

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Inspiring lifelong learners and the emerging scholars who teach them



Driven.

The University of Minnesota Campaign



Photo by Lisa Miller

All about OLLI

Community, camaraderie, active learning, and civic and cultural engagement. For lifelong learners and their instructors these are the outcomes of involvement in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Minnesota (OLLI at the UMN).

Part of the University's College of Continuing and Professional Studies, OLLI at the UMN belongs to a national network of 124 Osher Institutes established by the Bernard Osher Foundation. It offers members high-quality noncredit courses year-round, as well as intellectually stimulating social, cultural, and volunteer opportunities.

University of Minnesota professors, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, community and civic leaders, independent scholars, and OLLI members who have professional knowledge of or a scholarly interest in a subject, make the institute's vibrant portfolio of courses possible. In fact, the

Osher Foundation recognizes OLLI at the UMN as an "exemplary lifelong learning program."

"Osher Institute directors across the country often ask about ways to engage their members in meaningful intergenerational programming. Not a week goes by that I don't talk about the OLLI Scholars program at the University of Minnesota (my Golden alma mater). The combination of passionate graduate researchers/teachers with intellectually ambitious OLLI students is genius. It allows institute members to support both their host university and the scholars, all while learning from impressive new generations as their academic careers are launching."

—Steve Thaxton '80, executive director, Osher National Resource Center, Northwestern University



Committed to lifelong learning

The University of Minnesota reinforced its commitment to lifelong learning in September 2020, when it became the first higher-education institution in Minnesota to join the Global Network of Age-Friendly Universities.



Who are the OLLI Scholars?

The OLLI Scholars Program awards 20 University of Minnesota graduates and postdoctoral researchers stipends of \$1,000 annually to lead courses for OLLI. The opportunity benefits the scholars—who hone their teaching skills by developing curricula and leading courses—and promotes intergenerational education through the sharing of current research and scholarship with OLLI members.

A committee of OLLI members review candidates' proposals annually; the selected OLLI Scholars teach their courses during future terms. Scholars must be enrolled University of Minnesota students during the term in which they teach, and they must provide written endorsements from their advisers.

“With only 20 scholars selected each year, the process is competitive. There’s a special chemistry that seems to brew in OLLI Scholar courses, and they are always among the most popular with members. To their delight and ours, many scholars want to continue teaching for OLLI beyond the scholarship term.”

—Anastasia Faunce, director of Lifelong Learning and OLLI

Photo by Lisa Miller





Why give to OLLI?

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to benefit the OLLI Scholars Program Fund, which will support 80 University of Minnesota graduate students and postdoctoral researchers over four years. The funds will help OLLI sustain the program and expand the number of scholars selected each year. This level of financial support will ensure that OLLI can continue to contribute to the growth and professional experience of future scholars and researchers, and that OLLI members can continue to learn from tomorrow's leaders.

Scholarly scope

With your support, the OLLI Scholars Program will continue to attract and support instructors who bring diverse experiences and expertise into the classroom.

2X

more graduate students and postdoctoral researchers apply for OLLI Scholar positions than the institute is able to fund

257

U of M students have participated in the OLLI Scholar program since its founding in 2008

Global

From California, Indiana, New York, Minnesota, and Washington, to Columbia, Iran, South Korea, and Norway, OLLI Scholars come to the U of M from throughout the United States and around the world.

Comprehensive

OLLI Scholars represent an infinite array of research and scholarship, including in the fields of anthropology, biology, chemistry, economics, epidemiology, engineering, history, linguistics and indigenous language revitalization, melittology, musicology, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, technology, the visual and performing arts, and more!



OLLI SCHOLAR
Adey Almohsen

“I like the fact that these courses are not as demanding as regular courses. OLLI members’ positions come from a sense of reflection. The extraneous logistical aspects of teaching are put aside as you focus on engagement; it’s the bread and butter of teaching.”

—Adey Almohsen, OLLI Scholar 2020–21 and PhD candidate in history, University of Minnesota, specializes in the intellectual history of the Arab left, social and political thought, Marxism, and media theories.

Courses taught: *The Middle East Through Film and The Arab Spring: Intellectual Antecedents and Upshots*



OLLI SCHOLAR
Rebecca Lindgren

“Rebecca is a rockstar OLLI Scholar who finds our senior population to be very engaging and stimulating. I feel like I hit the jackpot when I got to be a course assistant for her class. She just gets better every week. I hope you sign her on for more classes; there is lots of interest when you have an instructor like Rebecca.”

—Member **Pixie Pixler** reflects on Rebecca Lindgren, OLLI Scholar 2020–2021. Rebecca is a certified medical laboratory scientist with a 15-year career working in the lab. She is pursuing her MA at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Course taught: *Medical Laboratory Science: A Primer*





An investment in talent, diversity, and thriving communities

Philanthropic gifts in support of the OLLI Scholars Program Fund and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Minnesota enhance the experience of OLLI members, promote intergenerational education, and advance the professional skills and career opportunities necessary to support the diversity of talent essential to thriving communities. Your generosity will help to inspire the graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who, as OLLI Scholars, serve a growing population of dedicated lifelong learners.



Photo by Lisa Miller

To learn more about how you can invest in the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** at the University of Minnesota, contact:

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