Spring 2016

Instructor Bios

**Chris Andrews**, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University (BA) and Saint Paul School of Theology (MDiv), served 42 years as a United Methodist minister, including 22 years as senior pastor of First UMC, Baton Rouge. He currently leads Jubilee Pioneers, an extension of the ministry of Jubilee Asheville, North Carolina. He is executive director of the non-profit organization Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge, whose mission is to help older homeowners remain in their homes and age in place by providing small repairs and alterations to houses.

**Caroline Armbruster** is currently pursuing a PhD in British history with the LSU Department of History. She received her MA from LSU in 2013 and her BA from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2010. She holds a graduate teaching assistantship with LSU.

**Pama Barber**, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, holds both a series 7 and a series 66 securities registrations as well as an insurance license. She earned an MBA from the University of Hartford and an undergraduate degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She spent 14 years as an RN in various educator/management roles before relocating to Baton Rouge with her family. Her practice is built on the principles of highly personalized service, tailored financial solutions, compassion, and trust.

**Venkat R. Banda**, MD, FACP, is board certified in internal medicine and in hospital medicine. He is medical director of Hospital Medicine Group, which serves as hospitalists for the General Health System, caring for hospitalized patients in their facilities. Dr. Banda is program director of the Baton Rouge General Internal Medicine Residency Program. He has served as chief of medicine of the BRGMC medical staff. He received his medical degree from Siddhartha Medical College, India, and completed an internal medicine residency at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, Illinois. He has been in active practice in Baton Rouge since 1995. Dr. Banda is a clinical assistant professor of medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine.

**Virginia Barden**, LCSW-BACS, was awarded her MSW from LSU in 1998. Ginny and her family moved to Baton Rouge in 1981. She interned at The McMains Center and Baton Rouge Mental Health. Ginny initiated her hospice work 16 years ago. She has been employed by St. Joseph Hospice since 2003. She is currently working in homecare, the AIM Program, the Carpenter House, and supervises LMSW’s seeking licensure. Ginny also participates in volunteer trainings, the Bereavement Program, and Community Outreach.

**Donald Beale** has an MALA from LSU in general humanities with an emphasis on film studies. He has done additional graduate coursework in English, with a concentration in American literature and film. He has taught composition and technical writing for the LSU English department and a course on Russian cinema for the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures. He is director, Distance Learning Programs, at LSU Continuing Education.

**Thomas Beard** has a PhD from Duke University, and is an alumni professor emeritus of economics at LSU. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from LSU. Beard is an opera enthusiast and collector of opera recordings.

**Jim Bolner, Sr.**, is a professor emeritus of political science at LSU. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Virginia. His area of expertise is American constitutional
law and history. He has taught at LSU and several other universities in the United States and France. Since his retirement from LSU in 1999, he has taught courses in the OLLI program on American politics and digital photography.

**Marjorie Bourgeois** is a licensed physical therapist in the state of Louisiana who graduated from Missouri University in 1968, and taught at St. Louis University in the early 1970s. She passed the National Certification for Athletic Trainers in 1994, at UL Lafayette. She was the first woman outside New Orleans to open a private physical therapy clinic in Louisiana. She owned and operated her practice in Church Point for 33 years before relocating to Baton Rouge.

**Carla Bowman** is a retired full-charge bookkeeper. She has done calligraphy for 15 years, and is employed part-time by Grace Episcopal Church.

**Anne Butler** has English degrees from Sweet Briar College in Virginia (BA) and Humbolt State Univ. in California (MA) and has written more than a dozen books and hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles on Louisiana history and culture. As a descendant of some of West Feliciana’s earliest settlers, the author of the local tourist guide, and longtime occupant of one of the area’s historic plantations, she knows a thing or two about the history of this unusual area.

**Peter Callery** is a Jesuit with a BA in philosophy and an MDiv in theology. He taught in high schools for 36 years. He is currently a retreat director at Manresa House of Retreats in Convent, Louisiana. He has long had an interest in how the stories that we experience affect our own life stories.

