

Instructors



Steve Barri

For five decades Steve Barri has been a major force in popular music as a songwriter, record producer and music industry executive. He has been closely associated with many of the nation's major recording artists, among them: Barry McGuire, Three Dog Night, The Grass Roots, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson, Tommy Roe and Jim Croce. As a prolific lyricist/producer, his charted songs include "Secret Agent Man," "Eve of Destruction," and "A Must to Avoid." He brings to Osher an in-depth knowledge of the music industry having served in senior executive positions with Dunhill, ABC, Warner Bros. and Motown. Steve's extensive knowledge and experience in the world of entertainment encompasses not only Rock & Roll, but also Broadway and the "Golden Age" of Television and his filled-to-capacity classes are a testimony to the enthusiasm and expertise he happily brings to Osher.

Shelley Bonus



Shelley Bonus is an award winning astronomy educator, lecturer and writer. By night she is the session director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory 60-inch Telescope, and during the day she teaches astronomy and writing at UCLA Extension. She recently completed a 3-week science teach-in on astronomy robotics and rocketry in Morocco on behalf of the Grove of Hope Charity, and worked as a science educator and writer on the IPAC team at Caltech, providing the written content for the infrared

astronomy website CoolCosmos. Shelley authored *The Planetary Guide* on behalf of the Planetary Society (founded by Carl Sagan) for the film *Quantum Quest: A Cassini Space Odyssey*. She received a NASA Group Achievement Award for her work as an Astronomy Outreach Specialist, and was honored by having Asteroid 10028 BONUS named after her by the International Astronomical Union for her work as an astronomy educator. She was awarded the 2016 AstronomyOutreach Award for her lifetime of work around the world in public educational outreach in astronomy. Shelley had an “out-of-this-world adventure” lecturing on the subjects of astronomy and space exploration on the 2013 EV Explorer Enrichment Voyage through the Panama Canal, and can often found teaching writing and astronomy while orbiting the earth on cruise ships.



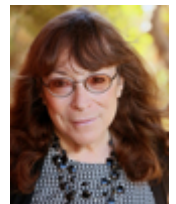
Carlo Coppola

Carlo Coppola has pursued several career paths, sometimes simultaneously. With MA and PhD from the University of Chicago, he has taught South Asian and Middle Eastern studies, literature, and linguistics for decades. Co-founder and co-editor of the *Journal of South Asian Literature*, he has edited three books and has written a fourth currently at press. Author of many scholarly articles—one of them recently described in a review as “a cerebral delight”—he has organized and presented papers at numerous national and international scholarly symposia, becoming a major scholar in the field. His translations from South Asian languages, often done collaboratively with the author, number in the hundreds; he has also published ground-breaking interviews with major Indian writers, several of which were read in his OLLI “Short Fiction from South Asia” course.

He has combined his love of literature with his passion for music and food. Former Program Director and an announcer for a

major Midwest classical music station, he consults as a foreign-language diction coach for opera singers. An award-winning, diploma-ed chef and food writer, he has taught highly popular classes on food history and wine, integrating visits to restaurants, museums, and wineries into his literature, culture, and food courses. He turned one of his favorite culinary research topics, "What Marco Polo Ate: A Culinary Odyssey," into an OLLI course with trips to four different restaurants and to LACMA. He hopes to develop this subject into a 9-part TV documentary. "To do that, I was told I need to, first, raise \$20M, and second, stop all the fighting in the Middle East!"

Brandon French



Brandon French has been an assistant editor of Modern Teen Magazine, a Pink Pussycat cocktail waitress, an assistant professor of English at Yale University, a published film scholar, a playwright and screenwriter, director of development at Columbia Pictures Television, an award-winning advertising copywriter and creative director, a psychoanalyst in private practice, and a mother. Twenty-seven of her stories have been accepted for publication by literary journals and she was an award winner in the 2015 Chicago Tribune Nelson Algren Fiction Contest.



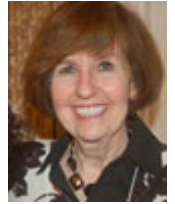
Ruth Gooley

Ruth Gooley received her Ph.D. in French from UCLA. In her many years at UCLA Extension, she has taught the complete range of courses, including Intensive Second Year Review and French 12, an Introduction to French Literature. She

previously taught at USC and Towson University in Maryland.

She offers a class where learning is fun, interactive and connected to real life and to experiences everyone can relate to. She believes in a stress-free learning environment, where students' language skills are developed according to each individual's rate of learning and all participation is valued and respected.

Myrna Hant



Myrna A. Hant is a visiting scholar at the Center for the Study of Women at UCLA. Her research focus is popular culture/television with an emphasis on portrayals of mothers and aging in the media. She is the author of articles on mothers/wives and aging on primetime television programs such as *All in the Family*, *The Sopranos*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Beulah*, *Good Times*, *The Jeffersons*, *The Parkers*, *My Wife and Kids*, and *Everybody Hates Chris*. Dr. Hant is an instructor in gender studies and life transitions at the UCLA Osher Institute where she teaches a series called Women Who Misbehave as well as ongoing current events courses entitled Understanding Our World. Previous to her work at UCLA she was an administrator at Chapman University. She holds a Masters in English, an MBA and a Ph.D. with an emphasis on aging/gender studies.



Kurt Hohenstein

Kurt Hohenstein has a law degree from the University of Nebraska and a PhD in History from the University of Virginia. He is the author of several books and numerous articles,

and the recipient of many awards including the Hughes-Gossett Prize for the best article on the US Supreme Court. He is the lead historian/curator for the Securities and Exchange Commission Historical Society, which can be found at www.sechistorical.org.

He teaches on a variety of historical subjects including legal and political matters, and loves teaching Osher students because of their wide ranging life experiences that teach him as much as he teaches them.

“My students have likened my teaching to an ancient form of torture, but in truth, I’m simply there to force them to challenge their own assumptions, to make them think deeply about their own views. I teach them with questions, to which there are often no easy answers. Together, we battle through difficult material, and fundamental questions about what makes us as Americans, who we are.”

David Misch



David Misch has been a comic folksinger, stand-up comedian, and screenwriter. He has written, created and/or produced programs for all the major networks and many of the major (and minor) cable outlets, including the multiple-Emy-nominated *Mork and Mindy*, the Emy-losing *Duckman*, the Emy-ignored *Police Squad!*, the Emy- engorged *Saturday Night Live*, and the Emy-ineligible *The Muppets Take Manhattan*.

David’s play *The Boomer Boys* has its world premiere at the Secret Rose Theatre in Burbank in February 2016. He wrote *Funny: The Book* and his writing has been included in *May Contain Nuts* (Harper-perennial) and *Faith: Believers, Agnostics, and Atheists Confront the Big Questions* (Simon & Schuster); he also blogs for *The Huffington Post*.

David's taught comedy at USC, musical satire at UCLA, and lectured at Oxford University, the Smithsonian Institute, and the University of Sydney (Australia); Yale, 92nd St. Y, New School, Actors Studio, New York Public Library (New York City); KPCC's Crawford Family Forum (Pasadena), American Film Institute, the Grammy Museum and Second City (Los Angeles); Burbank Comedy Festival; California Women's Conference, SATE Themed Entertainment, Midwest Popular Culture Association and VIEW Cinema (Torino, Italy) conferences. More at davidmisch.com.

1 [2](#) [3](#) [Next »](#)