

## **OLLI at LSU Summer 2021**

### **Instructor Bios**

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**Agnes Bickham** is a Yoga Alliance ERYT with experience of 1,000+ teaching hours. She received her Teacher Certification from Shambhava School of Yoga in Kona, Hawaii. She has practiced and taught Hatha Yoga (primarily) at various studios and venues in the Baton Rouge area. Agnes has been employed as a yoga instructor at the Women's Center for Wellness for many years. She teaches yoga as a stabilizing practice that grounds students, promoting a sense of well-being, strength, confidence, balance, and joy.

**Andrew Burns** is a Sociology PhD. candidate studying deviance and focusing on opioid users in Ohio. He currently holds a master's degree in Sociology from University of New Orleans.

**Harsha Chacko Ph.D.** is a Professor Emeritus of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Administration at the University of New Orleans where he taught for 33 years and developed the Wines of the World course. In 2009, Harsha successfully completed the requirements for the designation as a Certified Specialist of Wine from the Society of Wine Educators. Since 2018, Harsha has been the wine director for Bonne Cuvee Wine Tours, a company with a mission to provide wine educational experiences through wine tastings and travel to premier wine regions. Due to world-wide travel restrictions in 2020, Bonne Cuvee has been conducting on-line monthly wine seminars and tastings ([bonnecuvee.com](http://bonnecuvee.com)).

**Sharon Gauthier and Penny Reinhardt** are two sisters highly skilled in the arts of fine stitching and needlework. Proficient in embroidery, needlepoint, crochet, lace tatting, quilting, knotting, and macramé — these ladies have retained methods popular in early American periods and before. You may have seen these two grandmothers demonstrating their specialties during the Pilgrimage at the Rural Homestead. You'll enjoy learning the skills of days gone by and recall the memories of your ancestors.

**Christopher Goden** is a biological anthropologist with experience and research interests specifically in forensic anthropology. He obtained a BS in Anthropology from Kennesaw State University in 2018 and an MA in Anthropology from Louisiana State University in 2021. He conducts research on craniofacial variation and trauma analysis of skeletal remains. Additionally, he has worked in forensic death investigations since 2017 and has assisted with forensic skeletal analysis and recovery throughout the southeastern US.

**Jerisse Grantham** earned her BS from LSU and is certified by Dance Masters of America. With more than 30 years' experience, Grantham enjoys sharing her passion of dance by teaching young and old alike. She offers a variety of dance classes at her studio, the Jeffie Jean Dance Studio, public and private schools in the Baton Rouge area, and she is a 19-year adjunct faculty member of Tulane University in the Theater and Dance Department.

**Lawrence Sal Guidry, Ph.D.,** is a licensed psychologist for over 40 years and was a staff psychologist at the VA Medical Center, New Orleans, until his retirement. He was a clinical associate professor in Psychology in the Dept. of Psychiatry at Tulane Medical School and clinical assistant professor in Psychology in the Dept. of Psychiatry at LSU Medical School. He has been passionate about diet, nutrition, and life-style modification in maintaining good cognitive health since retirement from full time psychology practice.

**Liz Johnston** is a poet and PhD fellow in the comparative literature program at LSU. She received her MA in English with a concentration in writing and culture and a BA in English with a concentration in writing from Loyola University New Orleans. Liz studies and has taken various theatre, folklore, philosophy, and literature courses.

**Claire M. Kantrow** is a physical therapist and chronic pain specialist in Baton Rouge, LA. She graduated in 2009 with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, LA and then went on to complete a Residency in Orthopedics and Practice Management. She has practiced in outpatient orthopedic settings and has developed a niche practice in managing patients with chronic pain and complex neuro-orthopedic conditions. Claire has lectured in a variety of settings including at the LPTA State Conferences, in the Doctor of Physical Therapy programs in the state, and in the community.

**Owen Kemp** has been a yoga instructor for several years & received her yoga training through the Living Yoga program at the Barsana Dham Ashram in Austin, TX. She attended training sessions at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY & various venues around the country & internationally. Owen's yoga style is best described as flow.

**Margaret King** has 28 years experience in higher education, mainly in student affairs. Her career focused on student organizations including sororities and fraternities, career services, student conduct, and student leadership development. She retired in 2014 as Professor-of-Practice of higher education. She has an M.A. in Counseling and Guidance with an emphasis in Student Personnel (University of Alabama) and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education (University of New Orleans).