**John Carville** has taught Christian ethics and bio-ethics at Notre Dame Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in New Orleans, Loyola University New Orleans, and LSU. He is currently the chair of the ethics committee at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge and a columnist for The Catholic Commentator of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. He has previously lectured on end-of-life issues for OLLI at LSU.

**Vince D. Cataldo, MD, FACP**, is board-certified in oncology, in hematology, and in internal medicine. He has been in the practice of oncology-hematology in the Baton Rouge area since 2009 and is associated with Our Lady of the Lake Physician Group. Dr. Cataldo has been section chief at the BRGMC and is currently section chief at the OLOL RMC. He received his MD at LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans in 2002; completed residency training in internal medicine at LSUHSC, where he was chief resident in 2005-06, and fellowship training in hematology/oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, where he was chief fellow in 2008-09. Dr. Cataldo is currently clinical assistant professor at LSUHSC and at Tulane University School of Medicine.

**Thomas A. Caton, MD**, received his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University, and he attended American University of the Caribbean for medical school. Dr. Caton completed his family medicine residency with Tulane University’s program at the Baton Rouge General Hospital System, having served as chief resident his final year. Following residency, he completed an additional medical fellowship in geriatric medicine with Texas A&M in Corpus Christi, Texas. Dr. Caton has recently joined the core faculty for Tulane’s Family Medicine Residency in Baton Rouge and plans to start his own fellowship training program in geriatric medicine by 2017. His passion is geriatrics, especially the dementia spectrum and its associated behaviors. In his free time, Dr. Caton enjoys playing the piano and spending time with his wife Stephanie.
Erica Daigle, PhD, University of Iowa, is a native of Louisiana and received her BS and MA from LSU. Her primary research interest is the literature and science of the English Renaissance, and she has secondary special interests in cultural history and Louisiana literature.

J. Benton Dupont, MD FACS, is professor of clinical surgery at LSUHSC, New Orleans. Since 1981, he has been actively involved in the practice of general surgery and surgical oncology and graduate medical education here in Baton Rouge. Professional activities include continuous board certification by the American Board of Surgery since 1981; chief of staff of the Baton Rouge General Medical Center from 1998–2005; member of the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons 1996-2006; chairman of the Cancer Physician Liaison Program of the Commission 2000-2003; Louisiana governor-at-large of the Board of Governors, American College of Surgeons 1992-1998; executive committee member of the Commission on Cancer 2000-2006; and president of the La. Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, Surgical Association of Louisiana, and the Cohn-Rives Surgical Society at LSU.

Karen Egedy is a Baton Rouge native and a retired mathematics instructor, having taught at LSU and BRCC.

Frances Falcon, BS Florida State University, is an active rosarian and editor of Botanic Garden Newsletter. She is active with the Rose Society and the Botanic Garden Foundation.

Claire Fontenot has been a master gardener for 15 years. She presently coordinates the volunteers at BREC Independence Park Botanic Garden, where she has developed an American Daylily Society display garden, the Louisiana iris, and ginger displays. She continues to provide information about home gardening.

Charles Fryling, Jr. received his MS in landscape architecture from Harvard University and currently teaches LSU landscape architecture courses such as plant materials, regional planning, ecology, and views of the American landscape. As an environmental activist, he’s been involved in environmental concerns of preservation, conservation, restoration and social justice for the past 45 years and is particularly known for his concern about the protection of the Atchafalaya Basin. When not teaching, he travels extensively around the United States and beyond, taking photographs of an endless variety of public lands, landscapes, gardens, plants and planting designs, accumulating a wealth of illustrations for his lectures at LSU and for his OLLI classes.

