

# Spring 2024 Instructor Bios - OLLI at NC State University

\*Listings are alphabetical by instructor last name.\*

Course Name	Full Name	Bio
People of Faith Reflect on Earth Care	Towsif Aziz	<i>Towsif Aziz</i> ; part of ICCT as their Communications Team Lead, earned his MBA from East Carolina University and obtained his B.S. in Business Administration and Biology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; he currently works as a Operations Specialist for Thrivent Charitable and enjoys splitting his time between home projects, gardening and traveling! Towsif also volunteers with Zakat Foundation in Durham, NC where he is also on as a board member
Postcards from Around the World	Lauren Ball	<i>Lauren Ball</i> ; has worked in the Office of International Services at NC State for 14 years and has been coordinating the Postcards from Around the World class almost annually during that time; she holds a Master's degree in International Studies from NC State and loves supporting engagement between NC State's international population and OLLI class participants.
Catching Up with the CRISPR Craze	Rodolphe Barrangou	<i>Rodolphe Barrangou</i> ; Ph.D., is the T. R. Klaenhammer Distinguished Professor at North Carolina State University, leading the CRISPRlab; Rodolphe spent 9 years at Danisco and DuPont, and has been at NC State since 2013; For his CRISPR work, Rodolphe received several international awards, notably the Canada Gairdner International Award, and was elected into the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Inventors; Dr. Barrangou is a co-founder of Intellia Therapeutics, Locus Biosciences, TreeCo, Ancilia Biosciences and CRISPR Biotechnologies, an advisor to Inari and the IGI, and Editor in Chief of the CRISPR Journal.
Intermission Impossible: Long Films You Can't Walk Away From	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.
Reducing Spam Calls and Texts	Lila Bednar	<i>Lila Bednar</i> ; B.S. Computer Networking, Strayer University; M.S. Information Assurance Engineering, Capitol Technology University; multiple technical certifications including Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Information Systems Manager (CISM); has a multi-decade career in information security (now called cybersecurity), compliance and privacy with experience in both governmental and commercial environments, including cloud computing.
Medicare Fraud: Don't Become A Victim!	Stephanie Bias	<i>Stephanie Bias</i> ; North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol (NCSMP) Program Coordinator at Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) within North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI); Stephanie is a Salisbury native, however Raleigh has been "home" since 1973; Stephanie holds an AA from Peace College; BS in Education from Campbell College and a Graduate Certification in Training and Development from North Carolina State University; Stephanie has 35 years of professional service to the State of North Carolina; as the NCSMP Program Coordinator, she travels the state providing Medicare fraud prevention through education, outreach and media efforts to NC's two million Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, professional partners; she serves as the Co-Chair of the North Carolina Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force and the Awareness Committee Co-Chair of the North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse (NCP3A).
Why the Jews? Understanding and Recognizing Antisemitism	Sheldon Bleiweiss	<i>Shelly Bleiweiss</i> ; a retired clinical social worker, a child of two Holocaust survivors, and a former docent at Holocaust Museum Houston; a Holocaust educator for over 20 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 U of Pittsburgh, and has also taught classes for the Creative Lifelong Learning program at Granville County Senior Center; he is a member of the NC State Council on the Holocaust and NC Holocaust Speakers Bureau.
Good Conversations with Adult Children	Alita Bluford	<i>Alita Bluford</i> ; B.S, Univ. of Michigan; M.S., Eastern Michigan Univ.; born and raised in Detroit; OLLI at Duke member and instructor, former member of OLLI at the University of Michigan; adult learning specialist with a passion to teach adults in ways that make learning easier for them; throughout her professional life she has focused on educating adults in difficult situations; has worked in several corporations as a training manager, and ran her own consulting firm that assisted small businesses in teaching their employees how to get along better and work more efficiently.
Choosing a CCRC: Make Your First Choice the Right Choice	Brad Breeding	<i>Brad Breeding</i> ; spent 12 years as a personal financial advisor before founding myLifeSite.net, an online platform providing tools and content designed to facilitate well-informed retirement living choices—especially concerning CCRC/life plan retirement communities and other senior living options; Brad's expertise has been sought out by outlets such as <i>Money Magazine</i> , <i>Kiplinger's</i> , <i>Wall Street Journal's MarketWatch</i> , <i>USA Today</i> , and <i>The New York Times</i> . His book <i>What's the Deal with Retirement Communities?</i> offers an exploration of senior living and important planning considerations.
