



Fall 2026 Catalog

Explore Denton's
Haunted History
pg. 16

Get to Know UNT
Advancement
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Discover the Glam of
Freddie Mercury
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Get Spooky with
the Transylvanian
Symphony
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Classes Available in
Dallas Thanks to CC
Young Senior Living

We make learning fast, easy, and fun.

Photo Credit: Kathy Tran
kathytran.com

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Who are we?

We are the University of North Texas's educational program for adults age 50 and better. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UNT is part of a national network of OLLIs that are endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Our mission is to foster intellectual stimulation and social engagement through an extensive array of learning opportunities curated by and for our members. Since its founding in 2009, our program has grown to include multiple satellite classroom locations across the North Texas region and our community of lifelong learners now exceeds 1,400.

Our classrooms are an ideal environment for expert instructors to share their wealth of knowledge with eager adult learners. We promote education simply for the joy of learning.

If you've never attended an OLLI course before, please reach out to our office. We'll welcome you for one free course as our guest.

olli.unt.edu

Staff

Jordan Williams, MA
he / him
Senior Director



Megan Bryan, PhD
Associate Director



Jami Thomas, MA
she / her
Budget Officer



Elisa Glerup
she / her
Program Specialist



Will Jenkins
Student Assistant



Contact Us

Mail:

1155 Union Circle
PO Box #310560
Denton, TX 76203

Email: olli@unt.edu

Phone: 940-369-7293

Hours: 8am - 5pm, M - F

*Our office closes for all
holidays observed by UNT.*

About This Catalog

This catalog contains schedule details for all of the OLLI at UNT activities taking place this semester. OLLI offers the following types of activities each semester:

Non-Credit Courses: Taught by active and retired university faculty, as well as other subject matter experts, OLLI courses are designed to make learning fast, easy, and fun. Instructors submit proposals prior to each semester for approval by our Curriculum Committee. Each OLLI course can consist of up to four 90-minute sessions and there are never any tests, grades, or mandatory assignments.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs): These groups are formed and led by members with some logistical support from OLLI staff. SIGs provide opportunities for members to get to know others with shared interests. Members interested in starting a new SIG should reach out to our staff for assistance.

Special Events: These activities may take place outside of the traditional classroom setting and may also have a unique educational format. We arrange for private tours, guest lecturers, planetarium visits, workshops, and other experiential learning opportunities to add variety to our curriculum. Activities in this section of the catalog are complimentary for all OLLI at UNT members, except where an event fee is clearly indicated in **red**.

Get to Know UNT Series: Each semester, OLLI at UNT collaborates with a different division, school, or program at the university to present this series. Members attending these presentations will get to know some of the remarkable faculty and staff in each area and learn about their roles at UNT. The presentations in this series are complimentary for all OLLI at UNT members.

Debbie & Neal Smatresk OLLI After Five Series: This special series is named for Debbie & Neal Smatresk, reflecting their steadfast dedication to our members and their commitment to enriching the North Texas community through the joy of lifelong learning. The series is available to all OLLI at UNT members at no additional cost. Each series event includes a complimentary selection of wines, beers, cheeses, and crackers.

Search Our Calendar Online oli.unt.edu

All of the activities in the catalog are also available to explore through our searchable online calendar. To access the calendar, scan the QR code below or go to oli.unt.edu and click the green **Search Our Calendar** button.



- View Entire Semester in Date Order
- Search by Date, Keyword, Category, Location, and/or Instructor
- No Sign In Required

Calendar

Search our calendar using the filter options below. Then click on a title to see its full description.

Once enrollment opens, if you're signed in to your member account and have an active membership, you'll see Add to Cart buttons when you click on a title.

Search filter: Jump To Date: mm/dd/yyyy

Keyword(s):

CATEGORY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTORS
... All Categories ...	... All Locations ...	... All Instructors ...
Arts & Humanities	Flower Mound Senior Center	Abeysa, Ian
Business & Economics	Keller Senior Activities Center	Banks, Lano
Current Events & Social Issues	Lantana Community Event Center	Ulays, James
Debbie & Neal Smatresk OLLI After Five Series	OLLU Location	Boeker, Annelle
Get to Know UNT Series	Hudson Ranch Clubhouse	Gordon, Doreanna
History	The Point at CC Young	Bishop, Amy
Membership Options	UNT Art Building	Booth, John
Nature & Environmental Science	UNT Environmental Science Building	Brewer, Angela
Philosophy & Religion	UNT Music Building	Bryan, Megan
Science, Technology, Engineering & Math	UNT Physical & Science Building	...

Display Open Courses Only ☐
Display Open Courses with Seats Still Available Only ☐

< > TODAY REFRESH January - December 2026 YEAR MONTH WEEK DAY LIST

OLLI Advisory Council

The ten OLLI members on the Advisory Council work with the Senior Director to review and evaluate policies and operations. The Council also supports the staff's strategic planning to ensure that the program's quality and growth closely align with the needs of the OLLI at UNT membership.

President: La Donna Womochel

Past President: Sandra Meier-Western

Our remaining 2026-2027 officers were not yet confirmed at the time of printing.



Ed Adams



John Booth



Elaine Darby



Cathy Hartman



David
McKinley



Sandra
Meier-Western



Max Morley



John Penaska



Larry
Sniderman



La Donna
Womochel

OLLI Standing Committees

- Curriculum Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominations Committee

OLLI Volunteer Teams

- Staff Support Team
- Ambassador Outreach Team
- Storytelling Team

Volunteer to Support UNT Students

Friends of PUSH
UNT Food Pantry
IELI Conversation Partners

Visit our website for more details about each of these volunteer roles and opportunities.

oli.unt.edu/volunteer

Classroom Locations

olli.unt.edu/locations

All OLLI at UNT members can attend OLLI courses at any of our classroom locations, regardless of their membership type or where they live. Complimentary parking (including designated spaces for disabled persons) is available at each location. The primary OLLI schedule for each location is listed below.

University of North Texas

Support and Services Building (SSB)

1500 N. Interstate 35
Denton, TX 76205

Mondays & Wednesdays

10:00am - 11:30am
& 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Parking Permit Required: Members should pick up a parking permit from staff on the first day they arrive for a class at the SSB.

Flower Mound Senior Center

Shirley Voirin Ballroom
2701 W. Windsor Drive
Flower Mound, TX 75028

Mondays & Wednesdays
2:30pm - 4:00pm

To access OLLI at UNT courses held at the Flower Mound Senior Center, members must also present proof of senior center membership or purchase a day pass upon entry.

The Point at CC Young

Auditorium

4847 W. Lawther Dr.
Dallas, TX 75214

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:00am - 11:30am

OLLI courses held at CC Young Senior Living are broadcast internally to all of their residents on channel 81. Courses at CC Young are also livestreamed and recorded based on instructor permission.

Robson Ranch

Clubhouse Ballroom

9428 Ed Robson Circle
Denton, TX 76207

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:00am - 11:30am
1:00pm - 2:30pm
& 2:45pm - 4:15pm

Lantana

Community Event Center

1301 Haverford Lane
Lantana, TX 76226

Fridays

10:00am - 11:30am

Keller Senior Activities Center

Multipurpose Room

640 Johnson Road
Building C
Keller, TX 76248

Tuesdays

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Zoom Virtual Classroom

We sometimes offer courses on Zoom. The date and time of Zoom courses are based on the instructor's availability. Each Zoom course has its own unique Zoom link, which will be provided to members by email prior to the start date.

CLASSROOM LOCATION KEY:

UNT = UNT Support & Services Bldg.
CCY = The Point at CC Young
RR = Robson Ranch Clubhouse
FM = Flower Mound Senior Center
KEL = Keller Sr. Activities Center
LAN = Lantana Comm. Event Center
ZOOM = Virtual Classroom



Zoom Virtual Activity



Livestreamed from CC Young



Recorded Session(s)

Become a Member

olli.unt.edu/register

An active OLLI at UNT membership is required to enroll in our activities. Please visit our website for more information about our annual membership options. All memberships remain active for 365 days from the date of purchase.

All Courses Included

\$165 per year (General Public)

Discounted Groups: **\$100** per year

- U.S. Armed Services Veterans & Spouses
- UNT Retired Faculty & Staff
- UNT Alumni
- Flower Mound Seniors In Motion Members
- Keller Senior Activities Center Members
- Denton Senior Center Members
- Denton American Legion Hall Members

Pay Per Course

\$55 per year + **\$15** per course

Course fees are due upon enrollment in each in-person course. Zoom Courses and CC Young Livestreams are exempt from course fees. Course fees do not apply to our Get to Know UNT or OLLI After Five Series.

Pay Per Course members may upgrade to an All Courses Included membership by contacting OLLI at UNT. The cost of an upgrade is the difference between the two membership fees, minus any course fees already paid.

Enroll In Activities

olli.unt.edu/members

Individuals with an active OLLI at UNT membership can use any of the following methods to enroll in our courses, special events, lecture series, and special interest groups. Please visit the Members page of our website to enroll online through the Member Portal or download our printable Enrollment Form.

1. Online (*fastest results!*)

- Sign in to your Member Portal account, add activities to your cart, then proceed through the checkout process.

2. Enrollment Form

- Check the box by each activity you plan to attend, then mail to the address on the form along with a check made payable to OLLI at UNT to cover any applicable fees.

3. Email or Phone

- Send an email to olli@unt.edu listing the titles and dates of the activities in which you wish to enroll. Don't forget to include your name! You can also call **940-369-7293** to request staff support for your enrollment.

Returning Member?

Confirm your Membership Expiration Date in the Member Portal.



Payment

We accept payment by check and all major credit cards. Course and event fees are due upon enrollment in each activity. Only UNT employees may accept member payments. The staff who work for our satellite classroom partners cannot accept payments for OLLI at UNT memberships or activities.

Dropping a Class / Waitlists

Once an OLLI at UNT activity fills, members are placed on a waitlist in order of enrollment. Members wishing to cancel their participation in an OLLI at UNT activity should contact olli@unt.edu or 940-369-7293 at least 24 hours in advance of the activity. Staff will then notify the next member on the waitlist.

Refunds

OLLI at UNT membership, course, and event fees are **non-refundable**. OLLI at UNT course and event fees will only be refunded if an activity is cancelled and not rescheduled. OLLI at UNT makes every attempt to reschedule activities that cannot be held at their originally scheduled date and time.

Cancellation Deadlines / Credit

Members who cancel their participation in an OLLI at UNT course or event prior to that activity's **Cancellation Deadline** can request credit for any fees paid. This credit can be applied to a future OLLI activity or membership fee upon member request.

Cancellation Notices

If UNT closes due to inclement weather, all OLLI at UNT activities will be cancelled until the university reopens. Otherwise, the decision to cancel an activity during inclement weather will be made based on conditions at each classroom location and input from our instructors.

In the event that an OLLI at UNT activity is cancelled or rescheduled for any reason, members on the roster will be notified by email. It is important that you provide our staff with an email account you check regularly.

Guest Policy

Guests can see what our program is all about by attending one of the courses in this section for free, while space is available. Contact olli@unt.edu to enroll as a guest in one free course.

Confirmation Emails

Whenever you enroll in OLLI activities, you will receive an automated confirmation email containing the date, time, and location of each activity.

Weekly Emails

All active members will receive our weekly reminder emails, which are typically sent on Fridays during each semester. These emails include the following information:

- Link to our online calendar
- Links for upcoming Zoom courses and CC Young livestreams
- Important OLLI announcements and schedule changes
- Links to available recordings of virtual courses and livestreams
- Upcoming local events of interest

If you're not receiving our weekly emails in your inbox, first check to see if your email provider is filtering them into your junk or spam folder. If that isn't the issue, please contact our office for assistance.

Course Evaluations

At the end of each course, all members on the roster will receive an email reminder to complete a brief course evaluation. Please complete an evaluation within 5 days of the end of each course you attend. These evaluations are vital to OLLI staff, instructors, and the Curriculum Committee.

Schedule Changes

Inclement weather, instructor illness, family emergencies, and other unexpected conflicts sometimes require us to reschedule or cancel an OLLI activity. Whenever we have to make a change in an activity's schedule, we will directly email everyone on the roster to notify them.

Member Benefits & Discounts

OLLI membership comes with a variety of benefits, including those listed below. Visit our website to learn how you can get the most value out of your OLLI membership!

- **UNT College of Music** - Complimentary Tickets to Select Concerts
- **UNT Willis Library** - Courtesy Library Card
- **UNT CoLab** - 10% Discount w/ OLLI ID Card
- **UNT Pohl Recreation Center** - Discounted Rec Center Membership
- **Lewisville Lake Symphony** - Discounted Tickets to Select Concerts
- **Froth Coffee and Desert Bar** - 10% Discount w/ OLLI ID Card



olli.unt.edu/members

Authors Out Loud Interview Series

In each installment of this video interview series, OLLI members Dr. Jean Greenlaw and Susan Supak host a discussion with a renowned writer. These conversations explore the authors' books and delve into the inspirations for their characters, themes, and stories. The authors discuss the craft of writing itself, as well as the trials and victories they experience seeing their work to completion.

Recent guests have included Megan MacDonald, Victoria Christopher Murray, Kate DiCamillo, Nicholas Kristof, Sheryl WuDunn, and Lois Lowry. All Authors Out Loud interviews are available to the public for free on our website.



olli.unt.edu/aol

Friends of PUSH

The **PUSH (Persevere Until Success Happens)** program at UNT provides a campus-wide network of support for students who have experienced foster care. By focusing on the academic, financial, career and social well-being of each student, PUSH enables them to arrive and thrive on campus. Since 2019, we have partnered with the PUSH program to offer game nights and more for the incredible students who benefit from its services. It's been our pleasure to work with the PUSH staff, led by UNT's Foster Care Liaison Officer Brenda Sweeten, on these events.

