

Fall 2024 Instructor Bios - OLLI at NC State University

Listings are alphabetical by instructor last name.

Course Name	First Name	Last Name	Bio
Nutrition for Healthy Aging	Sarah	Ash	<i>Sarah Ash</i> ; A.B., Biology, Harvard University; M.S., Ph.D., Nutrition, Tufts University; professor emerita in the Department of Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutrition Sciences, NC State; recipient of the UNC System Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the NC State Alumni Distinguished Professor Award, and the USDA Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, among others.
Lecture -- Before He Was George: Creating the World's Most Curious Monkey	Ann	Ashmore	<i>Ann Mulloy Ashmore</i> ; attained an MLIS degree at LSU; interest in H. A. and Margret Rey began as a staff member in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi; Ashmore published four articles about the Reys and has presented her research in various settings from scholarly conferences to public library audiences; she is also featured in the 2017 documentary, "Monkey Business: The Adventures of Curious George's Creators".
Lecture -- Medicare Explained--Senior Health Insurance Information Program	Lisa	Barker	<i>Lisa Barker</i> ; joined the N.C. Department of Insurance as a member of the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) staff in September 2017, and currently serves as the SHIIP Northeastern Regional Manager; as the Northeast Regional Manager, she recruits and trains SHIIP Volunteer Counselors and county Coordinators; she provides outreach to her counties through speaking engagements, exhibits at conferences and health fairs, and radio and television appearances in approximately twenty counties; Lisa attended University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and, prior to joining the SHIIP staff, she worked for Wayne County as the Information and options counselor and local SHIIP Coordinator; Lisa has worked with the aging population since 1998 through a variety of positions. Lisa and her family reside in Selma.
The Transistor: The Foundation of Our Digital World	Ross	Bassett	<i>Ross Bassett</i> ; B.S. in Electrical Engineering; worked at IBM in their semiconductor laboratory for 8 years before getting his Ph.D. from Princeton; professor of History and Director of the Benjamin Franklin Scholars at NC State, where he teaches courses in the history of technology and the history of capitalism; he is the author of <i>To the Digital Age: Research Labs, Start-up Companies, and the Rise of MOS Technology</i> and <i>The Technological Indian</i> .
Six from Six: Six Films From Six Countries	Lewis	Beale	<i>Lewis Beale</i> ; film industry reporter for newspapers in New York and Los Angeles; taught journalism at UNC-Wilmington; has written for <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>Newsday</i> , the <i>L.A. Times</i> , <i>The Daily Beast</i> and other magazines and websites; veteran OLLI instructor.
Cultivating Cinema: Cult Films for the Adventurous	Lewis	Beale	<i>Lewis Beale</i> ; film industry reporter for newspapers in New York and Los Angeles; taught journalism at UNC-Wilmington; has written for <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>Newsday</i> , the <i>L.A. Times</i> , <i>The Daily Beast</i> and other magazines and websites; veteran OLLI instructor.
Lecture -- Splendid Isolation: The Importance of Vernal Pools	Jeff	Beane	<i>Jeffrey C. Beane</i> ; B.S., Zoology, NC State; Herpetology Collection Manager, NC Museum of Natural Sciences since 1985; author of many publications, including <i>Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia</i> , 2nd Edition.
Watercolor Painting at Pullen Arts Center: Lily Pad Blossom	Rick	Bennett	<i>Rick Bennett</i> ; for 12 years Rick has taught beginner and advanced watercolor to people of all ages; he grew up in eastern N.C. and moved to Raleigh in 1982; Rick is frequently found working in the garden or tending his city chickens, which are often a subject of his paintings.
The Holocaust: How Was it Humanly Possible?	Sheldon	Bleiweiss	<i>Shelly Bleiweiss</i> ; a child of two Holocaust survivors, a retired clinical social worker, and a former docent at Holocaust Museum in Houston; a Holocaust educator for over 24 years, Shelly has spoken to hundreds of school students, dozens of religious and civic groups, and numerous senior living communities; Shelly is an experienced OLLI instructor for NC State, Duke, and Univ. of Pittsburgh, and has also taught classes for the Creative Lifelong Learning program at Granville County Senior Center; member of the NC State Council on the Holocaust and NC Holocaust Speakers Bureau.
Lecture -- The Impact of Race-Related Processes on Black Maternal Health	Mia	Brantley	<i>Mia Brantley</i> ; received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of South Carolina; After completing her tenure as a post-doctoral scholar at The Ohio State University, she began a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at NC State; As a trained sociologist, Mia's academic scholarship lies at the intersection of race, gender, and family within the context of health; Specifically, she utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to understand how the consequences of race shapes families' health and well-being; her research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals, such as the <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i> , the <i>Journal of Social Problems</i> , and the <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> ; she has received numerous awards for her scholarship from the American Sociological Association and the National Council on Family Relations.
Planning for Long Term Care	Devin	Butler	<i>Devin Butler</i> ; Financial Planner, Capitol Financial Solutions; B.S., Business Administration (Finance), NC State; Certified Financial Planner, Duke University.
A Trio of Triangle Museums	Ruth	Caccavale	<i>Ruth Caccavale</i> ; B.A., Duke University; M.A., Rutgers University; Ruth has worked in a number of museums and education positions, has taught at Rutgers University and has taught over two dozen OLLI courses; works in the education department of Duke's Nasher Museum of Art.
