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INSTITUTE

OLLI

at

Drake
UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2025 CLASSES, EVENTS, AND SOCIALS

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your mind.

Expand

your community.

REGISTRATION OPENS 9 A.M. JANUARY 13

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Learn something new.

Have fun doing it.

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.



OLLI at Drake: Celebrating 20 Years of Lifelong Learning and the Ray Family Legacy

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of OLLI at Drake (formerly known as the RaySociety) this spring, we are delighted to reflect on the enduring legacy of Governor Robert D. Ray and his wife, Billie Ray, whose dedication to education continues to shape our vibrant lifelong learning community. Established in 2004 in honor of the Ray family, our program has grown into a respected institution that provides a wealth of intellectual, social, and cultural enrichment to adults of all ages.

The transition from the RaySociety to OLLI at Drake in 2021 was made possible through a generous endowment from The Bernard Osher Foundation. This support, coupled with the enthusiastic backing of Billie Ray, allowed us to expand our programming and join a network of over 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes nationwide. Today, OLLI at Drake is proud to offer a wide array of opportunities for intellectual growth, community engagement, and personal development.

Our mission remains steadfast: to provide a diverse range of non-credit courses and lectures that stimulate the mind and enrich the lives of our members. In the Spring of 2025, we are offering a dynamic catalog that includes in-person, hybrid, and Zoom options, ensuring accessibility and flexibility for all learners. Whether you're exploring history, literature, science, current events or want to explore local attractions, our programming offers something for everyone.

or

OLLI at Drake is a volunteer-supported program, and we are immensely grateful for the dedicated individuals who contribute to our success. From council members to committee chairs, class hosts, and instructors, our volunteers play a critical role in making our program thrive. We deeply value their commitment and expertise, and we encourage all members to get involved in the many ways available to contribute. If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please reach out—we would love to have you join our community of dedicated volunteers.

A special acknowledgment goes to our incredible group of volunteer instructors, who are truly the lifeblood of our program. Their passion for teaching and vast knowledge enriches the learning experience for everyone in our community. We are grateful for their time, energy, and the inspiration they bring to our courses.

We invite you to join us in formally celebrating the 20th anniversary of OLLI at Drake this spring at our annual meeting and celebration on May 21, 2025. Additionally, we will have a variety of ways we will be acknowledging the milestone all semester. Spring class registration opens on Monday, January 13th at 9 a.m., and we encourage online registration for your convenience. However, we also accept registrations via USPS. We look forward to seeing in class and continuing this legacy of lifelong learning together.

Happy learning from your OLLI at Drake team!

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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 GENERAL
(1926)
Thursday, February 6
2 p.m.

**THE MAN WHO
KNEW TOO MUCH**
(1934)
Thursday, March 6
2 p.m.

**THE BEST YEARS
OF OUR LIVES**
(1946)
Thursday, April 3
2 p.m.

CINDERELLA
(1950)
Thursday, May 1
2 p.m.

DR. STRANGELOVE
(1964)
Thursday, June 5
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.

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 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters are valid until August 2025.
- Parking tags are to be used in designated OLLI parking locations only during OLLI classes.

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.

Class Locations

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

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 dial-in info for those without a computer or smart phone

Class cancellations or changing delivery mode

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, particularly on the morning of a class.

An email announcement will be sent if weather conditions or other circumstances necessitate for a Hybrid class to be changed to Zoom only.

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

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Protecting Yourself from Cyber Threats

Lucas Kane

Monday, February 3

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

In today's interconnected world, cybersecurity is a critical aspect of financial well-being, especially for those who may be targeted by sophisticated scammers. We will discuss the most common cybersecurity threats to individuals, what simple and effective strategies you can do to protect yourself and a response plan in the unfortunate event of a security breach. Our goal is you will gain a solid understanding of the cyber landscape and feel confident in your ability to protect your digital life. Staying informed and vigilant is your best defense against cyber threats.

Lucas Kane is a consultant, financial planner, and financial advisor specializing in divorce analysis, financial planning projections and cash flow analysis. He is experienced in providing income analysis, spousal support analysis and cash flow analysis for a multitude of purposes including retirement planning, distribution analysis, present day valuations, tax planning, career transitions and marital dissolutions.

Learning iPads and iPhones (8 sessions)

Sam Wormley

Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 and

March 3, 10, 17, 24

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

One of our most popular instructors, Sam Wormley, returns for another series of eight classes. The goal of this class is for you to learn more about your iPad and iPhone. Sam will include tips for making the most of your device for photographs.

Specific topics to be covered:

1. Navigating the iPad/iPhone
2. Making Life Easier
3. Contacts, Connections
4. Books, Media
5. Word Processing & Accessibility
6. Privacy, Security, & Maintenance
7. Backup, Storage, and Sharing
8. Keep Learning

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

100 Battleships: From the Merrimack to the Missouri

Buck Beasom

Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25

9–11 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

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

The age of battleships spanned less than 80 years. During that time, they were symbols of national pride, national humiliation and an enormous drain on national treasuries. The great battle fleets became the stage for heroes and scoundrels, the fools and the wise, and were often sacrificed on the most hopeless enterprises, sending the "Officers and Men" to the bottom.

This course follows the development of metal ships with guns from the first ironclads to the giants of World War II. We trace the development of steam engines and the shift from pistons and coal to turbines and oil. We track the early triumphs and disasters of battle fleets, the vast, far-flung engagements of the Dreadnoughts and the eclipse of battleships when aircraft changed warfare.

Battleships is based on a PowerPoint presentation with thousands of embedded images, videos and animated graphics.

Buck Beasom teaches for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes 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 spent five years teaching history at the middle and high school levels. He holds a BS in management science, with additional majors in history and economics and an MBA in accounting.

Tai Chi for Beginners

Daniel Alexander

Tuesdays (12-1 p.m.):

February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27

Fridays (12-1 p.m.):

February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 28

April 4, 11, 18, May 2, 9, 16, 30

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: TBD

Cost: \$30

Cap: 15 people

***Materials needed for the class will be provided free of charge at the first class. THIS CLASS MEETS TWICE PER WEEK.*

This course introduces the practice of Tai Chi with a gentle, non-taxing routine that includes elements of Qigong, Yang style Tai Chi, and movement training. While it is a beginner's course, people who have experience with Tai Chi are also welcome. The course is taught with the spirit that any movement is good movement. 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 ability to relax. 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 about 20 years and has co-facilitated a local Tai Chi group since 2018.

Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light

Irving Lubliner

Tuesday, February 4

2-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: FREE

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

Before her death in 1974, Felicia Bornstein Lubliner wrote about her harrowing experiences in ghettos and concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Poland. Her son, who compiled and published her writings, will present excerpts from *Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust*, highlighting her resilience and indomitable spirit, his perspective as a child of Holocaust survivors, and his process in bringing the book to fruition. Audience questions will be welcomed during and after his presentation.

Irving Lubliner, professor emeritus at Southern Oregon University, retired in 2014 after a 40-year career in mathematics education (teaching at all levels, kindergarten through graduate school). He has led teaching seminars nationwide, delivered over 350 conference presentations, and given presentations about the Holocaust for 86 OLLI programs across the country.

Economic Roundtable

Tom Root

Wednesday, February 5, 10-11:30 a.m.

Monday, March 17, 10-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9, 10-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 14, 2-3:30 p.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 15 years. The Spring 2025 economic roundtable continues its mission with a focus on considering the potential for a future recession, the current state of the labor market, the impact of the Federal Reserve's efforts to stop inflation, and the increased political rhetoric in the run up to the presidential election. 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.

The World in Review

Ellen Pirro

Wednesdays, February 5, March 5, April 2,

May 7

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 teaches political science at Iowa State University and specializes in international relations and European politics. She has also taught at Drake. 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.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

***The General* (1926)**

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, February 6

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 9:30–10:30 a.m., Thursday, February 6)

The General is a silent film comedy starring and co-directed by Buster Keaton. Inspired by the true story of the Great Locomotive Chase during the American Civil War, the film blends action, humor, and drama. Filmed on location in Oregon, the production was ambitious, featuring elaborate train stunts, including the famous scene of a locomotive plunging into a river. Despite its technical brilliance and Keaton's trademark physical comedy, *The General* was not a box office success upon release. Over time, however, it gained recognition as one of the greatest films of all time, celebrated for its innovative cinematography, precise direction, and Keaton's daring performance.

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 is 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.

From Iowa to Indochina – Reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

Fridays, February 7, 14, 21

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

“Five Decades After April 30, 1975, the Last Casualty of the Vietnam War has yet to take place”. Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, made that statement on December 3, 2024, at a symposium on de-mining and clearing explosives from the former DMZ in Central Vietnam. The Ambassador, who spent 24 of his 32-year diplomatic career either serving in Vietnam and Cambodia or working on post-conflict issues, will over two sessions provide a personal retrospective on the Vietnam War. From the Tet Offensive to the evacuation of Saigon to rescuing refugees and accounting for POW/MIAs to tracking down Pol Pot, the genocidal Khmer Rouge leader, Ken Quinn had an extraordinary front row seat to the tumultuous and tragic encounter with history in Indochina that defined American politics in the second half of the 20th Century. Shot at while flying helicopter missions; blown up by a North Vietnamese rocket; serving as interpreter for the President in Vietnamese; testifying in an espionage trial; suffering from Agent Orange; gaining access to a former Soviet prison to search for missing American pilots; as well as interacting with historic figures such as Senators John McCain and John Kerry; are just some of Ambassador Quinn's personal experiences that he will share during the course.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn is a graduate of Loras College in Dubuque, holds a master's degree in Political Science from Marquette University and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Maryland. He was only the 23rd recipient of the Iowa Medal, the state's highest citizen award. Other honors include: the State Department Award for Heroism; being the only civilian to ever earn the Army Air Medal for participating in helicopter combat operations; and acting as interpreter in Vietnamese for President Ford.

Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model at Broadlawns Medical Center

Dr. Yogesh Shah

Friday, February 7

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

The GUIDE Model focuses on comprehensive, coordinated dementia care and aims to improve quality of life for people with dementia, reduce strain on their unpaid caregivers and enable people with dementia to remain in their homes and communities. It will achieve these goals through Medicare payments for a comprehensive package of care coordination and care management, caregiver education and support, and respite services. Participants will also learn about blood-based biomarkers and new treatments for early Alzheimer’s Disease.

Dr. Yogi Shah is board-certified in family medicine and geriatric medicine. He did his Geriatric Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic with a special focus on the early detection of dementia. He also holds a Master in Public Health (MPH) from Des Moines University. He was the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Vice President (VP) of Medical Affairs for Broadlawns Medical Center during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2023). Before joining the medical staff at Broadlawns, he served as the Founding Associate Dean of Global Health at Des Moines University. He serves as the Medical Director for GUIDE by CMS, Site PI for the University of Iowa GWEP, and Board Member of the Iowa Alzheimer’s chapter. He has given talks on Early Detection and Prevention of Dementia at national and international levels. His current focus is on early detection, especially in minority populations through biomarkers, and improved brain health for all.

