

OLLI Instructors Biographies Spring 2025

Emanuel Abramovits is a mechanical engineer with an MBA and has been a concert promoter since 2000, directly involved in many events by international artists. He designed and staged many original orchestral events, including several world premieres. He served as the Cultural Director at UNION ISRAELITA DE CARACAS for eleven years as has been teaching online for many institutions since 2020.

Ernest Ayo is the founder of Panache Club Croquet of St. Francisville, La. He has taught OLLI Beginners Croquet since 2019, and he oversaw the construction of two courts and Panache club house in West Feliciana Sports Park.

Katie Bailey is a doctoral student with LSU's Doctor of Design program, with a specialty in Museum and Archival Studies. She is originally from Columbus, Ohio but now lives in Baton Rouge. Katie has a background in history and received my B.A. in History from Ashland University in 2019 and a M.A. in American History in 2022 from LSU. Recently, she received her master's in library and information science and Graduate Certificate in Archival Studies also from LSU.

Donald Beale is Director of Online Distance Learning, at LSU. He has a master's degree in general humanities and has done additional graduate study in English, focused on American film and literature. He has taught English and film studies courses at LSU.

Dr. Thomas Beard has a PhD from Duke University and is an Alumni Professor Emeritus of Economics at LSU.

He has a life-long interest in opera and has taught opera courses for the Lagniappe chapter of OLLI at LSU for forty-three semesters and for OLLI at Auburn University for eight semesters.

Agnes Bickham is a certified yoga teacher with 1000+ teaching hours of experience. She received her Yoga Teacher Certification from Shambhava School of Yoga in Kona, Hawaii. She has practiced and taught Hatha Yoga (primarily) at various venues in the Baton Rouge and surrounding area. Agnes teaches yoga as a stabilizing practice that grounds students. promoting a sense of well-being, strength, confidence, balance, and joy.

Henry S. Bradsher After his award-winning worldwide reporting career, when Henry's last journalism employer closed, the CIA recruited him to become a medal-winning analyst of worldwide intelligence matters.

Dr. Harsha E. Chacko is a Professor Emeritus of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Administration at the University of New Orleans where he taught for 33 years and has successfully completed the requirements for the Certified Specialist of Wine from the Society of Wine Educators. Dr. Chacko is the wine director for Bonne Cuvee Wine Tours, a company with a mission to provide wine educational experiences through wine tastings and travel to premier wine regions. (bonnecuvee.com).

David Clifton is currently a Paramedic at West Feliciana Hospital. He has 37 years' experience in EMS as a provider, EMS educator, flight and critical care paramedic and an EMS manager. David, along with a group of other healthcare professionals, provides all in-house education for West Feliciana Hospital as well as community outreach educational programs.

Penny Crawford never had any formal training in art but has been drawing and painting all her life. She loves to work in watercolor paint, pen, and ink, acrylic and pastel. During the COVID isolation, she developed this system for painting her own greeting cards. Since then, has shared this easy painting technique with hundreds of adults and children during many classes and workshops.

Dr. Erica Daigle is a native of Louisiana who received her BS in Biological Sciences and MA in English from LSU. Her PhD work at the University of Iowa focused on English Renaissance literature (especially Shakespeare) and the history of Western medicine. Erica has taught OLLI courses on Shakespeare, world mythology, the history of medicine, and various topics from Western medieval and Renaissance literature.

Andy D'Aquilla is a local attorney practicing for over 20 years. He was a registered nurse in an earlier time. Andy is domiciled in West Feliciana Parish and is a former middle school teacher.

Mailyn Dias is from France and lives on Northshore! She is a wife and mother of five. Mailyn was a chiropractor in France but having five kids, she now gives French lessons.

Fr. Brad Doyle is pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in St. Francisville, LA. He was ordained to the priesthood after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, LA, and a Master of Divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA. Fr. Brad is an avid golfer, a lover of music, and hosts monthly trivia nights at his town's local bar.

Tommy Draughn, a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge, is an IT professional with 25 years of experience in the corporate, non-profit, and small-business sectors. As the owner of Glasswing Tech, an IT consulting and support company, Tommy has a passion for demystifying technology for people of all ages so they can use and enjoy their electronic devices for fun and productivity. A man of many talents, Tommy is an amateur photographer, founder of an infamous garage band, maker of the best home-made yogurt in the city.

