



Fielden Institute

FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

SPRING 2026



Welcome

Welcome to the Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning, where the pursuit of knowledge and personal growth knows no bounds. We are delighted that you have chosen to join our community, which is dedicated to fostering a love of learning at every stage of life.

At the Fielden Institute, we believe that education is a lifelong journey, and our diverse range of courses, workshops, and community outings is designed to enrich your mind, body, and spirit. Whether you seek to master a new skill, explore a new interest, or simply expand your horizons, you will find a supportive and stimulating environment here.

Our membership program is peer-driven, with members acting as both teacher and student. Peer leaders are volunteers who bring their singular skills and talents to participants to stimulate mental, physical, and emotional well-being. We encourage you to take full advantage of the resources and opportunities available to you, and to engage actively with your fellow students and instructors.

As a member of our vibrant learning community, you will have many classes to choose from this spring, and a bonus summer movie lineup. Whether on our campuses or in the community, you will have the opportunity to connect with fellow learners from all walks of life. We are confident that you will find your time with us engaging and rewarding.

Thank you for choosing the Fielden Institute. We look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of discovery and growth with you.

Annabel Robertson

Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Indian River State College Foundation

Theresa Lacey

Program Director
Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning

Events Calendar

JANUARY 2026

- 06 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 07 Key Concepts in Cancer (PSL)
- 08 Backstage Access-A Gentleman's Guide (Riverside Theatre)
- 08 Great Adaptations: Books Into Films (VB)
- 09 Backstage Access-A Gentleman's Guide (Riverside Theatre)
- 09 Pathology Uncovered: The Role of a Pathologist (PSL)
- 12 Explorations in Mindfulness, Artmaking, and Self-Development (FP)
- 12 Conversation Café -What Does it Mean to be Human? (VB)
- 13 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 14 Key Concepts in Cancer (VB)
- 15 Backstage Access- A Gentleman's Guide (Riverside Theatre)
- 15 New Year, New Adventure (VB)
- 16 Pathology Uncovered: The Role of a Pathologist (VB)
- 20 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 20 Cow Creek: A History of Cattle Ranching in Florida and the Treasure Coast (FP)
- 21 Introduction to Computers and Digital Literacy (BRL)
- 22 Producing Theatre (Riverside Theatre)
- 23 Fielden Institute Cooking School-Japanese (VB)
- 27 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 27 The Putnam Family and Amelia Earhart's Secret Flight to Fort Pierce (VB)
- 28 Introduction to Computers and Digital Literacy (BRL)
- 29 Backstage Access-Mauritius (Riverside Theatre)
- 30 Fielden Institute Cooking School-Mexican (VB)

FEBRUARY 2026

- 02 Next Level Interior Design (ST)
- 03 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 04 AI or a Lie? (VB)
- 04 Introduction to Computers and Digital Literacy (BRL)
- 05 Backstage Access-Mauritius (Riverside Theatre)
- 06 Isn't it Romantic? 19th Century Romantic Opera in Context (VB)
- 09 Explorations in Mindfulness, Artmaking, and Self-Development (FP)
- 09 Conversation Café - What, to you, is the definition of the word "love"? (VB)
- 10 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 11 Introduction to Computers and Digital Literacy (BRL)
- 12 Producing Theatre (Riverside Theatre)
- 12 Great Adaptations-Books Into Films (VB)
- 13 Isn't it Romantic? 19th Century Romantic Opera in Context (VB)
- 17 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 18 Taxes in Retirement: What Every Retiree Should Know (ST)
- 19 Backstage Access-Jesus Christ Superstar (Riverside Theatre)
- 19 Liberty or Death-Music of the American Revolutionary War (VB)
- 20 Isn't it Romantic? 19th Century Romantic Opera in Context (VB)
- 23 Hamas: Resistance or Terror (VB)
- 24 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 25 Taxes in Retirement: What Every Retiree Should Know (ST)
- 26 Backstage Access-Jesus Christ Superstar (Riverside Theatre)
- 26 The Comforts of Home: Navigating Care and Safety as You Age (VB)
- 27 Isn't it Romantic? 19th Century Romantic Opera in Context (VB)

MARCH 2026

- 02 Next Level Interior Design (ST)
- 02 Beware the WAFFLES (VB)
- 03 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 04 Taxes in Retirement: What Every Retiree Should Know (ST)
- 05 Backstage Access-Jesus Christ Superstar (Riverside Theatre)
- 06 Isn't it Romantic? 19th Century Romantic Opera in Context (VB)
- 09 Explorations in Mindfulness, Artmaking, and Self-Development (FP)
- 09 Conversation Café- How do we create our personal world-views? (VB)
- 10 Let's Converse in Spanish (VB)
- 11 Taxes in Retirement: What Every Retiree Should Know (ST)
- 12 Great Adaptations-Books Into Films (VB)
- 13 International Film Series (VB)
- 19 Producing Theatre (Riverside Theatre)
- 24 Truth, Trust, and the New Reality: Navigating Deepfakes and Misinformation in the Age of AI (FP)
- 25 Painted Sky: A U-Pick Flower Farm Adventure (7025 41st Street, Vero Beach)
- 26 Backstage Access-Almost, Maine (Riverside Theatre)
- 26 Where Will You Thrive? Exploring Housing Options for Aging Adults (VB)
- 27 International Film Series (VB)
- 30 For the Love of Lies: The Value of Fiction (PSL)
- 31 Everyday AI: What It Is, What It Isn't, and How It's Changing Our World (VB)

APRIL 2026

- 01 Civil War in Florida (FP)
- 02 Backstage Access- Almost, Maine (Riverside Theatre)
- 02 Self-Advocacy and Communication Skills in Our Medical System (VB)
- 03 International Film Series (VB)
- 06 Next Level Interior Design (ST)
- 07 From Calls to Camera: Discovering the Power of the iPhone (VB)

APRIL 2026

- 08 Self-Advocacy and Communication Skills in Our Medical System (VB)
- 09 Backstage Access-9 to 5 the Musical (Riverside Theatre)
- 09 Great Adaptations-Books Into Films (VB)
- 10 International Film Series (VB)
- 13 Explorations in Mindfulness, Artmaking, and Self-Development (FP)
- 13 Conversation Café - What are some of the best fiction and/or non-fiction books you've read? (VB)
- 14 Making Your iPhone Work For You (VB)
- 16 Backstage Access- 9 to 5 the Musical (Riverside Theatre)
- 16 My Father's Secrets- Growing Up in a Military Family (FP)
- 17 International Film Series (VB)
- 21 Working With the Machine: How to Think-And Write-With Generative AI (VB)
- 23 Backstage Access- 9 to 5 the Musical (Riverside Theatre)
- 23 Spring Cleaning-Downsizing Without the Drama, While Simplifying Your Life for the Next Chapter (VB)
- 24 Fielden Institute Cooking School- French (VB)
- 30 From Source to Sea: The Journey and Challenges of Water (VB)

MAY 2026

- 01 Fielden Institute Cooking School- Chinese (VB)
- 11 Conversation Café-What are your thoughts (and questions) about AI? (VB)
- 15 Fielden Institute Cooking School- Artisan Bread in a Day (VB)
- 21 Maintaining a Healthy Brain (VB)

FP = Fort Pierce
OC = Off Campus
PSL = Port St. Lucie
ST = Stuart
VB = Vero Beach
BRL = Brackett Library Link Lab



Fielden Institute

FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Your support as a member of the Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning is much appreciated

Annual Membership Fee

(Separate from course fees)

\$50

Non-Member Pricing

Varies by Offering

HOW TO REGISTER

Register by USPS or online through our web registration system. Registrations are processed in the order they are received. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation at the email address you provided. Many of our members are seasonal residents, so we kindly ask that you provide us with both your seasonal and Florida contact information.

To register by mail send the enclosed form. Checks should be made payable to Indian River State College Foundation, Attn: Theresa Lacey, 6155 College Lane C104, Vero Beach, FL 32966.

To register online, visit irsc.edu/community. Click on the "Lifelong Learning" tab.

Our offerings are small and fill quickly, so we recommend that you register as soon as possible to get your offering of choice. If an offering is already full, you can register to be on the waiting list. We occasionally receive cancellations, and you may be able to get into an offering at the last minute.

COURSE CANCELLATIONS

The Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning will only conduct offerings for which a minimum number of students are registered. If we must cancel an offering, due to low registration or at the Peer Leader's request, registered students will be given the opportunity to transfer to a different date or location for the same class (if applicable.)

