



OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

OLLI

at
Drake
UNIVERSITY

FALL 2026 CLASSES, EVENTS, AND SOCIALS

Expand

your mind.

Expand

your community.



REGISTRATION OPENS 9 A.M. AUGUST 11

Stay Curious



About OLLI at Drake

We are a volunteer-supported program of Drake University open to all persons who seek opportunities for lifelong learning. We offer an environment of sharing and fellowship that provides opportunities of intellectual, social and cultural stimulation and growth.



Welcome to Fall 2026 with OLLI at Drake University

Dear OLLI at Drake members and friends,

Welcome to another exciting semester of lifelong learning! Whether you're a returning member or joining us for the first time, we're delighted to have you as part of the OLLI at Drake community.

This fall, we're excited to introduce OLLI at Drake Fellowship Collaborative Classes, a new partnership with Drake University's Office of Engaged Learning. These unique classes bring OLLI members together with Drake faculty participating in the Drake Fellowship program, creating opportunities for shared learning, fresh perspectives, and meaningful intergenerational connections.

We're also pleased to continue the Governor Robert D. Ray and Billie Ray Annual Lecture. This year's featured speaker is Scott Raecker, founding executive director of the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University, who will share insights on the enduring leadership legacy of Governor and Mrs. Ray and its relevance for today's world.

Inside this catalog, you'll find 115 classes, lectures, and special events spanning history, literature, science, the arts, wellness, current events, and more. None of this would be possible without our outstanding volunteer instructors, program committee members, and events and socials committee member whose dedication makes OLLI at Drake such a vibrant learning community.

If you haven't already, remember to purchase your 2026–2027 annual membership. Fall registration opens Tuesday, August 11, at 9:00 a.m. online.

Thank you for being part of OLLI at Drake. We look forward to learning with you this fall!



Tracy Beck
Director
tracy.beck@drake.edu



Lisa Cooper
Program Coordinator
lisa.cooper@drake.edu



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PRESENTING THE OLLI AT DRAKE SERIES

Classic films followed by a discussion led by an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Drake instructor.

THE WOMEN
(1939))

Thursday, September 3
2 p.m.

THE COURT JESTER
(1955)

Thursday, October 1
2 p.m.

DR. NO
(1962)

Thursday, November 5
2 p.m.

**THE BEST EXOTIC
MARIGOLD HOTEL**
(2011)

Thursday, December 3
2 p.m.

How it Works

Non-credit educational opportunities are offered in the fall and spring semesters to our membership of lifelong learners. Instruction is provided by volunteers from Drake University faculty and the community at large. Events and socials are offered regularly to help connect and enrich our membership.

Membership

Annual OLLI at Drake membership extends from July 1 through June 30. A fall and spring catalog will be issued to all members.

- Annual membership \$75 per person
- New members joining in the *spring* semester are eligible for one free class.

Membership Benefits

- Connection to a community of enthusiastic learners in a vibrant university atmosphere
- Access to diverse courses from Drake faculty, community leaders, and experts
- Members-only lectures throughout the year, at no additional cost
- Borrowing privileges at Drake's Cowles Library
- Reserved seating at Drake's Bucksbaum lecture series
- Parking privileges for classes
- Invitations to Drake-sponsored lectures and activities
- Monthly e-newsletter

Mailing Address:
OLLI at Drake
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

Office Location:
Alumni House
2700 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

Volunteer Opportunities

There are multiple opportunities to support OLLI at Drake by sharing your time and talents. Contact the office for details: OLLI@drake.edu or phone 515.271.2120. Training and orientation will be provided.

- **Programming Committee**
generating ideas for program content, providing feedback, and developing courses from concept to reality.
- **Events and Socials Committee**
generating ideas and conducting planning for social events, community tours, and other activities.
- **Membership and Marketing Committee**
providing insight and support for OLLI at Drake membership recruitment and retention strategies.
- **Volunteer Engagement Committee**
supports recruitment, engagement and retention of volunteers working with OLLI at Drake University.
- **OLLI at Drake Council**
general oversight for program creation, financial management, community outreach, membership recruitment and retention.
- **Instructor**
propose a course you would like to teach in an upcoming semester.
- **Host Team**
early class arrival, introducing instructors, greeting and checking in registrants.
- **Administrative Support Team**
supporting class venue set up, office task completion, etc.

Important Information

Values

- **Personal Growth:** We seek to enhance our lives by stimulating thought, providing new opportunities for creative thinking, expanding knowledge, and offering meaningful experiences. We encourage members to interact and enjoy themselves.
- **Knowledge/Learning:** We seek to enjoy the process of learning, the satisfaction of our curiosity, and the pursuit of truth.
- **Respectful:** We seek to create a welcoming environment where people feel safe to express their ideas and opinions.
- **Communication:** We seek to engage clearly, regularly, and directly with members, Drake partners, and other central Iowa communities

Member Communication

- OLLI at Drake uses email as its primary method of communication. If you do not have an email address, please request information to be mailed through USPS.
- OLLI at Drake members will receive an e-newsletter each month, highlighting upcoming OLLI at Drake and campus activities.

Scholarships

Thanks to the generous support of the Osher Foundation, OLLI members, and other donors, OLLI at Drake University offers scholarships to those in financial need. Their contributions make scholarships possible for older adults who would not be able to participate otherwise. Scholarship can be provided for an annual membership and/or up to three classes or events. Thank you!

To request a scholarship, please email olli@drake.edu. All scholarship requests will be confidential.

Name Tags

- All OLLI at Drake members will be issued a name tag. New members' nametags will be mailed to their postal address.

Library Privileges

As a member of OLLI at Drake, you have borrowing privileges at Drake's Cowles Library. Library privileges must be renewed every year. Contact the library to get your library card: call (515) 271-2113. You will need to provide a current form of ID.

Parking Tags

- All OLLI at Drake members attending **in-person classes on the Drake campus** will be issued a parking tag.
- Parking tags issued during the Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters are valid until August 2027.
- Parking tags are to be used in designated OLLI parking locations only during OLLI classes.

Class Locations

Hybrid classes are held at the Harkin Institute, 2800 University Avenue, Des Moines. Offsite class locations are listed with class information.

Refund Policy

Refunds will be processed upon notification to the office at least **two weeks** prior to the commencement of a course or event. Please be advised that refunds will not be granted for partial participation in a class or activity.

Refunds will only be issued for individual class amounts **equal to, or exceeding, \$20**. Alternatively, if a refund is not preferred for a cancellation, the fee can be converted into a tax-deductible contribution.

Important Class Information

Class Registration

- Please register for classes online at <https://alumni.drake.edu/olli>
- In the event you are unable to register online, a registration form and a business reply envelope are enclosed.
- Classes are open to OLLI at Drake members only.
- Registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Each participant should register separately.

OLLI at Drake Hybrid classes

Most of our classes are listed as Hybrid. You can choose to participate in person, or via Zoom. **Please circle IP (in-person) or Z (Zoom) where indicated.** The in-person location for Hybrid classes will be the Harkin Institute building at Drake University.

OLLI at Drake In-Person classes

There are several classes listed as **In-Person**. They may be performances or field trips. We have some classes that the instructor has requested be delivered only in-person.

OLLI at Drake Zoom classes

Some classes are listed as “only Zoom”. We are fortunate to have instructors from all over the country and the virtual delivery works best for the instructor/s to present via Zoom. There are numerous benefits to participating in virtual classes, especially enabling class participation from anywhere in the country.

What you need for Zoom

- High-speed internet connection.
- A computer or iPad.
- A smart phone can be used to participate by video or use dial-in info for those without a computer or smart phone.

Class Cancellations or Changes of Dates

In the rare case of a class cancellation or date change, OLLI at Drake staff will notify the class participants **via email**. **Please check your emails regularly as class dates or delivery modes can change from time to time due to weather issues, illness of instructor, etc.** **Confirmation emails and the website have the latest information for classes.**

OLLI at Drake guest policy

A member may bring a guest to an OLLI at Drake class:

- OLLI at Drake members may invite a nonmember to participate in one class, event or social, if space allows.
- The OLLI member must register the guest with the staff prior to the first class meeting or event. Office staff will determine if there is enough room to add the complimentary guest/s.
- If there is an additional charge for the class or event, the host member or guest will be responsible for the charge.
- Please email olli@drake.edu to register your guest.

We are here to help

OLLI at Drake staff are happy to help all members achieve the most from their class experience. Please contact the staff with any questions.

Director: Tracy Beck

tracy.beck@drake.edu

Program Coordinator: Lisa Cooper

lisa.cooper@drake.edu

General inquiries

olli@drake.edu

SPECIAL OFFER

OLLI at Drake Members can now Purchase Discounted Athletics (General Admission) Season Tickets!

For the first time ever, OLLI at Drake members are now eligible for discounted general admission seating season tickets to Drake Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Football, and Volleyball games! The discount is 20%!!

Tickets Available through Drake Athletics (phone 515-271-3647) or go to this website <https://godrakebulldogs.eventue.net/promotions/OLLI> and use the promo code OLLI

****Proof of current OLLI at Drake membership required at time of purchase.**

Don't miss this chance to support the Bulldogs while enjoying exclusive savings!

You can purchase season tickets for all of the above sports or select one sporting group. What a great way to cheer on the Drake Bulldogs with your fellow OLLI members.



OLLI at Drake Merchandise

The OLLI at Drake 'shop' is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your OLLI merchandise shipped directly to your door. Visit this website to see items that are available. Seasonal clothing items will be switched out during the year.

<https://olliatdrake.vernonpromo.com/en>

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Maximizing your OLLI at Drake Experience – Open House

OLLI at Drake Leadership Team

Monday, August 31

9–10 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

Whether you're joining OLLI at Drake for the first time or returning for another exciting year of lifelong learning, this interactive Open House is the perfect way to begin the semester. Discover how OLLI at Drake works, explore the wide variety of educational, social, and volunteer opportunities available to members, and learn how to make the most of your membership.

During this informative session, you'll receive a brief overview of the history and mission of OLLI at Drake University, along with an introduction to the organization's leadership structure, programs, and member-driven activities. You'll meet members of the OLLI leadership team, hear how they became involved, and learn about the many ways members contribute to the success of the organization.

What's New at Drake with President Marty Martin

President Marty Martin

Monday, August 31

10–11 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

Join President Martin for an informative presentation and update on the state of Drake University. He will discuss the latest initiatives occurring at Drake. Participants will be invited to ask President Martin questions.

President Marty Martin assumed leadership of Drake in July 2015, following a distinguished career as an Air Force officer, law professor, dean, and administrator at Texas Wesleyan and Gonzaga Universities. Raised in Hartford, Kentucky, President Martin received his bachelor's degree and a JD from the University of Kentucky, making him a fourth-generation attorney in his family. He earned an LLM from Yale University School of Law.

Meet the Drake Basketball Coaches

Eric Henderson (Men's Head Coach)

Allison Pohlman (Women's Head Coach)

Monday, August 31

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

See special offer for discounted General Admission Season Tickets for OLLI members!

Hear from Coaches Allison Pohlman and Eric Henderson about the upcoming Drake Basketball seasons. Ask questions about the Bulldog teams, and learn how you can be a part of the excitement inside the Knapp Center.

Eric Henderson was named head coach of the Drake University men's basketball program on March 28, 2025, becoming the 31st head coach in the Bulldogs' history. He is originally from Coggon, Iowa, having previously spent six seasons as the head coach of the South Dakota State Jackrabbits, as well as three years as an assistant at South Dakota State. Henderson guided the Jackrabbits to plenty of success and posted a 129-60 overall record and a 76-20 mark in the Summit League. They won two conference tournament titles en route to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances.

Allison Pohlman, a longtime associate head coach and one of the primary architects of the Drake women's basketball program's renaissance, was named the Suzie Glazer Burt Head Women's Basketball Coach at Drake University on April 18, 2021 and is entering her sixth season leading the Bulldog women. Along the way, the Bulldogs won the program's 10th MVC Regular Season championship, and MVC Tournament championships in 2023 and 2024.

Nature Reimagined: Discover Forest Therapy and Return to Nature's Calm

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski

Tuesday, September 1

9–10 a.m. (Harkin talk – both groups)

1:30–4:30 p.m. (Walking Group 1)

Wednesday, September 2

9 a.m.–12 p.m. (Walking Group 2)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute – first session, and Walnut Woods – hiking sessions

Cost: \$30

Cap: 40 people (divided into two groups of 20)

Indoor session

Explore the calming practice of Shinrin-Yoku, or forest bathing, in this introductory session led by Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Certified Forest & Nature Therapy Guide and owner of Forest Spirit LLC. Learning what forest therapy truly is—an invitation to slow down, be present, notice, and engage the senses. Enjoy a brief presentation on its history and benefits, followed by a short indoor forest-bathing experience using natural items and gentle sensory awareness.

Outdoor field trip/walking session

Join Forest Spirit LLC for a calming, sensory-rich guided walk at Walnut Woods State Park. Through gentle, mindful invitations, this immersive experience encourages you to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with nature. Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-Yoku, the walk supports stress relief, enhances mental clarity, sparks creativity, and deepens your connection to the natural world—leaving you refreshed and renewed.

Karen Johlas-Szalkowski is the owner of Forest Spirit and an environmental educator with 22 years of experience in educational and recreational programming. She offers forest therapy walks, interpretive hikes, workshops, and nature-based programs that support meaningful connection with the natural world. She holds a BS in forestry and environmental studies and is a certified nature and forest therapy guide. As participants engage in the session, she invites them to follow their heart to the forest.

Economic Roundtable

Tom Root

Wednesdays, September 2, October 7,

November 11, December 2

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Ever since its earliest offering during the 2008 financial crisis, the Economic Roundtable has strived to better understand the tumultuous economic environment of the last 18 years. The Fall 2026 class continues its mission with a focus on considering the potential for a future recession, the current state of the labor market, and the impact of the Federal Reserve's efforts to stop inflation. Please join us in discussing what are often conflicting economic signals and political rhetoric in a quest to better understand the current economic environment.

Thomas Root holds four degrees including a PhD in economics from the University of Kansas. He has been teaching in the primary area of finance in the College of Business and Public Administration at Drake since 1999. In addition to being an active member of the academic community, he maintains a close connection to the private sector through both consulting and the delivery of certificate programs taught to area business leaders through Drake's Center for Professional Studies. Root also holds a visiting professorship at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) in Uganda.

Savory Adventures in Iowa's Culinary History

Darcy Maulsby

Wednesday, September 2

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Iowa's delectable cuisine is quintessentially Midwestern, grounded in its rich farming heritage and spiced with diverse ethnic influences. Dig in as I serve up Iowa's tastiest traditions. From the chili-and-cinnamon-rolls phenomenon to Maid-Rites to the moveable feast known as RAGBRAI, discover the remarkable stories behind Iowa classics and savor a smorgasbord of other unique Iowa food traditions with my fun, interactive program. Relish the tantalizing tidbits you missed in history class!

Darcy Maulsby is the author of *Calhoun County; A Culinary History of Iowa; Dallas County; and Iowa Agriculture: A History of Farming, Food and Family* from The History Press and *Classic Restaurants of Des Moines and Their Recipes*.

