



the Travel Learning Network

Advisory Council - July 2013



Louise Aronson (MD Harvard MFA Warren Wilson Program for Writers) is Associate Professor of Medicine at UC San Francisco. A geriatrician, she directs the Northern California Geriatrics Education Center, provides clinical care through the UCSF Housecalls Program, and trains health professionals to provide optimal care to older adults. She has received literary awards for her fiction. Her acclaimed book *History of the Present Illness* provides an insider's look at medicine and illness.



Karlene Ball (PhD Northwestern) is Professor and Chair of Psychology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and director of the Center for Research on Applied Gerontology. Her research focuses on aging, particularly as it relates to the cognitive and physiological changes that impact social interactions and everyday activities such as driving.



Ellen Bialystok (PhD University of Toronto) is Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology York University and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Her research has focused on the cognitive effects of bilingualism, adult language processing and cognitive aging. Prof. Bialystok is the author of 7 books and over 100 scientific papers.



Steve Benson (MA University of Minnesota) founded the Elder Learning Institute of the University of Minnesota in 1995. Under his leadership the program became an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2005. As a result of expanding paid memberships, now totaling 1200 + and the rich array of course offerings, most taught by volunteer, current and retired University faculty, OLLI has received an endowment totaling \$2 from the Bernard Osher



Raffaella Borasi (PhD SUNY Buffalo) is Dean and Frederica Warner Professor in the Warner School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester. Her research centres on the concept of teaching through inquiry. This instructional approach stresses problem solving, students' ownership in the learning process, and the development of communities of learners trying to "make sense" of problems and concepts



David Birdsong (PhD Harvard University) is Professor and Chair of the Department of French & Italian at the University of Texas-Austin, and visiting Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen. His research specialties are Second Language Acquisition and French Linguistics.



John Bruer (PhD Rockefeller University) is president of the J.S. McDonnell Foundation in St. Louis which awards grants in biomedical science and education. His book *The Myth of the First Three Years* challenges the widely held view that early learning exerts an unmodifiable effect on the child's brain and development and the opportunity exists for learning across the entire lifespan.



Susana Cavallo (PhD University of Chicago) was formerly Chair of Modern Languages and Literature at Loyola University in Chicago and is currently Dean of Faculty at the John Felice Rome Center in Rome, Italy. Her research interests include 20th century Peninsular poetry, 20th century Hispanic prose, Latin American poetry, Hispanic women's writing, and Feminist Theory and Criticism.



Paul Franz (JD University of California), a former Vice President of The Procter & Gamble Co. , headed the legal division of P&G's Global Commerce Group and was the first recipient of the P&G Legal Lifetime Achievement Award. Paul is the former Chair of the Board of the Food & Drug Law Institute, and a current member of the boards of The Mercantile Library and The Literary Club of Cincinnati. Paul is the proud owner of a Mittelstufe II certificate from the Goethe Institute. Since retiring, he's been runner-up in The New Yorker's Cartoon Caption contest.



Ángel López García (PhD University of Zaragoza) was born and raised in Spain. He is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Valencia (Spain) and has been a visiting professor at the universities of Virginia, Mainz, Minnesota, Tucumán and Aarhus. He is author of two dozen books such as The Grammar of Genes: How the Genetic Code Resembles the Linguistic Code, and is recipient of the Honoré Chavée de la Académie des Belles Lettres de l'Institut de France.



Maurizio Marmorstein (MA Middlebury College) is currently Associate Professor of Italian Studies at the American University of Rome. A former Acting Provost of AUR, Prof. Marmorstein is an award winning documentary film producer and screenwriter whose academic specialty is Italian Theater and Film. He is currently writing a screenplay based on the life of the artist Caravaggio.



Michael Merzenich (PhD Johns Hopkins) Professor Emeritus, UC San Francisco a neuroscientist who led a cochlear implant development team, and conducted seminal studies on brain plasticity that led to his election to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and Institute of **Medicine**. Prof. Merzenich has published hundreds of articles in leading scientific journals. In 2004, he founded Posit Science, a corporation that has developed brain training exercises to help older adults maintain cognitive abilities.



Rafael Monroy Casas (MA, University of Reading) was born and raised in Spain. He is Professor and founder of the Department of English at the University of Murcia (Spain) whose research specialty is phonetics and phonology. He is the author of books and articles dealing with these topics, as well as those having a primarily didactic scope. Prof. Monroy is well known internationally for his work relating the sound systems of English and Spanish.



Joan Carles Mora (PhD University of Barcelona) was born and raised in Spain. He is lecturer and researcher in the English department in the University of Barcelona. He has conducted research on L2 speech learning and L2 oral fluency, including bilingual speech learning, and the development of L2 phonology and oral fluency in study abroad contexts. His current research interests focus on individual differences in L2 phonological acquisition





Robert F. Port (PhD University of Connecticut) is Professor Emeritus of Cognitive Science, Computer Science and Linguistics at Indiana University in Bloomington IN. His research has focused on phonetics, phonology, and psycholinguistics, with a special interest in working memory and language.



Isabella Pezzini (PhD University of Bologna) is Professor of Philosophy and Language Theory at the University of Rome where she teaches courses in the Semiotics and Language and the Psychology and Semiotics of Consumption and Advertising. She is active in graduate education at universities in Bologna, Florence and Rome, has served on numerous councils and commissions and is currently President of the Italian Association of Semiotic Studies.



Thanassi Protopapas (PhD Brown University), born and raised in Greece, was formerly Principal Researcher at the Institute of Language and Speech Processing in Athens. This institute carries out applied research in natural language processing and distance learning for language, culture and music. Currently he is Associate Professor in the Dept. Of Philosophy and History of Science at the University of Athens where he founded the Language and Learning Lab.



Ashok Robin (PhD SUNY Buffalo), Professor of Finance at the Rochester Institute of Technology, is former Chair of Department of Accounting and Finance who has published widely in academic journals. His research and teaching interests include corporate governance, corporate finance, international accounting, and financial derivatives.



Tanya Tewell (MFA Arizona State Tempe) is Professor of Art at Middle Tennessee State University who has taught drawing, color and painting at the college level for 25 years. She has exhibited her art widely, including a recent solo show at the Pantheon Museum in Nashville. She divides her time between Tennessee and central Italy and will advise the TLN on its studio art program.



Joan Vernikos (PhD University of London), pharmacologist and neuro-endocrinologist, is the former Director of NASA's Life Sciences whose research on the role of gravity in health and aging led to election to the International Academy of Astronautics. She founded [Thirddage LLC](#) to raise health self-awareness and promote a unique strategy for sustaining wellness. Among her books are *The G-Connection* (2004), *Stress Fitness for Seniors* (2009), and *Sitting Kills, Moving Heals* (2011).



Franco Zagari (PhD University of Rome) is Professor of Landscape Architecture. He founded and directed for many years the doctoral program in Gardens and Public Spaces at the University of Reggio Calabria. The author of numerous essays, books (among which *The Architecture of the Contemporary Garden*) and films, Zagari has designed numerous projects of importance throughout Europe and in Asia, and was named Chevalier of Arts and Letters (France).