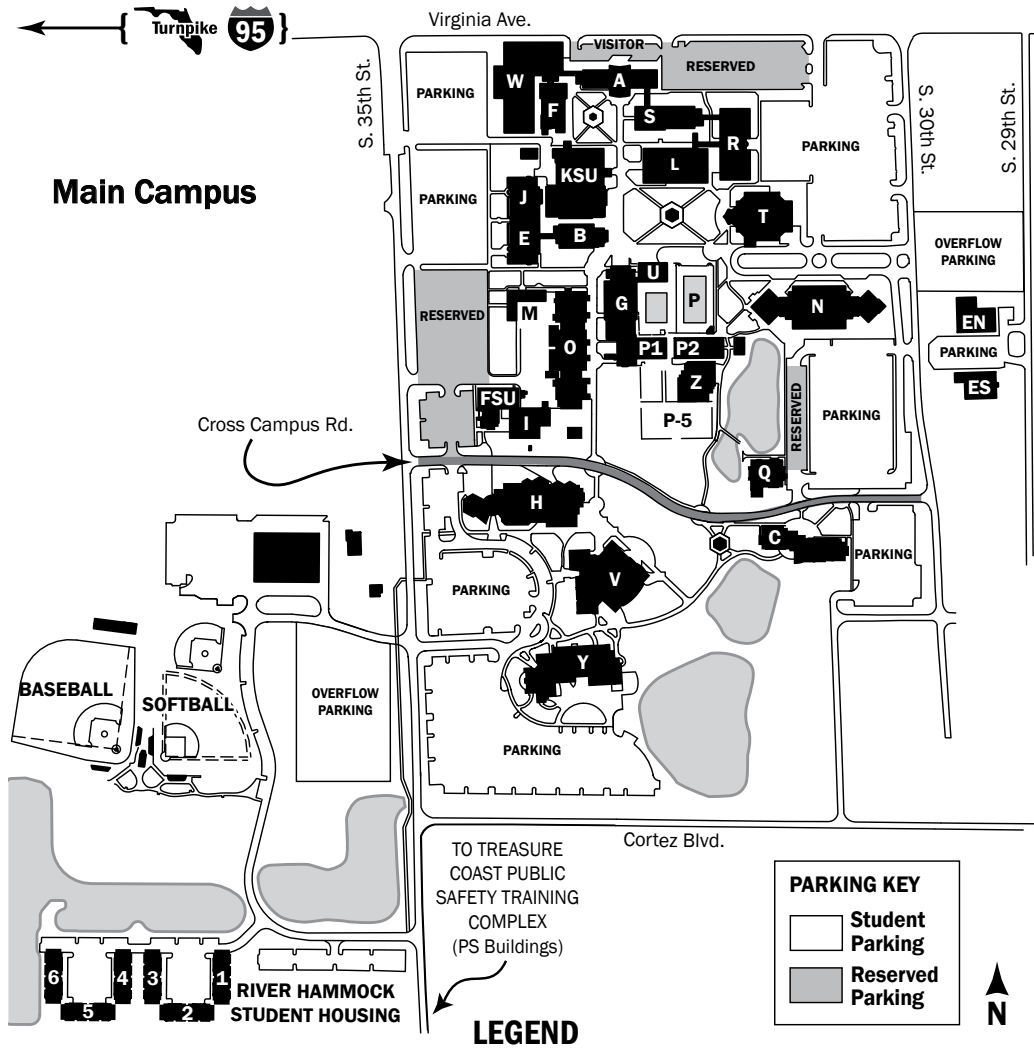
REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY

If you have purchased an individual class, you may cancel your registration for a full refund up to 48 business hours before the offering is scheduled to start. Any cancellations made less than 48 business hours prior to the first meeting will be refunded 80% of the registration fees. However, you may transfer your registration to a different offering within the 48-hour time period, without penalty. If you need to cancel or transfer an offering, call the Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning main office at 772-462-7880, or send an email to TLacey1@irsc.edu.

Massey Campus

FORT PIERCE

3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, Florida 34981



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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Ben L. Bryan, Sr. Administration Building B Business Development Center C Tomeu Center for Career & Academic Advancement E PNC Careers F Administration Annex FSU Smith Center for Medical Education G Gymnasium H Mary L. Fields Health Science Center I Medical Examiner's Office J Classroom Building KSU Koblegard Student Union (Bookstore, Cafeteria, Mailroom, Student Affairs/Activities) L Miley Library & Academic Support Center (ASC) M Employee Print Shop N Brinkley Science Center/Hallstrom Planetarium O Occupational Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P Anne Wilder Aquatic Complex P1 Men's Locker Rooms P2 Women's Locker Rooms P5 Tennis Courts Q Radio Station - WQCS R Classroom Building/Wynne Black Box Theatre S Leroy C. Floyd Administrative Services Building T McAlpin Fine Arts Center U Health & Wellness Center V Kight Center for Emerging Technologies W Crews Hall (Enrollment & Student Services, Registration, Financial Aid, Cashier, Security) Y Brown Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Z Racquetball Courts EN Institute of Cosmetology & Barbering ES Child Development Center |
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Explorations in Mindfulness, Artmaking, and Self-Development

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

1:00-2:30

Brown Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Y-220

Member \$15 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: Janet Roessler

This four-session series utilizes meditations, success principles, and artmaking opportunities, including collage, vision boarding, journaling, intuitive painting, and movement. Each session will build upon the others, providing a variety of tools to help you deepen your relationship to your inner knowing, your connection with spirit, and the joy of discovery. Participants will want to wear clothing that allows them to get messy. Materials will be provided—come with a willingness to explore. No prior art experience is needed.

Cow Creek: A History of Cattle Ranching in Florida and the Treasure Coast

January 20

1:00-2:30

Kight Center for Emerging Technologies V-334

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Gregory Enns

Journalist and author Gregory Enns tells the story of how Florida's earliest cattle ranches were established, beginning with the introduction of livestock by the Spanish in the 1500s. In the days of the open range, when cattle roamed freely and no fences existed, he follows the lives of the pioneering Raulerson family, who started their Cow Creek Ranch on the border of St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties with a few scrub cattle and built it into a cattle empire using modern ranching techniques. But it came at a price. Seminoles, including tribal matriarch Polly Parker, lived along the creek, and her descendants were displaced when fences were erected in the 1940s.

Truth, Trust, and the New Reality: Navigating Deepfakes and Misinformation in the Age of AI

March 24

1:00-2:30

Kight Center for Emerging Technologies V-125

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Bruce Fraser

As AI makes it easier to create convincing images, voices, and even entire news stories, knowing what's real has become more complicated—and more important. In this thought-provoking discussion, we'll explore how deepfakes and synthetic media are made, what makes them so persuasive, and how we can learn to recognize and resist them. You'll see examples of AI-generated images and videos and learn a few simple strategies for verifying authenticity. We'll end by reflecting on how AI can also be part of the solution—helping us cultivate a new public virtue of discernment and digital due diligence.

The Civil War in Florida

April 1

1:00-2:30

Kight Center for Emerging Technologies V-334

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dowling Watford, Jr.

This lecture examines Florida's pivotal role in the Civil War, highlighting the key battles, skirmishes, and strategic contributions the state made to the war effort. The presenter, dressed in period uniform, will provide a vivid narrative of the state's military engagements, including crucial battles. Attendees will also gain insight into the state's impact on the broader Southern campaign. Artifacts from the era will be on display, offering a tangible connection to the past and enhancing the immersive experience.

My Father's Secrets-Growing Up in a Military Family

April 16

1:00-2:30

Kight Center for Emerging Technologies V-334

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

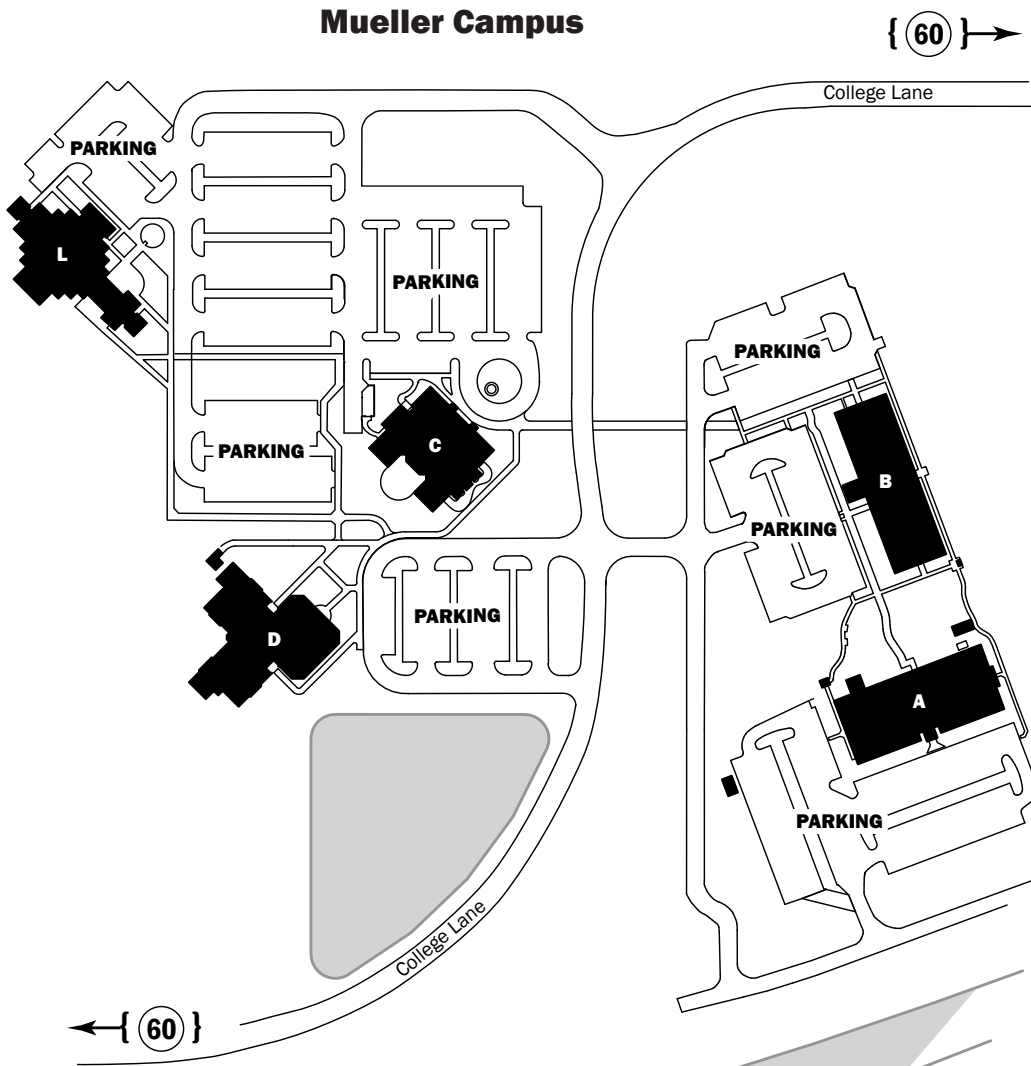
Peer Leader: Marilyn Johansen

Marilyn Johansen shares her fascinating life story, growing up in a military family from birth through high school. Although she has no hometown, she possesses a broad worldview. Her father's fighter pilot career spanned World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and Vietnam. They moved every two to three years, living in Belgium, Okinawa, and places in between. This gave Marilyn the opportunity to grow up on the front row of history.