Jordan Goldson assumed his role as spiritual leader of Congregation B’nai Israel in 2009. Rabbi Jordan was born and raised in Long Island, New York. After earning a BA in philosophy from Tulane University in 1981, he began his studies for the rabbinate at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. He studied in Jerusalem, in Los Angeles, and in New York, where he was ordained in 1987. Rabbi Goldson’s first pulpit was in Calgary, Canada where he served for 12 years. Rabbi Jordan received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Union College in 2012 in recognition of his 25 distinguished years of service to the Jewish community. Prior to coming to Baton Rouge, Rabbi Jordan served for five years as the senior rabbi of Temple Kol Ami in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jerisse Grantham owns the Jeffie Jean Dance Studio, which her mother started more than 73 years ago. Grantham teaches all forms of dance at the studio, and at public and private schools in the Baton Rouge area. She is a 13-year adjunct faculty member of Tulane University in the
theater and dance department. She is also certified to teach by Dance Masters of America. She earned her BS from LSU, and has enjoyed the art of teaching and sharing the passion of dance for more than 30 years.

**Erin Halloran** graduated with a BA in history from the University of Minnesota, Morris in 2005. She spent her junior year abroad attending the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. In 2008, she moved to Baton Rouge and enrolled in at LSU as a graduate student in history. She received her MA in 2011 and is currently in the research phase of her dissertation, on the topic of the professionalization of the medical field in England during the 16th and 17th centuries.

**James Hardy**, PhD, is a professor of history at LSU. He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Nancy Harris** earned an MFA in painting and an MA in art history from LSU. She has worked as an instructor at McNeese State University, and has taught short courses in art for Continuing Education and OLLI.

**Neal Hebert** received his BA in theatre from LSU in 2003 and his MA in philosophy in 2008. He will receive his PhD in theatre history in the summer of 2015. A native of Charenton, Louisiana, Hebert currently resides in Baton Rouge. Hebert is an experienced director and dramaturg, and has presented his research at both national and international conferences throughout the past six years.

**John Howe** is retired from the LSU School of Medicine, where he was director of the LSU Family Practice Residency Program and family medicine department head for 23 years. He graduated from Tulane Medical School. He has studied tai chi for eight years under John Langlois. He enjoys introducing others to this ancient Chinese practice of movement meditation, which has proven health benefits.

**Trenton L. James**, MD, FAAFP, is a retired, board-certified family physician who still serves as a preceptor for residents in family medicine and medical students from Tulane and LSU. Dr. James serves as an associate medical director of the Quality Innovation Network/Quality Improvement Organization for Medicare in Louisiana, which improves the quality of healthcare and patient safety in hospitals, nursing homes, home health and hospice agencies, and in provider offices across the state.

**Sally Jones** retired from the East Baton Rouge School System after teaching French and English at both middle and high school levels over the course of 20 years. She graduated from LSU’s College of Education with a major degree in French education and a minor degree in English education. Jones began her teaching career at Central Middle School, and then moved on to Central and Zachary High Schools before finishing her teaching years at Northeast High in Pride.

**Steven E. Kelley**, MD, is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, and interventional cardiology. Dr. Kelley has been in practice in the Baton Rouge area since 2002. He is associated with Baton Rouge Cardiology as a clinical interventional cardiologist, and is on the active medical staffs at Baton Rouge General and Our Lady of the Lake medical centers. His medical degree is from University of Arkansas College of Medicine. Following his residency in internal medicine at St. Louis University Hospital in Missouri, Dr. Kelley completed a cardiology fellowship at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and an interventional
cardiology fellowship at University of Alabama at Birmingham, as well as additional training in CT angiography and transcatheter aortic valve replacement. He is currently president of the Capital Area chapter of the American Heart Association and a member of the board of directors of the Greater Southeast Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

Owen Kemp has been a yoga instructor for several years, and received her yoga training through the Living Yoga program at the Barsana Dham Ashram in Austin, Texas. She attended training sessions at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York and various venues around the country. Her yoga style is best described as flow.

Noelle LeBlanc has been playing bridge since she was 14 years old (more than half a century!). She played bridge almost 30 years in the New Orleans officially sanctioned duplicate bridge game at the Bridge Center of New Orleans. Noelle has great expertise in both bidding and playing of the hand as evidenced by her accumulation of numerous master points over the years. Presently, she plays both duplicate and rubber bridge in the St. Francisville area.

Louis Leggio is a Baton Rouge native who attended Baton Rouge High, LSU, and LSU Medical School. He received post-graduate training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and the Wilmington (Del) Medical Center. He is retired from his general pediatrics practice at the Baton Rouge Clinic.

