

SPRING 2026 CLASSES, EVENTS, AND SOCIALS



REGISTRATION OPENS 9 A.M. JANUARY 13

Enjoying the Arts

Movies, Plays, Music



About OLLI at Drake

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



Welcome to Spring 2026 with OLLI at Drake University

As the days grow longer and signs of spring begin to emerge, we are pleased to welcome you to a new semester of lifelong learning, connection, and community through OLLI at Drake. This spring, we offer a wide range of in-person, hybrid, and Zoom courses across history, science, literature, art, technology, wellness, and local adventures—there is truly something for everyone.

This catalog features timely topics such as understanding climate change and the state of homelessness in Iowa, along with returning favorites including World in Review, Economic Roundtable, and our monthly movies at the Varsity Cinema. We are also excited to offer distinctive experiences such as Murder Mystery Night at The Rook Room Lounge and Café (owned by Drake alumni), courses on building a pipe organ, opera, and theatre, and the Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture Series featuring author John Green. Numerous excursions are planned, including visits to the Lake Robbins Ballroom, Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Winterset, Muscatine, and the Field of Dreams in Dyersville. With more than 100 offerings, this semester reflects the depth and variety that define OLLI at Drake. And finally, OLLI at Drake will be touring Ireland in June for a memorable visit to the Emerald Isle. Stay tuned to the OLLI at Drake e-newsletter for further details.

OLLI at Drake is made possible by dedicated volunteers. We are grateful to our instructors, hosts, council members, committee participants, and behind-the-scenes contributors, and we welcome members who are interested in becoming more involved.

Spring registration opens Tuesday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. Members are encouraged to register online for immediate processing, as many classes fill quickly. Mailed registrations require manual processing and cannot receive time-based priority for high-demand courses. Assistance with online registration will be available at the Harkin Institute on January 13, where volunteers will be happy to help.

Whether you are new to OLLI or a longtime participant, we hope this catalog inspires you to explore new ideas and connect with others.

Warm regards, Tracy, Lisa and Lauren



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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.

M
(1931)
Thursday, February 5
2 p.m.

NOTORIOUS
(1946)
Thursday, March 5
2 p.m.

SHANE
(1953)
Thursday, April 2
2 p.m.

**THE UMBRELLAS
OF CHERBOURG**
(1964)
Thursday, May 7
2 p.m.

**THE MUPPET
MOVIE**
(1979)
Thursday, June 4
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 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters are valid until August 2026.
- 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 use 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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Understanding Global Climate Change

Sam Wormley

Mondays, February 2, 9, 16, 23

9-10:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

This class is offered in conjunction with OLLI at ISU.

Why is this course important? It is particularly important because there's a lot of misinformation out there. This course will provide an overview of what climatologists have learned about our changing climate, avoiding the political rhetoric and look at what the science says. The goal is for each of us to better understand what is happening to climate, why, and how we will live with the changes.

The course will break our four weeks into these areas:

1. The Greenhouse Gas Effect
2. Ocean Acidification, Ocean Temperature
3. Effects of Warming
4. What You/We Can Do about Climate Change

Please join me in this interactive class about the changing climate.

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

Future in Focus: Retirement Strategies

Joel T. Barjenbruch

Mondays, February 2, 9, 16, 23

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

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

This engaging, unbiased course gives you the clarity, confidence, and control to shape your ideal retirement. In this ever-changing environment, it is important to understand tax-smart planning, income strategies, risk management and legacy design – so you can protect what you've built, minimize taxes, and create a plan that reflects your goals, values, and vision for the future. The content is not biased toward any strategy, company or product, but rather focuses on the concepts needed to make informed decisions.

Joel Barjenbruch, CFP®, RICP®, LACP®, ChFC®, CLU®, is a fiduciary financial planner with over 18 years of

experience and the owner of JS Financial, Inc. in Lincoln, NE. Since 2016, he has served as an OLLI instructor, sharing his passion for finance and strategy. Education drives Joel's work, both in his business and community. He lives in Lincoln with his wife, Stacey, and their three children, Celia, Warren, and Joy.

Mastering Your iPhone/iPad Camera and Photo Apps

Rick Chase

Mondays, February 2, 16, 23

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 50

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

This course will help you master the camera and photo applications on your iPhone and/or iPad. You will learn the camera's functions and capabilities, still photography, plus cover the video capabilities. The Photos application will be explored, including navigation in the app, photo editing (crop, trim, rotation, etc.), smart adjustments, enhancing less-than-perfect shots, and filters. You will learn how to organize your photo and video media; make and use albums; navigate and find media in your collection. We will also explore the creation and sharing of albums, how to create slideshows with music; and using iCloud. Suggested reading: *Apple iPhone User Guide* (free, online) <https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/welcome/ios> and *Apple iPad User Guide* (free, online) <https://support.apple.com/guide/ipad/welcome/ipados>

Rick Chase, a retired executive with extensive experience, last served as Vice President of Customer Service and Support at Dell Technologies. In the early stages of his career at General Electric, he oversaw the Field Engineering Development Center and conducted electrical and electronic engineering courses for engineers.

Strategy for Advanced Mah Jongg Players

Margie Davidson

Mondays, February 2, 9, 16, 23

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Alumni House

Cost: \$45

Cap: 12

If you've played Mah Jongg for at least two years and want to hone your skills and develop more effective

offensive and defensive strategies this class is for you. We will start Session 1 by analyzing the 2025 National Mah Jongg League Card then consider your ideas, thoughts and strategies for the Charleston. Session 2 will look at the mid-game and Session 3 will strategize the end-game. Each session will conclude with time to play and practice your new skills. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN 2025 NATIONAL MAH JONGG LEAGUE CARD TO CLASS.

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

Chair Yoga

Inés Rojas

Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

9-10 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

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

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

Advanced Tai Chi

Daniel Alexander

Tuesdays (12-1 p.m.):

**February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 24, 31
April 7, 14, 21**

Fridays (12-1 p.m.):

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 27
April 3, 10, 17**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Cap: 20 people

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

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

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

What is the State of

Homelessness in Central Iowa?

Amber Lewis, Angie Arthur, Shelby Ridley

Joe Stevens, Melissa O'Neill

Tuesdays, February 3, 10

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

On any given evening in Polk County, dozens of people are without adequate shelter, an experience that decreases their health, well-being and safety. Why do people experience homelessness in our community?

What actions have elected officials taken to address the problem? What are individuals and entities doing to counter homelessness? Several local experts will explore factors that contribute to homelessness, barriers individuals face in acquiring housing, and solutions designed to fulfill this basic human need to all.

Amber Lewis is the homelessness policy administrator for the city of Des Moines.

Angie Arthur is the executive director of Homeward, Polk County's homelessness planning organization that works to forge collaborations among homelessness organizations, community partners, government officials and people experiencing homelessness.

Shelby Ridley is director of programs at Primary Health Care Inc., a Federally Qualified Health Center that manages the centralized intake system within Polk County that connects individuals and families with housing resources, benefits and care.

Joe Stevens is CEO of Joppa, which he co-founded in 2008 with his wife, Jackie, and son, Caleb. This nonprofit organization is committed to helping homeless families and individuals survive, find housing, and rebuild their lives.

Melissa O'Neill is executive director of Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS), an emergency shelter open 24/7/365 to serve men and women ages 18 and older who are experiencing homelessness. CISS has 150 emergency shelter beds as well as case managers and advocates who work with clients to take advantage of programs and services that will help them secure permanent housing.

Witnesses: Feminist Antislavery Rhetoric in the 19th Century

Ranney Ramsey

Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

'Rhetoric' is a study of the available means of expression; most often involving appeals based on interests and values weighted by the advocate's character. Antislavery rhetoric included a variety of positions that favored abolishing the institution of human slavery and/or widespread emancipation. 'Feminist' – for this presentation – is an awareness that a woman's role could be different from how many people viewed it at that time.

This presentation is an ongoing research project. The presentation includes primary materials from women's pamphlets, journals, and speeches. I have traveled to several sites in South Carolina and Georgia that were homes or properties of the South Carolina women with photographs of surviving structures.

The women featured in this research are: *Angelina and Sarah Grimke* were born to a prominent South Carolina Federalist family. They left Charleston and migrated north to Philadelphia. They eventually became influential speakers on behalf of abolition and women's rights.

Frances Anne [Fanny] Kemble – born in England to one of the foremost acting families of the 19th century – traveled to America, became a celebrity, and married a wealthy Philadelphia slaveholder from Georgia [Pierce Butler]. Her *Journal of A Residence on a Georgian Plantation, 1838-1839*, was eventually published in 1862 in England and America to rally support for the North.

Mary Boykin Chestnut – daughter of a Governor of South Carolina and wife of General James Chestnut, Jr. (CSA), supported the wartime government of the South but also provided some of the strongest opinions against slavery by a loyal southerner.

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

The World in Review

Ellen Pirro

Wednesdays, February 4, March 4,

April 1, May 6

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

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

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

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema M (1931)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, February 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, February 5)

Fritz Lang's groundbreaking thriller *M* is one of the earliest and most chilling portraits of criminal psychology. Set in a German city gripped by fear, the film follows the hunt for a child murderer (Peter Lorre) pursued not only by the police but also by the city's criminal underworld. Blending expressionist visuals with stark realism, *M* introduced innovative uses of sound and moral ambiguity that influenced generations of filmmakers. Both a gripping manhunt and a disturbing social study, the film probes the tensions between justice, vengeance, and the nature of guilt in a collapsing society.

From Fargo to No Country for Old Men: Corruption and Heroism in the Coen Brothers' Critique of the American Landscape

Jody Swilky

**Fridays, February 6, 13, 20, 27
10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Javier Bardem, and many other stars of cinema have been fortunate to work with Joel and Ethan Coen, the 20th century Oscar-winning writers and directors whose films parody and critique a national landscape populated by inept criminals and unlikely heroines, as well as supporting casts of buffoons, outlaws, and outcasts. What do these

films suggest about the effects of violence and crime on our national character, and what alternatives for living do these movies offer?

We will work with films that span the Coen brothers' career, including *Blood Simple*, *Fargo*, *The Big Lebowski*, and *No Country for Old Men*. We will discuss each film's pertinence to the historical context in which it was produced, and examine the Coen brothers' artistic development, both through narrative and form.

Questions and concerns will be addressed in lectures and discussions. Viewing the films prior to classes is not required, but watching them will help you understand the larger context of the film clips we analyze.

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.