Via Zoom - A Tour of Literary Britain	Margaret Brill	<i>Margaret Brill</i> ; grew up just outside London, and has a B.A. in history from the University of London, a master's in library science from North Carolina Central University and a master's in liberal studies from Duke; during her career at Duke she was the British history librarian, and also head of reference, maps librarian and librarian for medieval and Renaissance studies; her primary interest is social history, especially women's history.
Gospel Voices: Comparing Themes and Structures	E. Carson Brisson	<i>E. Carson Brisson</i> ; Associate Professor of Bible & Biblical Languages, (Ph.D., Th.M., M.Div., B.A.,) Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond Va.; Charlotte, NC; Dr. Brisson's primary teaching assignments at Union are biblical Hebrew and Greek; In 2022, he received an award for his essay "A Jail Visit and a Promise to a Mother." His latest publication, March 2023, is the essay "Stronger Than All Evil Things," in the journal <i>Christian Century</i> ; He enjoys taking long walks with his spouse and their rescue beagle when there is a breeze.
Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina	W. Fitzhugh Brundage	<i>W. Fitzhugh Brundage</i> ; received his B.A. from the University of Chicago and my Ph.D. from Harvard University; before coming to UNC-CH in 2002, he taught at Queen's University (Canada) and the University of Florida; he has written about lynchings in the post-Civil War South, Black and white historical memory in the South, the history of torture in the United States, and is currently completing a book on Civil War prisoner of war camps.

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Introduction To The Dulcimer	Joan Burroughs	<i>Joan Burroughs</i> ; is a multi-instrumentalist, who specializes in the mountain dulcimer; In 2006, after receiving a mountain dulcimer as a gift, she immediately joined a dulcimer group in her area, and began instruction. Later, Joan purchased a hammered dulcimer; Since 2006 Joan has been attending workshops, both live and virtual, on both instruments; She has attended Western Carolina University, Warren Wilson College, Mars Hill University, and various festivals with individual instructor workshops; In 2021, she received her mountain dulcimer teacher certification from Judy House, after completing a week long course at Black Mountain Music Festival; Joan has been published multiple times in the Wake Weekly, and DPN: Dulcimer Players News; She gives concerts, plays for her church; Joan visits retirement communities where she performs, gives group and individual instruction, as well as music at the bedside for short and long term care patients; In 2021, Joan taught a dulcimer workshop for the city of Raleigh, NC; She now resides and teaches in the Raleigh; You may view her website at dulcimerdestiny.com.
Via Zoom - Southeast Asian North Carolina	Becky Butler	<i>Becky A. Butler</i> ; Ph.D., 2014, Cornell University M.A., 2005, UNC-Chapel Hill B.A., 2003, University of Virginia; Assistant Director for Southeast Asia Initiatives, Carolina Asia Center, UNC-CH; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Linguistics, UNC-CH; Selected projects/grants won: North Carolina Teaching Asia Network (2023-24), Freeman Foundation: National Council for Teaching about Asia Bringing Southeast Asia Home (2022-2027), Henry Luce Foundation Southeast Asian North Carolina (2022), Association for Asian Studies Migration Stories: Linguistics and Belonging among Refugees from Burma (2018-2021), Humanities for the Public Good Critical Issues Project Fund Linguistic Diversity (2016), Thrive@Carolina
Mystery and Detective Fiction: The Back Story	Nancy Capaccio	<i>Nancy Capaccio</i> ; graduated from U Wisconsin and taught school briefly before serving as a marketing research consultant to Fortune 500 companies; She's a fan of mysteries and of OLLI.
The Secret Life of N.C. State Parks	Katherine Capps	<i>Kathy Capps</i> ; has been working in the parks and recreation industry for over 25 years in university, military, state and municipal settings; she is currently working for North Carolina State Parks as the Deputy Director of Operations; this position provides direction and leadership to the N.C. state parks system and operations including statewide management of all lands and waters administered by the division including parks, recreation areas, trails, rivers, lakes and natural areas encompassing over 250,000 acres; in addition, Capps is responsible for overseeing resource management, environmental education programming, law enforcement, safety and facility maintenance for the state's park system.
The Blueprint to Dismantle Systemic Racism	Christal Carmichael	<i>Christal Carmichael</i> ; serves as the Division of Race Equity, Program Manager, for Wake County; in this role, Christal advances the County's efforts to launch and execute recommendations from the Blueprint to Dismantle Systemic Racism report; from integrating racial equity principles into County operations, to strategic management and facilitation of a multi-stakeholder planning process, Christal is advancing the work of Race equity through a collaborative and long-term effort.