Lance Foster practiced law for over 30 years, mainly in the intellectual property area. He received two engineering degrees and a JD degree from LSU, together with a LLM in international law from McGeorge Law School in Sacramento. Lance has a particular interest in history and economics and how those fields affect legislative and judicial trends.

Cheryl Franklin is a lifelong native and resident of West Feliciana Parish. She attended West Feliciana School System and Southern University (Sociology). Cheryl retired from Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System after 38 years of service. She is currently employed by West Feliciana Council on Aging as the Senior Center Coordinator. She serves with West Young Life and OLLI. Cheryl loves reading, writing, shopping, and helping others. She is also a published poet.

Anthony Germade is a trainer and producer with Karman Line Learning. He has a master's degree in educational technology from LSU (2024) and a master's degree in leadership & human resource education from LSU (2018). He was Executive Director of NAMI Louisiana (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and Executive Producer of MDRT, a global nonprofit in Chicago. Anthony has over twenty-five years of experience in Training and Communications. He lives in Baton Rouge, La.

Jerisse Grantham, owner of the Jeffie Jean Dance Studio, is a dance instructor certified by Dance Masters of America. She earned her BS from LSU and has enjoyed teaching dance for many years in her

studio and schools around Baton Rouge & Zachary. She is an adjunct faculty member at Tulane University and has taught for OLLI at LSU for more than a decade.

Ronnie Harriss has a BS, MBA. He has been Gretna's mayor for 28 yrs.

James Heath is a talented dance instructor who is renowned. He has over 25 years' experience in all styles and levels of ballroom.

Sally Jones is a retired EBR parish teacher of French and some English at both high school and middle school levels. She earned a degree in French education and a minor in English education from LSU in Baton Rouge in May of 1990. Sally taught at Central Middle and High schools and at Zachary High and retired from EBR at Northeast High in 2010.

Jeane Keene started in the death industry in '85...truly a pioneer for a woman in the deathcare industry. She has supported the industry in marketing, training, and supporting initiatives in preneed sales throughout the country. She is a people person with great communication and organizational skills. She is someone with a professional persona, approachable and excited to solve any challenges or problems you may encounter in the industry. Jeane prides herself as a problem solver, guiding sales professionals to reach their goals...and considers herself a true TEAM PLAYER, PLAYER COACH and Cheerleader of the Deathcare Industry.

Owen Kemp has taught OLLI yoga for more than 15 years. She received her training through the Living Yoga program at the Barsana Dham Ashram in Austin, Tx. She attended training sessions at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY & various venues around the U.S. & abroad. Her style is best described as "flow."

Pat Heurtin received her BA from SLU in Health, Physical Education with a Minor in English, and a master's degree plus 30 hours at LSU with emphasis on Health Education. After retiring from teaching and coaching, she became the Physical Director of the YMCA in Lake Charles, LA. She has earned additional certifications in various forms of exercise and fitness in addition to being a Certified Pickleball Instructor.

David Hostetler is a PPR (Professional Pickleball Registry) Certified Pickleball Instructor.

David Howson has a BS in secondary education from LSU (1977) and an MBA from UNO (1992). After 40 years in the marine industry, he began to pursue his passion for South Louisiana culture and cuisines by creating and publishing a website "First...You Have a Beer "(firstyouhaveabeer.com) in 2018. In 2021, he founded Le Bon Papa Seasonings, a company that offers his own branded seasonings.

Sally Charlet Jones is a retired E.B.R. teacher of French and some English in high school and some middle schools. She earned a degree in French education and a minor in English education from L.S.U. in Baton Rouge in May of 1990. Since her retirement in 2010, she has taught many French classes through Olli.

Glen Laborde has been a certified Louisiana Master Gardener since 2013, volunteering as a mentor for the LSU AgCenter's Master Gardening training classes with the Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau, and with City Park Pelican Greenhouse plant sales. Always entertaining, Glen's "Saturday Stories" for those

waiting to enter the greenhouse have become a classic. His expertise is in tropicals, ginger, roses, camellias, and citrus. Glen has a master's in science education from UNO.