Water Aerobics (7 sessions)

Darlene Strachan

Thursdays, September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 22, 29, November 5

10–11 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Bell Center Pool, Drake University

Cost: \$30

Class cap: 25

This 7-session class features stretching and dynamic exercises, music, games, dance, and volleyball. Bring a towel and your swimsuit. Exercise equipment such as water buoys and noodles are provided. You do not need to know how to swim to participate in this class. All fitness levels are welcome.

Darlene Strachan's love for water aerobics started years ago as a participant. She has taught water aerobics at Genesis Health Club and OLLI at Drake. Darlene's goal is for everyone to have fun while getting an energetic workout!

Transformation and More

Dennis Kelly

Thursdays, September 3, 10, 17

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Class cap: 25

Learn more about the rapidly changing world within us and around us in this fun and exciting class that focuses on Transformation. What can we do and be aware of to enhance our personal experience during this period of profound change. The class will provide people the opportunity to better understand the nature and magnitude of the changes taking place at this time so they can release any anxiety or fear of the changes.

Dennis Kelly is the founder of *Yoga In The Park*, *Meditation Around Town* and *Experience Nature's Healing*.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

The Women (1939)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, September 3

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 12–1 p.m., Wednesday, September 2)

Directed by George Cukor and adapted from Clare Boothe Luce's Broadway play, this sharp Hollywood comedy portrays the lives and rivalries of affluent New York women. Mary Haines (Norma Shearer) learns that her husband is having an affair with ambitious shopgirl Crystal Allen (Joan Crawford), setting off a cascade of gossip, betrayal, and personal transformation. Featuring an all-female cast—including Rosalind Russell and Joan Fontaine—the film blends sophisticated humor with pointed social observation. Famous for its witty dialogue and a lavish Technicolor fashion-show sequence within an otherwise black-and-white film, *The Women* remains a classic comedy of manners about friendship, rivalry, and independence.

Breath Awareness for

Everyday Life

Davel Patel

Friday, September 4

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$15

Class cap: 25

This introductory 90-minute experiential class invites learners to explore the intelligence of their breath. Through guided practice and insights from functional and slow rhythmic breathing, participants notice how breath patterns shift throughout daily life. The session builds practical awareness that supports better sleep, physiological balance, and emotional adaptability. Participants leave with simple tools to regulate stress and relate to their breath in more subtle and effective ways, meeting life's changing demands with greater steadiness, clarity, and embodied presence.

Davel Patel, founder of AURA BREATH, is a certified and trauma-informed breathworker with specialised training in three distinct spheres of breathwork-therapeutic, coherent, and functional. She helps people harness the brain-body innate intelligence for healing, clarity, and connection, drawing on complementary disciplines including Integrated Eye Movement Therapy (IEMT) and somatic practice.

On the Iowa Tenderloin Trail

Brick Street Cafe, Bondurant

Friday, September 4

12:30–2 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Brick Street Cafe, Bondurant

Cost: ** *Participants pay at restaurant*

Cap: 40

Join us for a fun luncheon at Brick Street Café & Drive-Thru, a locally owned, diner-style cafe in Bondurant, Iowa. Our location, just off of the Highway 65 / 330 diagonal, allows easy access from Altoona, Ankeny, Marshalltown and the greater Des Moines metro area. Voted best Tenderloins in Iowa in 2014.

The Sopranos: Shakespeare in the Suburbs?

Jody Swilky

Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Critics have compared *The Sopranos* to Shakespearean tragedy, because the groundbreaking prestige TV series explores the dark complications of family drama, political conflict, and psychological turmoil, focusing on the consequences of loyalty and betrayal, violence and revenge, youth and aging. What makes *The Sopranos* a contemporary tragicomedy? How do the primary characters in the series contend with circumstances and challenges in ways similar to characters in *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *King Lear*? How does the series speak to current familial, national, and global concerns?

Using clips from episodes in the TV series that embody the aforementioned themes and concerns, we will explore *The Sopranos* as a modern Shakespearean tragicomedy. Questions and concerns will be addressed in lectures and discussions. Viewing the episodes prior to classes is not required, but watching them will help you understand the larger context of the clips we analyze.

Jody Swilky has written and co-produced documentary films, taught courses at Drake University and other schools focusing on the historical functions of documentary, and lectured on the film genre at several universities in the US and Mexico. He wrote and co-produced the award-winning documentary *A Little Salsa on the Prairie: The Changing Character of Perry, Iowa*, which has had over 50 public screenings, been featured

at film festivals, and shown on Iowa Public Television. Professor Swilky has received grants from The National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Iowa, Iowa Arts Council, and the Bock Family Foundation.

An Introduction to Chaos and Fractals

Alexander Kleiner

Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

In the latter part of the 20th century, advances in mathematics and increased computing power led to new ideas in a broad spectrum of fields. Some of these ideas reached the public in the form of phrases such as “The Butterfly Effect”, “Period three implies Chaos”, “How long is the coastline of Great Britain” and “The Mandelbrot Set”. These ideas and the pictures that often accompanied them were part of a “new” field that became known as “Chaos and Fractals”.

In this course we will consider such phrases, in the perspectives of sources, meaning, and consequences to explain the subject. Along the way, we will develop, at the level of high school algebra, the ideas of mathematical iteration, complex numbers, and the complex plane.

There will be occasional, optional problems, these are for students who want to follow up on class presentation. They will not be collected or graded.

Alexander Kleiner has three degrees in mathematics including a PhD from Texas A&M, and taught mathematics at Drake from 1969 to 2012. At Drake he developed a course in Chaos and Fractals and taught it multiple times.

Birdwatching in Central Iowa

Dennis Thompson

Wednesdays, September 9, 16, 23

8–9:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: TBD

Cost: \$30

Cap: 15 people

Join one of Iowa’s foremost birders, Dennis Thompson, for a morning bird walk exploring central Iowa parks. We’ll look for a wide variety of species in various habitats. Novices are very welcome. Bring binoculars and a small notebook to record your sightings. Participants will receive meeting directions via email prior to the class. Expect some uneven terrain and wear sturdy shoes.

Dennis Thompson has been active in central Iowa birding circles for over 35 years. He has served as president of the Des Moines Audubon Society several times and has led monthly field trips for that organization for the past 25 years. Dennis has also been the compiler for the Des Moines Audubon Christmas Bird Count since the mid-80s. Dennis is retired from Wells Fargo.

MAC COMPUTERS: Essentials and Support

Sam Wormley

**Wednesdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30, and
October 14, 21, 28**

(7 weeks, with no class on October 7)

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

This class is offered in conjunction with OLLI at ISU.

Join Sam Wormley as he reviews the basic function and operation of the Mac operating system, essentials, and capabilities. Also emphasized will be privacy, security, interoperability with other Apple products, and addressing your needs.

Sam Wormley has degrees in mathematics and electrical engineering and taught as an adjunct professor of astronomy at Marshalltown Community College for 17 years. Wormley regularly teaches science and technology for OLLI at Drake and OLLI at Iowa State.

OLLI at Drake Book Club

Lori Blachford

**Wednesdays, September 9, October 14,
November 11, December 9**

12–1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

Join us for the OLLI at Drake Book Club this fall as we read and reflect on four new books by award-winning authors. All four books feature themes and points of view that will not only challenge our perceptions of the world – but also our place in that world. Engaging and meaningful discussions are guaranteed! Join those discussions online each month.

Discussions will take place online each month. The schedule looks like this:

September 10: *Vigil* by George Saunders
October 14: *Go Gentle* by Maria Semple

November 11: *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always
Been Against This* by Omar El Akkad

December 9: *Python's Kiss* by Louise Erdrich

Lori Blachford is the former Chair of Magazine Journalism at Drake University. Her most recent storytelling efforts support a variety of nonprofit organizations in Central Iowa. She describes herself as a voracious reader, an eager listener, and a tireless learner.

The World in Review

Ellen Pirro

**Wednesdays, September 9, October 7,
November 4, December 2**

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Join Ellen for a monthly update on the current happenings in international relations and European politics. This class examines the resurgence of a world organized in major poles – three at this time – who contend with each other for dominance. The unipolar world centered around the United States from 1989 (the end of the Cold War) to roughly 2008 is gone. The United States faces major challenges from Russia and China, each of whom has global ambitions. Their goals will be examined and we will look to the future in this fast-evolving situation.

Ellen Pirro is a political science professor at Iowa State University, specializing in international relations and European politics. She has also served as a faculty member at Drake University. She founded and directed the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at ISU. She was named teacher of the year at ISU in 2012, and in 2014 she received the university's International Service Award. Ellen has coauthored a book *The European Union & the Member States* with retired Drake professor Eleanor Zeff.

Science in the News

Mike Meetz, Sam Wormley

**Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24, and
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (8 weeks)**

9–10:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

This class is offered in conjunction with OLLI at ISU.

Mike Meetz and Sam Wormley team up to provide a lively discussion with OLLI members about Science in the News. A deep understanding of science is not required to share and discuss recent Science in the News.

Mike Meetz retired from the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine after 35 years as a scientist. An amateur naturalist, he volunteers for the National Park Service, Iowa DNR, and Story County Conservation Board. Meetz and his wife have reconstructed a 38-acre prairie.

Sam Wormley has degrees in mathematics and electrical engineering and taught as an adjunct professor of astronomy at Marshalltown Community College for 17 years. Wormley regularly teaches science and technology for OLLI at Drake and OLLI at Iowa State.

Knitting and Crafts Social Group

Thursdays (every 2 weeks)

**September 10 through November 19
12–1:30 p.m.**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Alumni House

Cost: FREE

Join our Knitting & Craft Group! Calling all lifelong learners and creative minds! Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just eager to try something new, our friendly group is the perfect place to unwind, share skills, and spark inspiration. Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, or any craft you love—along with your curiosity and conversation! Come create, connect, and learn together. This group will meet every two weeks at the Drake Alumni House.

The Great Monarch Migration

Heidi Anderson

Thursday, September 10

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Jester Park Nature Center, Granger

Cost: FREE

Cap: 75

Join us for an engaging look into the life of the iconic monarch butterfly. We'll explore the "super-generation" of monarchs—the tiny travelers that fly thousands of miles to their winter home in the forests of Mexico. After an indoor presentation on their unique biology and the challenges they face, we'll head outside to catch and tag migrating monarchs to help researchers track their journey. *Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring your sense of wonder!*

Heidi Anderson is a Naturalist with Polk County Conservation. Over the last 29 years she has educated thousands of people about our natural resources through educational programming, radio, television, newspaper articles, and social media. Heidi has a bachelor's of science degree from Iowa State University in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. Heidi and her family live on an acreage near Madrid, Iowa. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, gardening and hiking.

Exploring Fairfield, Iowa

Friday, September 11

10:00 a.m.–3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Fairfield, IA

Cost: \$55

Cap: 40

Self drive

Join us for a tour of locations not often explored in Fairfield, Iowa. The itinerary is as follows:

10:00 a.m.: Explore the history at the **Carnegie Historical Museum**, one of Iowa's five oldest museums, dating back to 1876 and housed in the first Carnegie Library west of the Mississippi River. Inside, you'll find an eclectic collection that spans centuries and continents—Native American pottery, Civil War artifacts, Roman antiquities, and stories rooted in Fairfield's own heritage. Whether you're fascinated by Abraham Lincoln, ancient civilizations, or the quirky threads of small-town history, this museum offers something unexpected for everyone.

12 p.m.: **McElhinney House** for lunch. *Menu options will be emailed to participants in advance.* Step into a beautifully preserved historic home that tells the story of Fairfield's early families and civic spirit. This stop includes a catered meal, making it both a taste of history and a taste of hospitality.

1:30 p.m.: **Johnny Clock Museum** – Lockridge, Iowa. Discover the charm of one man's remarkable craftsmanship at the Johnny Clock Museum, where every clock tells more than time—it tells a story. Self-taught woodworker John McClain created intricate, fully functioning clocks from memory, transforming Iowa hardwoods into masterpieces of art and engineering. The museum showcases dozens of these handmade treasures, along with tools, memorabilia, and a homespun atmosphere that captures the spirit of small-town ingenuity. Quirky, creative, and utterly unique, the Johnny Clock Museum is a stop that delights visitors.

Gothic Literature: An Introduction

Daniel Parks

**Mondays, September 14, 21, 28
9:30–11 a.m.**

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Gothic Literature is known for its gloomy and mysterious aesthetics and the often torturous journeys of its protagonists. In this course, we'll define and explore the genre and examine its two forms—threat from the supernatural, and characters who are haunted by their own psychological demons. Together, we'll be taking an in-depth look into three examples of Gothic Literature.

Students are highly encouraged—but not required—to familiarize themselves with the following three classic texts. All of them are widely available online for free: *The Fall of the House of Usher* by Edgar Allan Poe, *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James, and *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson.

Daniel Parks is a graduate of Iowa State University with over 12 years of specialized experience teaching at the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) through the North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in Mason City. Alongside his academic background in liberal studies, Daniel works with the Des Moines Art Center and shares his passion for regional architecture and history by hosting historic walking tours of Sherman Hill.

Lunch and Learn at Wallace Family Farm, Orient, IA

Monday, September 14

12:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Gathering Barn, Wallace Farm, Orient

Cost: \$35

Cap: 60

Visit the Wallace Farm (birthplace of Henry A. Wallace) at the Gathering Barn for a farm-to-table luncheon, presentation by the farm manager, tour of the corn plots, and hike through the beautiful restored Iowa prairie art walk.

The meal will be an Iowa Pork Chop with apple butter glaze, herb roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables and includes a garden salad, homemade seasonal dessert, water, iced tea and coffee. Beer and wine are available for purchase. Note: dietary restrictions can be accommodated.

Public Opinion Surveys and Polls: An Introduction

Adrien Halliez

**Tuesdays, September 15, 22
12–1:30 p.m.**

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

During this class, I will provide a brief history of the survey method in US politics, an overview of what we are currently using, a discussion of how to interpret approval ratings (with some insights from a project I am working on), and an exercise revolving around survey design. The benefits of the session would be to promote some tools to better understand public opinion dynamics in everyday life and to be more mindful of certain distortions and oversights that commercial polls include.

Originally from France, **Adrien Halliez** specializes in US public opinion, populist politics and immigration policy. He has previously held a visiting position at Wake Forest University, NC and earned a PhD from Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA) in 2023.

Film Discussions that Focus on Women, Family, and Culture

Patty Reynolds

**Wednesdays, September 16, October 21,
November 18, December 16**

12–1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

Join us for the OLLI at Drake Film Discussion group. Films include two documentaries: *A Girl in the River: A Lesson in Forgiveness* (an attempted honor killing), and *For Sama* (a woman and her family in war-torn Syria). Films to be discussed will be: *Secrets and Lies* – a film which explores the consequences of adoption. *Two Family House*, is a true story of complications that arise from an unusual situation. *Fatal Attraction* is a modern horror film. Focus will be on discussion, after viewing the films on your own.

Patty Reynolds has a BA in English and secondary education, and Law degree from University of Iowa. After graduating from the University of Iowa, she worked as an attorney for Legal Aid in several cities in Iowa. For the last 29 years of her career, she was a public defender in Des Moines, representing indigent defendants in criminal cases, pending on appeal, in front of the Iowa Supreme Court.