LET’S GO DRAKE! Women’s Basketball Game

Friday, February 7

6 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center

Cost: *Tickets to be purchased at gate.*

Join us to cheer on the Drake Women’s Basketball team when they play Illinois State.

Further details will be shared in the January OLLI newsletter.

Outbreaks I Have Known and Loved

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk

Monday, February 10

10-11:30 a.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 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.

Lessons in Forgiveness: the 1994 Rwandan Genocide

Against the Tutsis

Steven Noah

Tuesdays, February 11, 18, 25

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

When Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana was shot down in a plane on April 6, 1994, his death sparked 100 days of violence and the massacre of one million-plus people, the Genocide Against the Tutsi. In the tiny landlocked African nation - 10,169 square miles in area compared to Iowa’s 55,857 - every person who survived was tragically affected, government and civic infrastructure were destroyed and the economy was in ruins. How, then, did Rwanda not only recover and rebuild but also go forward with a focus on justice, peace and “ubumuntu,” the Kinyarwanda word for “to be human”? Its actions and unity that continue today offer invaluable lessons for all people and nations dealing with division, propaganda and perceived “difference.”

This three-part course will explore factors and strategies that led to the genocide, the horrific events during its 100 days and the ways Rwanda continues to remember, reconcile and remain united.

Steven Noah is widely recognized for his work in economic development, politics, entrepreneurship and international trade. His many past roles include serving as vice president for university advancement, government relations and special projects at William Penn University; partner in Iowa International Minerals LLC; an associate of The Clark Group LLC in Washington, DC; and a member of the board of directors of Farmers for Free Trade. In the past two-plus decades, he has been actively engaged in the Republic of Rwanda, including interacting with its political and civic leaders during dozens of visits, supporting Rwandan students in the United States, facilitating trips to the country by content experts and arranging for U.S. medical students to serve clinical rotations in Rwandan hospitals. In Central Iowa, he is an active leader in and supporter of the Rwandan Community of Iowa, which he helped transform into a nonprofit organization that assists Rwandans here and annually hosts Kwibuka, a commemoration that honors the victims of the genocide. Other course presenters will include members of Central Iowa's Rwandan community.

Women of Color: Religious Leaders in Des Moines

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

Jacqueline Thompson

Wednesdays, February 12, 19

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This course will provide the opportunity to hear from two women of color who are ordained in the United Methodist Church. They will discuss the journeys they took to achieve their positions, some of the challenges along the way, and what they see the future of the church to be.

SESSION 1: Beloved Community in the Age of Christian Nationalism:

Guided by the Gospel call to "love your neighbor as yourself," we will examine how the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of beloved community can be a counterpoint to Christian nationalism. We will explore the theological concept of grace and discuss how love, service and solidarity can help churches expand their impact and reach. Bishop Bigham-Tsai will share from her personal experiences building beloved community within and beyond the Church.

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai serves nearly 1200 United Methodist congregations in Iowa and Illinois. She is Vice Chair of the UMC's Board of Higher Education and Ministry and has served as the executive of the Connectional Table, the visioning body of the UMC, Bishop of The United Methodist Church and ordained elder. She has a degree in Sociology from Harvard and Masters of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has a heart for justice ministries.

SESSION 2: My Life is an Open Book.

Hear a story of growing up black. This storytelling experience will be offered in three chapters (with Q&A at the end of each chapter).

Chapter 1 – Dayton's first integrated high school;

Chapter 2 – Classical musician in southeast Iowa;

Chapter 3 – Religion and Race in the UMC.

Jacqueline Thompson is an ordained Elder (retired) in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. Prior to entering ordained ministry, Jacqueline owned the Potpourri Fine Arts Academy in Ottumwa, was a rostered teaching artist with the Iowa Arts Council, taught public school music, and served as a church musician. Her credentials include: BM – University of Dayton, OH; MM & DMA – University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory; MDiv – University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

People You Should Know (in Memoriam):

Teree Caldwell-Johnson

John and Mary Pappajohn

John Dee Bright

Deidre DeJear

David Hensley

Craig Owens

Wednesday, February 12, 19, 26

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

It's important to recognize and celebrate those in our community who 'make a difference', both in our community, and sometimes in the world. But does one need to be famous, wealthy or powerful? Sometimes it is all of those elements. Other times, it is 'ordinary' people doing extraordinary things – with fanfare, or without.

SESSION 1: Teree Caldwell-Johnson

We celebrate the life and career of a true public servant who impacted the lives of many Ames and Des Moines residents. An HSBC graduate, whose journey brought

her to Iowa, Caldwell-Johnson influenced public policy and service delivery wherever she served. Within this community, whether as CEO of Oakridge Community or President and Member of Des Moines Public School's Board of Education, her leadership and advocacy made Des Moines a better place. Join us as the Oakridge Community leadership team, members of Teree's family, and others from the community share the story of this truly impactful woman.

Deidre DeJear is a small business owner/consultant, voting rights advocate, and board member for a number of local/non-profit organizations in our community. Deidre is driven by a passion to create equitable, inclusive and accessible opportunities for all. A graduate of Drake University, she comes to us today as board chair of Oakridge Community and led the Celebration of the Life of Teree Caldwell-Johnson.

SESSION 2: John and Mary Pappajohn: Visionary Entrepreneurial Innovators and Philanthropists Transforming Communities Across Iowa

Join us for an inspirational session exploring the extraordinary impact of John and Mary Pappajohn. Discover how their visionary leadership and generosity have transformed education, the arts, entrepreneurship, and health care across Iowa. This session highlights their remarkable journey as business leaders and philanthropists. You will gain valuable insights into their innovative approach in making transformative contributions to the community. Hear stories from executives and community leaders who worked closely with them throughout their lives.

David Hensley is a Professor in the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa. He served as the Executive Director of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at Iowa for 25 years. David has also been actively involved in business, entrepreneurship, and economic development for most of his professional career. His credentials include: BS in Political Science and Economics from the University of Iowa in 1986; MBA in Finance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1992.

SESSION 3: John Dee Bright

Johnny Bright's name shines 'bright' at Drake University. To paraphrase retired Des Moines Public Library Director Elaine Estes, "In the early 1950s, Johnny was 'big man' on campus. We all knew who he was." John Bright was a famous football star, and later, a school teacher, coach and administrator. The accolades and honors are numerous: Canadian Football Hall of Fame, College Football Hall of Fame, Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame, Edmonton Eskimos (now Elks) Wall of Honor, and Johnny Bright Field at Drake Stadium. His legacy lives on through the John Bright School

kindergarten through 9th Grade in Edmonton and the John Dee Bright College at Drake University. Join us as we celebrate the life of this athlete/educator who continues to impact the lives of so many young people in Canada and Iowa.

Craig Owens, PhD, is Professor of English and Dean of the John Dee Bright College at Drake University. Bright College, launched in 2020, offers an alternative to traditional higher education through affordable access to high-impact, collaborative, student-centered educational excellence.

Tour of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society Museum

Sandi Yoder

Thursday, February 13

10 a.m.–noon

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Caspe Terrace, 33158 Ute Ave, Waukee

Cost: \$15

Cap: 75 people

Nine years ago, the RaySociety (now OLLI at Drake) visited the Iowa Jewish Historical Society Museum. A lot has happened since then. Join us to hear the digitized oral history collection in the auditorium – listening to the excerpts from the oral history interviews with Holocaust survivors. The visit includes a tour of the museum and learning about broader histories of Jewish history in Iowa and the original research that is happening at the Museum.

Sandi Yoder is the Director of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and has been with the Society since 2008. Sandi holds an MA in History and an MBA from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, and a BA in History from Lenoir-Rhyne College in NC.

In Memoriam by Alice Winn – Book Discussion

Nancy (Nan) St. Clair

Thursdays, February 13, 20, 27

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 15 people

Join the OLLI Book Club with Nan St. Clair. This class will read *In Memoriam*, a novel by Alice Winn. The book was described by the New York Times as: "Both a harrowing war saga and an unforgettable romance." The story, set in 1914, involves young men in a boarding school in

the English countryside with World War I not far away in reality or in their minds. The book's jacket states that the story is "an epic tale of forbidden romance and devastating tragedy that manages also to be sparkling and full of life, *In Memoriam* is a breathtaking debut."

Class participants should have read the book before the class or plan to read each of three segments before each class that will discuss that section.

Nan St. Clair taught college English classes for almost 40 years. She is now retired but teaches occasionally in Luther College's Life Long Learners program where she has led classes on Flannery O' Connor, Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. She is an obsessive reader who loves to discuss books with others.

The Search for Life in the Universe

Nick Suntzeff

Fridays, February 14, 21

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

The search for extraterrestrial life has been dominated by oddball claims, History Channel conspiracy theories, frozen aliens in Area 51, and much more on social media. But the fact remains that we have only one solid data point – the silence of the cosmos. In the past, astronomers have avoided this field for fear of being tainted as crackpots. But the question "what is out there?" is a valid scientific question, and a few brave astronomers are beginning to take up the hunt seriously. We will discuss the little evidence to date, the likelihood of life outside the Solar System, and planned efforts to search for traces of primitive or intelligent life. People should come with stories about strange things they have seen in the sky.

Nick Suntzeff is an observational cosmologist. His groups discovered Dark Energy and have provided the most accurate maps of the expansion of the Universe. He holds a BS in Mathematics from Stanford (1974), PhD Astronomy & Astrophysics Lick Observatory and UCSC '80; Carnegie Fellowship, Mt Wilson and Palomar Observatories '81-'86; Staff Astronomer Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory '86-'06; Professor Texas A&M '06-'24; Gruber Prize in Cosmology, Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, Fellow of the AAAS, AAS, APS and Jefferson Fellow at US State Dept. He is a University Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor of the Texas A&M University System.

Tallgrass Theatre Company

presents ***Ripcord***

Sunday, February 16

7 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Tallgrass Theatre, West Des Moines

Cost: \$35

Cap: 50 people

Join OLLI at Drake members for another thoroughly enjoyable play at Tallgrass Theatre. "A sunny room on an upper floor is prime real estate in the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility, so when the cantankerous Abby is forced to share her quarters with new-arrival Marilyn, she has no choice but to get rid of the infuriatingly chipper woman by any means necessary. A seemingly harmless bet between the old women quickly escalates into a dangerous game of one-upmanship that reveals not just the tenacity of these worthy opponents, but also deeper truths that each would rather remain hidden".

Exploring Tai Chi Chun as Mindful Movement

Andrew Walker

Monday, February 17

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: FREE

Mindfulness Based Stress Management has many proven benefits for general well-being and health. The art and practice of Tai Chi Chun involves mindful movements and attention to breath deepening the mind body connection. Through mindfully observing, following, and practicing Tai Chi Chun-based movements participants will expand their body awareness and balance. Those new to Tai Chi for health will learn about the benefits of regular practice while experienced participants will deepen their practice.

Andrew Walker is Director of Health and Well-Being for the National Senior Games Association. He earned a BS degree in health education from the University of Florida (UF) and a master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida. Andrew is a former UF track athlete and college health instructor. He is a long-time practitioner of Tai Chi Chun, a health educator, and wellness coach.

BULLDOG NATION – RISE UP!