How to Build a Space Mission: The Story of TRACERS

Jasper Halekas

Friday, February 6

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

The TRACERS story starts ten years ago, when University of Iowa Professor Craig Kletzing and colleagues from multiple institutions sought a way to better understand the solar wind and its interaction with our atmosphere, and thus find better ways to forecast the space weather that affects our technological society. The resulting proposal became the largest grant ever awarded to the University of Iowa. TRACERS weathered many storms during its journey, including the loss of its original leader. This is the story of how we overcame these challenges to build a successful space mission.

Jasper Halekas is a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa. His research seeks to broaden our understanding of the impact of the Sun and the solar wind on our solar system and its evolution, by designing and building instruments to measure charged particles in space.

BULLDOG NATION – RISE UP!

Men's Basketball Game

Monday, February 9

6:00 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center

Cost: *Tickets to be purchased at game.*

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

Great Readings Discussion

Group

Bruce Martin

Tuesdays, February 10, 24, March 10

April 14, 28, May 12

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 2026 semester will include: Stephen Milhauser, W.G. Sebald and Willa Cather. 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 and publishing academically 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.

OLLI at Drake Book Club

Lori Blachford

Wednesdays, February 11, March 11,

April 8, May 13

12-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$30

Join us for the OLLI at Drake Book Club this spring as we read and reflect on four books that represent a smorgasbord of genres and a few “firsts,” as well. A Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright’s first novel; the historian who wrote her own history (her first and only book, to

date) and achieved global acclaim; a poet turned essayist, melding those genres in delightful ways; and a new nonfiction from a world-renowned novelist, who will also deliver the Bucksbaum Lecture this semester.

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

February 11: *The White Hot* by Quiara Alegría Hudes.

March 11: *Everything Is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection* by John Green.

April 8: *Educated* by Tara Westover.

May 13: *The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay.

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

Economic Roundtable

Tom Root

Wednesdays, February 11, March 11,

April 8, May 13

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 17 years. The Spring 2026 class continues its mission with a focus on considering the potential for a future recession, the current state of the labor market, and the impact of the Federal Reserve’s efforts to stop inflation. Please join us in discussing what are often conflicting economic signals and political rhetoric in a quest to better understand the current economic environment.

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

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT:

A Match Made in Murder

The Rook Room Lounge & Cafe

Wednesday, February 11

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: The Rook Room, 300 SW 5th St, DSM

Cost: \$75 (dinner included)

Cap: 50

Love is in the air ... or at least it was before things took a dramatic turn. Join your fellow guests (and suspects) for an evening of laughter, secrets, and suspiciously sweet nothings as you work together to unravel a love-soaked whodunnit. Whether you're a sleuth at heart or just here for the romance-meets-chaos energy, this playful murder mystery invites you to mingle, investigate, and see just how far people will go in the name of love. Expect red herrings, hidden motives, and plenty of memorable moments as you and your fellow players piece together the clues and broken hearts. This experience comes with a dinner and themed drinks will be available throughout the night.

This event is brought to you by the **Rook Room Game Lounge & Cafe**, Iowa's only game lounge and cafe, proudly tucked inside the historic Harbach Lofts in downtown Des Moines. The Rook Room designs and hosts unique, interactive experiences for players of all backgrounds, blending great games, great vibes, and great community. Step into their space, grab a drink, settle in, and let them guide you through an unforgettable night of mystery, charm, and play.

THE BAUHAUS AND BEYOND:

Its Origins and Legacy

Roy Behrens

Thursdays, February 12, 19, 26

2-3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 20

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

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

The Bauhaus was a now-famous German school for aspiring young designers, artists and architects that began in Weimar in 1919, moved to Dessau in 1925, and was closed by the Nazis in Berlin in 1933. It was arguably the most influential school of art and design in history. Among its faculty and students (both men and women) were Walter Gropius, Paul Klee, Josef Albers, Wassily Kandinsky, Gunta Stolzl, Herbert Bayer, Laszlo Moholy-

Nagy, Oskar Schlemmer, Marcel Breuer, Anni Albers, Marguerite Wildenhain, Joost Schmidt, Marianne Brandt, and others. Its curriculum areas included Woodworking, Cabinetmaking, Metal, Ceramics, Weaving, Printing and Typography, Theatre, Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Architecture. This series of talks is a slide-illustrated overview of how and why the school began at the end of World War I, its philosophy, the challenges that it faced (political and otherwise), and the enduring effect that it had (and continues to have) on art, design and craft-based training. The course presenter, at age 17, studied in California with Master Potter Marguerite Wildenhain, who had been one of the first students at the Weimar Bauhaus.

Roy R. Behrens is an Iowa-based writer, designer and design historian who taught for 45 years at various American art schools and universities before he retired in 2018. He is the author of nine books, the most recent of which are *FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND MASON CITY: Architectural Heart of the Prairie* (History Press, 2015) and *DREAMS OF FIELDS: Memory Traces of Iowa's Past* (Ice Cube Press, 2025). For more information see <http://www.bobolinkbooks.com/BALLAST/>

The fourth session is live from Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany with Sam Koltinsky

Sam Koltinsky will do an exclusive Zoom tour of the iconic Bauhaus University, celebrating its rich history and innovative design. In this two-hour live session from Weimar, Germany, we will showcase the university's main buildings and treasures, highlighting over 100 years of design heritage. With students attending from around the world, Bauhaus University thrives across its four academic departments: Architecture, Design, Fine Arts, and Media. Esteemed guest speakers will discuss the relevance of Bauhaus today and we're sure to have a few surprises in store!

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the allure of Bauhaus and connect with fellow enthusiasts globally!

Sam Koltinsky has an MA in education, with a minor in psychology from the University of Illinois, Chicago. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he lived and worked in the "New States" of Germany to support the transitioning of the German Democratic Republic to its western counterpart of Social Democracy.

The Scientific Nature of Reality

Nick Suntzeff

Fridays, February 13, 20, 27

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

In this lecture series, I will present our incomplete knowledge of reality. What lies beyond the edge of reason? Can we ever have a “Theory of Everything”? Why do thousands of scientists around the world work on string theory, yet for 30 years, there have been no breakthroughs into understanding the fundamental nature of the Universe? Do we live in a computer simulation? Why has the \$10 billion accelerator at CERN found only one new particle, which we had already discovered before? As I sit here writing this in my office in College Station, everything I can see, touch, smell, and hear can be entirely described by the laws of physics as we know them. We are done. So what's the point? This will be a rather personal journey into what really bugs me in physics and astronomy. And why I love being an astrophysicist so much.

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.

LET'S GO DRAKE! *Pink Game*

Women's Basketball Game

Saturday, February 14

2 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center

Cost: *Tickets to be purchased at game.*

Join us to cheer on the Drake Women's Basketball team when they play Indiana State at the annual Pink Game which is held to honor breast cancer survivors and those affected by the disease.

Further details will be shared in the January OLLI newsletter.

Yikes (Data Breaches, Compromised Accounts, etc.)

Sam Wormley

Tuesday, February 17

1-2:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

This class is offered in conjunction with OLLI at ISU.

You probably know people that have gotten scammed out of money. I know of at least one OLLI member who lost more than \$200,000. It goes without saying that when we are connected to the internet we need to pay attention to Security and Privacy. But we should also practice good digital housekeeping, especially keeping software updated, ensuring passwords are unique, 20+ characters, randomly generated, and stored in a password manager, and not responding to phishing attempts. I couldn't be more serious, keeping software updated, having good passwords, and not falling for phishing attempts are extremely important for keeping your financial accounts secure.

Please join me in this interactive class about keeping you secure, but also what steps to follow if you get compromised.

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 OLLI at Iowa State.

History of the Des Moines, Iowa Waterbury Neighborhood

Glen Dickinson

Wednesday, February 18

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Waterbury has a rich history. Incorporated into Des Moines in 1890, the area shifted from farmland and timberland as the streetcar reached Polk and Ingersoll, followed by Greenwood Park, the Ingersoll Amusement Park, and the Des Moines Golf and Country Club. By 1907, rising demand for suburban housing and the automobile era transformed it into a residential district known for its brick homes, craftsmanship, and curving streets. The book highlights its growth, pioneer landowners, schools, churches, and local businesses.

Glen Dickinson is a longtime Des Moines resident and author of *The Waterbury Neighborhood* (2025). Dickinson also worked for four decades at the Iowa Legislative Services Agency, serving as director from 2008 until his 2021 retirement. He holds degrees from the University of Iowa in Geography, and Urban and Regional Planning.

Tips on Being a Smart Medication Consumer

June Johnson and Frances Gray

Thursdays, February 19, 26

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

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Medications are useful tools in maintaining our health, treating and preventing various conditions. How can you use them in the safest and most effective way possible? This class will discuss ways to keep your medication use organized, to screen for potential prescription and OTC interactions, how to store medications correctly, what to do when traveling with medications, and how to collaborate with your health care providers in finding the best medication and schedule for your individual needs.

During second session of the course, participants will have the opportunity to obtain a blood pressure and blood glucose reading performed by P2 and P3 pharmacy students who hold POCT (point of care testing) certification. Although these readings are not diagnostic, participants will have the chance to discuss results and ask questions to the students.

Dr. June Johnson is a Professor Emeritus of Pharmacy Practice at Drake University. She served as faculty member of the Drake University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences from 1995 until her retirement in 2017. She has practiced in a variety of health care settings including hospital, long term care, hospice, and community practice.

Frances Gray is currently a third year pharmacy student at Drake University and serves as VP Patient Care for APhA (American Pharmacist's Association).

Do You Want to Build a Pipe

Organ? Let's do it!

Richard and Deanna Snyder

Tuesday, February 24

1:30-3:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Westminster Church, Beaverdale

Cost: \$15

Cap: 16

In this hands-on class, participants will have the opportunity to learn the basic operational principles of a pipe organ through assembling a small working pipe organ consisting of approximately 130 individual pieces. During the building process, the students will learn the basic physics of making sound by wind-blown pipes, the means to control the flow of air from bellows to sound, the methods to control which sounds and which pitches are heard, and some fundamental traditional woodworking techniques.

Richard and Deanna Snyder have been guiding the assembly of the organ kits for several years, and they are looking forward to sharing the assembly experience with OLLI members, who will be working in teams.

When to Shoot to Kill: The Rules of Engagement in Combat and Civilian Situations

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

Wednesday, February 25

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

Ambassador Quinn will discuss his experiences in making decisions about the use of lethal force in Vietnam, in preparing to defend American embassies and in responding to a hostage situation at the Ft. Madison Prison in Iowa.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn led a US Army Military Advisory Team earning the Army Air Medal.