We the People—Current and Future Population Demographics	Mike Cline	<i>Mike Cline</i> , Ph.D., Applied Demography UT-San Antonio; State Demographer of North Carolina; author and co-author of several books, book chapters, and articles including <i>Population Change in the United States</i> and <i>The Future of Hispanics May Determine the Socioeconomic Future of the United States</i> .
Via Zoom -- Gender in the U.S. Constitution	Jimmie Cochran-Pratt	<i>Jimmie Cochran Pratt</i> ; Master of Public Affairs from Western Carolina University; Certificate in Not-For-Profit Management from Duke University; Professional life spent in higher education with emphasis in career and leadership development at Columbia University in the City of New York; fund development in NC Community Colleges; nation building for U.S. Department of State in Prishtina, Kosovo; In retirement is a political activist for the Equal Rights Amendment, serving as co-president for ERA-NC Alliance and active member of the League of Women Voters.
Confessions of a Retired Art Museum Curator	John Coffey	<i>John W. Coffey</i> ; a native of Raleigh, Mr. Coffey received a B.A. from the UNC-Chapel Hill and an M.A. from Williams College; he served as curator of collections at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art until 1989 when he began a 32-year career at the North Carolina Museum of Art, retiring in 2021 as Deputy Director, Curator of American and Modern Art, and Curator of Judaic Art; during his tenure at the NCMA, Coffey organized numerous exhibitions; however, his most enduring legacy is collection building; his many art acquisitions have dramatically enhanced the Museum's presentation of American, modern and Jewish ceremonial art.
Dorothea Dix Park: From Concept to Creation	Janet Cowell	<i>Janet Cowell</i> ; is the President and CEO of the Dorothea Dix Park Conservancy, bringing a passion for nature, history, and design along with 30 years of experience in both public and private sector roles, including service as state treasurer, chief executive officer, state senator, and city councilor.
Having Our Say--The Remarkable Delany Sisters	Wanda Cox-Bailey	<i>Wanda Cox-Bailey</i> ; B.S., MLS, University of Maryland, College Park; Branch Manager, R.B. Harrison Public Library, Wake County Public Libraries; retired in 2020; veteran OLLI instructor.
Bond, James Bond	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.
Via Zoom - Natural Solutions to Climate Change	Warren Darrell	<i>Warren Darrell</i> ; registered professional engineer with M.S. degrees in Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science from the University of Alabama and Montana State University; he is an active volunteer with the Ecologic Development Fund in Latin America, the North Carolina Coastal Estuarine Reserve, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; Warren lives near Wilmington, NC, and is an avid sea kayaker.
Winter Storms in North Carolina	Corey Davis	<i>Corey Davis</i> ; B.S., Meteorology; M.S.; Atmospheric Science from NC State; Corey is a science communicator, a weather historian, and a lifelong North Carolina resident who loves to share the story of our weather and climate with people across the state.
People of Faith Reflect on Earth Care	Rev. Jarrod Davis	<i>Rev. Jarrod S. Davis</i> ; is a native of eastern North Carolina, where his family's farm dates back to 1776; Jarrod holds a B.A. in English from NC State University and a Master of Divinity from Duke University; Jarrod has been in ministry with the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2012, and has served as pastor of several rural churches; he served as the chair of the NC Conference's Creation Care Committee from 2020-2023, and now serves as the Creation Ministries Coordinator for both the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of the UMC; he writes, speaks on, preaches, teaches and trains Christians in becoming better environmental stewards from a Christian theological standpoint, and helps churches incorporate positive ecological practices into their missions.

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It's Your Story - Write Your Memoir!	Phyllis Demko	<i>Phyllis Demko</i> ; has been an active OLLI volunteer since 2013, including service on the Program Committee and instructor of numerous courses; her career was in higher education as a lawyer, human resources administrator and adjunct faculty, teaching literature, writing and education courses; she recently completed a memoir book of 48 essays about her life and times; she holds a Ph.D. in English and J.D. from UNC.
Black Brilliance in Literature	Marc Dudley	<i>Marc K. Dudley</i> ; Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Professor of English and Africana Studies at NC State; inducted into the NC State Academy of Outstanding Teachers (2020), contributor to/featured in Ken Burns' most recent documentary, <i>Hemingway</i> (2021). Author of <i>Hemingway, Race, and Art</i> (2012) and <i>Understanding James Baldwin</i> .
Toy Boom: The Making of an Exhibit	Katie Edwards	<i>Katie Edwards</i> ; Is the Curator of Popular Culture at the North Carolina Museum of History; the Smithfield, NC native attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a degree in history, and eventually a master's degree in public history from North Carolina State University; she has worked at the history museum since 2007, where she has been fortunate enough to curate exciting exhibits like Starring North Carolina!, The North Carolina Roots of Artist Ernie Barnes, Toy Boom!, and Are We There Yet? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland.
