

# 2021 Online Summer Seminars of OLLI

Continuing the OLLI Commitment to Excellence

To expand the academic year for its Members, the Summer Seminars are presented by OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of University College University of Denver



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## **SUMMER SEMINARS**

**OLLI at DU thanks Rosalie Goldman, OLLI at DU Volunteer, for organizing these amazing Seminars.**

**Seminars held online via ZOOM.com**

**Presentation at 10:00 am; Q&A at 11:00 am;**

**Close at 11:30ish**

### **Cost For OLLI Members**

**\$10.00 per Seminar Session**

### **Cost For Guests**

**\$15.00 per Seminar Session**

**Register Now!**

*Click Here*



**TUESDAY, June 8th**

**Elbert Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> to Die &  
The Failure of American Justice**

Elbert Williams, 1908-1940, was the first NAACP member murdered for his voting rights activity. Resulted from the violent collision in Brownsville, Tennessee, June 20, 1940, between African American aspirations to vote and white-supremacists' determination to prevent it by any means necessary, including murder. Although the NAACP was able to persuade the U. S. Department of Justice to initiate an FBI

Although the NAACP was able to persuade the US Dept of Justice to initiate an FBI investigation, the forces of White Supremacy within the FBI and the DOJ sabotaged the prosecution. The institutions of American Justice failed, setting the stage for the civil rights slaughter of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Williams' murder case was reopened by District Attorney Garry G. Brown August 8, 2018. Jim's work on the Williams' case has been featured in two Associated Press feature articles published internationally, on NPR's All Things Considered, and in media around the nation

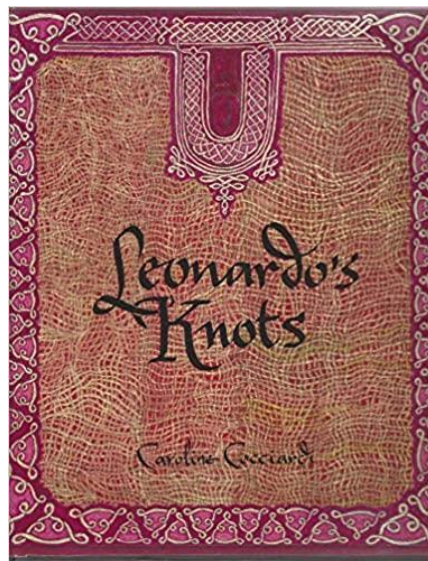
*Jim Emison, BA Vanderbilt 1965, JD University of Tennessee College of Law 1968. At UT Law, Jim was a member of the law review, won Moot Court and Appellate Argument competitions, was selected to the Order of the Coif, and received several academic awards. Jim is one of only two persons who have served as president of both the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and Tennessee Bar Associations. Jim was Law Clerk to the Tennessee Chief Justice 1968-1969 and served in the US Navy JAGC 1969-1971. In private practice 1972-2011, Jim was a courtroom lawyer. Jim is one of only two lawyers who have served as president of both the Tennessee Trial Lawyers and Tennessee Bar Associations.*

*After "retirement" at the end of 2011, Jim has devoted his time to civil rights causes including, investigating, speaking and writing about the June 20, 1940, murder of Elbert Williams, in Brownsville, Tennessee, the first NAACP member in the nation murdered for his civil rights work, and has just completed a manuscript about the Williams' murder with the working title, *Elbert Williams First To Die* and is looking for a publisher. Jim will tell a fascinating story of how he got interested in this early civil rights murder and where this interest has led. More information is available at Jim's website: <http://www.elbertwilliamsfirsttodie.com/>*

**TUESDAY, June 15th**

## **Da Vinci's Knots**

Author Caroline Cocciardi focuses on a facet of Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci's artwork that has been overlooked for centuries but visible to the naked eye. Leonardo's placement and use of inspired knots throughout his artwork as seen in such iconic works as "Mona Lisa" to "The Last Supper." The intertwining knot Leonardo invents tells the story of a hidden message unlocked by Cocciardi and revealed in Mona Lisa's embroidery pattern.



*Caroline Cocciardi* writer and filmmaker began an independent study on Leonardo da Vinci, while living in Rome. Her 20-year research led to a da Vinci discovery.

Her newly released art book, "Leonardo's Knots" will introduce you to a facet of the Renaissance painter that was overlooked for centuries yet was present in his artworks: his passion for intertwining knots.

