



Fall 2026 Class Descriptions and Bios

All presentations are at The Point in room 140

August 27, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Join us for Fall Kickoff prior to our first session at The Point 165

August 27, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.

Listening: When Global is Local and the World Looks Back

The Fall 2026 art exhibitions feature both local and global artists, but with a twist. The Frank Museum of Art, which is dedicated to global art, celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by hosting A Journey Through America with Robert Freimark. Artist Robert Freimark travelled across the country, visiting each US state, to personally experience our nation. Between 1960 and 1968, he created Fifty States, a suite of abstract, full-sheet color screen prints representing each of the 50 United States. The series was selected as the official US Bicentennial presentation at the 1976 opening of the Amerika Haus in Munich and has since been exhibited internationally. By situating the exhibition in our global art museum we ask, "What does it mean to be a 'state' and a 'nation state' at home and in the context of a global world? How might "Opening Doors to the World" also open doors that allow us to be seen and to invite new narratives? The talk will also explore Ceramic Art Professor Jim Bowling's Sabbatical exhibition and a very special Fall installation on Generative Scribing in the Fisher Gallery, with German Graphic Designer Olaf Baldini.



Dr. Janice Glowski serves as the Director of Otterbein's The Frank Museum of Art & Galleries. An art historian who specializes in Asian art, Glowski curates contemporary art exhibitions across disciplines. She is especially interested in the capacity of art to connect to everything and to bring new and much needed creative and emergent ideas and perspectives to our world today.

September 3, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Fueled by Hope: Lessons from Appalachia

What if one of the most powerful drivers of wellbeing, performance, and community transformation is something we can intentionally build? In this dynamic session, Cara Dingus Brook shares the story of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) as a powerful lens into resilience, philanthropy, and systems change. Grounded in real-world impact across a 32-county region that has faced generational poverty and persistent

barriers to opportunity, this session offers participants a compelling and practical framework they can immediately apply in their own lives and work. At the center is the science of hope — a research-backed approach to strengthening wellbeing, improving outcomes, and even influencing physical health by clarifying goals, building pathways, and activating agency. Through powerful, real-world stories from FAO's work, participants will be inspired by 8th grade "hope scholars," nationally recognized *Child of Appalachia*® honorees, and everyday changemakers who are reshaping what's possible in their communities. The session will share FAO's new *Wellbeing & Resilience Toolkit*, developed in partnership with Appalachia's K-12 educators and Battelle for Kids. In places where diminished expectations can take hold, hope proves to be a renewable and transformative resource. Blending storytelling and research with actionable insight, this session is designed to both inspire and equip — leaving participants with simple, powerful strategies to build hope in their own lives, in the lives of those they serve, and across their communities.



Cara Dingus Brook serves as President and CEO of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), a regional community foundation dedicated to unleashing the potential of Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties through the power of philanthropy. Over the past two decades, Cara has led FAO in advancing transformational, systems-level change across the region. Under her leadership, FAO has helped incubate a regional economic development organization, ensured that every county in Appalachian Ohio is served by a local community foundation, expanded access to critical healthcare

services for children, and launched the innovative Growing Home Fellowship—designed to address the outmigration of young adults by investing in the region's next generation of leaders. A two-time cancer survivor, Cara brings a deeply personal commitment to her work, particularly in the study and application of hope. She now leads FAO's efforts to integrate "hope science" into community development, pioneering new approaches that strengthen wellbeing and opportunity across Appalachian Ohio. Cara holds a Master of Public Administration from the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College.

September 10, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Origins and Beliefs: Prehistoric and Ancient Landscapes of Great Britain, Part Two

When and how do early humans begin to establish symbolic meaning and ritual practices? This presentation considers this question through the study of Prehistoric sites and artworks. After briefly introducing Paleolithic paintings and objects, including those from Creswell Crags, we will focus on the development of ritual spaces, such as those found at the Ness of Brodgar and other sites in Orkney. While many of us are familiar with Stonehenge, the Neolithic stone circle in Wiltshire, England, we hear less about the peoples that laid the groundwork for the technology and cultural beliefs that made the construction of this monument possible. In this talk, we will consider the origins of ritual landscapes in Neolithic Orkney and other regions of Scotland, before examining developments at Stonehenge.



Dr. Amy Johnson is Professor of Art History and Visual Culture at Otterbein University. Her courses cover all areas of Art History and Visual Culture, from Prehistory to the present day. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the links between the artist, society and landscapes, along with the larger role art and museums play in our community. Her recent sabbatical project focused on ancient landscapes of the Shetland and Orkney Islands and considers how contemporary people live alongside and benefit from these World Heritage sites. Dr. Johnson has presented research at national and international professional conferences and leads international travel courses on Art History and Cultural Heritage to destinations in Europe, including Greece, Italy, Spain, and Great Britain. She received her PhD in Art History from the University of Delaware, a Master's Degree in Art History from Tufts University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Art History from the State University of New York at Geneseo. Originally from upstate New York, Dr. Johnson now lives in Westerville, Ohio, with her husband, two spoiled cats, and a large yarn stash.