Great Americans of the 20th Century

Paul Morris

Wednesdays, September 16, 23, 30

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course will examine the careers of Americans who made very important contributions to their country, but whose stories are now slipping from public memory. Examples include: Frances Kelsey of the FDA, who fought to prevent the approval of thalidomide; A. Philip Randolph, who founded the first Black trade union and pressed successfully for desegregation of the defense industry in 1941; Vannavar Bush, who headed the office overseeing the Manhattan Project and the development of radar; Archibald Cox, whose firing as Watergate Special Prosecutor was a key moment in that scandal; and others equally impactful.

Paul Morris has degrees in economics and business, and an MA in history at the University of Iowa. He has served as the Chief Information Officer at Tufts, Emory and Drake Universities and has also taught numerous classes for OLLI, primarily about history.

Iowa Architectural Foundation: AUTO ROW

Wednesday, September 16

5–6:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Meeting Location: Capital Square, DSM

Cost: \$30

Cap: 30

Explore the streets of Des Moines' historic "Auto Row" on this engaging Iowa Architectural Foundation walking tour of downtown's west side. From the late nineteenth century through the 1930s, Iowa was home to a thriving automotive industry, and Des Moines played a key role in designing, manufacturing, and selling automobiles—from early electric carriages to luxury gasoline-powered cars. Participants will discover how the rise of the automobile shaped the city's architecture, commerce, and identity during one of the most transformative periods in Iowa history.

This tour is offered by the **Iowa Architectural Foundation**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring the appreciation of architecture and design through adult enrichment and youth education programs.

I Do Declare! Understanding the Logic of the Declaration of Independence

Dennis Goldford

Thursday, September 17

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Though we usually tend to read The Declaration of Independence quite casually as a text of political rhetoric, it in fact presents a remarkably structured argument. It is a much more substantial document than casual readers might realize. In this one-session course during the 250th anniversary of its creation, we will examine the text to tease out its logic, enhancing both our understanding of the document's logic and our appreciation of the brilliance of its authors.

Dennis Goldford retired in 2024 from Drake after 39 years on the faculty, teaching in the areas of political theory, American politics, and constitutional law. He received a BA in political science and philosophy from the University of Michigan, an MLitt in philosophy from Oxford University, and an MA and PhD in political science from the University of Chicago. Professor Goldford has presented classes to the RaySociety and OLLI for years, and now continues his writing as a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative (dennisgoldford.substack.com) as well as his service as KCCI political analyst.

How Revolutionary was the American Revolutionary War?

John Liepa

Fridays, September 18, October 2, 9

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

As we celebrate this country's 250th anniversary, what is it we are exactly celebrating? Did we simply replace George III with George Washington, and nothing else really changed? We'll explore the key causes, long-term and short-term; the key people and most important events; and finally, the outcomes, immediate and long-term. What did our Founding Fathers believe about equality? Did they really believe in democracy? Let's explore together how far we've come since the 1783 Treaty of Paris and our recognition as a sovereign nation.

John Liepa is an emeritus professor of history and political science at DMACC with BS (1968) and MA (1971) degrees from ISU. He taught courses in US and Iowa History, American National Government, Western Civilizations, and since retirement, has taught several classes for OLLI at Drake..

Ireland: Moments & Memories

René Lego

Friday, September 18

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

“Nothing develops intelligence like travel.” – Emile Zola

Little did René Lego know, when she joined OLLI at Drake two years ago, that it would open the door to engaging classes, wonderful new friends, and opportunities to travel abroad. OLLI at Drake partnered with EF Go Ahead Tours and Drake professors Craig Owens and Yasmina Din Madden to curate an amazing itinerary. After traveling to France with the group last year, René was excited to experience the Emerald Isle this June. The journey was truly special, and she is delighted to share the moments and memories from 11 unforgettable days in Ireland.

René Lego spent her entire career in the insurance industry, except for her final—and most memorable—role as a Senior Center Coordinator. Now happily retired, she delights in time spent with flowers, reading, genealogy, and travel.

Iowa’s Forgotten Governments: The Importance of Townships in Our State’s History

Tom Rice

Monday, September 21

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Unless you are from the countryside, you probably know almost nothing about townships, yet these units of government used to be as important as counties in the day-to-day lives of rural Iowans. This course reviews the history of townships in our state, their evolving responsibilities, and the pluses and minuses to their near total disappearance. Along the way, lots of humorous stories about townships will be shared, including the time that thousands of Hawkeye football

fans got stranded on muddy roads after a game and a teenage experience by the instructor.

Tom Rice earned a BA in Political Science from Iowa State University in 1979, and was actively involved in the 1976 Jimmy Carter presidential campaign at the county, state, and national levels, as well as serving as a White House intern in 1977. He completed an MA (1981) and PhD (1983) in Political Science at the University of Iowa, taught at the University of Vermont from 1983 to 1996 (serving as department chair), and co-founded Campaign Marketing Associates, Inc., a public opinion research firm later sold to Macro, Inc. Returning to Iowa in 1996, he held faculty and leadership positions at Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa (department chair), and the University of Iowa, where he chaired the political science department, served as Associate Provost for Faculty from 2010 to 2014, managed the AIB College of Business campus from 2014 to 2019, and retired in December 2023. Tom is the author of two books and more than 50 academic articles on elections and political behavior and has remained deeply engaged in civic life through service on numerous nonprofit, community, and public boards, including the Iowa Architectural Foundation Board.

Fascinating Moments in Music History, and the Geniuses Who Created Them

Jonathan Sturm

Mondays, September 21, 28, October 12, 19

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Enhanced by slides and videos that contextualize the great music from Europe’s past, course attendees will experience music they perhaps have never heard, and will delve more deeply into repertoire that may be among their favorites. Examples will be drawn from over 800 years of music ranging from 1200 CE to the present. We will explore the music in detail in order to understand the minds of the human beings who composed the notes.

Jonathan Sturm serves as concertmaster of the Des Moines Symphony, and for 36 years taught violin, viola, and music history at universities in Iowa and Rhode Island. His credentials include: Doctor of Music, Indiana University, Master of Musicology, Eastman School of Music, Morrill Professor emeritus of Music History, Iowa State University. In May, 2026, Jonathan was chosen to be the next Music Director and Conductor of the Des Moines Civic Orchestra.

Advanced Tai Chi

Daniel Alexander

Tuesdays (12-1 p.m.):

September 22, 29, October 6, 20, 27

November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8

Fridays (12-1 p.m.):

September 25, October 2, 16, 23, 30,

November 6, 13, 20, December 4

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Cap: 25

***Materials needed for the class will be provided free of charge at the first class. This class meets twice per week.*

There are many claims about the positive benefits of Tai Chi, and it is our hope that with regular practice, you will notice a difference in overall flexibility, fitness, and your ability to relax. This course is advanced in the sense it is a continuation of the Beginning OLLI Tai Chi course the instructor taught. Rather than learn forms and routines from scratch, as in the beginner's class, we will begin with a week or two of thorough review. Videos from past classes will also be made available. Depending on the interest of the class, new material may also be introduced. Beginners are very welcome, although you should contact the instructor (at daniel.alexander@drake.edu) in advance to discuss whether the class is right for you – if you have a spirit of adventure (and are comfortable learning to swim by swimming) or have any experience with Tai Chi, you should be ok. This course is taught with the spirit that any movement is good movement. If any parts of our routine are not comfortable, you do not need to do them. If you have any health concerns about taking the class, we recommend that you consult your physician.

Daniel Alexander is a retired Drake mathematics professor. He has practiced Tai Chi for over 20 years and has co-facilitated a local Tai Chi group since 2018.

Walking Meditation

Kathy Bernreuter

**Wednesdays, September 23, 30, October 7
12-1 p.m.**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: TBD

Cost: \$30

Learn to put together two of our simplest activities – breathing and walking – in a meditative way that can improve your physical and mental well-being. Research shows that combining patterns of breath synchronized with your walking steps produces a relaxation response and improved mood better than either on their own.

The technique is simple, natural and effective - you can practice it anywhere! Weather permitting, class will meet at three lovely, outdoor public green spaces in Des Moines. Wear comfortable walking shoes, dress appropriately for the weather and bring a water bottle.

Kathy Bernreuter is a certified Level 1 Kundalini Yoga instructor who also studied Breathwalk at KYL in Chicago. She enjoys teaching yoga and meditation in unconventional formats including outdoors walking, seated in chairs and through story time with kids. Currently, Kathy is Volunteer Coordinator for Dorothy's House and a docent at the Des Moines Art Center. She recently completed her certificate in Horticultural Therapy and is passionate about many forms of healing practices including gardening, horses, dancing and art.

France, Italy, and the Stage:

A Journey of Wine and Song

Leif Gustafson, Marcus Hanson

Wednesday, September 23

6-7:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: The Cork 50131, Johnston

Cost: \$55

Cap: 40

What if the secret to truly understanding a world-class wine isn't found at the bottom of the glass, but in the notes of a song? For centuries, the rolling hills of France and Italy didn't just cultivate legendary vineyards—they birthed the soaring, visceral passions of classical opera.

Leif Gustafson is a recovering attorney who opened The Cork 50131 with his wife Tricia in 2022. Leif is a wine aficionado who enjoys introducing people to new wines, especially those with an interesting geographical/historical story.

This immersive sensory experience is presented by **Marcus Hanson**, former professional Bass-baritone and Portfolio Director for Small Lot Imports in Minneapolis, MN. Known dynamically as "The Opera Wine Guy," Marcus bridges his two greatest passions by stripping away the academic pretense of wine tasting and replacing it with pure, unadulterated joy. Part musical recital and part wine masterclass, this unique session pairs exquisite European pours with the powerful French and Italian operatic arias that share their native soil. You will look past generic labels, unlock the hidden "emotional terroir" of legendary regions, and discover how music and wine perfectly elevate one another. Come ready to sip, listen, and experience the Old World with all five senses.

Pelican Migration

Patrice Petersen-Keys

Thursday, September 24

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Jester Park Nature Center, Granger

Cost: FREE

Cap: 75

American White Pelicans are among North America's largest and most striking birds. They glide across inland lakes and wetlands with nine-foot wingspans, working together to herd fish into the shallows. This program follows their seasonal journey from bustling northern breeding colonies—where adults sport bright orange bills and a temporary breeding “horn”—to their winter refuges along the Gulf Coast and Mexico. Through cooperative feeding, synchronized flight, and the spectacle of long-distance migration, participants will discover how these birds depend on wetland ecosystems and the importance of protecting the habitats that sustain them.

Patrice Petersen-Keys has worked for Polk County Conservation for the past 32 years and has been environmental education coordinator since 1998. Patrice supervises the education staff and the Youth Corps program. She still loves speaking to the public about Iowa's diverse natural resources and encourages them to play outside.

Exploring Beautiful Iowa Falls!

Friday, September 25

FULL DAY

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Iowa Falls

Cost: \$55

Cap: 40

Self drive

It's time to relax with your OLLI at Drake friends in Iowa Falls. You will enjoy seeing the Pat Clark Art Collection in a historic Carnegie Library building. And what better way to eat lunch than on a 90-minute cruise on the Scenic City Express, as you enjoy a 3.5-mile guided tour on the Iowa River. If you arrive early stop at the Coffee Attic & Book Cellar for coffee, a light breakfast and to view the current featured artist's work. Be sure to check out the Iowa Falls Swinging Bridge, stroll through the fun shops in historic downtown Iowa Falls, and enjoy a cold one at Timbukbru Brewery.

GOVERNOR ROBERT D. RAY

AND BILLIE RAY ANNUAL

LECTURE: Perpetuating

the Legacy of Leadership

demonstrated by Governor

Robert D. and Billie Lee Ray

Scott Raecker

Monday, September 28

4:00–5:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

Scott Raecker, founding executive director of the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University, will provide insights into the legacy of leadership demonstrated by Governor and Mrs. Ray that are life lessons for today and future generations. Scott worked with Governor Ray for nearly 30 years through the Iowa Sesquicentennial Celebration (1996) and the founding and growth of the organization that is now known as The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. The Ray Center mission is to enhance civility through character development and ethical leadership.

The work of The Ray Center honors two of Drake University's most respected alumni whose humanitarian efforts, character, and leadership set an inspirational example for multiple generations. In this program, Scott will connect leadership lessons from Governor and Mrs. Ray to the work of The Ray Center that perpetuates their legacy of leadership now and into the future. Through public awareness and programming grounded in research, The Ray Center provides character education and leadership development resources to improve civility and produce meaningful, measurable, and sustainable results in schools, organizations, families, and communities.

The Ray Center is the global home to CHARACTER COUNTS! serving over 9 million youth worldwide to help build students' character, social-emotional, and academic skills while shaping a positive school culture. The Center also works in the public arena including annual engagements to create a culture of excellence and civility with state legislative leaders in all 50 states, all US territories, Canada, and Mexico. In association with the Olson Institute for Public Democracy at Drake, The Greater Des Moines Partnership, and the National and Iowa League of Cities, The Ray Center coordinates the National Civility Summit for Local Government. This annual event provides government officials, both elected and appointed, with best practices to lead an engaged and participatory government.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

The Court Jester (1955)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, October 1

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Thursday, October 1)

This lively medieval spoof starring Danny Kaye blends musical comedy, swashbuckling adventure, and rapid-fire wordplay. Directed by Melvin Frank and Norman Panama, the film follows timid entertainer Hubert Hawkins, who becomes entangled in a rebel plot to restore a rightful king to the throne. Disguised as the notorious court jester Giacomo, Hubert must navigate palace intrigue, romance, and danger while keeping up the ruse. Memorable performances from Glynis Johns, Basil Rathbone, and Angela Lansbury complement Kaye's athletic comic timing. The famous "vessel with the pestle" routine and colorful spectacle make *The Court Jester* a beloved classic of screen comedy.

The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Nazi Germany

David Wessel

Friday, October 2

8:30–10 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

Cap: 100

This class is offered in conjunction with Osher at William and Mary.

This presentation will review how historians characterized the role of ordinary German citizens as their country slipped into a militaristic dictatorship in the 1920s and 30s. Were they willing collaborators – or victims of a megalomaniac? The presenter will share the story of his own father, who grew up on both sides of the Atlantic in the 20s and 30s, and how members of his own family chose to deal with the demise of democracy within their homeland. Some chose to leave while others decided to stay, despite their misgivings, and still others endorsed the Nazi Party.

David K. Wessel is a retired US diplomat and lifelong amateur historian who has studied 20th century Germany for the last 50 years. He published his first novel, *Choosing Sides*, about an ordinary family torn apart by Hitler's Germany, in 2024, and is currently working on the sequel, *Changing Sides*, about post-War intelligence

operations in Germany and Austria. Mr. Wessel is a member of the American Historical Association and National Council for Social Studies as well as the Historical Novel Society and Northern Virginia Writers Club and serves on the Board of Governors for the Virginia Writers Club.

The Legacy of 4-H

Iowa PBS

Friday, October 2

2–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Light refreshments provided.

In this new documentary from Iowa PBS, *The Legacy of 4-H* explores the origins of the nation's largest youth organization, tracing its roots to the early 1900s. The film celebrates Jessie Field Shambaugh, known as the "Mother of 4-H," and her lasting influence on youth education, highlighting how 4-H has empowered generations.

The event includes the hour-long film and a producer talkback with **Laurel Bower**, who has produced documentaries for Iowa PBS for more than 20 years.