As a first tour civilian State Department Foreign Service Officer, Kenneth Quinn replaced a US Army major in SaDec Province of South Vietnam during the war. In that role, while leading a 15-man MACV military advisory team in a combat setting, he became the only civilian and only Foreign Service Officer to ever receive the US Army Air Medal for taking part in over 200 hours of combat helicopter operations with the 71st Air Cavalry, making decisions on when to engage the enemy. He also made decisions about the use of force while leading American

embassies and was involved in dealing with the violent hostage taking at the Ft. Madison prison in 1981, while on the staff of Governor Robert Ray.

Bending the Arc of History Towards Justice

Terrence Franklin

Wednesday, February 25

12-1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$15

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

Terrence Franklin had been a trust and estate litigator, handling disputes including will contests for a quarter century, when he discovered a will contest from the 1840s that challenged the will of his white fourth great-grandfather that emancipated Terrence's fourth great-grandmother and her children and grandchildren from slavery. That led to discovery of his mission, "To Bend the Arc of History Towards Justice" by sharing the story of his ancestors and other stories like them.

Terrence Franklin is a founding partner in Sacks, Glazier, Franklin, Lodise, McMurrey and Scheerer, LLP. The firm specializes in disputes involving trusts, estates, fiduciary claims and conservatorships. Since discovering the will that freed his ancestors from slavery, he's shared the story of his discovery and the lessons he learned from New York to New Mexico, from Madison to Monterey, from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to the North Shore of Waikiki, and back home to Chicago where he was born, and to Jacksonville where it all began.

A Day in the Life of a Drake Student

Jerry Parker and Drake student panel

Wednesday, February 25

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Ever wonder what it's really like to be a college student today? Join us for a lively panel discussion featuring current Drake University undergraduates who will share their personal experiences and perspectives on campus life. Hear firsthand about their academic journeys, internships, athletic involvement, and participation in student organizations and campus activities. This engaging session offers a unique window into the Drake experience—how students balance their studies,

leadership roles, and personal growth as they prepare for life beyond graduation. Bring your questions and curiosity for an open conversation with the next generation of Bulldogs! Moderated by Drake's Vice President & Dean of Students, Jerry Parker.

Jerry Parker is the Vice President & Dean of Students at Drake University. He joined Drake in 2014 and became Dean of Students in 2017, leading student affairs and focusing on student success, well-being, and inclusion. Known on campus for his supportive and approachable leadership, Parker has worked in student affairs at several universities across the country. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Texas State University and a PhD in higher education administration from Texas A&M University.

Drake Opera: Carmen

Christine Blanner

Friday, February 27

6 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harmon Performing Arts, Drake

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

Class limit: 65

Drake Opera Theatre will be performing *Carmen* with the Drake Symphony Orchestra. With dances by DM Ballet Choreographer, Michael Tomlinson, this promises to be our most fabulous production yet!

The evening will commence with a wine and cheese reception 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.

Tallgrass Theatre Company:

Disenchanted!

Sunday, March 1

2 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Tallgrass Theatre, West Des Moines

Cost: \$35

Cap: 45

Disenchanted! is a satirical Off-Broadway musical comedy that flips classic fairytale tropes by bringing iconic princesses (Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, etc.) together in a modern setting to vent about their “happily ever afters,” revealing the absurdities, double standards, and unrealistic expectations of their stories through witty songs and dialogue. It’s a hilarious, irreverent revue where the princesses, led by a sassy Snow White, reclaim their narratives.

Knitting and Crafts Social Group

Margie Davidson, Jan Hetzel,

Rita Kottmeyer

Mondays, March through May

12-1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Alumni House

Cost: FREE

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

Participants are welcome to bring brown bag lunches

History of the Blues

Tom Buckmiller, Steve Vasquez

Monday, March 2

4-5:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: FREE

The origins of The Blues from African folk music to the Crossroads, the Delta and beyond. This will be a performance of The Blues with storytelling.

Tom Buckmiller is an award-winning blues musician and educator. Winner of the 2021 Iowa Blues Challenge and 2022 International Blues Challenge semi-finalist, he’s recorded five albums and published three books and an academic article on the blues, blending performance and scholarship to celebrate the soul of American music.

Steve Vasquez has been a Central Iowa Blues Society member since 2003. Director on the board, Education and Scholarship chair since 2011. Steve works closely with the Blues Society of Omaha, BluesEd, the Kansas City Blues Society, the Blues Foundation, and the Pinetop Perkins Foundation.

The Quantum of Life: A Brief Introduction to the Biology of Cells

Jerry Honts

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

The Quantum of Life explores how the tiniest units of biology—cells—construct everything we recognize as living. The series starts with what a cell is and how it originated, then dives into its hidden machinery: the motors, membranes, and molecular factories that keep it functioning. We then discover how cells sense their environment, communicate with each other, and make decisions that guide growth, healing, and daily functions. Finally, we look at what happens when these finely tuned processes go wrong, leading to disease—but also opening the door to powerful new biotechnologies and 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 Do I Become Fully Human/ Fully Alive?

Lyle Simpson

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course is based on the psychology of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs that explains how to build bridges over your own barriers that have 70% of all Americans who are locked on the third level, never realizing that there are three levels above that would significantly enhance their own lives. The class will provide information that will explain what it means to be among the 1% of our society that are fully alive today to give them a purpose for applying what they learn.

Lyle Simpson has an undergraduate degree from Drake University in psychology and philosophy. He has been an officer for 50 years, and past president of the American Humanist Association for six years (Isaac Asimov was his successor). He is the author of *Fully Human/Fully Alive*, and has presented to OLLI at Drake (and the RaySociety) several times in the past.

“Don’t Make Me Go There” The Nursing Home Landscape in Iowa

John Hale, Terri Hale, Dean Lerner

Wednesday, March 4

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Many people resist moving to a nursing home due to a strong desire for independence, fear of losing control, and concerns about leaving a familiar environment. However, many of us and our loved ones will have to seek nursing home care given health issues. What is the state of nursing home care in Iowa? What should one consider when seeking this care option? Presenters will review the current landscape in Iowa, the regulatory environment and concerns relating to quality, accessibility and affordability. We'll also explore proposed state legislation to improve nursing home care and safeguard Iowans.

John Hale and his wife, **Terri**, own The Hale Group, an Ankeny-based advocacy and consulting firm focused on enhancing the lives of older Iowans, Iowans with disabilities and the caregivers who support them.

Dean Lerner is a graduate of Grinnell College and Drake University Law School. He served for 16 years as an Iowa assistant attorney general, nearly four years as chief deputy secretary of state and nearly a decade as the deputy director and director of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals.

In Cold Blood Book Discussion

Nancy (Nan) St. Clair

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 15

Join Nan St. Clair as participants discuss the non-fiction novel *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote which details the brutal 1959 murder of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, and explores the crime, the killers, the investigation, and the profound impact on a small, peaceful community.

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.

Water Aerobics (7 sessions)

Darlene Strachan

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 16, 30

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!

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

Notorious (1946)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, March 5

2-4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 5)

Alfred Hitchcock's *Notorious* combines espionage, romance, and psychological tension in a masterful postwar thriller. Ingrid Bergman stars as a woman recruited by a U. agent (Cary Grant) to infiltrate a group of Nazi collaborators in Brazil, only to find herself caught between duty and desire. Featuring one of cinema's most famous screen kisses and a suspenseful finale involving a poisoned cup of coffee, *Notorious* explores trust, sacrifice, and betrayal with emotional precision and visual elegance. It remains a high point of Hitchcock's art and a defining example of classic Hollywood style.

Karl Malden: An Actor's Journey

Carl Johnson, Carla Malden

Fridays, March 6, 13, 20, 27

1:30-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course will delve into the life and work of Karl Malden from stage to screen to television. We will be honored to have his daughter, Carla Malden, as our special guest for each class session. The first session will be a discussion between Carl Johnson and Carla about her father's life and career, her own memories of growing up in that milieu, and his memoir she wrote with him. The next three sessions will focus on specific performances: Week 1 will be *I Confess* (1953) directed by Alfred Hitchcock; Week 2 will be *Baby Doll* (1956) directed by Elia Kazan; and Week 3 will be an episode from the first season of *The Streets of San Francisco*.

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

the Urbandale Community Theatre, and is the assistant director of the Greater Des Moines Community Band.

Carla Malden was raised in Los Angeles, and grew up surrounded by the entertainment industry. Her father was Academy Award-winning actor Karl Malden.

She attended UCLA where she majored in English and graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She began her career in motion picture production and development before segueing into screenwriting when she and her husband, Laurence Starkman, became a writing team. While working as a screenwriter, Carla co-wrote her father's critically acclaimed autobiography, *When Do I Start?*

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

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

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

Unlocking the Power of ChatGPT and Other AI Tools

Bill Mogolov

Mondays, March 9, 16, 23

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Bill Mogolov is returning with more AI discoveries to share with OLLI members. He is currently working on a "companion" book for his AI course. The book will initially be an eBook that covers all the course content, with some additional content not covered in the class. Bill anticipates completing it by the March class. It will be sold on Amazon but will be provided free to everyone in the class.

In addition to the eBook, he will supply class participants with a Notebook LM version that will include all the course content and facilitate interactive engagement. The eBook and the Notebook LM version will enhance their learning experience and provide students with a

nice resource to support their understanding of the course. They will also serve as “value added” items for the course.

Discover how Artificial Intelligence is transforming everyday life in ways you never imagined! This **beginner-friendly** course introduces AI tools like ChatGPT and other powerful apps, showing how they can assist with writing, research, organization, communication, creativity, and problem-solving. Through hands-on demonstrations, interactive exercises, and real-world examples, you’ll gain practical experience using AI effectively, responsibly, and with confidence. No technical background is needed—just curiosity and a desire to explore the limitless possibilities of this exciting and rapidly evolving technology!

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

Hidden Gems of the New Deal

Margie Davidson

Mondays, March 9, 16

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

It all began when I read a book by Scott Borchert called *Republic of Detours: How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Rediscover America*. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2021. What? The New Deal paid writers? Not knowing much about the New Deal I decided to look it up! It led to President FDR – look him up! He led me to the Great Depression – not knowing much about that I looked that up too! I finally landed in the Roaring 20s and decided that might be a good starting place. Follow the path to discover the wonders and gems hidden in various New Deal programs, including the Federal Writers Project.

Margie Davidson has been spending her retirement years reading, playing the piano, exercising and playing and teaching Mah Jongg — until the above-mentioned book all of a sudden turned her into a researcher! Not since completing her Master’s thesis in 1977 has she even considered doing any academic research, but having once started “looking it up” she got hooked on exploring the myriad resources available on the web in the 21st century and putting what she found in a format to share. Come join her on this adventure.