September 17, 2026 – 1:30p.m.

Aging in Place: Choices and Resources

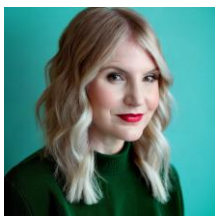
Many seniors are interested in staying in their homes as they age, asking themselves:

- What resources are available to help me age in place?
- What home modifications and safety issues should I consider?
- What happens when I need advanced nursing care?
- How does paying for in-home care compare with graduated-care facilities?

This seminar will describe local resources, considerations and suggestions to stay safe and live independently wherever you call home. Panelists want to empower you to live the life you want, while providing the safety and security you and your family desire.

Living in Motion: Staying Home, Staying Connected

The Kendal at Home program is designed for older adults who are healthy and independent, want security for their future, and are planning to stay in their own home. Services include navigating, coordinating and paying for home care services through vetted providers that help with anything ranging from light chores to activities of daily living.



Stephanie Tewes, Care Coordinator, Kendal at Home: Stephanie is a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) and served as the Director of Therapy Services in a Skilled Nursing Facility. She has knowledge and experience working with individuals with both physical and cognitive challenges and is passionate about implementing resources to help seniors achieve their goals and maintain their independence.

What to Look for in a Caregiver/Caregiver Agency for at-Home Care

For more than 25 years, Visiting Angels has provided home care to families across the country. With a deep commitment to enhancing the quality of life for seniors, they offer comprehensive in-home care tailored to the unique needs of each individual. Whether it's assistance with daily tasks, companionship, or specialized care. Professional senior care helps with older adults on an hourly, overnight, 24-hour, and respite care basis.



Ariauna Ellzey, Owner; Visiting Angels – Columbus Ohio: Ariauna is a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and the owner of Visiting Angels Columbus, where she has served for the past four years, supporting a 21-year legacy of care throughout Central Ohio. She has over 15 years of experience in community pharmacy, with a strong foundation in patient education and medication management. Ariauna transitioned into home care to focus on her personal impact on the aging population within her local community, with a passion for enhancing quality of life, promoting independence, and providing meaningful resources for seniors and their families.

Home Inspection and Modifications for Maintaining Independence

Independent Solutions help seniors adapt their homes to their changing health, lifestyle, and abilities. A detailed assessment of their living environment provides a review of both the inside and outside of the home to identify areas of concern and modifications to consider. This assessment is a framework that establishes a safe, secure home environment that allows seniors to remain in their residence. Independent Solutions can also collaborate with a client and/or architect during the design and/or construction phase of a home project.

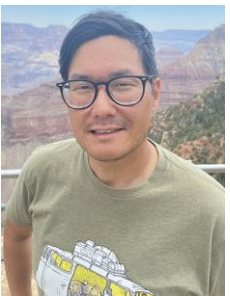


Tim Rudd, Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist, Independent Solutions, LLC. Tim has been in the senior living/care industry since 2012 and has helped many seniors transition from home to alternative living arrangements. In 2022, Independent Solutions updated its services to focus solely on assisting seniors who wish to remain living independently in their own homes. Tim's personal and professional experiences bring knowledge and resources to his clients to make educated decisions about safely aging-in-place. Tim graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. He also earned his Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) certification, his Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) designation, and his Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) designation.

September 24, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Genius According to Psychoanalysis

What is genius? According to Sigmund Freud, genius has nothing to do with innate talent or superior cognition. Rather, it has to do with how a person finds satisfaction. Or, more precisely, with how a person finds satisfaction in the failure to find satisfaction. Through an introduction of the fundamental concepts of Freudian psychoanalysis, Cho presents a theory of genius as the ability to find satisfaction in one's failures—or, what is known in psychoanalysis as sublimation.



Dr. K. Daniel Cho is Professor of Education at Otterbein University. He specializes in Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis. He is the author of two books: *Psychopedagogy: Freud, Lacan, and the Psychoanalytic Theory of Education* and *Genius After Psychoanalysis: Freud and Lacan*. He most recently co-edited a special issue of the journal *Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society* on group psychology and the volume *Political Theology and Its Discontents*.

October 1, 2026 and October 8, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

The Economics of Healthcare and Insurance

The **first session** introduces the audience to how economists view healthcare and health insurance.

Healthcare markets differ fundamentally from typical markets because consumers rarely choose when they need care, struggle to evaluate quality, and rely on a third party, like an insurer or the government, to pay most of the bill. These unique features create a complex set of economic challenges that shape every aspect of the system.