The Universe from Antiquity to the Renaissance	Cleve	Callison	<i>Cleve Callison</i> ; Ph.D. in Medieval Studies; former station manager of WHQR Public Radio and frequent OLLI presenter; previously topics taught include those having to do with English and Old English language and literature, including poetry, William Faulkner, Shakespeare, and others.
Lecture -- Ethics in Driving Automation	Dario	Cecchini	<i>Dario Cecchini</i> ; Postdoctoral Research Scholar at NC State; he joined the NeuroComputational Ethics Research Group in November 2022, funded by the National Science Foundation project "Virtual Reality Simulations of Moral Decision Making for Autonomous Vehicles."; before arriving in Raleigh, Dr. Cecchini obtained a Ph.D. in Moral Philosophy at the University of Genoa (Italy) in March 2022.
Learn to Play Mah Jongg	Tina	Certo	<i>Tina Certo</i> ; B.A. in Communications from Fordham University and MLS from UNC-Chapel Hill; retired Project Manager and Integrative Health Coach; OLLI member since 2014; coordinates OLLI's Psychology, Philosophy, Religion and Lifestyle, General, Health subcommittees; serves on the Program Development Committee and Advisory Council and Mah Jongg Special Interest Group; 2022 recipient of OLLI's Volunteer of the Year Award; originally from N.Y. she has enjoyed living in N.C. since 1974.
Khomeinism and Iran's Foreign Policy Today	David	Champagne	<i>David Champagne</i> ; Ph.D., Middle East and South Asia History, The University of Texas-Austin; former Director of Strategic Studies Detachment, 4th Psychological Operations Group, Ft. Bragg; 30 years' experience as a civilian intelligence analyst on Iran and Afghanistan, U.S. Army; Cultural Advisor to the U.S. Ground Commander in Afghanistan, CJTF76; former Deputy Director, Ctr. for Afghanistan Studies, Univ. of Nebraska-Omaha; Peace Corp Volunteer-Afghanistan (1968-71); 30 year interest and study of Irish and French Canadian genealogy and history; veteran OLLI instructor.
Lecture -- Yayoi Kusama: A Vital Force in Contemporary Art	Judith	Chandler	<i>Judith Chandler</i> ; M.A.Ed, East Carolina University; N.C. native who left the U.S. for a career teaching visual art in international schools; teaches traditional batik as well as principles and elements of design at local venues in Wilmington.
Killers of the Flower Moon	Vicki	Corporon	<i>Vicki Corporon</i> ; M.S., International Education; M.S., Library and Information Science; retired teacher/librarian, with local, state, and national honors; currently in 34th year as editor of international magazine; her father's family settled in Oklahoma during the 1893 Land Rush and he was born there in 1919; her grandmother's memoir recounts how Arapaho Indians saved her firstborn son who wandered off into the corn fields; her appreciation of Native Americans goes way back.

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The Genius Filmmaking of Steven Spielberg	Stan	Darer	<i>Stan Darer</i> ; B.A., Economics, Lehman College, CUNY, Bronx; thirty-eight year career in finance in the electrical supply industry with Graybar Electric Company; volunteer at several organizations in Raleigh, including Temple Beth Or, Bedford Over 55 Club and presents programs at Senior Communities; active member and volunteer on OLLI's Program Committee; 2017 recipient of OLLI's Betty Poulton Volunteerism Award.
Climate Change Around the World	Warren	Darrell	<i>Warren Darrell</i> ; teaches at OLLI, mentors UNCW Environmental Sciences students, and teaches English to Ukrainians; he volunteers with the North Carolina Coastal Estuarine Research Reserve, the Ecologic Development Fund, Earthwatch, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; he travels the world studying and acting upon climate change; Warren is a registered professional engineer and holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Alabama and a master's in environmental science from Montana State University.
Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	David	DeMaster	<i>Dave DeMaster</i> ; B.S., Chemistry, University of Wisconsin; M.S., PhD, Marine Geochemistry, Yale; Professor Emeritus, Department of MEAS, NC State.
Lecture -- Crisis Cleanup: How Volunteers Can Help in a Disaster	Jennifer	Despain	<i>Jennifer A. Despain</i> ; M.A., Foreign Languages and Literatures with a concentration in TESOL; teaches both Spanish and English to speakers of other languages at NC State; volunteered with the disaster relief non-profit organization Crisis Cleanup since 2016 and is a certified hotline volunteer trainer and coordinator serving the Raleigh and Cary area.
Carolina Shag Dance for Beginners	Peggy	Domingue	<i>Peggy Domingue</i> ; Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Studies at NC State; with a tenure of 32 years at the university, Peggy brings a wealth of experience to her role; her diverse background in dance, fitness, and wellness enriches her teaching approach, inspiring students to embrace a holistic approach to health; through her passion for movement and well-being, she fosters a supportive learning environment for all students.
Lecture -- Spiritual Direction	Stephanie	Downey	<i>Stephanie Downey</i> ; B.S. in Elementary Education from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 1988; Masters of Divinity from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Richmond, VA 2008; Professional Certification in Christian Education from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D. C., 2008; Certified Spiritual Director through the North Carolina Institute of Spiritual Direction and Formation, 2023.
The Silk Roads in Global History	Xiaolin	Duan	<i>Xiaolin Duan</i> ; B.A., Peking University; Ph.D., University of Washington, Seattle; Associate professor of Chinese history at NC State; author of <i>The Rise of West Lake: A Cultural Landmark in the Song Dynasty</i> and <i>An Object of Seduction: Chinese Silk in the Early Modern Trans-Pacific Trade</i> .