Sarah Liberta, MA in English from Texas Christian University, is a retired English professor whose favorite hobby is growing and cooking with fresh herbs. She has written herb columns for Louisiana Gardener, Louisiana Cookin' and The Essential Herbal magazines and has contributed to numerous cookbooks and other publications. As owner of HERBS by Sarah, she provides her clients with numerous herbal education, research, and business services.

Linda Lightfoot, BA, is retired from The Advocate. She worked for the newspaper for 42 years, the last 15 as executive director.

Roberta Loflin obtained a BA in art history and theory from George Washington University, and lived in the Washington, DC area for several years. She studied communication design at Northern Virginia Community College and color theory, watercolor, and drawing at the Art League School in Alexandria, Virginia. Since moving to Baton Rouge, she has had the opportunity to teach watercolor through the Louisiana Art and Artists’ Guild, Osher Lifelong Leaning Institute at LSU (OLLI), LSU Leisure Courses, private lessons, and other art organizations. She currently has artwork at the Hermann-Grima Gallery and at various locations in the Baton Rouge area.

Merrie Lee Logan and her husband moved to Louisiana from the Midwest. She attended the University of Iowa before graduating from LSU with a degree in English, Spanish, and French. She taught languages in public/private schools for 20 years.

Marti Luke, BA in theatre, Dominican College in New Orleans. Following a successful early career in radio and television, she operated Ideas Unlimited for 20-plus years, a marketing, PR, fundraising, and event-planning business. She has had a lifelong interest in physical fitness activities, race walking, aerobics, and recently, Zumba. Luke is certified to teach Zumba, Zumba Gold, and Zumba Chair.
Edwin Lyon retired from a career as an archaeologist and historian with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans. He received his PhD in history from LSU, as well as his MA in anthropology. He taught Mississippi River courses at night at Tulane University along with other courses on public history and travel and history. He has visited archaeological and historical sites in the United States, Great Britain, the Mediterranean, and Central America. His most memorable travel experience was going inside Menkaure’s Pyramid, the third pyramid on the Giza Plateau in Egypt.

Fara Mabrey is a native of Italy who has taught Italian and French in schools in both Italy and France. She has a bachelor’s degree in foreign languages from the Università Di Bari and has lived in Switzerland and France for extended periods of time. She has taught Italian at the LSU Leisure classes since January 2001.

Denise Magnat has a BA in education from the University of Algiers, North Africa. She has taught French as a foreign language to all age groups for 37 years in several countries in Africa, Europe, the South Pacific, a few states in the US, and for ten years with the OLLI at LSU program.

Hugo A. Marrero, Jr., CFS® is a financial advisor and vice president with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. The Institute of Business & Finance (IBF) awarded Mr. Marrero with the first nationally recognized mutual fund designation, CFS® (Certified Fund Specialist®). Mr. Marrero is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in finance. A native of Baton Rouge, he has been faithfully serving his clients’ needs since 1988. He currently holds the following securities licenses: Series 6, Series 7, Series 22, Series 63 and Series 65. He is Life, Health and Variable Annuity licensed with the State of Louisiana Department of Insurance, along with various other states and provides Investment Advisory services all across the nation. He is very devoted to his family and his faith and gives of his time to his church and community.

Dianne Martin has 35 years’ experience in training, media, marketing, sales, and education. Her lectures, courses, and seminars have received media coverage in radio, television, and print—local and regional. She created the Augelle Healing Center in Roswell, Georgia, where she maintained a practice as a holistic practitioner and taught classes in the healing arts from a physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual viewpoint.

Marchita Mauck holds a PhD in medieval studies from Tulane University, and an MA in liturgical studies and theology from Notre Dame University. She retired as professor of art history from LSU, and taught as a visiting professor at Notre Dame University, Yale Divinity School, and the Chicago Theological Union. She has served as an award-winning liturgical design consultant on projects throughout the United States.

