



DELAWARE VALLEY  
UNIVERSITY

**CENTER FOR LEARNING IN  
RETIREMENT**

**SPRING 2025 PROGRAMMING  
INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

**QUESTIONS:**

**Email [CLR@delval.edu](mailto:CLR@delval.edu) or Call 215.489.4990**

# INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

**RUSS BELLAVANCE** majored in history and political science at Tufts University and is a graduate of Yale Law School. His life-long interest in political thought eventually led him to become a social studies teacher. Russ has previously been the instructor for courses in Turning Points in Western Civilization and Modern Political Thought, as well as a shorter (6 week) course on the Constitution.

## **BETSEY BISHOP** and **TOM LASHNITS**

Betsy is a retired librarian and holds a B.A. from New York University and an M.L.S. from Long Island University. She moved to Bucks County in 2017. Tom worked as a writer, editor and researcher for Time Inc., Reader's Digest and other publishers in New York, before retiring to Doylestown in 2017. He holds degrees from Franklin & Marshall College and New York University.

**JIM BROWN** is a West Point graduate (1964) with extensive study of military history and a University of Pennsylvania graduate, M.A. in American History (2002).

**BOB BURIAN** is a former High School Science teacher and spent the majority of my career in healthcare. In both opportunities Bob was required to prepare and provide detailed presentations, first to students, later to physicians, nurses, healthcare executives and co-workers. Bob continues to teach in Central Bucks and New Hope - Solebury districts.

**SHARI O' FLANAGAN** is a retired Spanish teacher who enjoys sharing her passion for the Spanish language with her students. She received her B.A. in Spanish literature from Muhlenberg College and her M.A. in Spanish Literature from Montclair State University. She has spent several summers at the Universities of Madrid, Alicante & Cadiz in Spain. She has traveled to many Spanish-speaking countries such as Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Puerto Rico, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela & Colombia & looks forward to sharing her knowledge & experiences with her new students at CLR.

After graduating from college with a degree in education and a concentration in biology, **AL KILLE** taught high school science for five years. Al then switched to Information Technology as a database administrator and a project development manager for 27 years. He ended his career with an additional five years of teaching middle school science. After retirement, Al and his wife moved to the Doylestown area to be near grandchildren.

**CHARLIE KLEEMAN** holds engineering degrees from Drexel and Penn State, after which he worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Philadelphia for his entire career. After his retirement he taught at Delaware Valley College/University. He also did volunteer work in Haiti, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. Larry Lefkowitz was a technical writer and editor for over forty years, with stops at Educational Testing Service, Law School Admissions Services, McGraw-Hill, Comcast, Motorola, Google, and others. He has freelanced as a writer for a variety of print and online magazines, and now in retirement, he currently hosts a music program on an internet radio station.

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**BILL LIESER** has been a life-long fan of films, both domestic and international, and served for twelve years on the Board of the County Theater in Doylestown. He has been teaching at CLR for over ten years, initially doing the “Introduction to Jazz” and “Jazz Masters” courses, followed by the well-received class on “Spy Movies” in 2018-2019. He started “Conversations on Cinema” in the Fall of 2020 on Zoom, when all the film theaters were closed and CLR had stopped in-person classes due to the pandemic. He has continued it each year since then.

**JAMES MATTISON** worked in research labs for twenty-five years which focused on cell biology, clinical immunology, organic chemistry, hepatitis research, ag biotech, HIV research and assay development. He also has fifteen years’ experience as a field sales/applications representative for Pharmacia Biotech, Pierce Biotech, and Active Motif. He attended SUNY Geneseo, NY and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology.

**ABIGAIL LEE MILLER** lives at Foulkeways at Gwynedd, a CCRC, after a career as a teacher. She taught at DelVal, Montco and Philadelphia University, and has been doing the Book Club for over a dozen years.

**MICHAEL A. MARTORELLI** is a retired finance industry professional and former adjunct professor at two local universities. He has written historical research articles for several publications and websites and given related presentations to CLR audiences and various local history groups.

**MARK MULDOWNEY** developed many high-tech products during his 40+ years in a fortune 100 Technology Company, mentoring Engineers and Scientists along the way, around the globe. He holds multiple degrees/certifications in electronics, firmware, design of experiments and problem-solving techniques, along with training in leadership and diversity. In retirement Mark continues to enjoy his lifelong hobbies that include sailing, woodworking, guitar, keyboard, and robotics/automation. Mark enjoys biking, racquetball, pickleball and CLR as a vehicle to meet and learn from others.

**GENE SOSNOWSKI** retired after a 38-year career as an information technology professional where he was employed by industry pioneers and leaders in information processing including UNIVAC, Sperry Rand and the Unisys Corporation. His experience includes the director of data communications network marketing, as well as mainframe computer hardware and systems software engineering. He played a major role in the design and development of mission critical system software for the NASA NASCOM communications network which supported orbital and lunar missions. Gene is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force Nuclear Weapons Program. He has been a CLR moderator of the Curious Minds class for over 20 years.

**ELIZABETH STEELE** is a member of the Jane Austen Society of North America. She’s been a featured speaker for many organizations, most notably Winterthur Museum’s Jane Austen Day. She has also published two articles in “Persuasions,” a journal dedicated to the study of Jane Austen. A Jane Austen devotee since the age of sixteen, Elizabeth has spent decades reading anything by or about Jane Austen, or anything that Jane Austen herself has read.

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**DON TENENBLATT** is a composer and lyricist, was a member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop in NYC and has played piano and/or music directed for numerous dance, opera, and musical theatre productions in NYC, NJ, and PA including PA Ballet and Opera Theatre at TCNJ. He is the pianist for Capital Philharmonic of NJ and Bucks County Symphony, accompanist and adjunct professor for the Chorus at Delaware Valley University and teaches voice and piano lessons privately in the Doylestown area. He holds degrees in music from Yale and Rutgers Universities. Be sure to tune into his YouTube playlist by visiting <https://youtube.com/@webpowered?si=xNpHdU7qzgnOqJ4q>. You will not want to miss a beat!