The Big Bang and Expansion of the Universe	Donald	Ellison	<i>Don Ellison</i> ; Ph.D., The Catholic University of America; Professor Emeritus, Physics, NC State; has taught and done research on the theory of cosmic rays, particle acceleration in high-energy astrophysics, and the modeling of supernova remnants.
Astronomy Night at Wilkerson Nature Preserve	Bryan	England	<i>Bryan England</i> ; Preserve Manager, Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park
The Southern Press and the Civil War	Frank	Fee	<i>Frank Fee</i> ; Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill; M.A., State University of New York at Brockport; B.S., Cornell University; retired associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNC-CH, where he taught graduate and undergraduate media history courses; prior to entering the academy full time, he was an editor and reporter in daily newspapers for nearly 35 years and taught journalism part-time at the college level for more than 10 years; research interests include journalism history, with a focus on antebellum U.S. newspapers and the journalism of Frederick Douglass, newsroom management, trends in American journalism, and news accuracy.
America and Korea in the 20th Century	Mike	Flynn	<i>Mike Flynn</i> ; retired Army officer who served over 30 years on active duty; his assignments ranged from leading an airborne infantry platoon to service on the Department of the Army Staff where he processed all Joint Chiefs of Staff actions for the Army; he deployed overseas on multiple occasions including to conflict environments in Vietnam (twice), Grenada and Desert Storm; OLLI member and returning instructor.
Unsung Heroes of the Cosmos	Brand	Fortner	<i>Brand Fortner</i> ; Ph.D. in high energy astrophysics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; teaching professor in physics at NC State and adjunct professor of physics at UNC-Chapel Hill; founder of two software companies; previously held positions at NASA, NCSA, and Johns Hopkins University.
Long Term Investing in a Short-Term Focused World	Janet	Fox	<i>Janet Fox</i> ; financial consultant and president of ACH Investment Group, Inc.; specialties include financial, retirement, investments, and insurance planning; member of the Financial Planning Association and the Certified Long Term Care program as a long term care specialist; veteran OLLI instructor.
Lecture -- Economics of Home Electrification	Paul	Francisco	<i>Paul Francisco</i> ; Masters of Mechanical Engineering; appointments at Colorado State University and Champaign County Regional Planning Commission with 30 years of research in housing, especially field evaluations of retrofits in low-income households, 20 years of training practitioners; ASHRAE Fellow, recipient of the 2020 ASHRAE Environmental Health Award; former chair of the Building Performance Association board of directors, former member of the board of directors of the Building Performance Institute.
Printmaking Workshop at Pullen Arts Center: Block Print Exploration	Maria	Fрати	<i>Maria Frati</i> ; Maria hails from rural Maine and was raised in a family of artists; she received her bachelor's degree from Clark University in Worcester, M.A. and a master's degree in art education from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore; she subsequently taught art in public schools including four in New York City; in 2015 she served as an artist in residence for the National Park System; Maria is currently a professional partner with Speedball printmaking supply company based in North Carolina; she creates prints in her studio where she also teaches printmaking on a large flatbed press.
Alfred Hitchcock: Early Years in England	Cary	Frederick	<i>Cary Frederick</i> ; B.A. in English and a master's degree in Library Science from Indiana University; studied and taught film at College of Staten Island; stayed in NYC and continued to study film in the repertory movie houses of New York for 13 years and the Museum of Modern Art and the New School for the Arts.
A History of Medical Quackery	S. Mitchell	Freedman	<i>S. Mitchell Freedman</i> ; B.A., Haverford College; M.D., University of Pennsylvania; Neurology Residency at Duke; retired from 40 years of clinical neurology practice in Raleigh; faculty appointment of Adjunct Professor of Neurology at UNC-Chapel Hill.
The Economics of Space Exploration	Marc	Fusco	<i>Marc Fusco</i> ; NASA Ambassador and space historian; Marc has graduate degrees in Medieval and Renaissance Literature and History, and an M.S. in Space Studies, with a specialty in space policy and history; he has taught at Arizona State, Duke, and UNC; Marc has also worked as a commercial space analyst; he has written a book, <i>Presidents, Politics, and Policy: How the Apollo and Shuttle Decisions Shaped NASA</i> .
Lecture -- Creative Approaches to Facing Uncertainty	Annelies	Gentile	<i>Annelies M Gentile</i> ; M.A., PCC is a visionary, Integrative Life and Leadership Executive Coach, speaker, process artist, facilitator and author of <i>From Chaos to Calm: Leading Change from the Inside Out</i> ; from managing burnout to nurturing creativity to tending grief associated with change, Annelies brings 33 years of career experience to helping people traverse the gaps of uncertainty with courage, creativity and grace; she holds a master's degree in Coaching from the Maryland University of Integrative Health; learn more at www.conduitforchange.com .

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Lecture -- Understanding Quantum Physics in Your Life	Isabella	Goetting	<i>Isabella Goetting</i> ; fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Physics Department at Duke; studies trapped ion quantum computing in Christopher Monroe's lab, specifically how to scale these quantum computers by using photonic networks; in 2019, she graduated from UCLA with a B.S. in Physics with honors; along with her research, Isabella values science communication and increasing diversity and equity within the physics and broader STEM communities.
