

SALT Fall 2025 Instructor Biographies



Mary Lynn Colosimo, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Certified Yoga and Meditation Teacher

Mary Lynn Colosimo, Ph.D. is a Psychology Professor Emerita at Trinity Christian College. She retired after almost 30 years as a professor in the departments of education and psychology and has taught SALT classes in previous years. She is now a member of the Trinity Board of Trustees and a member of the Board at Calvary Academy in South Holland, Illinois. Mary Lynn has earned a B.A. and M.A. from Bradley University and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is a certified yoga and meditation teacher, teaching both at Trinity and in the Palos

Heights community. Mary Lynn is a wife, mother, and grandmother and is a member of Parkview Church, serving in the children's ministry.



Scott Dominiak, Educator and Civil War Re-enactor

Scott Dominiak taught English and journalism for 33 years at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island, Illinois before retiring in 2009. He has been a board member of the Lincoln – Davis Civil War Roundtable the last 12 years. For years Scott has been a Civil War reenactor, portraying Henry Villard, a correspondent for the Chicago Tribune during the war. Scott also collects Civil War items and displays them at libraries, museums, and historical societies.

Finally, he teaches a non-credit Civil War class in the spring at Governors State University.

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Warren Hagey, Bible Teacher and “Math Guy”

When he’s not putting together estimates for decorative architectural metal, Warren, a former high school math teacher with a Masters Degree in Math (and who created a pizza-themed card game in his spare time), enjoys spending time in God’s creation with his family and studying & preaching God’s Word. He combines his passions for the Bible, Math, and teaching in an engaging presentation that will have you reexamining how you look at Math and the Bible. Through his teaching

experience, he knows how to break down complex subjects and make them accessible for audiences of any age and background. He understands that while not everyone likes Math, everyone can learn from the Math that God has embedded in His world and His Word.



Cleo Lampos, Educator and Storyteller

Cleo Lampos, a retired public school teacher, has taught adult education classes at St. Xavier University, Trinity College, and Morton College. She facilitated presentations for Mid-Week Moments during 2021-22. An author of historical fiction, she frequently speaks at book clubs and libraries, with her articles also featured in magazines. In her free time, she enjoys quilting and preserving produce from her husband's urban garden.

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Dave Larsen, Author and Speaker

Dave Larsen is a native Chicagoan, having spent most of his life living in or near Chicago. His interests include the history and architecture of Chicago, kayaking the Chicago River and area lakes, writing and storytelling. A regular contributor to the Reformed Journal, Dave has also published articles and reviews in The Banner, Think Christian, and Christian Scholars Review. Dave earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the Loyola University of Chicago, a Master of Religious Education degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a Bachelor

of Arts in English from Calvin University. Until his retirement, he was the Executive Director of the Bright Promise Fund for Urban Christian Education in Chicago. His faith development as a Christian was nurtured primarily in the teachings and neighborhood of the Reformed tradition. He came to a deeper appreciation of the Roman Catholic and Mennonite justice traditions through his graduate work. He and his wife Sally live in a delightful, racially diverse southern suburb of Chicago. Together they have five married children and eleven grandchildren



Andrew Marks, VP Admissions, Athletics, and Financial Aid

Andrew holds a Master of Science in Management with a concentration in organizational leadership, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, all from Calumet College of St. Joseph. His various roles over the years have given way to a unique skill set for this leadership position. He spent several of his years as Sports Information Director, Assistant Athletic Director, Head Coach for both Men's and Women's Volleyball, and later Director of Enrollment Management. Most recently, he served as Assistant Vice

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President for Athletics and Enrollment and served on the board of trustees at the college from 2017 – 2021 and is currently the Vice President of Admissions, Athletics, and Financial Aid at Trinity Christian College.



Bob Rice, Professor Emeritus of History, Trinity Christian College

Bob has taught European history and occasionally American studies at Trinity Christian College for over 40 years. When he retired in 2013, he continued to teach occasionally in the undergraduate program as well as in the SALT program, which connects Trinity to the larger community. He has learned so much from Trinity's vision of Christian liberal arts education and continues to benefit from the SALT program, which opens us to mutual learning and friendships. Currently, Bob serves as a SALT Advisory Board Member.