Course 1: Exploring Dark Matter, Dark Energy and Space Travel Course 2: The Story of 1905; Einstein's Incredible Year	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.
The Titanic and Mass Media History	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.
Film and the Other Arts	Lucy Fischer	<i>Lucy Fischer</i> ; is a Distinguished Professor, Emerita, of Film and Media Studies at the University of Pittsburgh; she is the author of fifteen books, most recently, <i>Cinema by Design: Art Nouveau, Modernism, and Film History</i> (2017), <i>Cinemagritte: René Magritte Within the Frame of Film History, Theory and Practice</i> (2019) <i>Emotion Pictures: Cinema and Feelings</i> (2023), <i>Recollecting Collecting: Film and Media Perspectives</i> (2023); she has held curatorial positions at The Museum of Modern Art (NYC) and The Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh), and has received a NEA Art Critics Fellowship and a NEH Fellowship.
NATO in the 20th & 21st 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.
The End of Everything, Astrophysically Speaking	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.
Via Evening Zoom - Broadway in the Seventies: A Personal Journey	Cary Frederick	<i>Cary Frederick</i> ; B.A., MLS, Indiana University; film studies at College of Staten Island 1979-80; began a NYC tour company called Rent-a-New Yorker in 1982; from 1971-2006, helped run the Current Broadway Theater Tour; taught four classes covering these 45 years at UMass Boston via Zoom; married, two children; moved to N.C. from the Boston area in 2020.
Music and the Brain	S. Mitchell Freedman	<i>S. Mitchell Freedman</i> ; B.A., Haverford College; MD, 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-CH.
Have Spacesuit--Will Travel: The Evolution and Future of Spacesuits	Marc Fusco	<i>Marc Fusco</i> ; M.A., M.S., NASA Ambassador and space historian; Marc has several degrees in Medieval and Renaissance Literature and History, and an M.S. in Space Studies, where he majored in space policy and history; he has taught at Arizona State, Duke, and UNC; Marc has worked as a commercial space analyst and is currently a NASA Ambassador in Raleigh; author of <i>Presidents, Politics, and Policy: How the Apollo and Shuttle Decisions Shaped NASA</i> .
Course 1: Great Decisions 2024 Via Zoom - The Importance of Pets	Mike Ganey	<i>Michael Ganey</i> ; B.S., History; MBA, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia; 40 years in consumer products marketing; OLLI member; keen interest in current affairs, both domestic and international. Senior marketing roles with Anheuser-Busch, Bahlsen, Austin Quality Foods, The American Kennel Club, and House-Autry Mills.
Via Zoom - The Godmothers of Art	Parme Giuntini	<i>Parme Giuntini</i> ; earned her Ph.D. in art history from UCLA and currently teaches for Otis College of Art and Design and the University of North Texas; she is an art and design historian with a passion for 18th century portraiture and representations of domestic life as well as the intersection of design and culture.
Discovering Ursula Parrott Via Zoom - Death and Dying Documents Everyone Should Have	Marsha Gordon	<i>Marsha Gordon</i> ; Professor of Film Studies at North Carolina State University, a recent Fellow at the National Humanities Center, and an NEH Public Scholar; she is the author of numerous books and articles, and co-director of several short documentaries; her latest book, <i>Becoming the Ex-Wife: The Unconventional Life and Forgotten Writings of Ursula Parrott</i> , was published with the trade division of University of California Press in April 2023; for seven years Marsha contributed to a monthly show, "Movies on the Radio," with NC Museum of Art film curator Laura Boyes and Frank Stasio, on 91.5/WUNC's "The State of Things." She regularly introduces films, gives lectures, and participates in panels all over the United States and Europe.
Course 1: Selling Your Home in Today's Market Course 2: Downsizing 2.0	John Grant	<i>John Grant</i> ; J.D., Stetson College of Law; practiced estate planning and administration for 53 years; served in the Florida Legislature for 21 years.
Course 1: Selling Your Home in Today's Market Course 2: Downsizing 2.0	Freda Hamlett	<i>Freda Hamlett</i> ; B.A. from Syracuse University in Interior Design; certified Senior Housing Professional; senior Real Estate Specialist.

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From Democracy to Dictatorship: Germany 1919-1939	Carolyn Happer	<i>Carolyn Happer</i> ; received her Ph.D. from Duke University; she was at Meredith College for 30 years where she taught Southern history, American history, Western Civilization and Holocaust Experiences.