In 2009, Cocciardi documentary, "Mona Lisa Revealed" documenting engineer Pascal Cotte, inventor of the multi-spectral camera that uncovered five centuries of secrets within Leonardo's iconic Mona Lisa.

**TUESDAY, June 22nd**

## **A Journey Through the Legal Cannabis Timeline**

Cannabis legalization has made an incredible impact on our nation over the last decade. Join leading cannabis attorney Christian Sederberg as he takes us on a journey through the past, present, and future of legal cannabis. Learn why cannabis was initially made illegal, how and why it was legalized, and what the future holds - both socially and economically.

*Christian Sederberg: Since the inception of Colorado's state-regulated medical marijuana program in 2010, Vicente Sederberg founding partner Christian Sederberg has been representing cannabis businesses and ancillary companies on a wide range of compliance, regulatory, corporate, and legislative issues. Christian is a widely recognized leader in the cannabis industry, and in addition to his client work, he also works closely with government officials, trade associations, members of the business community, and advocates to advance thoughtful cannabis policy at the local, state, and national level.*

*Christian played an integral role in the passage and implementation of Colorado's historic cannabis legalization initiative in 2012 and was nominated by Gov. John Hickenlooper to represent the campaign on the Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force. He also sat on the executive committee of the Committee for Responsible Regulation, which coordinated the campaign to establish statewide excise and sales taxes on the sale of adult-use marijuana in Colorado.*

*Christian currently serves on the boards of the United States Cannabis Council, Cannabis Trade Federation, and Colorado Leads, and he previously served as a board member for the National Cannabis Industry Association. He was included in the National Law Journal's inaugural list of "Cannabis Law Trailblazers," as well as the Cannabis Business Executive 100, a list of the 100 most influential people in the global cannabis industry and policy reform movement. In 2020, Christian was recognized as one of the nation's top cannabis lawyers by Chambers and Partners USA, and he has been included in 5280's list of "Denver's Top Lawyers" every year since 2015.*

**TUESDAY, June 29th**

**Polling in 2020 and Its Future**

Polling predicted a very good Democratic year in November 2020, which didn't happen, or at least not as predicted. But, polling has already started in 2021 concerning the president, national politics and the 2022 election.

What happened in 2020? Has polling changed because of it? If not, will it or were the problems mostly related to the pandemic and Trump's unique candidacy? Join pollster and DU professor Floyd Ciruli for a conversation on what happened to polling in 2020 and its future.

*Mr. Ciruli is the Director of the Crossley Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies. He is an adjunct professor teaching public opinion and foreign policy. The Crossley Center conducts research and presents live and virtual programs on foreign policy, politics, public policy and public opinion.*

*Mr. Ciruli holds a law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor's degree cum laude in political science from UCLA. He is a member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), and is the past-president of the Pacific Chapter of AAPOR (PAPOR). Mr. Ciruli is a board member of the Social Science Foundation of the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies and past president of the Georgetown Law Alumni Board and the Denver Athletic Club.*

*Mr. Ciruli is widely known to Colorado audiences as a pollster and political analyst. In 2016, Mr. Ciruli was inducted into the Denver Press Club Hall of Fame. He hosts a blog for politics and trends at [www.fciruli.blogspot.com](http://www.fciruli.blogspot.com).*

**TUESDAY, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**No Program**

**TUESDAY, July 13th**

**The Prosecutor's Art -  
From the Streets to the Suites (to the Oval Office)**

Street crime, white collar crime ... whatever the crime, prosecutors must direct investigations and build cases, then present them to judges and juries. But how? Does the Constitution restrain them? Do their own constitutions guide them? Do corruption and politics influence them? From behind the scenes to open court, armed with law, literature, and cinema, a former state and federal prosecutor will lead our investigation.