Angela Larson is a transplant from Seattle and has been playing Mah Jong for years. She retired from the tech sector, enjoys travel, playing Mah Jong, and yoga.

Mary Beth Fiser Lewis, PT, DPT, WCS, Cert-DN is a Board-certified Women's Clinical Specialist with more than a decade of experience treating pelvic health physical therapy patients of all genders and ages. She started her journey in Pelvic Health Physical Therapy in 2011 after graduating from Washington University in St. Louis with a doctorate in Physical Therapy. Her passion for pelvic health continues to fuel her mission to increase community awareness of how physical therapy can treat bladder and bowel issues as well as pelvic pain. In 2019 she joined Ochsner Health, moving into the role of Pelvic Health Program Supervisor in 2021. In 2023 she started an accredited Women's and Pelvic Health Physical Therapy Residency program which is the only one on the Gulf Coast.

Linda Lightfoot is retired from The Advocate where she worked 42 years, the last fifteen as executive editor. This is the 32nd guest speaker class she has done for OLLI on issues of importance to Louisiana. She is a graduate of Ole Miss with a B.A. in journalism and political science.

Dr. David Lindenfeld received his PhD in history from the University of Chicago in 1973. He taught at LSU from 1974 to 2013, with courses in German and European history, broadening to world history in the 1990s. His publications include *World Christianity and Indigenous Experience: A Global History, 1500-2000* (2021). His recent turn to American history is motivated by his concern over the extreme polarization in our politics.

Sue Lockwood is a retired teacher and graduate of LSU. Working with children for 29 years and assisting my husband on book projects has brought me great joy. A student of yoga for many years, she received her teacher training at Barsana Dham Ashram in Austin, Texas through The Living Yoga School. Many yoga retreats and classes have enriched her study of this ancient practice.

Merrie Lee Logan, originally from Iowa, attended The University of Iowa and La Universidad Iberoamericana, before graduating from LSU with a degree in Spanish, French, and English. She taught in public and private high schools for twenty years before joining OLLI.

Kathy Lovett is a Board-Certified Patient Advocate, a Certified Senior Advisor, and a Registered Respiratory Therapist. She is also a community speaker for the Care Partner Project Organization. The Care Partner Project is dedicated to demystifying health care with plain language and simple "to do" checklists so all of us can support our loved ones' care – with confidence and grace. She has over 30 years' experience in healthcare and is passionate about helping others be an informed care partner.

Dr. Margaret M. Marshall has a Ph. D in French from The Pennsylvania State University. As a specialist in Creole languages and Louisiana French, she is one of the authors of the *Dictionary of Louisiana Creole* (Indiana University Press 1998) and *Parcours Louisianais: Panorama de la littérature francophone de Louisiane de ses origines à 1900* (University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press 2022). She is a Fulbright Scholar and a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

Dr. Marchita Mauck is a retired Professor of Art History at LSU. She earned a Ph.D. in Medieval Studies at Tulane University, and has been a visiting professor at Notre Dame University, and at Yale University.

She serves as a Liturgical Design Consultant for new and church renovation projects throughout the country.

Antonio Molesini is an Italian wine specialist for Republic National Distributing Company. He is a native of Cortona, Tuscany, Italy and has conducted wine tastings and wine classes at various locations in Baton Rouge for more than 25 years.

Pamela Myers is a retired extension agent with a master's degree in nutrition from LSU. During her career Pam taught a variety of skills and knowledge to youth and adults. Pam learned to make ribbed baskets from a coworker over 30 years ago and went on to learn other styles on her own. She taught her first basketmaking class for OLLI in 2017.

Dr. Elaine Orr received her PhD from the University of New Orleans and is a certified yoga instructor through the Temple of Kriya Yoga, Chicago, IL. She has taught yoga and meditation for over 20 years. While working at a local university she taught stress management, holistic health as well as other health and biological courses.

Dr. Olivia McNeely Pass has a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and two master's degrees, in literature and journalism, from Louisiana State University. She has taught for 22 years at the high school level and for 30 years at the university level. She enjoys both teaching and taking OLLI classes.