Via Zoom - Haiti's Independence	Deborah Jenson	<i>Deborah Jenson</i> ; Professor of Romance Studies and Research Professor of Global Health at Duke University, has studied, taught, and written about Haiti from many angles, ranging from literary and cultural history, to the cholera epidemic, to Haitian contributions to psychiatry; she engaged in many collaborative projects through Duke's Haiti Lab, and has taught short graduate seminars on ethnology at the State University of Haiti.
The Underground Railroad In Eastern NC	Leesa Jones	<i>Leesa Payton Jones</i> ; retired preschool teacher of 37 years; Co-Founder and Curator of The Washington Waterfront Underground Railroad Museum; owner of The African American Walking History Tours of Washington NC; author of <i>Bright Ma-Day Clean, A Story About The Underground Railroad</i> , a children's book about the underground railroad in Washington NC.
Via Zoom - Great Escapes of World War II	Howard Kerner	<i>Howard Kerner</i> ; M.A.; taught English, communications and humanities at the high school and university levels for 47 years; has published hundreds of articles and created and taught courses on interpersonal relationships and on the Holocaust.
Fred Olds and the Hall of History	Charles Knight	<i>Charles Knight</i> ; has worked in the museum field for more than 20 years, and is currently Curator of Military History at the North Carolina Museum of History; his main field of study is the American Civil War; has written numerous journal articles and his first book, <i>Valley Thunder: The Battle of New Market</i> , was published in 2010; his second book, <i>From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee's Civil War Day by Day</i> , was published in June 2021.
Insights On Plant Consumers' Decisions and Behavior	Melinda Knuth	<i>Melinda Knuth</i> ; currently an Assistant Professor in Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University; Dr. Knuth teaches Greenhouse Management, Floral Design, and Horticulture Marketing; Dr. Knuth received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in Horticultural with a certificate in Statistics; From there, she was a postdoctoral research associate at University of Florida in the Food & Resource Economics Department; She currently serves as the Young Professional Council Advisor for American Floral Endowment's Executive Board; Her article <i>What the Research Says About Millennials and Houseplants</i> was the #10 most read article in Greenhouse Product News in 2022; Dr. Knuth received GPN Magazine's 40 under 40 award in 2021 and a 2017 AmericanHort Scholar.
Beyond Cable: Making Smart Streaming Choices	Howard Koslow	<i>Howard Koslow</i> ; B.S., Brown University; Software engineer for IBM; volunteer and instructor for OLLI at Duke, teaching technology courses since 2018.
Via Zoom - A Close Reading of Toni Morrison's "Paradise"	Marjorie Lancaster	<i>Marjorie Lancaster</i> ; completed her undergraduate work at Duke University and her graduate work at Tulane; as a member of the Toni Morrison Society, she has given presentations on strategies on teaching Morrison's novels; since 2015 she has enjoyed teaching OLLI classes and believes that a good class is fueled by the participants' curiosity, a guided scrutiny of the text, and inclusive participation that brings out the many facets of the work.
Tourism in Nature: Sustainability Problems or Solutions?	Yu-Fai Leung	<i>Yu-Fai Leung</i> ; received his Ph.D. in Forestry from Virginia Tech after completing his bachelor and master's education in Hong Kong. For over 20 years, he has devoted teaching, research and service to the sustainability issues of tourism and recreation in protected and natural areas; he has conducted research and capacity building projects in various national parks in the U.S. and abroad; he was the chief editor of IUCN sustainable tourism best practice guidelines (in six languages); he is a co-PI on two ongoing Antarctic tourism studies funded by the Dutch Government.
Introduction to Origami	Cliff Lin	<i>Cliff Lin</i> ; junior in electrical engineering at NC State; president of Origami Club at NC State
Understanding Local Weather Reports	James Luciani	<i>Jim Luciani</i> ; 22 year US Navy Aerographer's Mate (weather forecaster); 18 year National Weather Service Port Meteorological Officer; 2020 NWS Issac M. Cline Award winner for Data Acquisition.
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.
People of Faith Reflect on Earth Care	Lynn Lyle	<i>Lynn Lyle</i> , B.A. from Sweet Briar College; M.Ed. in counseling and Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, University of Florida; in retirement she is a full-time volunteer and president of Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle; her earlier career was in education serving as a school counselor, play therapist, director of a community women's center at a community college, a government relations officer, and a university development officer.