Bringing Art Exhibitions to the Public: From Concept to Completion	Maggie	Gregory	<i>Maggie Gregory</i> ; Chief Registrar at the North Carolina Museum of Art since 2008; A.B., Wellesley College; M.A., University of Michigan; she discovered a love of museums as a child during family visits to the Art Institute of Chicago; prior to the NCMA she was Head Registrar at the Weatherspoon Art Museum; she has taught adjunct art history classes at Wake Forest University and UNCG.
Lecture -- Decluttering Your Home	Freda	Hamlett	<i>Freda Hamlett</i> ; B.A., Syracuse University in Interior Design; certified Senior Housing Professional; senior Real Estate Specialist.
Lecture -- Discovering the Life and Legacy of Hannah Crafts	Antuan	Hawkins	<i>Antuan Hawkins</i> ; a dedicated librarian since 2009 and currently serves in the Youth Services department at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library; with a background in music and performance, Antuan earned his B.S. from Chowan University and later pursued a MLS from North Carolina Central University; in his current role, Antuan specializes in programming and resources for children and teens, fostering a love of reading and learning among younger audiences; he is actively involved in several professional organizations, including the American Library Association and the North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers; Hawkins' unique blend of musical talent and library expertise allows him to create engaging programs that inspire creativity and imagination among library patrons of all ages.
Neuroscience of Politics	David	Heilner	<i>David Heilner</i> ; B.A., Psychology, M.D. from College of Medicine, University of Vermont; Psychiatric Residency, Maine Medical Center, Portland; private practice in adult psychiatry, sub-specialization in PTSD and DID, now retired; board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology, member APA, MPA; OLLI member and instructor.
Table Read: Crumbs From the Table of Joy	Gwen	Hendrix	<i>Gwen Veale Hendrix</i> ; B.A., Talladega College; M.A., UNC-Chapel-Hill; M.Ed., NC State; retired chemist, programmer, career counselor, and financial aid advisor; theatre has always been her passion and she is an avid writer and theater goer; Gwen has acted in local community theatre and written several plays; she is excited to share her love of theatre by encouraging others to read more plays and attend performances.
Lecture -- The Real Marie Antoinette	Joan	Hinde Stewart	<i>Joan Hinde Stewart</i> ; President Emerita of Hamilton College; received a Ph.D. in French from Yale University, and taught at Wellesley College and NC State before being named Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of South Carolina; she became the first woman president of Hamilton College, and served for thirteen years; she has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Humanities Center, among others, published numerous books and articles and lectured widely.
Lecture -- Behind the Scenes of Art House Movie Theaters	Emily	Kass	<i>Emily Kass</i> ; B.A., Art History, Skidmore College; M.A., Art History, University of Minnesota; Executive Director, Chelsea Theater.
Voices of Freedom: Introduction to Contemporary Ukrainian Literature	Kateryna	Kazimirova	<i>Kateryna Kazimirova</i> ; holds master's degrees in philology (Ukrainian Language and Literature) and history of art, as well as a postgraduate degree in literary theory from Vasyli' Stus Donetsk National University; in 2020, she founded the Ukrainian art and literature journal <i>Craft Magazine</i> (craftmagazine.net), which publishes both in Ukrainian and English in-depth interviews with the most talented and creative Ukrainians; in 2022, she edited and published a collection <i>Voices of Freedom: Contemporary Writing From Ukraine</i> .
History of Animal Behavior	William	Kimler	<i>William Kimler</i> ; B.A., Rice University; M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University; faculty member in NC State department of History since 1986; member of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers and Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor; frequent public lecturer on the history of biology.
Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	Kenneth	Kunkel	<i>Kenneth Kunkel</i> ; B.S., Physics, Southern Illinois University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison; Professor, Department of MEAS, NC State.
Long Term Care Planning in Today's World	Trevor	Lawson	<i>Trevor Lawson</i> ; Financial Planner, Capitol Financial Solutions; B.S., Chemical Engineering, NC State; Certified Financial Planner, Duke University.
Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	Lonnie	Leithold	<i>Lonnie Leithold</i> ; B.S., Geology and Geophysics, University of Wisconsin-Madison; M.S., Ph.D., Geology, University of Washington, Professor, Department of MEAS, NC State.
Lecture -- Your Medication History: The Key to Better Health	Andrea	Leschak	<i>Andrea L. Leschak</i> ; Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist and Patient Advocate and the Founder & CEO of Wayfinder Advantage; recognizing the overwhelm and confusion clients feel finding quality healthcare, she equips clients with the knowledge and skills to navigate healthcare decisions confidently; she demystifies the healthcare system through personalized coaching, group sessions, and workshops so clients feel supported and find peace of mind.
Lecture -- Tradition Of Eastern NC Whole Hog BBQ	Michael	Letchworth	<i>Michael Letchworth</i> ; co-owner of Sam Jones BBQ, Sam Jones BBQ Raleigh and Sam Jones BBQ retail; has been involved with BBQ for 21 years, working at Skylight Inn BBQ through high school and college; post graduating from ECU's construction management program, returned to the world of BBQ to open Sam Jones BBQ in 2015; travels the country cooking and sharing our traditions, while leading the company's operations in N.C.
Understanding Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease	Lisa	Levine	<i>Lisa Levine</i> ; B.S., Psychology; Senior Director of Programs, Dementia Alliance of North Carolina; responsible for educational outreach to families, professionals, clergy, and law enforcement through community workshops, regional conferences, health and wellness education, community awareness programs, and professional in-service training; provides support, services, and resource information to people with dementia and both family and professional caregivers.