Hidden Treasures of Ames

Monday, October 5

10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: various locations, Ames, IA

Cost: \$55

Cap: 40

Join OLLI at Drake members for a tour of the Iowa State University Veterinary Clinic. These tours will be led by ISU veterinary students.

While still on the ISU campus, we will visit the Textiles and Clothing Museum which features a teaching collection of over 9,500 historical and ethnic textile pieces, garments, and accessories.

Lunch will be a delicious BBQ buffet at Cornbred, on the historic Main Street of Ames. And the day will finish with a visit to beautiful Reiman Gardens.

Chair Yoga

Inés Rojas

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27
9–10 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

Chair Yoga is a gentle practice in which yoga poses are done with the help of a chair or seated. For standing poses, the chair helps with balance. Chair yoga is great for beginners and for people with physical disabilities or who have a hard time getting up and down from the floor. The practice increases flexibility, strength, and awareness. Additionally, we will be using breathing techniques and meditation to promote relaxation and mental clarity.

Inés Rojas is originally from Venezuela, and now lives in Ibiza, Spain. She has a 200-hour Yoga Instructor Certificate from Power Life Yoga (2024) in Des Moines and a 300-hour Yoga Teacher Training (2019) from SVYASA, India. She is a retired university professor for Universidad de los Andes. After retiring, she went to India where she got her 300-hour YTT certification. Upon returning to Venezuela, she created a yoga group of people in their 50–70s. She later traveled to Des Moines and taught at Drake University as a visiting professor for two years. After the contract ended, she stayed in Des Moines and worked on her 200-hour YTT at Power Life Yoga and as a bilingual family liaison at Des Moines Public Schools, and continues to teach English and Spanish classes online.

FIRST LADIES:

Past, Present, & Future

Stacy Cordery

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 27
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Monday, October 19

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

First Ladies have always been much more than the power behind the throne. Their influence is global. Their authority is unchecked. They operate without a job description. Many have wrought positive, lasting change, while some we barely remember. Recent First Ladies have surprisingly and profoundly reshaped the position. This course will explore the evolution of the role, its traditions, contradictions, controversies, influence, and future, while focusing on important first ladies from 1776 to today.

Recently retired ISU historian **Stacy A. Cordery** is an award-winning professor and author of five books. In addition to her many other media and academic appearances, she has provided expert analysis on C-SPAN's "First Ladies: Image & Influence," Smithsonian tv's "First Ladies Revealed," and the History Channel's "Mrs. President" series. She earned her PhD from the University of Texas, with a specialty in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.

The Hidden Battlefield: Critical Infrastructure in the Age of Hybrid Warfare

Diogenes Ayala

Tuesday, October 6

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Modern conflict increasingly targets the systems societies rely on every day—hospitals, power grids, transportation networks, and digital infrastructure. This session examines how cyber attacks, sabotage, disinformation, and terrorism intersect in today's era of hybrid warfare. Drawing on real-world incidents and national security trends, participants will explore how critical infrastructure has become a frontline in modern conflict and what leaders can do to strengthen resilience and preparedness.

Diogenes Ayala holds graduate degrees in criminal justice from Simpson College and a master's in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School. A US Navy veteran, he has advanced counterterrorism training, delivering 47 counter-IED courses and training 662 responders, earning prestigious honors for his expertise in homeland security.

Saratoga and the Wars in the North

Buck Beasom

Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29

9–11 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

This class is offered in conjunction with Osher at William and Mary.

This course traces the road to the American Revolution from the French & Indian War to the American Victory at Saratoga, with all that the victory meant in terms of the geopolitics of the late 18th century. We look at the

early campaigns on the frontier between the Colonies and Canada, the troubled politics on both sides of the Atlantic and the 10 different engagements, over five months, that culminated with the British surrender.

Buck Beasom teaches courses for OLLI chapters across the country. He has a two-track career that includes four decades in data management and applications development while he also taught courses in Business, Accounting and Economics. He also spent five years teaching History at the Middle and High School levels. He has a BS in management science, with additional majors in history and economics, and MBA in accounting.

LifeServe Blood Drive

LifeServe Staff Members

Thursday, October 8

1–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 5625 NW Johnston Dr., Johnston

Cost: FREE

Cap: 30

Join us for a behind-the-scenes visit to LifeServe Blood Center's Johnston facility. This event will include an overview of LifeServe's mission, a tour of the new building, and a chance to learn your blood type. For those interested, there will be the opportunity to donate blood.

LifeServe Blood Center is a non-profit, community-based blood center that has served the needs of local hospitals and patients in our regions since 1947. As one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe provides blood products to 175 hospitals primarily in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Illinois.

Beginning Mah Jongg

Margie Davidson

Fridays, October 9, 16, 23, 30

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute Boardroom

Cost: \$45

Cap: 16

Want to challenge and exercise your brain by learning a new game? Mah Jongg is a fascinating rummy-like game played with tiles rather than cards. It is a game of skill, strategy and calculation and it involves a certain degree of chance. The four-player table version should not be confused with the tile matching computer game version, which is a recent invention and completely

different from the table game. This class will follow the rules of the National Mah Jongg League, using an annually updated card that outlines the standard hands. Learners will work with experienced players during each class session as they learn rules, strategies, and all the challenging aspects of this game.

Margie Davidson learned to play Mah Jongg in a RaySociety class in 2012 and since then has been playing once or twice a week. She began teaching Mahj in 2013 through the RaySociety and Des Moines Continuing Education. To date she has taught over 225 people this wonderful game.

True Crime: The Murder of Mary Rogers

Daniel Parks

Friday, October 9

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

This course examines the 1841 unsolved murder of Mary Rogers. Participants will act as “armchair detectives,” analyzing the case through the lens of period police and journalistic practices. The course also explores Edgar Allan Poe’s short story based on the mystery and uses the text *The Beautiful Cigar Girl: Mary Rogers, Edgar Allan Poe and the Invention of Murder* by Daniel Stashower.

Daniel Parks – see previous biography.

Still We Move: Migration, Memory, and the Making of Black Iowa

Abena Sankofa Imhotep

Mondays, October 12, 19, 26

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course traces Black movement to Iowa, from early migrations like Buxton and the Great Migration to the ongoing pursuit of justice, stability, and belonging. Across three sessions, we examine how Black Iowans have navigated the Midwest’s contradictions, built community in unlikely spaces, and continuously redefined what it means to call Iowa home, not just in survival, but in resistance, creativity, and vision.

Abena Sankofa Imhotep is an author, advocate, and speaker whose work celebrates Africana, challenges historical narratives, and champions literacy. As the founder of Sankofa Literary & Empowerment Group, she creates lifelong learning spaces and strives for authentic community connection.

Get Your Drake Library Card and Tour the Library Archives

Monday, October 12

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Cowles Library, Drake University

Cost: FREE

This informative tour of the Cowles Library gives OLLI members an overview of the collections at the Library, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Drake Archives.

Take advantage of this opportunity, as an OLLI at Drake member, to apply for (or renew) your free Drake Library Card. Staff will be able to process your card application while you are visiting the Library. Bring a photo ID – driver's license or passport.

The 2026 Mid-Term Elections: Before and After

Tom Rice

**Tuesday, October 13, and Friday, November 6
2–3:30 p.m.**

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

The 2026 mid-term elections are shaping up to be among the most important in our nation's history. This course meets twice: once before the elections to give students a summary of the major campaign issues and themes, and to provide a handy take-home guide to the bellwether races to watch on election night; and once after the election to analyze the results and what they mean for American politics. US House and Senate races will be covered, as well as state and local races here in Iowa.

Tom Rice earned a BA in Political Science from Iowa State University in 1979, and was actively involved in the 1976 Jimmy Carter presidential campaign at the county, state, and national levels, as well as serving as a White House intern in 1977. He completed an MA (1981) and PhD (1983) in Political Science at the University of Iowa, taught at the University of Vermont from 1983 to 1996 (serving as department chair), and co-founded Campaign Marketing Associates, Inc., a public opinion

research firm later sold to Macro, Inc. Returning to Iowa in 1996, he held faculty and leadership positions at Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa (department chair), and the University of Iowa, where he chaired the political science department, served as Associate Provost for Faculty from 2010 to 2014, managed the AIB College of Business campus from 2014 to 2019, and retired in December 2023. Tom is the author of two books and more than 50 academic articles on elections and political behavior and has remained deeply engaged in civic life through service on numerous nonprofit, community, and public boards, including the Iowa Architectural Foundation Board.

The Organist as Orchestrator

Linda Bryant

Wednesday, October 14

9:30–11 a.m. (Option 1) OR

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (Option 2)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Scottish Rite Park, 2909 Woodland Ave.

Cost: \$15

Class cap: 13 participants/session

Participants will be assigned their session after registration.

Ever wonder why a solo in an orchestra piece is an oboe instead of a violin? Why/how did the composer make that choice? What resources did he/she envision to bring this composition to life? An organist wrestles with questions such as these every time he/she delves into a piece of music. What sounds are available to me? How do they blend together? What are my best choices for interpreting this piece satisfactorily? Did the composer give me clues or am I on my own? This class will explore these questions and more with the use of an Allen electronic organ and the goal of helping the listener listen better, whatever the music!

Linda Bryant is a graduate of Drake University and Valparaiso University with degrees in Organ Performance. She also holds the CAGO certificate from the American Guild of Organists. She has worked for many years in churches of various sizes and as a recitalist in various venues. Her most recent position was as College Organist and adjunct for Organ at Grinnell College, a position she held for 20 years, retiring in 2021.

Farms as Ecosystems: Hope for a New Future?

Tom Rosburg

Wednesdays, October 14, 28 and

Friday, October 23

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Growing up in the 1950s or 1960s meant that there was a good chance you lived on a 160 or 240 acre farm. Farming in those days was modeled after natural ecosystems. This class will discuss the value (and arguably the necessity) of farming systems that acknowledge and respect ecological principles. The future of farming may depend on it.

Thomas Rosburg has been a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Drake University since 1996. He has a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, a Masters in Plant Ecology, and a BS in Fish and Wildlife Biology, all from Iowa State University.

Autumn Expedition

Lewis Major

Thursday, October 15

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Brown's Woods

Cost: FREE

Cap: 40

Ditch the lecture hall and grab your flannel, we're heading into the woods for an autumn expedition. This isn't a power-walk; it's a high-vibe, low-speed investigative stroll through nature's annual "closing time." Immerse yourself in the forest's golden glow as sunbeams pierce the crimson canopy, illuminating a slow-motion dance of falling leaves. It is a serene, ethereal atmosphere that only Mother Nature can conduct. Together, we'll uncover the science behind the scenery and see how a few chemical shifts create one of the most spectacular floral displays on Earth.

Lewis Major is a naturalist with Polk County Conservation. For the past 30 years, he has been teaching conservation education and outdoor recreation to people of all ages. He is extremely passionate about getting people outdoors and connecting them with their natural world.

The Preparedness Gap: Why Communities Ignore Warnings Until Disaster Strikes

Diogenes Ayala

Friday, October 16

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Despite clear warnings and growing risks, many communities fail to prepare for disasters until it is too late. This session explores the psychological, social, and organizational factors that cause people to underestimate threats and delay action. Using real-world examples from severe weather, public safety incidents, and crisis response, this presentation examines why preparedness is often ignored—and how leaders can close the gap before the next disaster strikes.

Diogenes Ayala – see previous biography.

Rusty Stars Alpacas

Aron and Kari Shultz

Wednesday, October 21

2–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 2054 Rustic Ln., Winterset

Cost: FREE

Join us for a short road trip to visit Rusty Stars Alpacas located east of Winterset. You will learn about the history of the farm, and hear an overview of the operation while interacting with the alpacas (food is provided if you choose to feed them). These gentle animals provide wonderful fiber and you may choose to browse the lovely alpaca products available in the farm gift shop.

This 20-acre farm welcomes visitors to feed and pet their more than 30 alpacas. The farm's owners, **Aron and Kari Shultz**, bought their first two alpacas more than a decade ago. Leaving behind their full-time jobs and relocating to Iowa from Colorado, the couple said they decided to start the farm and make it accessible to the public.

Martin Bucksbaum Business Lecture Series: **KAREN HAO and NICHOLAS THOMPSON**

Wednesday, October 21

7–8:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center, 2525 Forest Ave.

Cost: FREE

Cap: 300

Reserved seating for OLLI at Drake members.

OLLI members may bring a guest to this special event. Please remember to register your guest.

AI is rapidly changing everything about how we work, live, and find meaning. How did we get here—and where are we going? In this insightful, far-ranging conversation, two of the world's sharpest thinkers on AI and the future bring their deep expertise to the biggest question of our time

Karen Hao is an award-winning journalist covering the impacts of artificial intelligence on society. She co-hosts the BBC podcast *The Interface* and contributes to publications including *More Perfect Union* and *The Atlantic*. She also co-created the Pulitzer Center's AI Spotlight Series, a program that has trained thousands of journalists around the world on how to cover AI. She was formerly a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, covering American and Chinese tech companies, and a senior editor for AI at *MIT Technology Review*. She has received numerous accolades for her coverage, including an American Humanist Media Award, an American National Magazine Award for Journalists Under 30, and a TIME100 AI honor. She received her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from MIT.

Nicholas Thompson is the CEO of *The Atlantic*, a position he has held since 2021. He was previously the editor-in-chief of *WIRED* and the editor of *New Yorker.com*. Thompson is also a cofounder of The Atavist, a multimedia CMS that was sold to WordPress, and Speakeasy.ai, which was sold to Amplica Labs. He is a board member at ProRata.AI and The National Committee on American Foreign Policy, as well as the author of *The Hawk and the Dove: Paul Nitze, George Kennan, and the History of the Cold War*. He films a daily video on tech policy for LinkedIn and has roughly two million followers across social media platforms. He has long been a competitive runner; in 2021, he set the American record for men 45+ in the 50K race. His second book, "The Running Ground," will be published by Random House this fall.

The **Bucksbaum Lectureship in Business** is a signature event of Drake's Zimpleman College of Business. Made possible by a generous gift from the Bucksbaum family, it brings distinguished leaders in business and economics to Des Moines to engage with students, faculty, and the community. The discussions focus on how business and entrepreneurialism can create both an economic and societal impact.

The **Martin Bucksbaum Lectureship Series** is made possible by a gift from the late Melva and Martin Bucksbaum. The Martin Bucksbaum Lectureship Committee includes Dr. Kelly Bruhn (chair), Dr. Alanah Mitchell, Dr. Neil Hamilton, Mary Scanlan, Pam Bass-Bookey, Janis Ruan, Marcia Wanamaker, Eleanor Zeff, Bob Riley, Julie Stewart, Liz Hatfield, Dr. Richard Deming, Dr. Cassity Gutierrez, Shawna Kasner-Hannam, Paul LeFort, and Allie Koenigsfeld. Thanks to a recent additional gift from the Bucksbaums, the well-established lecture series now includes two lectureship tracks—the Bucksbaum Lectureship in Business, launched in Fall 2023, and the original Bucksbaum Distinguished Lectureship.