Ellen McDowell is a Baton Rouge native with a passion for social media. She is an authorized local expert and master certified as a solution provider with Constant Contact. She owns Ellen McDowell—Your Social Butterfly, a local social media and e-mail marketing firm. As a certified professional speaker, she is sure to make all of her courses entertaining as well as informative.

Alison McFarland is an associate professor of musicology at LSU, and received her PhD from University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1999. McFarland won a Fulbright Fellowship to Rome and several other research grants in Italy and England. Her work has been published in national and international journals.
Wendy Morgan, MA, has been teaching acting and speech to children and adults in the Baton Rouge area since 1974 through organizations such as OLLI at LSU and Theatre Baton Rouge. She enjoys teaching basic acting because she is able to help her students overcome their fear of performance and find their voice. She has an undergraduate degree in theater and an MA in curriculum and instruction from LSU. Wendy recently retired from LSU’s Department of Communication Studies.

Barrett Murphy, MA, has 40-plus years experience as a teacher and a coach. He served in the Marine Corps 1955-58, received a BS from LSU, and an MA in education from Southern University. In 2009, he was elected to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association & Louisiana High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Susan E. Nelson, MD, FACP, FAAHPM, is an advocate for senior health. She is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, and hospice and palliative medicine. Dr. Nelson serves as medical director of senior services and PACE Baton Rouge/Lafayette, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System and St. Joseph Hospice. Chair of the LaPOST Coalition, a statewide network of health care professionals, Dr. Nelson was recently named vice-chair of the national Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Paradigm Task Force and its executive committee. As chair of the LaPOST Coalition, she works tirelessly to increase awareness and provide education about the LaPOST document, which is designed to improve the quality of end-of-life care and effectively communicate the wishes of patients with serious, advanced illnesses.

Steven Newman has been general manager of Rabenhorst Funeral Home for the past five years. He has served Baton Rouge families as a funeral director and embalmer for the past 29 years. Newman is a native of Franklinton, La. and a resident of Baton Rouge. He obtained his mortuary science degree in 1985.

Olivia Pass has a PhD from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and two master's degrees from LSU in English and journalism. She enjoys both taking and teaching OLLI classes.

Gregory A. Patin is a retired captain and 33-year veteran of the Baton Rouge Police Department. He has been a Louisiana POST firearms instructor since 1984 and was an operator on the Special Response Team (SWAT) for 18 years. He is an NRA instructor and was an academy instructor for over 3 years. He was a flight medic for 20 years in the military and an EMT for over 28 years. He has trained local law enforcement, the military, and international police officers throughout his career.

Valerie Perioux is an instructor at the Jeffie Jean Dance Studio. She studied dance with many teachers in the industry, and has been a dance instructor for more than 40 years. Perioux is also an active member of the Dixie Chapter of Dance Masters of America, a national dance organization in which all members are certified to teach dance.

Michael Perkins received his BS from LSU with certification to teach secondary education in history and later gained certification to teach chemistry and physics.

Ron Perritt, BS in Physics; MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering. Now retired, he previously taught electrical engineering at LSU and Georgia Tech, and worked for many years at Dow Chemical Co. in computer-based process control. He has previously taught courses on basic use of iPhones and iPads, and on understanding iCloud.
Rick Pitcher is a retired Presbyterian minister who grew up in New Orleans and developed a lifelong interest in the city’s history and culture, particularly its music.

Brian Pope, MA, University of Texas at Austin, is well known in the Baton Rouge arts community. He is the host of Center Stage on WRKF-FM, a weekly one-hour show that examines a topic or theme dealing with musical theater, now in its 13th season on the air. He has served on the boards of Theatre Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Ballet Theater, Friends of the Baton Rouge Zoo, and the Baton Rouge Gilbert and Sullivan Society. A retiree of the Dow Chemical Company, Brian has chaired more than 30 musicals locally and has appeared in more than a dozen musical productions. He was inducted into the Theatre Baton Rouge Hall of Fame in 2012. Additionally, he teaches a course in musical theater history and literature at Northwestern State University.