Cultivating Everyday Mindfulness	Susan	Lewellen	<i>Susan Lewellen</i> ; B.S., Nursing, UNC-Charlotte; MBA, University of South Carolina; enjoyed a career in hospital nursing, administration, and consulting; studies and practices Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and believes that this work has improved the quality of her life.
Lecture -- Hearing Loss: Causes and Cures	Charles	Liberman	<i>M. Charles Liberman</i> ; Ph.D.; professor of Otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School; B.A., Biology and Ph.D., Physiology Harvard; has published 215 papers on hearing and deafness and is the recipient of the Award of Merit (ARO), the Bekesy Silver Medal (ASA) and the Grand Prix Scientifique (FPA); his research focuses on neurophysiology and neuroanatomy of the inner ear in normal and impaired hearing.
Lessons from the Vietnam War	Ed	Linz	<i>Ed Linz</i> ; 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy, served on nuclear submarines during the Vietnam War and later was Commanding Officer of the USS KAMEHAMEHA; he is the author of five books, including recent works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War; Ed holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia.
Talking About Race and Ethnicity	John	Luecke	<i>John Luecke</i> ; bachelor's and master's in communication, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; worked in the corporate public relations before transitioning to teaching; earned an intercultural studies certificates from the Intercultural Communication Institute and University of British Columbia; taught communication at High Point University and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.
Messiah: The Perfect Christmas Gift	David	Lynch	<i>David Lynch</i> ; professor and department head emeritus and current adjunct professor, Meredith College; organist-choirmaster emeritus, Christ Church; former deacon, Church of the Nativity. Consultant/examiner, National Association of Schools of Music. Clinician for church music, choral, organ workshops and festivals; veteran OLLI instructor.

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A Gershwin Revue	Marilyn	Lynch	<i>Marilyn Lynch</i> ; retired Teaching Associate Professor, Music Department, NC State; recipient of the University Outstanding Extension Award; educator, lecturer, and performer in area colleges, churches, social and civic organizations; BMus in Education, Syracuse University; M.A. in Theory, Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester; veteran OLLI instructor.
Reading Race Through American Poetry	Lucinda	MacKethan	<i>Lucinda MacKethan</i> ; NC State Distinguished Professor Emerita of English in American Literature; author/editor of six books including <i>Daughters of Time: Creating Woman's Voice in Southern Story</i> and <i>Anyia Seton: A Writing Life</i> ; she is a winner of NC State's Holladay Medal; was a fellow at the National Humanities Center, where she provided instructional materials for Teacher Enrichment Programs; speaker of the NC Humanities Council Road Scholar Program; she has begun to publish some poems, hoping to become the "Grandma Moses of Poetry" and manages the PLOW Community Garden at her church.
Lecture -- Underwater Archaeology in the Dismal Swamp	Jason	Madre	<i>Jason Madre</i> ; Graduate of NC State with a degree in history; Although he works in the dental field, his degree has served him well in his endeavors as a volunteer underwater archaeologist; he currently lives in Carolina Beach.
Lecture -- The Extraordinary Life of Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray	Angela	Mason	<i>Angela M. Mason</i> ; cultural heritage leader, public historian, and scholar; serves as the Executive Director of the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice in Durham, N.C.; attended the University of Florida, where she earned a B.A. in History and a minor in African American Studies; she earned a M.A. in History with a concentration in Museum Studies from UNC-Greensboro.
Lecture -- Tar Heel Traveler: Journeys Across North Carolina	Scott	Mason	<i>Scott Mason</i> ; B.A., Washington & Lee Univ.; 40-year television reporting career, specializing in features; winner of more than 100 journalism awards, including 20 regional Emmys, three National Edward R. Murrow Awards, and two NC TV Reporter of the Year awards.
The Beginnings of the U.S. Navy	John	McCord	<i>John F.X. McCord</i> ; B.S., History, U.S. Naval Academy 1985; J.D. cum laude, University of Illinois College of Law 1999; served aboard a destroyer and cruiser, on a major theater staff where he was primarily responsible for planning for the implementation of the Panama Canal Treaties and as an instructor at Officer Candidate School where he instructed in six of the nine courses required and was in charge of at sea training; practiced law in Illinois and Missouri for several years; has been an OLLI instructor with OLLI UIUC since 2015.
Find, Write and Share Your Family Stories	Barbara	McGeachy	<i>Barbara McGeachy</i> ; M.S., Computer Science, UNC-Chapel Hill; retired software engineer; 25+ years researching and writing family history; NCGS 2014 Award for Excellence in Publishing--Family History; board member of the Wake County Genealogical Society; leader of two OLLI special interest groups on family history.
Lecture -- The 2024 Election: Key Factors and Possible Outcomes	David	McLennan	<i>David McLennan</i> ; B.A., M.A., University of Virginia; Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin; Professor of Political Science, Meredith College.
One Home, Two People: Israel and Palestine	Roland	Menestres	<i>Roland Menestres</i> ; B.A., French Languages and Literature, NC State; retired high school teacher; license in English as a Second Language; OLLI member and veteran OLLI instructor.
Lecture -- Sacred Space--Cary First Christian Church Cemetery	Carla	Michaels	<i>Carla Michaels</i> ; has served for a number of years on the Board of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel; continues to research the people of Cary and the surrounding area.
Botany for Gardeners	James	Mickle	<i>James Mickle</i> ; B.A. and M.B.A., Doctorate, Botany, Ohio State University; he is a professor emeritus, retired after 37 years in the NC State botany faculty; previously he taught at the University of Texas at Austin; he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Naples (Italy), is past president of the North Carolina Academy of Science, and an NC State Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor.