Mueller Campus

VERO BEACH

6155 College Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32966



LEGEND

- A** Classroom Building
- B** McMullen Building
- C** Richardson Center
- D** Schumann Center
(Enrollment & Student Services)
- L** Brackett Library



“Let’s Converse in Spanish!” - “¡Hablemos español!”

January 6, 13, 20, 27

February 3, 10, 17, 24

March 3, 10

11:00-12:30

Richardson Center C-104

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Lorraine Ledford

This class is for students who have learned some Spanish (present tense verbs, basic vocabulary, maybe the past tense, etc.), and who are ready to put what they have studied into practice. We will have a theme for each class, with a review of relevant vocabulary to get us started. In our first class, we will talk about food. We will ALL participate and, I hope, enjoy ourselves. No one is expected to be fluent. **Space is limited, so sign up early!**

Great Adaptations: Books Into Films

January 8

February 12

March 12

April 9

1:00-4:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

One of the Institute’s most popular offerings, Great Adaptations has expanded from 20th-century novels to include film adaptations of non-fiction and biographical books. Enjoy reading a great book each month, then come together to discuss the book, view the film, and compare and contrast the book with the film. Selections include an eclectic variety of books, classical and contemporary, that illuminate interpersonal relationships to inspire stimulating discussion.

January 8 - Being There by Jerzy Kosinski, 1971, 165 pp; movie 1979 with Peter Sellers

Peer Leader: Shoshanna Shelley

February 12 - The Pianist- The Extraordinary True Story of One Man’s Survival in Warsaw, 1939-1945 by Wladyslaw Szpilman, 1946, 224 pp; movie 2002 with Adrien Brody

Peer Leader: Fielden Institute

March 12 - Deep End of the Ocean by Jacquelyn Mitchard, 1999, 434pp; movie 1999 with Michelle Pfeiffer

Peer Leader: Debbie Brateman

April 9 - Million Dollar Baby by F.X. Toole, 2004, 254 pp; movie 2004 with Clint Eastwood and Hilary Swank

Peer Leader: Laurie Samuels

Conversation Café – Personal Conversations on Life

Topic - What does it mean to be human?

January 12

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: David Kimball

This discussion group invites participants to explore the profound question, “What does it mean to be human?” in a thoughtful and respectful setting. Each person will have the opportunity to share their personal insights, beliefs, and experiences related to the topic. The session will also emphasize the importance of active listening, encouraging participants to engage fully with the perspectives of others. Together, the group will foster a deeper understanding of the many ways people define and experience humanity.

Key Concepts in Cancer

January 14

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Alicia Murphy

This lecture, “Key Concepts in Cancer,” will explore the fundamental biological principles underlying cancer development and progression. Attendees will gain insight into how normal cellular processes become disrupted, leading to uncontrolled growth and tumor formation. The presentation will also cover key topics such as genetic mutations and tumor classification. By connecting pathology to modern medical practice, the lecture will provide a clear understanding of how cancer is studied and managed from a scientific perspective.

New Year, New Adventure

January 15

10:00-11:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$0

Peer Leader: Libby Wiseman

Join moderator **Libby Wiseman** for “New Year, New Adventure,” an engaging lecture that highlights exciting ways to start the year with fresh experiences. Presenters will showcase a variety of entertaining social activities, local events, and day trips perfect for exploring new interests and connecting with others. Whether you’re seeking cultural outings, outdoor excursions, or creative group gatherings, this session will inspire you to make the most of the year ahead. Discover how to turn 2026 into a year of fun, friendship, and adventure!

Pathology Uncovered: The Role of a Pathologist

January 16

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Alicia Murphy

This lecture will explore the critical role of a pathologist in diagnosing diseases, with a particular focus on their work in identifying conditions at the cellular and molecular levels. The presenter will explain how pathologists examine tissue samples, blood, and other specimens to provide accurate diagnoses that guide treatment decisions. Attendees will learn about the pathologist’s contribution to both clinical care and medical research, as well as their involvement in autopsies to understand disease causes. By highlighting the intersection of science and healthcare, the lecture will emphasize the vital role pathologists play in patient outcomes and medical advancements.

Introduction to Computers and Digital Literacy

January 21, 28

February 4, 11

2:00-4:00

Brackett Library Link Lab

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leaders: Alexis Carlson and Angie Neely-Sardon

This four-part computer class is designed to build foundational computer skills, promote digital confidence, and enhance internet safety awareness. It is ideal for beginners and those seeking to strengthen their everyday tech knowledge.

Class 1 - Computer Basics:

Students are introduced to the essential parts of a computer, including hardware and operating systems. This session covers how to turn on a computer, use a mouse and keyboard, navigate the desktop, and understand basic terminology.

Class 2 - Practical Skills & Software:

This class focuses on hands-on practice with common software applications such as word processors (e.g., Microsoft Word or Google Docs), spreadsheets, and email. Students learn file management, saving documents, and basic troubleshooting tips.

Class 3 - Intermediate Skills and Internet Safety:

Students explore web browsing, search engines, and cloud storage. The session also teaches crucial skills for protecting personal information online, including recognizing phishing scams, creating strong passwords, and understanding privacy settings.

Class 4 - Advanced Topics & Social Media:

The final class covers the safe and effective use of social media platforms, customizing device settings, and exploring tools for video conferencing and digital collaboration. Advanced tips for managing digital footprints and maintaining online etiquette are also discussed. By the end of the course, students will be more confident navigating digital environments and making informed decisions online.

Space is limited, so sign up early!

The Fielden Institute Cooking School

January 23, 30

April 24

May 1, 15

1:00-4:00

Richardson Center C-111

Member \$35 per class | Non-Member

\$45 per class

Peer Leader: Chef Claire Murphy

January 23 - Join this hands-on Japanese Cooking course to master the essentials of knife precision and umami building. Slice, roll, and simmer your way to sushi mastery while learning the secrets of perfectly cooked rice and flavorful miso broth. Discover how to balance and enhance flavors to create authentic, umami-packed dishes. This class will give you the skills and confidence to bring the taste of Japan into your own kitchen.

January 30 - Discover the vibrant flavors of Mexico in this hands-on cooking course focused on masa and beloved street-food staples. You'll learn to work with fresh masa as you press warm tortillas, build bold, authentic tacos, and whip up a rich, aromatic mole. Along the way, explore essential techniques and ingredients that define regional Mexican cuisine. It's a fiesta of flavor, fun, and culinary creativity.

April 24 - Say "oui" to pâte à choux, velvety sauces, and classic French finesse in this hands-on cooking class. Discover the art of creating rich, balanced sauces that elevate any dish, and master the delicate techniques behind perfect pastries. You'll craft timeless French favorites with confidence and flair. Sweet and savory pastry magic awaits!

May 1 - Fold dumplings like a pro, stir-fry with precision, and steam your way through regional Chinese favorites in this lively, hands-on class. Discover the secrets behind perfect wok technique, balanced flavors, and silky sauces. From crisp stir-fries to delicate dumplings, you'll master essential skills that bring authentic Chinese cuisine to life. Fast, flavorful, and fun!

May 15 - Bake rustic loaves and pillowy focaccia in a single day with Quick Crusts: Artisan Bread in a Day. Discover the secrets of fast fermentation and how to build incredible flavor in less time. You'll practice scoring, steam baking, and gluten development techniques that yield bakery-quality results at home. One class, endless crusty possibilities!

Space is limited, so sign up early!

The Putnam Family and Amelia Earhart's Secret Flight to Fort Pierce

January 27

1:00-3:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leaders: Gregory Enns and

Cynthia Putnam

Learn about Crayola founder Edwin Binney, who settled in Fort Pierce in 1913, and his descendants, including daughter Dorothy, married to publisher George S. Putnam. After Dorothy and Putnam divorce, he has an affair with and later marries renowned aviator Amelia Earhart. Learn about Earhart's secret flight to Fort Pierce in 1935 to see Putnam's granddaughter and about the Binney estate, Florindia, and Putnam estate, Immokolee, in Fort Pierce.