Jane Patterson is currently president and education chair for the Baton Rouge chapter of The National Audubon Society. She has been teaching birdwatching classes since 2007 and has introduced hundreds of people to the pastime. Jane has been honored by the National Audubon Society, the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and the Louisiana Ornithological Society for her volunteer efforts for conservation and education. Jane also earned her certification as a Louisiana Master Naturalist in 2018. She is especially fond of gardening with native plants to support birds, butterflies and insects and other wildlife.

Jann Peck - Her LSU undergraduate degree is English/Spanish/Dance Education while my graduate degree is Curriculum and Instruction. She is retired after 46 years teaching in public education, but she continues to teach even in retirement for OLLI, her Church, her grandchildren...it is part of who she is. Music and dancing, not always exercise, have always been a part of her life since she was 3 years old, whether dance recitals, Baton Rouge Little Theater Musicals, LSU Student Musicals, Aerobic Dancercise.

Troy Lynne Perrault is a realtor at the Garden District Office of Latter & Blum, a Compass Company, licensed in the State of Louisiana since 2008. She has gained unique insights from representing buyers and sellers throughout Greater New Orleans. She has earned the Latter & Blum Gold/Silver Award annually from 2015 to present. Additionally, from 2015 to present she holds the Seller Representative Specialist (SRS) designation to better represent sellers; the Associated Buyer Representative (ABR) designation to better represent buyers; and the Historic House Specialist Designation by the Preservation Resource Center to better assist buyers purchasing and renovating older homes. She holds a master's degree in public administration, a bachelor's degree in general studies, and a certificate in Paralegal Studies from the University of New Orleans, and she is a fellow of the Institute of Politics at Loyola University.

Rick Pitcher has had a lifelong interest in Louisiana's music, culture, and history. He is a vocalist, plays guitar, and in his younger days moonlighted as a radio DJ playing New Orleans jazz and Big Band music. Rick has previously taught OLLI classes in New Orleans Jazz and New Orleans Rhythm and Blues and the Birth of Rock N' Roll.

Kevin G Portz

Sue Potts received a BS, Masters, and Educational Specialist in education from LSU. She retired after teaching history for 40 years. Since retirement she has worked as a city guide for Visit Baton Rouge and the riverboats, Old Governor's Mansion, Old State Capitol, and the current Governor's Mansion. She has also taught classes through OLLI.

Dr. Perry Prestholdt received a bachelor's degree in architecture and history, as well as a doctorate in psychology from the University of Minnesota. Now he is retired after almost 40 years as an LSU faculty member and administrator, he teaches OLLI courses and serves on the Advisory Council.

Lee Brandt Randall is an artist, illustrator, and arts educator residing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She taught studio art and art history to high school students for 30 years. Lee has been the costume designer for the legendary Krewe of Yazoo Precision Lawn Mower Drill Team, since 1984. The krewe members refer to her as the "MacGyver of rubber foam."

Carla Reeves is a Certified Pickleball coach, Professional Pickleball Registry-the official education and certification partner of USA Pickleball.

Martha Robson loves to play bridge! An ACBL certified Best Practices Instructor, she plays at the bridge club in Metairie, and she spends way too much time in on-line games. She believes that playing bridge is one of the best things you can do for your brain, and she loves helping people learn how to approach this complex and fascinating game. Martha is a retired Pastor, used to work as a tour guide, and loves to cook (and eat).

Gregory Scott is an honorably discharged U.S. Army veteran. He attended Georgia Military College [AAS Applied Science and the University of New Orleans [BA History; BA English; BA Philosophy; MA History (Public History)]. Gregory began working at the Slidell Museum in 2018 with little to no knowledge of Slidell. He progressed to Curator, then Museum Director. Now he is recognized as a noted authority on the history of Slidell with numerous published articles and narratives about Slidell's history.

Edna Silverman has been playing and teaching Mah Jongg for 20+ years.

Jane Simmons Having trained and obtained certification in Austin, Texas, the Living Yoga Program, Janie Simmons taught yoga for twenty years and has taught in a variety of settings and groups. She also has trained in other locations as near as Baton Rouge and as far away as Portugal. Throughout her training and teaching, she continues to endorse the power of Yoga" as the ideal exercise to practice, especially as we age.

Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D., J.D., is retired from her law practice and teaching at the university and law school levels. She now creates informative and enjoyable OLLI courses for universities around the nation.

Sheriff Brian Spillman is a native of West Feliciana and has served as the elected Sheriff since 2020. He began his career in law enforcement with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1981 and served there until his retirement in 2007, when he joined the West Feliciana Sheriff's Office.

Dr. Robert St. Amant (moderator) practiced Family Medicine in Baton Rouge for 33 years and Clinical Lipidology for 11 years before retiring in 2022. He is a board-certified Family Physician and Diplomate, American Board of Clinical Lipidology and continues to educate clinicians in cholesterol management and heart attack prevention. He practiced Family Medicine with Dr. Trent James and together they served as Co-moderators of the OLLI "So What! You're Over 50!" Medical/Surgical Lecture Series.

Mark B. Stahl provides professional services and consulting to business organizations, government agencies, and universities on an array of workforce and professional development-related topics. Mark has extensive experience as a continuing education administrator at the University of New Orleans, at the Indiana University School of Medicine, and serves as a consultant to universities and organizations throughout Louisiana. His lifelong interests include photography, gardening, listening to live music, collecting sports cards, bicycling, and playing tennis badly.

Versa Stickle has degrees in English (South Dakota) and Library Science (LSU.)

Dr. William "Bill" Stickle received a BS in Biology from Slippery Rock University in 1965, MS in Zoology from University of South Dakota in 1967, and PhD from the University of Saskatchewan at Regina (PhD biology, minor in oceanography) in 1970. He taught at LSU from 1972-2015. Bill developed the LSU Marine Biology in Southeast Alaska Program, now in its 15th year. He has conducted research around the world.

Dr. Emily Toth earned her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University where she wrote her dissertation on Kate Chopin. She is a professor at Louisiana State University and the author of eleven published books, including *Unveiling Kate Chopin*, the definitive biography.

David Treppendahl lives in Saint Francisville and first taught this class in the summer of 2024. Several of the students who attended were from Baton Rouge and so enjoyed the class that they asked him to teach it again, but for the Lagniappe Chapter.

Dr. Francis Vanderwall is a Theologian, Retreat Facilitator, Spiritual Director, and Psychologist of Religion. He is also an author of seven books on prayer, spirituality, psychology, and Scripture. He received his Doctorate from the Graduate Theological Union and was a Jesuit for 27 years.

Eddie Vaughn is a speaker for CW groups. He has two BA's, Masters, PhD program ABD.

Keegan Waldrop has a BA, is a US Army Retiree, and speaker for CW groups.

Janice (Jan) Walters is a certified paramedical aesthetician, licensed cosmetologist, practicing clinician and a Skin Care school owner for 20 years. Her practice was in Colorado, and she owned the largest Skin Care school in the metro area. Jan's specialty was acne scoring and discoloration and she practiced

permanent cosmetics since the late 1980s when it first came on the scene it was an exciting career. Now she is fully retired and enjoying retirement but hopes to help you attain the perfect brow.

Elizabeth Williams founded the Southern Food & Beverage Museum and authored several books about food and culture, especially New Orleans food culture. Her podcast, "Tip of the Tongue," about food, drink, and culture, appears weekly. Graduate of LSU Law Center. She practiced law in Washington, DC, and Louisiana. She has served as a judge in many cooking competitions and consulted internationally on the food of New Orleans.

Dr. Joe Willis is the LSU Horticulture Agent for Orleans Parish and holds a BS in botany from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of California-Riverside. Dr. Joe has expertise in microbiology, genetics, plant pathology, horticulture, greenhouse management, aquaponics, hydroponics, nursery crop production, field crop production, apiculture, composting, and vegetable crop production. He has monthly articles in GNO Gardening magazine and appearances on WWL-TV and WVUE-TV.

Betty Woody graduated from UNC, Chapel Hill, NC with a BA in English, received a TN teacher's and library science degree from Memphis University, attended Boston College for a summer course in Sacred Dance and completed a yearlong program in Contemplative Movement in Amhurst, MA. She led workshops in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Louisiana.