

OMNILORE NEWS



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DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	Page 2
Profile: Gary Nofziger	Page 3
OLLI at CSUDH	Page 3
Dean's Corner	Page 4
Movie Critic Corner	Page 4
Next Intro. Omnilore Meeting	Page 4
Annual Meeting Pictures	Page 5
	Page 6
"	Page 7
Origins of Thanksgiving	Page 8
In Memoriam	Page 8
The Bookshelf	Page 9
Calendar	Page 10
Best Sellers SIG	Page 10

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A Look at the New Dean's List

by Marion Smith

eet J. Kim McNutt, Dean, CSU Dominguez Hills College of Extended and International Education (CEIE).

Attending the October 31 Omnilore Forum luncheon was different for Dean Kim McNutt; this new dean usually brings his lunch to the office since his workload keeps him very busy all day. With several Extended Ed staff members retiring at the end of the year, including Jim Bouchard and Brenda Blow [whose service was acknowledged at the Forum].

his days are filled with interviews of potential new hires and tasks such as budget planning. While he looks forward to focusing on program development, right now he's in "operations mode." He notes that he is delighted with the CEIE's physical attributes, including the auditorium and the variety of classrooms.

Dean McNutt has a great dedication to providing access to lifelong learning and education for the underserved. He has always worked in adult education, and he says the business of continuing education is fun—especially providing access to students who would otherwise be unable to have "traditional" college experiences and to seniors. He notes that OLLI serves the mission of providing lifelong learning and education perfectly.

Dean McNutt is a native of Las Cruces, New Mexico, which is one hour north of El Paso, Texas. Asked why he goes by his middle name (Kim) rather than his first name (James), he says his parents called him Kim because his father's first name is also James. Further, "Kim" reflects his Irish and Spanish heritage. (By the way, though his late mother's maiden name was "Chavez" and both his father and mother spoke fluent Spanish, his parents never taught him Spanish.) A first-generation college graduate, he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications from New Mexico State University and a master's degree in communications from Southern Methodist University.

He has worked in adult education at campuses in several states, including a stint as Dean of Extended Education at the CSU Maritime Academy in Vallejo. His greatest satisfaction comes from watching one of his program's students cross the stage to get a diploma.

Asked about his future plans for CEIE, McNutt indicates that with retirements and such, there are several holes to fill in the CEIE org chart. So his short-term goal is to fill those gaps. Future goals include the hiring of a part-time grant writer and a director of corporate training and education. He pictures the latter as a marketing agent and also one who can develop additional training curriculum for CEIE.

McNutt loves program development. He would like to offer four new self-Continued on page 2.

OMNILORE NEWS is a publication of OMNILORE, a Learning-in-Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the California State University Dominguez Hills.

OMNILORE NEWS is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor Mary Golob Staff Member Carol Kerster

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Art Irizarry

A Season for Thanksgiving

s we approach the 25th anniversary of **Omnilore** and the great Thanksgiving holiday, a good place to start as incoming Omnilore president is with a sincere expression of gratitude for the many member volunteers who have contributed to the success of **Omnilore** as an organization and to all of you, fellow members, for your continuing support.

First, it is important to thank the founding members and leaders who laid the foundation for this dynamic organization and educational experience. Recently, Omnilore founder Burt Cutler passed away, a loss for Omnilore but a reminder of the many others who have contributed to its enduring success. Burt and a group of friends decided to establish in the South Bay a program similar to the Plato learning-in-retirement group at UCLA, but independent of the university. They invited friends, neighbors and acquaintances to join their peer-led educational endeavor and created the organization which we now enjoy as our own. The deep love of learning, commitment and

spirit of cooperation, which drove them, resulted in the gift we have received and which we treasure.

Next, I would like to thank the outgoing Board members and all those volunteers who this past year have continued the legacy established a generation ago. They have enabled us to enjoy an organized, cohesive educational year even as Omnilore has been challenged by the relocation from Franklin Center to Edison Center, the change in interface for city services to the Redondo Beach Unified School District, and the institutional processes of the university with which we are affiliated. Very special thanks are extended to Hal Hart, Rick Spillane, Jim Slattery, Bill and Andrea Gargaro, Howard Korman and the many others who managed to keep us organized as we moved to our new setting. They provided their problemsolving skills, muscles, and sweat to get our belongings relocated and have continued to ensure our classes have necessary equipment and technology in place.