We will begin by discussing the major players: including patients, employers, insurers, medical providers, pharmaceutical companies, and the government. Examining their competing incentives reveals the tensions at the root of most policy challenges. A central theme is that the U.S. healthcare system was never deliberately planned. Instead, it was assembled piecemeal as political circumstances demanded. We will trace this evolution from the historical accident of employer-sponsored insurance during World War II to the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s and the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

The heart of this session focuses on the economics of health insurance. We will explore why insurance exists, the logic of risk pooling, and the value of financial protection against catastrophic costs. From there, we will examine two central issues economists have identified in insurance markets. The first is moral hazard: when insurance lowers the out-of-pocket cost of care, people tend to use more services, which drives up overall system costs. We will review evidence from landmark studies, including the RAND Health Insurance Experiment and the Oregon Medicaid Experiment. The second issue is adverse selection. Those who expect to need the most care are often the most eager to buy coverage, a dynamic that can destabilize insurance markets if healthier individuals choose to opt out. We will close by introducing the "iron triangle" of healthcare, the fundamental tradeoff between cost, quality, and access, which serves as a guiding framework for the second session and beyond.

The **second session** applies the economic frameworks from Session 1 to the real-world structure of the U.S. healthcare system and its most pressing challenges. We will begin with what many economists consider the system's defining feature: high prices. When comparing U.S. healthcare prices to those in other countries, the differences are striking. We will dig into this by examining geographic variation in costs within the United States and discussing the underlying forces driving these differences, such as market power, consolidation, and administrative complexity.

Next, we will walk through the patchwork of ways Americans actually obtain coverage: employer-sponsored plans, Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act insurance exchanges, and the hidden safety net that provides expensive, inefficient care to the uninsured. We will link this patchwork system back to the economic concepts from the first session. For instance, we will explore how Medicaid's means-testing can create poverty traps that discourage economic mobility, and how adverse selection continues to threaten the stability of individual insurance markets.

The session will then address critical ongoing issues facing the system today. These include the rising cost of prescription drugs and the role of patent protections, the wave of hospital and insurer consolidation, and the

political debates surrounding Medicare's fiscal sustainability, the scope of Medicaid, and the future of ACA subsidies. We will wrap up by demonstrating how economists evaluate proposed reforms using the iron triangle framework as a guide. Rather than advocating for a single policy, the goal of this course is to equip the audience with the tools to critically assess the healthcare proposals they encounter in the news and political debates.



Dr. Alex Hollingsworth is an associate professor at The Ohio State University with joint appointments in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics and the Department of Economics, along with a courtesy appointment in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. An applied microeconomist with interests in health and environmental economics, his research has been published in leading outlets including the *American Economic Review*, the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, and the *Journal of Human Resources*.

Alex currently serves as a co-editor at the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* and an editor at the *Journal of Health Economics*. Before joining Ohio State, he taught a course on the U.S. healthcare system at Indiana University, covering topics ranging from the structure of health insurance markets to the economics of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act. He also co-hosts *The Hidden Curriculum* with Sebastian Tello-Trillo, a podcast covering topics relevant to academic life with a focus on things not formally taught in graduate school.

October 15, 2026 - 1:30p.m.

Calculated Resistance: How "Robin Hood Mathematics" Protects Your Privacy

In an era where algorithms seem to predict our every move—from the news we read to the products we buy—is it possible to reclaim a bit of our digital agency? Join us for an engaging exploration of "Robin Hood Mathematics," a set of clever mathematical strategies designed to "rob" predictive power from large-scale data trackers and return it to the individual. Focusing on "math for the resistance," we will examine how simple concepts like statistical noise and randomized responses can act as a shield for our personal privacy. Through interactive activities and real-world examples, discover how to use logic to stay unpredictable, ensure our data remains our own, and navigate the digital world on our own terms.



Dr. Jeff Smith is the Patton Endowed Chair for Educational Mathematics and the Director of Mathematics Education in the Department of Mathematics & Actuarial Science at Otterbein University. Although he continues to research discourse in the classroom and cognitively-guided instruction, a new interest has caught his fancy - studying how Artificial Intelligence and personal agency intersect when considering issues of discovery, proof, and intuition. Most recently, he has presented on the topic of using generative A.I. to combine automated reasoning with mathematical reasoning at the 2026 NEXT Conference, a national meeting to discuss New Explorations in Teaching.

October 22, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

The 1930s: The Reflection of Society in Musical Theatre

Following last year's presentation on the 1920s, we will time-travel to the 1930s. In contrast to the glamour, innovation and sheer fun of the 1920s, the 1930s finds us in the midst of the Great Depression: Breadlines, labor troubles and social unrest trouble the U.S., while ominous war clouds gather in Europe. In the world of musical theatre, we find a new seriousness on Broadway while Hollywood produces dizzying spectacles and frothy operettas. Dennis Davenport presents an overview with musical examples and clips from documentaries, evoking the times and the personalities of the interwar era. Once again, the students of Otterbein's musical theatre program will bring their interpretations of classic songs, now focusing on the work of composer/lyricist Cole Porter and the duo Rodgers & Hart.