The Amazing Osage

Melissa Burdick

Thursday, October 22

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Brenton Arboretum, 25141 260th Street, Dallas Center

Cost: FREE

Cap: 50

You are invited to discover one of North America's most curious and charismatic trees. Through engaging visuals, stories, and science, this presentation explores the Osage Orange's unusual fruit, remarkable strength, deep cultural history, and surprising ecological role. Equal parts informative and playful, it reveals how this often-misunderstood tree has shaped landscapes, supported wildlife, and captured human imagination for centuries—proving that even the strangest trees have extraordinary stories to tell.

Melissa Burdick has been the Executive Director at The Brenton Arboretum in Dallas Center, Iowa, for nine years. Prior to this, she served as Director of Horticulture at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Nebraska, for three years and as Curator of Herbaceous Collections at The Norfolk Botanical Garden in Virginia for eight years.

In addition to serving in roles at botanical gardens, Melissa has been a prolific garden communicator as a writer for State-by-State Gardening publications, writer

and in-house horticulture expert for van Bourgondien Bulb Co., and as co-host of Gardening Today on Iowa's WHO Radio, AM 1040.

A native of Alabama, Melissa earned her bachelor's degree in Landscape Design from Auburn University and a master's in public horticulture administration from the Longwood Gardens Graduate Program at the University of Delaware.

Des Moines Police Department Strategic Plan

Chief Michael McTaggart

Friday, October 23

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Join Des Moines Police Chief Michael McTaggart who will present a brief background of the Des Moines Police Department and its reasoning for developing a strategic plan, followed by how the plan was developed and structured. He will show goals and the implementation process, and the final aspect of the accountability framework and where the plan is after one year. Question and answer session to follow presentation.

Chief Michael McTaggart is a 26-year veteran of the Des Moines Police Department. During his career, he has worked as a patrol officer, robbery/homicide detective, and SWAT Team member. In 2011, Chief McTaggart was promoted to Sergeant. Since that time, he has supervised the patrol division, robbery/homicide section, family conflict unit, and the SWAT Team while also advancing in rank to Lieutenant, Captain, Major and now Chief. He holds a BA in Criminology from the University of Northern Iowa and a MS in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. He is a graduate of the Northwestern School of Staff and Command. Chief McTaggart also graduated from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Senior Management Institute for Police in Boston.

Uncovering Des Moines' Hidden Histories

Breann Bye

Fridays, October 23, 30

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

At the River's Edge: The Southeast Bottoms and Roadside Settlement House: Before levees, highways, and redevelopment reshaped the southeast side of Des Moines, the area known as the Southeast Bottoms was home to working-class families, immigrant communities, riverfront industry, and one of the city's most important social reform institutions. This course will explore the history of the Roadside Settlement House, its move to the South Bottom near the Des Moines River, and the women reformers who used settlement work to offer education, recreation, social services, and community connection. Along the way, we'll examine what this low-lying river district reveals about class, labor, immigration, public health, reform, and the neighborhoods that often shaped Des Moines from the margins.

From Amusement Park to Urban Corridor: The Story of Ingersoll Avenue: Long before Ingersoll Avenue became one of Des Moines' best-known restaurant, retail, and residential corridors, it was tied to streetcars, early suburban development, and an amusement park near 42nd Street that helped draw people west. This course will trace Ingersoll's evolution from pleasure destination and streetcar corridor to a fashionable residential address, commercial main street, and modern urban corridor shaped by changing transportation, housing, architecture, business, and neighborhood identity. From Ingersoll Park to the Avenues of today, we'll look at how one street tells a much larger story about how Des Moines grew, entertained itself, reinvented its neighborhoods, and moved west.

Breann Bye is a Project Manager in the City of Des Moines' Office of Economic Development, where she supports small businesses and property owners. She previously led the 6th Avenue Corridor Main Street Program and holds dual master's degrees in planning and architecture from Iowa State. A certified revitalization and historic real estate professional, Breann lives with her family in a 1905 home on 6th Avenue and enjoys researching Des Moines history, gardening, and home rehab.

The History of the Drake Relays

Blake Boldon

Monday, October 26

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

Founded in 1910, the Drake Relays grew from a small early-season track meet at Drake University into one of the nation's premier track and field events, earning the nickname "America's Athletic Classic." Despite a snowy first meet, the Relays quickly gained national recognition through milestones such as the first world record in 1914, one of the earliest radio broadcasts of a major track meet in 1922, and the construction of Drake Stadium in 1926, home of the iconic Blue Oval. The event has showcased legendary athletes including Jesse Owens and Wilma Rudolph while expanding to include women's competition and becoming a launching pad for Olympic talent. Today, the week-long Drake Relays combine elite high school, collegiate, and professional competition with community celebrations, making it a signature sporting tradition in Des Moines.

Blake Boldon was named the 12th Franklin P. Johnson Director of the Drake Relays in October, 2016. Entering his tenth year in this role, he also serves as a Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Operations at Drake University. Under his leadership the Drake Relays have become a cornerstone of the World Athletics Continental Tour in North America while also forging community partnerships with organizations like Adaptive Sports Iowa, Special Olympics Iowa and others.

OLLI at Drake Scavenger Hunt

Jan Hetzel and Jeanne Lubavs

Monday, October 26

3:45–5:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: TBD

Cost: FREE

Join fellow OLLI at Drake members on a fun scavenger hunt, and then meet up at a local venue to enjoy Happy Hour and review the results of the Hunt. Participants can either work individually or in teams.

POLITICS IN AMERICA:

Midterms Mayhem

Tom Henderson, Doug Gross

Tuesday, October 27

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Join fellow OLLI at Drake members for an in-depth discussion of the upcoming midterm elections with political experts Doug Gross and Tom Henderson. Drawing on their decades of experience in Iowa politics, they will examine the key races, candidates, campaign issues, and political trends shaping the election. Tom and Doug will share their insights into the key factors affecting these important midterm election races.

Douglas E. Gross received his BA from Iowa Wesleyan College and his JD from Drake. He is a member of BrownWinick law firm. Doug has extensive campaign experience in Iowa, including involvement in numerous successful gubernatorial, congressional, and state legislative campaigns. Among other positions, he served as chief of staff to Governor Terry Branstad and administrative assistant to Governor Robert D. Ray.

Tom Henderson is a public administration and law graduate of Drake University. While at Drake he served as Student Body President. He practices law at Whitfield & Eddy Law Firm in Des Moines. He has specialized in civil trial practice, and has been peer selected to the American College of Trial Lawyers. He serves as the Grimes City Attorney. Through the Iowa State Bar Association, he served as President of the Young Lawyers Division, and is currently co-chair of the bar's political action committee, LawPAC. In the Democratic Party, he attended the 1996 and 2000 National Conventions as part of the Iowa Delegation, and served for 19 years as Polk County Democratic Chair.

The Invincible Czars perform

Faust

The Invincible Czars

Tuesday, October 27

6 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Fleur Cinema, 4545 Fleur Dr., DSM

Cost: \$25

Join OLLI at Drake members for an **exclusive** performance by the Invincible Czars from Austin, TX, as they perform an amazing array of instruments: piano, violin, electric guitar/bass, organ, flute, drums, and bass

clarinet to accompany a screening of the original silent masterpiece *Faust* (FW Murnau). They create a live experience so immersive that it's easy to forget the music is being played live at times! Their brand new electrifying score marries new and old elements of classical music, bossa nova and even a touch of heavy metal to bring the movie to life for contemporary audiences and incorporates a mix of instruments like flute, violin and electric guitar.

The **Invincible Czars** have been making adventurous, fun music with a cinematic flare since 2003. They started out in the clubs of Austin, TX, but their eclectic instrumentation and broad scope quickly led them to crossovers into the fine arts realm nationwide. (Band member on violin and keyboard is Phil Davidson, son of OLLI members, Margie and Jay Davidson.)

Abraham Lincoln: Radical Originalist

Ranney Ramsey

Wednesdays, October 28, November 4

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

Abraham Lincoln argued passionately for a Vision of American life rooted in what a modern historian (Gordon Wood) has called the Radicalism of the American Revolution. These Radical principles ennobled ordinary people

Lincoln's lesser known speeches are the first focus of this presentation. His monumental speeches: the Gettysburg address and the Second Inaugural are poetic expressions of his Vision but the lesser known speeches – the Peoria (1854) address and Coopers Union (1860) – were the nuts and bolts of political struggle. The arguments of these lesser-known speeches contain the roots of the Constitutional reformation called 'The Reconstruction'. A contemporary legal scholar (Akhil Reed Amar) identifies the Constitutional principle of this reformation– in a recent book entitled "Born Equal" – and credits Lincoln as the most important 19th century source.

These lesser known speeches were also part of the Great Debate between Lincoln's Vision of equality and Stephen Douglas's principle of popular sovereignty – a debate continuing off and on for seven years (1853-60).

How Lincoln's war time efforts began Constitutional change is the second focus of this presentation. The arguments for this Vision evolve thru Lincoln's wartime messages, letters, policies and Last speech. The Reconstruction amendments (13th to 15th) are the eventual products. It draws heavily on the work of the late historian Don Fehrenbacher.

Ranney Ramsey has a BA in Economics and Speech from Wichita State University and an MA in Rhetoric and Public Address from Emporia State University. He successfully completed his oral and written examinations for a PhD degree in Speech Communication from the University of Utah. Following a brief tenure as Director of Debate and Forensics at Washburn University of Topeka he pursued a further career in commercial real estate appraising.

THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY: The Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925

Bennett Smith

Thursdays, October 29, November 5

Friday, November 13

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This class is offered in collaboration with Osher at William and Mary University.

The Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925 was an epic clash between William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow over the apparent conflict between religion and science. It began when a high school teacher named John Scopes of Dayton, TN, was recruited to willingly violate the Butler Act which the state of Tennessee had passed prohibiting the teaching of human evolution in Tennessee classrooms. The clash proved to be of long-lasting significance because it dealt with key Constitutional issues that were foundational to the American republic. Issues such as academic freedom, free speech, majoritarianism and the role of religion in American life.

Bennett Smith was a full-time instructor in history and political science at North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) beginning in 2014 and retired in 2026. He holds a BS in speech communication and MA in history from Iowa State University. He is from Clear Lake, IA and currently serves on the Clear Lake City Council.

The Ever-Evolving World of Financial Crime

Detective Kyle Gruver

Friday, October 30

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

The first portion of the presentation will be focused on current fraud and scam trends. This section will be informational and is intended to educate the audience not only on current financial crime activity locally but also methods to keep themselves and their personal information safe from victimization. The second portion of the presentation will be a case study examining

a large-scale check fraud investigation from 2024. This investigation culminated in significant criminal charges and uncovered a fraudulent check production operation within a Des Moines residence.

Detective Kyle Gruver has spent a total of 16 years in law enforcement, the past nine of which have been with the Des Moines Police Department. He is currently assigned to the Crimes Against Property Section – Special Assignment Unit where he serves a dual role as an arson investigator and financial crimes detective. Additionally, he is a member of the Metro STAR Crisis Negotiation Team where he serves as a Crisis Negotiator. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University.

PUNDITS, POLLS & POLITICS:

The 2026 Mid-Term Election!

Doug Stowell

Friday, October 30

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

This class is offered in collaboration with Osher at William and Mary University.

On November 3, all 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 35 in the Senate are up for re-elections. Hundreds of local and state offices and issues will be settled. Turnout in POTUS elections is about 60%. Mid-terms? Barely 40%. This mid-term may be more consequential than any recent election.

So let's dig into all the national issues, looking at how they rank – by party affiliation, generation, and region. We'll look at some of the better forecasts of results, and we'll conduct our own online, in-class polls of issues/results. YES, we will forecast the House & Senate results by party!

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran. His career includes market research positions for Xerox Corp., NOP, Ltd. in London and Wirthlin Worldwide in Washington, D.C. He launched Market Resource Associates in 2008 and conducts opinion research on global issues. He is a member of the Furman University Osher Institute in South Carolina and conducts Zoom programs for more than 80 organizations worldwide.

HEALTHY EATING SERIES:

International Style

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, Lisa LaValle

Monday, November 2

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. LUNCH & LEARN

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Cap: 60

Getting tired of eating the same old healthy foods? The cuisines from other countries can offer fun, interesting, and exciting healthy foods. Lisa and Patty spent time in Japan this year and will use this session to introduce you to a few delicious Japanese foods that are also easy to make!

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk was the Medical Director and State Epidemiologist at the Iowa Department of Public Health for 24 years. She is now semi-retired; continuing to teach at various universities and working on projects such as how to change behaviors to prevent dementia. Her background includes being a hospital clinical microbiologist, being a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal, and training as a field epidemiologist in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.

Lisa LaValle recently retired as the owner of Trellis at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, and for more than 30 years elevated fine dining experiences at her restaurants in Des Moines. Lisa's specialty is creating healthy, locally-sourced dishes and menus.

NAME THAT TUNE:

A Jazz Quiz Show

Abe Goldstien

Mondays, November 2, 9, 16, 23

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

With jazz it's not about what is played but how it is played. To illustrate the point, "Name That Tune" will introduce you to tunes you are probably familiar with played by a variety of jazz musicians and in a variety of styles. Participants will be asked to "Name That Tune," after which they will learn more about the tune and the jazz artist who recorded it. The people who can name the most tunes during the four sessions will receive special prizes.

Abe Goldstien is an educator, promoter, reviewer, and radio personality. Abe is often referred to as Des Moines' leading jazz advocate. Born in Rochester, NY, Abe has been a vital part of the jazz community in Des Moines since arriving at Drake in 1969. Since that time, he has owned a record store, promoted concerts, hosted radio shows, taught jazz history/

appreciation courses, and written reviews. Having listened to and read about jazz since age eight, his knowledge and passion for jazz is contagious

YOU BE THE JURY: The Jury Selection Process

Jeff Noble

Monday, November 2

6–10 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Drake Legal Clinic, Drake University

Cost: \$15

Cap: 60

Find out what it takes to be selected on a jury. Drake law students will lead a jury selection class where participants learn about interacting with an entire jury panel, deciding who they would keep for a trial and who they would excuse. Participants sit as potential jurors, are questioned by the students, and are either “selected” or “excused,” as potential jurors.

Jeff Noble graduated from Iowa State University in 1984 with a Degree in Computer Science and from Drake University Law School in 1990. Immediately after law school, he went to work at the Polk County Attorney’s Office where he handled everything from Simple Misdemeanors to Class A felonies.

He retired from the Polk County Attorney’s Office in January of 2023 as a Bureau Chief in the Intake Division of the office, supervising a staff of 11 attorneys and a dozen legal assistants. In addition to his work with the Polk County Attorney’s Office, he has been a Trial Advocacy Instructor at Drake Law School for over two decades and has coached Drake Law School’s Intercollegiate Mock Trial Teams off and on for over 30 years.

While retired from active practice, he is currently an adjunct professor at Drake University Law School teaching Trial Advocacy and Criminal Procedure.

Artificial Intelligence for Beginners: Beyond the Basics

Bill Mogolov

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Artificial Intelligence for Beginners: Beyond the Basics is designed specifically for people who are comfortable using ChatGPT for simple tasks—asking questions, getting information, writing emails, brainstorming ideas, and other

everyday uses. It’s also the perfect next step for anyone who has taken Bill Mogolov’s Artificial Intelligence for Beginners OLLI class.

Don’t let the title fool you. This is not a highly technical or programming course. Everything is explained in plain English with step-by-step demonstrations, plenty of examples, and lots of opportunities to ask questions. If you already have a basic understanding of ChatGPT, you’re ready for this class.