AI or A Lie? Outsmarting AI and Fake News

February 4

10:00-12:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leaders: Alexis Carlson and

Angie Neely-Sardon

In today's digital world, artificial intelligence can write articles, create realistic images, and even mimic human voices, making it harder than ever to tell what's real and what's not. **AI or A Lie** is a hands-on, interactive workshop designed especially for adult learners and community members who want to stay informed and confident in the digital age. This session breaks down complex technology into everyday language and offers practical strategies to help you:

- Understand how AI generates content like news, images, and videos
- Spot the differences between real and AI-generated or fake material
- Recognize common signs of misinformation and online scams
- Practice using simple tools to verify news stories and online content
- Build your confidence navigating today's fast-changing information landscape

Whether you're brushing up on your tech skills or simply want to stay savvy online, this workshop offers a fun, welcoming environment to ask questions, try out new skills, and become a more informed digital citizen, no tech background required!

Isn't it Romantic? 19th Century Romantic Opera in Context

February 6, 13, 20, 27

March 6

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-105

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leaders: Dr. Benjamin Taggie and Herb Hinkle, Esq.

In a unique first, the Fielden Institute is partnering with Vero Beach Opera for a special course offering. The presenters will examine the context of several operatic marvels from the first half of the 19th Century – operas which have thrilled audiences ever since their creation – commencing with Verdi's *Rigoletto* (being presented by Vero Beach Opera on January 11, 2026). We'll assess the dynamic and diverse historical settings in which each opera was created: Germany and Italy emerging as national states, France shaking off the malaise of the Revolution, and Russia, a medieval society with serfdom and absolutism in full flourish. We will also consider the fabulous tapestries of artistic and literary masterpieces of the Romantic Era. Other operas in the course will include *Fidelio* (Beethoven, Germany); *Les Troyens* (Berlioz, France); and *Eugene Onegin* (Tchaikovsky, Russia). Finally, we'll briefly look at Mozart's *The Impresario* and Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* (both being presented by Vero Beach Opera on March 29, 2026), which bookend the Romantic Era. There is no need to be knowledgeable about opera or even an opera lover to enjoy this course. It's enough that you have a sense of wonder. We promise to stir your soul and enlighten your senses.

Conversation Café – Personal Conversations on Life

Topic - What, to you, is the definition of the word "Love?"

February 9

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: David Kimball

This discussion group invites members to explore the personal and diverse meanings of the word "love." Each participant will have the opportunity to share their own definition and experiences related to love, whether in romantic, familial, or platonic contexts. The session will emphasize active listening, encouraging participants to engage with and reflect on the perspectives of others. Through respectful dialogue, the group will deepen their understanding of this complex emotion and its significance in various aspects of life.

Liberty or Death- The Music of the American Revolutionary War

February 19

1:00-2:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: Gary Gustin

The story of the American Revolutionary War can be told entirely through the music of the time. This performance explores the vibrant music of the period, bringing to life the songs that inspired and united a fledgling nation. Blending historical insight with lively rendition, this offering provides a vivid glimpse into 18th-century American life through its music. Come, listen, and explore the music that crossed an ocean, endured on the battlefield, comforted the soldiers, and birthed a nation.

Hamas: Resistance or Terror-A Historical Overview

February 23

1:30-3:00

Schumann Center D-128

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Alex Shelby

This presentation traces the origins and evolution of Hamas from its founding during the First Intifada in 1987 to its political and military role in Gaza before October 7, 2023. It explores how historical trauma, ideological roots, and Israeli policies shaped its rise, as well as its transformation from a social movement into a governing authority. The session will also examine key turning points, such as the rise of Qassam Brigades, elections, wars, and internal divisions, that have defined Hamas's trajectory.

The Comforts of Home: Navigating Care and Safety as You Age

February 26

10:00-11:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$0

Peer Leader: Libby Wiseman

Join moderator **Libby Wiseman** for an informative discussion on aging in place, home healthcare, and home safety. This session will explore practical ways to maintain independence and comfort while ensuring a secure living environment. Presenters will share insights on home modifications, in-home care options, and resources that support healthy, confident aging. Learn how to create a safe and supportive home that adapts to your needs as you age.

Beware the WAFFLES!

March 2

1:00-2:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Katie Nall

Stress happens regardless of our station in life and can include Worries, Anxiety, Fear, Frustration, Lethargy, Exhaustion, and Stress ® -WAFFLES! Recognizing, regulating, and even eliminating WAFFLES can positively affect your life! This session will help the audience use brain-based somatic methods as well as simple movements to toast their WAFFLES.

Conversation Café – Personal Conversations on Life

Topic- How do we create our personal world-views?

March 9

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: David Kimball

This discussion group invites participants to explore the question, “How do we create our personal world-views?” Together, we’ll examine the experiences, values, and influences that shape how we see the world and make sense of it. Everyone will have the opportunity to share their thoughts in a respectful and supportive setting, while practicing active listening as others express their perspectives. The goal is to foster thoughtful dialogue and deeper understanding of ourselves and one another.

International Film Series

March 13, 27

April 3, 10, 17

1:00-4:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Alicemarie Donohue

Watch and discuss five international films, recently nominated for major film awards. All deal in some way with the complexities of interpersonal relationships, the joys and irritations, and how these relationships add to our own lives.

- The Zone of Interest (UK)
- Io Capitano (Italy)
- In the Mood for Love (Hong Kong)
- The Taste of Things (France)
- Perfect Days (Japan)

All sessions will conclude with a short debrief and discussion following the film. Friday afternoon is a great time to relax and watch a new film -- feel free to bring popcorn.

Where Will You Thrive? Exploring Housing Options for Aging Adults

March 26

10:00-11:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$0

Peer Leader: Libby Wiseman

Join moderator **Libby Wiseman** for an insightful discussion on housing options for seniors and how to choose the living arrangement that best fits your lifestyle and needs. This lecture will explore a range of choices—from aging in place and independent living to assisted living and continuing care communities. Presenters will outline the benefits, considerations, and support services available for each option. Gain the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about where and how you want to live as you age.

Everyday AI: What It Is, What It Isn't, and How It's Changing Our World

March 31

1:00-2:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Bruce Fraser

Artificial intelligence isn't just for tech companies—it's quietly shaping the world we all live in. In this session, we'll take a clear-eyed look at what AI actually is (and isn't), how tools like ChatGPT and image generators work, and why they've become so powerful so quickly. You'll see a short demonstration of a conversational AI in action and learn to distinguish hype from substance. Most importantly, we'll explore how these systems might change the way we read, write, learn, and think—and what remains distinctly human in an age of intelligent machines.

Self-Advocacy and Communication Skills in Our Medical System

April 2, 8

1:00-2:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leader: Iris Madison

This two-session workshop offers an in-depth exploration of today's medical system, building on discussions from the 2025 winter session. Participants will examine the strengths and challenges of the healthcare experience by sharing personal stories as patients and caregivers. Through guided discussion and interactive role-play exercises, the group will identify key areas for patient and caregiver advocacy while developing assertive communication skills. Active participation is encouraged as we work together to strengthen confidence and effectiveness in navigating medical environments.

From Calls to Camera: Discovering the Power of the iPhone

April 7

1:30-3:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Michael Hageloh

"From Calls to Camera: Discovering the Power of the iPhone" is an engaging, hands-on session designed to help participants feel more confident using their iPhones. The lecture will cover the basics—from making calls and sending texts to exploring useful apps and settings. Attendees will have the opportunity to practice key features, including taking and editing photos. Whether you're new to the iPhone or want to better understand its capabilities, this class will help you unlock the full potential of your device.

Conversation Café – Personal Conversations on Life

Topic - What are some of the best fiction and/or non-fiction books you have read?

April 13

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: David Kimball

This discussion group invites participants to share some of the best fiction and non-fiction books they have read and what made those works meaningful or memorable. Each member will have the opportunity to discuss their selections, offering insights and recommendations to the group. Participants are encouraged to practice active listening and show respect for one another's ideas and perspectives. Together, we'll celebrate the joy of reading and discover new titles to inspire our next great read.

Making Your iPhone Work for You

April 14

1:30-3:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Michael Hageloh

"Making Your iPhone Work for You" is a practical and engaging lecture designed to help you use your iPhone to simplify and enhance everyday life. Participants will learn how to stay connected through easy communication tools, use built-in features to improve personal safety, and explore apps that provide entertainment and convenience. Discover how your iPhone can become a powerful tool for connection, security, and enjoyment in your daily routine.

Working with the Machine: How to Think—and Write—with Generative AI

April 21

1:00-2:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Bruce Fraser

In this interactive session, we practice using AI as a thinking partner, not a replacement for human creativity. Together we'll explore how to ask better questions of AI systems—what's now called "prompting"—and how those questions shape the quality of what we receive in return. We'll experiment with a few short prompts together to examine how AI can help brainstorm ideas, edit writing, or clarify complex topics. The focus is practical and ethical: how to collaborate intelligently with these tools while preserving one's own voice, judgment, and originality.

