

**International Forgiveness Institute
Founding Board Member Profile**

Dr. Elizabeth (Lisa) Gassin



Elizabeth Anne Gassin was born in Walnut Creek, California, in 1967. She is currently Director of Institutional Research/Chair, Behavioral Sciences at Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, Illinois). As Professor of Educational Psychology, she teaches courses in developmental and cross-cultural psychology.

Dr. Gassin has been an Olivet faculty member for the past 28 years except when she was teaching in Russia and south Korea from 2000 through 2003. In 2007, she received Olivet's Richard M. Jones Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence and in 2015 the Samuel L. Mayhugh Award for Scholarly Excellence.

Dr. Gassin's extensive educational background includes multiple degrees:

- M.A. – 2009, Governors State University (University Park, IL) - Marriage and Family Counseling
- Ph.D. – 1995, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Educational Psychology/Human Development
- M.S. – 1990, Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN) – Educational Psychology/Gifted Education
- B.S. – 1988, University of California (Davis, CA) – Human Development/Education (Graduated summa cum laude-“Highest Distinction”)

Additionally, in 2017, Dr. Gassin earned a graduate certificate in qualitative research methods which punctuates her long history of conducting empirical research, particularly in the areas of the psychology of forgiveness, the grieving process, and educational development in children. Her forgiveness research dates back to 1995 when she was a member of Dr. Robert Enright's initial Human Development Study Group and a founding member of the International Forgiveness Institute (IFI).

Since then, Dr. Gassin has conducted and published more than 40 scientific studies including 16 forgiveness-related projects together with Dr. Enright. Several of her papers have been published in Russian—a language in which she is fluent. She also led forgiveness workshops for Russian counselors and taught human development at various Russian universities and academies.

Dr. Gassin was the primary author of two IFI forgiveness education courses for psychologists (*Helping Clients Forgive* and *Forgiveness Therapy*—both approved for continuing education use by the American Psychological Association), co-authored a curriculum guide with Dr. Enright, and successfully wrote foundation grant applications that resulted in funding for Dr. Enright's Forgiveness Education work in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Dr. Gassin's professional and civic involvement has included membership and participation in the American Counseling Association, Phi Kappa Phi, and Psi Chi (psychology honor society).