During this fun, hands-on course, you’ll discover many of the amazing capabilities that most people never realize AI has. You’ll learn practical techniques that can save you time, make everyday tasks easier, and open up exciting new possibilities using ChatGPT and other leading AI tools.

As an added bonus, every participant receives free access to Bill Mogolov’s exclusive AI learning website, filled with articles, tutorials, videos, and helpful resources to continue learning long after the class ends. Participants will also receive free access to Bill’s two books: *Artificial Intelligence for Beginners*, *ChatGPT: Beyond the Basics*

Bill Mogolov is passionate about AI and has participated in online training and extensive hands-on experience with ChatGPT, Gemini, Notebook LM, and Perplexity. A former entrepreneur and substitute teacher in the WDM Schools, he has also taught business courses at the women’s prison at Mitchellville, Iowa. He has a strong foundation in Artificial Intelligence, gained through both formal learning and hands-on experience.

Classic Film Noir

Carl Johnson

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24

1:30–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

This class will explore the elements of the film genre known as Film Noir through the examination of four quintessential examples: *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), *Double Indemnity* (1944), *Out of the Past* (1947), and *Touch of Evil* (1958). Particular attention will be paid to the similarities in direction, cinematography/lighting, and plot elements.

Carl Johnson received his undergraduate degree in music education and his teaching credential from UCLA, then spent 19 years teaching high school instrumental music in California. He moved to Urbandale in 1992 and received his master’s degree in conducting from Drake University in 1994. He has taught classes in numerous adjunct and part-time capacities ever since. He was the music director/conductor of the Des Moines Community Orchestra, conducted annual musicals with the Urbandale Community Theatre, and is the assistant director of the Greater Des Moines Community Band.

Hike the Largest Staircase in the World!

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk
Wednesday, November 4
10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID
 Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom
 Cost: \$15

Have you heard of “The Grand Staircase?” The first step is the Grand Canyon and the last step is Bryce Canyon National Park. Take a virtual tour through the five national parks that are part of this staircase (all in the southwest US), find out what is unique about its geology, and how this “Grand Staircase” was formed.

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk see previous biography.

SIGHT UNSEEN: Art, Design, and Modern-Era Camouflage

Roy Behrens
Thursdays, November 5, 12, 19
10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM
 Cost: \$45

This class is offered in collaboration with Osher at William and Mary University.

This is a three-part series of richly illustrated slide talks about the role of artists, designers, architects and others in the development of modern-era camouflage, beginning with World War One. Among the topics emphasized are: How animal coloration was adapted for military purposes. Why civilian professional artists (such as visual artists, architects, and theatre designers) were actively recruited to serve as camouflage experts. Why “dazzling” cubist-style designs were used as ship camouflage in both world wars. And the role of American women in camouflage.

Also featured in the talks is a major exhibition at the International Spy Museum in Washington DC, titled *Camouflage: Designed to Deceive*. The instructor of this course was chosen to write the catalog introduction for that exhibition, and Kathryn Keane, the museum’s vice-president, will appear in one of the sessions.

Roy R. Behrens is an emeritus professor and distinguished scholar at the University of Northern Iowa. Before his retirement, he taught graphic design and design history for 45 years at various American art schools and universities. He is the author of ten books (including four on camouflage), the most recent of which are *Frank Lloyd Wright and Mason City: Architectural Heart of the Prairie* (History Press 2015) and *Dreams of Fields: Memory Traces of Iowa’s Past* (Ice Cube Press 2025). For detailed information about his work, please visit this website at

<http://bobolinkbooks.com/BALLAST/> as well as his well-known blog at <https://camoupedia.blogspot.com/>

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema Dr. No (1962)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie
Thursday, November 5
2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 4–5 p.m, Wednesday, November 4)

Directed by Terence Young and based on the novel by Ian Fleming, *Dr. No* introduced audiences to the cinematic adventures of James Bond. Sean Connery makes his debut as the suave British agent sent to Jamaica to investigate the disappearance of a colleague. His mission leads him to the mysterious scientist Dr. No, whose plan threatens American rocket launches. The film established many elements of the enduring Bond formula—exotic settings, stylish action, and memorable villains. A highlight is the iconic entrance of Honey Ryder, played by Ursula Andress. Its success launched one of the longest-running and most influential film franchises in cinema history.

Linedancing with Capital City Steppers and Linedancers, Des Moines

JoAnn Hughes
Fridays, November 6, 13
10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Park Fair Mall

Cost: \$10

Cap: 40

Put on your dancing shoes or boots and join the Capital City Steppers of Des Moines. They are the premier Stepping and Soul Line Dance organization in the Des Moines area, offering a fun, healthy community atmosphere. Participants will learn 4-5 dances.

JoAnn Hughes has been a choreographer 30+ years and has choreographed for the Des Moines Playhouse, Drama Workshop, Gateway Dance Theatre, Tyrone Anderson and Fire Lip-sync group, and Central Iowa Repertory Theater, and Capital City Steppers Des Moines, IA. She retired from Gateway Theatre after 30 years with 23 years as a Performing Artist, Assistant Instructor, and Choreographer. JoAnn has participated in workshops with renowned national dance artists, and performed in numerous appearances and concerts with Gateway Dance Theatre throughout Iowa as an ensemble dancer, lead dancer, and soloist.

Drake Jazz Ensemble Concert and Reception

Andrew Classen

Friday, November 6

6–8:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Turner Jazz Center

Cost: \$30 (incl. wine and cheese reception)

Limit: 60

Join OLLI members for a Drake Jazz Ensemble performance led by Andrew Classen at the Turner Jazz Center. There will be a wine and cheese reception prior to the performance.

Andrew Classen is Professor of Trumpet and Jazz Studies at Drake University. He is currently principal trumpet with Orchestra Iowa. He has played with numerous Broadway shows including: *Wicked*, *Spamalot*, *Book of Mormon*, *Hairspray*, *Annie*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Producers*, *Chicago* (solo trumpet), *The Full Monty*, *42nd Street*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Andrew Classen became the inaugural holder of the Fred and Patty Turner Professorship in Jazz, thanks to a \$1 million gift from Drake alumnus Fred Turner. He is the leader of the Turner Center Jazz Orchestra. Their first album is *Class 'n Jazz: The Music of Andy Classen*. He received a bachelor in music education degree from the University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire and a master of music degree in trumpet performance from the University of Tennessee.

Happy Now? Shattering the Myth of Happily Ever After

Sylvia Nemmers

Monday, November 9

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$15

Cap: 40

In 2023 I had the pleasure of doing three talks for OLLI at Drake where I shared different aspects of my life's journey. I so enjoyed that experience that I, with the support of a great friend, decided to write a book entitled *Happy Now? Shattering the Myth of Happily Ever After*. During this talk I will give an overview of my book as well as discussing the process, motivation, and rewards of the writing process. If you have ever considered writing a book please join me. If you have never considered writing a book, you should also join!

Sylvia Nemmers was born totally blind, but had a surgery at the age of four that gave her a little vision back. A few months after that surgery, she was placed in a residential institutional school for the blind, where she lived for three years. She then attended a private Catholic school with the

children of doctors, lawyers, and politicians. In high school, she was told she shouldn't study science. She now holds a BS and MS in Biochemistry and a PhD in Environmental Science, and is the Department Chair for the largest environmental science programs in the USA. She has lived in six countries and seven states, is fluent in Arabic, and has three amazing grown children.

She has recently published a book entitled *Happy Now? Shattering the myth of happily ever after*. In this book she explores with the reader her experiences of living blind in a sighted world. Her journey from Christianity to Islam and beyond. Her life in Pakistan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Greece. She also invites the reader into her inner world of inadequacy, and her hero's journey to authenticity.

100 Years of PIONEER HI-BRED: 1926-2026

Dean Podlich

Monday, November 9

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Founded in 1926 on the vision of Henry A. Wallace, Pioneer Hi-Bred began with the belief that science, innovation, and a deep understanding of farmers' needs could transform agriculture. Through historical photos and video footage, this presentation celebrates 100 years of Pioneer and the enduring legacy the brand has built through scientific advancement, trusted relationships, and a commitment to progress. It traces Pioneer's journey from its humble beginnings in central Iowa to its far-reaching impact on farming around the world, highlighting the people, innovations, and values that have shaped the company across generations.

Dean Podlich serves as Digital Seed Lead at Corteva Agriscience in Johnston, Iowa. He joined the Research & Development organization of Pioneer Hi-Bred, now Corteva Agriscience, in 2001. In his current role, Dean leads the team driving digital enablement across Corteva's seed R&D pipelines, spanning breeding, biotechnology, gene editing, and regulatory affairs. He also has a strong interest in the history of US agriculture and recently co-authored a book celebrating the 100-year legacy of Pioneer. Dean earned his PhD in Quantitative Genetics from The University of Queensland.

You Be the Jury!

Jeff Noble

Mondays, November 9, 16, 23

6–10 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Drake University Legal Clinic

Cost: \$15/session

Cap: 60 per evening (12 jurors, 50 audience)

Attend Drake Law's Mock Trials and participate as a juror or audience member. You may attend 1, 2, or 3 events. Each trial problem is different, so the same trial is not repeated. The law students are talented and you'll be impressed by their advocacy. **Please register for each session separately.**

Jeff Noble see previous biography.

Strengthening Our Community With AARP Iowa

Michael Wagler

Robert Lyons

Wednesday, November 11

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Light refreshments will be served between presentations.

Session 1: Did you know that each state has its own AARP office? With over 300,000 members in Iowa and nearly 200 active volunteers, AARP Iowa is engaged directly in local, state, and federal issue advocacy; community outreach and educational programming; and fun activities that build social connections. This session will explore some exciting ways that AARP Iowa engages with your community.

Michael Wagler is the State Director of AARP Iowa. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. In addition to his role at AARP, he also helped lead the revitalization of the Varsity Cinema.

Session 2: Volunteering with AARP Iowa & Its Affiliates
Think AARP Iowa volunteering is just events and presentations? Think again. From leading local events and speaking across the state to helping with tax preparation, teaching Driver Safety, or supporting life-changing Wish of a Lifetime experiences, there's a role for nearly every interest and schedule. This session will give you a fast, engaging look at the full range of opportunities—both in-person and virtual—and help you find where you can make the biggest impact.

Robert Lyons is the AARP Iowa Outreach Manager. He handles the organization's statewide volunteer network, coordinates its in-person and virtual events, and builds its livable communities portfolio. Robert has a bachelor's degree from Simpson College and MPA from American University in Washington, DC.

ANDERSON GALLERY: Curating/Art History Capstone

Sascha Crasnow

Wednesday, November 11

4–5:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Anderson Gallery

Cost: FREE

The Art History Capstone introduces students to the professional practice of curating by involving them in the preliminary research and planning of an on-campus exhibition or in its execution, including layout and installation. Come to the Anderson Gallery to hear directly from Drake students discussing their unique projects.

Sascha Crasnow (she/her) received her PhD in Art History, Theory, and Criticism from the University of California San Diego in 2018 with a specialization in contemporary art from South West Asia and North Africa (SWANA), especially Palestine. She writes on global contemporary art practices, with a particular focus on SWANA (South West Asia and North Africa), race, socio-politics, gender, and sexuality. Her writing has appeared in publications such as *Art Journal*, the *Journal of Visual Culture* and *Lateral*, as well as in a number of edited volumes.

Her current book project, *The Age of Disillusionment: Palestinian Art After the Intifadas*, is an analysis of contemporary Palestinian art production after the Second Intifada. She is also co-editor of the publication *Queer Contemporary Art of Southwest Asia and North Africa* with Anne Marie Butler from Intellect Press published in October 2024.

Shaping Truth: Turning Life Into Story

Carla Malden

Thursdays, November 12, 19

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

This class is offered in collaboration with Osher at William and Mary University.

Author Carla Malden shares her personal writing journey from nonfiction to fiction, exploring the process of shaping real life into narrative. Malden will offer a behind-the-scenes look

at the art of storytelling across genres while providing a deep dive into her work.

Carla Malden was raised in Los Angeles, and grew up surrounded by the entertainment industry. Her father was Academy Award-winning actor Karl Malden. She attended UCLA where she majored in English and graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She began her career in motion picture production and development before segueing into screenwriting when she and her husband, Laurence Starkman, became a writing team. While working as a screenwriter, Carla co-wrote her father's critically acclaimed autobiography, *When Do I Start?*

Following the death of her husband, Carla wrote *After Image: A Brokenhearted Memoir of a Charmed Life*, a fiercely personal account of the last year of his life and her first year without him.

Despite the pain of reliving that time, the process reminded Carla of the power and beauty of prose. She turned to fiction with *Search Heartache* (2019), followed by *Shine Until Tomorrow* (2021), and *My Two And Only* (2023) – well-received novels that diversely explored similar themes of women and girls overcoming loss and pain and finding new paths forward. Her latest novel, *Playback*, was released in August, 2025.

Carla Malden lives in Brentwood with her husband, entertainment attorney Norman Beil. They reside 10 minutes from her daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons.

Ireland and the Literature of Place

Craig Owens

Fridays, November 13, 20

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This class is offered in collaboration with Osher at William and Mary University.

Irish Literature of the twentieth century often evokes a rich sense of place and tradition. In this class, we will read and discuss short stories, poems, and a novel from the twentieth-century Irish tradition whose themes, characters, and/or plots are deeply ingrained in the landscape and history of the island. In addition to the literary texts included in the reading list, we will also examine visual representations of Ireland, in the form of photography, video, and painting to come to a richer appreciation of how land and tradition influence the works we read together.

Craig Owens is the Executive Director of the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and was previously Professor of

English and Dean of the John Dee Bright College at Drake University, which launched in 2020. Owens graduated with honors in English Literature and Latin from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and earned his doctorate in English from Indiana University-Bloomington. Owens has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters; edited three volumes of academic essays; and authored *Staging Technology: Medium, Machinery & Modern Drama*, which examines the interrelationship between theatre production and advances in media and technology in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Tax-Smart Retirement Income Planning

Jay Ennis

Mondays, November 16, 23

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

It's often said that two of the biggest obstacles affecting financial security in retirement are taxes and inflation. Since inflation is not something we can control, tax planning in retirement becomes more important. This course covers a number of important strategies for planning income in retirement with a focus on taxes. It includes strategies for a range of income and asset levels so everyone can benefit from attending regardless of wealth or income.

Jay Ennis is a Financial Advisor and Des Moines native.

He has more than 30 years experience and has been an Independent Financial Advisor since 2001.

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UPDATE: Carbon Pipelines

Jessica Mazour

Wednesday, November 18

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Jessica Mazour returns with an update for OLLI members about carbon pipelines in Iowa. Her presentation will be right before the 2026 legislative session. ... For several years, Iowans across all political divides have joined together to stop the controversial Summit and Wolf Carbon Pipelines. Promoted as climate solutions and ethanol-lifesavers by the Carbon Capture and Storage industry; farmers, environmentalists and local governments have teamed up to

protect the land, communities and futures of those along the proposed routes.

Jessica Mazour, a lifelong Iowan, graduated from Iowa State University and has worked on agriculture and environment issues for over a decade at various Iowa non-profits. Jessica has spent the last three years organizing over 800 Iowa landowners, local governments and legislators to pass zoning ordinances, legal challenges and legislation.