Men’s Basketball Game

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center

Cost: Tickets to be purchased at gate.

Join us to cheer on the Drake Men’s Basketball team when they play the UIC Flames. Further details will be shared in the January OLLI newsletter.

Grassland Birds

Patrice Petersen-Keys

Thursday, February 20

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Jester Park Nature Center, Granger

Cost: FREE

Cap: 75

Native grasslands sequester carbon, build and conserve soil, and support important bird communities – and yet they’ve been called one of the world’s “most endangered ecosystems.” According to some estimates, around 360 million acres of North America’s original native prairies have already been lost through conversion to croplands, degradation from over-grazing, and the encroachment of woody plants due to fire suppression. Learn about the birds that call this habitat home and meet Indigo, our education ambassador short-eared owl.

Patrice Petersen-Keys has worked for Polk County Conservation for the past 30 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.

Drake Opera: *The Magic Flute* **with presentation by Christine Blanner**

Saturday, February 22

6 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harmon Performing Arts Hall, Drake

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

Class limit: 65

The Drake Opera is pleased to announce they will be performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s opera, *The Magic Flute*.

The evening will commence with a wine and cheese for

OLLI at Drake members; a talk by Drake opera director, Christine Blanner; and the opera will start at 7:30 p.m.

Christine Blanner has performed throughout the United States, as well as in China, Italy, Switzerland, and France, and is currently the Director of Drake Opera Theatre. She also serves as the Opera Scenes Program Artistic Director for the International Lyric Academy in Vicenza, Italy, and has previously directed for the Boston Opera Collaborative, New England Conservatory and Missouri State University. Since 2018, Ms. Blanner has developed and led Drake’s “Acting Through Arias” course, which affords vocalists the opportunity to learn about acting in the operatic context. Her credentials include a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Drake University in 2003 and her Masters of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in 2006, graduating with Academic Honors.

All Aboard! Relive Iowa’s Inspiring Orphan Train Heritage

Darcy Maulsby

Monday, February 24

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$15

Imagine you’re a young child from New York City, and you’re told you’re going on a train ride--only you have no idea what lies ahead. From 1854 to 1929, a network of “orphan trains” relocated as many as 300,000 children from East Coast orphanages in cities like Boston and New York City to at least 39 states. Iowa was among the top states for many of these kids who started new lives in the Midwest and beyond. In fact, roughly 8,000 to 10,000 of these needy children were brought to Iowa to live with both farmers and town residents. These children were taken in by families in at least 316 Iowa towns. For many, this was a story of second chances, hope and resilience. You’ll be touched by the incredible stories of some of these orphan train riders and how their lives evolved after moving to Iowa.

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*.

Great Readings Discussion Group

Bruce Martin

**Tuesdays, February 25, March 11 and 25,
April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20**

6:30–8 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

Cap: 20

Bruce Martin will lead discussions of literary texts from various time periods and cultures. Authors to be read during the Spring 2025 semester will include Jorge Luis Borges, Emily Dickinson and Stephen Crane. They will be sent individually to participants throughout the semester. Anyone having questions or concerns, or wanting additional information should contact Bruce Martin: brucekmartin85@gmail.com or 515-612-3508.

Bruce Martin is Professor Emeritus of English, and Ellis and Nelle Levitt Professor of English at Drake. He taught at Drake from 1967 to 2006, offering courses mostly in 19th and 20th century British literature and literary theory. In 1986–1987, he held a Fulbright lectureship at the National University of Singapore, where he later served as visiting Professor of English. Subsequently, he was awarded Fulbright lectureships to South Korea and Madagascar.

Life of a Firefighter

Ahman Douglass

**Wednesdays, February 26, March 5
10–11:30 a.m.**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: Harkin Institute (Session 1)
and Mulberry St. Fire Station #1 (Session 2)

Cost: \$30

Cap: 40 people

Find out what it takes to become a firefighter and to remain a firefighter ... physical, mental and educational requirements. What is a typical schedule and job duties of a firefighter? Do they live/eat at the fire station? Are they volunteers or do they get paid? How many fire stations and firefighters are in Des Moines? Find out what is the hardest thing about being a firefighter and what are the rewards.

Ahman Douglass has 34 years of experience working for the Des Moines Fire Department. He is a Los Angeles native, Roosevelt graduate, who began his career at age 19. Ahman is a spokesperson working on community outreach, public education and relations, and information.

Mystery Fine Wine Tasting – South Africa

Leif Gustafson

Wednesday, February 26

6–7:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: The Cork 50131, Johnston

Cost: \$45

Cap: 32

Attendees will have the opportunity to taste and discuss six different varieties of wine from various major wine growing regions of the world. Wine will be poured in black glasses to obscure the color and make guessing more difficult. The attendee who guesses the most varieties and regions correctly will receive a free bottle of wine. Each attendee will also receive a small meat and cheese plate.

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.

Lunch at Fire Creek Restaurant

Thursday, February 27

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 800 S 50th St., Ste 110, WDM

Cost: \$30

Cap: 40 people

Join your fellow OLLI at Drake members for a relaxing lunch at Fire Creek Restaurant. This is a great way to meet OLLI members in a social setting. Meal choices will be emailed to participants two weeks prior to the luncheon.

Sexuality in Film Adaptions of Tennessee Williams's Plays

Jody Swilky

Fridays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Marlon Brando, Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor, and Anna Maniani, rising stars of the 50s and early 60s, were fortunate to play roles that exuded and constrained sexuality, focused on how desire is repressed and expressed, verbally and through the

body. We would work with *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*, *The Rose Tattoo*, and *The Fugitive Kind*, connecting film content to the larger social mores and conditions.

It is advised but not required that those enrolled in the class watch these films before class, which are available through streaming. The instructor will provide summaries and background in class, and we will work with film clips. In-person attendance is required.

A source book for the course is the award-winning *Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh* by John Lahr.

Jody Swilky has written and co-produced documentary film, 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.

Carbon Pipelines 101 And Growing Opposition From Unlikely Allies

Jessica Mazour

Friday, February 28

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

For three 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.

Artificial Intelligence in the Entertainment Industry

Dan Navarro

Monday, March 3, 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4, 10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This two-session course will discuss the pros and cons of artificial intelligence as it pertains to proprietary rights in the entertainment industry. The first session will cover the dangers of AI use to musicians and composers. The second session will encompass film, television, video games, and voice acting. The instructor will speak from personal experience and include some of his testimony before the Senate subcommittee on artificial intelligence.

Dan Navarro is an acclaimed singer/composer/voice actor, whose song *We Belong*, written with Eric Lowen, has reached hit status. After the first hit recording by Pat Benatar, it has been recorded some 45 other times in four languages. He has composed music and performed as a voice actor and as a singer in numerous films.

Jazz: Current State of the Art

Abe Goldstien

Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

What's new in jazz recordings? Find out during these sessions which will introduce you to new releases featuring a variety of styles from an array of countries and featuring both male and female performers. The sessions will introduce you to new players on the scene, older players who are still actively recording and unreleased sessions that are finally seeing the light of day. Selections will be chosen to demonstrate the diversity of the current state of jazz. The presenter will provide some background about the recording and/or artist. Participants will be encouraged to share their reactions, positive or negative, following the recordings. You may not like everything you hear, but that is the nature of jazz.

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.

The Art History of Hoyt Sherman Place

Des Moines Womens' Club members

Robert Warren

Thursdays, March 6, 13

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 1501 Woodland Ave.

Cost: \$30

In this two-part series, attendees will explore the rich history of the art at Hoyt Sherman Place. Session 1 will delve into the legacy of the Des Moines Women's Club Annual Art Exhibition, which has been a pillar of scholarship and art patronage for 117 years. Session 2 will spotlight Hoyt Sherman Place's centerpiece, "Apollo and Venus," and examine the ongoing influence of the women's club on the art collection today.

Session 1: Des Moines Women's Club members share in learning and friendship to help preserve Hoyt Sherman Place and support local arts education and community initiatives.

Session 2: Robert Warren, Chief Executive Officer at Hoyt Sherman Place since 2015, has led diverse arts organizations nationwide, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1934)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, March 6

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 3:30–4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 5)

Alfred Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* is a pivotal early thriller in the director's career. Renowned for its suspenseful storytelling, the film showcased Hitchcock's emerging mastery of tension, pacing, and visual storytelling. The film's famous climactic sequence, set in London's Albert Hall during a live orchestral performance, brilliantly combines music and suspense.

Though Hitchcock later remade the film in 1956 with James Stewart and Doris Day, the 1934 version remains significant for its innovative direction and the performance of Peter Lorre, who delivered a memorable portrayal of the villain. This film cemented Hitchcock's reputation as the "Master of Suspense" and laid the groundwork for his celebrated Hollywood career.

Carl Johnson see previous biographical information.

Water Aerobics (7 sessions)

Darlene Strachan

**Fridays, March 7, 14, 28, April 4, 11, 18,
May 2**

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!

The Phenomena of Wrongful Convictions: the Causes; an Iowa Case; Exonerate Kristine Bunch and Reforms

Erica Nichols Cook

Fridays, March 7, 14, 21

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This three-part series will examine wrongful convictions.

The first class will discuss the most common causes of wrongful convictions: eyewitness misidentifications, false confessions, unreliable forensic science, official misconduct, and jailhouse informants.

The second class will be an in-depth look at an Iowa wrongful conviction litigated by Drake Law School's Wrongful Conviction Clinic.

The third class will host Indiana exoneree Kristine Bunch who will tell her story, discuss reforms needed to remedy and prevent wrongful convictions.

Erica Nichols Cook is the Director of the Wrongful Conviction Division of the Iowa State Public Defender. She founded the inaugural Wrongful Convictions Clinic at Drake Law School and serves as a Clinician in Residence. She is passionate about wrongful convictions, criminal legal reform and combating injustice.

Animal Rescues – All Creatures Great and Small

**Lisa Houchins,
Greg Tilghman and David Starlin
Michelle Morford**

Monday, March 10, 10–11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 13, 2–3:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 27, 10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute, and on-site at the ARL

Cost: \$45

Welcome to a heartwarming and informative class where we'll explore the incredible work being done by local organizations dedicated to animals. This session will shine a light on the efforts of Puppy Jake Foundation, RescueRehabRehome, and Animal Rescue League of Iowa — three organizations that are transforming the lives of animals and their humans.

Session 1 – Puppy Jake Service Dogs Rescue Humans

Representatives from Puppy Jake Foundation will discuss the details of the organization, how service dogs help veterans, service dog laws and etiquette, and what is involved in fully training a service dog. There will be dogs here!

Session 2 – RescueRehabRehome: Greg Tilghman and David Starlin, a couple from Urbandale, Iowa, have rescued over 700 animals since 2014, primarily dogs, through their organization RescueRehabRehome. The pair had previously volunteered with an existing rescue but soon decided to create their own nonprofit to help more challenging animals, including older dogs or those with behavioral issues. Their approach to rehoming focuses on matching dogs with the right families. Both men emphasize a personal connection with adopters, ensuring that the animals find loving, permanent homes.