Napoleonic Wars Part II	Dave	Milidonis	<i>Dave Milidonis</i> ; founder and managing director of the non-profit organization, the National Veterans History Archival Institute (NVHAI); 1974 graduate, U.S. Military Academy, West Point; 20 years U.S. Army infantry experience; veteran OLLI instructor and 2019 recipient of the William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement, given by NC State's Association of Retired Faculty.
Discovering the Dead at Oakwood Cemetery	Bruce	Miller	<i>Bruce Miller</i> ; A.B., Dartmouth College; M.A., UNC-Chapel Hill; former teacher/administrator Ravenscroft School; history teacher at Deerfield Academy; authored <i>Oakwood to Oakwood, Volumes 1 & 2</i> ; co-authored <i>Images of America: Historic Oakwood Cemetery</i> with Robin Simonton, 2017
Lecture -- How to Catch a Gravitational Wave	Ron	Monti	<i>Ron Monti</i> ; veteran OLLI science instructor, a member of OLLI's Science and Technology Subcommittee, and was OLLI's 2018 volunteer of the year; he is a volunteer educator and exhibitor at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and a master outreach speaker for the Raleigh Astronomy Club.
Lecture -- Boy's Corn and Girl's Tomato Clubs: Changing Rural America	Gary	Moore	<i>Gary Moore</i> ; Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Extension Education, NC State; member of the NC State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers; 2024 recipient of the William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement; has made presentations in 41 states, four Canadian provinces and on four continents; veteran OLLI instructor.
12 Days in Budapest: The Hungarian Revolution	Jim	Nicholson	<i>Jim Nicholson</i> ; retired from a career in finance; founder and former executive director of the New Jersey Walk and Bike Coalition; veteran instructor for OLLI at Furman, covering a range of topics in history, food and the arts.
The Internet--Behind the Cyber Curtain	Bill	Pace	<i>Bill Pace</i> ; B.S., Engineering, NC State; MBA from UNC Charlotte; after a long career in the IT industry, he enjoys travel, golf and his grandpa time; he is the coordinator of OLLI's Science and Technology subcommittee and regularly instructs for the program, presenting technical topics from a conceptual viewpoint.
Lecture -- The Physics of Medical Imaging and Therapy	Michael	Paesler	<i>Michael Paesler</i> ; B.A., Physics and Mathematics, Beloit College; M.S. and Ph.D. in physics, University of Chicago; Emeritus Professor and former Head, Department of Physics, NC State; member of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers NC State; Fellow, American Physical Society; member Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi honorary societies; visiting professor at: Hahn-Meitner Institut, Berlin, Germany; Universit� de Franche-Comt�, Besan�on, France; Technische Universit�t Dresden, Germany; and Max-Planck-Institut f�r Festk�rperforschung, Stuttgart, Germany.
A Trio of Triangle Museums	Andrew	Parrish	<i>Andrew Parrish</i> ; currently works on the External Affairs team building relationships with donors, foundations and anyone interested in advancing the priorities of the Ackland; he joined the Ackland in 2019, and with big plans on the horizon with a new building, he believes the Ackland's best days are ahead of it.
Lecture -- Integrative Sciences at NC State: From Biomimicry to Self-Driving Labs	Joshua	Pierce	<i>Joshua Pierce</i> ; B.S., Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Pierce completed postdoctoral studies at The Scripps Research Institute before joining NC State in 2012; Howard J. Schaeffer Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, leads the Integrative Sciences Initiative and Building at NC State; also heads the Pierce Research Group, which focuses on harnessing the diverse architectures of marine natural products to inspire advances in chemical reaction development, chemical biology and therapeutic lead identification.
Great Books Discussion Group: Utopian and Dystopian Visions	John	Pilgrim	<i>John Pilgrim</i> ; Ph.D., Economics, Vanderbilt University; B.A., Economics, Grinnell College; professor of economics for 35 years, now retired; has taught various economics-related OLLI courses; facilitates the OLLI Great Books discussion course; veteran OLLI instructor.
A Hitchhiker's Guide to Artificial Intelligence	John	Prager	<i>John M. Prager</i> ; B.A., M.A., Ph.D. from University of Cambridge and University of Massachusetts, in mathematics, computer science and artificial intelligence; worked for 40 years in Research at IBM; authored about 100 publications, including two dozen patents; formed the question-answering project that became the Watson system that won at Jeopardy! on national TV in 2011; after retirement in 2019, has taught 4 courses at OLLI (Duke).

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Lecture -- White House Dreams: The Presidential Nomination Process	Bill	Pruden	<i>Bill Pruden</i> ; J.D., Case Western Reserve University; Master's degrees, Wesleyan University and Indiana University; has taught at Ravenscroft School for 31 years; in addition to his many years teaching government and American history, he has also served as an athletic director and coach of both boys and girls teams, and worked with numerous athletes in the admissions process; he has published and lectured on a wide range of historical, political, athletic topics.
Exploring NASA's Mars Robots	Alan	Rich	<i>Alan Rich</i> ; B.S., M.S., Chemistry; spokesman for NASA through the JPL Solar System Ambassador program since 2001; facilitating scientist for technology spin-offs from Mars exploration into the field of diagnostic medicine.