Experience the Newly Reopened Iowa Jewish Heritage Museum

Dawn Matinez-Oropoza

Sophie Homonoff

Wednesday, November 18

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Caspe Terrace, Waukee

Cost: \$15

Celebrate the reopening of the Iowa Jewish Heritage Museum as we mark our 30th anniversary with refreshed and new exhibitions. Discover the rich history of Jewish life in Iowa while exploring the traditions, culture, and contributions of Iowa's Jewish community through engaging exhibits and stories.

Participants will also have the unique opportunity to hear directly from the Student-to-Student (STS) Program, an educational initiative that fosters understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Through personal storytelling and interactive conversation, students share their experiences of Jewish life, helping to dispel myths and stereotypes while promoting respect, connection, and dialogue. This meaningful program encourages cultural understanding, develops young leaders, and helps reduce prejudice through authentic, person-to-person engagement.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or returning to experience the museum's new look, this program offers an inspiring opportunity to learn about Iowa's Jewish heritage and the vibrant Jewish community that continues to shape our state.

OLLI at Drake Trivia Evening

Wednesday, November 18

5-7 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: The Cork, Johnston Town Center

Cost: **** Participants purchase own food and drink**

Cap: 40

Test your knowledge about all things trivial pertaining to the 50s and 60s, and have a fun evening at The Cork in Johnston at the Johnston Town Center. Participants will work in teams for this fun event. Extra prize for the best attire from the 50s and 60s too. Bring a friend.

Drake Musical: Urinetown with presentation by the director

Thursday, November 19

6 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harmon Fine Arts

Cost: \$30 (incl. wine and cheese reception)

Cap: 65

Reception and presentation prior to performance.

Urinetown is a satirical musical with a book and lyrics by Greg Kotis and music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, which won three Tony Awards in 2001. Set in a dystopian future with a severe water shortage, it follows a revolution against a corrupt corporation that controls public restrooms, satirizing capitalism, social irresponsibility, and musical theater itself. The show, inspired by Kotis's experience with "pay-to-pee" toilets in Europe, is known for its dark humor, clever songs, and surprisingly deep themes.

Dying from Athlete's Foot and Other Medical Emergencies and Near Death Experiences During My Diplomatic Career

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

Fridays, November 20, December 4

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

Participants will be entertained by Ambassador Ken Quinn's array of unusual but usually amusing vignettes from his global peregrinations that have taken him to over 80 countries, from Iowa to Indochina to Iran. With such intriguing titles as: "The ignominious death of a

government bureaucrat,” “The only casualty of the Solar Eclipse,” and “Being fed to crocodiles on the Nile,” these short, short stories from his time as a Foreign Service Officer are designed to leave the audience smiling. However, he promises to weave in some accounts of much more serious life-threatening episodes such as narrowly averting capture by Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

With deep roots in Dubuque and inspiration from President John F. Kennedy, in 1967 **Ambassador Kenneth Quinn** embarked on a 32-year career as a State Department Foreign Service Officer that included assignments in Vietnam, Vienna, the Philippines, and on Henry Kissinger’s staff at the White House, culminating with his service as American ambassador to Cambodia. In 1999 he returned home to Iowa to lead the World Food Prize for two decades, fulfilling the vision of Norman Borlaug and John Ruan by transforming it into the “Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture.” Along the way, he accumulated an amazing array of engaging experiences that he has shared in previous OLLI classes with intriguing titles such as “The Forest Gump of Iowa,” and “The Humanitarian Legacy of Governor Robert D. Ray.”

TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY
presents: POTUS or, Behind Every
Great Dumbass Are Seven Women
Trying to Keep Him Alive
Sunday, November 22

2 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Tallgrass Theatre, West Des Moines

Cost: \$35

Cap: 45

One four-letter word is about to rock 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. When the President unwittingly spins a PR nightmare into a global crisis, the seven brilliant and beleaguered women he relies upon most risk life, liberty, and the pursuit of sanity to keep the commander-in-chief out of trouble.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Meals from the Heartland

Amanda Parkins

Monday, November 30

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 357 Lincoln Street, WDSM

Cost: FREE

Cap: 40

Step in and make an impact with Meals from the Heartland! As a volunteer, you’ll help package meals that feed families

in local food pantries, offer critical support during natural disasters, and reach people facing severe hunger globally. Every hour you give helps nourish lives.

Amanda Parkins, Volunteer Manager, is passionate about combating food insecurity and empowering volunteers to make a meaningful impact.

Meet Our Global Neighbors

Mak Sućeska and Stephanie Moris

Monday, November 30

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

If you had to flee your home and go to a country in which you didn’t speak the language or know the culture, how would you feel and what would you do? In Polk County, immigrants and refugees will soon have a hub for critical services as they integrate into their new communities. Global Neighbors is designed to be a one-stop-shop for newcomers to access basic resources: English language and citizenship classes, career development guidance, driver education, and a Green Card clinic. Join us for an overview of Global Neighbors—one of Polk County’s newest projects aiming to provide integrative supports to newcomers. We will discuss community collaborations that highlight the importance of ethnic community-based organizations; and explore how to best provide comprehensive and holistic supports to all Polk County residents. Come prepared to share your ideas and thoughts as we build out Global Neighbors.

Mak Sućeska is the manager of operations for Global Neighbors Immigrant and Refugee Welcome Center through Polk County. Originally from Sarajevo, Bosnia, Mak was transplanted to Des Moines in 1993 as a refugee, fleeing war-torn Yugoslavia with his family. His professional career has been devoted to advocating and supporting refugees and immigrants across the state in an effort to promote a more equitable community for all. With more than 16 years of experience in nonprofits and state and county government, Mak’s life journey provides a unique and necessary perspective in guiding his work. He completed his political science undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa with a double minor in religion and history. He earned his CPM and MPA degrees at Drake University with an emphasis on public policy, and he plans to pursue his doctorate degree in educational leadership at Drake. In Mak’s words, “Education, accessibility and opportunity are the keys to success.”

Stephanie Moris is the director of the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa. She has been involved with the alliance since 2013 and has worked with refugee and immigrant

communities in education, employment and wrap-around direct case management before joining RACI. Stephanie obtained her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and worked for three years in the Dominican Republic, where she met her husband. Stephanie is very passionate about empowering our refugee and immigrant communities, ensuring immigration rights and connecting our community together. She volunteers as a mentor and teaches Spanish.

Three Chords and the Truth

Chip Albright

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

This course provides an introduction to the principles and practices of songwriting within the American folk tradition. Participants will examine the historical, cultural, and musical characteristics that define folk music.

Chip Albright is an independent singer-songwriter based in Des Moines. He writes a weekly column for the Iowa Writers' Collaborative called 'Chip Happens', covering music in Iowa. He also hosts 'Iowa Homegrown' on KFMG 98.9 FM. He has a BS in Rhetoric from Kansas State University.

What Happened to the 12 Apostles of Jesus?

Jack Dalby

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 100

This class is offered in collaboration with Osher at William and Mary University.

Church tradition holds that after Jesus's ascension to heaven, his Apostles, working initially out of Jerusalem, quickly moved to establish Christian churches throughout the Roman empire and beyond. However, with but a few exceptions, the New Testament is virtually silent on the actions and fates of these 12 men. In this 3-part lecture series, we will discuss what we can know historically about these important figures in early Christianity. Topics for discussion will be: What does the New Testament say about the 12 Apostles? Was Peter the first bishop of Rome? Who were the 70 Apostles mentioned in the Gospel of Luke? Were there women Apostles? What are the Apocryphal Gospels? Were the Apostles martyred? How did Christian missionary work effect the pagan world? Who was James, the brother of the Lord? Was St. Paul an Apostle? While no

reading is required for this course, a passing knowledge of the New Testament would be helpful.

Jack Dalby is a retired NOVA business owner. For the past 14 years, he has lectured on the topics of Christian Origins and the Historical Jesus with the Osher Lifelong Learning adult education programs at William Mary, George Mason University, and American University.

France and the USA: Cross-cultural Communications over 250 years

Natalie Benson

Thursday, December 3

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

As our country celebrates 250 years since its founding, we look to the relationship between the United States of America and, as former President Obama called France, "our oldest ally." The aide and influence of the French constitute an important part in the history of the United States, and vice-versa. Since our very beginnings as a democracy, the United States has maintained a strong, if sometimes volatile, relationship with France. French thinkers impacted the writing of the Declaration of Independence, and French military aide helped the Americans win the War of Independence. The United States entered WWI on the side of the Triple Entente, sending over one million American soldiers to fight on the western front in France, leading to the Allied victory in 1918.

However, the two countries have differed on many occasions, from the outset of the French Revolution in 1789, which led to the passage of The Alien and Sedition Acts, to more recently leading up to the Iraq War, when American lawmakers changed the cafeteria menus in the House of Representatives from "French Fries" to "Freedom Fries" (2003) in response to France's condemnation of the proposed Iraqi invasion. We will look at our common Franco-American history, influences, cultural misunderstandings, and other aspects of this great cross-cultural rapport, such as Americans living in Paris during the 19th and 20th centuries, the gift of the Statue of Liberty, and artistic and culinary traditions.

Natalie Benson received an Interdisciplinary PhD at the University of Iowa in Modern French Art and Literature. Her research interests include nineteenth- and twentieth-century French painters book projects, Modern Art, literature, and culture in France, and all things francophone. She has taught art history, art appreciation, French literature and language, and courses on French

history and culture at universities in the United States as well as abroad, including the University of Iowa, the Université de Poitiers in France, the University of South Carolina, Simpson College, and Kirkwood Community College. She currently teaches at Drake University and DMACC in Des Moines, IA. Benson has also worked outside academia as the Assistant Director of the Gallery at Lincoln Center, New York, and as an Art Auctioneer on cruise ships worldwide. She is an avid fan of OLLI and was honored and excited to create and accompany a trip to France with Drake OLLI members in the summer of 2025.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema ***The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*** **(2011)**

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie
Thursday, December 3
2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 12–1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 2)

Directed by John Madden, this warm ensemble comedy-drama follows a group of British retirees who relocate to India seeking adventure and a more affordable life. Lured by advertisements for the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, they arrive in Jaipur to find the hotel far less luxurious than expected, though its enthusiastic young manager Sonny (Dev Patel) remains optimistic. Featuring a distinguished cast including Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, and Tom Wilkinson, the film explores aging, cultural encounter, and the possibility of new beginnings later in life.

BUNCO and Buffet Lunch

Jan Hetzel and Jeanne Lubavs

Friday, December 4

11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Felix & Oscars, 4050 Merle Hay Rd, DSM

Cost: \$25

Cap: 40 (minimum 20)

Join fellow OLLI at Drake members for fun, conversation, and friendly competition at Felix & Oscar's. Whether you're an experienced Bunco player or trying the game for the first time, this easy-to-learn dice game offers a relaxed and social way to connect with friends old and new. Enjoy a delicious buffet lunch while meeting new friends.

500 Miles: Our Meditations after Walking the Camino Santiago

Jenifer and Chris Owenson

Monday, December 7

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

In this course we would provide an overview of what the Camino is, where it is located, highlights of the trail, and thoughts or observations about our 39-day adventure. We will also provide insight to our training plan, and other preparations for the trip, including gear, and other pre-planning. When we set off on the trail in 2023 we knew it would be an adventure; however we did not comprehend how much the trail would become part of it influencing us until this day.

Chris Owenson is retired, after a 39-year career as an Insurance Executive for IMT. Chris was born and raised in Iowa. His current passion is owning muscle cars. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and received a credential from the Wharton School of Business.

Jenifer Owenson is also retired, after being a labor/employment law attorney, most recently retiring from DMACC as Chief HR. In her retirement, Jenifer has written a children's book and is writing another book about the Camino experience. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and law degree from the University of Iowa, and was an adjunct in Drake's School of Education for 16 years.

Outbreaks I Have Known and Loved ... Continued

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk

Monday, December 7

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

One of the most interesting (and to be honest – fun) parts of my career was to be involved in investigations of disease outbreaks. People often think that outbreaks are investigated to find who was at fault for people getting sick, but in reality, we did investigations to see what went wrong and to stop that from happening again. In this program, I'll share my stories about some of the most interesting outbreaks, how we did the investigations, and what happened in the end.

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk see previous biographical information.

Children's Literature: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

Daniel Parks

Wednesdays, December 9, 16

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

As with much of Children's Literature, L. Frank Baum's 1900 classic, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, is much more than a tale to entertain children. In this course, we'll explore various interpretations that can be applied to the work. From political allegory to Jungian archetypes and Campbell's *Journey of the Hero*, we'll see that the Yellow Brick Road has much to teach both the young, and the young at heart.

Daniel Parks see previous biography.

LIVING IN A VOID: Life of a Freelance Musician

Karl Vincent

Wednesdays, December 9, 16

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

Join OLLI at Drake members for an in-depth look into the extraordinary life of a successful freelance musician, who has worked with several prominent musicians, composers, and contractors that recognized Karl Vincent's unique acting skills and musicianship. Karl is known for his talent as a soloist or either in or leading the bass section on feature movies, TV shows, live concerts, and acting or cameo appearances on TV, in commercials, and movies.

Karl Vincent was raised in the East Bay of San Francisco. His passion for music started at an early age, studying guitar at the age of 10, moving on to violin and, finally, to bass at age 13. From then on, a wide variety of music genres became areas of performance for him. After high school, Karl chose to move to Los Angeles and study. Many famous bass players became teachers, including his mentor, the legendary Red Callender. UCLA took notice and he was enrolled on a full scholarship, studying Ethnomusicology. While there, he met soon-to-be film composer Christopher Young, which led to a long and successful collaboration.

Lift DSM Airport Terminal Tour

Thursday, December 10

10–11 a.m. or

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: DSM International Airport

Cost: \$15

Cap: 30/tour group

Experience the future of DSM with a guided tour of our new terminal. Learn how the project is transforming the passenger experience, explore key features of the facility, and get a firsthand look at construction progress before the terminal opens in 2027. Closed-toe shoes are required for all participants.

Take a Dive into Des Moines' Neighborhood Bars:

Highland Underground

Sully's Irish Pub

Thursdays, December 10, 17

3–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location:

Highland Underground, 3614 6th Ave., DSM

Sully's, 860 1st Street, WDM

Cost: ****Participants purchase their own drinks and food.**

Neighborhood Bars are part of the fabric of every community. Whether it's a single establishment located on a small town Main Street, or a number of bars in different parts of a larger city, they are gathering places for local residents that provide vitality and energy to their community. Join us as we learn about their history and the customers they serve.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Food Sorting at the

Food Bank of Iowa

Friday, December 11

9–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Food Bank of Iowa, 2220 E 17th St

Cost: FREE

Cap: 20

Join OLLI at Drake members in volunteering at the Food Bank of Iowa. The task will be sorting food with consideration for freshness, safety, quality, and client preference into quantities appropriate for shipping. This activity could involve sorting produce, or other products, depending on the donations received for processing that day.