Great Works of Western Drama	Catherine Mainland	<i>Catherine Mainland</i> ; studied German in her native Scotland before moving to North Carolina in 2001; she received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2003 and 2006, then a second M.A. in English Literature from NCSU in 2008; since joining the English faculty at NCSU in 2010, she has taught a range of American and Western World Literature survey courses, interdisciplinary seminars for the Honors and Scholars Program, and graduate seminars for the MALS program.
Writing Your Novel	Heather McCollum	<i>Heather McCollum</i> ; B.A.; Historical Romance Author; <i>USA Today</i> Bestseller, <i>Publisher's Weekly</i> Bestseller; Winner of the 2022 National Excellence in Romance Fiction Award; Published over 30 novels; Presenter on Dynamic Dialogue for WCPLS
Information and Misinformation: The Role of the Media in the 2024 Campaign	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.
Angels and Influencers: The 19th Century Woman's Sphere	Katherine Meyer	<i>Katherine Meyer</i> ; author, educator, and historian; has been a docent and historical interpreter since she was nine years old; after college, she continued her studies of American Cultural History, taught for ten years, and launched a series of American history lectures; she is the author of two historical fiction novels: <i>Grosvenor Square</i> and <i>Nine Miles North</i> .

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Napoleonic Wars Part I	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.
The Astonishing Inner life of Our Cells	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.
Course 1: Booker T. Washington: Savior or Traitor? True Stories of the Circuit Rider Preachers	Course 2: Gary Moore	<i>Gary Moore</i> ; Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Extension Education, NC State; member of the NC State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers; has made presentations in 41 states, four Canadian provinces and on four continents; veteran OLLI instructor.
Enneagram and Ayurvedic Principles	George Nemezc	<i>George Nemezc</i> ; Ph.D. CAy.; retired professor of Biochemistry, at Campbell University School of Pharmacy and School of Osteopathic Medicine at Buies Creek N.C.; Dr. Nemezc's research interests cover a wide range of topics from lipid biochemistry to molecular modeling, herbal and oriental medicinal practices; Dr. Nemezc published several herbal monographs and applications published in <i>U.S. Pharmacist</i> ; Dr. Nemezc is a certified Ayurvedic practitioner and he was the course director of herbal and alternative medicine program at the School of Pharmacy.
Dorothea Dix Park: From Concept to Creation	Nick Neptune	<i>Nick Neptune</i> ; is the Director of Outreach and Community Engagement for the Dorothea Dix Park Conservancy; he is a 2023 recipient of the Triangle Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Business and Community Leadership Award and the 2022 WakeUP Wake County Stan Norwalk Award for Community Engagement.
Mystery and Detective Fiction: The Back Story	Audrey Newton	<i>Audrey Newton</i> ; At an early age, Audrey Newton met Nancy Drew who introduced her to Sherlock Holmes, and the game was afoot; after an A.B. in English Literature and Drama and an M.S. in Information Science, she taught English at the secondary level, and was a school librarian before pivoting to work with younger children; she received Primary and Advanced Diplomas from AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) and founded and headed Apple Valley Montessori School in Sudbury, MA; in retirement, she is still threatening to write mysteries featuring a peripatetic librarian.
Our Emotional Lives Workshop	Ben O'Neal	<i>Ben O'Neal</i> ; Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Communications and Signal Processing, NC State; RJ Reynolds Award for Research, Extension and Teaching; Academy of Outstanding Teachers, veteran OLLI instructor, OLLI member.
Let There Be Sparks! The Large Hadron Collider	Bill Pace	<i>Bill Pace</i> ; B.S. in Engineering from 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.
Optics for the Curious: The Study of Light	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; Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France; Technische Universität Dresden, Germany; and Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Stuttgart, Germany.
Course 1: Great Books Discussion Group Stones to Crypto: A Brief History of Banking	Course 2: 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.
The Future of Our Democracy: Non-Partisan Views on How Citizens Can Help	Jane Pinsky	<i>Jane Pinsky</i> ; B.A., Carleton College; Cours des Etudiants Etrangers, Université de Caen: Founding member- National Committee on Pay Equity; Founding member - Emily's List; Founding member- Lillian's List; Professional experience- National Women's Employment Project, NARAL, Democratic National Committee, American Nurses Association, NC Organization of Nurse Executives, NC Foundation for Nursing, NC Governor's Highway Safety Program, AAA-NC, Child Advocacy Institute, Common Cause; Honors- Outstanding Young Women, Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award- Carleton College, Defenders of Justice Award- NC Justice Center.
