Spring 2022 Instructor Biographies

Leah Barron graduated with a JD from LSU Law School and a BA in Political Science with a minor in history from LSU. She has taken an unfailing interest in American Revolutionary history.

Thomas Beard has a Ph.D. from Duke University and is an alumni professor emeritus of economics at LSU. He has taught thirty-eight opera courses for the Lagniappe Chapter of OLLI at LSU and eight opera courses for OLLI at Auburn Univ.

Kim Bergeron holds a BFA in Applied Arts/Advertising from ULL and Accreditation in Public Relations from the Public Relations Society of America. She has received regional and national awards in advertising, marketing, public relations, and special event productions.

Agnes Bickham is a Yoga Alliance ERYT with experience of 1,000+ teaching hours. She received her Yoga Teacher Certification from Shambhava School of Yoga. She teaches yoga as a stabilizing practice that promotes a sense of well-being, strength, confidence, balance, and joy.

Jim Bolner received his bachelor’s degree in education from LSU, his master’s from LSU in government, his Ph.D. in political science from the Univ. of Virginia. He has taught at the Univ. of Alabama and the Univ. of Massachusetts at Amherst before coming to LSU in 1967.

Henry Bradsher has ranged over the world as a foreign correspondent, a CIA senior analyst, and a cruise ship lecturer, acquiring all sorts of miscellaneous knowledge for development into adult education classes.

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. He successfully completed the requirements as a Certified Specialist of Wine from the Society of Wine Educators.

Phil Chenevert is a long-time enthusiastic collector of word and phrase origins. He is retired, and enjoys taking care of his wife, very short walks on the beach, eating, napping, recording audiobooks at home and generally having as much fun as possible.

Dr. Katie E. Cherry is a professor of psychology at LSU. She earned her Ph.D. from the Univ. of Georgia. Her grant funded research program has resulted in over 185 publications. In 2002, she was awarded the Emogene Pliner Distinguished Professor of Aging Studies professorship for her contributions to the field of adult development and aging.

Charlotte Lowry Collins received her art degrees from LSU and UNO, and an M.F.A. from Memphis College of Art. She was an Assoc. Professor of Art at Kennesaw State Univ. and taught at SELU. Charlotte currently teaches at Talented Arts at University View Academy.

Stacie Davis has an BA and a M.L.I.S. from LSU. Genealogy and family history has been a hobby of hers with a particular interest in immigrants from Alimena, Palermo Province, Sicily to the United States, especially who came to LA. She is currently the Director of the West Feliciana Parish Library.

Erica Daigle, PhD, is a native of Louisiana and received her BS and MA from LSU. Her Ph.D. work at the Univ. of Iowa focused on English Renaissance literature (especially Shakespeare) and medical
history. Erica has taught writing, British literature, Biblical and classical literature, and world mythology courses at the college level.

**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. 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.

**Paul Graham** received his Ph.D. at LSU in English with a concentration in American film, in 2002. He received his master's degree from the UNO, where he studied medieval literature. He has taught multiple writing, literature, and film courses at LSU, WVU, and OLLI at LSU.

**Jerisse Grantham**, owner of the Jeffie Jean Dance Studio, is a certified dance teacher. She earned her BS from LSU and has enjoyed teaching dance for more than 30 years. She is also a 20-year adjunct faculty member at Tulane University.

**Lawrence “Sal” Guidry, Ph.D.,** has been a licensed psychologist for over 40 years. He was a staff psychologist at VA Medical Center for 27 years, a clinical associate psychology professor in the Dept. of Psychiatry at Tulane Medical School, and in the Dept. of Psychiatry at LSU Medical School.

**Rich Hirsch** has a BA in political science from LSU and is a certified Project Management Professional. He is an expert in nuclear plant operations and managing radioactive materials. He worked in the US, England, Taiwan, Ukraine, and the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.

**Lorrie Ingram** has been a sewing\quilting instructor for the past 30 years. Sewing and quilting is her passion, and she loves sharing it with others.

**Trent James** is a board-certified family physician and retired from active practice. He is involved in camellias and is passionate about their history, culture, and care.

**Relius Johnson** is currently the Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs at the Univ. of Texas at Arlington. Relius is an alumni of LSU, Univ. of Central Arkansas, and Texas A&M Univ. -Commerce. Relius has a passion for engaging in DEI work.

**Robert Kelley** played pickleball more than 12 years, won more than 150 medals in over 10 states, is a PPR certified coach and for over 10 years has served as a pickleball ambassador.

**Owen Kemp** has been a yoga instructor for many years receiving her yoga 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 and various venues around the country and internationally.

**W. J. (Dub) Lane** (Ph.D. Univ. of California, San Diego) Chair of the Department of Economics and Finance; Freeport-McMoRan Professor of Economics; Director, MS Program in Health Care Management and MS program in Finance at UNO. He is a specialist in Microeconomics and Health Care Economics.

**Sam LeBlanc** is a retired attorney and civic volunteer.
Linda Lightfoot received her BA in journalism and political science from the Univ. of Mississippi. Retired from The Advocate, she worked there for 42 years, 15 as executive editor. For OLLI, she has arranged 24 guest speaker classes and has taught 12 courses on political and legal issues.

Sue Lincoln earned her BA in general studies from LSU. Retired from broadcasting, the former news director and host of WRKF’s Capitol Access still writes articles for the Bayou Brief. She has extensively studied Tudor history and participates in Renaissance events all around the country.