Hearts, Habits and Making Human Connections

Kim Gunnes

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24

12-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

Participants are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch to eat during class.

Love takes many forms—self-love, long-term partnership, new connections, and everything in between. In this interactive three-session course, we’ll explore how we take care of ourselves, intimacy and connections, and modern tools like online dating apps. Whether you’re single, partnered, or simply curious, this class offers insight, laughter, and meaningful conversation about the ways love continues to grow and evolve.

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.

Archery and Axe Throwing

Lewis Major

Wednesday, March 11

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Option 1)

11 a.m.-12 p.m. (Option 2)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Jester Park Nature Center

Cost: FREE

Participants will be assigned their session after registration.

Try your hand at archery and throwing axes. A naturalist will give you all instructions necessary and all equipment will be provided. Bows are adjustable and usable by most abilities. If you don’t want to shoot, come observe and learn a little about Polk County Conservation’s efforts to make shooting sports part of their programming. The ranges are inside the Jester Park Outdoor Recreation and Wellness Center. Bring a good attitude and a “can do” spirit.

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 passionate about getting people outdoors and connecting them with their natural world.

Mystery Fine Wine Tasting - SOUTH AMERICA!

Leif Gustafson

Wednesday, March 11

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 5 different varieties of wine from South America's major wine growing countries, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Wine will be poured in black glasses to obscure the color and make guessing more difficult. The attendee who guesses the most varieties and countries correctly will receive a free bottle of wine. Ties will be broken with a trivia tiebreaker. 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.

Introduction to AI

Alanah Mitchell

Thursday, March 12

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

In 1968, the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* gave us a glimpse of what our future with technology might look like. Today, we are really beginning to see the impact of artificial intelligence in our lives. This course will introduce the concept of artificial intelligence as well as examples of how machine intelligence is being used and what that means for us. Students will examine the current capabilities of AI systems across various industries and engage in critical discussions about their societal impact.

Alanah Mitchell serves as the Dean and Aliber Professor in the Zimpleman College of Business at Drake University. Her background is in information technology with expertise in technology-driven processes and change. Prior to her role as Dean, Alanah served as one of the co-chairs in the development of Drake's undergraduate major in artificial intelligence.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Food Sorting at the Food Bank of Iowa

Friday, March 13

9-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

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

Cost: FREE

Cap: 20

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

A Day in the Life of a Paramedic

Brian Burke

Wednesday, March 18

10-11:30 a.m. (presentation at Harkin)

2-3:30 p.m. (visit to fire station)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Cap: 50

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a paramedic? This presentation will discuss the process to become a paramedic and all of the things (good and bad) that come with the job.

The morning session will be a presentation at the Harkin Institute, followed by the afternoon session where participants will visit a local fire station.

Brian Burke is a 25-year veteran of the fire service, serving over the years in Pleasant Hill and Des Moines. He has been a paramedic for 21 years, and is currently assigned to the EMS section in the Des Moines Fire Department.

Behind the Scenes at Tallgrass Theatre Company

Tom Perrine

Thursday, March 19

2-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Tallgrass Theatre, West Des Moines

Cost: \$15

Cap: 50

This course will cover how a script is selected for production; securing the rights; director insights; design team insights; casting of actors; rehearsal process overview; tech week; run of the show and strike (show closing). We will discuss budgets, how a director moves actors on the stage, how designers might interpret the script, and the community that participation in a production creates.

Tom Perrine is the current Artistic Director for Tallgrass Theatre Company. Tom has a BA in Theatre from Knox College and is a retired member of IATSE, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Tom has been involved with the local theatre scene for almost 40 years. He has directed, performed, designed, produced...you name it, he's done it. Tom and his husband Bob Baskerville own and operate FRAME WORKS, a custom framing shop and small art gallery in Johnston, Iowa.

AFGHANISTAN: History, Culture, and War as Experienced by a Non-Combatant

David Bibler

Mondays, March 23, 30, April 6

12-1:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

David Bibler talks about his two years embedded with the United States military and NATO forces as a social scientist and cultural advisor. He conducted in-person interviews, planning, research and consultations throughout Regional Command East. With no prior military experience, it was almost as difficult to figure out that culture than that of Afghanistan.

David Bibler is a retired archaeologist with field work, Cultural Resources Management, Technical Writing, Tribal Negotiations as well as a host of other experience.

He worked as a Cultural Advisor and Social Scientist for DoD and embedded with the US Army for two years in Afghanistan. He has a BA in Anthropology, University Northern Colorado, and MA in American Studies, Pennsylvania State University.

400 Years of America's Music

Jonathan Sturm

Mondays, March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Beginning with a brief overview of the different styles that have happened in American music, this course will focus upon music ranging from Colonial music written in the European tradition through several avant-garde pieces composed in a distinctly American tradition in the 20th century. Course attendees will be exposed to a wide spectrum of music, with "fun facts" added, and slides and videos to enhance their understanding of America's musical history.

Jonathan Sturm serves as concertmaster of the Des Moines Symphony, and for 36 years taught violin, viola, and music history at universities in Iowa and Rhode Island. His credentials include: Doctor of Music, Indiana University, Master of Musicology, Eastman School of Music, Morrill Professor emeritus of Music History, Iowa State University.

Visit to Hawkeye Breeders

Brandy Jensen

Wednesday, March 25

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Meeting Location: Hawkeye Breeders, Adel

Cost: \$15

Cap: 30

Join us for a tour of Hawkeye Breeders, located near Adel. Hawkeye Breeders provides a "Country Club" environment of some of the most valuable stud bulls in the world, and was established in 1969. Their state-of-the-art laboratory and semen storage facility is on more than 180 acres!

The Battle for Christ: Christianity's First 500 Years

Jack Dalby

Thursdays, March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

8:30–10:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: ZOOM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 40

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

Christianity's astounding success in the ancient Roman world was not preordained. Far from it. In this historically-based, 5-part lecture series, we will examine the many reasons how, in its first 500 years of existence, Christianity grew from a tiny group of apocalyptic Jews in the year 30CE, to being proclaimed the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380CE. Topics for discussion will include the historical Jesus, the ministry of Paul of Tarsus, how the inclusion of gentiles changed the trajectory of Christian growth, why Christianity separated from Judaism, the Roman view of Christianity, early Christian worship, Roman persecution of Christians, the Pagan world, the importance of martyrdom, the astounding variety of Christianities, the cult of Mary, the importance of Christian missionary outreach, Constantine's conversion, the Council of Nicaea, Julian the Apostate, the great schisms and the fall of Rome.

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

Data Security: How to Protect Your Data in Today's Digital World

Alanah Mitchell

Thursday, March 26

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

We are regularly alerted to data breaches in the news today. What is a data breach and what motivates the hackers behind these attacks? In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of data security, what organizations are doing to protect their data, and specific steps for what individuals should be doing to protect their own data.

Alanah Mitchell serves as the Dean and Aliber Professor in the Zimpleman College of Business at Drake University. Her background is in information technology with expertise in technology-driven processes and change. Prior to her role as Dean, Alanah served as one of the co-chairs in the development of Drake's undergraduate major in artificial intelligence.

KEYS to Lifelong Vitality

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk

Fridays, March 27, April 3, 10

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Want to live the longest, healthiest life possible? Learn what science says about keeping your body and your mind as healthy as you can. This three lecture series will help you find out what you're doing right and what you may need to work on; in order to live a long and vital life.

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.

The Stories We Eat: Memoir, Meals and Meaning

Karen Downing, Chef Lisa LaValle

Monday, March 30

9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Meeting Location: Allora Cafe, Grand Ave., DSM

Cost: \$35

Cap: 40

Join OLLI members for this unique opportunity at Allora Cafe in Des Moines with Karen Downing and Chef Lisa LaValle who will lead this class to use food as an entry point into memories by doing close readings of texts to see how authors write about food and memory. Chef Lisa LaValle will share some of her own memories connected to food and will prepare a light lunch to engage our senses. Participants will be given several writing invitations to explore their own experiences. This class is meant for anyone who appreciates the connection between food, memory and writing.

Karen Downing is a retired English teacher who taught for 34 years at Valley High School. She has an MFA from the University of Iowa in Creative Nonfiction. She is the Project Coordinator for CultureALL's Open Book program and is a Poetry Palooza board member.

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.

History of State Parks in Iowa

Andy Bartlett

Tuesdays, March 31, April 7, 14

10–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID (Sessions 1 & 2)
(Session 3: IN PERSON at Ledges State Park)

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

Through pictures and stories, you'll learn about the effort to establish a system of state parks in Iowa in the early 20th century. This class will also highlight the legacy that state parks have left on our lives and offer descriptions of several popular state parks in Iowa

Session 3 will be in-person as a field trip visit to Ledges State Park. Participants will meet with the guide and then follow him around the park in their personal vehicles, making several stops to get out and discuss the park's natural resources and cultural assets.

Andy Bartlett is the Manager of Ledges State Park near Boone. He has worked for the Iowa DNR for 20 years and is keenly interested in the history of the state parks system in Iowa.

America's Rise as a World

Power, 1862–1942

Paul Morris

Tuesdays, March 31, April 7, 21, 28

2–3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$45

This course is not a general history of the period. Rather, it focuses on three main threads which led to America's rise. These were economic growth, immigration, and changing attitudes to the world beyond its shores. We begin in 1862, which saw the beginning of steel production, the leading sector of a modern economy, while 1945 marked the arrival of America as a world

power. Along the way we will examine America's brief excursions into imperialism, its intervention in the First World War, its rapid retreat into isolationism, and President Roosevelt's wooing of the country into the Second World War.

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.

Walk This Way

Tim Woods, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk

Wednesdays, April 1, 8

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

No, you don't have to walk to Aerosmith, though music can impact your walking pace. In this class, we'll discuss the latest research about length and distance when walking for body and brain fitness. We'll also explore enhancements, such as walking with poles, pole exercises, proper footwear, and walking in inclement weather. Perfect if you're already a walker or just wanting to get started.

Tim Woods, USMC veteran and former President of International Traders of Iowa, spent forty plus years working in International Transportation and Logistics management. Now semi-retired, he re-discovered a passion for health and wellness and for the past ten years has worked with organizations such as Help and Hope for Brain Fitness, Above + Beyond Cancer, and the YMCA. Tim is a marathon runner, fitness advocate, Wellness Coach and Certified Instructor for the YMCA and Above + Beyond Cancer.