Session 3 – Animal Rescue League (ARL):

The Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL) is the state's largest nonprofit animal shelter, offering rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming services for thousands of animal every year. With its comprehensive approach

to animal welfare, ARL works to provide not only immediate shelter, but also long-term care and adoption opportunities to animals in need, even horses. We hope to have the opportunity to see the new ARL horse barn.

The Iowa State Fair's Global Impact

Mindy Williamson

Tuesday, March 11

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

This presentation will explore how the Iowa State Fair, started in 1854, has evolved into a world-renowned event. From setting trends in food and entertainment to fostering collaborations in farming and technology, the Fair exemplifies how local traditions can inspire global connections. A spotlight will also be placed on the role the Iowa State Fair staff have played in creating a unique global connectivity.

Mindy Williamson joined the Fair in 2015, after having a long history with the Iowa State Fair including being a Bill Riley Talent Show participant, 4-H exhibitor, Booth Exhibitor, and Sponsor not to mention the many corn dogs, peppermint ice cream bars, and lemonades she has sampled. Mindy has a background in non-profit and government communications and policy, as well as event planning, advertising, and marketing. Some of her favorite past events include the Iowa Corn Indy races and the Cy-Hawk Series. She has a BS in Biological Pre-Medical Illustration from Iowa State University (Go Clones!), a certification in volunteer management and is a graduate of the Institute of Fair Management from the International Association of Fairs and Expos.

Promoting Accountability and Efficiency in Government

State Auditor Rob Sand

Wednesday, March 12

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

When State Auditor Rob Sand took office, he aimed to improve accountability by “waking up the watchdog” in Iowa government. Working with newly-configured leadership, Sand implemented paperless reports, eliminated some degree requirements, and created a government efficiency program that has been copied in two different states. Students will examine the strategy

and thinking that set the stage for success and think critically about how to break molds in institutional settings to make things better.

Rob Sand is Iowa's 33rd State Auditor, first elected in 2018 after seven years as Iowa's chief public corruption prosecutor in the Iowa Attorney General's Office. Born and raised in Decorah, Iowa, Rob lives in Des Moines with his wife, Christine, and two sons. Auditor Sand was reelected in 2022.

History of the Blues

Lewis Major

Wednesday, March 12

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Jester Park Nature Center, Granger

Cost: FREE

Cap: 75

Blues music is a true American art form and one of the most influential of all the genres. This presentation will cover the beginning of the blues and expand through its eventual evolution into what would one day become known as Rock-N-Roll. We'll explore the origin of this genre, meet the musicians behind the songs, and discuss the lyrics and instruments used to create the blues sound. Live performances of iconic blues songs will accompany a PowerPoint that will bring the music, the past musicians, and the audience to life.

Lewis Major is a naturalist with Polk County Conservation. For over 20 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.

HEALTHY EATING SERIES: "Souper" soups and interesting breads!

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, Lisa LaValle

Tuesdays, March 18, 25

12-1:30 p.m. LUNCH AND LEARN

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$40 (includes light lunch in both sessions)

Cap: 40

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk and Chef Lisa Lavalle are back to bring innovative ways to prepare nutritional but easy soups paired with breads that you may not have tried before (injera anyone?). The soups will be accompanied by a variety of flavorful add-ons that will enhance the

health benefits of your meal. These soup-based light lunches will be provided each session.

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 speciality is creating healthy, locally-sourced dishes and menus.

Portrait of a Food Pantry Visitor: Food Insecurity in America's Heartland

Matt Unger

Wednesdays, March 19, 26

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: DMARC Army Post Road, and local pantries in the metro

Cost: \$30

Did you know that over 70,000 people a year are receiving food assistance from DMARC's network of 14 Des Moines area food pantries? What is driving so many people in central Iowa to a food pantry? Who is the typical food pantry visitor? As many of our neighbors are faced with the challenges of food insecurity, we take a closer look at what factors are contributing to this already growing need and how local communities are working to help address some of those entrenched disparities. Class participants will be given a behind-the-scenes look at DMARC's headquarters, on-site food pantry, and visit local food pantry partners as well as discuss in detail the findings from their recent *Portrait of a Food Pantry Visitor* Report, which can be found at this site <https://bit.ly/DMARC3D>

Matt Unger is the CEO of Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC), which operates the state's largest food pantry network and has been involved in fighting food insecurity for over 12 years. For more than five years as CEO at DMARC, Matt has lead the organization through the global pandemic and move to a new headquarters. Matt spent more than a dozen years working in the world of politics and government.

From Norwood to Norway – Let’s take a trip with “Ding” Darling and meet Arne Naess!

Samuel Koltinsky

Thursday, March 20

9:30–11 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: FREE

“Please join me as Jay Norwood ‘Ding’ Darling navigates our excursion from the town for which he is named to a current stop in Oslo, Norway, where we will meet Arne Naess Sr. In preparation for Darling’s 150th Birthday in 2026, I will be sharing highlights of this extraordinary path of greatness of which I have been so honored for the past 20 years to travel. Ticket includes a stop at the Jay N. Darling Institute at Drake.”

Sam Koltinsky will Zoom from Germany for his presentation. His biography is extraordinary and varied and he presents it as follows:

Life Before Darling: Trip to Galapagos Islands; married an extraordinary artist; produced films in Europe; including German reunification with Dr. Henry Kissinger and Maestro Kurt Masur

Life with Darling: worked with Darling’s grandson, Kip, produced films; help found Darling Institute at Drake; established OutDoor Heroes International Camps, Special Projects and Exhibits; learned A LOT!

Life After Darling: Heaven???

Introducing Nobuyuki Tsujii (NOBU): The Lauridsen Great Pianist Series, Civic Music

Association

Ashley Sidon

Friday, March 21

12–1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: FREE

Join Ashley Sidon for this presentation about the extraordinarily talented NOBU in preparation for his upcoming CMA piano concert on March 23. Ashley will share insights into NOBU’s performance history, his journey as a blind pianist, as well as video clips and more.

Ashley Sidon is the Executive Director of the Civic Music Association, the Briggs Endowed Professor of Cello at Drake, and Executive Director of the Zenith Chamber Music Festival.

CIVIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION presents World-Renowned Pianist: Nobuyuki Tsujii (NOBU)

Sunday, March 23

3–5:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Sheslow Auditorium

Cost: \$30

Cap: 50 people

The Lauridsen Great Pianists Series returns with Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Nobuyuki Tsujii (NOBU). Celebrated for his virtuosity, NOBU has earned an international reputation for the passion and excitement he brings to his live performances. He comes to Des Moines from Japan after a series of sold-out performances worldwide, and, blind since birth, he will present a concert to remember.

Turn Your Nature Walk Into a Photo Safari

Chris Ewan

Mondays, March 24, 31

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This class series will explore Chris Ewan’s project, “Today’s Distraction,” which has resulted in over 1,000 captivating photos taken since the 2020 COVID lockdown. Topics to be covered include: Capture a Moment: Explore the thought process behind creating a meaningful image at the end of each journey, Basics of a Photowalk: Embrace the journey, experiment with techniques, and use post-processing for impactful results, and Share Stories, Not Just Photos: Explore the ways to share your images with others.

Chris Ewan is an Ames native, photographer, and retired Ames High School Director of Bands.

Pundits, Polls and Politics! The 2024 Election! – II

Doug Stowell

Tuesday, March 25

8:30–10 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

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

Where does the US compare in meeting the challenges that exist in 2025? We will examine some 20 topics including, taxes, economy, environment, education, energy, healthcare, climate change, immigration, safety, prosperity, music, personal happiness, and more. The “Top 10” format provides a quick snapshot of the US rank relative to other nations. Our sources are international surveys by highly credible and impartial worldwide organization. This is the 4th annual edition for the program and includes three discussion breaks.

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran in both US and EU Markets. His career includes Market Research Director for the Xerox Corp., US Clients Director for the UK firm NOP Ltd. in London and Senior Polling Executive for Wirthlin Worldwide in Washington, DC. He launched Market Resource Associates in 2008 and conducts opinion polls on US and global issues today. He is a member of the Furman University OLLI in Greenville, South Carolina, and conducts ZOOM programs for more than 80 groups nationwide.

A Look Into Iowa Elections

Secretary of State Paul Pate

Wednesday, March 26

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Secretary Pate will provide an overview of the election process in Iowa. Topics covered will include, but not be limited to, voter registration, absentee voting, poll workers, and the resources available to voters in Iowa. Participants are encouraged to bring questions.

Paul Pate served as the Iowa Secretary of State from 1995 to 1999. He returned to office in 2015. As the State Commissioner of Elections, he has taken steps to protect election integrity. He drafted Iowa’s Voter ID laws, and he has defended them in court. He also established a post-election audit system, and he has greatly enhanced Iowa’s election cybersecurity.

OLLI at Drake Trivia Evening

Margie Davidson and Jan Hetzel

Wednesday, March 26

5-7 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: The Cork, Johnston Town Center

Cost: FREE

Cap: 40 people

Test your knowledge about all things trivial, all things Drake, and plenty of other Iowa, and have a fun evening at The Cork in Johnston at the Johnston Town Center. Participants will work in teams for this fun event. Bring a friend.

Food and beverages available for purchase.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Food Sorting at the Food Bank of Iowa

Thursday, March 27

9–11:30 a.m. (1st Session)

OR

1:30–4 p.m. (2nd Session)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

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

Cost: FREE

Cap: 20 participants per session

Join OLLI at Drake members in volunteering at the Food Bank of Iowa. Sign up to volunteer for one session only. 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.

Victim/Survivor Process: Hear Their Voices

Peggy Urtz

Dean Lindeman

Teresa Lindeman

Fridays, March 28, April 4

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This class will discuss the history of victimology, which is the study of victims and issues related to victimization. We will examine how victims fit into the court process and corrections. We will hear from corrections retirees

who facilitate a court-ordered Victim Impact Awareness class for justice-involved individuals. The Victim Impact Awareness class is an educational program designed to teach participants about the human consequences of crime. A key element of the classes is the direct involvement of victims and victim service providers.

Additionally, April 6–12, 2025 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. After this two-part class, we will have a victim-related movie at the Varsity Cinema on 4/9/25 at 2:00 p.m. *Please register separately for this movie.*

Peggy Urtz is currently an adjunct instructor at DMACC in the Criminal Justice department and an adjunct instructor at Grand View University with Criminal Justice and Social Work. Prior work experience includes 33+ years with the Fifth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services. She has advocated for victims throughout her career and has taught a Victimology class at DMACC. She is part of the DMACC committee for National Crime Victims' Rights Week that plans activities on the Ankeny campus. Peggy is a member of OLLI. She currently chairs the Membership and Marketing committee and is part of the planning committee that marks the 20 year anniversary of OLLI.

Dean Lindeman has 33+ years of experience with adult and juvenile corrections. He retired in 2019 from the Iowa Department of Corrections North Central Correctional Facility where he worked as a Counselor. While at the North Central Correctional Facility, he developed and facilitated various treatment programming that includes Victim Impact. He facilitated Victim Impact classes there for 18 years. Dean currently teaches a Victim Impact class for the Polk County Youthful Offender Program. He has been a case monitor for the Youth Justice Initiative, which is a restorative justice program in West Des Moines. He currently co-facilitates a Victim Impact Awareness class in Polk County for individuals court ordered to the program.