R. David Rabalais, MD, is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and is a specialist in sports medicine and in orthopaedic surgery of the hip, knee, and shoulder. He is associated with the Baton Rouge Orthopaedic Clinic with offices in Baton Rouge and in Zachary. Dr. Rabalais is affiliated with OLOLRMC, BRGMC, Lane Memorial Medical Center, Surgical Specialty Hospital-Bluebonnet, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and Field Memorial Community Hospital in Centerville, Mississippi. He is the team physician for Southern University and Central High School. He obtained his medical degree from LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans. His residency training was at LSU Department of Orthopaedic Surgery with fellowship training at University of Colorado Health Science Center in sport medicine and shoulder surgery. He is a clinical assistant professor of orthopaedics at LSUHSC-NO.

Omar L. Rashed wears many hats with one unifying theme. He is Rashed, someone who helps others find their way. Husband, father of three; professor at Rutgers University, teaching in the School of Social Work; tutor, helping young and old students alike to succeed, inside and outside of the classroom; and polisher, polishing your presentation to the world, whether it’s your website, publication, writing, speaking, or personality, and helping your light shine. He earned a BA in social work from Rutgers University and a MSW from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and continues studying from Professor Life.

Darlene Reaves is a retired high school science teacher who taught in Jefferson, Orleans, and West Feliciana Parishes. She holds a master’s degree in science teaching and taught geology for 10 years at the New Orleans Center for Science and Math. She recently took two online courses: “The Science of Happiness,” prepared by the University of California at Berkeley, and “Making Sense of Climate Science Denial,” prepared by the Global Change Institute. Both were offered through edX, a provider of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Patt Roberson earned a PhD in mass communication from University of Southern Mississippi. She is a retired journalism professor, former business manager of The Southern Review, active newspaper reporter and photographer, ad rep for the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, and avid recycler. She grew up in the Panama Canal Zone and lives in a geodesic dome in Baker.

Karl Roider, PhD, taught for 45 years at LSU prior to his retirement in 2014. He taught courses on World War I, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and numerous specialty topics. He served as chair of the history department and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and was instrumental in creating a program to train high school social studies teachers after 1999.
Michael L. Rolfsen, MD, FACP, is in active internal medicine practice in the Baton Rouge Clinic since 1987. He is board certified in internal medicine and geriatric medicine, and holds a Masters in bioethics & public health policy from Loyola University, Chicago. Dr. Rolfsen serves on the Ethics Committees of the Baton Rouge General Medical Centers, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, and Woman’s Hospital. He founded the Volunteer Health Corp of Baton Rouge, a non-profit organization that allows volunteer physicians to offer free healthcare for the uninsured in the Greater Baton Rouge area. He is also adjunct professor of philosophy at LSU teaching medical bioethics, clinical assistant professor at the LSU Health Science Center, and clinical assistant professor at Tulane School of Medicine.

Lauren Rozas has practiced and taught yoga for more than 20 years. She is a licensed physical therapist practicing in Eunice.

Steve Shamburger graduated from the Art Institute of Houston in 1984. During his career, he has created artwork for such clients as Coca-Cola and Turner Entertainment Television, and for Sports Illustrated Kids, and Time for Kids magazines. Having studied with such notable instructors as Daniel Greene, John Howard Sanden, Michael Del Priore, and Gregory Manchess, Shamburger is also an accomplished portrait and caricature artist. He works from his home-based studio in Baton Rouge.

Nancy Sidener earned her AB at University of California, Berkeley, and her PhD at UC, Davis. Before retiring, she taught economics at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and part-time at LSU, while directing the Louisiana Council for Economic Education.

Tarvald Smith is a native of Baton Rouge and graduate of Scotlandville Magnet High School. He received a BS in economics from Southern University. Mr. Smith received his Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center where he was executive editor of the Southern University Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Board. He has been a prosecutor with the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s Office and the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office. Mr. Smith currently is in private practice handling personal injury, criminal defense, and probate law, and he serves as the public defender for the City of Baker. Mr. Smith was the District 4 elected representative to the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, where he served as vice president from 2010–2014. He was recently elected Judge of Baton Rouge City Court, District C.