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk – see previous biographical information.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

Shane (1953)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, April 2

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 2)

George Stevens's *Shane* is a timeless Western about heroism, morality, and the end of the frontier. Alan Ladd plays the mysterious gunslinger who rides into a Wyoming

valley to help homesteaders resist a ruthless cattle baron. Torn between his violent past and the peaceful life he longs for, Shane becomes both protector and tragic figure in the eyes of a young boy who idolizes him. With sweeping cinematography, poignant performances, and an unforgettable final scene, the film transcends genre conventions to become a meditation on honor, loyalty, and the cost of violence.

Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture Series:

JOHN GREEN

Thursday, April 2

7-8:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Knapp Center, 2525 Forest Ave.

Cost: FREE

Cap: 300 people

Reserved seating for OLLI at Drake members.

Drake University is honored to welcome #1 *New York Times* bestselling author John Green for the Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lectureship. Green is known for his beloved and acclaimed novels, including *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Paper Towns*, and *Turtles All the Way Down*. His latest work, *Everything is Tuberculosis*, is a deeply human social and scientific history that illuminates the critical healthcare inequities that allow this curable, treatable infectious disease to also be the deadliest, killing 1.5 million people every year.

John Green's books have been published in more than 55 languages and have more than 24 million copies in print. Green is the 2006 recipient of the Michael L. Printz Award, a 2009 Edgar Award winner, and has twice been a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Film and television adaptations of his works include the movies *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) and *Paper Towns* (2015), and the limited series *Looking for Alaska* (2019) on Hulu.

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 Lectureship Series** is made possible by a gift from the late Melva and Martin Bucksbaum. The Martin Bucksbaum Lectureship Committee includes Dr. Kelly Bruhn (chair), Dr. Alanah Mitchell, Dr. Neil Hamilton, Mary Scanlon, Pam Bass-Bookey, Janis Ruan, Marcia Wanamaker, Eleanor Zeff, Bob Riley, Julie Stewart, Liz Hatfield, Dr. Richard Deming, Dr. Cassity Gutierrez, Shawna Kasner-Hannam, Paul LeFort, and Allie Koenigsfeld.

Jazz Adventures

Abe Goldstien

Fridays, April 3, 10, 17

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

In these three sessions, Abe Goldstien will take a close look at three different aspects of jazz:

Jazz Goes Political focuses on jazz artists who have used their music to make political statements including performances from various eras of jazz and artists including Louis Armstrong, Charles Mingus, Max Roach, Charlie Haden and Jeff Lederer.

Jazz Goes International focuses on how jazz moved to Europe and other continents and influenced a new generation of jazz artists from every corner of the world.

Jazz Goes Religious focuses on jazz artists who have combined jazz with religious music such as Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck, Mary Lou Williams, John Coltrane and others.

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.

Drake Musical: *Little Women* with presentation by the director

Friday, April 3

6 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harmon Fine Arts

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

Cap: 65

Reception and presentation prior to performance.

Little Women is a musical from the book by Allan Knee, lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, and music by Jason Howland. It is based on Louisa May Alcott's 1868–69 novel, and focuses on the four March sisters, while their father is away serving as a Union Army chaplain during the Civil War.

Crime Victims' Rights: Empowerment, Safety and Security

Peggy Urtz

Mondays, April 6, 13

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has helped remove barriers for all victims of crime, educated the public, and recognized accomplishments with the victims' rights movement. NCVRW is commemorated this year April 19-25. This is an ideal time to raise awareness about crime victims' rights and available services. This two-part class will examine victim rights related to our population, share available services, and hear from experts and victim voices.

Peggy Urtz is a graduate of Drake University. She earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa. She worked in Community-Based Corrections for 33 years. She has been an adjunct criminal justice instructor at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) since 2011 and an adjunct criminal justice and social work college instructor at Grand View University since 2017.

Hearts & Homes Luncheon at the Wallace House

Thursday, April 9

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Wallace House, 765 16th Street, DSM

Cost: \$45

Cap: 30

If at capacity, will also offer April 10 for the waitlist.

Dine on a three-course, farm-to-table luncheon and listen to a program of readings from the historic pages of the women's section of *Wallaces' Farmer* magazine in the same rooms where Nancy Cantwell Wallace edited her Hearts & Homes column from 1895 to 1909. Nancy and her readers often contributed sound advice and thought-provoking commentary, still of interest today.

The Wallace Centers of Iowa is a nonprofit with the mission of preserving the Wallace family legacy of agricultural innovation and public service with programs that connect Iowa's food, land, and people.

ANDERSON GALLERY EVENT: 55th Annual Juried Student Exhibition

Lilah Anderson and Drake students

Thursday, April 9

3-4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Anderson Gallery, Drake University

Cost: FREE

Cap: 35

Join us for a presentation and tour of the 55th 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, hear from student artists, and enjoy good conversation with fellow art lovers!

Lilah Anderson has served as the Anderson Gallery Director 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.

You Be the Jury!

Jeff Noble

Mondays, April 13, 20, 27

6-9 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Drake Legal Clinic, Drake University

Cost: \$15/session

Cap: 62 per evening (12 jurors, 50 audience)

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

An Eventbrite invitation will be forwarded to registered participants as the date approaches to give additional details, including parking and a description of the specific trial. This is an in-person only event.

Jeff Noble is a retired prosecutor and adjunct professor at Drake Law School.

Lake Robbins Ballroom

Wednesday, April 15

11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Lake Robbins Ballroom, Woodward, IA

Cost: \$30

Cap: 50

Join us at the beautiful Lake Robbins Ballroom in Woodward, IA, for a Lunch & Learn beginning at 11:00 a.m. The event includes a presentation during lunch. After lunch, enjoy a dancing demonstration to conclude the program.

Introduction to NA Cocktails (Mocktails)

Nate Evans

Thursday, April 16

1:30–3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Centro, DSM

Cost: \$30

Cap: 30

We will be going over the increased popularity of non-alcoholic (NA) cocktails and how they have developed and grown in the last several years. Along with the lecture we will taste 3 cocktails and learn how they are made. Small bites will also be provided by the Centro kitchen.

Nate Evans is an experienced bartender who built bar programs at Guesthouse Oyster and Tavern, Django, and Centro. Specializes in innovative zero-proof offerings. Partnered with the Des Moines Arts Festival and World Food Fest to create both NA and spirited cocktail menus for large-scale events.

On the Iowa Tenderloin Trail

Steve Roberts – Dexfield Diner owner

Friday, April 17

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Dexfield Diner, Redfield, Iowa

Cost: \$30

Cap: 50

Join us for a fun luncheon at Dexfield Diner — a cozy local favorite in Redfield known for its delicious classic diner fare and savory pork tenderloin sandwiches. Their tenderloin has been recognized as a finalist in the 2025 Iowa Pork Producers Association “Best Breaded Pork Tenderloin” contest (top-5 in the state!), so it’s a great place to sample some of Iowa’s best.

CIVIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Presents: The Fred Hersch Trio

Friday, April 17

7:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Sheslow Auditorium, Drake

Cost: \$20

Cap: 35

Experience the artistry of jazz legend Fred Hersch! A 17-time GRAMMY nominee, composer, and bandleader, Hersch has shaped the voice of jazz for decades. With more than 60 albums, he has collaborated with artists like Esperanza Spalding and Enrico Rava, among many others. A passionate educator and activist, he continues to push the boundaries of jazz.

HEALTHY EATING SERIES:

We're Fans of Fiber!

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, Lisa LaValle

Monday, April 20

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. LUNCH & LEARN

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Cap: 40

Chef Lisa LaValle and Dr. Patricia Quinlisk are back to talk about how to get more fiber in your diet simply and easily. Fiber is one of the most important components of a healthy diet, but can be hard to get enough. Join us for a light but delicious high fiber meal that was put together without much cooking.

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk – see previous biographical information.

Lisa LaValle – see previous biographical information.

Building Community Through Coffeeshops

Tom Gilsenan

Wednesdays, April 22, 29

10:00–11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations Smokey Row, DSM, Mars Cafe, DSM\

Cost: FREE

Participants to purchase own beverages at coffeeshop locations.

Coffeeshops like Mars Cafe and Smokey Row in Des Moines are more than places to get a cup of coffee and a

little conversation. These are also places where people go to linger, share ideas and exchange everything from music to dreams. In a way, these have become “neighborhoods.” Anthropologist Ray Oldenburg calls these ‘third places.’ The idea of neighborhoods isn’t new, of course. But alternative places are more important as the traditional idea of neighborhoods has declined. So many of our new neighborhoods do not have places to linger or talk about events of the day.

In this class we’ll explore the expanding role of coffeeshops in our communities, look back at the roots of the coffee house and look ahead to what may lie ahead in the future for coffeeshops.

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.

OLLI at Drake Trivia Evening

Wednesday, April 22

5-7 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: The Cork, Johnston Town Center

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

Cap: 40

Test your knowledge about all things trivial 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.

B*I*N*G*O!

Jan Hetzel

Thursday, April 23

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

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

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

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

Iowa Architectural Foundation:

‘City Beautiful’ Walking Tour

Ryan Ellsworth and Edd Soenke

Thursday, April 23

5-6:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Meeting Location: Capital Square, DSM

Cost: \$30

Cap: 30

At the turn of the twentieth century, Des Moines’ leaders adopted the philosophy of The City Beautiful Movement. The movement was inspired by Chicago’s 1893 World Columbian Exhibition, which led the efforts to beautify and ennoble America’s cities. It was believed that beautification would bring along with it moral and civic virtue. Influenced by this movement, the Des Moines Women’s Club and other civic-minded organizations began clamoring for improvements along the river. They replaced meat packing warehouses and houses of ill repute with what we experience now as a series of beautiful civic buildings including City Hall, the World Food Prize and the Armory Building along what is now the Principal River Walk. This architectural walking tour will open your eyes to these historic landmarks of Des Moines.

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Meals from the Heartland

Amanda Parkins

Friday, April 24

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 357 Lincoln Street, WDSM

Cost: FREE

Cap: 40

Step in and make an impact with Meals from the Heartland! As a volunteer, you’ll help package meals that feed families in local food pantries, offer critical support during natural disasters, and reach people facing severe hunger globally. Every hour you give helps nourish lives.

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

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM: Walking Tour of the State Historical Society of Iowa

Jodi Evans

Friday, April 24

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 600 E. Locust, DSM

Cost: \$15

Cap: 40

Join your fellow OLLI at Drake members for this docent-led guided tour of the State Museum of Iowa. The tours will be led by experienced Museum personnel. This behind-the-scenes tour will give an overview of the Museum's day-to-day operations.