Spring Cleaning-Downsizing Without the Drama, While Simplifying Your Life for the Next Chapter

April 23

10:00-11:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$0

Peer Leader: Libby Wiseman

Join moderator **Libby Wiseman** for an engaging discussion on downsizing and simplifying life for the next chapter. This lecture will offer practical tips on decluttering, organizing, and making thoughtful decisions about what to keep, give, or let go. Presenters will share strategies for creating a more manageable and meaningful living space that supports your lifestyle and goals. Discover how simplifying your surroundings can bring freedom, clarity, and peace of mind for the years ahead.

From Source to Sea: The Journey and Challenges of Water

April 30

10:30-12:00

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Karl Randall

This lecture, *From Source to Sea: The Journey and Challenges of Water*, explores the fascinating path water takes through our planet's natural systems. From rainfall and rivers to aquifers and oceans, we'll trace the water cycle and examine the vital role of major water tables in sustaining life. The presentation will also address modern challenges such as pollution, overuse, and climate change that threaten global water resources. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how this essential element connects all living things and shapes the world around us.

Conversation Café – Personal Conversations on Life

Topic- What are your thoughts (and questions) about AI?

May 11

1:30-3:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$25

Peer Leader: David Kimball

This discussion group invites participants to share their thoughts, questions, and curiosities about artificial intelligence and its growing role in our lives. Together, we'll explore the possibilities, challenges, and ethical considerations that come with this rapidly evolving technology. Every member will have the opportunity to participate and exchange ideas in an open, respectful setting. Active listening will be encouraged to foster understanding and thoughtful dialogue among all participants.

Maintaining a Healthy Brain as You Age: Your Mind Matters

May 21

10:00-11:30

Richardson Center C-103

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$0

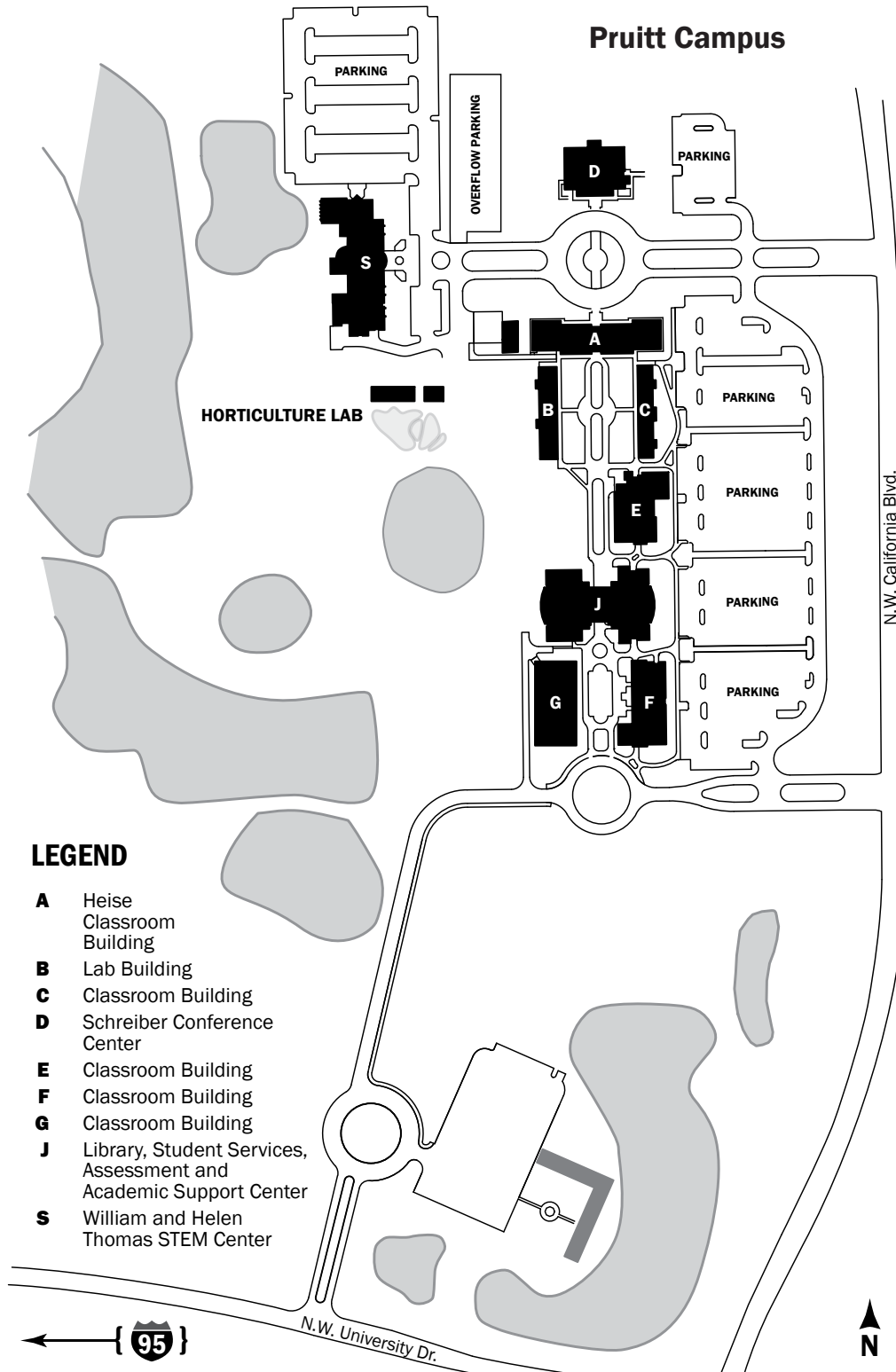
Peer Leader: Libby Wiseman

Join moderator **Libby Wiseman** for an enlightening discussion on maintaining brain health as we age. This lecture will focus on practical ways seniors can support cognitive wellness through lifestyle choices, mental stimulation, nutrition, and social engagement. Presenters will share the latest insights on keeping the mind sharp and resilient while aging. Learn how to nurture your brain for greater clarity, memory, and overall well-being in your senior years.

Pruitt Campus

PORT ST. LUCIE

500 NW California Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986



For the Love of Lies: The Value of Fiction

March 30

1:00-3:00

Veteran's Center of Excellence D-111

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Ruth Marconi

Discover how fictional books shape our understanding of the world and ourselves in this thought-provoking lecture. We'll explore the power of storytelling to foster empathy, spark imagination, and reveal deeper truths about the human experience. From classic literature to modern novels, fiction offers more than escape—it offers insight. Join us to uncover why stories matter more than ever.

Key Concepts in Cancer

January 7

1:30-3:30

Veteran's Center of Excellence D-111

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Alicia Murphy

This lecture, "Key Concepts in Cancer," will explore the fundamental biological principles underlying cancer development and progression. Attendees will gain insight into how normal cellular processes become disrupted, leading to uncontrolled growth and tumor formation. The presentation will also cover key topics such as genetic mutations and tumor classification. By connecting pathology to modern medical practice, the lecture will provide a clear understanding of how cancer is studied and managed from a scientific perspective.

Pathology Uncovered: The Role of a Pathologist

January 9

1:30-3:30

Veteran's Center of Excellence D-111

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Dr. Alicia Murphy

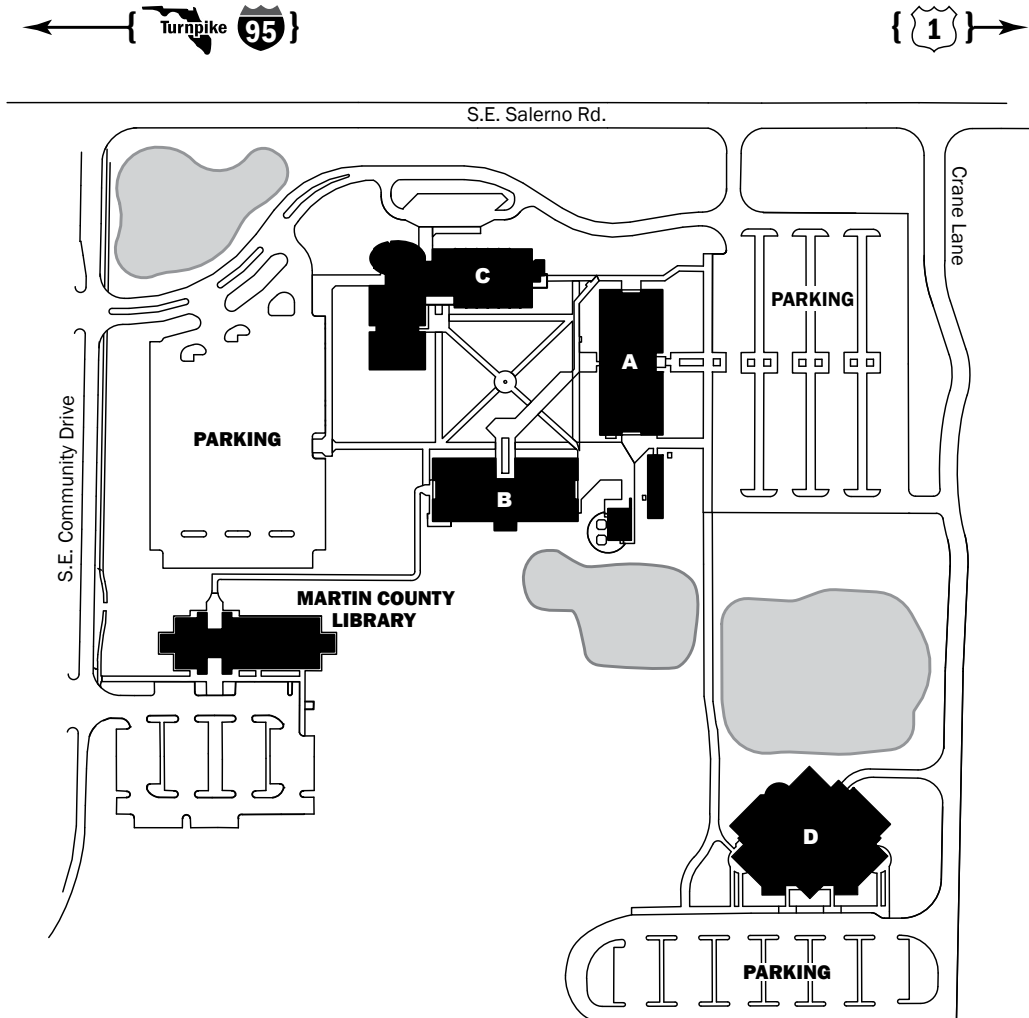
This lecture will explore the critical role of a pathologist in diagnosing diseases, with a particular focus on their work in identifying conditions at the cellular and molecular levels. The presenter will explain how pathologists examine tissue samples, blood, and other specimens to provide accurate diagnoses that guide treatment decisions. Attendees will learn about the pathologist's contribution to both clinical care and medical research, as well as their involvement in autopsies to understand disease causes. By highlighting the intersection of science and healthcare, the lecture will emphasize the vital role pathologists play in patient outcomes and medical advancements.