Dianne Soileau started doing mosaics after taking a mosaic class through OLLI several years ago. She was making her own hand-built pottery and loved the idea of incorporating her pottery pieces into mosaics. She currently operates a mosaic studio on O’Neal Lane in Baton Rouge.

Ken Stewart, JD, a self-trained photographer, has been taking pictures for more than 50 years. Starting as a youth with a Kodak Brownie, he now uses computer programs and the latest DSLR equipment to produce his images. During this journey, he has come to understand that a few simple techniques and a better understanding of the equipment can help any photographer move beyond the simple point-and-shoot of the novice.

Lynda Stockinger currently dances for the Cajun Dance Company of New Orleans and has instructed and performed Cajun dance all over the U.S. Lynda is the dance instructor for the Cajun French music association, Baton Rouge chapter. She is the director of Les Danseurs de la Capitale de Baton Rouge, an adult Cajun dance troupe that dances and promotes Cajun culture.
Dana Territo, a Qualified Dementia Care Provider, is currently the director of services at Alzheimer’s Services/Charlie’s Place in Baton Rouge, and has certification in gerontology. She graduated from the Religious Studies Institute in St. Benedict, and also completed studies in spiritual direction from the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center. She serves on the Louisiana State Dementia Partnership, a coalition directed by the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, in which the goal is to reduce the percentage of antipsychotic medication use in dementia patients in nursing homes. Dana is a long-time advocate of those suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, and has worked with individuals with Alzheimer’s and dementia for over 20 years. Dana co-wrote and now teaches the state required Dementia Care Curriculum for staff in nursing homes and adult residential communities.

Tanya Tillman, RN, graduated in 1993 from Alcorn University with an associate degree in nursing. She has worked in the areas of Med-Surge, ICU, ER, PSYCH and Hospice. In 1998, Ms. Tillman was part of the original team that developed the La State Penitentiary Hospice, serving as the manager for six years. During that time, she was awarded the Louisiana Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s Professional—Heart of Hospice Award and the Louisiana Secretary of Corrections Award for Excellence in Healthcare. Ms. Tillman has worked with NHPCO to develop standards for end-of-life care in the prison setting, and is the author of multiple articles concerning end-of-life care. After serving as the director of nursing for Trinity Hospice, she joined the team at St. Joseph Hospice, where she has been for the last 10 years.

Julius Tipton is an honorably retired Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor. In his 27 years of pastoral ministry he has served churches in New Iberia and in Orlando, Florida. He has also taught extension courses for Columbia Theological Seminary and led numerous workshops across the U.S., many focusing on the Psalms. He is also a professional musician and composer of note(s). He prefers to be called “Tip.”

Emily Toth reads and writes about women’s lives. Her eleven published books include biographies of Kate Chopin and Grace Metalious, and advice for academic women. Her “Ms. Mentor” academic advice column appears monthly on the website of the Chronicle of Higher Education. She has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and taught for many years in the LSU English department. She also writes about food, cats, and women’s humor in “Nothing But the Toth,” her column in the online magazine talkingwriting.com.

Peter Verbois started piano lessons at age nine. He continued his musical studies through high school and studied music education at LSU through 1966. As a professional musician, he eventually started a family, ultimately redirecting his primary career into the corporate world. However, his music has remained the passion of his soul and he continues to play professionally today. Retired from his corporate career, he has been teaching piano in the St. Francisville area since 2007.

Amy West graduated from LSU in 1977 with a BS in education. She has many, varied interests, including nature, gardening, crafts, and genealogy. Over the years she has taught many courses to people of varying ages concerning topics from her fields of interest. She and her husband of 36 years are beekeepers and also the owners of a geodesic dome home and the Westdome Nursery.
Kati Williamson has a degree in accounting from LSU and is a Certified Public Accountant. She currently works part-time and volunteers full-time. She was taught calligraphy in middle school art class and now pays it forward by teaching in a local middle school.

Richard Zwez taught for 45 years and at every level. He holds a PhD from LSU, where he majored in romance languages and philology. He is retired from the Armed Forces.