Teresa Lindeman retired from the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) in 2018 after a 19-year career, most recently at the North Central Correctional Facility. She has held the positions of Counselor and Re-entry Coordinator. She implemented Staff Victimization Support Services while working for the Iowa DOC. She is a certified victim services provider through the Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance. She has taught staff/facilitator training for Victim Impact & Victimization Support Services. She has facilitated statewide staff Bullying training. She currently co-facilitates the Victim Impact Awareness class.

Docent Tours and Creative Aging – Guided Looking at the Des Moines Art Center

DSM Art Center staff and docents

Monday, March 31

1–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

Cap: 45

Experience the Des Moines Art Center like never before in this special program exclusively for OLLI at Drake members. Enjoy the unique opportunity to visit the museum on a Monday, when it's closed to the public, and engage with art in a serene and enriching environment.

The program begins with a docent-led 60-minute tour offering insights into the Art Center's rich history, stunning architecture, renowned collections, and exciting new acquisitions. Comfortable gallery seating is available throughout the tour.

Afterward, join fellow participants in the lobby for coffee, tea, and cookies, where you'll have 30 minutes to continue the conversation and make meaningful connections in a relaxed, social setting.

Finally, participate in a seated 60-minute session inspired by the Art Center's Creative Aging Program. Through this docent-guided activity, you'll engage deeply with one work of art and experience slow looking and facilitated discussion fostering creative thinking and collaborative meaning-making.

This program offers a unique opportunity to connect with art, build community, and support cognitive well-being in an inviting and accessible atmosphere.

Graphic Design Behind the Scenes

Roy Behrens

Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

Session 1 THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING POSTERS

People who design posters (as well as books and magazines, advertising, websites, and so on) are usually referred to now as graphic designers. The aspects of form that they typically consider include colors, sizes, angles, shapes, proportions, textures, and typographic

letterforms. At the same time, they are equally intent on producing a final arrangement that is “suitable for” or “compatible with” a functional content which the poster is expected to promote. By what processes—by what means of thinking and seeing—do professional designers arrive at especially stunning results? In this talk, a designer who also taught design for 46 years shares the “trade secrets” on which he relies.

Session 2 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND MODERN BOOK DESIGN

No doubt most people are acquainted with Frank Lloyd Wright’s achievements as an architect. Less often have they heard about his design of furniture, fabrics, stained-glass windows, and other components. In particular, they may have no awareness of his involvement in book design. This talk looks at the progression of book design (including handmade letterpress books) and the range of ideas and values that influenced their leading designers, among them William Morris, Frank Lloyd Wright, Elbert Hubbard, W.A. Dwiggins, El Lissitzky, Merle Armitage, Jan Tschichold, and numerous others.

Session 3 DEPRESSION-ERA ART, DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

During the administration of American president Franklin D. Roosevelt, millions of unemployed citizens were contracted by the government to work on public projects, such as post office buildings, roads, state parks, and essential infrastructure. Called the WPA (Works Progress Administration) it also offered employment for those in the arts, including visual arts, theatre, architecture, photography, and writing. It continued for four years, during which such things were completed as murals for public buildings, posters, documentary photographs, and research guides on every state. This talk is an overview of some of those projects, including their current whereabouts.

Roy R. Behrens (b. 1946) is a graphic designer, author, and design historian who taught for more than 45 years at American art schools and universities. A selection of his essays, books, artworks, and online video talks can be found at <https://northerniowa.academia.edu/RoyBehrens>

Becoming Elizabeth Arden: The Woman Behind the Global Beauty Empire

Stacy Cordery

Tuesday, April 1

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Rags-to-riches entrepreneur Elizabeth Arden brought about lasting societal changes and reshaped American business practices as she built a global cosmetics empire from scratch. She began before women’s suffrage and died as the 1960s flowered, making millions while giving back. “Beauty is power” propelled her wholistic business ethos: she believed that a woman who felt she looked good could conquer the world. Making cosmetics respectable was only the start of extraordinary achievements.

Stacy Cordery is a professor of History at Iowa State University and author of five books, including a new biography of Elizabeth Arden. An award winning teacher and a sought-after speaker, she has appeared on NPR, the History Channel, Smithsonian TV, C-SPAN and in popular documentaries. Her credentials include a PhD in History.

Lessons from the Trails: What I Have Learned Writing Books for Children

Rebecca Jani

Wednesday, April 2

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Author of Children’s Books, Rebecca Jani shares her publishing journey, the story behind her stories, and all she has learned writing for children and parenting five children, including a son and daughter who are deaf.

Rebecca Jani is an award-winning author of children’s books, speaker, and community volunteer serving on the Johnston Public Library Foundation Board, Iowa Hands & Voices, and Central Iowa Deaf Academy proposed Charter School. She has a Master of Arts in Teaching from Boston University and a BA in English and French from Iowa State University.

Sexuality Does Not Retire

Kim Gunnes

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23

12-1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Sexuality is a positive, life-affirming force that involves our whole being, including our mind, body and spirit. It begins at the time we are born and continues and changes throughout our whole lifespan. Then why is it so hard to talk about? Participants will learn more about themselves and society's sexual attitudes, values and beliefs and the impact these messages have on our health and happiness.

Kim Gunnes (She, Her, Hers) has been a Health Educator with Planned Parenthood of the North Central States for 16 years. She received her BA from the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire and has worked in the social services for 30 years. Kim subscribes to a holistic approach to sexuality education and implements interactive and creative strategies to her work.

Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture Series: MISTY COPELAND!

Wednesday, April 2

7-8:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center, 2525 Forest Ave.

Cost: FREE

Cap: 300 people

Reserved seating for OLLI at Drake members

The distinguished presenter for the upcoming Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture Series is Misty Copeland.

Misty Copeland is an American ballet dancer for the American Ballet Theatre (ABT). In June 2015, she became the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's 75-year history. As well as her ballet career, she is a public speaker, author, celebrity spokesperson and stage performer. She has written two autobiographical books and narrated the documentary *A Ballerina's Tale*. In 2015, she was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *Time* magazine.

OLLI members may bring a guest to this special event. Please remember to register your guest to ensure they don't miss out on this exceptional experience.

The Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture Series is made possible by a gift from the late Melva and Martin Bucksbaum. The Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lectureship Committee includes: 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, Eva Kellen (Strategic Political Communication and PR Senior), and Dr. Kelly Bruhn.

WesleyLife LUNCH & LEARN Planning for Aging Years: Senior Living Options, Costs and Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Kristy Rosenthal and Amy Hutchins

Thursday, April 3

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 3206 University Ave, Des Moines

Cost: \$30

Cap: 80 people

Presentation and luncheon

As older adults today seek more fulfilling lifestyle choices, there are unique challenges to consider. This course highlights the importance of an aging plan that promotes well-being, explores the array of senior living options and costs, and introduces an innovative model that empowers individuals who wish to age at home while receiving the care they need. Join us to discover how to navigate this important stage of life with confidence and clarity!

Amy Hutchins is the Chief Marketing Officer, WesleyLife, has been a member of the WesleyLife leadership team for 3+ years and is passionate about re-shaping the experience of aging. Prior to WesleyLife, Amy spent 25+ years in the marketing agency world. She received her BA from Marquette University and her MBA from Drake University.

Kristy Rosenthal is the Executive Director, WellAhead at WesleyLife. She joined WesleyLife to lead the new WellAhead continuing care at home (CCaH) program. Prior to WesleyLife, Kristy had a 16-year career in the financial services industry, most recently as a senior vice president in Wells Fargo's Consumer Lending division. Kristy received her BA from Buena Vista University.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema ***The Best Years of Our Lives*** **(1946)**

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

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 9:30–10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 3)

A landmark American film directed by William Wyler, *The Best Years of Our Lives* explores the challenges faced by three World War II veterans as they return to civilian life. Their intertwined stories address the emotional, social, and economic adjustments of postwar America.

Praised for its realism, the film featured real-life double amputee Harold Russell as Homer, whose performance earned him an Academy Award. Wyler used deep-focus cinematography, capturing nuanced performances and complex emotions. The film won seven Oscars, including Best Picture, and became one of the highest-grossing films of its era. Notable for its empathetic portrayal of veterans, *The Best Years of Our Lives* resonated deeply with postwar audiences and remains a poignant study of the human cost of war and the resilience required to rebuild lives. Its themes of reintegration, trauma, and changing societal roles give it enduring significance in the history of cinema.

Carl Johnson see previous biographical information.

Drake Theatre: *Legally Blonde* **with presentation by the Director** **Thursday, April 3** **6 p.m.**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harmon Fine Arts Center, Drake

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

Cap: 65

Legally Blonde is a musical about the glamorous Elle Woods, who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend, Warner. By proving herself as a capable lawyer, she discovers her own strength and intelligence, ultimately defending a high-profile client and proving that she is much more than just a “blonde” stereotype.

Before We Are Born

Jerry Honts

Mondays, April 7, 14, 21, 28

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course explores the fascinating science of human development, encompassing the entire journey from conception to birth and beyond. We’ll explore the intricate cellular and molecular processes that shape our bodies during embryonic and fetal development. Additionally, we’ll examine the scientific and ethical implications of developmental biology, particularly the applications of stem cells and organoids in developing novel disease treatments.

Jerry E. Honts is the Marshall and Judith Flapan Professor of Biology at Drake University. He has taught molecular cell biology courses at Drake University for 28 years. He has also offered electives in astrobiology, 3D printing, bioinformatics, and scientific visualization. He is a member of an NSF-funded research collaboration that employs synthetic biology methods to understand the structure and function of novel molecular motors capable of effecting ultrafast movements in ciliated protozoa.

How Music Moves Us

Carl Johnson

Mondays, April 7, 14, 21

2–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

This class will examine the elements of music and how they specifically relate to affecting our emotions. We will then listen to examples to see how composers have used them through the various style periods and how listeners’ anticipated emotional responses have changed over time. Selections will be played for people to compare their responses to others in the class to demonstrate how the same music can affect various people in different ways. The same music performed by different artists will be compared to discuss how a performance can alter how we feel about what we hear. Live performance, and the addition of a visual element, will also be discussed.

Carl Johnson see previous biographical information.

Some History You Probably Did Not Learn In School

Paul Morris

Tuesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course will cover four narratives with no connection to each other other than that they do not appear in school syllabi. The first will focus on Lorenzo de' Medici as Florentine politician rather than as patron of Renaissance art. The second will discuss women's fashion in the French Revolution. The third will trace the link between the failed European revolutions of 1848 and the American Civil War. The fourth will describe the great city-to-city automobile races between 1894 and 1914 that heralded the arrival of the motor car in the modern world.