Chastain Campus

STUART

2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL 34997

Chastain Campus



LEGEND

- A** Robert Morgade Administration & Student Services Center
- B** William A. & Helen S. Thomas Career Tech Building
- C** Clare & Gladys Wolf High-Technology Center
- D** Clark Advanced Learning Center



Taxes in Retirement: What Every Retiree Should Know

February 18, 25

March 4, 11

10:00-11:30

Wolf High Technology Center C-102

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leader: Doug Marcello

By the end of this 4-week course, participants will:

- Understand how retirement income is taxed from various sources.
- Learn strategies to minimize taxes and maximize net income.
- Recognize how Social Security and Medicare interact with taxes.
- Gain awareness of estate and legacy considerations.
- Walk away with a simple, practical “tax planning toolkit” for retirement.

Weekly Breakdown

Week 1: The Retirement Tax Landscape

- Tax brackets and common misconceptions about taxes in retirement.
- Key income sources for retirees (pensions, investments, Social Security).
- How inflation and tax law updates impact retirees.

Week 2: Social Security & Medicare Tax Implications

- How Social Security is taxed using provisional income rules.
- Medicare premiums and IRMAA surcharges tied to income.
- Strategies to mitigate IRMAA surcharges.

Week 3: Retirement Accounts & Withdrawal Strategies

- Traditional IRAs, 401(k)s, and required minimum distributions (RMDs).
- Roth accounts and their unique tax advantages for retirees.
- Withdrawal sequencing: which accounts to use first to lower lifetime taxes.

Week 4: Estate, Legacy, and Tax-Smart Planning

- Gifting, charitable giving, and legacy strategies to reduce taxes.
- Step-up in basis and estate tax essentials for retirees.
- Common tax mistakes retirees make and how to avoid them.

Next Level Interior Design

February 2

March 2

April 6

10:00-12:00

Wolf High Technology Center C-202

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leader: Tara Gray

February 2 - Introduction to Interior Design Textiles

This class introduces students to the fundamental role of textiles in interior design. Students will explore fiber types, fabric construction, finishes, and performance characteristics, gaining an understanding of how textiles contribute to aesthetics, function, and sustainability in interior spaces.

March 2 - Introduction to Interior Design Finish Materials

This class explores the wide range of finish materials used in interior design, including flooring, wall coverings, textiles, paints, and surface finishes. Students will learn how to identify materials, understand their properties and performance, and select appropriate finishes based on function, aesthetics, and sustainability. Students will be introduced to unique interior design materials that can be applied to their own spaces.

April 6 - Kitchen and Bath Design Basics

Discover how design transforms the most-used spaces in a home! This beginner-friendly class introduces the essentials of kitchen and bath design, including layout planning, color coordination, materials, lighting, and storage solutions. Students will learn how to create functional, beautiful, and comfortable spaces that reflect personal style. No prior design experience is needed—just an interest in improving or reimagining home interiors.

Outside of Campus

Backstage Access in Partnership with Riverside Theatre- A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

January 8, 9, 15

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Kevin Quillinan

In this collaboration between Riverside Theatre and The Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning, discover the behind-the-scenes magic! Go behind the scenes of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* in this exclusive, in-depth class. Explore the history of the show, its earlier story adaptations, and the creative minds behind its witty score and clever book. Learn about the intricacies of farce and how Riverside Theatre brings this fast-paced comedy to life through staging, design, and timing. The experience includes a guided set tour, a chance to meet cast members, and a rare opportunity to watch a live tech rehearsal in action. Please note that the tech rehearsal on January 9th will begin at 1:00 p.m. The class is offered on all three listed dates; these are not individual offerings.

Producing Theatre in Partnership with Riverside Theatre

January 22

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leader: Jon Moses

Discover what it takes to operate a professional regional theatre in this behind-the-scenes class on producing live performance. Participants will explore the many roles, resources, and creative decisions involved in bringing a full-scale production to the stage. From season planning to opening night, learn how artistry and management come together to create exceptional regional theatre experiences.

Backstage Access in Partnership with Riverside Theatre- Mauritius

January 29

February 5

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Kevin Quillinan

Dive into the high-stakes world of *Mauritius* in this engaging theatre class exploring Theresa Rebeck's sharp and suspenseful play. Learn about Rebeck's background and her signature blend of wit and tension, as well as the unique vision behind Riverside Theatre's production. Participants will enjoy a guided tour of the set, gaining insight into the design choices that heighten the drama. The experience includes an opportunity to meet members of the cast and hear firsthand about bringing this gripping story to life on stage.

Producing Theatre in Partnership with Riverside Theatre

February 12

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leader: Jon Moses

Discover what it takes to operate a professional regional theatre in this behind-the-scenes class on producing live performance. Participants will explore the many roles, resources, and creative decisions involved in bringing a full-scale production to the stage. From season planning to opening night, learn how artistry and management come together to create exceptional regional theatre experiences.

Backstage Access in Partnership with Riverside Theatre- Jesus Christ Superstar

February 19, 26

March 5

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Kevin Quillinan

Step into the world of Jesus Christ Superstar with this immersive behind-the-scenes theatre class. Explore the history of the groundbreaking rock opera, from its origins as a concept album to its evolution into a global stage phenomenon. Learn about the creative partnership between composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice, and discover how Riverside Theatre brings their iconic work to life in a bold new production. Participants will tour the set, meet members of the cast, and get a rare glimpse of the creative process during a live tech rehearsal. Please note that the tech rehearsal on February 26th will begin at 12:00 p.m. The class is offered on all three listed dates; these are not individual offerings.

Producing Theatre in Partnership with Riverside Theatre

March 19

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$50

Peer Leader: Jon Moses

Discover what it takes to operate a professional regional theatre in this behind-the-scenes class on producing live performance. Participants will explore the many roles, resources, and creative decisions involved in bringing a full-scale production to the stage. From season planning to opening night, learn how artistry and management come together to create exceptional regional theatre experiences.

Painted Sky: A U-Pick Flower Farm Adventure

March 25

3:00-4:30

7025 41st Street, Vero Beach

Member \$25 | Non-Member \$35

Peer Leader: Summer Almand

Join us for a visit to Painted Sky, a vibrant U-Pick flower farm, where participants will learn about native flowers and their role in local ecosystems. The trip includes an engaging lecture on cultivating and caring for these beautiful blooms. Guests will also have the hands-on opportunity to pick their own flowers to take home and enjoy.

Backstage Access in Partnership with Riverside Theatre- Almost, Maine

March 26

April 2

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Kevin Quillinan

Join us for an engaging theatre class exploring Almost, Maine, John Cariani's beloved romantic comedy about love and connection in a small northern town. Participants will learn about the play's history and themes, as well as the background of its playwright. The session will also highlight unique elements of the Riverside Theatre's production, offering insight into its creative process. Students will enjoy a behind-the-scenes set tour and the opportunity to meet members of the cast.

Backstage Access in Partnership with Riverside Theatre-9 to 5 the Musical

April 9, 16, 23

10:00-12:00

3520 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Member \$0 | Non-Member \$75

Peer Leader: Kevin Quillinan

This lively theatre class delves into 9 to 5 The Musical, exploring its journey from the hit 1980 film to the Broadway stage. Participants will learn about the movie's iconic leading ladies, the show's development, and the remarkable career of Dolly Parton, who created its memorable score. The class will also highlight unique aspects of Riverside Theatre's production and creative process. Attendees will enjoy a backstage tour, meet members of the cast, and get an exclusive look at a live tech rehearsal. The class is offered on all three listed dates; these are not individual offerings.