Friends of PUSH are OLLI members who agree to be notified when there are opportunities to help PUSH staff support their students. This may involve purchasing common items that are readily available in local stores, cooking a hot meal, contributing a gift card that matches a student's need, or other similar efforts.



olli.unt.edu/volunteer

Travel with OLLI in 2027



In 2027, we are offering the following trips through the Collette travel agency. Visit the travel page of our website for full itineraries, pricing, and online reservations. Are you planning to travel on a different Collette tour? You can still support OLLI at UNT by simply giving your Collette representative our Group ID number: **2004421**.

Machu Picchu & Galapagos Wonders

Feb. 22 - 27, 2027

Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains

Sept. 5 - 14, 2027

Essential South America

May 13 - 22, 2027

New England Holiday

Dec. 3 - 9, 2027

olli.unt.edu/travel

Yellow Rose Tours



Yellow Rose Tours (YRT) specializes in historical tours that are immersive, educational, and completely unforgettable. YRT offers a broad range of both day tours and multi-day trips, available to OLLI members, exploring the

history of Texas and the American Southwest. All tours are led by Dr. Andrew J. Torget, historian of 19th-century North America and one of the foremost experts on Texas history, whose unmatched storytelling skills make the past come alive. Whether exploring forgotten places or world-famous sites, Dr. Torget will guide you through stories of the people, places, and events that shaped and reshaped the Texas landscape.

Testimonials from recent YRT Tours

- "It was the trip of my life!"
- "The itinerary was so fluid and interesting. Andrew is an amazingly good storyteller who grabs your attention and gives you a real feeling for the past."
- "The trip was truly exceptional. The hotels were all of the highest standard, and the cuisine was both delicious and diverse. Each day's activities were not only thrilling but also enriching from an educational perspective... the camaraderie among fellow tour members made the journey even more enjoyable. It was an all-around fantastic experience."



For upcoming tour information, visit
YellowRoseTours.com

Share Your Knowledge

olli.unt.edu/teach

Visit our website to view our proposal deadlines and sign up for our email list!

Teaching for OLLI at UNT is a rewarding volunteer opportunity for experienced educators and subject matter experts who have a passion for serving the community. We accept proposals from prospective instructors through an online form that is posted on our website during our call for proposals.

Benefits Include:

- Complimentary OLLI Membership
- Invitation to OLLI Faculty Appreciation Events
- Letter of Appreciation from OLLI Sr. Director

Proposal Form Requirements:

- Your personal contact information, credentials, and a brief biography (1 - 3 sentences)
- Your proposed course title (10 - 12 words), description (2 - 4 sentences), and length (90 minutes - 6 hours)
- Your schedule availability and preferred classroom location(s)
- Any special equipment/technology needs or other unique requests

Provost's OLLI Faculty Award

UNT's Provost recognizes university faculty and staff who go above and beyond in offering dynamic learning experiences for our members. Each year, the Provost's office awards **\$500** to a faculty/staff member in recognition of their exceptional service to OLLI at UNT members.

CC Young Stipend

As a result of our sponsorship agreement with CC Young Senior Living, we are able to offer a **\$300 stipend** to instructors who are selected to teach at their facility in Dallas.

Why I Teach for OLLI



"OLLI members are very curious and want to learn as much as possible, which is inspiring."

Quincy Davis, MA
Chair, UNT Jazz Studies
Drumset Department



"The OLLI program at UNT is one of the most organized partners that the Texas Fashion Collection works with."

Annette Becker, PhD
Director, Texas Fashion Collection



"It is incredibly rewarding and creatively motivating. I get to teach about what I am really passionate about."

Laura Evans, PhD
Director, UNT Art Museum
Education Certificate Program



"OLLI members are some of the most generous students I work with in terms of their excitement for new ideas, lecture participation, and feedback."

Kerry Goldmann, PhD
Assoc. Director of Graduate
Studies, UNT History

Why I Support OLLI

Since I first discovered the OLLI at UNT program several years ago, I've happily paid my annual membership fees, realizing that it was a terrific bargain. For well less than \$5 per class, I was able to learn from experts about history, art, literature, fields of science like geology and medicine, and even more. The program has literally changed my life in retirement — I have traveled to places I otherwise would have missed, taken up new hobbies inspired by things I've learned, and made important new friendships along the way.



What I have come to realize is that those annual membership dues do not cover more than a fraction of the total cost of operating this program. Much of the rest comes from the generosity of others who are inspired to support the mission: providing a meaningful lifelong learning opportunity to seniors in our community. So now, in addition to my annual membership dues, I make annual donations to support the mission. It is, after all, a mission I truly believe in, and one where I can see directly how my support makes a difference.

If you, too, believe that OLLI at UNT is an important program for our community, would you join me with your generous support? Together, we can keep this wonderful program alive and thriving.

Regards,

David McKinley
OLLI at UNT Advisory Council
Fundraising Liaison

Every gift counts.
olli.unt.edu/donate

Donating to the **OLLI at UNT Support Fund** helps us continue innovating, developing ambitious new programming, and improving our operations while keeping membership fees affordable for as many lifelong learners as possible.

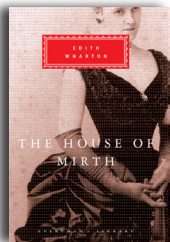
You have many giving options to consider, from a one-time or recurring donation, to a distribution from your IRA, a gift of stock, and more. Please visit our website or contact our office for more information.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Great Books

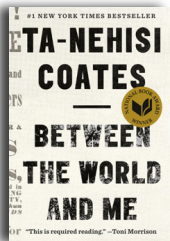
4th Friday of the month | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM
September 25, October 23, November 20
UNT Support and Services Building | Room 105

Join Donna Zelisko-McLaughlin to explore a category of literature called “great books.” Selections might be philosophical, political, scientific, literary, or culturally significant. Participants will respond to the works from a personal perspective of what resonates with them.



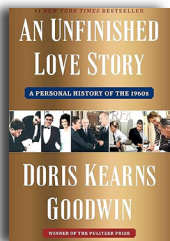
September 25: *The House of Mirth* (1905) by Edith Wharton

The life and death story about a well-born but penniless heroine who belongs to New York City's 1890s high society. The tragedy of Lily Bart showcases the existential struggle between who we are and what society tells us we should be. An American novel of manners, *The House of Mirth* reflects the social, economic, and moral constraints that were placed on women at that time. A century after Wharton's death, this is still the most widely read of all her novels.



October 23: *Between the World and Me* (2015) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

A letter written in three parts from father to son outlining the father's change of heart about the American Dream due to his observations of lived experiences as an African American. This book addresses the biggest racial questions about American history and ideals, including to what extent America can reckon with its fraught history, and expresses the most intimate concerns of a father for his son.



November 20: *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* (2024) by Doris Kearns Goodwin

A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian's memoir exploring the Kennedy and Johnson presidential years through the lens of Goodwin's marriage to Richard Goodwin, a White House speechwriter and adviser. Different from a strict historical account, this book provides an intimate glimpse into the intersection of personal and professional relationships, the complexities of power, and the burden of unfulfilled ideals, by looking at the inner workings of executive decision-making at that time.



Photo by Kathy Tran

Writing for Fun

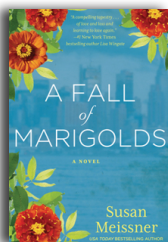
2nd Friday of the month | September 11, October 9, November 13
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM | UNT Support and Services Building | Room 105

This SIG is led by OLLI member John Penaska, a former IT professional who loves to write for fun. The group is open to any member who wants to explore examples of fun writing and practice writing with others. All experience levels and writing styles are welcome!

Bookshelf Catch-Up

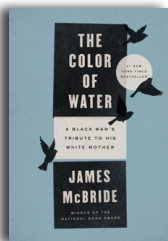
2nd Tuesday of the month | 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM
September 8, October 13, November 10
UNT Support and Services Building | Room 101

This discussion group is for readers who love getting lost in libraries and bookstores, only to realize months later that the bestseller on their shelf has been sitting there unread way too long. Each participant will suggest a book for next semester and lead the discussion if their book is chosen by the group.



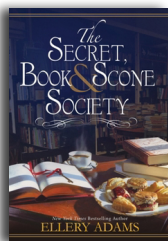
September 8: *A Fall of Marigolds* (2014) by Susan Meissner

A Fall of Marigolds by Susan Meissner is a historical fiction novel that connects two women a century apart through a marigold-patterned scarf, linking their experiences with tragedy in New York City: nurse Clara Wood after the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and widow Taryn Michaels after the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks. The story explores themes of grief, resilience, and love as both women navigate immense loss, with the scarf acting as a tangible link to their pasts and a catalyst for healing and moving forward.



October 13: *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* (1995) by James McBride

The Color of Water is a dual memoir by James McBride that chronicles his upbringing as a Black man raised by a white Jewish mother. The narrative alternates between James's story of navigating racial identity in America and his mother Ruth's harrowing past escaping an abusive, Orthodox Jewish upbringing in the Jim Crow South.



November 10: *The Secret, Book & Scone Society* (2017) by Ellery Adams

The Secret, Book & Scone Society by Ellery Adams is the first book in a cozy mystery series about a group of women in small-town North Carolina who form a club to solve a murder, using books and friendship to help each other and uncover secrets. The story follows Nora Pennington, a bookstore owner who prescribes books to help people, and her new friends as they investigate the suspicious death of a customer, finding courage and purpose along the way. The series blends mystery, magical realism, and a celebration of books and female friendship.

Book Talk with Dr. Greenlaw

2nd Wednesday of the month

September 9, October 14, November 11

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 101



This discussion group is led by Jean Greenlaw. The topic for each meeting will be the theme of Dr. Greenlaw's "Book Talk" column that appears in the *Denton Record-Chronicle* on the first weekend of each month. It is not necessary to read the books mentioned in the column, but it will make your participation more meaningful if you do read a book that fits the theme. It can range from a picture book for children to the most complex book you find on the topic. Dr. Greenlaw will begin each session by discussing the topic and a few books from her column (a copy of the column will be sent to the SIG roster before each meeting). Then members will participate by discussing the book they read. There are three points Dr. Greenlaw would like participants to be ready to discuss with the group:

How does the book you read fit the theme?

What was your most important takeaway from the book?

Why would others be interested in reading the book?

Themes for this Semester:

- September 9: Art in All Its Forms
- October 14: Mysteries and Thrillers
- November 11: A Book Worthy of Being a Gift

Solo Travelers, Unite!

September 10 & November 12 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 101

October 15 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Keller Senior Center



Traveling independently can be challenging for individuals, both experienced and inexperienced travelers. This group, led by Cathy Hartman, with Carolyn Hodge serving as co-leader for Keller meetings, is based around members empowering and supporting each other to travel independently with confidence. Group meetings will alternate between Denton and Keller to accommodate as many members as possible.

Discovering Classical Vocal Recitals with Steve Dubrow

Dates and times TBD*

UNT Music Building (415 Avenue C)**



A lover of all sorts of music written for the classically trained human voice, Steve Dubrow has attended dozens of the classical vocal recitals that the UNT College of Music presents to the public without charge. These recitals demand the same level of technique and artistry as an opera performance, but the format and location make possible a special intimacy between singer and audience.

This group will attend three or four recitals this semester. The group will meet in a reserved room in the Music Building 30 minutes before the performance, at which time Steve will provide context for the music about to be performed. There will be opportunity for further discussion during the intermission. After the performance, the singer will often find the time to drop in to speak about the recital and to answer a few questions.

*The recital schedule for Fall 2026 was not yet announced at the time this catalog was published. We will send an email announcement once the recital schedule is set.

**UNT offers recital patrons free parking in the lot off Highland Street between Bain Hall and the North/South practice buildings.

Yoga

Tuesdays | September 1 & 15, October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

UNT Support and Services Building 105

Join Sheila Holincheck for guided yoga sessions. Participants should bring their own mat. All experience levels are welcome.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrating 250 Years of Texas and America

Wed. Sept. 9 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence with UNT Libraries Special Collections department! Attendees will learn about early American and Texas history through books and documents in Special Collections and have an opportunity to see them in person. Historical treasures on display will include an original copy of Thomas Paine's classic call to independence, *The American Crisis* (1776); Benjamin Franklin's *The Pennsylvania Gazette* (1749) and *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* (1774); official Texas land grants signed by Sam Houston and Mirabeau Lamar (1841-1842), and 18th century maps of Texas and America.



Morgan Gieringer is a Certified Archivist and the Head of UNT Libraries Special Collections, which was awarded the Archival Award of Excellence by the Texas Historical Records Advisory Commission in 2018. Morgan received her BA in Anthropology from UNT and her Master's in Library Science from Texas Woman's University.



Pre-Concert Talk by Maestro David Itkin

Wed. Sept. 9 | 6:45 PM – 7:10 PM
Lyric Theater | UNT Murchison Performing Arts Center

Join Maestro David Itkin for a pre-concert discussion of the pieces that will be performed that evening by the UNT Symphony Orchestra. Concert ticket information will be provided by OLLI staff.

