Velma Alford received her Bachelor of Arts degree in transpersonal education from Gateway University in 2011. She has been a licensed interfaith minister since December, 2009. Velma’s mission and purpose in life is to help women who feel trapped in some area of their lives: relationship to food, childhood issues, old beliefs, and unhealthy patterns. Using clean and clear modalities, we soon have a body and mind that we love.

Smiley Anders has been writing his six-days-a-week column for *The Advocate* in Baton Rouge since 1979. A native of Natchez, Mississippi, he received BA and MA degrees in journalism from LSU. He started a 19-year career in business journalism in 1960 when he was named oil and gas editor of the *Shreveport Times*. In 1975, Anders was named the first Communicator of the Year by the Public Relations Association of Louisiana. He was elected president of the Baton Rouge Press Club in 1976 and again in 1996. In 2011, he was inducted into LSU’s Manship School of Mass Communication Hall of Fame.

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.

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 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.

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.

Phil Chenevert has an MA in counseling from the University of Southern Mississippi. He was born in New Orleans 74 years ago but has lived happily in Baton Rouge for 35 years. He is an amateur word origin buff, amateur actor, and generally looks for fun in life. Phil does not play the tuba but he is learning to tap dance.

Erica Daigle, PhD, University of Iowa, is a native of Louisiana and received her BS and MA from LSU. Her primary research interest is English Renaissance literature and medicine, especially Shakespeare. She also has special interest in ancient literature and cultures.
Dennis Demcheck received a BS in zoology from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1975 and began working for the US Geological Survey in 1978. He spent his entire career at the Louisiana Water Science Center in Baton Rouge, specializing in water-quality studies of the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain, and other southern Louisiana water bodies. He is an avid birder and nature photographer.

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.

Jerisse Grantham owns the Jeffie Jean Dance Studio, which her mother started more than 72 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 10-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 LSU’s doctoral program in history. She recieved her MA in 2011 and is currently in the research phase of her dissertation on the professionalization of the medical field in England during the 16th and 17th centuries.

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.

Neal Hebert is a PhD candidate in LSU’s theatre history and historiography program. An experienced director, dramaturg, and teacher, Hebert is the artistic director of Bang Bang You're Dead Theatre and a part of McKinley High School's Theatre and English Faculty. He has taught in LSU and BRCC's theatre and philosophy departments, and his research has been published by Open Court, the *Arthur Miller Journal*, and Oxford University Press.

Peter Kang received his PhD in philosophical theology from the University of Virginia and an MDiv from Bexley-Seabury Seminary. He currently serves as the associate rector of Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville and a volunteer chaplain at the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Trish Kaplan has a master's degree in education from George Washington University. She has been teaching for OLLI for several years about Fabulous Felines and Wonderful Worms. Her interest in gardening started when she moved to Baton Rouge in 1987 from Michigan and realized she could do plantings all year round!

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.
Linda Lightfoot, BA in journalism and political science, University of Mississippi, retired from *The Advocate* after 42 years, the last 15 as executive editor.

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 Learning 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.

Martí 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.

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.

Arthur Majorie holds a BS from Southeastern Louisiana University, and an MS from UNO. He taught physics and math for 12 years, and was a principal for 18 years in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. He has 40 years’ experience in stargazing.

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.

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 email marketing firm. As a certified professional speaker, she is sure to make all of her courses entertaining as well as informative.

Mark McFarland has a PhD in music theory from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is an associate professor at Georgia State University and has published widely on Stravinsky and Debussy.

Tom Moore, PE, BS in mechanical engineering from University of Kansas, post graduate studies in management and engineering from UCLA and University of Delaware. He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, and is a colonel, U.S. Army (retired). Through his engineering and military professions and the Olympics as a judge and director in the sport of marksmanship, he has traveled to all seven continents and 106 countries and far away places.

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 a 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.

Miriam Overton, MTS, has taught courses in religious studies, medieval philosophy, and continuing education courses for OLLI and the Anglican Diocese of Huron, Ontario. She has lectured on culture and ethics for Foundations, Consultants in Ethics and Values, a firm that provides ethics consulting services to healthcare and other sectors. She received her master’s in theological studies from Huron University, University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario. She is the director of development for the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra.

Sandy Parfait is a graduate of LSU, where she received a BFA with a concentration in studio ceramics. Sandy continues to develop her body of work at her home studio in St. Francisville. She has a decade of experience in program management and served as the technology director for the Arts Council until 2015. She has been involved with producing many local events, including FestForAll. She currently works at LSU and is co-ordinating the Louisiana Earth Day Festival.

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.

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.

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.

Mitch Pratt is an avid amateur genealogist, having spent countless hours researching his family history over the last 40 years. He became interested in genetic genealogy following his retirement from HR management at Exxon Mobil Corporation after 35 years. He holds a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Iowa and currently consults through his company, Critical Knowledge Consulting, LLC.

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. She recently completed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) called “The Science of Happiness,” prepared by the University of California at Berkeley and offered through edX.

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.

Patti Lee Smith is a native of Ohio and longtime resident of Louisiana, currently residing at Lake Rosemound in West Feliciana Parish. She is a local artist, retired nurse, fulltime homemaker, mother and grandmother. She is a lifelong artist who has always found a way to express her creative self. She has studied art with numerous artists through a variety of methods, developing her own style, and sharing her
talents with friends and relatives. From children's portraits to beautiful landscapes, her works always impress and leave the viewer in awe.

**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.

**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*.

**Francis Vanderwall** is professor emeritus of theology at Our Lady of the Lake College, and teaches for the RSI program and diaconate programs for the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge. He is a spiritual director and pastoral counselor who presented retreats at the Jesuit Retreat House in Grand Coteau, and Manresa in Louisiana, as well as retreat houses and spirituality centers in Arizona, California, Missouri, New York and elsewhere, for many years. The author of five books on prayer, spirituality, and psychology, he belonged to the Jesuit order for almost 30 years.

**John Vinson** trained in Tushkalusa Apalachee tribal medicine (herbals, water therapy, health foods, etc.), health and nutrition classes at Arizona State and Mesa Community College. He is a certified nurse assistant (National Nurse Aide Assessment Program, NNAAP). John has served as Apalachee Daktari (tribal health advisor) for over 20 years.

**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. He has written several humorous fiction books and books dealing with the history of humor.