*Hon. Charles B Schudson (Charles Schudson - [www.keynoteseminars.net](http://www.keynoteseminars.net)) is a law professor, Wisconsin Reserve Judge Emeritus, and recent Fulbright Scholar. He graduated from Dartmouth College and the University of Wisconsin Law School. He served as a state and federal prosecutor for seven years, a trial judge for ten years, and an appellate judge for twelve years. He has authored many published works including: *On Trial: America's Courts and Their Treatment of Sexually Abused Children* (Beacon Press, 1989; 2d ed., 1991); and *Independence Corrupted / How America's Judges Make Their Decisions* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2018), a nominee for the National Book Award.*

*Judge Schudson has presented for dozens of OLLI chapters, and keynoted and taught at conferences throughout the world. He has been a featured guest on NPR, PBS, and Oprah.*

TUESDAY, July 20th

## Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab: Propaganda & Extremism Today

Now, more than ever, it is important to understand the impact of extremist propaganda on our society. Led by a *Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab* (CELL) educator, this engaging discussion features testimony from former white supremacist Christian Picciolini, Holocaust educator Rudi Florian, and renowned national security expert Tom Sanderson. Their powerful stories and expertise provide insight on the effects of propaganda on society, historically and today; how violent extremists use of propaganda to radicalize; and how to discern factual information from disinformation.

*The CELL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution that provides a comprehensive look at the threat of terrorism and how individuals can play a role in enhancing public safety.*

*Christian Picciolini is an award-winning television producer, a public speaker, author, peace advocate, and a former extremist. He now leads the Free Radicals Project, a global extremism prevention and disengagement network and has helped over 300 individuals leave hate behind.*

*Born to devout Catholics in 1934 in Germany, Rudi Florian's parents opposed the Nazis but didn't dare to do so openly. When he was 10 years old, he briefly served in the Hitler Youth until his mother came up with an excuse to have him released. Now, Rudi educates others about the importance of remembering the Holocaust, the value of human rights and the sanctity of life.*

*Tom Sanderson co-founded and directed the Transnational Threats Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) from 2002 to 2018. He investigated terrorism, insurgency and criminal networks across 70 countries. Sanderson now guides governments and the private sector in detecting, understanding and navigating a wide range of global risks and opportunities.*



**TUESDAY, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

**No Program**

**TUESDAY, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**How Did that Big Blue Bear Get There?  
Inside the City of Denver's Public Art Program**

Many cities across the country have a government funded public art program which supports each community in both tangible and intangible ways. Denver's Public Art Program has invested more than \$40 million in public art for its residents and visitors to enjoy since 1988. Public art is a demonstration of a city's unique character as well as its values. Michael Chavez will explain the history of the 33-year program, share some of his favorite works and why they are successful, and explain how that big blue bear got there.

*Michael Chavez is a visual art professional with more than 26 years of experience working in galleries, museums, and public art project management. He currently serves as the Public Art Program Manager for the City & County of Denver. The City of Denver's Public Art Program was established in 1988 and allocates 1% of new construction budgets undertaken by the city for the inclusion of new public art. He also oversees a graffiti prevention and youth development program called the Urban Arts Fund (UAF). Through the UAF, new murals are created in perpetually vandalized areas throughout the City & County of Denver to curb vandalism. Chavez graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture from the University of Wyoming and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Printmaking from the University of Kansas.*

**TUESDAY, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **Denver Botanic Gardens: Explore and Learn About Two Unique Community Programs-- Water Stewardship and Food Insecurity**

Denver Botanic Gardens is a place of beauty. But behind the colorful floral displays is an institution committed to tackling social and environmental challenges.

Colorado provides water to 19 states. More than 40 million people in seven states and Mexico depend on flows from the Colorado River alone. Denver Botanic Gardens has long embraced the reality of living in a “headwater state” that is also a semi-arid climate, showcasing water-wise plants and practices that homeowners and back-yard farmers can replicate. But Denver Botanic Gardens’ role in advancing water efficient horticulture and agriculture and impacting community welfare is even bigger.

In this seminar, you’ll learn about the following:

- The Gardens’ collaborations with Metropolitan State University of Denver in co-running a water studies program
- Programs in partnership with veteran organizations that feed “food desert” populations in our own backyard
- The Gardens’ global connections - including collaborations with the UN Food & Agriculture Organization - to inform how small-scale urban ag can be water-efficient and bountiful in other semi-arid locations in the developing world.

*Larry Vickerman is the director of Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms. His current focus is building farm soils’ water-holding capacity and fertility by using cover cropping and boosting microbial activity to support crop growth. The last 25 years, he has researched and developed seeding techniques for riparian and prairie habitat restoration to support a wide array of pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife.*

*Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd is the director of marketing and social responsibility at Denver Botanic Gardens, where she drives sustainability-oriented programming, partnerships and communications. She is the Co-Director of the One World One Water (OWOW) Center, a joint initiative of the Gardens and Metropolitan State University of Denver.*