And, as we approach a new year and our 25th anniversary, I want to thank the

members who have agreed to serve as our 2014-15 officers, committee chairs, managers and S/DG coordinators, who take care of the details for



all of us. This year we again have significant tasks to accomplish and another corps of talented volunteers to continue the legacy of our founders. You, of course, are always invited to contribute to **Omnilore**'s success by joining a committee, helping with a project, or volunteering for a program that interests you.

Finally, emphatically, I want to thank all of you, fellow members, upon whom **Omnilore** depends both for support and for the enjoyment you generate in classes and other activities. **Omnilore** belongs to all of us and has been successful because of the cooperative bonds we have established with one another. Our tradition of collaborative outlook, peer-led learning and strong support for our organization enriches us and our community.

Thank you!

Dean McNutt—Continued from page 1.

supported programs—a mix of credit and non-credit programs and maybe a new certificate program. He indicates he's more of an administrative dean than an academic dean.

Finally, McNutt provided written answers to three questions. They are:

- Q: Assuming you've read the Fall 2014 OLLI catalog, what sorts of classes/activities would you be likely to sign up for [if you had time]?
- A: As a movie buff, I'd participate in all of the OLLI "my favorite movie" events and brush up on computer skills courses.
- Q: If you were an Omnilorean, what types of classes would you register for (e.g., history, short stories, Shakespeare, field trips)?
- **A:** I would register for history, especially Native American and Spanish from about 1500-1800. (I'm from New Mexico originally and am fascinated by both cultures that heavily influenced the Land of Enchantment.)
- **Q:** What are your hobbies?
- **A:** Movies both new and old. I particularly like film noir movies from the 40's and 50's. Turner Classic Movies is a favorite channel.

Hiking and exploration—I go out nearly every weekend exploring everything from the Southern California coast-line to the mountains of Big Bear.

Mountain biking, reading non-fiction, current events.

Though McNutt claims that the quality of life and the weather offered by Southern California are important reasons for his coming to CSUDH, your "profiler" has her own theory: As we learned from the mystery writers at the Halloween forum, Los Angeles provides the prime setting for noir literature and film. I think we can say that Dean Kim McNutt as Adam has landed in Eden.

OMNILORE PROFILE: Gary Nofziger, Our Traveling Treasurer

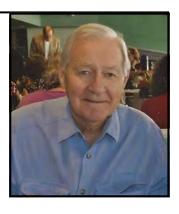
by Kate Nelson

ary Nofziger may be closing in on 80, but his body uniforms **T** seems to have missed the memo. The fact that he looks enough). Unlike the Amish, a decade younger might be due to his long history of the Mennonites don't shun bike marathons, including the annual – and famously grueling - (i.e., formally reject) those - weeklong ride across the state of Iowa in July. "There's who break the rules, but Mr. always a one-hundred-mile day in those marathons," Gary adds Nofziger nevertheless decidcasually, as if he's talking about a spin around the block. He's participated in at least 13 "fairly long" rides, among them the his family (wife and four 2000 AIDS ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. ("They do give you a whole week to complete it.") Gary doesn't do those marathons any more, but he and his wife Lisa combine travel and bike riding and have taken "fantastic" trips all over Europe. Their next one is planned for Spain. "I'll do this as long as I can pedal," he says with a grin.

Gary is Omnilore's new treasurer and he seems very well qualified for the job. For 17 years, he was the Information Systems Director for the Long Beach Unified School District, the third largest district in the state, with about 100,000 Gary got into computers early and almost by students. accident. In 1961 he was working for Sunkist Growers when they acquired their first computer, a Univac. This wasn't the first-generation, room-sized machine, but it was enormous compared to computers today. Sunkist invited 100 employees to apply for the new technology positions. They hired four, including Gary. ("I guess I had a knack.") Over the years, he moved from programming, "the best job ever," to systems management.

A career in computers is not the first thing anyone would have predicted, given Gary's early life. He was raised in a tiny Mennonite village of about 400 people in rural Ohio. His grandparents were Mennonites, but his father was "kicked out" of the sect, probably for playing basketball (because the though, good luck catching him!

weren't modest ed it was a good time to move sons) to California. age of fourteen. Garv transitioned from a tiny schoolhouse to a junior high in the San Fernando Valley



with more than 3,000 students! He's been a big city guy ever

Gary retired 20 years ago, the same year that his first granddaughter, Meagan, was born, and he has never looked back. For the first years of her life, Gary took care of her three days a week, and formed a bond that is still strong. one very vivid (and funny) memory. Gary's daughter was concerned about separation anxiety for 3-year-old Meagan and tried to warn him when she dropped the child off. She needn't have worried. Before Mom could say, "I hope she adjusts all right," Meagan closed the door decisively, clapped her hands and said gleefully to Grandpa: "Mom's gone to work!"

