in. The students are not only encouraged to get outside speakers to teach the courses, but to have CSUMB faculty members be a part of the program. Ed Clifton, Ph.D., in geology, initially guided the class on Feb. 1 about the Evolution of Marine Mammals of Central California. He states the best part of these classes are "to get a better understanding of different subjects rather than just learning about one subject for one's certain job." Some of the other courses available include meditation workshop, book club, and political conflict in cinema, John Steinbeck, Edward F. Ricketts, and Joseph Campbell; interesting minds and many more. This helps bring the campus to the community and the community to the campus.

Michele Crompton, the Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute states "These courses provide topics students are interested in. It provides a safe environment where like-minded individuals learn more and share more."

The participants of these courses get involved in the events that happen on campus. When an adult signs up for one of these classes, they are given a student ID. With this they are encouraged to get involved by getting discounts and participating in activities such as the world theater movies.

These courses are not funded through the CSU system or the state. They are completely self-supporting. Member fees such as paying for the course, foundation grants, and donations, are their only source for maintaining these courses.

The OLLI courses are available all through the semester with classes all during the week. The fees can range from 10 dollars to 210 dollars. Students are encouraged to take classes without having a membership. For more information about these courses go to the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) website and search for OLLI classes.