Retirement and Investment Planning Strategies for the Middle Years	James	Richardson	<i>James M. Richardson</i> ; Private Wealth Advisor, Certified Financial Planner, Chartered Financial Consultant, and Accredited Portfolio Management Advisor; Managing Principal, Richardson Private Wealth Advisors; multiple recipient of <i>Forbes</i> "Best in State Wealth Advisor" recognition and veteran OLLI instructor.
Climate Change and Global Warming: Facts and Fiction	Walter	Robinson	<i>Walt Robinson</i> ; Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at NC State, holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from Columbia; his research and teaching address the dynamics of the atmosphere and climate; Robinson is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.
Learn to Play Mah Jongg	Adele	Rogan	<i>Adele Rogan</i> ; avid Mah Jongg player, having played for over 20 years; she received a B.S. in Home Economics from Framingham State College and a AAS in Nursing from Maria College; OLLI member since 2015 and past chair of OLLI's Hospitality Committee; Adele and husband Matt have lived in Cary since 1993.
The Economic Impact of the Drying of the Panama Canal	Steve	Sakofsky	<i>Steve Sakofsky</i> ; B.S., Industrial Engineering and an MBA; he worked in manufacturing organizations producing industrial products for 55 years, mainly in the Quality Assurance field; Steve is a veteran OLLI instructor, has been a member of the Advisory Council and is a member of the Program Development Committee.
The Evolution of the US Intelligence Establishment	Walter	Schenberger	<i>Walter Schenberger</i> ; retired USAF officer who spent 30 years serving in various roles at the tactical level flying airplanes, at the operational level in planning, preparing for and executing operations in Hawaii and Iraq, retiring as a military attache from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea.
Understanding Attacks on Science	Michael	Schwalbe	<i>Michael Schwalbe</i> ; professor emeritus of sociology at NC State; Ph.D. in sociology, Washington State; author of <i>The Sociologically Examined Life</i> , <i>Rigging the Game: How Inequality Is Reproduced in Everyday Life</i> , <i>Making a Difference: Using Sociology to Create a Better World</i> , and other books.
Discovering the Dead at Oakwood Cemetery	Robin	Simonton	<i>Robin Simonton</i> ; Executive Director of Historic Oakwood Cemetery since 2011; B.A., U.S. History, University of Hawaii; M.A., Historical Administration, Eastern Illinois University; served as researcher of the book <i>Oahu Cemetery: Burial Ground & Historic Site</i> , by Nanette Napoleon in 1997; co-authored <i>Images of America: History Oakwood Cemetery</i> with Bruce Miller, 2017.
Lecture -- Asteroids, Meteorites, and Life Beyond Earth	Rachel	Smith	<i>Rachel Smith</i> ; M.S. and Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles; B.S. and DVM, Cornell University; Postdoctoral Scholar, Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology; Head, Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Lab and Curator of Meteorites, NC Museum of Natural Sciences; Professor, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, Appalachian State University; Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, UNC-Chapel Hill.
A World of Fear: International Horror Films	Zack	Smith	<i>Zack Smith</i> ; has more than a decade of experience teaching film courses at OLLI; he has written on film for <i>INDY Week</i> and other publications, and holds master's degrees in English and Journalism.
CPR Explained: How Lives Are Saved	Wesley	Snyder	<i>Wesley Snyder</i> ; Emeritus Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at NC State; he is a life fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and a Fellow of the Institute of Medical and Biomedical Engineers; he served as a volunteer paramedic for several years.
Understanding Political and Cultural Polarization in America	Anthony	Solari	<i>Tony Solari</i> ; Ph.D, Political Science, Duke Univ.; has been teaching political science since 1986; specializes in political philosophy, American government and politics, American political thought, and legislative politics and policy; author of a number of articles and papers; former legislative liaison for the Department of State Treasurer, lobbied for NC's "Smart Start" program and currently is president of Solari Government Solutions, a private lobbying firm.
Pictorialism and Straight Photography	Ed	Speas	<i>Ed Speas</i> ; trained as a biologist, Ed worked in primate research, environmental health, and a variety of roles in the pharmaceutical industry before retiring in 2016; his interest in photography began as a teenager and continues to this day; Ed has been an OLLI Instructor twice, presenting <i>History of Photography (2019)</i> and <i>Women in Photography--the first 100 Years (2020)</i> .
Women in the Bible	Jason	Staples	<i>Jason A. Staples</i> ; Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill; Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, NC State University; Author of <i>Paul and the Resurrection of Israel: Jews, Former Gentiles, Israelites</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024; <i>The Idea of Israel in Second Temple Judaism: A New Theory of People, Exile, and Israelite Identity</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.
A Trio of Triangle Museums	Zoe	Starling	<i>Zoe Starling</i> ; B.A., Art History, Denison University; M.A., Arts Administration, New York University; Director of Education at the Gregg Museum; Adjunct Faculty member in Art Appreciation at North Carolina Wesleyan College; after receiving her M.A. degree, Zoe worked in New York for artist George Condo, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and Matthew Marks Gallery.
Talking About Race and Ethnicity	Lee	Tate	<i>Lee Tate</i> ; MBA in Computer and Information Science, Temple University; retired senior manager with extensive experience in leading diverse teams; career has focused on delivery excellence through communication, accountability, collaboration and leadership; currently serves as Lead in workshop "Living the Pledge to End Racism."