For Fall:

- Tchaikovsky, "Symphony No. 6"
- Intermission
- Webern, "Im Sommerwald"
- Tchaikovsky, "1812 Overture"



David Itkin has been the music director and conductor of the Abilene Philharmonic for over 20 years and currently serves as professor of music and director of orchestral studies at the College of Music, where his recent performances have included Mahler's "Symphony No. 6," Verdi's "Requiem," Bruckner's "Symphony No. 7," Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9," Puccini's "Turandot," Verdi's "Otello," Puccini's "Tosca," and Janacek's "The Cunning Little Vixen."



Sky Theater Planetarium:

Phantom of the Universe

Thurs. Sept. 17 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

UNT Environmental Science Building*

From the journey of protons racing through the world's largest particle collider in Europe to up-close views of the Big Bang and emergent cosmos, *Phantom of the Universe* is a new full-dome planetarium show designed to immerse audiences in the search for dark matter. It is narrated by Oscar-winning actress Tilda Swinton.

***Parking options:** Members can contact the OLLI office for parking options.



2027 Travel Info Session: Collette and Yellow Rose Tours

Tues. Sept. 22 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Robson Ranch Clubhouse

In this special information session, OLLI travel destinations for 2027 will be revealed. This session will feature information regarding upcoming travel in partnership with the Collette travel agency, as well as Andrew Torget's Yellow Rose Tours. Members who attend will learn all about each trip's itinerary, cost, and reservation process. Attendees will also be able to take home trip flyers and reservation forms.



The Dr. Neal Smatresk Showcase

Mon. Sept. 28 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

Tues. Oct. 20 & Tues. Nov. 17 | 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

Robson Ranch Clubhouse

Dr. Neal Smatresk, former president of UNT and great friend of OLLI, will showcase the work of his students and give them real-life experience in planning and pitching a business proposal to our members.



Dr. Neal J. Smatresk joined the University of North Texas in 2014, as its president, with a vision for leading UNT to national prominence as the largest, most comprehensive university dedicated to meeting the

needs of the dynamic North Texas region. He recently stepped down and is now a professor of biological sciences. Under his leadership, UNT was named a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification, grew enrollment to serve more than 47,000 students, and earned designation as both a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution. President Smatresk led the charge in creating new public-private partnerships with businesses like American Airlines, Liberty Mutual, Google, and JPMorgan Chase, as well as a partnership with the Dallas Cowboys for an MBA in sport entertainment management. In response to the rapidly changing career marketplace, President Smatresk ensured the addition of 21st-century degree plans in fast-growing fields such as business analytics, data science, and AI. Stepping down from the presidency, he has spent the last two years teaching graduate and undergraduate students how to commercialize their innovations and launch startup businesses.



Spooky Charms Metalsmithing Workshop

Thurs. Oct. 1 & Oct. 8 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Denton Maker Center

728 N Elm St, Denton, TX 76201

\$30 per Member

Registration and Cancellation Deadline:

Thursday, September 24

Get into the spirit of Halloween by making your own spooky charms! Metal stamping is a quick and lasting way to design and create your own small metal works. A variety of spooky (and other) metal stamps will be available to use. Time permitting, members will be able to finish up to five charms. All equipment and supplies will be provided by Denton Maker Center.



James Thurman, MFA, is a professor of metalsmithing and jewelry at the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design. He received his MFA in metalsmithing from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and his BFA in sculpture from Carnegie Mellon University.

A three-time Fulbright Specialist Scholar, he worked in Istanbul, Turkey, with Kadir Has University in 2012, at the Glass Furnace Foundation in 2016, and at Birmingham City University in 2024. Currently, he is serving as president of the newly opened non-profit Denton Maker Center in Denton, TX. Learn more at dentonmakercenter.com.



PUSH Game Night

Thurs. Oct. 15 | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM |
UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102
\$10 per Member

The Persevere Until Success Happens (PUSH) program at UNT supports students with experience in foster care, enabling them to arrive and thrive on campus. Enjoy a delicious meal while teaming up with PUSH staff and students! Members will compete in games to win gift card prizes for PUSH students. The fee for this event will go toward the cost of food for all attendees, including our guests from the PUSH program.



Everyday Curiosity Workshop

Fri. Oct. 16 & Nov. 6 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
UNT Art Building | Main Gallery | Room 160
1201 W. Mulberry St., Denton, TX 76201*

Curiosity is powerful. Research tells us it can enhance intelligence and increase perseverance. Being curious propels us to deeper engagement, superior performance, and more meaningful goals. The question is: How can we be more curious? This workshop will give you a first orientation to the strange, fascinating, and fragile phenomenon of being curious. We will explore what curiosity is, what kind of curious you are, ways we can be more curious and, if possible, how we might invite others to be curious.

***Parking options: Members can contact the OLLI office for parking options.**



Cassini Nazir, MFA, is an assistant professor in the College of Visual Arts and Design at UNT, where he teaches classes in interaction design. His current research explores how curiosity can be meaningfully infused into design processes. His academic

projects include collaboration with art historians, biochemists, brain scientists, futurists, materials scientists, new media artists, and a university press.



James Thurman, MFA, is a professor of metalsmithing and jewelry at the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design. He received his MFA in metalsmithing from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and his BFA in sculpture from Carnegie Mellon University. A three-time Fulbright Specialist Scholar, he worked in Istanbul, Turkey,

with Kadir Has University in 2012, at the Glass Furnace Foundation in 2016, and at Birmingham City University in 2024. Currently, he is serving as president of the newly opened non-profit Denton Maker Center in Denton, TX. Learn more at dentonmakercenter.com.

PARK AFTER DARK

Thursday, October 22

Denton County Historical Park

317 W. Mulberry Street

Denton, TX 76201

Tour Group 1: 6:00 PM

Tour Group 2: 6:20 PM



On the night of Saturday, November 22, 1919, an argument took place outside the Bayless residence, an argument that ended in death...

Travel through the Bayless-Selby House to hear the accounts of key witnesses and town gossips on what transpired between Samuel Bayless and Joseph Spears that night in 1919. Visitors will also hear from volunteers who have experienced more than a few unusual instances inside the house...

The tour is free, but there will be Park After Dark-themed t-shirts and stickers available for purchase at the event.

THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI

SILENT MOVIE WITH IMPROVISED ORGAN

October 27th

7:00 pm Lecture

8:00 pm Costume Contest

8:30 pm Film Screening

Murchison Performing Arts Center
Winspear Performance Hall



Tickets on sale

September 7th

music.unt.edu/events



A Tradition of Resistance: The House of the Faun and the Story of Early Pompeii

Mon. Oct. 12 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

Thurs. Oct. 15 | 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Robson Ranch Clubhouse

Tues. Oct. 27 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM | The Point at CC Young

Best known for its impressive and intact mosaics, the House of the Faun at Pompeii presents an opportunity to consider the ways in which well-established Pompeian families responded and adapted to the establishment of a Roman colony on the site.

Through a consideration of the portraiture of Alexander the Great, the relationship between multiple mosaics within the house, and the bronze statue of a faun that gives the house its name, the course explores how scholars associate specific families with such houses and the ways in which the identities of homeowners may influence their decorative and design choices.

With a focus upon the Alexander Mosaic, the masterwork composed of over one million individual stone tiles, and upon the architecture of the house itself, this course explores the ways in which visitors to the space could use their interpretations of the artworks within to navigate their shifting political and social realities while maintaining their own Pompeian identities.



Viewing the Life-Size Replica of the Alexander Mosaic

Fri. Oct. 23 & Nov. 13 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

This is an exciting opportunity to view a life-size replica of the Alexander Mosaic referenced in Dr. McFerrin's lecture. This mosaic will be laid out on the floor, and small groups of members will be able to walk on it and see how the art was used in everyday life in Pompeii.



Neville McFerrin, PhD, is an archaeologist and art historian specializing in the ancient Mediterranean region. Her current work focuses on the visual and material culture of the sites of Pompeii and Persepolis.

Lives and Afterlives of European Medieval Manuscripts

Wed. Nov. 18 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

This course provides an overview of the production and use of medieval manuscripts from primarily the 12th through 15th centuries, while briefly touching on the periods before and after. Members will learn about how the different types of scholars who work with medieval manuscripts today—paleographers, codicologists, and fragmentologists, as well as historians, librarians, and literary scholars—determine the genre, time period of production, and different sorts of use and reuse that these materials have endured. Members will additionally have the opportunity to interact with a few medieval manuscripts from UNT Libraries.



Kelly Evans is the special collections cataloging librarian for UNT Libraries and handles creating and updating records for rare books and other special materials. Kelly has worked in academic libraries for nearly 10 years, and her academic background is in English literature

with a focus on medieval literature. Kelly's research focuses on medieval manuscript fragments and medieval romance literature, as well as workflow, procedural, and organizational concerns related to technical services in academic libraries.



Complimentary Concert Tickets

Concert Dates TBD



Our friends in the College of Music will make a limited number of complimentary concert tickets available to OLLI at UNT members this semester. Members will be notified by email once the list of selected concerts is available. Each member will then be able to reserve one ticket per concert by submitting requests through our online form.

olli.unt.edu/concerts

GET TO KNOW UNT ADVANCEMENT

The Division of University Advancement strives to transform lives and unlock potential through the power of philanthropy and engagement by awakening and stewarding pride and loyalty for the University of North Texas. In these sessions, members will get a chance to hear from a variety of UNT Advancement staff describing the importance of the work that they do and how it impacts UNT for future generations.

Advancement School: The Principles of Fundraising in Higher Ed

Wed. Sept. 16 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

[UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102](#)

Representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Advancement team will give members insight into the kind of work they do. Their pilot program, Advancement School, helps department chairs and faculty learn the principles of fundraising. They will share how their work helps support student success and what their job entails on the fundraising side. There will also be time for questions at the end of the discussion.

Lifelong Connections, Lasting Impact: Alumni Engagement at UNT

Mon. Sept. 21 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

[UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102](#)

The Division of University Advancement is the bridge between UNT's past and its future. At the heart of our work is alumni engagement—cultivating meaningful, lifelong relationships that reconnect graduates to the university they call home. Through strategic events, annual giving, data-driven insights, and communications, those relationships become the foundation for support that fuels scholarships, programs, and opportunities across campus.



Ways You Can Invest in Your OLLI Program

Wed. Sept. 30 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

This course will discuss supporting OLLI through your estate. By incorporating philanthropy into their estate plan, members can support causes that matter to them and their family. The instructor will explore how to create a legacy that reflects your values, supports the causes you care about, and inspires future generations to carry on the tradition of giving.



Patton Griffith, EdD, has over 20 years of experience in higher education as an administrator, faculty member, and philanthropic professional. He partners with donors to align their values and philanthropic goals with university

priorities, creating lasting impact through charitable giving. He holds a BA in history and political science from Louisiana State University, as well as master's degrees in both public administration and business administration. In 2021, he earned a Doctor of Education in educational leadership with a concentration in higher education administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Patton enjoys spending time with his family, reading, and fishing. As a lifelong learner, he continually seeks out best practices and new insights in his pursuit of excellence.

Charitable Tax Updates and Impactful Planned Gifts

Mon. Nov. 2 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

UNT Support and Services Building | Room 102

Planned giving is about connecting philanthropic goals with financial and estate planning priorities. In this session, members will explore several provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that passed in 2025, how they impact philanthropic decision making, and several recent charitable planned gifts made to the University of North Texas. Members will learn about the mechanics of Charitable Gift Annuities, IRA Qualified Distributions, Will & Trust Provisions, Life Insurance, Appreciated Stock, and Charitable Remainder Trusts. Now, more than ever, gifts of non-cash assets and blended gift options can lead to smarter planned giving.



Andrew N. Bailey, JD, is executive director of planned giving at UNT. He received his Juris Doctorate from Indiana University and has been in higher education advancement for more than 10 years.



giving.unt.edu

The

Debbie & Neal Smatresk OLLI After Five Series

This special series is named for Debbie & Neal Smatresk, reflecting their steadfast dedication to our members and their commitment to enriching the North Texas community through the joy of lifelong learning. The series is available to all OLLI members at no additional cost. Each series event includes a complimentary selection of wines, beers, cheeses, and crackers.



Behind the *Halloween* Mask:

Finding Meaning in the Frivolous Frights of
Nihilistic '70s Slashers

Tues. Sept. 8 | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

[Robson Ranch Clubhouse](#)

John Carpenter's blockbuster slasher *Halloween* premiered in 1978 and set the standard for the popular horror genre going forward. Despite their popularity, slashers get sidelined as "lowbrow" culture, which can rob us of finding value or meaning in this "frivolous" form of entertainment. In this session, we'll discuss slashers in the context of their origin in the 1970s, and how Carpenter's *Halloween* reflected the tumult of the decade. In our exploration, we'll ask ourselves: When we watch slasher films, should we search for a deeper meaning, or just sit back and enjoy our frivolous, bloody entertainment?



Kerry Goldmann, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer and Associate Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History at UNT. She is a historian of Jewish American history, African American history, and American culture whose research investigates

the intersecting histories of subaltern communities and art used for social change. She has taught minority theatre, culture, and histories in the theatre and history departments at UNT.

No Escape From Reality:

Freddie Mercury's Glam

Thurs. Sept. 10 | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

[Robson Ranch Clubhouse](#)

The world knew Freddie Mercury as the flamboyant lead singer of the British rock group, Queen. Most did not know that the "British" rock star Freddie Mercury was actually a decolonization-era immigrant to England, a former colonial subject with Persian, South Asian, and East African heritage, named Farrokh Bulsara. In this talk, Dr. Nancy Stockdale analyzes the ways that Farrokh Bulsara became Freddie Mercury, creating a pop music persona that he spun as quintessentially English, yet, all the while, using his music to interrogate and send up British culture, as a form of postcolonial critique.