Peer Leader Directory



Summer Almand

My name is Summer Almand, and I am a Florida native who has become obsessed with growing cut flowers. For many years, I dreamed of farming “something” but wasn’t sure just where I would land. I am a former elementary school teacher, and the love of learning and teaching has never left me. There is endless learning in the world of gardening and always some new challenges. I still teach, just in a different way and different subjects. I teach gardening classes to both adults and children. I also host various workshops at my farm from October to April. The joy of growing flowers is immense, and I see that same joy in the people who receive or hand-cut flowers at my farm. Locally grown flowers are so important to our community & I am thrilled to be a part of it.



Debbie Brateman

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, NY. Graduated from Mount Sinai School of Nursing and Hunter College of the City University of New York. Worked as an R.N. at Mount Sinai Hospital, NYC, and Tel Hashomer, Israel. Then entered the military and served in the Army Nurse Corps, achieving the rank of major. Retired to Georgia and worked at Northside Hospital in Atlanta for 20 years, then fully retired to Florida. My specialty was Neonatal Intensive Care. Now enjoy lifelong learning, traveling, and nature, and having control of my time.



Alexis Carlson

Alexis Carlson is a Librarian at Indian River State College and helps students, staff, and community patrons of all ages learn about digital devices, social media, and basic computing. She received her MLIS from the University of South Florida in 2007.



Alicemarie Donohue

Alicemarie Donohue’s career includes more than 25 years with the Central Intelligence Agency, preceded by teaching secondary school in Cairo and Dubai. A full-time Florida resident since 2008, Alicemarie’s main focus is on local community service and learning about new things that interest her. She is a former member of the External Advisory Committee for the Fielden Institute and has served as a peer leader for years.



Gregory Enns

Gregory Enns is a fifth-generation Floridian who spent a twenty- five-year career working as a reporter and editor at newspapers in Florida and Alabama. In 2006 he founded Indian River Media Group, a company based in his native Fort Pierce that publishes magazines on the Treasure Coast and Space Coast of Florida, including its flagship Indian River Magazine. He is the author of the Cow Creek Chronicles, The Rise and Fall of an Early Florida Cattle Ranch, released Oct. 14 by University Press of Florida.



Dr. Bruce Fraser

Dr. Bruce W. Fraser earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz (summa cum laude) before completing his master’s and doctorate degrees in philosophy at Boston University. Currently, he is Executive Director, AI Strategic Initiatives at Indian River State College (IRSC). In addition to multiple awards for teaching excellence, Dr. Fraser is the recipient of the Gladys Williams Wolf Endowed Teaching Chair in Communications (2009) and the Bank Atlantic Foundation Endowed Teaching Chair (2020). He is also the founder and CEO of New Common Ground, LLC., a consulting company that has partnered with IRSC to provide communication, conflict-resolution, and creativity training for educators and businesses across Florida.



Tara Gray

Tara Gray is an accomplished interior designer with extensive experience across residential, commercial, and hospitality design projects. A graduate of the Art Institute, Tara brings both creativity and technical expertise to every space she transforms. In addition to her professional practice, she has dedicated over 15 years to teaching interior design, inspiring the next generation of designers with her knowledge and passion for the field.

In addition to her design career, Tara is also a photographer and the founder of Modern Maven LLC, a creative studio where she curates and leads workshops and styled photo shoots. Through Modern Maven, she merges her eye for design with visual storytelling, offering clients and creatives a space to explore and express their unique vision. Tara's multidisciplinary approach allows her to seamlessly blend interior design and photography, creating cohesive, engaging environments and imagery.



Gary Gustin

Gary Gustin is a multi-instrumentalist and actor who performs music of the 18th & 19th century. Gary has worked on productions for The History Channel, Discovery, PBS, and Turner Films as well as at historic locations.



Michael Hageloh

Michael Hageloh is an executive and strategic innovator at Indian River State College, known for bridging higher education with industry to create transformative partnerships. With a career spanning technology, sales, and academia, he combines entrepreneurial insight with a passion for student success and institutional growth. A former Apple executive, Michael brings a distinctive blend of creativity and business acumen to advancing the role of higher education in workforce innovation. He is dedicated to building ecosystems that inspire learning, leadership, and lasting economic impact.



Herb Hinkle, Esq.

Herb Hinkle, Esq. practiced law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for nearly 40 years, and currently is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Rutgers University Law School, teaching Trusts & Estates, Elder Law, and Estate Planning. He earned a J.D. Degree from Rutgers and a second law degree (LL.M.) in taxation from Temple University Law School.



Marilyn Johansen

Marilyn Johansen is an artist and author. She teaches acrylic and watercolor painting in Fort Lauderdale. She brings her life experiences to her art, having lived from Belgium to Okinawa and places in between. Marilyn achieved a BA in Education and was a classroom teacher. She is active in the art community at the local, state, national and international levels. She has paintings featured in art books, published in local newspapers and collections in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Her Soldier Stories Series of paintings has been on a continuous traveling exhibition in South Florida since 2016, honoring our U.S. military. This series of paintings was used by the Navy League of Fort Lauderdale, FL on July 30, 2022, commissioning of the 'new' Navy Ship, the USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28). It was a popular Exhibition at the Fort Lauderdale/ Hollywood International Airport twice. Her memoir, My Father's Secrets is popular on Amazon and rated #1 in Cold War biographies.



David Kimball

With a career spanning computers and finance, I hold an MBA and am both a CPA and Certified Management Consultant (CMC). Alongside my professional work, I have been deeply involved in social work and the humanities, leading initiatives such as the Conversation Café in Massachusetts. I have facilitated workshops in Empathy and Compassion, as well as Active Listening, and am an active member of the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD), continuing my commitment to meaningful dialogue and community engagement.



Lorraine Ledford

Lorraine Ledford was raised in the United States on the Mexican border (south of San Diego; north of Tijuana). Lorraine earned her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Language and Literature from University of California San Diego, and her Master's Degree in the same subject from Harvard University. She taught at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Brandeis University. Lorraine has taught beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of Spanish since 1972, most recently for years at the Harvard Divinity School.



Iris Madison

Iris Madison (LCSW) is a licensed clinical social worker with over 40 years of experience providing psychotherapy, case management, vocational services, and advocacy work to multicultural individuals and families. Iris has extensive experience working with people in crisis due to past and present traumatic life experiences. She is bilingual (Spanish/English) and has worked in private practice, government agencies, hospitals, and community agencies. She continues to work part-time, providing psychotherapy to community residents in the Vero Beach area.



Doug Marcello

A CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) practitioner, Doug prides himself on working with clients to bring clarity to the complexity of their financial lives. He uses an established process to understand what is most important to clients and to help them make informed decisions.

Doug has been a financial advisor since 2014, previously as a partner with Edward Jones. His experience working with young professionals, business owners, and retirees from diverse fields and industries has provided him with substantial expertise in tailoring financial plans to each client's specific needs. By helping clients understand their cash flow needs throughout the different phases of their lives and then building thoughtful and tax-efficient savings strategies, investment programs, and withdrawal plans, he helps to position clients to bring them closer to achieving their lifetime financial goals. Doug's objective is to provide his clients with confidence and perspective as they face life's challenges and opportunities and help them navigate their financial lives.

Doug holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Science Education from the University of Central Florida and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from Florida Atlantic University. In addition, he has earned his AAMS™, CRPS™, CRPC™, and CSRIC® designations and is a member of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA). Doug has served on the Indian River State College Foundation Board since 2020. Doug lives in Tequesta with his wife, Tracy, and their two sons.



Ruth Marconi

Ruth Marconi is a lifelong reader who fell in love with books at an early age. She holds a degree in English from Fairfield University and an MsED from Molloy College. Ruth spent her career as an English teacher at a prestigious Catholic high school in Nassau County, NY, even inspiring a few students to pursue English and/or education as a major. Her keen interest in stories and storytelling has been the catalyst for examining books and movies through a very broad cultural lens.



Jon Moses

Now in his 26th season at Riverside Theatre, Jon Moses, Managing Director/COO, is originally from the Treasure Coast and has been involved in every aspect of theatre for over 32 years. He is a graduate of the Theatre Design Technology Program at The Florida State University School of Theatre, with further graduate studies at Florida Atlantic University. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at Indian River State College, where he taught and coordinated an Associates of Science Technical Theatre Program. Jon is a Board Member and Treasurer of the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Exchange Club of Indian River, a former Board Member of the Oceanside Business Association, and a Past President of the Florida Professional Theatre Association.



Dr. Alicia Murphy

Originally from El Paso, Texas, I earned my medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1980. After initial training in psychiatry, I transitioned to pathology, completing a residency in Honolulu with extensive experience in surgical, anatomic, and clinical pathology, including over 100 autopsies, followed by a surgical pathology fellowship in California. Board certified in both clinical and surgical pathology, I practiced in Texas for several decades, serving as a Laboratory Director, teaching anatomy and pathology, and working in multiple hospitals. Since retiring to Florida in 2023, I continue to serve on call as a Laboratory Director for hospitals in Texas.



Claire Murphy

Chef Claire Murphy is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. She has worked across the United States and internationally—in Munich, London, Dublin, and Hong Kong—gaining experience in restaurants, hotels, and both culinary and pastry departments. Her career spans research and development, food styling, consulting, and hands-on kitchen work, including positions at Boar's Head Foods, NY Newsday's test kitchen, and the trustees' dining room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she enjoyed private evening tours of the museum. While she enjoys cooking all types of food, pastry and baking remain her greatest passions, driven by the challenge and satisfaction they offer.