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.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema Crime Victims' Rights' Movie

Peggy Urtz

Wednesday, April 9

2-4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

April 6–12, 2025 is National Crime Victims' Rights' Week. In recognition of this important topic we will have a special screening of the Ken Burns 2012 film (*The Central Park Five*) at the Varsity Cinema. At the time of publication, Varsity Cinema was waiting for confirmation from the film distributor, however, if that film is not available we have a similar film requested. It will be sure to be thought-provoking and encourage discussion and compassion. Registration in the class on March 28 and April 5, *Victim/Survivor Process: Hear Their Voices*, is not required, but encouraged.

Walking Meditation

Kathy Bernreuter

Thursdays, April 10, 17, 24

9-10:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: Drake campus, Robert D. Ray Asian Garden, Rose Garden at Greenwood Park

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.

Proposed locations: Drake Campus, Robert D. Ray Asian Garden, Rose Garden at Greenwood Park

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.

The Final Gift: Body Donation at Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences

with DMU Campus Tour

Edward Christopherson

Lisa Vroegh

Thursday, April 10

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: 8025 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines

Cost: \$15

Cap: 50 people

Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences offers 10 health science graduate programs. A brief introduction to the university, including campus history, and each academic program will encompass an overview of career options, academic requirements, and the

application process. For some of its courses, DMU relies on its body donation program, a form of final disposition allowing individuals to bequeath their human remains for anatomical education and research. All aspects of body donation will be examined followed by a short question/answer session. Following the presentation, there will be a tour of the new DMU campus.

Lisa Vroegh is a graduate of Central College, majoring in Psychology and Drake University earning a Master of Public Administration degree. Since 2002, she has been a dedicated professional within the Admissions team at DMU contributing through a variety of roles and responsibilities.

Edward Christopherson is a graduate of Upper Iowa University, majoring in Social Sciences and Des Moines Area Community College earning his Advanced Standing Diploma in Mortuary Science. He has been a licensed funeral director since 2010. In 2014, he was selected as the body donation coordinator at DMU, working with medical and funeral professionals, along with donor families.

ANDERSON GALLERY EVENT

Reception and Tour of the 54th Annual Juried Student Exhibition

Lilah Anderson and Drake students

Thursday, April 10

5-6:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Anderson Gallery, Drake University

Cost: \$15 (incl. light refreshments reception)

Cap: 35

Join us for a reception and tour of the 54th Annual Juried Student Exhibition. This yearly exhibition is always a highlight for the Drake Art & Design Department with student work on display selected by a juror. At this event, several participating Drake students will talk about their work. See the show and enjoy a reception and good conversation with fellow art lovers!

Lilah Anderson has served as the Anderson Gallery Exhibitions and Community Engagement Manager at Drake University since October 2021. In her role, she directs the Gallery, works with faculty, students and artists to curate exhibitions, and develops programming and outreach. She earned her MS in History of Art, Theory and Display from the University of Edinburgh and her BA from Bard College with a double major in Art History and Biology.

OUR FRIEND SITTING BULL: A Pioneer Couple's Friendship with the Famous Lakota Chief

Mary Christopher

Friday, April 11

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

A long journey to homestead and in pioneer spirit the Dells moved from Iowa to the Dakota territory. Travel, food, children and hardships awaited them as they worked to achieve their dreams. Along the way, a friendship developed with well-known Lakota Chief Sitting Bull. A humble and educational story.

Mary Christopher is a fifth-generation Iowan, a Drake University alumna, a former Younkers buyer, and the author of *Our Friend Sitting Bull: The True Story of a Pioneer Couple's Friendship with the Famous Lakota Chief*. She is a taphophile (cemetery aficionado) who was sparked with the idea of this book as she walked her dog in Woodland Cemetery during the COVID-19 pandemic and wished that the cemetery had a good guide book.

(Re)Naissance: The Rebirth of French Cultural Monuments

Natalie Benson

Wednesday, April 16

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

France has seen a renaissance (literally rebirth in French) in cultural awareness recently after the 2024 Paris Olympics and the reopening of the 12th century cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris. We will look at certain cultural and historical monuments in France that have been at the brink of destruction or ruin and how they were saved to either be reconstituted for a new use (think of the Musée d'Orsay, which was originally a train station) or rebuilt thanks to popular demand (Notre-Dame de Paris now twice), or how a private group raised funds to return a significant cultural touchstone to its original brilliance (Monet's Gardens at Giverny).

Natalie Benson received an Interdisciplinary PhD at the University of Iowa in Modern French Art and Literature. Her research interests include 19th- and 20th-century French painters book projects, modern art, literature, and culture in France, and the study of the book. 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, France, and Kirkwood Community College. Benson has also worked as the assistant director of the Gallery at Lincoln Center, New York, and as an art auctioneer on cruise ships worldwide.

Cary Grant and the Screwball Comedy

Carl Johnson

Wednesdays, April 16, 23, 2-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

In a two-year period, Cary Grant starred in three of the most honored screwball comedies in film history, *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), *The Philadelphia Story* (1940), and *His Girl Friday* (1940). This course will discuss screwball comedies as a subset of the romantic comedy film genre, examine the three films and their amazing casts, and compare them as examples of this style of film.

Carl Johnson see previous biographical information.

Take a Dive into Des Moines' Neighborhood Bars

Thursdays, April 17, 24

1:30-3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations:

Captain Roy's, 1900 Saylor Rd, DSM

Truman's, 400 SE Sixth St., DSM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 25 people

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, the customers they serve, and sample from their menu. One can even choose to order an alcoholic beverage – naturally, that's on your own dime. Come on, 'dive in' and join fellow OLLI members on this two-session 'road trip'!

Iowa Landowners and Farmers Working Together for Conservation

Lee Tesdell

Fridays, April 18, 25

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: Harkin (Session 1)

and Tesdell Century Farm, Slater (Session 2)

Cost: \$30

Session 1 at Harkin Institute:

Discussion questions: What are in-field and edge-of-field practices and how do they benefit the long-term value of farmland? Can we make our land resilient to climate change with these conservation practices on our land?

In-field: No-till/strip-till; Cover crops

Edge-of-field: Buffer strips; Wood-chip bioreactors; Saturated buffers; Prairie strips; Terraces; Waterways

Session 2 at Tesdell Century Farm:

On-farm visit to Tesdell Century Farm in rural Slater, Iowa. On the visit we will see conservation practices in place. We will have time for discussion during our visit.

Lee S. Tesdell is the owner of Tesdell Century Farm in Polk County, Iowa and serves as a commissioner on the Polk SWCD. He completed his PhD at Iowa State University in Rhetoric and Professional Communication. Tesdell's ancestors from both sides came to Iowa as farmers in the 1850s. Tesdell and his neighbors, the Helland Brothers, work together to farm his row-crop acres sustainably. He produces hay, lamb and Kernza® for local markets. He is retired from Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he was a member of the English Department faculty.

Getting Long-Term Care Planning Right – Smart Approaches for People at All Stages

Jay Ennis

Tuesdays, April 22, 29

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This program helps to dispel common myths and misconceptions about Long-Term Care as well as describes the various forms of care available. Strategies for planning Long-Term Care include problems with legacy insurance, new and improved Long-Term Care insurance, other insurance products with Long-Term Care benefits, and financial strategies to leverage for care costs. Attendees

of this presentation should come away with a greater understanding of what they need to do to plan properly for their potential future care needs

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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Senior Games Sports – A Path to Fitness and Fun

Andrew Walker
Wednesday, April 23
10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM
 Cost: FREE

The National Senior Games will be hosted in central Iowa July 24–August 4. There will be opportunities for OLLI at Drake members to get involved.

The National Senior Games (NSG) active aging movement is the largest qualified, multisport event in the world, for individuals 50 and older. Learn how active aging through sports can be a fun way of increasing physical activity. Understand the health and well-being benefits of engaging in fitness through sports.

Andrew Walker is Director of Health and Well-Being for the National Senior Games Association. He earned a BS degree in health education from the University of Florida (UF) and a master’s degree in public health from the University of South Florida. Andrew is a former UF track athlete and college health instructor. He is a long-time practitioner of Tai Chi Chun, a health educator, and wellness coach.

Trees and Climate Change

Melissa Burdick
Friday, April 25
10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON
 Location: Brenton Arboretum, 25141 260th Street, Dallas Center
 Cost: FREE
 Cap: 50

Once upon a time the Earth’s climate changed at, literally, a glacial pace. Now in the Holocene, aka the age of man,

our climate is fluctuating widely and wildly with the undeniable, persistent, and problematic trend of getting steadily hotter. In the olden days—like, really really olden prehistoric days—it took a millennium or more for the Earth’s temperature to change by a degree in either direction, allowing plants multiple generations to evolve adaptations or “move” to more accommodating regions. But now, thanks to shifts in the atmosphere that have been sped up by human activity, temperatures are changing much faster than plants with long lifespans can adapt to. In this program we will examine how climate change is affecting tree populations around the world and what conservationists are doing to try to stay a step ahead. We’ll also learn how we can use trees to help combat climate change in our own backyards.

Melissa Burdick has been the Executive Director at The Brenton Arboretum in Dallas Center, Iowa, for seven 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. 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. She earned her bachelor’s degree in landscape design from Auburn University and a master’s in public horticulture administration from the University of Delaware.

The Rebirth of Dobson Pipe Organs: Tour the Facility and Learn from the Owner

John Panning
Saturday, April 26
10 a.m.–4 p.m. (including driving time)
 Class delivery mode: IN PERSON
 Location: Dobson Organs, Lake City, IA
 Cost: \$15
 Cap: 30 people

Participants will have the opportunity to tour the new workshop of Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, seeing firsthand how organs are made. Particular attention will be given to organ pipes, how they’re constructed, and how changing various parameters affects the tone.

Further details for carpooling, etc. will be sent closer to the date. Participants can choose their own locations to have lunch.

John Panning, a lifelong organ builder, is owner and artistic director of Dobson Organs.

Beginning Mah Jongg

Margie Davidson

Mondays, April 28, May 5, 12, 19

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute Boardroom

Cost: \$45

Cap: 16 people

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 National Mah Jongg League rules, which use a card (changed each year) of 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 spent her career in a variety of challenging and interesting jobs. She retired from Drake University in spring 2012 after 23 years (Director of Advising and Director of the Office of Student Records.) Always a gamer, Margie included in her retirement plans learning to play Mah Jongg, which she began in a RaySociety class in 2012. Not to her surprise, she became enchanted with both playing and helping others learn the intricacies of the game. She has taught well over 200 people this fascinating game.

Chair Yoga

Ines Rojas

Mondays, April 28, May 5, 12, 19

4–5 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute Boardroom

Cost: \$30

Cap: 16 people

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.

Ines Rojas is originally from Venezuela. 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. Ines 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 who practice every day since the Covid pandemic started until March 2022. She later traveled to Des Moines to work 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. She currently works as a Bilingual Family Liaison at Des Moines Public Schools. Her passion for teaching and serving is both her path and purpose in life.

Home Sweet (and Safe) Home: Tips and Technology for Aging in Place

Jamie Rognes

Wednesday, April 30

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

This short course will offer safe solutions for common obstacles for aging in place. There will be demonstration of a large selection of common assistive technology/adaptive equipment for safe aging in place.