Dr. Nancy L. Stockdale, is an historian at UNT and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for CLASS. She is a specialist in Middle Eastern History as well as Glam Rock and other British pop music traditions of the late 20th century. She's just

completed 20 years at UNT and loves living in Denton. In her spare time, she enjoys being with her family, stewarding the Little Free Library in her front yard, and travel.

Fine Arts and Music Education Worldwide with the Transylvanian Symphony

Fri. Oct. 23 | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Robson Ranch Clubhouse

Let's rekindle the moment you grabbed a musical instrument for the very first time. Or the first time you listened to a song with intention of feeling the music. The Transylvanian Symphony recreates this emotion by highlighting the importance of music education and fine arts all over the world.

From reconditioning musical instruments and spreading the gift of music in areas of need, to hosting the Joy of Music class where students of all ages learn to play and record music for a timeless experience, our organization invites you along as we share stories of traveling to Nashville, TN, and joining forces with Gibson Gives, navigating the logistics of sending musical instruments worldwide with DHL, and summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro all to make an impact with fine arts and music education.

The Transylvanian Symphony takes seriously performing dramatic tales told for centuries with music, dance, and visual effects. Experience this dedication with us as we share a sneak peek of our latest production and performance of "Vasilisa the Beautiful" with music associated with the story's antagonist, Baba Yaga, written by legendary composer Modest Mussorgsky.

Understanding the emotions music can bring to characters in a play, human values, and individuals around the world is the first step to making the world a better place with fine arts and music education alongside Transylvanian Symphony Foundation (TSF).



Ronald Ramsey is President - Compositional Director of the Transylvanian Symphony Foundation (TSF) and serves as their champion for music education. His truly infectious energy and advocacy have allowed TSF to prove music has no boundaries. Ron shares this love with his young sons, passing down a legacy of rhythm, resilience, and joy. Whether it's leading the orchestra or working behind the scenes, Ron leads with his heart, always championing the idea that fine arts should thrive for generations to come.

Fall 2026 Courses

Classroom Location Key:

UNT = UNT Support & Services Bldg.
CCY = The Point at CC Young
RR = Robson Ranch Clubhouse
FM = Flower Mound Senior Center
KEL = Keller Sr. Activities Center
LAN = Lantana Comm. Event Center
ZOOM = Virtual Classroom

Scheduling Notes:

Multi-session Courses: If a course has multiple sessions listed at a single location, it will continue from one session to the next, with new material being presented at each session.

Repeated Courses: If a course has multiple locations listed, that indicates the entire course will be repeated at each location.

Course Fees:

For Pay Per Course members, each in-person course in this section carries a \$15 fee, which is due upon enrollment in the course. Virtual courses on **Zoom** and **YouTube** livestreams are included for all members at no additional cost.

Cancellation Deadlines:

Pay Per Course members who cancel their attendance at least 24 hours in advance of a course's start date can request to apply their course fee to another course this semester.

Guest Policy:

Guests can see what our program is all about by attending one of the courses in this section for free, while space is available. Contact olli@unt.edu to enroll as a guest in one free course.

Arts & Humanities

The Beatles in the Studio: Exploration and Innovation

CCY | Tues. Oct. 6 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

This course examines the Beatles' use of the recording studio as a creative instrument. Spotlighting key recordings, it focuses on how the band and their collaborators experimented with the technologies available to them. In the end, these innovations not only made the Beatles' music stand apart from their contemporaries, they also fundamentally redefined the sound of popular music.

Brian F. Wright, PhD, is Associate Professor of Music History at UNT and a specialist in the history of American popular music. He is also a former research assistant for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. His book-length history of the electric bass, *The Bastard Instrument*, was published in 2024, and his work has appeared in the *Journal of the Society for American Music* and the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, as well as in *Vintage Guitar* and *Bass Player Magazine*.

Casablanca: "You Must Remember This..."

UNT | Wed. Sept. 2 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
CCY | Thurs. Sept. 17 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM 

Commonly listed by film historians and critics as a nearly perfect movie, *Casablanca* is an American classic for good reason. A wonderful cast, intrigue, murder, enduring dialogue, Nazis, and even a love story. What's not to like? Relive the best parts in film clips and learn some behind-the-scenes trivia. "You played it for her, you can play it for me."

Jerry Davis is a professional engineer who worked in the commercial electric power industry for 15 years. He followed this by teaching Engineering at UNT for 21 years. A nuclear engineer by education, he also taught Mechanical Engineering.

Contemporary Texas Authors Looking At Nineteenth Century Texas

CCY | Thurs. Oct. 8 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

Many OLLI members have eagerly attended classes on Texas history. Looking at the facts is critical to understanding what Texas is about. But looking at how contemporary Texas authors bring to life the facts and/or myths about 19th century Texas provides a different kind of awareness of what we think Texas is. This session will examine four novelists: Steve Harrigan, Paulette Jiles, Elizabeth Crook, and Larry McMurtry.

LaDonna Womochel, PhD, taught at Texas Tech either part-time or full-time for nine years. She holds a PhD from Texas Tech University, where she specialized in 19th century American novels. She is a member of the OLLI at UNT Advisory Council and frequently reviews books for organizations at Robson Ranch.

A Conversation About Mystery Novel Series

RR | Tues. Nov. 24 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Many of us are addicted to reading mysteries, and can't wait for the next novel about our favorite characters. In this session, we will speculate about what fuels this addiction. Our examples will center on three contemporary American novelists who publish a new novel every 24 months or so: William Kent Krueger, Deborah Crombie, and Donna Leon, but we also won't ignore the classic mystery novelists and characters from the past. The intention of this session is to share insights on mystery series in general, with specific examples to support our speculations.

La Donna Womochel, PhD, taught at Texas Tech either part-time or full-time for nine years. She holds a PhD from Texas Tech University, where she specialized in 19th century American novels. She is a member of the OLLI at UNT Advisory Council and frequently reviews books for organizations at Robson Ranch.

Dickens's Great Expectations: A Reconsideration

UNT | Mon. Oct. 12 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Most of us read *Great Expectations* in high school, but we were mere adolescents. Join Dr. J. Don Vann for this presentation, now that you have adult perspective, and you will be amazed at how much you did not comprehend back then.

Don Vann, PhD, is a Professor Emeritus in the UNT Department of English and retired Regent's Professor. He has been an author or editor of eight books, as well as scores of articles and reviews.

Does Your Monster Speak Yiddish?: Golems and the Language of Retribution in Jewish Horror Film

CCY | Thurs. Oct. 22 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

This presentation illuminates the Jewish roots of one of the most misinterpreted monsters popularly represented in horror film: the Golem. The Golem, born from Jewish folklore, was spoken into existence to serve as protector for the vulnerable. He has since taken many forms, fluctuating between monster and hero. From *The Golem* (1915) to *Oddity* (2024), the Golem is almost as old as horror film itself and remains a preoccupation for filmmakers and audiences. Every culture holds intention behind the monsters they make, demanding acknowledgement of their cultural origins. In a time of such vulnerability, what language are we placing in our Golem's mouth? As part of a broader project highlighting Jewish influence in horror, this presentation traces the Golem's Jewish roots, how Jewish and non-Jewish filmmakers historically wield his potential for retributive monstrosity, and how new meaning is ultimately found in the language behind this often culturally muted monster that many still crave.

Kerry Goldmann, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer and Associate Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History at UNT. She is a historian of Jewish American history, African American history, and American culture whose research investigates the intersecting histories of subaltern communities and art used for social change. She has taught minority theatre, culture, and histories in the theatre and history departments at UNT.

The Endurance of Frankenstein

UNT | Wed. Nov. 4 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
ZOOM | Tues. Nov. 10 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  

This course will involve key scenes and early film clips from Frankenstein films, as well as Frankenstein in political cartoons across the spectrum, to engage members in a discussion about the popularity of this literary creation across time.

Jacqueline Foertsch is professor of English at UNT and director of UNT's Postwar Faculty Colloquium. She is the author of seven books on postwar American literature, film, culture, and gender studies.

He Said, She Said: The Importance of Writing Strong Dialogue in Fiction

FM | Wed. Sept. 23 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
KEL | Tues. Sept. 29 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Have you ever noticed how much dialogue is in best-selling fiction books? Open any novel and you'll find it's often 50% or more. In this session, you'll learn how to develop the foundational skills to write great dialogue. It's not about transcribing real-life conversations. Members will come out of this course armed with practical tools to help make their manuscripts sing.

Linda Paul taught at UNT for 5 1/2 years and holds an M.S. from UNT and a B.S. from The Ohio State University. A former eCommerce and retail executive, she now writes fiction novels, including her latest, *The Last Gypsy Queen*. She blends her business experience with her love of creative writing.

History of the Vampire in Folklore, Literature, and Film

FM | Mon. Oct. 26 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
RR | Tues. Oct. 27 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
CCY | Thurs. Oct. 29 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

In this session, members will learn all about the long history of the vampire, from its roots in 18th century Eastern European folklore through the literary tradition of the 19th century, and into the visual arts of the 20th and 21st centuries. From *Dracula* to *Twilight* and beyond, this session will explore the myth and the metaphor of the vampire.

Megan Bryan, PhD, was born and raised in Germany, and received her university education, including her doctorate, from the University of York in the UK. She wrote her thesis on 19th century vampire literature, which has been an obsession of hers ever since watching *Horror of Dracula* at 15 years old. She has written five novels, as well as numerous essays, articles, and short stories on Victorians, villains, and vampires, and enjoys lecturing on these topics. She is also the Program Associate Director here at OLLI, and encourages you to stop by and see her anytime you want your Halloween fix whatever the time of year!

Inside the Band: Decoding Jazz Lingo and How Musicians Communicate

CCY | Tues. Nov. 10 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
RR | Tues. Nov. 17 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

In this course, members will go behind the scenes of a live jazz performance and uncover how musicians actually communicate. Members will learn both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication, from common bandstand lingo to subtle cues like eye contact, body language, and musical signals. With live demonstrations, members will hear how a group stays connected, navigates a tune, and creates a cohesive performance in real time.

Quincy Davis, MFA, is Associate Professor of Jazz Percussion and chair of the drumset department in the UNT College of Music. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University and has performed and toured with many world-renowned musicians. Quincy can be heard on over 50 albums playing with notable jazz artists. His 2020 release, *Q Vision*, was ranked #3 on Jazz Week's radio jazz chart for 5 weeks.

Lewis Carroll: Nineteenth-Century Photographer, Writer, and Influencer

UNT | Mon. Oct. 5 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, known also as author Lewis Carroll, is remembered for writing stories for children, but he also taught math at Oxford and took up photography in its early days. His stories have remained popular in various forms, such as movies, and the characters he created continue to become familiar to new generations. This session will provide a glimpse into Carroll's creative writing and impressive photography.

John F. Neal, PhD, taught journalism and mass communication at the college level for more than 30 years. He received his PhD from UNT, and while in graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin, he worked in the photography collection of the Harry Ransom Center.

Marcel Duchamp: Iconoclast of Modern Art

CCY | Tues. Sept. 1 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

Marcel Duchamp (1887 - 1968) wiped clean and rewrote the definition of what art can be. His *Nude Descending a Staircase* (1912) created a scandal when exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show in New York, itself a ground-breaking introduction of modern art to Americans. Duchamp challenged the role of the artist as creator, proposing that a functional object could be selected by the artist and declared to be art by simply renaming it and assigning a new thought to that object - works that he called "readymades." This course will explore the arc of Duchamp's career from his earlier paintings through his final secret project that occupied the last 20 years of his life.

Lane Banks is a lecturer and museum educator focusing on the history of modern and contemporary art. He has taught continuing education courses at SMU for the past twenty years, has been a docent at the Dallas Museum of Art and Nasher Sculpture Center, and continues to lead gallery talks at the DMA.

The Music of Haydn, Elgar, Debussy and Ravel, and Paintings from the 18th-century Through Cubism

UNT | Mon. Oct. 26 & Wed. Oct. 28
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
RR | Thurs. Nov. 19 & Tues. Nov. 24
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

This course will cover the music of Haydn, Elgar, Debussy, and Ravel, and the paintings of Neo-classicism, Romanticism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Cubism, and Symbolism, as well as a collection of paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Gustav Klimt.

Max Morley, DMA, taught music history and literature at Stephen F. Austin State University until his retirement. He earned his BM, MM, and DMA degrees from UNT.

107 Days at Sea: The Journey That Changed Everything

ZOOM | Fri. Nov. 6 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  

At 63, Jill Chalsty boarded a ship alone, grieving her husband's death and battling cancer. What began as a voyage around the world became far more than a trip. In this lecture, Jill shares the story behind her memoir "Packets of Hope," inviting participants to travel alongside her through the ports she visited, the people she met, and the reflections that transformed personal adversity into strength and global impact. Jill demonstrates how one person's courage can create ripples that span continents. Participants are encouraged to read her memoir, available free at www.packetsofhope.com, before the presentation.

Jill Chalsty, founder of *Overcoming Obstacles*, has empowered over 180 million young people worldwide through life skills education. Her journey of loss and cancer inspired "Packets of Hope," illuminating the power of love and service.