When he's not pedaling, Gary listens to music, especially jazz, blues and contemporary classical. He really enjoyed Bob Bragonier's classes and, like many Omniloreans, he can't say enough about how inspiring and knowledgeable Bob is. He's looking forward to his new position as Treasurer and promised not to ride off into the sunset with the annual dues. If he does,



OLLI at CSUDH — Thanks for the Memories!

by Jim Bouchard

Senior Program Development Specialist Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI AT CSUDH—www.csudh.edu/olli



s my retirement date looms (December 31, 2014), I realize that this will be the last article that I write for the Omnilore newsletter. I want to thank all the folks that I've had the pleasure to work with since becoming involved with learningin-retirement back in 2003. I'm particularly grateful to all the Omniloreans who rallied to help the College of Extended & International Education qualify for the million dollar endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation--doing this one thing has made it possible for the College to continue to support our learning-in-retirement activities through difficult financial times.

Over the years I have learned a lot about peer-led learning, lectures, workshops, etc. If there is anything that I will remember it's that I need to keep learning in order to keep my mind sharp to maintain a high quality of life. After a brief but welldeserved vacation, I plan to remain involved with the University as a CSUDH Emeritus Staff Member and OLLI member, and I hope to see you in the future at an Omnilore Forum. Best wishes for all!



Computer Talks is Taking **November & December Off Due to the Holidays!** Look for Us in The January-February 2015 Newsletter





Dean, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute College of Extended & International Education CSUDH

s this issue of Dean's Corner goes to print, Fall is in the air and the holiday season is just around the corner (or upon us, depending on when you read this). This is my favorite time of year with Thanksgiving, Christmas and other fantastic Winter Holiday celebrations and traditions bringing family and friends together.

This is my second column and I must say, it's been a pleasure meeting the dedicated people associated with Omnilore. I've met members of the curriculum committee and several elected board of director's. They all embody the spirit of volunteerism, the engine that drives the organization. I personally thank all of you for your service.

As you know, long time OLLI Coordinator **Jim Bouchard** is retiring this December. Jim has been a driving force in membership growth, program coordination and oversight and developing high quality lecture series over the years. He will be missed; but I know Jim plans to stay active and will not be content to ride off into the sunset. I want to publicly thank Jim for his service and commitment to Lifelong Learn -ing and his good work here at the College of Extended & International Education.

Plans are to continue the CSU-Dominguez Hills affiliation and as of this writing, I'm exploring several transition staffing options. I'll keep our stakeholders apprised as we move forward on a replacement for Jim. Enjoy the brisk Fall weather, and have a safe, happy holiday season.

n a bit of a departure (and why not, in this season that seems to me more - than-usual pre-holiday chaotic), I've elected to write about two television shows. On the surface, *Olive Kitteridge* and *Death Comes to Pemberly*, have little in common, except that they are both based on novels. Olive is the heroine of Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, and P.D. James authored *Pemberly* which is her sequel



to the Jane Austen classic, *Pride And Prejudice*. The exquisite irony of both shows is that they are both incredibly romantic love stories of two wildly different kinds of marriages.

The lives of the seemingly aloof, very wealthy Fitzwilliam Darcy and his nononsense wife, the former Elizabeth Bennet, are up-ended on the eve of Pemberly's most grand social affair. There is a murder in the woods on their vast estate, and the obvious perpetrator is the ever troublesome, most unwelcome relative by marriage, Mr. Wickham. Despite his having been seen and heard saying, "I killed him, his death is my fault," Wickham protests his innocence throughout the inquest, the trial and the verdict. All of the sleuthing done by a multitude of family members, police, political and legal officials, and household staff, keeps the story moving and provides a vivid picture of life in England in the early 1800's. Most of all, it provides context to the marriage of Darcy and Elizabeth from "Do you not know how that insults me?" to "Marry the person your heart cries out for!"