**W. J. (DUB) LANE, Ph.D.** Chair of the Department of Economics and Finance; Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, 1978. Professor Lane is a specialist in Microeconomics and Health Care Economics. He has 40 years of teaching experience, 34 of which at UNO. His current teaching duties range from freshman Microeconomics to Masters-level Health Care Economics and PhD-level Microeconomic Theory. He has published in leading Economic, Finance and Law Journals. Has served on the Board of Commissioners for Slidell Memorial Hospital. He also frequently appears on Fox8 TV and WWL radio as a commentator on Economic issues.

**Bridget May,** holds a BFA in Interior Design from Louisiana Tech University, MA in Art History from LSU, and PhD in Art History from the University of Georgia. Bridget taught Interior Design history &

research for many years. She co-authored three books on history of architecture, interior design and furniture and received numerous awards including Fellow of the Interior Design Educators Council. Recently retired, she returned to Baton Rouge and now teaches history of interiors at LSU each fall. An avid genealogist, Dr. May also crochets up a storm and enjoys watching her three cats sleep.

**Carla McLemore** is a native of South Dakota. She began learning sign language over 30 years ago at her church in Texas when she and another young mom (who happened to be deaf) became friends. Carla's friend became her teacher and introduced her to the beauty of signing. After some formal instruction at the local community college, Carla later became the interpreter for the worship songs and the substitute interpreter for the sermon.

**Betty McRae** was the Assistant to the Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program and traveled extensively to committee meetings at various towns in the Basin. While working for the ABP, she prepared all the documents for the committee meetings. She has also taken the OLLI Life Writing Course for the past five years and feels more than qualified to share her writing gift with you. Through this class, she has found new friends and even found out from one of her class stories that she and another OLLI member have the same great-grandmother. She hopes to share those same and/or similar experiences with you in this writing class.

**Jane Patterson** is the current President of Baton Rouge Audubon Society, as well as the Education chair. She started birding in 2005 and has been teaching birding classes since 2007. She was honored at the National Audubon national conference in July 2014 with the Dutcher award for outstanding service by an Audubon Chapter leader for her efforts in bird related education. Jane retired from her career in state government in 2017 as the Director of Telecommunications where she was responsible for overseeing internet and phone services for Louisiana state government.

**Melanie Puka** is currently a PhD student in Geography at Louisiana State University. She earned a Master of Development Studies (2019) and a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (2017) from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Her research interests are in Tokelau and Pacific Island diaspora, place-making and cultural identities.

**Lee Brandt Randall** has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from LSU, with printmaking and art history being major areas of study. She taught advanced studio art and art history at Runnels School for 25 years.

**Rose Marie Sand** has been a stained glass and mosaic artist since 1980. She's taken workshops with Laurel True, Carol Shelkin, the Stained-Glass Studio in Boston, and many others. She has also given mosaic and stained-glass classes in her own studio, as well as for the Voices Foundation and the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce.

Rose's ukulele experience includes lessons with Todd Lemoine and Devin Scott. She's also taught beginner Ukulele with a Uke group called Strums and Roses, as well as with private students. She's always learning new artistic mediums and has found her creativity to be a Godsend.

**Ralph Schomburg** obtained a BS in Mathematics and an MBA in Finance from the University of Houston in 1968 and 1978 respectively. He started working at NASA Manned Spacecraft Center in 1967 as a Cooperative Education Student Trainee and retired from civil service in 2003 as the Assistant CFO of NASA JSC. He has been the recipient of many NASA awards, was a training instructor in the National Management Association, and a part-time staff instructor at San Jacinto College where he taught math and conducted management seminars on topics including strategic planning, time and stress management, communications skills, leadership and supervisory skills, negotiation skills, and memory training.

**Jane Simmons** is a certified yoga instructor. Prior to her yoga training, she completed undergraduate work at Tulane university with a BA in English. Years later she obtained her master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction at LSU. Her focus in yoga is to increase strength and flexibility, especially with aging students (and instructor).

**Dianne Soileau** has been teaching art and craft classes for over 15 years in the Baton Rouge area. She began with various painting media and moved on to explore hand-thrown pottery pieces, then progressed with many spare broken pottery pieces, into the various techniques of mosaics. However, the intrigue and creativity of this fluid art technique has drawn her back to fun with acrylics. Dianne has taught several patterned and free-style mosaics classes for both the Baton Rouge and the St. Francisville chapters of OLLI and currently has an art studio in Baton Rouge.

**Emily Toth** (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University) is in her second century of teaching and writing about Kate Chopin, the subject of her dissertation (Johns Hopkins University). Her eleven published books include two biographies of Chopin and two advice books from "Ms. Mentor" for would-be professors. At LSU she's taught courses on women's lives, nonfiction, and humor, and has written countless columns, most recently for a blog called [30SecondRead.com](http://30SecondRead.com).