Palette to Palate: Dining with the Artist

ZOOM | Thurs. Sept. 17 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM 

Step into a world where the canvas meets the kitchen, a unique foodtainment experience that explores the flavors behind the world's greatest masterpieces. Have you ever wondered what fueled the creative fires of history's most iconic visionaries? This class bridges the gap between art history and gastronomy, recreating the authentic dishes and historical diets of artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Claude Monet, and Andy Warhol. From the rustic, vegetarian-leaning fare of the Renaissance to the lush, garden-grown flavors of French Impressionism, we dive into how geography and personal taste influenced the strokes of a brush.

Chef Larry P. Canepa is a Certified Culinary Educator and Chef, author, researcher, food historian and lecturer on culinary topics. He is a subject matter expert in food and beverage operations with knowledge of current culinary trends.

Pieced Together: Dress at the Intersections of Quilting and Fashion

CCY | Tues. Sept. 8 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
UNT | Wed. Nov. 11 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

While quilting typically comes from community practices and fashion is grounded in industry, the two forms of cultural production have intersected frequently over the past sixty years. By examining moments when quilting and fashion have come together, we can see ways that ideas about the handmade, Americana, and textile arts have been negotiated. Join Dr. Annette Becker for thought-provoking examples of quilt fashion, all drawn from the UNT Texas Fashion Collection!

Annette Becker, PhD, is an educator and material culture researcher whose work focuses on fashion history. She serves as the director of the Texas Fashion Collection, an archive of nearly 20,000 garments and accessories housed within the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design. Annette holds an MA in Art History and a PhD in History, both from UNT.

Poetry Villanelles: Dylan Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle" at 75 and Elizabeth Bishop, "One Art" at 50

CCY | Tues. Sept. 22 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
RR | Thurs. Nov. 12 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

By a lovely coincidence, two beautiful villanelles celebrate birthdays this year: Dylan Thomas's "Do Not Go Gentle" was published in 1951, and Elizabeth Bishop's "One Art" was published in 1976. This course will discuss these poems in detail (please read prior to attending) and the complex weaving of the villanelle form in general.

LeeAnn Derdeyn, PhD, is a Clinical Associate Professor in UNT's College of Applied and Collaborative Studies. She has a BA in Medieval Literature and Spirituality, as well as an MA and PhD in Modern and Contemporary Literature. Her primary dissertation focus was T. S. Eliot and Modernism.

Ranch Dressing: The Story of Western Wear

CCY | Thurs. Oct. 1 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

The history of western wear is filled with fascinating stories. Want to know how John B. Stetson came to create "The Boss of the Plains"? And there is Jack A. Weil who went from traveling the west to sell ladies garters and garments to creating the snap-button western shirt. Levi Strauss followed the gold rush to make sturdy pants for miners. From there came the iconic 501 jean, still in production today. We also have Texas's own H.J. Justin, creator of the western boot. Come dressed in your own western wear and learn of its history.

Jean Greenlaw, PhD, is a Regents Professor Emeritus in the UNT College of Education. She has been a reviewer for decades and is the book review columnist for the *Denton Record-Chronicle*.

A TV Legend: Gunsmoke

KEL | Tues. Oct. 6 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of one of the longest running TV shows, *Gunsmoke*, this presentation will focus on the rarely discussed personalities, qualities, and habits of the show's main characters and actors who portrayed them: Matt, Miss Kitty, Doc, Chester, Festus, Quint and Newly. Rarely known facts, like who was offered the role of Marshall Dillon before James Arness (John Wayne) will be shared.

Tom Pryor served for 18 years with three Fortune 500 firms before founding a cost management consulting, training, and software company. Tom also served 6 years as Director of the Small Business Development Center at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Understanding Cemetery Symbols: Art, History & Hidden Meanings

UNT | Wed. Oct. 21 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
RR | Thurs. Oct. 29 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Historic cemeteries are filled with fascinating symbols. In this photo-filled class, author and cemetery symbolism expert Tui Snider explains the meanings behind angels, clasped hands, obelisks, flowers, tree-stump gravestones, and other historic cemetery symbols found in North Texas and beyond. Members will learn how to recognize and interpret headstone symbolism while discovering how burial grounds serve as outdoor museums that preserve art, architecture, cultural traditions, and community history.

Tui Snider is an author, speaker, and cemetery symbolism expert who brings historic burial grounds to life through books, talks, visual presentations, and cemetery tours. She is the author of nearly 20 books, including *Understanding Cemetery Symbols* and *Buried America: Dallas-Fort Worth*, and writes a monthly column for *American Cemetery & Cremation* magazine focused on funerary art, symbolism, and burial traditions.

The Way I Was: The Autobiography of Marvin Hamlisch

CCY | Thurs. Sept. 3 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM 

The youngest student ever admitted to the Juilliard School of Music would go on to write the music for *The Way We Were*, compose a James Bond theme, and win three Oscars in one year. He was the pianist for Groucho Marx and Barbra Streisand. And he wrote the music for *A Chorus Line*, the Broadway smash hit that ran over 6,000 performances. Members will be dazzled and entertained by the autobiography of Marvin Hamlisch, *The Way I Was*.

Kathleen Cunningham has been presenting entertaining, educational book reviews throughout North Texas since 2014, including at many senior retirement communities. She was formerly an Assistant Vice President for Governmental Affairs for the Texas Credit Union League, where she first became a public speaker. In 2004, she created the Speakers Bureau for the Dallas Arboretum and served as its director for ten years. She is a former ballet dancer and professional ballroom exhibition dancer, who concluded her dancing career by performing in the Spectacular Senior Follies at the Eisemann Theater in Richardson.

The Wonderful World of Roaring 20's Novelty Rags

CCY | Thurs. Oct. 15 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
RR | Thurs. Oct. 22 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

The 1920's was a heyday for piano, especially the genre commonly known as "novelty rags." This presentation combines historical background along with live piano performances by Dr. Steven Harlos.

Steve Harlos, DMA, serves as chair of the Division of Keyboard Studies in the UNT College of Music. He has performed with such diverse artists as Timofei Dokschutzer, Harvey Phillips, Dick Hyman, Marvin Gaye and Maureen McGovern. He was staff keyboardist for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra from 1996 until his retirement in 2022.

Writing Your Own Songs with Suno

CCY | Thurs. Nov. 5 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

If you love creative writing or want to give it a try but maybe you haven't written songs because you're not musical or don't have access to musical equipment or computer software, this course is for you. You don't have to be musical to use Suno to set your lyrics to music.

LeeAnn Derdeyn, PhD, is a Clinical Associate Professor in UNT's College of Applied and Collaborative Studies. She has a BA in Medieval Literature and Spirituality, as well as an MA and PhD in Modern and Contemporary Literature. Her primary dissertation focus was T. S. Eliot and Modernism.

Business & Economics

Money and Wealth: How Macroeconomics Makes us all Better Off

KEL | Tues. Sept. 22 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
LAN | Fri. Nov. 6 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

“Money makes the world go round,” but what is money today, really? Most modern money is not gold or even paper currency, but electronic financial claims created through the banking system. This lecture explores what money really is, how banks and the Federal Reserve influence its creation and supply, why debt is deeply connected to modern money, and how these systems helped enable the enormous rise in modern prosperity.

David McKinley spent most of his fifty-year career as a computer systems and software engineer, but has maintained a longstanding interest in economics and finance since earning an MBA from UT Austin. Drawing on the same analytical approach used to understand computing and communications systems, he enjoys exploring how modern banking, money, and financial systems help support the modern economy.

Retire Smarter, Not Harder: Mastering Retirement Taxes to Protect Your Wealth

KEL | Tues. Nov. 3 & Tues. Nov. 10 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

This workshop, led by local financial planner Joseph Dowdall, is designed to equip retirees and those preparing to retire with the knowledge to navigate the complexities of taxation. The session will explore common “tax traps” and highlight valuable “tax opportunities” across the four stages of retirement, providing members with actionable strategies to potentially save significant money and ensure a more secure financial future.

Joe Dowdall, MBA, has worked in the financial services industry for over 16 years and has spent the last 12 years as a financial planner in North Texas. He earned his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York and his MBA in Finance from Saint Joseph's Haub School of Business. Joe is a certified Financial Planner, Chartered Retirement Plan Consultant, and a Retirement Income Certified Professional.

SECURE Act: How Does it Affect Taxation on Your Retirement Accounts?

UNT | Mon. Sept. 14 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
FM | Wed. Nov. 18 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

This session will explain how members can restructure their retirement plans to take advantage of the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act and ways to protect their plans when they leave them to their loved ones.

Leigh Hilton has helped over 8,000 families protect the assets that they leave to loved ones from divorce, creditors, lawsuits and predators. She has also helped over 600 families implement the plans that she has prepared after the death of a loved one and helped over 2,400 families implement the plans prepared by other attorneys. She is the author of the books *Who Gets Your Stuff When You Die* and *What Your Spouse Should Know if Something Happens to You* and a frequent speaker. She has given over 700 speeches to various organizations and groups.

Succession Planning and Buy-Sell Agreements for Closely Held Businesses

FM | Mon. Sept. 14 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
UNT | Mon. Sept. 28 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
LAN | Fri. Oct. 9 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

This course will teach members how to pass their business down to the next generation. This will be an overview for business owners and stakeholders on creating strategies for the smooth transition of ownership and leadership, covering how to develop a comprehensive succession plan, document it with a buy-sell agreement, and address triggering events like divorce, death or disability. Key topics include business valuation, legal and financial preparation, identifying successors, funding mechanisms, and the importance of buy-sell agreements in preserving business value and ensuring liquidity for the departing owner or their estate.

Chris Jones has a wealth of experience as an attorney. A native of Fort Worth, he earned undergraduate degrees in accounting and business (with a minor in economics) from Centenary College in Shreveport before securing his legal degree from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 1995. His career started with Price Waterhouse Coopers as a tax attorney from 1995 to 1999. From there, he had a successful stint at Crady, Jewett, McCulley & Houren law firm before venturing out with his own practice in 2014. With both firms, he focused on tax and business transaction law while also helping with wills, trusts, and other estate planning tools. Chris joined the firm at Leigh Hilton PLLC in May 2025. Since that time he has helped families with their estate planning needs, along with a focus in LLC & LP for business.

Who Gets Your Stuff When You Die?

KEL | Tues. Sept. 1 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
RR | Thurs. Oct. 29 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Leigh Hilton, estate planning attorney, will discuss the intricacies of wills, trusts, estate planning, asset protection and more.

Leigh Hilton has helped over 8,000 families protect the assets that they leave to loved ones from divorce, creditors, lawsuits and predators. She has also helped over 600 families implement the plans that she has prepared after the death of a loved one and helped over 2,400 families implement the plans prepared by other attorneys. She is the author of the books *Who Gets Your Stuff When You Die* and *What Your Spouse Should Know if Something Happens to You* and a frequent speaker. She has given over 700 speeches to various organizations and groups.

Will You Lose All of Your Assets If You Have to Go to a Nursing Home?

KEL | Tues. Sept. 15 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
FM | Wed. Nov. 4 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
UNT | Mon. Nov. 16 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

In this session, members will learn how to protect their families from losing what they have worked hard to earn if they have to go into a nursing home.

Leigh Hilton has helped over 8,000 families protect the assets that they leave to loved ones from divorce, creditors, lawsuits and predators. She has also helped over 600 families implement the plans that she has prepared after the death of a loved one and helped over 2,400 families implement the plans prepared by other attorneys. She is the author of the books *Who Gets Your Stuff When You Die* and *What Your Spouse Should Know if Something Happens to You* and a frequent speaker. She has given over 700 speeches to various organizations and groups.

Current Issues & Social Events

Behind the Ballot Box: What it Takes to Run an Election in Denton County

RR | Tues. Sept. 1 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM
LAN | Fri. Sept. 18 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Ever wonder about how elections are run, or how much they cost tax payers? Why do election locations seem to change from year to year? Are our elections safe & fair? Come find out from a long-time election presiding judge & voter education nerd.

Christie A. Wood has been an election presiding judge and voter education advocate since 2016. She has worked behind the scenes with the Denton County Election Administration in placing election workers, selecting voting locations, and in improvements in the voting experience for Denton citizens.

Contemporary Trends in Antisemitism: On Campus, in the Classroom, and in the Community

CCY | Tues. Nov. 17 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

For the first time in the history of the annual American Jewish Committee (AJC) State of Antisemitism Report, the findings released in 2025 reflecting attitudes from the previous year showed that over half of American Jews changed their behavior out of fear of antisemitism. This was before tragic events including the murder of two Jews outside a Jewish event at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington DC and the firebombing of a walk raising awareness of Israeli hostages sponsored by the Jewish community of Boulder. AJC Regional Director Joel Schwitzer will discuss the latest report and provide insights into how antisemitism is playing out in multiple settings and what American civil society can do about it

Christie A. Wood has worked in Jewish nonprofit management and fundraising for nearly 30 years. He joined AJC in 2015 and leads the Dallas Regional Office, which covers North and Central Texas as well as Oklahoma. In that capacity, Joel guides the advocacy, leadership development and fundraising efforts for AJC throughout the region. He has provided testimony on family separation to the Texas Mexican American Legislative Caucus, worked to build several diverse coalitions including the Community of Conscience, Jewish/Latino Alliance and DFW Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council. He is a prolific op ed writer, with columns published in *The Dallas Morning News*, *Austin American Statesman*, *Fort Worth Star Telegram* and *Texas Jewish Post*.

Federalism and American Democracy

RR | Tues. Oct. 27 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

The American political experiment was embarked upon by a coalition of small states seeking freedom from monarchical authoritarianism. It evolved over two and a half centuries of domestic conflict, constitutional reform, legislation, executive behavior, and judicial action into a much more democratic polity based upon the rule of law and cooperation among different levels of government. The session will explore significant contemporary challenges and threats to its evolved democratic nature and its prospects. Can the federal structure and democratic practice withstand these challenges?