Merrie Lee Logan attended the Univ. of Iowa and La Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, before moving to Louisiana and graduating from LSU with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish, French and English. She taught in various high schools for almost 20 years before joining OLLI.

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.

Jennifer Page received her MA and Ph.D. in English from ULL. She is a former associate professor of English at Northwestern Oklahoma State Univ. and is a current Learning Experience Designer at LSU Online. Her graduate research focused on gender in Renaissance revenge plays.

David Parker, II is a graduate of the Univ. of Mississippi with a bachelor’s degree in social work and has completed master classes in floral design and is working towards his CFD. After 27 years in the medical field, he is now the owner of Stems Boutique Florist St Francisville.

Olivia McNeely Pass has a Ph.D. from ULL and two master’s degrees from LSU in English and journalism. She retired from Nicholls State Univ. and has since taught as an adjunct for Tulane in Biloxi as well as Southern Univ., Baton Rouge Community College, and LSU.

Jane Patterson is an avid birder who loves to share her love of birds with others. She is currently president and education chair for the Baton Rouge chapter of The National Audubon Society. She has been teaching birding classes since 2007.

TroyLynne Perrault holds a master’s degree in Public Administration, is a licensed realtor, and is a Pampered Chef consultant who loves to help people make healthier food choices. She received a Certificate of Completion of “The Plant Fed Gut Online Course” which focused on optimizing your gut microbiome.

Brian Pope, MA from Univ. of Texas at Austin, performs the creative and hosting duties for Center Stage on WRKF-FM, a weekly one-hour radio show. He was inducted into Theater BR’s Hall of Fame and is also an adjunct instructor at NSU in Natchitoches where he teaches Musical Theater History and Literature.

Kevin Portz holds a MA degree history from the Univ. of Texas at Dallas. A federal retiree who worked for the Social Security Administration, he is a former manager of the Baton Rouge Social Security District Office. Kevin served as an adjunct professor of history at Dallas College/Richland.

Lee Randall graduated from LSU with a BFA. She taught art history to high school students for 24 years at Runnels School.
Marie Ricca intertwines lifelong studies of sports, dance, and martial arts. Initially trained in Taekwondo, she received her black belt in Shotokan from Mikame Sensei with JKA and later acquired her second degree under the training of Darrell Goodyear Sensei with USANKF.

Martha Robson loves to play bridge! A retired pastor, she time playing at the bridge club in Metairie and online. She also 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.

Karl Roider graduated from Yale Univ. with an AB in History and from Stanford Univ. with a Ph.D. in History. He began teaching as an instructor in the LSU History Dept. and retired as Alumni Professor Emeritus. He served as chair of the department and later dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Ralph Schomburg has a BS in math and an MBA in finance. He worked at NASA in Houston, TX and retired as Assistant CFO. He was a part-time math instructor at San Jacinto College and is an avid bridge student and enthusiast.

Rose Maria Sand continues to find her limits, break through them, learn, and share those learnings with others through art, music, and writing. She hopes to encourage others to never let fears get in the way of trying new things.

Art Scarbrough, a native of Baton Rouge, retired from ExxonMobil after 31 years. He is the current chair of the Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit, certified Master Naturalist and Vice President of the Baton Rouge Botanic Garden Foundation.

Nancy Sidener earned her A.B. at UC, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. at UC, Davis. Before retiring, she taught economics at the Univ. of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and part-time at LSU while directing the Louisiana Council for Economic Education.

Jane Simmons has taught yoga for over 15 years and has developed a style and pace that is approachable for all levels. Yoga is an essential aspect of fitness, especially regarding flexibility and balance as the aging process threatens many of OLLI’s members.

Mark B. Stahl provides consulting services on professional workforce and economic development-related topics to many organizations. Currently, he builds partnerships between LSU and regional business, government, and not-for-profit organizations. He also serves as business development consultant for the Gulfcoast Regional Education and Training Consortium.

Versa Stickle has degrees in English from the Univ. of South Dakota and library science from LSU. She has participated in various writing workshops since retiring.

William Stickle received his Ph.D. from the Univ. of Saskatchewan, Regina in biology with a minor in oceanography. He taught zoology, physiology, marine communities, environmental physiology, and biological sciences at LSU. He also developed LSU Marine Biology in Southeast Alaska Program.

Emily Toth (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins) is in her second century of teaching about women writers and women’s lives. Her published books include academic advice under "Ms. Mentor," biographies of Kate Chopin and Grace Metalious, and an award-winning Civil War novel.
Ken Tremblay received his BA in both history and anthropology from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. He graduated from LSU with his MA in anthropology, his thesis titled, “The Bioarcheology of the Lake St. Agnes Mound Site: Exploring Diet from Fragmentary Remains.”

David Treppendahl

Francis W Vanderwall, a theologian and author of six books in spirituality and psychology, was awarded his Ph.D. by the Graduate Theological Union and his Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. He is a professor emeritus from the Franciscan Univ. and has taught courses for OLLI over the last 10 years. He was a Jesuit for almost 30 years.

Kirk Vidrine working as a fitness professional for over 18 years, including five years developing wellness programs for Shell Oil, has an BS in dietetics and a master’s in human nutrition from LSU. He has presented at national conferences, researched nutrition and body composition, bone health, and bio compounds.