Great Decisions 2024	Tom Price	<i>Tom Price</i> ; BSEE and MBA, Duke University; retired entrepreneur and investor; OLLI member; recipient of OLLI volunteer award, 2011; veteran OLLI instructor.
Solving Mysteries through Death Investigations	Debi Radisch	<i>Dr. Deborah Radisch</i> ; earned her M.D. from Bowman Gray School of Medicine (WFU), completed post-graduate training at NC Memorial Hospital and the NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and is board-certified in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology; she obtained her MPH (HPAA) at UNC Gillings School of Public Health; her area of special interest is reviewing child fatalities to prevent their occurrence; in 2010, following 25 years of experience as a forensic pathologist at the NC OCME, she became the Chief Medical Examiner of NC; upon her retirement in 2019, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.
We the People—Current and Future Population Demographics	Carol Rahmani	<i>Carol Rahmani</i> ; Ph.D., Psychology, NC State; retired school system administrator and school psychologist; avid student of history and contemporary politics; OLLI Program Development Committee member, veteran OLLI instructor and 2014 recipient of OLLI's Betty Poulton Volunteerism Award.
North Carolina's Contribution to the Bluegrass Story	Ron Raxter	<i>Ron Raxter</i> ; founder, Apple Chill Cloggers and Pine Cone-the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music; former Chair, IBMA Leadership Bluegrass Planning Committee; former member, Education Committee of the International Bluegrass Music Association; current co-ordinator of Five Points Pickers and PineCone bluegrass jams; active award-winning bluegrass and old-time musician (bass); double major in History and Political Science, UNC-CH.
Via Zoom - Backyard Pollinators	Niki Robertson	<i>Niki Robertson</i> ; Ph.D. in Plant Cell Biology from Cornell University; she taught in the Plant Biology Department at NC State for 26 years before retiring and becoming an avid nature lover.

Course Name	Full Name	Bio
People of Faith Reflect on Earth Care	Erin Salisbury	<i>Erin Salisbury</i> ; a senior at NC State earning her B.A. in Religious Studies, is on the Steering Committee of Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle; she earned her Associate's Degree from Wake Technical Community College in 2022; in addition to her studies at NC State and her involvement with ICCT, Erin is active as a member of the Raleigh Dayenu circle; Erin believes that we all have the responsibility to care for the world around us and is excited to share a Jewish perspective on creation care.
Discussing "Pride and Prejudice"	Sue Scott	<i>Sue Scott</i> ; retired librarian; she has taught classes for OLLI on <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , <i>Emma</i> , and <i>Persuasion</i> ; as a member of the Jane Austen Society, she presents programs about Austen's life and novels; most recently, a discussion entitled "Pride, Prejudice, and Peculiarities: The Writing Quirks of Jane Austen"; member of OLLI's Hospitality Committee.
Plant Disease Epidemics: Sociological and Historical Impacts	David Shew	<i>David Shew</i> ; a native of North Carolina; he received a Ph.D. from NC State in Plant Pathology and was Professor of Plant Pathology for 40 years at NC State; he conducted research, taught multiple classes, and received national and NC State teaching awards including Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor; he retired September 30, 2020.
Why Comics Aren't Just For Kids	Margaret Simon	<i>Maggie Simon</i> ; earned a Ph.D. in English Language and Literatures from the University of Virginia and an M.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; while her primary research field is English Renaissance Literature and book history, she has spent the last ten years researching and teaching about contemporary American comics; in addition to her extensive publications in Renaissance literature, she has published and presented on various topics related to comics and graphic literature, most recently a collaborative piece on the digital annotation of graphic literature which appears in the journal of the Design Research Society.
Life and Times of Financial Crimes	Karen Sims	<i>Karen A. Sims</i> ; serves as Director Gifts and Records Management at NC State University since 2017; Sims brings over 24 years of experience within nonprofit financial management; Sims is an experienced advancement professional with proven skills to increase efficiency in integration of industry best practices for gift compliance, gift acceptance and data standards; Sims has previously served as Treasurer and Chair of the Ethics and Accountability committee for the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Eastern PA chapter; She holds a bachelor's degree from DeSales University in management and marketing and a master's degree in Educational Leadership (M.Ed.) from Lehigh University.
Political Lobbying: Why It Exists, How it Works and Its Impact on our Lives	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.