John A. Booth, PhD, is Regents Professor Emeritus of political science at UNT. Over 37 years, he taught courses on U.S. government and politics, democracy, and Latin America. His research and teaching have focused on Latin American politics and public opinion, democratization, and political violence and revolution. He has offered OLLI classes since 2013.

The Law of US Midterm Elections

UNT | Mon. Oct. 19 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Two years after every presidential election, citizens of the United States vote to elect a new House of Representatives. Despite considerable effort on behalf of legislators to campaign for reelection, members of the president's party invariably lose seats in Congress and often lose majority control, as well. What explains this regularity in American politics? Why are political scientists so confident in this law of US midterm elections?

Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha is a Professor of Political Science at the University of North Texas. His research focuses on American political institutions, specifically the presidency and mass media, and public policy. He is the author of nearly three dozen scholarly articles and four books, including: *The President's Speeches: Beyond "Going Public"* (Lynne Rienner) and *Breaking through the Noise: Presidential Leadership, Public Opinion, and the News Media*, coauthored with Jeffrey S. Peake (Stanford University Press).

Today's Terror Tactics

UNT | Wed. Sept. 23 & Oct. 7
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

LAN | Fri. Oct. 30 & Fri. Nov. 13
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

FM | Mon. Nov. 9 & Nov. 16 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

This two-session course will cover recent events and threats to the United States, current groups known to be in the US and Texas, as well as what to look for and listen for in the news. It will also include a brief history of terrorism, how to react in the event of a terror attack, and what types of attacks can take place and where.

Scott Nichol is a Former Navy and DHS Intel Officer. He was also the former Assistant White House Press Secretary to Tony Snow during the George W. Bush Administration.

The 2026 Midterm Elections

CCY | Tues. Oct. 20 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM 

RR | Thurs. Oct. 22 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

In this class we will explore the structure of our elections, the differences between presidential and midterm elections, the impact of presidential approval ratings, political polarization, turnout, voter and district characteristics, and polling data, among other factors, to develop a framework for forecasting the November elections. You will be able to assess on election day how well we did!

Patricia Richard, PhD, is Trustee Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Ohio University. In her scholarly work, Dr. Richard has written extensively about democracy, elections and campaigns, public opinion, and women's rights.

History

American Mythology 2 - Conspiracy Theories

FM | Wed. Oct. 28 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

RR | Thurs. Oct. 29 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

How do we know what we know? One vector of explanations is conspiracy theories. This course will survey popular conspiracy theories, including the Flat Earth and Hollow Earth theories, faked moon landings, JFK, MLK, and more! It will discuss their impact on all of us, and will open your mind to what some people believe, make you think, and hopefully entertain you.

James Robinson is a retired teacher of American and Afro-American History. His Master's Degree involved Civil War origins, and he has long been both a student and teacher of Texas History. Mr. Robinson currently volunteers for the Denton County Office of History and Culture, specifically in the Traveling Museum project, which brings museum artifacts and presentations to school children all over the county.

A Daughter's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust

CCY | Thurs. Sept. 24 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM 

Anna Salton Eisen will share her father's Holocaust journey through 10 concentration camps in Poland, Germany, and France. She travels with her father back to Poland to uncover his story and presents his original Holocaust artwork. Through her Holocaust archival research, Anna searches for and discovers the children of her father's fellow concentration camp prisoners.

Anna Salton Eisen is the author of *The 23rd Psalm: A Holocaust Memoir*, *The Twentieth Anniversary Edition* (A National Jewish Book Awards Finalist in 2022) and *Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust*. She is the executive producer of the upcoming documentary film *In My Father's Words* based on both of her books. As the founder of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, site of the antisemitic synagogue hostage crisis in January 2022, Anna has been featured in numerous major news outlets, including CNN, NPR, and *The New York Times*.

From Names to Narratives: An Introduction to Genealogy

RR | Thurs. Sept. 10 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

LAN | Fri. Sept. 25 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

CCY | Tues. Nov. 3 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

Curious about your ancestors but unsure where to begin? This beginner-friendly course provides a hands-on introduction to genealogy, guiding members through documents, databases, and research techniques that bring the past to life. Along the way, members will learn how to organize their findings and preserve stories for future generations.

Beri Kaplan Schwitzer is a native Las Vegas who has dedicated her energy to education. After earning a Journalism degree from the University of Nevada, she built a career spanning Jewish education, nonprofit management, and corporate training. Her passion for Jewish learning and history has shaped three decades of leadership. A nationally recognized educator honored by JESNA, she completed the inaugural Educators' Certificate in Jewish Leadership through Spertus and Northwestern and studied at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies as a Senior Educator Leadership Fellow. Beri serves as Executive Director of the Dallas Jewish Historical Society, president of the Dallas Genealogical Society, and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

The Great Texas Alien Invasion of 1897

RR | Thurs. Oct. 15 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

UNT | Wed. Oct. 28 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

In 1897 there were numerous reports across the country of moving lights in the night sky, fueling much speculation. Then, on April 17, 1897 there were reports of a mysterious craft crashing in Aurora, Texas ... and the burial of a non-human pilot. 51 years before Roswell, how far back does first contact go?

Jerry Davis is a professional engineer who worked in the commercial electric power industry for 15 years. He followed this by teaching Engineering at UNT for 21 years. A nuclear engineer by education, he also taught Mechanical Engineering.

Greyhounds: The Most Comely Hound

RR | Thurs. Oct. 22 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

It's not just Jerry Davis' opinion, The Bible says so. Greyhounds are more than just the second fastest land animal. In this session, members will learn more about these elegant hounds.

Jerry Davis is a professional engineer who worked in the commercial electric power industry for 15 years. He followed this by teaching Engineering at UNT for 21 years. A nuclear engineer by education, he also taught Mechanical Engineering.

The Hidden History of the Texas Dust Bowl

ZOOM | Tues. Oct. 13 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM 

This lecture brings to light little-known stories of Texans who endured the state's harshest era. Through striking imagery, film footage, maps, music, and firsthand accounts, Jann Alexander illustrates how the Dust Bowl and Depression transformed the Texas landscape, economy, and identity, and informed her historical novel, *Unspoken*.

Jann Alexander is the author of the historical novel, *Unspoken*, set in the Texas Panhandle during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression eras, her first book in The Dust Series. With a dozen years of research into Texas, she's also a speaker on its hidden histories. Jann always brakes for historical markers.

The History of the White House Oval Office & the Resolute Desk

RR | Tues. Sept. 15 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

FM | Wed. Nov. 11 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

When you think of the White House what is the first thing that comes to mind? To many it is the Oval Office and the Resolute desk. (Remember the movie *National Treasure*?) As an award-winning docent at the George Bush Presidential Center, Bruce Ralston will be presenting both the histories of the Oval Office and the Resolute desk.

Bruce Ralston is a retired AP History teacher as well as a docent at the George Bush Presidential Center. In addition, he gives history talks to various audiences, and has also performed a one-act play as a Civil War soldier.

Iwo Jima

KEL | Tues. Sept. 8 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

CCY | Thurs. Sept. 10 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM 

UNT | Wed. Sept. 16 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Iwo Jima. Two words that automatically bring to mind one of the most vicious and costly battles of WWII. A two-word shorthand for bravery and sacrifice and the inspiration for numerous books and movies. Come learn about what happened there and maybe even why.

Jerry Davis is a professional engineer who worked in the commercial electric power industry for 15 years. He followed this by teaching Engineering at UNT for 21 years. A nuclear engineer by education, he also taught Mechanical Engineering.

Life in 1950s America

To accommodate as many members as possible, this 90-minute lecture is being offered twice at Robson Ranch this fall.

RR | Thurs. Sept. 10 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

RR | Thurs. Sept. 24 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

In this course, Dr. Andrew Torget will explore the iconic era of the 1950s, when Americans were more prosperous than ever while also deeply terrified of the growing threats of communism and nuclear war. Exploring the schizophrenic realities of life in the 1950s, Dr. Torget will talk about how the Cold War, Disneyland, McCarthyism, and easy consumer credit somehow all came together during this remarkable decade to redefine American life in the "Golden Era" that was never quite as golden as it seemed.

Andrew J. Torget, PhD, is a historian of 19th century North America at UNT, where he holds the University Distinguished Teaching Professorship. He is the author or editor of five books, he earned a Guinness World record in 2018, and he has won multiple teaching awards on two different continents.

Mark Lane: Lee Harvey Oswald's Attorney and the Warren Commission

FM | Mon. Nov. 2 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

LAN | Fri. Nov. 20 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

UNT | Mon. Nov. 23 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

This course is about Lee Harvey Oswald's lawyer, Mark Lane, testifying about the assassination of JFK, and the evidence that shows why Oswald may not have been the one who shot Kennedy. After Lee Harvey Oswald's death, his mother retained attorney Mark Lane to represent his interests. Lane urged the Warren Commission to appoint defense counsel so that evidence could be examined and witnesses cross-examined, but his request was denied. Undeterred, he continued gathering information about the JFK assassination and renewed his effort to participate in the inquiry. His persistence eventually earned him the opportunity to testify before the Commission. This presentation examines Lane's findings through that testimony, now available to the public.

Dana Lynn Pope is a communication expert, professional speaker, and author of *Who's Changing the Meaning*. A true philologist - one with a deep love for words and their origins - she brings clarity to how language shapes thought, culture, and connection. With her background as a national-level Supply Chain Project Manager, Dana blends her business intellect with her passion for language and communication. She also transcribed Mark Lane's testimonies for the National Archives.

Mighty Miracles of the American Revolution: America's 250th Anniversary

RR | Thurs. Sept. 24 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Mighty Miracles of the American Revolution examines a series of pivotal and highly improbable events that influenced the outcome of America's founding. Through a structured analysis of key moments including military engagements, financial turning points, and leadership decisions, this course explores how contingency, environmental factors, and individual actions intersected during the Revolutionary period. Drawing on primary sources and established historical scholarship, the course invites members to critically evaluate whether these events can be understood as coincidence, strategic circumstance, or part of a broader interpretive framework in understanding the origins of the United States.

Dory A. Wiley, CFA, CPA, CVA is President & CEO of Commerce Street Holdings, LLC. In his spare time he lectures on various subjects including finance, the JFK assassination, presidential history, the founding fathers, and various other topics of interest.

Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light

ZOOM | Thurs. Sept. 3 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  

Before her death in 1974, Felicia Bornstein Lubliner wrote about her experiences in ghettos and concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Poland. Her son, who published her writings, will share excerpts, reflect on his mother's extraordinary spirit and resilience, and speak about his own experience as a child of survivors. Felicia encouraged readers to follow her into Auschwitz and to "meet some of the people in the nameless mass of bodies," writing, "Try, if you will, to feel, even for a moment, that you could have been one of them." The instructor invites you to bear witness to the Holocaust through the eyes of one who lived and endured it.

Irv Lubliner, professor emeritus at Southern Oregon University, published his mother's writings as *Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust* and has devoted himself to sharing her powerful firsthand accounts through hundreds of presentations for teen and adult audiences nationwide. He has also taught this course at 87 OLLI campuses across the country.

Presidential Trivia

LAN | Fri. Oct. 2 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Presidential trivia tests your knowledge about our nation's presidents. The session is designed to both educate and entertain. You will be provided with handouts of more than 50 questions that include multiple possible answers. Following each question, the history behind the correct answer. Come and join the fun!

Bruce Ralston is a retired AP History teacher as well as a docent at the George Bush Presidential Center. In addition, he gives history talks to various audiences, and has also performed a one-act play as a Civil War soldier.

The Quakertown Story: Historic-African American Families of Denton County

RR | Thurs. Sept. 3 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

UNT | Wed. Sept. 23 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Quakertown was a thriving African American community from the late 1880s to 1921. Then city leaders decided Quakertown needed to move further away from the town Square and the Women's College. This course will chronicle the African American experience in Denton both before and after the displacement of Quakertown residents, paying tribute to the courage and enduring resilience of Denton's remarkable citizens.

Karyn Blucker is a retired Denton ISD elementary teacher of language arts and social studies. She has volunteered with the Denton County Office of History and Culture for several years. She does museum tours and traveling museums to schools and other organizations.

Stories from the Archives: Hidden Histories of the University of North Texas

UNT | Wed. Nov. 4 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

ZOOM | Thurs. Nov. 19 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  

What surprising, strange, and unforgettable stories are hidden in the University of North Texas archives? This session shares little-known moments from UNT's history, from student life and campus traditions to unexpected events captured in photographs, letters, and records. Told from an archivist's perspective, the course reveals not just the stories themselves, but how they were discovered and preserved. Participants will gain a deeper appreciation for how archives shape the history we remember.

Jess Tucker is the University Archivist at the University of North Texas, where she manages collections documenting the institution's history and community. She specializes in uncovering and interpreting archival materials that illuminate campus life across time. Her work connects students, researchers, and the public with UNT's past through collections, outreach, and storytelling.

Tejanos and American Wars: A Path to Historical Memory

UNT | Wed. Oct. 14 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

The course will trace the concept of Tejano military service and how historical memory and monuments impact public history and the discourse surrounding wartime service. The goal will be to explore how military service was a comprehensive experience since the Texas Revolution.

Alex Mendoza is an associate professor at the University of North Texas. His most recent book is *Reasons We Fight: Tejanos and American Wars, 1836-1972* (2026). Mendoza received his PhD at Texas Tech University.