Jamie Rodnes received a BA from University of Northern Iowa in 2009 and OTD from Creighton University in 2012; is experienced in outpatient OT, skilled nursing, long term care, home health, and adult inpatient rehabilitation, and an assistant professor in the Drake Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

Cinderella (1950)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, May 1

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 9:30–10:30 a.m., Thursday, May 1)

Cinderella is a landmark animated film that played a pivotal role in revitalizing Disney Studios after World War II. The film is renowned for its enchanting animation, memorable characters, and a soundtrack that includes timeless songs. The film was a massive success, earning critical acclaim and becoming one of the highest-grossing films of 1950. Its financial success helped Disney Studios recover from wartime struggles, enabling the creation of future classics. The movie showcases Disney's storytelling magic, blending humor, romance, and hope. Its innovative use of multi-plane cameras and vibrant Technicolor solidified it as an animation masterpiece.

Carl Johnson see previous biographical information.

City of Des Moines Cemetery

Tours

Jeff Kleuver, Ganesh Ganpat, Archie Cook

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16

10 a.m.–noon

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: See description, *may change in order and duration of walk.*

Cost: \$45

Class cap: 35

The Des Moines Municipal Cemeteries offers three types of cemetery tours. Tour participants must be able to walk up to 1.5 miles and the tours range approximately two hours in length. The outdoor tours are both historically accurate and entertaining.

Civil War History Tour by Jeff Kluever, Woodland Cemetery – 2019 Woodland Avenue

On this Civil War-themed tour of Woodland Cemetery, guests will learn the history of Iowa in the Civil War through first-hand accounts of a few of the men who served and are now buried there. The twelve stops on the tour will highlight stories from Wilson's Creek, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Sherman's March, as well as other engagements, including the experiences of United States Colored Troops now interred at the cemetery. The stories from the men buried at Woodland are supplemented by historic photographs and Civil War relics, bringing their story to life more than a century after their death. Jeff Kluever, Cemetery Historian will lead the 1 ¼ mile walking tour.

Glendale Cemetery Historical Tour by Ganesh Ganpat, Glendale Cemetery – 4909 University Avenue

Glendale Cemetery is one of the largest and most active cemeteries in our state. When the cemetery first opened, it was so far west of the population center it was believed it would never be used. Your tour includes a visit to the Glendale Abbey, the GAR section, former VP Henry A. Wallace's burial site and many other notable residents. Participants also learn about what makes the cemetery unique culturally, how the cemetery operates today, headstone designs, cremations burials, volunteer opportunities and monument cleaning. Your tour is 1 ½ miles, and tour guide is Ganesh Ganpat, Cemetery Manager.

Woodland Cemetery Historical Tour by Archie Cook, Woodland Cemetery – 2019 Woodland Avenue

Woodland Cemetery is a vast treasury of our heritage and the many pioneer leaders who are buried there transformed our country. Cemetery historian/researcher/educator Archie Cook shares his wealth of knowledge about Woodland Cemetery during about 1-mile walk. The stories told by the monuments and headstones combine to form the history

of the city as it has passed through civil and world wars, epidemics, and natural disasters as well as the normal course of birth, life, and death. Passing through the narrow drives of the cemetery, you see stone etchings of the names of many citizens from our past who helped build Des Moines. The names are a part of everyday life in our city's landscape, streets, parks, schools, and buildings, such as Savery, Kenworthy, Ingersoll, Hubbell, Kaplan, Perkins, Teachout, Fleur, Redhead, Polk, and Sherman.

Birdwatching in Central Iowa

Dennis Thompson

Mondays, May 5, 12, 19

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.

Building Community Through Coffeeshops, Newspapers, Art and Architecture

Tom Gilsean

Mondays, May 5, 12

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Coffee will be served during this class.

Community building is about connecting people and creating a sense of belonging. In this class, we'll be looking at a variety of ways to build community and explore how those are being applied to our Drake area through art, coffeeshops and more. Plus, we'll get a chance to meet some of the people building community around our neighborhood.

Tom Gilsenan has been a director and producer of community theater in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota (and occasionally an actor). He has participated in shows on traditional stages, plus alternative locations including coffeehouses and outdoor venues. He has co-authored several play scripts, a process he calls 'patchwork theater.' Tom's research about community theater began as part of his graduate work on Jane Addams and Hull House, where the Little Theater movement began.

Reinventing America: Myths/Lies in American History (Part 2)

John Liepa

Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Famously, in 2017, defending White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer's lie about attendance at Donald Trump's Inauguration, Kellyanne Conway stated that Spicer was giving "alternative facts." What are "alternative facts?" Have myths and lies become so ingrained in our understanding of history that we refuse to see the real truth? Why do we persist in perpetuating them? Is it patriotism, ignorance, or a threat to democracy? We'll explore all these possibilities by looking at myths from pre-European America to the present.

John Liepa is an emeritus professor of history and political science at DMACC with BS (1968) and MA (1971) degrees from Iowa State University. He taught courses in U.S. and Iowa History, American National Government, Western Civilizations, and for the last 10 years (since retirement) a course on "Iowa's Ethnic Heritage" for the Senior College of Greater Des Moines and OLLI at Drake.

Self Discovery

Dennis Kelly

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Laughter and fun will be part of the discovery process.

This class will provide you a golden opportunity to dive deeply into your true essence. We will learn how to release old patterns and beliefs as we discover new gifts and powers within us. Different practices and techniques will be taught to help us "LET GO" of our very limited beliefs of who we are.

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

Lunch and Tour at Wilson's Orchard and Farm, Cumming

Thursday, May 8

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Cumming, Iowa

Cost: \$35

Cap: 40 people

Join us for a farm tour followed by lunch at Wilson's Orchard and Farm in beautiful Cumming, Iowa. Wilson's mission is to help develop local, ethical, and regenerative food and farm systems in our communities. Choosing locally-grown means lower food miles, and a smaller carbon footprint. Their growers and farm partners utilize a variety of environmentally responsible practices, and they try to choose varieties that prioritize flavor, meet the local demand for Iowa-grown produce, and improve the health and wellness of our community. Each season Wilson's partners with various local food pantries and community programs that support our neighborhoods and make our products easily available to as many as possible.

D-Day June 6th, 1944

Bennett Smith

Friday, May 9

2-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

The invasion of Normandy by Allied forces on June 6th, 1944, was the largest seaborne invasion of all time. It opened a second major front against Nazi-occupied Europe and led to the eventual collapse of the Third Reich in 1945. The cost was high in lives paid but it was the crucial step to bring an end to World War II in Europe. This presentation will offer an overview of this momentous battle and commemorate the service and sacrifice of so many Americans to the cause of freedom.

Bennett Smith is an instructor in history and political science at North Iowa Area Community College. He also instructs for various lifelong learning programs including the NIACC Lifelong Learning Institute; OLLI at ISU; OLLI at Drake; and the LIFE program at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minnesota. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communication and a Master of Arts degree in history from Iowa State University. He has also done graduate work at the University of Iowa in Social Foundations of Education. He is from Clear Lake, IA, and currently serves on the Clear Lake City Council.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Planting Day at the Iowa State Fairgrounds

**Thursday, May 15
9–11 a.m. (1st Session)**

OR

1–3 p.m. (2nd Session)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Iowa State Fairgrounds

Cost: FREE

Cap: 5 participants per session

Ever wanted to get more involved in the beautiful gardens on the Iowa State Fairgrounds? Now is your opportunity! OLLI at Drake members will have a day of work at the Iowa State Fairgrounds gardens on May 15th. Participants will be supervised for a two-hour timeslot and should be prepared for gardening with appropriate clothing, gardening gloves, etc., and will be primarily working on new plantings under the supervision of the Iowa State Fair gardeners.

Iowa's Architectural Gems: Terrace Hill and the Iowa State Capitol

Dana Vasey

Friday, May 16, 2–4 p.m.

Thursday, May 22 at Terrace Hill

10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. OR 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Thursday, May 22 at the State Capitol

2 p.m. (2 groups)

Friday, May 23 at Terrace Hill

10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. OR 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Friday, May 23 at the State Capitol

2 p.m. (2 groups)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute (session 1),

Terrace Hill (Session 2), State Capitol (Session 3)

Cost: \$30

Cap: 15 per group, total 60 people

Join Dana Vasey for an in-depth presentation on the architectural gems of Des Moines (and Iowa). The class series will start with a two-hour presentation at the Harkin Institute for all registered participants. This will follow the next week with docent tours at Terrace Hill during morning sessions and the State Capitol building in the afternoon. Groups will be assigned by OLLI staff.

Terrace Hill, The Palace on the Prairie

Terrace Hill is the Iowa's Governor's Residence as well as a museum home. It is listed on the National Historic Landmark Register. Located on a hill overlooking downtown Des Moines, it is an excellent example of 'Second Empire' architecture; featuring a 90-ft tower, steeply pitched

mansard roof, and open verandas that give this house an irreplaceable design. The tour will begin with a documentary film in the Carriage House. The film chronicles Terrace Hill's history and occupants, and will be followed by a docent tour of the residence. The first governor to live there was **Governor Robert Ray** and family in 1976.

Beneath the Golden Dome, the Iowa State Capitol

Years of painstaking restoration have placed Iowa at the top of the list of America's most beautiful capitols. Learn about the building and maintaining of this 19th-century Renaissance-style building. You will learn about gilding our dome, the fire of 1904, and the talented restoration artists who have turned back the hands of time in the most beautiful fashion.

Dana Vasey has over 25 years experience giving guided tours and group talks on Terrace Hill and the Iowa State Capitol. Her love of history and depth of research surrounding people and events of early Iowa will make for an interesting and entertaining journey through the past.

Woman on a Wild Goose Chase: Mary Pemble Barton's Life, Research, and Legacy

Millie Kehrli

Tuesdays, May 20, 27

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute, and State Historical Museum

Cost: \$30

Cap: 60 people

Textile authority Mary Pemble Barton (1917-2003) believed quilts hold untold stories of women's lives. With insatiable curiosity, Barton collected historically important quilts to decipher their stories, becoming one of the first researchers to collect clothing and women's periodicals to document and date quilts based upon the fabric they contained. In this two-session course, we will discuss the legacy of Barton's research and visit the SHSI Museum to see how her work inspires creativity, learning, and quilting.

Millie Kehrli, Ph.D. is an independent researcher, writer, and educator whose work explores women's creative traditions—especially quilting—and the relationships between creativity, lifelong learning, and quality of life. Dr. Kehrli's experience includes museum education, public school teaching, magazine writing and editing, and quilt exhibit curation. She lives in Manchester.

Annual Meeting and 20th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, May 21

2–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Schickler Courtside Club, Knapp Building

Cost: FREE

Please join us at the OLLI at Drake Annual Meeting and 20th Anniversary Celebration, a special event that marks two significant milestones: the continued growth and success of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Drake University and the recognition of the legacy of Governor Robert D. Ray and Mrs. Billie Ray. This year's celebration honors the lasting contributions of the Rays to the state of Iowa and the OLLI program, which has provided enriching educational opportunities to lifelong learners for two decades. Through inspiring speeches, heartfelt tributes, and a look back at the OLLI's journey, the event will highlight the legacy of the Ray's vision for the organization as well as recognize the instructors, volunteers and outgoing council members who have contributed to the success of our 2024-2025 academic year as well as election of new council members will be elected.