Jodi Evans has degrees from Waldorf College (now Waldorf University), Luther College, and the University of Iowa, Certificate in Historical Administration from the American Association for State and Local History. She has 38 years experience as Registrar with the State Historical Society of Iowa, managing information and objects.

Valley Junction Past and Present

Steve Frevert

Tuesday, April 28

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Valley Junction

Cost: \$15

Cap: 30

Zoom presentation at 8:30 a.m. on April 28 prior to the walking tour.

The original core of what is now West Des Moines, Valley Junction has undergone continual evolution since its 19th century railroad beginnings. You'll learn about the downs and ups that have made Valley Junction a revitalization success story known for its unique historic and cultural heritage, independent shops and restaurants, and big events. This learning experience includes a walking tour of the district, and then participants are welcome to dine at West Des Moines' oldest restaurant or other establishments.

Steve Frevert became Executive Director of the Historic Valley Junction Foundation in 2021 after leading Burlington, Iowa's Main Street program for 12 years. He has worked at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio in Oak Park, Illinois and volunteered with historic preservation organizations in Wisconsin and Iowa.

STUDENT LIFE: Drake Dorm Visit and Lunch at Hubbell Dining Hall

Thursday, April 30

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Drake Dorms and Hubbell Dining Hall

Cost: \$10

Cap: 40

Dorm tour and lunch.

Ever wonder what dorm rooms look like now compared to what you had? Join us to visit Goodwin-Kirk Residence Hall and also one of the Quad dorms. We will then go to Hubbell Dining Hall to dine like students.

Historic Farm to Table Dinner: Wallace Centers of Iowa

Thursday, April 30

6-8:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Wallace House, 765 16th Street, DSM

Cost: \$75 (BYO alcohol)

Cap: 44

If at capacity, will also offer April 29 for waitlist group.

Join the Wallace Centers of Iowa for a farm-to-table dining experience at the historic Wallace House. This three-course dinner will incorporate organically grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs harvested from the Wallace Farm near Orient, IA, and locally sourced ingredients from other Iowa farmers.

The Wallace House is a restored 1882 Victorian home where "Uncle Henry" and Nancy Cantwell Wallace lived when they founded the *Wallaces' Farmer* farm journal and showcases the legacy of the Wallace family, including US Vice President Henry A. Wallace.

The Wallace Centers of Iowa is a nonprofit with the mission of preserving the Wallace family legacy of agricultural innovation and public service with programs that connect Iowa's food, land, and people.

ARBOR DAY FARM - Discover the Origins of Arbor Day

Friday, May 1

FULL DAY (Self drive)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City

Cost: \$65

Cap: 50

Join us for a visit to the birthplace of Arbor Day, and enjoy an experience like no other, including a lunch and learn at Porter's Restaurant. Here are some highlights of the day:

Tree Adventure – immerse yourself where the Arbor Day mission comes to life. Walk the trails taking in the sights and sounds and stopping to learn along the way. For the adventurous types, explore the Treetop Village consisting of tree houses connected by cable bridges.

Apple House Market – Seasonal local items for sale, as well as Porter's restaurant, wine tasting and our apple sorting and cider making areas.

Green House – Step into the stable climate where we grow items for the chef and trees that we hand out to school children to connect them to the mission of Arbor Day.

Discovery Ride – take an hour-long tractor ride through the orchard and back part of the farm to learn about our orchard, the farm history, and how we care for the trees.

Arbor Lodge – the home of the Morton family. Where Arbor Day all got started. Tour the 52-room mansion that was the first state historic site in Nebraska.

Birdwatching in Central Iowa

Dennis Thompson

Mondays, May 4, 11, 18

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

Transformations

Dennis Kelly

Mondays, May 4, 11, 18

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

As the world within me and the world around me goes through this powerful transformation, what is it that I can do to take advantage of this amazing opportunity for personal growth.

In this class we will learn how to live with the higher frequencies of a rapidly changing world.

If you are ready to let go of the old and step into the NEW, sign up for this class and enjoy some exciting experiences and discussion.

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

Uncovering Des Moines' Hidden Histories

Breann Bye

Mondays, May 4, 11

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

Join Breann Bye for this informative series uncovering more of the lost history of Des Moines exploring more neighborhoods that are experiencing revitalization.

Highland Park: Explore Highland Park as one of Des Moines' classic streetcar suburbs, where bridges, colleges, and brick commercial blocks turned farmland into a self-contained urban district. We will trace how the extension of streetcar lines and the construction of Highland Park College helped fuel the growth of the Highland Park and Oak Park neighborhoods, and how business districts at College Corner and along 6th and Euclid evolved into some of the city's largest neighborhood-centered commercial nodes. Along the way, we will examine the architecture, small-business history, and ongoing revitalization of a neighborhood district that still looks and feels like the downtown of a modest Iowa town, even as it adapts to twenty-first-century needs.

Sebastopol: This course will dig into Sebastopol, the once-independent coal and brewery town that grew up just south of Des Moines in the 1850s. Laid out by James Sherman and later incorporated as its own municipality, Sebastopol developed around a major coal mine and brewery, attracting

workers and families to a gridded settlement bounded by SE 5th, Hartford, Bell, and Pioneer Park. We will explore how this industrial community took its name from a Crimean War fortress, how coal and beer shaped its early economy, how classic businesses like B&B Grocery deliciously tie the past and present together, and what remains today of the landscapes and stories of a place that helped power Des Moines from beneath its feet.

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

How Iowa Met Baseball: The Myths, the History, the Players

John Liepa

Tuesdays, May 5, 12

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Over the past 150 years, the setting for the Spring passion of many Iowans has been the ball park. This course explores the myths surrounding baseball's origins, the early history and evolution of the game, baseball's journey to Iowa, and the role of the Civil War in spreading its popularity. The class will learn about some of Iowa's baseball pioneers, our seven Hall of Famers, and will view the most extensive collection of baseball cards and memorabilia featuring Iowa players.

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

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Elmer 'Dutch' Vermeer

David Oman and Richard Gilbert

Tuesday, May 5

2–4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

The Vermeer family name is well-known, both in Pella and throughout Iowa. We are highlighting the life of Elmer 'Dutch' Vermeer as part of our 'People You Should Know' series. Dutch Vermeer described himself as Farmer, Nurseryman, multi-term member of the Iowa Legislature, and Aide to Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray. But he was so much more. This farm boy enlisted in the armed forces during World War II, becoming a member of the Army Corps of Engineers. Rising to the rank of 1st Lieutenant, Demolition Officer, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, European Theater. Lt. Vermeer was awarded the Silver Star for heroism displayed June 6–8, 1944 at Point du Hoc, Normandy.

Dutch came home to Pella and a life of public service. Recognizing his leadership and service to Iowa as a member of the Iowa Legislature, newly elected Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray was quick to reach out to Vermeer who then joined his administration as an Administrative Aide in the Governor's Office. Dutch's years of service and experience were invaluable to Governor Ray. Join us as our presenters, also key members of Governor Ray's staff, share the life of Elmer Vermeer, including the Robert D. Ray years and recently discovered personal diary pages that delve even deeper into Dutch's personal D-Day story. 'Dutch' Vermeer is an American hero we are proud to call an Iowan!

David Oman is an Iowa native and Senior Advisor to the Iowa Conservative Energy Forum, which he helped organize in 2019–20. He served ten years in the Iowa Governor's Office, including as Chief of Staff to Governor Robert Ray and the first Chief of Staff to Governor Terry Branstad, making him the only Iowan to hold that role for two governors. After state government, Oman worked as a cable television executive with Heritage Communications and Tele-Communications, Inc., served on the boards of C-SPAN and regional cable interconnects, and co-owned Iowa's first all-news radio station. Oman has also served on the boards of UnityPoint Health, the UNI Foundation, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (including as chair), and was a founding board member of the Iowa Environmental Council.

Richard Gilbert was Governor Robert D. Ray's press secretary from 1969–1974, co-chaired Iowa SHARES refugee relief efforts, and is the former owner of the *Eagle Grove Eagle* newspaper and was president of The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company. He is a contributor to "Julie Gammack's Iowa Potluck," a blog on Substack.

From Mayberry to Mistrust: Why Americans Have Lost Faith in Each Other

Tom Rice

**Tuesdays, May 6, 13
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

In the 1960s sitcom *The Andy Griffith Show*, the citizens of Mayberry trusted each other: cars were left unlocked, business was done with a handshake, and second chances were freely given, especially by Sheriff Taylor. To a large degree, Mayberry was simply a reflection of 1960s America, a time when social trust was high and institutions were widely respected. Over the past half century, however, that sense of trust has eroded. Today, Americans are more skeptical of one another, of authority, and of the systems that once held communities together. In this course, we'll explore how and why trust has declined, what the loss means for our politics and daily lives, and how we might begin to rebuild a culture of trust.

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

Walking Meditation

Kathy Bernreuter

**Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21
8:30–10 a.m.**

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Locations: TBD

Cost: \$30

Learn to put together two of our simplest activities – breathing and walking – in a meditative way that can improve your physical and mental well-being. Research shows that combining patterns of breath synchronized with your walking steps produces a relaxation response and improved mood better than either on their own. The technique is simple, natural and effective - you can practice it anywhere! Weather permitting, class will meet at three lovely, outdoor public green spaces in Des Moines. Wear comfortable walking shoes, dress appropriately for the weather and bring a water bottle.

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

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*

(1964)

**Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie
Thursday, May 7**

2–4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Varsity Cinema

Cost: \$10

(Optional Zoom presentation with Carl Johnson at 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Thursday, May 7)

Jacques Demy's *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* is a radiant musical unlike any other—every line of dialogue is sung, every frame drenched in color. Starring a young Catherine Deneuve, the film tells the bittersweet story of first love between a mechanic and a shopgirl separated by war and circumstance. Michel Legrand's lush score and Demy's stylized design turn everyday life into lyrical tragedy. At once romantic and melancholy, *Umbrellas* transforms a simple love story into a heartbreakingly lyrical opera about time, memory, and the dreams we leave behind.

WesleyLife LUNCH & LEARN: Exploring Community with CultureALL

Karen Allen

Friday, May 8

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: 3206 University Ave, DSM

Cost: \$30

Cap: 80

Presentation and luncheon.

Join fellow OLLI members for a delicious lunch at WesleyLife Meals on Wheels classroom with Karen Allen from CultureALL. We will explore a variety of ways to learn about neighbors from our own community, as well as cultures we may not yet be familiar with, through interactive experiences and storytelling. Students will be encouraged to share their own experiences and stories if they'd like.