Three Firebrand Women Leaders of the 60s/70s: Betty Friedan, Helen Gurley Brown and Phyllis Schlafly

UNT | Mon. Nov. 2 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Don Hancock continues his series of classes on culture wars of mid-century America, exploring the fascinating lives and conflicting opinions of three articulate scrappy influencers of gender and femininity. Competing women's magazines *MS.* and *Cosmopolitan* also will be reviewed.

Don Hancock, PhD, retired after 35 years as an administrator and teacher in college and non-profit adult education programs. He received both his PhD in Adult and Continuing Education and his BA in Journalism from UNT. He researched and published a nostalgia blog about growing up in Dallas several years ago and is a frequent contributor to Dallas history social media sites.

A U.S. Diplomat Assigned To Posts Abroad But NOT To Embassies!

UNT | Wed. Sept. 30 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

RR | Thurs. Oct. 15 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Not assigned to embassies, but then ... assigned to where? The answer is – in almost all cases – either to a U.S. Consulate (or Consulate General) or to a U.S. Mission to an international organization. Stephen Dubrow will continue discussing his Foreign Service career, both early and late, but now as it developed in two consulates (Zagreb and Lubumbashi) and two missions (to the European Union and to the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe). His accounts will be “up-close and personal,” emphasizing how, as a diplomat, working with relatively small but significantly influential publics in localities or in the confines of an important organization, he conducted his everyday life as part and parcel of his professional responsibilities.

Steve Dubrow graduated from Columbia and Princeton, taught at Brown University, served for 25 years as a diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service, and taught world languages for 19 years.

U.S. Navy Submarine Operations During the Cold War

CCY | Thurs. Nov. 12 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

Learn about the history of US Navy submarine operations during the Cold War from a retired US Navy submarine officer, who has first-hand experience of the workings of the submarines and the operations they took part in. Learn about Mr. McColl's experience as a submariner, including a very interesting trip to the North Pole and transiting under the Arctic ice cap. He will also give an comprehensive overview of the US Navy's ballistic missile submarines and the role they play in deterring other country from using weapons of mass destruction.

CDR Angus McColl, USN (retired) served more than 24 years in the US Navy, operating and maintaining nuclear powered submarines and running training and education programs. He then began a second career in university fundraising and business development working at the University of Southern California and University of Texas at Dallas before coming to the University of North Texas, where he now works as the Assistant Dean for Strategic Partnerships and the Executive Director of Development in the College of Engineering. He earned a bachelor of science degree from the US Naval Academy, master's degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and Old Dominion University, and a certificate in fundraising management from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University / Purdue University, Indianapolis. He is passionate about furthering the research and educational missions of the University of North Texas College of Engineering, and playing a role in enabling the success of its students and faculty.

Walking the Holy Land: Archaeology, Sacred Places, and Surprising Human Stories

ZOOM | Tues. Oct. 6 & Oct. 20  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Explore the Holy Land through the layered stories of archaeology, geography, biblical traditions, sacred sites, and everyday life in Israel. Each session uses maps, images, ancient texts, and surprising historical details to illuminate places many people have heard about but rarely understand in context. To connect the ancient landscape with living culture, every session also includes a song and a simple recipe related to the region, tradition, or story discussed. This course avoids politics and focuses instead on the land, people, faiths, discoveries, and stories that shaped Jewish, Christian, and world history.

Maria Lando is an Israel-based educator and storyteller with a background in applied mathematics, computer vision, and visual communication. She teaches online classes about the Holy Land that combine history, archaeology, geography, biblical traditions, maps, images, and engaging human stories. Having lived and worked in the United States for 17 years, she brings both Israeli knowledge and an American adult-learning sensibility to her courses.

War as Pedagogy: China's 1979 Invasion of Vietnam

UNT | Mon. Oct. 5 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

On 2 February 1979 Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping arrived in Houston, Texas. Spurned by Texas governor Bill Clements and senators Benson and Tower, Deng was at least presented with silver spurs and a Stetson hat before continuing to Washington, DC for his meeting with President Jimmy Carter. Scarcely more than two weeks after donning his Stetson at the Simonton rodeo, Deng ordered the People's Liberation Army to attack Vietnam. What followed was over three weeks of brutal combat, a destructive occupation of Vietnamese border towns and cities, and then the withdrawal of Chinese troops on 16 March. Deng Xiaoping said that the goal of the Sino-Vietnamese War had been to teach the Vietnamese a lesson. But in the end, who was schooled? Was it Vietnam? The Chinese leadership? The Chinese generals? The Soviet Union? And what role did the American president and his National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski, play in these events? Dr. Tanner will address these and other questions about China's pedagogical use of deadly force back in the winter of 1979 and its relevance to our understanding of Chinese strategy in the 21st century.

Dr. Harold Tanner is a Professor of History at the University of North Texas specializing in modern China. After graduating from New England College in 1983 and traveling extensively in China in 1984, he earned an M.A. from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London in 1985, a second B.A. in Modern Chinese from the Beijing Languages Institute in 1987, and his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1994. Dr. Tanner's textbook *China: A History* (Hackett, 2009) has been adopted at more than fifty colleges and universities. His most recent work, *Where Chiang Kai-shek Lost China: The Liao-Shen Campaign, 1948* (Indiana University Press, 2015) focuses on the interaction of Chinese Communist and Nationalist forces on the ground in Manchuria and U.S. diplomacy in Washington and Nanjing in one of the key military engagements of the Chinese Civil War (1945-1959). Dr. Tanner has done presentations on Chinese political and military history and strategic culture to audiences at the Hoover Institution, the Society for Military History, the United States Army's People's Liberation Army Conference, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the U.S. Seventh Fleet Naval Reserve, the Air War College, and the National Defense University's Joint Advanced Warfighting School.

William Cowper Brann and *The Iconoclast*

FM | Mon. Oct. 19 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
KEL | Tues. Nov. 17 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
CCY | Thurs. Nov. 19 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
RR | Tues. Nov. 24 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

From 1895 to 1898 William Cowper Brann edited *The Iconoclast*, a monthly satirical magazine based in Waco, in which he mocked many of the establishment institutions of his day, particularly the Baptist Church and Baylor University. His colorful, hyperbolic style made him famous nationwide. In April 1898 he was murdered on the streets of Waco by a Baylor supporter, whom he in turn shot to death. This course will tell the story of Brann's life, his controversial feud with Baylor, and the final confrontation that cost two men their lives. It will include generous excerpts from *The Iconoclast* to illustrate his remarkably entertaining prose, which ranks him with H.L. Mencken, Ambrose Bierce, and Christopher Hitchens, although even in Texas he is virtually unknown today.

Steven Jent, MS, received a BA in History from Rice University in 1973 and an MS in Computer Science from SMU in 1995. He was employed by IBM in software development from 1976 to 1998. Since he left IBM, he has written two books on Texas history.

Nature & Environmental Science

How the Natural Environment Gets Away with Murder

RR | Tues. Sept. 1 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Every day of our lives we eat, drink, and breathe the minerals and trace elements. For most of us this interaction with natural materials is harmless, perhaps even beneficial, supplying us with some essential nutrients. However, for some, the interaction with the minerals and trace elements can have devastating, even fatal effects. Examples that will be discussed include: a town in Montana that has been devastated by trace quantities of asbestos in a vermiculite deposit; a deadly fungus mobilized by earthquakes that impacts people in the U.S.; natural groundwater that has contributed to the death of more than 100,000 people in the Balkans and a similar situation that may exist in parts of the U.S. In every case there are opportunities for geoscientists to work with public health researchers to mitigate these and other environmental health problems.

Robert Finkelman, PhD, helped create the field of medical geology and has co-edited five books on the subject. He received his doctorate degree in Chemistry from the University of Maryland.

The Many Ways That Coal Has Impacted Our Lives

UNT | Mon. Oct. 26 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

“King Coal” has had enormous impacts, both positive and negative, on our lives, our society, and on civilization in general. This presentation will describe why coal can be credited with the development of canals, railroads, factories, even cities and why WWII would not have been possible without coal. Members will look at the positive (and there are many) and negative (they are serious) aspects of coal use in Texas and around the world before considering what the future may hold for coal.

Robert Finkelman, PhD, helped create the field of medical geology and has co-edited five books on the subject. He received his doctorate degree in Chemistry from the University of Maryland.

Philosophy & Religion

A Reading of Søren Kierkegaard’s book, *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air: Three Godly Discourses*

UNT | Mon. & Wed. Nov. 9, 11, 16, & 18
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

This course explores a short masterpiece by the father of existentialism, Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855). *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air: Three Godly Discourses* is an in-depth exploration of the famous passage from Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 6:25-33 and the Gospel of Luke 12:22-32. Kierkegaard often refers to this passage not as mere allegory but as a message of hope that it is today that matters most, which is one of the core precepts of existentialism. How can we approach the notion of the importance of living for today and worrying not about the future, like the lily of the field and the bird of the air? Finally, with respect to nature and the environment, how are non-human creatures such as lilies and birds “obedient teachers” for humans in learning this important lesson?

Susan McRae is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas. She has just completed a four-year Teaching Fellowship. She was also a Teaching Assistant for numerous courses in both the Philosophy and Anthropology departments. She received her MS in Applied Anthropology in the summer of 2021. She has experience teaching in-person and as a teaching assistant both in-person and online. Her dissertation is focused on the philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard and applying that to the ethical treatment of animals. She is currently writing her dissertation, with plans to defend and graduate in May 2027.

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math

Artificial Intelligence in Daily Life and How You Can Contribute

FM | Mon. Sept. 28 & Wed. Sept. 30 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

This course offers an easy-to-follow introduction to artificial intelligence and how it is already part of daily life. You will explore both the helpful side of AI and the moments when it fails or can cause problems. The sessions will show how your ideas, experiences, and values matter in shaping these systems, and how you can take part by giving feedback and guiding improvements. The aim is to give you confidence to use AI in positive ways while also helping it become more fair and inclusive.

Zeynep Orhan, PhD, holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in Computer Engineering and has extensive research and teaching experience in artificial intelligence, machine learning, natural language processing, and data analytics. She has worked in higher education institutions across several countries with diverse communities, focusing on responsible AI, healthcare applications, e-education, and e-government systems for more than 30 years.

The Future of NASA and Commercial Space

RR | Thurs. Sept. 10 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

CCY | Tues. Sept. 29 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

In this lecture, members will learn about the present and future NASA robotic/science missions, as well as the International Space Station (ISS), the NASA Artemis Program, and the missions to the Moon and future missions to Mars. They will also explore space company missions with space tourists to suborbital space, and astronauts to LEO, the Moon, and eventually to Mars.

Ken Ruffin, member of the National Space Society (NSS) Board of Strategic Advisors and NSS Space Ambassadors, as well as president of the National Space Society of North Texas (NSS-NT) has transitioned from an engineering career to a space industry career by leveraging his aerospace engineering education and public speaking experience. Ken has presented to approximately 250 audiences in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex, Texas, and beyond, and he has been interviewed dozens of times by DFW television news stations, all regarding present and upcoming space travel missions. Through his business, “Didymos Consulting LLC, dba Ruff-in-Space”, Ken conducts public outreach regarding space, and more.

How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer

ZOOM | Thurs. Nov. 5 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Frustrated with your computer? Notice how it slows down over time? Wondering why we have to keep buying new devices? It turns out the vast majority of headaches, security issues, tech expenditures, and e-waste are preventable. In this course, the instructor will de-mystify and explain the IT industry in plain English. Topics include why Antivirus software is obsolete, why software becomes more complicated every day, why complicated passwords are ineffective, how to save money on printing, reviving old PCs, and more.

Marc-Anthony Arena is known as The Computer Exorcist. He’s an honors graduate of both McQuaid Jesuit and RIT’s Saunders College of Business, having studied Web development, Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship, Spanish, and Russian. Since entering the IT industry in 2000, he has accumulated extensive software and electronics experience. In 2009, he began offering in-home tech support for seniors. He soon realized the world is full of intelligent, successful people who are overwhelmed by technology. They suffer at the hands of condescending computer guys, pushy big box stores, and phone scammers. He then discovered that most of the headaches, security issues, and expenditures are completely preventable, so he developed a method to simplify and bulletproof people’s digital lives, rather than milking them for recurring fees.

On Detecting Human Authorship: A Critical Appraisal of Artificial Intelligence Models

FM | Wed. Oct. 14 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

The modern university is currently facing its biggest existential threat in recorded history! That is, the widespread use of actual humans (AH) i.e., people to write student essays. Using cartoons, illustrations, and drawing from the canon of science fiction, e.g., *Star Trek*, this lecture will take a satirical and critical appraisal of artificial intelligence (AI) models for student essay writing. The target audience is those who still use e-mail and who need assistance to update their iPhones.

Liam O’Neill, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services. He has been a health economist and policy analyst since 1997.

Smart Irrigation Controllers

UNT | Wed. Sept. 2 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

This lecture will cover the latest technology for landscape irrigation systems and efficient water management for residential properties.

Steven Dorsett is a licensed irrigator with over 35 years of experience who currently operates an irrigation business in the DFW area. He is a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality-approved training provider.

Smarter Living After 55: Practical AI Tools You Can Trust

RR | Tues. Sept. 22 & Thurs. Sept. 24
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

This course will provide an overview of practical ways to use ChatGPT and other free AI systems to save time, stay organized, and simplify everyday tasks. In this hands-on session, members will learn how AI can help with everyday planning, tasks, exploring fun activities, and decision-making, with no technical background required. The class will review pointers on how to use AI safely, plus tips for protecting your privacy and assessing the reliability of results. Members will leave the session with easy strategies they can use to make their lives easier, more enriching, and most of all more fun!