Dr. Katie Nall

Katie Nall, Ph.D., is a Florida mathematician, a two-time TEDx speaker, a Qi Gong instructor, and an Accredited Master Trainer and Practitioner in Emotional Freedom Technique, also known as EFT or Tapping. Dr. Nall shows others how to dissolve WAFFLES – worries, anxiety, fear, frustration, lethargy, exhaustion, and STRESS ®!



Angie Neely-Sardon

Angie Neely-Sardon is a reference librarian for the Brackett Library at the Indian River State College Mueller Campus. Angie works with student and community patrons, helping them find resources and use technology. She teaches information literacy and research skills through instructional sessions and serves as an instructor for several courses. Angie earned a Master of Science Degree in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University.



Dr. David Purificato

After a life-altering event, David Purificato enrolled at his local community college in NY and earned an Associate of Arts degree in 2011. He then transferred to Stony Brook University, where he studied US history, completing a B.A. in 2013, an M.A. in 2015, and finally a PhD in 2021. He is interested in US cultural and social history, and is passionate about studying objects that societies produce. David teaches US history at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, where he advises two clubs, the Ethics Bowl Club and the Dungeons and Dragons Adventure Club.



Kevin Quillinan

Kevin Quillinan is the Director of Theatre Education at Riverside Theatre. Kevin has enjoyed teaching and directing students of all ages since graduating from Shenandoah Conservatory with a BFA in Theatre for Youth. He has directed and taught at The Growing Stage in Virginia, and for six years was the head of the theatre department at Triton Regional High School in Byfield, MA where he created the curriculum and developed new classes. He also co-founded HarleQuyn Theatre to offer affordable classes and shows to local schools. Kevin was a recipient of the 2012 Freddie G Teaching Fellowship, an honor bestowed by Freddie Gershon, CEO of Music Theatre International (MTI).



Karl "KC" Randall

KC is a former businessman and teacher with experience in the positions of sales, sales management, training, and marketing in medical (manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and devices) and distribution companies. As he recently said, "I sold everything from pills to pacemakers" with various private and public companies.

One of his accomplishments was the introduction of a "painless" method for self-finger-sticking, which opened the market for diabetics to better manage their blood sugar levels.

His career is bookended by teaching. He taught at Penn State after earning his master's from West Virginia University, where he studied phytoplankton of coal strip-mined ponds. Indian River State College was the final stop in his teaching, until now.

He's here today because he relishes simplifying biological/natural concepts to share with those who are interested.



Janet Roessler

Janet is a guiding force and fellow traveler on the journey of personal transformation. With a focus on utilizing Artmaking and Success Principles-based tools, she works with individuals and groups to explore their inner processes and gain a deeper understanding of themselves. Her Intuitive counseling is always infused with a healthy dose of curiosity and respect for each individual's unique journey. Janet's approach to personal growth is holistic, compassionate, and empowering.



Laurie Samuels

Laurita Samuels retired to Florida after teaching elementary and middle school for 33 years on Long Island, New York. Laurita has been a Lifelong Learning member since 2012 and profoundly values the Fielden Institute. She is a nationally ranked triathlete who has traveled internationally and participated in World Championships for over 20 years. She has completed 30 consecutive Disney marathons and 50 marathons overall.



Dr. Alexander Shelby

Alex Shelby is a historian of international history, focusing on American and MENA (the Middle East and North Africa) diplomatic history of the 20th century. He is especially concerned with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, terrorism, and Islamic civilization's interaction with the West. His first book, *Lyndon Johnson and the Postwar Order in the Middle East, 1962-1967* (2021), focuses on the decline of the American rules-based order established after World War II in the 1960s. He has also written numerous academic articles on dehumanization in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, terrorism, and the military history of MENA. He is also a contributing editor to *Conflict in the Modern Middle East: An Encyclopedia of Civil War, Revolutions, and Regime Change* (2020) and *Retelling Jane Austen* (2024). He worked with the U.S. Department of State's Fulbright Institute at Florida State University, collaborating with Middle Eastern scholars from Iraq and the Kurdish autonomous region at FSU. Currently, he works as a MENA analysis at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C. He is also the official Residential Historian and committee board member at the "Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail," which incorporates eight historical locations in Fort Pierce connected to Zora Hurston. At present, he is working on *The Modern History of Gaza from 1949 to the Present*. Dr. Shelby received his MA from the University of New Orleans and his PhD from Florida State University. He regularly taught classes at FSU and the American Military University before coming to Indian River State College. He is fluent in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish and has research-rudimentary knowledge of Persian, Turkish, German, Hebrew, and French. While at UNO, he had the pleasure of working with Dr. Günter Josef Bischof, Dr. Douglas Brinkley, and Dr. Steve Ambrose at the Eisenhower Center. He also had the honor of working with Dr. Bischof at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.



Shoshanna Shelley

Shoshanna Shelley was born in Peterborough, Ontario. She received her masters in clinical psychology from the University of Ottawa and her doctorate from Boston University. She had a private practice in Boston, then Newburyport, Massachusetts, and finally, in Norwich, Vermont, where she also had a miniature horse and alpaca breeding farm. Shoshanna was in private practice for 35 years, except for the four years she was the Director of Counseling at a small New England college. In addition to raising a myriad of animals at her farm, she also enjoyed riding her Arabian horses through the Vermont countryside. Shoshanna is passionate about listening to audiobooks, strumming her ukulele, and loving their dog, Scupper, and cat, Minou.



Dr. Benjamin Taggie

Dr. Benjamin Taggie, Professor Emeritus at UMass Dartmouth, taught medieval and classical history and served as dean, provost, and vice chancellor. Dr. Taggie founded MSA Cultural Tours, which conducts annual tours to Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. He currently serves as the President and Executive Director of the Mediterranean Studies Association, and teaches lifelong learning adult education classes in Florida and Massachusetts. Dr. Taggie has researched and published in the field of history and served as editor of the prestigious journal Mediterranean Studies. He earned his Ph.D. Degree from Michigan State, and was a post-doctoral Fellow at Harvard and Brown.



Dowling Watford

Dowling Watford, Jr. is a fifth-generation Floridian and lifelong Okeechobee resident. He currently serves as Mayor of the City of Okeechobee and is an active member of the First United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee, Okeechobee Historical Society and Okeechobee Battlefield Friends. Dowling graduated from Okeechobee High School and Florida Southern College.



Libby Wiseman

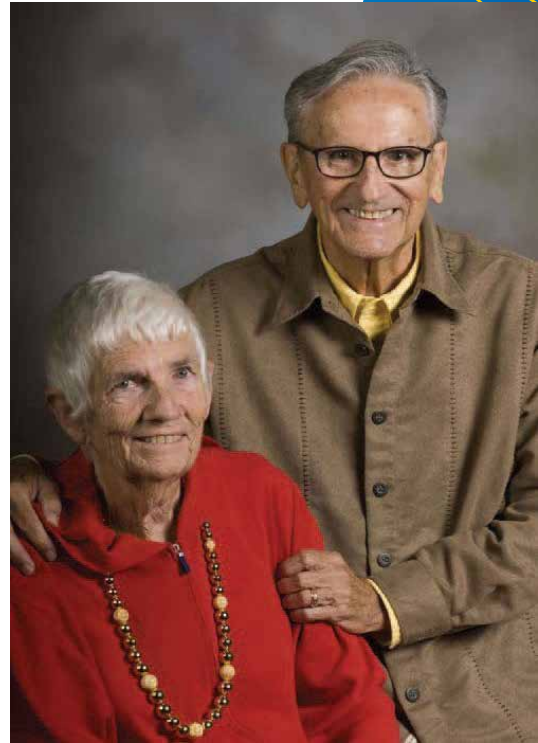
Libby Wiseman is navigating life's transitions with heart and purpose. With over five decades of experience in real estate and a lifelong dedication to serving others, Libby has built a legacy as a compassionate guide and expert in senior life transitions.

Her breadth of experience led her to identify a critical gap in the housing market: older adults who needed help downsizing, relocating, and embracing a new chapter. With clarity and kindness, Libby stepped into this niche, offering not just real estate expertise but genuine emotional support. Dubbed a Senior Transition Navigator, building a reputation built not just on results, but on relationships.

In Memoriam

The Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning was endowed by Dr. Jean Dickinson Fielden in memory of her late husband, Dr. John "Jack" Seward Fielden. Jack received degrees from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University and Boston University. Except for serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he spent his life in academia, as a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois, Purdue and Harvard, and Dean of the Business Schools at Boston University and the University of Alabama, where he met Jean.

Active in the Institute since its establishment in 2006, Jack served on the External Advisory Committee and volunteered as a peer leader until his death in 2010. Jean continues to serve as a devoted advisor of the popular offering, "Great Adaptations: Books into Films."



Loyal supporters of Indian River State College, Jack and Jean Fielden have pledged leadership gifts to support the growth of the College's student scholarships in health sciences and mathematics. Published authors, the Fieldens also helped to develop the Pioneer River Press. With more than 25 years of experience training employees at some of the world's largest corporations, Dr. Jack Fielden and his co-authors published, "Throw me the Bottom Line...I'm Drowning in Email!" The Press provides an opportunity to pursue publication with a portion of sales directed to support IRSC scholarships. Jack's leadership will forever be remembered as an integral part of the success of the lifelong learning initiative at Indian River State College.

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