Too much cannot be said for the actors of this serial drama which appeared on PBS. You'll need to do your own sleuthing (Netflix, On Demand, YouTube), if you missed it the first time around. Matthew Rhys, Anna Maxwell Martin, Matthew Goode as Darcy, and too many others to mention are all stellar!

Because it was on HBO, *Olive Kitteridge* may be easier to find, but more than worth any effort. I admit that I was more than a little irritated by Olive when I read the book some years ago. And I had the same reaction to watching the inestimable Frances McDormand play her, whether as a math teacher, mother, or wife. Olive is foremost a teller of truth. Feelings, extenuating circumstances, other perspectives, are simply not acknowledged, much less expressed. It's not that she isn't aware of them; she communicates, without a word, that she is aware. She chooses not to betray her own truth, not to compromise her integrity, not to display any vulnerability. It's hard to like this woman, and hard to feel anything but pity for the man who "puts up with it." My irritation was finally mitigated by accepting that what this caustic, carping woman, and her patient, warm-hearted husband Henry have, is something they may not even recognize, "...something there's just too little of...." It's called love.

Richard Jenkins more than holds his own with the award-winning Frances McDormand, with lines like "You wouldn't have lasted two weeks with him," in response to her taunt that she should have left him years ago for another man. And she elicits genuine laughter from her gentle husband with "For God's sake, Henry, you could make a woman sick." The very small role of a recently widowed man is played beautifully by Bill Murray, and the whole series is directed by the woman who gave us the surprising *The Kids Are All Right*, Lisa Cholodenka. Olive and Henry are definitely all right, too!





Omnilore's 23rd Annual Meeting & Luncheon







President Lincoln's Reasons for Giving Thanks in 1863

he first Thanksgiving Day with a capital "T" - i.e., a public holiday for the entire nation – was observed in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November "a day of Thanksgiving and Praise."

In his proclamation, Lincoln noted that:

"In the midst of a civil war of unequaled magnitude and severity,

"Peace...order... harmony (have) prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict.

"Needful diversions of wealth and strength from peaceful industry to national defense have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship. . . .

"The axe has enlarged the borders of our

his 1914 painting, "The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth" by Jennie Augusta Brownscombe (1850-1936), is in the collection of the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Brownscombe, described by New York World in 1899 as "one of America's best artists," was one of a group of likeminded artists of the Colonial Revival

Movement who, inspired by the 1876 centennial, depicted colonial heroes and history in color in books, magazines, calendars and other commercial products.



settlements," and

"The mines of iron and coal, as well as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore."

"Population has steadily increased, despite the waste made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield," and

"The country, rejoicing in the consciousness of aug-

mented strength and vigor,"

"Is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increases of freedom."

(Of course, the holiday is now celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, a change mandated by FDR in 1941, in response to a request originally posed in 1939 by Harry Hopkins, his Secretary of Commerce, in a nod to the Retail Dry Goods Association.)



California's First Thanksgiving

efore Lincoln's Proclamation, many of the states observed their own days of thanksgiving. In California, the first such day is said to have been observed on July 1, 1769 when Fr. Junipero Serra celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for the 126 Mexicans (out of an original group of 300) who survived the trek they endured when their government sent them here to establish colonies along the Pacific coast. Mexico's objective was to keep the British and the Russians from gaining control of the coastline. If Serra had not come to their rescue, they might have starved to death.

Lincoln was prompted to establish a national holiday for thanksgiving by Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of the influential Godey's Lady Book magazine. Hale had campaigned for 20 years – in speeches, articles and letters to presidents and governors - for a day to help heal "sectional feelings." The appeal struck a chord with President Lincoln, who also longed for healing to begin,

and his proclamation came shortly after her latest plea.

> Sarah Josepha Hale



In Memoriam

Roy Schubert

fter a long illness, Omnilore's former Registrar, Roy Schubert, died October 28 in his Hermosa Beach home with his wife, Lynn, and their children present.

An inborn love for and skill at mathematics and physics led Roy to two degrees from the University of Chicago and a doctorate from the University of Illinois. He went on to retire twice from TRW (now Northrop Grumman) -- first after 27 years in spacecraft engineering and again after 10 more years

as a consultant on satellite design.

Roy's unquenchable curiosity then prompted him to join a learning-inretirement group. He became an Omnilorean in 2004, and Lynn joined a year later. Their shared love of music over the years attracted them to visit the world's great opera houses - in Milan, Paris, London and, most recently, Israel.