Rich Schaeffer, SALT Advisory Board Member

Rich Schaeffer started his own meat company at the age of 22 and was blessed to grow it into a successful company for 45 years. He was able to obtain new customers and suppliers through the years and was introduced to many diverse cultures with many distinct personalities. Rich enjoys meeting new people and is not afraid to “poke the bear” to get a conversation going. Rich enjoys reading the latest news and keeping up with the news via the newspaper and various news outlets on Television. He enjoys getting into discussions with others regarding current events and hearing various perspectives on topics of interest.

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Michael Semyck, Semyck Financial Services, Inc

Michael Semyck CMIP, CLTC, Founder and President of Semyck Financial Services, Inc., is a 35-year veteran of the insurance and financial services industry. He is a certified National Social Security Advisor and Certified Long Term Care Advisor. Most importantly, he is the professional independent source for your Medicare insurance options. He Knows Illinois. Michael offers the following services:

Medicare Supplement Plan,
Medicare Prescription Drug Plans,

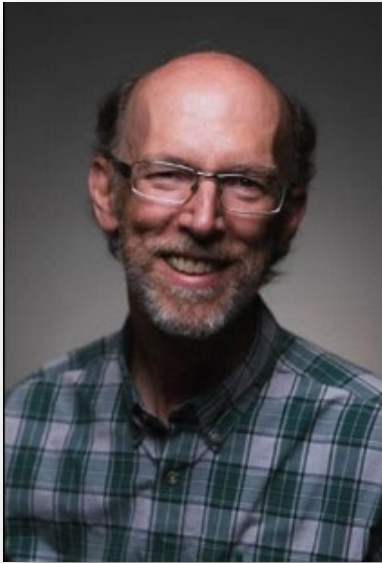
Medicare Advantage Plans, Long and Short-Term Care, Social Security, Final Expense, Life Insurance, Annuities, and Hospital Indemnity.



Sophia Shukin, Lake Katherine Nature Center Naturalist.

“Sophie” has a Master’s Degree in Biology from Miami University with a special focus in reptile conservation and has experience in Midwest Ecological Restoration Practices through her previous position at the Friends of the Forest Preserve. Sophie also has experience in environmental programming and outdoor recreation from previous positions at both the Forest Preserves of Cook County and DuPage County. She hopes to continue conserving the natural landscape and engaging the community to love nature as much as she does!

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Mike VanderWeele, Professor Emeritus of English, Trinity Christian College

Michael VanderWeele ('73), Professor Emeritus of English at Trinity, brings a wealth of experience and passion for literature, including a couple dozen essays in books or refereed journals, to his teaching. In summer 2024, he led a seminar on Homer for faculty members, conducting six consecutive days of in-depth discussions. In the fall 2024, he taught Homer to Trinity juniors and seniors and is excited to bring a similar experience to his return to the SALT program. This course will function like a book club with Michael serving as a facilitator and expert guide when needed.



Carl Vavak, Former Miner and Mining Museum Docent

Carl Vavak was born in 1953 and raised on his grandparents' ranch near Creede, Colorado, where he developed a deep appreciation for the mining industry through the influence of his grandfather and uncles, all of whom worked in the field. At the age of 15, Carl began his first underground mining job, cleaning track drift for a family friend. In 1972, Carl joined the Homestake Mining Company, where he worked until 1985, when a downturn in silver prices led to the mine's closure. Following his career in mining, Carl served as a tour guide at the Creede Underground Mining Museum, sharing his extensive knowledge and personal

experience with visitors. He also continues to pursue his passion for prospecting as a dedicated hobbyist.

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Something About the Beatles.

Gary Wenstrup, Adjunct Professor, College of DuPage

After a rewarding career in advertising sales, Gary retired and developed courses on the Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel and Motown Records for the Continuing Education Department of College of DuPage. Gary has lectured at over 200 libraries across the country. Gary's Beatles presentation was deemed "The Best of The Best" by the Library Administrators Conference of Northern Illinois (LACONI). He is also a reoccurring guest on the popular podcast