Encountering Jane Austen in Popular Novels	Sara	Tavela	<i>Sara Tavela</i> ; Ph.D. in English, specializing in "The Long Eighteenth Century", M.A.s in English and Human Development and Family Studies; B.A. in English and Psychology; taught in universities in the Northeast and works currently for an Episcopal diocese; Regional Coordinator for the N.C. region of the Jane Austen Society of North America; has published on Austen and received awards for excellence in teaching and research from Duquesne University.
Introduction to Critical Race Theory (CRT)	Tirzah	Turner	<i>Tirzah Turner</i> ; Doctorate of Ministry in the field of practical theology, Drew University; M.Div., Gardner-Webb University; B.M., Carson-Newman University; community pastor at a non-denominational church in Cary and has a particular interest in the intersections of culture, justice and religion.
A Frontier's Frontier: Resettlement of N.C. 1650-1750	Jonathan	Underwood	<i>Jonathan Underwood</i> ; degrees in history and classical studies, UNC-Greensboro; M.A., History, NC State; Director, Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission for eight years; briefly taught N.C. history at Pfeiffer University, then served as Assistant Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of N.C. until 2021, when he was promoted to the office of Grand Secretary.
A Trio of Triangle Museums	Tamara	Velasco	<i>Tamara Velasco</i> ; Rhode Island School of Design-Illustration/Ceramics, M.A., Art Education, Manhattanville College; Former Art Teacher for Kindergarten-8th grade at Global Scholars Academy in Durham and Eno River Academy in Hillsborough; JOANN Minority Creative Grant Winner (2023), Featured Women of Achievement in <i>Chapel Hill Magazine (2024)</i> .

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South Africa Past and Present	Kenneth	Vickery	<i>Ken Vickery</i> ; A.B. Duke University, Ph.D. in African History, Yale University; Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor Emeritus, North Carolina State; Adjunct Professor, Duke University; Creator of <i>The African Experience: From "Lucy" to Mandela</i> [The Great Courses/Wondrium].
Russian Democracy: Past, Present, and Future	Gregory	Vitarbo	<i>Gregory Vitarbo</i> ; Ph.D., History, Modern Russia and Soviet Union, University of Michigan; B.A., History, Drew University; currently serves as the department head of history, political science and international studies at Meredith College; author of <i>Army of the Sky: Russian Military Aviation Before the Great War, 1904-1914</i> .
Talkin' Baseball V	Randall	Ward	<i>Randall Ward</i> ; B.S., M.Ed. from the University of Delaware; he was a Delaware educator for 34 years; he is enthusiastic about many things and has been in love with baseball for as long as he can remember; he strives to live by these words: "Each day is a gift."
Irish Short Stories	Betty	Webb	<i>Betty Webb</i> ; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Danforth Scholar, Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship; taught for over 20 years at Meredith College; awarded two named chairs, two college-wide teaching awards, one presidential award; directed international programs for over 30 years at Meredith; received one presidential award and the 2018 Martha Fitch Trigonis Individual Award given by the NC Association of International Educators; established the Meredith program in Sansepolcro, Tuscany, teaching there for four semesters; currently directs the WINGS program.
Fall Semester Kick-Off Lecture and Open House: Communicating Science Effectively: Where Do We Start?	Jory	Weintraub	<i>Jory Weintraub</i> ; B.S., Biochemistry and Cell Biology from UC San Diego; Ph.D., Immunology from UNC Chapel Hill; subsequently awarded an NSF postdoctoral fellowship to study science education/outreach and diversity in STEM; his career has focused on science communication and science outreach, societal impacts of research, and DEI in STEM; he is currently Director of Science Engagement and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Communication at NC State.
Lecture -- Sacred Space--Cary First Christian Church Cemetery	Barbara	Wetmore	<i>Barbara Wetmore</i> ; a native of upstate New York, adopted Cary, N.C. in the 1980s and has been active in the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Cary's Historical Society; has served on the Board of Directors for many years.
Lecture -- Creative Approaches to Facing Uncertainty	Greg	Whitt	<i>Greg Whitt</i> ; is an award-winning edutainer based in Raleigh, NC; he leads programs in corporations, congregations, communities and classrooms; programs designed to creatively connect people in ways that are joyful, engaging, and good for all; with a graduate certificate in Transformative Leadership from the Maryland University of Integrative Health, his programs are actually applied philosophy about how we can live, work, and play well together in community; only they're cleverly disguised as music, and they're delivered as interactive and engaging fun; Learn more at www.drumforchange.com
Cultural Arts of Canada	Ruth	Wieder	<i>Ruth Wieder</i> ; holds an Hons BFA from the University of Toronto's Victoria College; she has worked for the McMichael Canadian Art Collection as an Interpretive Curator and Public Programmer; a dual citizen, she moved from her hometown of Toronto to Washington, D.C. where she worked as a place branding strategist; she was part of the team that helped develop the Visit Raleigh brand where she fell in love with this city and moved here permanently in 2019; she continues her consulting work in addition to founding a non-profit, AWAKE: Cultural Paths.
Against Type: Ageism in Today's World	Hugh	Willard	<i>Hugh Willard</i> ; holds degrees in psychology and counseling and is a psychotherapist, author, and retirement coach with over 35 years of experience; he has facilitated workshops locally and nationally and has guest lectured at several area universities including UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State; he is currently pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing from Bay Path University.
Islam: History and Institutions	Theodora	Zampaki	<i>Theodora Zampaki</i> ; D.Phil., Graeco-Arabic Studies; tutor at the Hellenic Open University, Greece; she has been offering courses for OLLI at Furman since 2021.