Fred Virazzi

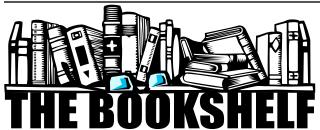
n Omnilorean from Spring 2008 through 2012, Fred died peacefully of pancreatic cancer on September 17, while listening to his cherished Puccini operas.

Howard Korman remembers Fred for "his humor, his great personality, and his love of opera and classical music. He was a very passionate person." A "Friend" of the Torrance Symphony, he also attended the San Francisco Opera

Company's video series at the Armstrong Theater.

Born in New Jersey in 1930, Fred was a mechanical engineer for Mattel and traveled worldwide to execute his Quality Engineering responsibilities, often accompanied by his wife, Barbi. His many Omnilorean classmates enjoyed a celebratory meal at their home at the end of a trimester.





Books are Great Gifts

The months of November and December are surely the season for giving – from giving thanks to giving...well, *gifts*. With books always a favorite gift, here are some ideas for the coming holidays:

Thanksgiving

"Gratitude: A Journal" by noted science author Catherine Price, is a thoughtful way to record a reader's feelings of gratitude from day to day. Along with "promptings" from the author, which encourage would-be "journalists" to include the reasons they feel thankful for certain happenings, there are inspirational/motivational words from the ages to help connect you to your writing muse. Perhaps a nice gift for yourself, for your Thanksgiving dinner hostess, and/or for other friends/family during the holidays.

Short Stories: Knowing Omniloreans' penchant for short-story S/DGs, you might consider the following books appropriate for giving – and/or receiving – this December:

Christmas

Home for Christmas is for readers who are tired of commercialism, or feel that Santa Claus and reindeer don't tell the whole story. The classic gems in this collection provide a winning alternative that will resonate with readers of all ages from children too young to read by themselves, to parents and grandparents who enjoy reading stories aloud. Home for Christmas includes time-tested favorites by some of the world's most beloved authors - Pearl Buck, Henry van Dyke, Madeleine L'Engle, Elizabeth Goudge, and Ruth Sawyer - as well as littleknown European stories appearing in English for the first time.

Hannukah

With one story for each of the eight nights of Hannukah, these tales are from National Public Radio's long-running "Hannukah Lights" series. Modern-day writers kindle our imaginations with stories inspired by the oil that miraculously



burned in the temple for eight days and nights. Selections include 'The Demon Foiled' by Anne Roiphe, which shows that even political spin can become an enlightening truth under the spell of Hannukah, and 'Nona Maccabeus' by Gloria DeVidas Kirchheimer about a feisty grandmother who, confronted by a "hip-hop holiday," fights back with a lively dose of her Sephardic heritage.

New Releases

The Innovators by Walter Isaacson, revealing how, beginning in the 1840s, all those hackers, geniuses and geeks created the digital revolution.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng, a debut novel about a Chinese-American family in 1970s small-town Ohio.



Costume Winners:

Florence Murphy 2nd Place

Carolyn Pohlner & Mary Varieur Split 3rd Place

Leslie Criswell & Bob Bacinski 1st Place

Prizes were awarded based on originality and creativity.



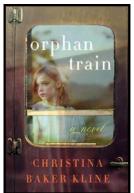


Incoming President Art Irizarry honors outgoing Treasurer, Jim Slattery (left), outgoing President, Howard Korman and Bill Gargaro who served as President 2010 & 2011. Gift cards were given for Barnes and Noble.

Best Sellers SIG Reads Through The Winter

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

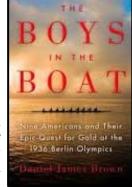
articipating in a book group allows you to enjoy books twice...once when you first read the book, and once when you discuss the intricacies of the plot, the characters, and the subject matter with others. Treat yourself to this "second helping" by attending our Best Sellers Special Interest Group. Each month, on the second Monday of the month, about 20 plus members meet in the Edison Center Conference Room B from 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. The subject matter is varied and the discussion always animated! So that you have plenty of time to read the chosen books, here are the upcoming selections:



November 10: Fiction Orphan Train by Christina Baker Klein

December 8: Non-Fiction *The Boys in the Boat* by

Daniel James Brown

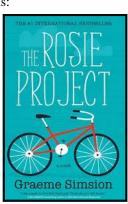


January 12: Fiction

The Rosie Project

by

Graeme Simsion



As with any SIG, you need not register to participate. . .just show up on the date, prepared to join in.

Guests are always welcome.