After the Elections, What's Next for the Democratic Party

David Skidmore

Friday, December 11

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Most observers expect the mid-term elections to bring gains for the Democratic Party, largely as a backlash against the policies of the Trump Administration. Yet surveys also indicate low public approval ratings for the Democratic Party overall. These contrary realities raise the question: What does the Democratic Party stand for beyond opposition to Donald Trump? Which of the contending visions for a Democratic governing agenda can successfully serve to build broad-based support for the Democratic Party? This class will explore these questions using public opinion data.

David Skidmore is a professor in the Department of Political Science at Drake University. He received his PhD degree from Stanford University. He teaches courses on areas of international relations, international security, political economy, US foreign policy and US-China relations. Skidmore taught at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing, China, in 1996-97, and served as a Fulbright Scholar based at the University of Hong Kong in 2010-2011. His recent research has focused on China's overseas development finance, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative.

CIVIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Cantus – Holidays in Harmony

Friday, December 11

7:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Sheslow Auditorium, Drake

Cost: \$30

Cap: 40

Cantus returns to the CMA stage with their unmistakable warmth and blend to celebrate the holiday season! Renowned for their rich harmonies and expressive storytelling, this acclaimed eight-member low voice ensemble brings beloved carols and seasonal favorites to life. From moments of quiet reverence to uplifting bursts of festive cheer, Cantus creates an atmosphere that is both intimate and exhilarating. Join us for an evening of music that captures the spirit of the holidays!

B*I*N*G*O!

Jan Hetzel

Monday, December 14

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Felix & Oscars, 4050 Merle Hay Rd, DSM

Cost: ** *Participants purchase own food and drink*

Join in the fun of OLLI Bingo. What you say? Bingo? Yep, this is correct! This event is going to be filled with all sorts of styles of BINGO without any stress!

OLLI DAY OF CELEBRATION

MOVIE at Varsity Cinema:

The Lemon Drop Kid (1951)

Friday, December 18

12-3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: FREE

Join us again for the second annual OLLI Holiday Celebration at Varsity Cinema to watch *The Lemon Drop Kid*, enjoy some hot chocolate and popcorn, and admire everyone's holiday sweaters!! Remember to wear your ugliest (or most beautiful) sweater! Prizes will be awarded for the best Ugly Sweater.

About the movie: Bob Hope stars in this charming holiday comedy as a fast-talking racetrack tipster who must raise a large sum of money to repay a gangster. His unlikely solution is to create a charity campaign centered on a fictional elderly benefactor—setting off a series of hilarious misunderstandings, clever schemes, and unexpected acts of generosity. Featuring Marilyn Maxwell, *The Lemon Drop Kid* combines witty humor, memorable music, and heartfelt holiday spirit. A perennial seasonal favorite, the film offers a delightful blend of comedy, romance, and holiday cheer.

OLLI at Drake Fellowship Collaborative Classes (Offered in conjunction with Drake University)

Enrollment is Limited

Register for one class series only.

**Review class dates carefully, as sessions may overlap
with other OLLI courses.**

**Participants are expected to attend all sessions in their selected
series to support the collaborative learning experience.**

China's Rise in a Changing Global Economy

Liping Zheng

**Thursdays, August 27, September 24,
October 22**

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Johansen Student Center

Cap: 20 Drake students/10 OLLI members

How did China become a central player in the global economy, and what does that mean for workers and businesses today? This intergenerational series brings together undergraduate students and OLLI participants to explore these questions through discussion, interactive activities, and real-world perspectives. Topics include globalization and the economic connections between China and the United States. A guest speaker will provide additional insight into current developments. No prior background in economics is required.

Liping Zheng holds a PhD in Economics and is a professor of economics at Drake University, where some of her work focuses on global economic issues and their real-world impact. Having grown up in China, she brings additional perspective to discussions of China's economy and its role in the world. She emphasizes clear, engaging teaching that encourages discussion and active participation.

Neurobiology of Disease

Eric Emmons

**Thursdays, August 27, September 24,
October 22, December 3**

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Johansen Student Center

Capacity: 16 Drake students/16 OLLI members

In addition to neuroscience and biology of different disease states, the class equally covers the public health, societal, and individual impacts of each condition. The OLLI members will join for days where I will lead a portion of class and then a group of the Drake undergraduates will also plan and coordinate some activities. On these collaborative days, there will be a brief orientation and short "lecture" that I will provide, then I will lead some structured discussion, and finally the student group will facilitate an interactive conversation and group work. This class will provide an intergenerational perspective on diseases and conditions that have very different salience and impact across the lifespan, such as dementia and autism spectrum disorders.

Eric Emmons earned a BA in Biology and Neuroscience at St. Olaf College and a PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Iowa. His research models basic aspects of disease and injury states like concussion. He teaches introduction to neuroscience, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and courses in systems neuroscience.

OLLI at Drake Fellowship Collaborative Classes (Offered in conjunction with Drake University)

Enrollment is Limited

Register for one class series only.

**Review class dates carefully, as sessions may overlap
with other OLLI courses.**

**Participants are expected to attend all sessions in their selected
series to support the collaborative learning experience.**

Reading and Writing the Short Story

Carol Spaulding-Kruse

Tuesday, October 6; Thursday, October 8;

Tuesday, November 17; Thursday,

November 19

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Johansen Student Center

Capacity: 20 Drake students/10 OLLI members

What makes a short story work—and how do writers get started? This course invites participants to read like writers, experiment with story building exercises, and explore how raw ideas become shaped into art through invention, discussion, revision, and polish. We'll read classic and contemporary short fiction, share work with peers, and consider how new tools, including AI, support and complicate the writing process. Above all, we'll approach storytelling as a democratic act: anyone can begin.

Carol Spaulding-Kruse came to Drake in 1996. She is the author of the novel *Helen Button* (Sowilo Press, 2024) and a short story collection, *Waiting For Mr. Kim and Other Stories* (Univ. of Georgia Press, 2023). From 2014 to 2024, she served as founder and director of the Drake Community Press.

Building a Restorative Community

Nancy Berns

Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Johansen Student Center

Capacity: 20 Drake students/20 OLLI members

This course is an introduction to building a restorative community. Restorative justice is a perspective that views crime as a harm against people and the community, which needs to be addressed through the involvement of offenders, victims, and community members. Restorative practices are extensions of those ideas in contexts such as schools, social work, businesses, churches, and families. A restorative community shifts away from punitive responses and focuses on relationship-centered practices, empathy, healing, and accountability. Shared classes with OLLI participants and Drake students will include an overview of key ideas, small group discussion, and circle dialogues. We will explore specific formats for community listening and conflict resolution to help facilitate relationship building and a safe place to discuss difficult topics.

Nancy Berns is a professor of sociology at Drake University where she teaches classes on grief, death, emotions, listening, violence, and justice. She is also author of *Closure: The Rush to End Grief and What It Costs Us*, and *Framing the Victim: Domestic Violence, Media and Social Problems*. Her work attracts a national and international audience through her TEDx talk (*Beyond Closure*), articles, podcasts, and interviews including those with *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Athletic*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, *The L.A. Times*, and *Prevention*.

Class Reminders

Use this reminder page to note the classes you have registered for.

Please make a note of any classes for which you are “**Waitlisted**”.

You will be notified if you are taken off the Waitlist.

[illegible]



MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2026-2027

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Birth Date (optional) _____

Street Address, City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Is your spouse an OLLI at Drake member? YES/NO

If YES, print name here _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS (Online payment preferred)

(We no longer take credit card payments through the mail for security reasons.)

ONLINE payments for membership can be made at: alumni.drake.edu/olli and click on the link for Memberships. **OR**

complete and return this form with a check payable to “**OLLI at Drake**”. Check # _____

☐ MY MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE

☐ 1 year membership **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**\$75/person

MEMBERSHIP payment total.....\$

CLASS REGISTRATION fees (from back of form).....\$

BALANCE DUE (membership + class fees)\$

For check payments please mail checks and completed form to:

OLLI at Drake
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

CIRCLE **CLASS** and where applicable, CIRCLE **IP** (in person) or **Z** (Zoom) and Circle **\$** to SELECT
ADD payment due. **TRANSFER** total payment due to front of form.

Maximizing Your OLLI Experience **(IP or Z)** FREE
 What's New at Drake – President Martin **(IP or Z)** FREE
 Meet the Drake Basketball Coaches **(IP or Z)** FREE
 Nature Reimagined: Discover Forest Therapy \$30
 Economic Roundtable **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Savory Adventures—Iowa's Culinary History **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Water Aerobics \$30
 Transformation and More \$45
 VARSITY MOVIE: *The Women* \$10
 Breath Awareness for Everyday Life \$15
 Iowa Tenderloin Trail BUY OWN DRINKS & FOOD
The Sopranos: Shakespeare in the Suburbs? \$45
 An Introduction to Chaos and Fractals **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Birdwatching in Central Iowa \$30
 MAC COMPUTERS: Essentials and Support \$45
 OLLI at Drake Book Club \$30
 The World in Review **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Science in the News \$45
 Knitting and Crafts Social Group FREE
 The Great Monarch Migration FREE
 Exploring Fairfield, Iowa \$55
 Gothic Literature: An Introduction **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Lunch and Learn at Wallace Family Farm \$35
 Public Opinion Surveys and Polls **(IP or Z)** \$30
 Film Discussions that Focus on Women, Family etc. \$30
 Great Americans of the 20th Century **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Iowa Architectural Foundation: AUTO ROW \$30
 I Do Declare: Declaration of Independence **(IP or Z)** \$15
 How Revolutionary was the Revolutionary War \$45
 Ireland: Moments & Memories **(IP or Z)** FREE
 Iowa's Forgotten Governments **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Fascinating Moments in Music History \$45
 Advanced Tai Chi \$30
 Walking Meditation \$30
 France, Italy, & the Stage: A Journey of Wine & Song \$55
 Pelican Migration FREE
 Exploring Iowa Falls \$55
 Gov. Robert & Billie Ray Annual Lecture **(IP or Z)** FREE
 VARSITY MOVIE: *The Court Jester* \$10
 The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Nazi Germany \$15
 The Legacy of 4-H **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Hidden Treasures of Ames \$55
 Chair Yoga \$30
 First Ladies: Past, Present & Future **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Hidden Battlefield: Age of Hybrid Warfare **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Saratoga and the Wars in the North \$45
 LifeServe Blood Drive FREE
 Beginning Mah Jongg \$45
 True Crime: The Murder of Mary Rogers **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Still We Move **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Get Your Drake Library Card FREE
 2026 Mid-Term Elections: Before & After **(IP or Z)** \$30
 The Organist as Orchestrator \$15
 Farms as Ecosystems **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Autumn Expedition FREE
 The Preparedness Gap **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Rusty Stars Alpacas FREE
 BUCKSBAUM BUSINESS LECTURE Series FREE
 The Amazing Osage FREE
 DMPD Strategic Plan **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Uncovering Des Moines' Hidden Histories **(IP or Z)** \$30

The History of the Drake Relays **(IP or Z)** FREE
 OLLI at Drake Scavenger Hunt FREE
 POLITICS IN AMERICA: Midterms Mayhem **(IP or Z)** \$15
 The Invincible Czars perform *Faust* \$25
 Abraham Lincoln: Radical Originalist **(IP or Z)** \$30
 The Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925 **(IP or Z)** \$45
 The Ever-Evolving World of Financial Crime **(IP or Z)** \$15
 PUNDITS, POLLS & POLITICS! \$15
 HEALTHY EATING SERIES \$30
 NAME THAT TUNE: A Jazz Quiz Show \$45
 YOU BE THE JURY; Jury Selection Process \$15
 AI for Beginners: Beyond the Basics **(IP or Z)** \$45
 Classic Film Noir \$45
 Hike the Largest Staircase in the World! **(IP or Z)** \$15
 SIGHT UNSEEN: Modern-Era Camouflage \$45
 VARSITY MOVIE: *Dr. No* \$10
 Linedancing with Capital City Steppers \$10
 Drake Jazz Ensemble Concert and Reception \$30
 Happy Now? Shattering Myth of Happily Ever After \$15
 100 years of PIONEER HI-BRED **(IP or Z)** \$15
 You Be the Jury!
 Session 1 \$15
 Session 2 \$15
 Session 3 \$15
 Strengthening Our Community with AARP **(IP or Z)** \$15
 ANDERSON GALLERY: Capstone FREE
 Shaping Truth: Turning Life Into Story \$30
 Ireland and the Literature of Place **(IP or Z)** \$30
 Tax-Smart Retirement Income Planning **(IP or Z)** \$30
 UPDATE: Carbon Pipelines **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Iowa Jewish Heritage Museum \$15
 OLLI at Drake Trivia BUY OWN DRINKS & FOOD
 Drake Musical: *Urinetown* \$30
 Dying from Athlete's Foot etc. **(IP or Z)** \$30
 TALLGRASS THEATRE presents *POTUS* \$35
 VOLUNTEER: Meals from the Heartland FREE
 Meet Out Global Neighbors \$15
 Three Chords and the Truth **(IP or Z)** \$45
 What Happened to the 12 Apostles of Jesus? \$45
 France and the USA: 250 Years **(IP or Z)** \$15
 VARSITY MOVIE: *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* \$10
 BUNCO and Buffet Lunch \$25
 500 Miles: Walking the Camino Santiago **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Outbreaks I Have Known and Loved **(IP or Z)** \$15
 Children's Literature: Wizard of Oz **(IP or Z)** \$30
 Living in a Void: Life of a Freelance Musician \$30
 Lift DSM Airport Terminal Tour \$15
 DSM Dive Bars BUY OWN DRINKS & FOOD
 VOLUNTEER: Food Bank of Iowa FREE
 After the Elections, What's Next **(IP or Z)** \$15
 CMA PRESENTS: Cantus – Holidays in Harmony \$30
 BINGO BUY OWN DRINKS & FOOD
 OLLI DAY OF CELEBRATION: *The Lemon Drop Kid* FREE
OLLI at Drake Fellowship Collaborative Classes
 China's Rise in a Changing Global Economy FREE
 Neurobiology of Disease FREE
 Reading and Writing the Short Story FREE
 Building a Restorative Community FREE

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE



Contact us.

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LIFELONG LEARNING NEVER ENDS.

2026-2027 OLLI at Drake Council

Mary Brown	Carl Johnson
David Boelman	Gary Schroeder
David Boyd	Margaret Steigleder
Dennis Davis	Darlene Strachan
Anita Garrison	Louise Trudeau
Kristin Glockoff	Peggy Urtz
Bob Haskins	Beth Willem
Bob Henderson	Sue Wright
Jan Hetzel	

Executive Committee

President – David Boyd
 Vice President – David Boelman
 Secretary – Sue Wright
 Treasurer – Gary Schroeder
 Programming Chair – Carl Johnson
 Events & Socials Co-Chairs – Jan Hetzel & Bob Henderson
 Marketing & Membership Chair – Peggy Urtz
 Nominating Chair – Dennis Davis
 Volunteer Engagement Co-Chairs – Louise Trudeau & Margaret Steigleder

Committee Chairs

Events & Socials – Jan Hetzel & Bob Henderson
 Marketing & Membership – Peggy Urtz
 Nominating – Dennis Davis
 Programming – Carl Johnson
 Volunteer Engagement – Louise Trudeau & Margaret Steigleder

Ex Officio

John Smith, Vice President for University Advancement

OLLI at Drake Staff

Tracy Beck – Director
 Lisa Cooper – Program Coordinator