Iowa Architectural Foundation: Waveland Park Neighborhood – What Style is This House?

Tom Wollan

Thursday, May 22

5–7:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Meeting Location: TBD

Cost: \$30

Cap: 30

Take a 90-minute walking tour of the Waveland Park neighborhood in Des Moines to learn about Craftsman Homes, Sears & Roebuck kit homes, and important historical homes all built in the Stylized Period from approximately 1905 to 1929. Learn to distinguish a Bungalow from a Proto-Ranch or a Tudor Revival from a Neo Classical. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a camera!

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.

Zenith Chamber Music Festival

Ashley Sidon

Tuesday, May 27

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: FREE

Join Ashley Sidon as she discusses the upcoming Zenith Chamber Music Festival (ZCMF) that will be June 3–7. The festival is a free annual summer concert series that brings together professional musicians from around the world, as well as local artists, to perform in diverse and unique venues in Des Moines, Iowa. The festival aims to enhance the arts in the community through innovative and diverse programming, interactive community outreach, and creative partnerships with local and regional organizations. ZCMF is dedicated to making high-quality chamber music more accessible to the community and emerging student musicians.

Ashley Sidon is the Executive Director of the Civic Music Association, the Briggs Endowed Professor of Cello at Drake, and Executive Director of the Zenith Chamber Music Festival.

Take Me Out To the Ballgame! OLLI at Iowa Cubs Game

Tom Wollan

Wednesday, May 28

11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Principal Park, Des Moines

Cost: \$10

Class cap: 25–40 people

Come and join your fellow OLLI at Drake members for a fun day at the ballpark. Prior to the game, John Liepa will provide a pregame discussion about the season, so far, and some insights into players.

Explore the Wonders of Winterset, Iowa

Thursday, May 29

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: multiple in Winterset, IA

Cost: \$60

Class cap: 40

Join us in Winterset, Iowa for an exceptional day exploring the museums and history. Our thanks to Teddi Yeager from Madison County Tourism for putting together the following program for us.

10:00 a.m. Award-winning **John Wayne Birthplace & Museum**. Admission includes the museum and his birthplace home, as well as a short documentary film about the actor.

11:15 a.m. **Iowa Quilt Museum tour**. Guests can then do a little shopping or walking around the Winterset Courthouse Square.

12:30 p.m. **Madison County Historical Museum** where you'll enjoy a catered lunch (Off the Griddle boxed meals include a sandwich, side, pickle and drink). Following lunch tour the museum and grounds.

3:00 p.m. Arrive at the historical **Iowa Theater** for a special program on the 1914 cinema's history, renovation, and a special presentation on movies filmed in Iowa. Guests will enjoy freshly popped Iowa-grown popcorn and soda.

4:00 p.m. Depart Winterset. Thank you for visiting!

B*I*N*G*O!

Jan Hetzel and Margie Davidson

Monday, June 2

11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

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

Cost: FREE

Join in the fun for the first ever 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 the stress and pressure!

Participants can order lunch from the restaurant and then play and play and play!

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema *Dr. Strangelove ... (1964)*

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, June 5

2-4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 9:30-10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 5)

Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove...* is a dark satirical comedy about Cold War tensions and the threat of nuclear annihilation. Featuring Peter Sellers in multiple roles, the movie brilliantly blends absurdity with biting social commentary. Its grim humor underscores the madness of mutually assured destruction and the incompetence of political and military leadership. The memorable performances, sharp dialogue, and iconic imagery, such as the cowboy-riding-a-bomb scene, have made the film a timeless masterpiece. Released during heightened Cold War tensions, the film received critical acclaim and remains a benchmark in satire and political cinema. It was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and has been preserved in the National Film Registry for its cultural, historical, and artistic significance. *Dr. Strangelove* endures as a brilliant critique of human hubris and the absurdity of war.

Carl Johnson see previous biographical information.

BONUS FEATURES

Des Moines Community Orchestra Performances

Conductor Carl Johnson

Sunday, February 23: *A Medley of Carl's Favorites*

AND

Sunday, May 11: *Famous Finales*

1-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Levitt Hall and Sheslow Auditorium

Cost: FREE

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please join our very own OLLI member, Carl Johnson as he conducts his final two concerts with the Des Moines Community Orchestra. There will be a pre-performance presentations at Levitt Hall at 1 p.m., followed by the performances at 2 p.m. in Sheslow Auditorium.



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, 2024 – June 30, 2025).....\$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.

Protecting Yourself from Cyber Threats IP/Z	\$15	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Food Bank of Iowa.....	FREE
Learning iPads and iPhones.....	\$45	Victim/Survivor Process: Hear Their Voices IP/Z	\$30
100 Battleships: From the Merrimack to the Missouri ..	\$45	DSM Art Center: Docent Tours and Creative Aging	\$30
Tai Chi for Beginners.....	\$30	Graphic Design Behind the Scenes.....	\$45
Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust.....	FREE	<i>Becoming Elizabeth Arden</i> IP/Z	\$15
Economic Roundtable IP/Z	\$45	What I Have Learned Writing Children's Books IP/Z	\$15
World in Review IP/Z	\$45	Sexuality Does Not Retire IP/Z	\$45
MOVIE EVENT: <i>The General</i>	\$10	BUCKSBAUM LECTURE: Misty Copeland.....	FREE
Iowa to Indochina: 50th Anniversary Vietnam IP/Z	\$45	WesleyLife LUNCH & LEARN: Planning for Aging.....	\$30
Broadlawns Improved Dementia Experience IP/Z	\$15	MOVIE EVENT: <i>The Best Years of Our Lives</i>	\$10
LET'S GO DRAKE: Women's Basketball Game.....	TBD	Drake Theatre: <i>Legally Blonde</i>	\$30
Outbreaks I Have Known and Loved IP/Z	\$15	Before We Are Born IP/Z	\$45
Lessons in Forgiveness: Rwanda Genocide IP/Z	\$45	How Music Moves Us	\$45
Women of Color: Religious Leaders IP/Z	\$30	Some History You Did Not Learn in School IP/Z	\$45
People You Should Know (In Memoriam) IP/Z	\$45	MOVIE EVENT: Title TBD Crime Victims' Rights'	\$10
Iowa Jewish Historical Museum Tour	\$15	Walking Meditation	\$30
<i>In Memoriam</i> Book Discussion.....	\$45	The Final Gift: Body Donation at DMU plus Tour	\$15
The Search for Life in the Universe	\$30	ANDERSON GALLERY 54th Juried Student Show.....	\$15
Tallgrass Theatre: <i>Ripcord</i>	\$35	Our Friend Sitting Bull IP/Z	\$15
Exploring Tai Chi Chun as Mindful Movement.....	FREE	(Re)Naissance: Rebirth of French Monuments IP/Z	\$15
BULLDOG NATION: Men's Basketball Game.....	TBD	Cary Grant and the Screwball Comedy	\$45
Grassland Birds.....	FREE	Des Moines Neighborhood Dive Bars	\$45
Drake Opera: <i>The Magic Flute</i>	\$30	Landowners and Farmers Working on Conservation..	\$30
All Aboard the Orphan Train IP/Z	\$15	Getting Long Term Care Planning Right IP/Z	\$30
Great Readings Discussion Group	\$30	Senior Games Sports.....	FREE
Life of a Firefighter.....	\$30	Trees and Climate Change	FREE
Mystery Wine Tasting.....	\$45	The Rebirth of Dobson Pipe Organs	\$15
Lunch at Fire Creek.....	\$30	Beginning Mah Jongg	\$45
Sexuality in Film Adaptations	\$45	Chair Yoga	\$30
Carbon Pipelines 101 IP/Z	\$15	Home Sweet (and Safe) Home IP/Z	\$15
AI in the Entertainment Industry IP/Z	\$30	MOVIE EVENT: <i>Cinderella</i>	\$10
Jazz: Current State of the Art	\$45	City of Des Moines Cemetery Tours	\$45
The Art History of Hoyt Sherman Place.....	\$30	Birdwatching in Central Iowa.....	\$30
MOVIE EVENT: <i>The Man Who Knew Too Much</i>	\$10	Building Community through Coffee Shops, Art	\$30
Water Aerobics	\$30	Reinventing America: Myths/Lies (Part 2)	\$45
The Phenomena of Wrongful Convictions IP/Z	\$45	Self Discovery	\$45
Animal Rescues: All Creatures Great and Small	\$45	Lunch and Tour at Wilson's Orchard and Farm	\$35
The Iowa State Fair's Global Impact IP/Z	\$15	D-Day, June 6th, 1944 IP/Z	\$15
Promoting Accountability and Efficiency in Govt IP/Z	\$15	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Planting Fairgrounds .	FREE
History of the Blues	FREE	Terrace Hill and State Capitol Tours.....	\$30
HEALTHY EATING SERIES: "Souper" soups.....	\$40	Woman on a Wild Goose Chase: Mary Barton	\$30
Portrait of a Food Pantry Visitor.....	\$30	Annual Meeting and 20th Anniversary Celebration..	FREE
Norwood to Norway: Trip with "Ding" Darling	FREE	Iowa Architectural Foundation: Waveland Park	\$30
Introducing NOBU.....	FREE	Zenith Chamber Music Festival.....	FREE
CMA CONCERT: World-Renowned Pianist NOBU	\$30	Iowa Cubs Baseball Game.....	\$10
Turn Your Nature Walk into a Photo Safari IP/Z	\$30	Explore the Wonders of Winterset	\$60
Pundits, Polls and Politics - II	\$15	BINGO!.....	FREE
A Look into Iowa Elections IP/Z	\$15	MOVIE EVENT: <i>Dr. Strangelove</i>	\$10
OLLI at Drake Trivia Evening	FREE	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE:	\$



Lifelong Friends ... New Friends



Learning Music ... Listening to Music





Events and Excursions





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2024-25 OLLI at Drake Council

Ronni Begleiter
David Boyd
Judy Conlin
Don Corrigan
Margie Davidson
Dennis Davis
Marshall Grabau
Bob Haskins
Bob Henderson

Jan Hetzel
Carl Johnson
Dennis Kelly
Gloria Morris
Craig Shives
Peggy Urtz
Beth Willem
Jan Wise
Sue Wright

Executive Committee

President – Bob Haskins
Vice President – David Boyd
Secretary – Craig Shives
Treasurer – Jan Wise
Programming Chair – Carl Johnson
Events & Socials Co-Chairs – Jan Hetzel & Bob Henderson
Marketing & Membership Chair – Peggy Urtz
Nominating Chair – Dennis Davis
Volunteer Engagement Chair – Sue Wright

Committee Chairs

Events & Socials – Jan Hetzel & Bob Henderson
Marketing & Membership – Peggy Urtz
Nominating – Dennis Davis
Programming – Carl Johnson
Volunteer Engagement – Sue Wright

Ex Officio

Billie Ray
John Smith, Vice President for University Advancement

OLLI at Drake Staff

Tracy Beck – Director
Lisa Cooper – Program Coordinator