Karen Allen, CultureALL's program director, grew up between rural Iowa and the Chicago metro, sparking a lifelong curiosity about people and cultures. Having discovered incredible stories, flavors, and traditions traveling across the US and beyond, she will guide you on an exploration to deepen the appreciation of your own community!

A Voice from the Progressive Era: The 1888-1922 Diary of Mary Ann Briggs

Sue Burns

Friday, May 8

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

Mary Ann Briggs was an ordinary woman living an ordinary life on her farm in Dallas County, IA. The diary she kept (1888 – 1922) documents her daily existence and gives voice to life in a pivotal time. In Mary's own words: "I hope what I have written down in the pages of this Journal will be of interest to those who may read them after the hand that penned them has ceased its labors."

Sue Burns is a life-long Iowan with living roots to a family farm in Polk County. After graduating Iowa State University, she had a 30-year career in Information Technology, ending as a Business Analyst, with well-honed skills in data analysis, research, and software testing, implementation, and instruction. She has a Bachelors in Graphic Design from ISU, is the author of *A Common Life: A Voice from the Progressive Era*, and is an alumna of the Des Moines Register's Storytellers Project.

Step Back in Time: Historic Iowa State Fairgrounds Walking Tour

Thursday, May 14

10-11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Iowa State Fairgrounds

Cost: \$15

Cap: 60

Discover the stories, architecture, and iconic moments that shaped one of America's most historic fairgrounds. This guided tour will explore landmark buildings that have hosted generations of Fairgoers, prize-winning livestock, legendary performers, and milestone events. Learn how the grounds have evolved since the early 1900s, hear surprising anecdotes, and see firsthand how preservation and progress continue to work hand-in-hand to keep the Fair's heritage alive.

Take a walk through history—and experience the Fairgrounds like you've never seen them before.

Broadlawns Medical Center Tour

Jean Logan

Thursday, May 14

2:30-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Broadlawns

Cost: \$15

Cap: 40

Discover the hidden secrets and unique healthcare services of Broadlawns on this tour led by Jean Logan, former chair of the board of trustees and author of the book *Broadlawns: A Century of Caring*. From the original tuberculosis hospital with its landmark cupola, to the "pest house", to the state-of-the-art birthing center, dental clinic, emergency department and mental health units, you will come to embrace Broadlawns as an important essential hospital.

Jean Logan taught nursing at Grand View University for 33 years, specifically teaching the capstone healthcare policy course. She was elected to two six-year terms as a trustee at Broadlawns and twice served as its chairperson. She is the author of the book *Broadlawns: A Century of Caring*, which is the first known published book documenting its powerful history. Her credentials include Nurse Educator PhD.

Discover the Hidden Art Gems of Jefferson, Iowa

Kevin Paulsen

Friday, May 15

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Jefferson, Iowa

Cost: \$45

Cap: 40

Enjoy a day visiting 2025 Great American Main Street Award winner Jefferson. Savor a meal at the Centennial, a trip 128 feet up in the Mahany Bell Tower, and a walking tour of the revitalized square. Learn the history of the area with a tour of the Greene County Historical Museum and finish with a visit to Elliott Art Studio and Gallery. It's a fun-filled day in one of Central Iowa's hidden gems.

Kevin Paulsen is the office coordinator for Jefferson Matters. He has been in Jefferson since 1999, after moving from the Lake City area where he was a school teacher for seven years, and then taught 25 more years in the Jefferson-Scranton, Greene County school system until he retired in May 2024.

Guided Tour of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park DSM Art Center docents

Monday, May 18

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Pappajohn Sculpture Park, DSM

Cost: \$15

Cap: 60

Enjoy a guided tour of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in the heart of downtown Des Moines. Unlike any other park in the United States, The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is 4.4 acres and completely open to the public. It features artwork by more than two dozen of the world's most celebrated artists. Discover the engaging stories behind these works and learn about the Park's evolution and impact since its opening to the public in 2009.

Take Me Out To the Ballgame!

OLLI at Iowa Cubs Game

John Liepa

Tuesday, May 19

11:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Principal Park, Des Moines

Cost: \$15

Cap: 30

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 on Zoom about the season, so far, and some insights into players.

Exploring Iowa's Wildflowers

Stephen Riggio

Wednesdays, May 20, 27

9-10:30 a.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$30

Cap: 30

This course will focus on Iowa's wildflowers and grasses. In the first session, Iowa's geologic and natural histories will be discussed as a background for the types of environments that host these plants. It will present a practical scheme for identifying the common wildflowers and grasses of the region. A second session will be a trip to Gray's Lake Park to discover many of these plants in their natural environment.

Stephen Riggio earned a doctorate in biochemistry at The Johns Hopkins University. He worked for 25 years in R&D and Manufacturing-Operations positions at clinical diagnostics divisions of pharmaceutical corporations. Following this, he taught chemistry and biology at the college level for 18 years in both Maryland and Iowa. His interest in wildflowers includes a collaboration with the staff of the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in the planning and implementation of a local, large prairie garden and working at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and at other Des Moines horticultural opportunities.

Cribbage Over Lunch

Mary Christopher

Wednesdays, May 20, 27, June 3, 10

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$45

Cap: 16

Participants can bring brown bag lunch to class.

Cribbage, said to have originated in England, is about 400 years old and is one of the most popular card games for 2 players (it can also be played by 3 or 4). In this class, students will learn six-card cribbage basics including playing, pegging, scoring, and some simple score-improving strategies. Standard 52-card decks will be provided as well as cribbage boards, although students are free to bring their own.

Mary Christopher's family has generations of cribbage players and it has become her favorite card game over the years. Mary is a history author with a background in business management and college-level teaching.

Annual Meeting and

Celebration

Wednesday, May 20

2-4 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Schickler Courtside Club, Knapp Building

Cost: FREE

Join us for this catered event, as we celebrate another year of OLLI at Drake classes, travel, friendships, volunteering ... and so much more.

WINTerset: “In Flanders Fields the Poppies Grow” Exhibition PLUS Mead Tasting and Lunch at the Honey Lounge

Thursday, May 21

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Winterset

Cost: \$45

Cap: 40

Visit the Iowa Quilt Museum in Winterset to learn about the Quilts of Valor (QOV) event “In Flanders Field The Poppies Grow” exhibit.

Following the tour of the Quilt Museum, we will take a short walk for a mead tasting and light lunch and discover the sweet essence of sustainability at Haynes Homestead and The Honey Lounge, a family-run Meadery in charming Winterset, Iowa. Nestled at 111 S 1st Ave, they craft raw, golden honey at their apiary and artisanal meads from their own beehives, embracing a self-sufficient homesteading lifestyle that celebrates tradition and healthy living.

Take a Dive into Des Moines’

Neighborhood Bars:

Carl’s Place: 1620 Woodland Ave

Striking Sparrow Lounge: 1930 SE 6th St

Thursdays, May 21, 28

3-4:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Cost: FREE

Participants purchase their own drinks and food.

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

Visit the Pearl of the Mississippi: Muscatine, Iowa

Friday, May 22

FULL DAY (Self drive)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Muscatine, Iowa

Cost: \$65

Cap: 50

Explore the rich heritage and vibrant arts of Muscatine on this full-day excursion. Begin with a tour of the Pearl Button Museum, where you'll learn how Muscatine earned its nickname as the “Pearl Button Capital of the World.” Enjoy lunch at the scenic Maxwell's on the River, followed by a visit to the Muscatine Art Center, including an engaging new Civil War display. On the way home, make a stop at the historic Pine Creek Grist Mill to experience a piece of Iowa's industrial past. This trip combines history, art, and local culture for a well-rounded and memorable day.

QUILTS OF VALOR: Honoring Veterans

Warren Larsen

Tuesday, May 26

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: FREE

The Quilts of Valor® program is a national nonprofit initiative dedicated to honoring and comforting our nation's service members and veterans who have been touched by war. Through the presentation of handmade quilts, the program expresses gratitude for their service and sacrifice while offering warmth, healing, and comfort.

Each Quilt of Valor® is lovingly crafted by volunteers and awarded to an active-duty service member or veteran who has been deployed in a combat zone. These quilts serve as tangible reminders that their sacrifices are recognized and deeply appreciated by a grateful nation.

Since its founding in 2003, Quilts of Valor® has awarded hundreds of thousands of quilts, fostering a powerful connection between civilians and the military community and helping recipients feel seen, valued, and honored.

Stay after the program for social time for coffee and refreshments.

The Legacy of Chief Justice John Roberts and the Roberts Court

Hunter R. Clark

Wednesdays, May 27, June 3

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$30

This class will examine Roberts's Institutional approach to the Court, comparing his Institutionalism with Originalism, Libertarianism, and also the theory of the Living Constitution espoused by Chief Justice Earl Warren and others during the Warren Court era.

Hunter R. Clark joined Drake University's law faculty in 1993. He is a graduate of Harvard College, A.B. cum laude 1976, and Harvard Law School, J.D. 1979. During law school, he wrote for the *Harvard International Law Journal*, and edited the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. From 1981-1986, he worked as a staff writer for *TIME Magazine*, writing weekly articles on world affairs and diplomatic developments. His writings on foreign direct investment and global economic

development have appeared in leading journals and law reviews. During high school, Clark worked as a page in the US Supreme Court. He is the author of two books: *Justice Brennan: The Great Conciliator* (1995), and *Thurgood Marshall: Warrior at the Bar, Rebel on the Bench* (1994, 1992).

Exploring Greenfield, Iowa

Thursday, May 28

FULL DAY (Self Drive)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Greenfield, Iowa

Cost: \$65

Cap: 40

Join us for a full itinerary of fun activities en route and in Greenfield, Iowa. Here is a sample of activities, starting with early morning coffee and breakfast at Beans and Beignets in Earlham.

8:45 a.m. Stop at Beans and Beignets in Earlham for Coffee or Breakfast. (Participants can purchase own.)

10:30 a.m. Stop at The Freedom Rock™ – the original Freedom Rock by local artist Ray "Bubba" Sorenson. This Rock is painted every year around Memorial Day to a new theme honoring veterans.

11:30 a.m. Visit the Warren Cultural Center – listed on the National Register for Historic Places this rehabilitated Opera House is the gem of the Greenfield Public Square Historic District. Greenfield features a Lancaster style square – it's a rare square for the Midwest and the only one of its kind in Iowa! The Warren Cultural Center is also home to Ed & Eva's – all items in this shop feature items made by Iowa artisans.