The Fireflies and Other Glowing Insects of North Carolina	Clyde Sorenson	<i>Clyde E. Sorenson</i> ; B.S. Wildlife Biology, M.S. Entomology, Ph.D. Entomology, all from NCSU; I am a professor of entomology in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at NCSU; Previously, I served on the faculties of the University of Nevada-Reno and the University of Missouri-Columbia; I teach undergraduate and graduate entomology classes at NCSU, including Insects and People, Fundamentals of Arthropod Pest Management, and Insect Ecology; I conduct research on agricultural pest management and the ecology of insects and rare plants in longleaf pine savannas; I am also co-leading a citizen science project on an undescribed species of ghost firefly.
It's Your Story - Write Your Memoir!	Lynne Sparrow	<i>Lynne Sparrow</i> ; a long-time OLLI member and an active participant in several writing groups and networks; she has published two books of memoir in which she reports and reflects on her experiences, her adventures, and what she's managed to learn from them; other writings include short stories, essays, and a full-length collection of family stories and other pieces; in her career she taught German and English as a Second Language to students in kindergarten through university; she has a B.A. in German and master's in education.
Spring Kick Off Lecture -- Words From NC State's Dr. Tom Stafford- Tour Guide Was Never in my Job Description	Tom Stafford	<i>Tom Stafford</i> ; a native of Henderson, N.C.; Dr. Stafford served as a mentor to NC State student leaders for more than forty years; following twelve years of service in various positions, including associate dean of Student Affairs, Chancellor Bruce Poulton appointed Dr. Stafford as vice chancellor for Student Affairs; as Vice Chancellor, Dr. Stafford served alongside twenty-seven student body presidents and six NC State chancellors; received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Davidson College; master's degree in counseling from NC State; Ph.D. in higher education administration from Florida State.
Lights, Camera, Action! Analyzing Film Production	Sarah Stein	<i>Sarah Stein</i> ; Ph.D. Communication Studies, University of Iowa; NC State Associate Professor Emerita, teaching film production, and cultural analysis of media and technology. Before becoming an academic, had a 25 year career in New York City as documentary film editor for films that won two Academy Awards, two Emmys, the Columbia-Dupont Journalism Award, and numerous national and international film festivals.
People of Faith Reflect on Earth Care	Elise Strevel	<i>Elise Strevel</i> ; at-large member of the Interfaith Creation Care of The Triangle Steering Committee; retired from a 20 year career in Special Education and another 20 year career in Nursing; since retiring, she dedicates much time and effort in various volunteer roles in organizations such as Outreach Coordinator for the Kadampa Buddhist Center, Board Member of Triangle Interfaith Alliance, and ICCT.
Revisiting Darwin's HMS Beagle voyage (1831-1836)	Janice Swab	<i>Dr. Janice C. Swab</i> ; Professor of Biology emerita, has taught in higher education in the USA and a number of other countries for 55 years; she has been a Fulbright Scholar in Egypt, Sudan, Zambia, and India; she lectures widely on botanical topics as a result of her travels to countries from Australia to Zambia and especially in recent years in the Arctic.
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."

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Proven Strategies for Securing Your Retirement Lifestyle	Jim Trull	<i>Jim Trull</i> ; CeFTR, CFP®, is a graduate of North Carolina State University and the founder of Keystone Financial Partners, an independent wealth management firm in Cary; Jim has earned his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®), Chartered Financial Consultant® (ChFC®), Chartered Life Underwriter® (CLU®), Certified in Long-Term Care (CLTC), and Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF®) designations; Jim is a member of the Financial Planning Association® (FPA®) and has more than 40 years of experience advising clients through life's most critical transitions such as retirement, loss of a spouse, and coming into sudden money from an inheritance or sale of a business.
Introduction to Critical Race Theory (CRT)	Tirzah Turner	<i>Tirzah Turner</i> ; Doctorate of Ministry in the field of practical theology, Drew University; MDiv, 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.
Via Zoom -- Gender in the U.S. Consitution	Teri Walley	<i>Teri Walley</i> ; Co-President, ERA-NC Alliance
The Explorer Species and the First Peopling of Places	Karl Wegmann	<i>Karl Wegmann</i> ; B.A., Geology, Whitman College; M.S., Earth and Planetary Sciences, Univ. of New Mexico; Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Science, Lehigh Univ.; Assoc. Professor of Geology, Dept. of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences, NC State; over 65 research publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, geologic maps, and landslide hazard assessments; co-creator of HazMapper.org platform for global, open-source and publicly available natural hazard detection via cloud computing.
The Goldilocks Dilemma: The Grandparent and Grandchild relationship	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.
Conserving Pollinators Through Gardening	Neal Wisenbaker	<i>Neal Wisenbaker</i> ; is the City Horticulturist for Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources; he holds a Masters in Natural Resources from NC State University; his research is on the management of naturalistic landscapes.