Dr. Susan Bradley is a Certified ChatGPT Expert from the BlockChain Council, as well as possessing a doctorate in education. She has taught classes for UNT undergraduate students, as well as provided corporate training on a wide variety of topics. She is enthusiastic about lifelong learning, and helping people live their best lives through education.

Smarter Research with AI: From Family Trees to Real-World Questions

UNT | Wed. Oct. 14 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
RR | Tues. Oct. 20 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
FM | Wed. Oct. 21 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly changing how we find, understand, and organize information, not just for professionals, but for anyone curious about the past. Using family history research as a hands-on example, this course explores how AI can assist with tasks like transcription, translation, summarization, and research planning. Whether you're a genealogist or simply interested in how AI works in everyday life, you'll learn practical techniques you can apply immediately. Along the way, we'll also demystify concepts like family relationships (yes, even second-cousin once removed) and discuss where AI helps and where human judgment still matters.

Emily C. Richardson, EdD, worked in higher education for 30 years as an administrator and a tenured faculty member, before retiring to follow her genealogy passion and open her genealogy business, Kinsearchers. She has done genealogy research for over 40 years and has taught this topic to both college students and adult learners.

The Social Media Paradox: Friend or Foe for Real Connection

FM | Mon. Oct. 12 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
ZOOM | Thurs. Nov. 12 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  

Social media helps people stay connected with family, friends, and communities across distance, yet many users feel more isolated despite being constantly online. This course explores how social media shapes daily habits, relationships, privacy, and emotional wellbeing, and why platforms are designed to keep our attention. Participants will reflect on both the benefits and hidden risks of digital connection through relatable examples and research insights. Practical guidance will help participants develop healthier, more balanced ways to stay connected without losing meaningful real-world interaction.

Zeynep Orhan, PhD, holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in Computer Engineering and has extensive research and teaching experience in artificial intelligence, machine learning, natural language processing, and data analytics. She has worked in higher education institutions across several countries with diverse communities, focusing on responsible AI, healthcare applications, e-education, and e-government systems for more than 30 years.

What Is Artificial Intelligence? Good and Bad Uses of AI

CCY | Tues. Sept. 15 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

This course provides a basic introduction to AI, how they work, their current capabilities, and potential capabilities surpassing human intelligence. The course will provide suggestions on how to create good prompts to obtain useful information from AI tools. The course also covers how AI can solve some of our problems in education, medicine, scientific research, and climate change. It also describes some misuses of AI that can cause serious problems to our culture, and even the future of humanity.

Krishna Kavi, PhD, is an Emeritus Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at UNT. He served in academia for more than 4 decades and conducted research on computer technologies, including technologies used in AI. He published more than 250 technical papers and graduated 25 doctoral students.

Where in the World Am I? The Nuts and Bolts of GPS

FM | Mon. Oct. 5 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
UNT | Mon. Nov. 9 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

This session will dive into the technology behind one of today's ubiquitous tools - the Global Positioning System. Many technologies are combined in some surprisingly complex ways to answer the simple question, "Where am I?" The presentation will describe the mathematical underpinnings of the GPS system and how various complications have been overcome to make instantaneous and accurate global navigation available to anyone with an inexpensive radio receiver.

David McKinley spent most of his fifty-year career as a computer systems and software engineer, but has maintained a longstanding interest in economics and finance since earning an MBA from UT Austin. Drawing on the same analytical approach used to understand computing and communications systems, he enjoys exploring how modern banking, money, and financial systems help support the modern economy.

Wellness & Lifestyle

The Active Aging Series: A Practical Guide to Movement and Motivation

UNT | Mon. Oct. 19 & Wed. Oct. 21 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

RR | Tues. Nov. 17 & Thurs. Nov. 19 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Ready to get active? Join Drs. Megan Ware and Sarah Deemer and student MaciLynn Coles for a two-part lecture series on physical activity and exercise for successful aging. In part one, Dr. Deemer and Maci will address the “nuts and bolts” of getting active, covering topics like benefits of being active, ways to get active, and how much activity is enough activity. In part two, Dr. Ware will talk about motivation for activity and how to make behavior change(s) stick.

MaciLynn Coles is pursuing her PhD under the guidance of Dr. Deemer. Maci is a first-generation college student. She earned her bachelors in Kinesiology and Masters in Clinical Exercise Physiology from Texas A&M University.

Dr. Sarah Deemer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology Health Promotion and Recreation at the University of North Texas. Dr. Deemer received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Kinesiology/Exercise Science from the University of Texas at El Paso, and her PhD in Exercise Physiology from Texas Woman's University in 2017. She completed an NIDDK T32 post-doctoral fellowship in the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Deemer's research focuses on the mechanisms contributing to the development of obesity, insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Megan Ware is an Assistant Professor in Kinesiology, Health Promotion, and Recreation. She joined the faculty at the University of North Texas in Fall of 2024. Dr. Ware received her B.S. degree in Health and Human Performance at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (2016), and her M.S. (2018) and Ph.D. (2021) degrees from the University of Georgia. She completed an NCI T32 post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Her research focuses fall in the field of sport, exercise, and health psychology.

Alaska: Glaciers, Grizzlies, and the Great Debate

FM | Wed. Sept. 2 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Deciding how to experience Alaska often feels like a choice between the effortless luxury of a floating resort and the immersive freedom of the Alaska Railroad. This session settles the great debate by comparing the convenience of sea-based travel against the deep exploration of land-based adventures and the structured balance of cruise tour combos. Members will evaluate the logistical pros and cons of each option, from the calving glaciers of the Kenai Fjords to the golden heart of the interior, to help you design a trip that honors both adventure and your family's pace. By the end of the workshop, members will have a personalized framework to navigate the scale of the Last Frontier without getting lost in the planning.

Angela Brewer, MS, MEd, is a Presence & Connection Coach and longtime educator who specializes in building trust through relational intelligence. As a travel strategist, she developed the Travel Chaos Cure to help families transition from logistical managers to engaged participants in their own adventures. A Denton native, Angela is dedicated to empowering others through travel advising, communication coaching and intentional community engagement.

Breathing Techniques

UNT | Wed. Sept. 9 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Did you know that your breath acts as a remote control for your brain? By simply changing how you breathe, you can shift how you feel in less than a minute. Richa Yadav will be sharing simple techniques you can practice anytime to calm your mind, boost your energy, and reclaim your mental clarity.

Richa Yadav, PhD, is a freelance writer who earned her doctorate degree in Philosophy. She moved to the United States almost two decades ago and has taught OLLI courses on literature, religion, and Indian culture since 2019.

Exploring Happiness, Joy, Pleasure and Contentment: Patterns, Insights, and Strategies for Growth

CCY | Tues. Oct. 13 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  

RR | Tues. Oct. 20 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

This program offers a research-grounded examination of the factors that shape happiness and distinguishes it from joy, pleasure, and contentment. It explores how life circumstances, social relationships, beliefs and personal skills interact to influence well-being. Approaches for personal development will be discussed.

Dr. Jim Cannici has been a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas for more than 45 years. He worked at the University of Texas at Dallas for 21 years prior to his retirement. In addition, Dr. Cannici has had a Private Practice in psychology since the early 1980s.

Filling Your Cup First: Self Care for Family Caregivers

UNT | Mon. Sept. 14 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

RR | Tues. Sept. 29 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Most persons who are caring for a family member would acknowledge that at times it is challenging, if not stressful. However, you cannot care for a loved one without caring for yourself physically, emotionally, and socially. This course will present a variety of self-care techniques to help family members who are caring for a loved one, emphasizing the importance of developing a self-care plan to make it easier to cope with the demands of being a caregiver.

Bert Hayslip, Jr., PhD, is Regents Professor Emeritus in the UNT Department of Psychology. He received his doctorate in Experimental/Developmental Psychology from the University of Akron and was on the UNT faculty from 1978 to 2013.

The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: Explained

FM | Wed. Sept. 9 & Sept. 16 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Despite the name, the “Swedish Death Cleanse” isn't really about death. It's about living with intention, curating what matters, and unburdening yourself and your loved ones from unnecessary clutter, both physical or emotional. Come learn all about this unique cultural practice and consider integrating it into your daily life.

K.E. Boyd is a North Texas real estate advisor and educator whose work focuses on the intersection of housing, lifestyle, community, and consumer behavior. With more than 15 years of experience in residential real estate, she has guided clients through changing market conditions while helping them make informed, strategic decisions. Boyd is recognized for her ability to translate industry knowledge into engaging discussions that connect real estate trends with everyday life in North Texas communities.

Introduction to the Enneagram: Why We Do What We Do

LAN | Fri. Sept. 4 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Curious about the Enneagram but not sure where to begin? This engaging introduction explores the nine personality types and how they shape our motivations, relationships, and lifelong growth. Participants will gain a practical overview of the system, reflect on their own patterns, and experience interactive exercises that bring the Enneagram to life. Whether you are brand new or simply intrigued, this session offers insight, conversation, and tools for greater self-awareness.

It is recommended that members complete the free Enneagram online assessment before attending this course in order to get the most out of it - the test can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.truity.com/test/enneagram-personality-test>

Tim Kincaid, EdD, is an ICF-Certified Professional Coach who brings 15+ years of experience to share basic coaching skills that strengthen everyday relationships. Dr. Kincaid distills evidence-based practices – listening deeply, asking better questions, and alignment around what matters most – into accessible habits useful at all stages of life. Participants leave with simple yet powerful tools they can use the same day: curiosity, clarity, and respectful accountability.

Maintaining and Improving Your Mental Skills In Later Life

UNT | Mon. Sept. 21 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

KEL | Tues. Oct. 20 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

This session will examine the aging of our mental skills as well as factors which either promote or undermine their growth in later life. Techniques for improving your mental skills which are important to successful aging will be presented.

Bert Hayslip, Jr., PhD, is Regents Professor Emeritus in the UNT Department of Psychology. He received his doctorate in Experimental/Developmental Psychology from the University of Akron and was on the UNT faculty from 1978 to 2013.

Medicare and SMP- Knowledge is Power!

FM | Mon. Sept. 21 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

This course will cover Medicare basics (Parts A, B, C and D) and give class attendees knowledge of Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) which assists Medicare recipients with abuse/fraudulent claims. The instructor will also provide resources and agency information associated with Medicare and SMP.

Jamie Horning is a volunteer for Texas Senior Medicare Patrol, an organization that helps Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries prevent, detect and report health care fraud.

The Multi-Generational Travel Cure

FM | Wed. Oct. 7 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

LAN | Fri. Oct. 16 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Reclaim the joy of family travel planning in this interactive workshop designed to help you lead your family in planning a truly connected multi-generational vacation. Through a blend of lecture and hands-on practice, you will learn professional communication strategies to host effective family meetings that honor the interests and needs of every generation, from toddlers to retirees. You will walk away with a personalized Family Meeting Agenda and a Travel Goals Worksheet to turn your next trip into a legacy-building experience rather than a logistical chore.

Angela Brewer, MS, MEd, is a Presence & Connection Coach and longtime educator who specializes in building trust through relational intelligence. As a travel strategist, she developed the Travel Chaos Cure to help families transition from logistical managers to engaged participants in their own adventures. A Denton native, Angela is dedicated to empowering others through travel advising, communication coaching and intentional community engagement.

Understanding Dreams: Exploring the Meaning and Purpose of Sleep and Dreams

RR | Tues. Sept. 1 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

The session will explore the fundamentals of sleep and dreaming as well as the history and cultural differences in dream interpretation. Members will be guided on how to begin exploring and understanding their dreams.

Dr. Jim Cannici has been a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas for more than 45 years. He worked at the University of Texas at Dallas for 21 years prior to his retirement. In addition, Dr. Cannici has had a Private Practice in psychology since the early 1980s.



OLLI at UNT's author interview series,
hosted by Dr. Jean Greenlaw and Susan Supak.

Our Latest Interview: **Kate Quinn**

Kate Quinn is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of historical fiction. A native of southern California, she attended Boston University where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Classical Voice. She has written four novels in the Empress of Rome Saga, and two books in the Italian Renaissance, before turning to the 20th century with *The Alice Network*, *The Huntress*, *The Rose Code*, *The Diamond Eye*, and *The Briar Club*. She is also a co-author in several collaborative novels including *The Phoenix Crown* with Janie Chang and *Ribbons of Scarlet* with Stephanie Dray, Laura Kamoie, Eliza Knight, Sophie Perinot, and Heather Webb. *The Astral Library*, released this year, is her first foray into magical realism.

Coming This Fall: **Marie Benedict**

Marie Benedict is a lawyer with more than ten years' experience as a litigator at two of the country's premier law firms. She found her calling unearthing the hidden historical stories of women. Her mission is to excavate from the past the most important, complex and fascinating women of history and bring them into the light of present-day where we can finally perceive the breadth of their contributions as well as the insights they bring to modern day issues. She is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *Daughter of Egypt*, *The Queens of Crime*, *The Mitford Affair*, *Her Hidden Genius*, *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie*, *The Only Woman in the Room*, *Lady Clementine*, *Carnegie's Maid*, *The Other Einstein*, and the novella, *Agent 355*. With Victoria Christopher Murray, she co-wrote the Good Morning America Book Club pick, *The Personal Librarian* and the Target Book of the Year, *The First Ladies*.

All interviews are free to watch online at olli.unt.edu/aol.