1:00 p.m. Lunch at The Olive Branch – a second-generation Greek family restaurant with a full menu of American and Greek foods.

After Lunch – exit through the Historic Hotel Greenfield for a quick pass through the lobby (beautifully restored and features a mural by Bubba Sorenson).

2:30 p.m. Tour the Schildberg Car Collection – a private collection of vintage and classic cars.

3:30 p.m. Aviation Museum – this is three museums in one featuring a display room of Iowa's role in aviation history, a hangar full of historic planes, and the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame and Library.

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Iowa PBS

Caryline Clark

Monday, June 1

10-11:30 a.m. OR 2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Iowa PBS Studios, Johnston

Cost: \$15

Cap: 25 per session

Would you like to learn more about Iowa PBS? Join us for this special visit! Tours provide a behind-the-scenes look at the Iowa PBS studios. Guests will have the opportunity to see the sets of our programs like Market to Market and Studio 3 LIVE, learn about the production process and visit with staff. Iowa PBS is located in Johnston and tours typically last 1 hour in length.

Iowa PBS is Iowa's statewide public broadcasting network. Iowa PBS provides quality, innovative media and services that educate, inform, enrich and inspire Iowans.

How Do We Get There? A Short History of American Road Maps

Tom Rice

Tuesday, June 2

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Harkin Institute

Cost: \$15

As automobiles replaced the horse and buggy in the early 1900s, Americans began setting out on journeys that took them far from home—and they needed reliable road maps to guide the way. This course traces the evolution of American road maps, from the early editions produced by local and state automobile clubs, to the millions distributed free by gasoline service stations between the 1920s and 1970s, to the digital mapping services we depend on today. Special attention will be given to early maps of Iowa, with numerous historical examples available for participants to explore firsthand.

Tom Rice see previous biographical information.

MOVIE EVENT – Varsity Cinema

The Muppet Movie (1979)

Carl Johnson hosts discussion after movie

Thursday, June 4

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 4)

Jim Henson's *The Muppet Movie* brings Kermit the Frog and friends to the big screen in a joyful, self-aware musical road comedy. As Kermit sets out from his swamp to seek fame in Hollywood, he's joined by Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, and a host of beloved Muppets—along with celebrity cameos from Steve Martin to Orson Welles. Balancing sharp humor with sincere heart, the film celebrates creativity, friendship, and the belief that "life's like a movie—write your own ending." Its playful mix of puppetry, music, and meta-humor makes it a family classic and a landmark of imaginative filmmaking.

Visit to Field of Dreams Movie Site, Dyersville

John Liepa

Monday, June 8

FULL DAY (Self Drive)

Class delivery mode: IN PERSON

Location: Dyersville, Iowa

Cost: \$65

Cap: 40

Enjoy a fun day at the movie site for *Field of Dreams*.

We will be doing tours of the Farmhouse from the movie, enjoy lunch at the Dugout, and enjoy a 30-minute talk in the bleachers, by John Liepa. Members can bring their own baseballs or gloves, in case anyone wants to run the bases.

In preparation for the visit to Dyersville, we will screen the movie, *Field of Dreams*, at 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, at the Harkin auditorium.

Outbreaks I Have Known and Loved ... Continued

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk

Friday, June 12

2-3:30 p.m.

Class delivery mode: HYBRID

Location: Harkin Institute or Zoom

Cost: \$15

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

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk see previous biographical information.

SPECIAL OFFER

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

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

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

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

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

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



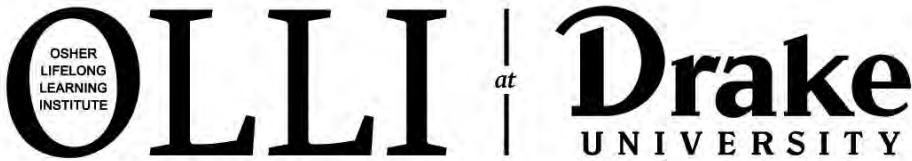
Class Reminders

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

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

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





2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 # _____

<input type="checkbox"/> MY MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year membership (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).....\$75/person	
MEMBERSHIP payment total.....	\$ <input type="text"/>
CLASS REGISTRATION fees (from back of form).....	\$ <input type="text"/>
BALANCE DUE (membership + class fees)	\$ <input type="text"/>

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.

Understanding Global Climate Change.....\$45
 Future in Focus: Retirement Strategies.....\$45
 Mastering your iPhone/iPad Camera.....\$45
 Strategy for Advanced Mah Jongg\$45
 Chair Yoga\$30
 Advanced Tai Chi\$30
 State of Homelessness in Central Iowa **IP or Z**\$30
 Witnesses: Feminist Antislavery Rhetoric **IP or Z**\$45
 The World in Review **IP or Z**\$45
 MOVIE EVENT Varsity: *M*\$10
 Coen Brothers Critique\$45
 The Story of TRACERS\$15
 Drake Men's Basketball Game.....PAY AT GAME
 Great Readings Discussion Group\$30
 OLLI at Drake Book Club.....\$30
 Economic Roundtable\$45
 Murder Mystery Night Dinner.....\$75
 The Bauhaus and Beyond.....\$45
 The Scientific Nature of Reality\$45
 Drake Women's Basketball GamePAY AT GAME
 Yikes (Data Breaches, Compromised Accounts, etc.)...\$15
 History of the Waterbury Neighborhood **IP or Z**.....\$15
 Tips on Being a Smart Medication Consumer\$30
 Do You Want to Build a Pipe Organ?\$15
 When to Shoot to Kill: Rules of Engagement\$15
 Bending the Arc of History Towards Justice\$15
 A Day in the Life of a Drake Student **IP or Z**\$15
 Drake Opera: *Carmen*\$30
 Tallgrass Theatre Company: *Disenchanted*\$35
 Knitting and Crafts Social GroupFREE
 History of the BluesFREE
 The Quantum of Life **IP or Z**\$45
 How Do I Become Fully Human/Fully Alive **IP or Z**\$45
 "Don't Make Me Go There" **IP or Z**\$15
In Cold Blood Book Discussion.....\$45
 Water Aerobics\$30
 MOVIE EVENT Varsity: *Notorious*\$10
 Karl Malden: An Actor's Journey **IP or Z**\$45
 ChatGPT and Other AI Tools **IP or Z**\$45
 Hidden Gems of the New Deal **IP or Z**\$30
 Hearts, Habits & Making Human Connections **IP or Z** \$30
 Archery and Axe ThrowingFREE
 Mystery Wine Tasting: SOUTH AMERICA.....\$45
 Introduction to AI **IP or Z**\$15
 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Food Bank of IowaFREE
 A Day in the Life of a Paramedic.....\$30
 Behind the Scenes at Tallgrass Theatre Company.....\$15
 AFGHANISTAN: History, Culture and War **IP or Z**.....\$45
 400 Years of America's Music.....\$45
 Visit to Hawkeye Breeders\$15
 The Battle for Christ: Christianity First 500 Years.....\$45
 Data Security: How to Protect Your Data **IP or Z**\$15
 KEYS to Lifelong Vitality **IP or Z**\$45
 The Stories We Eat\$35
 History of State Parks in Iowa.....\$45

America's Rise as a World Power **IP or Z**\$45
 Walk This Way\$30
 MOVIE EVENT Varsity: *Shane*\$10
 Bucksbaum Lecture: JOHN GREENFREE
 Jazz Adventures\$45
 Drake Musical: *Little Women*\$30
 Crime Victims' Rights **IP or Z**\$30
 Hearts & Homes Luncheon at Wallace House\$45
 ANDERSON GALLERY: 55th Juried ExhibitionFREE
 You Be the Jury!\$15
 Lake Robbins Ballroom\$30
 Introduction to NA Cocktails\$30
 On the Tenderloin Trail: Dexfield Diner\$30
 CMA Presents: Fred Hersch Trio\$20
 HEALTHY EATING SERIES: We're Fans of Fiber!\$30
 Building Community Through CoffeeshopsFREE
 OLLI at Drake Trivia EveningFREE
 B*!N*G*O*FREE
 Iowa Architectural Foundation Walking Tour\$30
 VOLUNTEERING: Meals for the HeartlandFREE
 A DAY AT THE MUSEUM: Walking Tour\$15
 Valley Junction Past and Present\$15
 STUDENT LIFE: Dorm Visit and Lunch at Hubbell.....\$10
 Farm to Table Dinner: Wallace House\$75
 ARBOR DAY FARM, Nebraska City Field Trip\$65
 Birdwatching in Central Iowa\$30
 Transformations\$45
 Uncovering Des Moines' Hidden Histories **IP or Z**\$30
 How Iowa Met Baseball\$30
 PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW: Dutch Vemeer **IP or Z** \$15
 From Mayberry to Mistrust **IP or Z**\$30
 Walking Meditation\$30
 MOVIE EVENT Varsity: *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* .. \$10
 WesleyLife LUNCH & LEARN: CultureALL\$30
 Diary of Mary Ann Briggs **IP or Z**\$15
 Walking Tour of Iowa State Fairgrounds\$15
 Broadlawns Medical Center Tour\$15
 Discover the Hidden Gems of Jefferson\$45
 Guided Tour of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park\$15
 Iowa Cubs Baseball Game\$15
 Exploring Iowa's Wildflowers\$30
 Cribbage Over Lunch\$45
 Annual Meeting and CelebrationFREE
 Winterset: Quilt Museum and Mead Tasting/Lunch\$45
 Take a Dive into DSM Neighborhood BarsFREE
 The Pearl of the Mississippi, Muscatine, IA\$65
 Quilts of Valor: Honoring VeteransFREE
 Legacy of the Chief Justice John Roberts **IP or Z**\$30
 Greenfield, Iowa\$65
 Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Iowa PBS\$15
 How Do We Get There? History of Road Maps\$15
 MOVIE EVENT Varsity: *The Muppet Movie*\$10
 Field of Dreams Movie Site Visit, Dyersville\$65
 Outbreaks I have Known and Loved **IP or Z**\$15

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE:

\$



Contact us.

E: OLLI@drake.edu

P: 515.271.2120

W: drake.edu/olli

mailing address:

OLLI at Drake
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

office location:

Alumni House
2700 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311





LIFELONG LEARNING NEVER ENDS.

2025-26 OLLI at Drake Council

Ronni Begleiter
David Boelman
David Boyd
Dennis Davis
Anita Garrison
Kristin Glockoff
Bob Haskins
Bob Henderson
Jan Hetzel

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

Executive Committee

President – Bob Haskins
Vice President – David Boyd
Secretary – Sue Wright
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