Dr. Dennis Davenport is a Professor of Music at Otterbein, and also serves as Director of Integrative Studies, the University's core general education program. Arriving here in 2001 as Music Director for the BFA program in Musical Theatre, 2001-2010, Dennis served as Chair of the Department of Music for ten years, 2011-2021. He continues to teach in the BFA program, and also teaches HNRS 2600 The Shock of the New: Modernism in Music (the subject of the May 2026 LLC minicourse), and, with Psychology colleague Cindy Laurie-Rose, HNRS 3000 Your Brain on Music. His recent music direction for Otterbein Theatre & Dance includes Curtains this fall (2026); Cabaret (Fall 2023); The Pajama Game (Fall 2021); and Always...Patsy Cline, Dames at Sea (2025); Forever Plaid, Beehive: The 60s Musical (2024); I Do, I Do! and Baby (2023); and The Pirates of Penzance (2022) for Otterbein Summer Theatre. Dennis has composed music for two one-act operas to libretti by his spouse Sarah Davenport under the collective title "First Encounters": Isak Dinesen Meets Marilyn Monroe, and Berthe Morisot Meets Edouard Manet. Both works have been produced by Otterbein Opera Theatre. Other original work includes scores for Brecht's Galileo at the University of Michigan Residential College, and for Brecht's Caucasian Chalk Circle at Otterbein. Dennis is also music director, choirmaster and organist at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & University Center, adjacent to the OSU campus. Dennis holds a D.M.A. in Music Composition from the University of Oregon, a M. Mus. in Choral Conducting from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and an A.B. in Music from Princeton University.

October 29, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Melting Messengers: How human impact on climate is inscribed and erased from the chemistry of glaciers

The last 145 years (1880-2026), also referred as the "Anthropocene", have been marked by a strong increase of global surface air temperature (+ 1.1°C) which was unambiguously forced by the exponential increase of anthropogenic greenhouse gases emissions to the atmosphere since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution around 1850 CE. This modern warming trend and the related environmental changes should be interpreted in the long-term context of the past to distinguish anthropogenic forcing from natural factors. Ice cores are wonderful archives of past climate and environmental changes as they contain physical and chemical records of variable length and time resolution, making them cornerstones of global change research. Dr. Emilie Beaudon is an ice core paleoclimatologist and an assistant professor at The Ohio State University's School of Earth Sciences. Her research focuses on extracting multi-century records of mineral dust, black carbon, and

trace element atmospheric contamination within deep ice cores retrieved from Polar and mid-latitude glaciers. She will discuss the significance of climate records from mountain glaciers and present some of her recent work in Tibet and in the Peruvian Andes. The multiple challenges faced by ice core paleoclimatologists will also be explored: from the retrieval of the ice to the establishment of its chronology; from the records interpretation to the quest to a new drilling site, and the future of this field of research in a warming world where the cryosphere is vanishing.



Dr. Emilie Beaudon is an ice core chemist and an assistant professor at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center (School of Earth Sciences, The Ohio State University) where her research focuses on extracting multi-century records of black carbon, ions and trace element atmospheric contamination within deep ice cores retrieved from Polar and mid-latitude glaciers. She is currently leading an interdisciplinary project aimed at identifying the environmental ‘message’ carried by mineral dust entrapped in Tibetan glaciers and its link to the Indian

Summer Monsoon- Westerlies interplay. A geoscientist by training, she has been conducting glaciology field research on ocean-atmosphere-anthroposphere-cryosphere linkages in polar and low latitudes regions, working in Adélie Land (Antarctica), the European High Arctic (Svalbard and Jan Mayen Island), the European Alps, and the Peruvian Andes. Before joining The Ohio State Ice Core Paleoclimatology Research Group, she earned her Ph.D. at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland (Rovaniemi, Finland), investigating the environmental signal contained in snow, firn, and multi-century ice core records from Svalbard. Prior to her graduate studies, she held the position of manager of the Glaciology Laboratory at the Dumont D’Urville station in Adélie Land and became the 10th French woman to overwinter in Antarctica.

November 5, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Who Owns the Past?

In this session, we'll explore the rich and often contentious world of cultural heritage — who gets to preserve it, who gets to claim it, and what's at stake when those answers conflict. From high-profile museum controversies to the growing movement for artifact repatriation and decolonization, this talk takes a broad look at how societies around the world are rethinking their relationship to the past. We'll also examine the many threats facing cultural heritage today, from climate change and conflict to neglect and the illicit antiquities trade. Whether you come with strong opinions or an open curiosity, this conversation promises to raise questions worth wrestling with long after the talk ends.

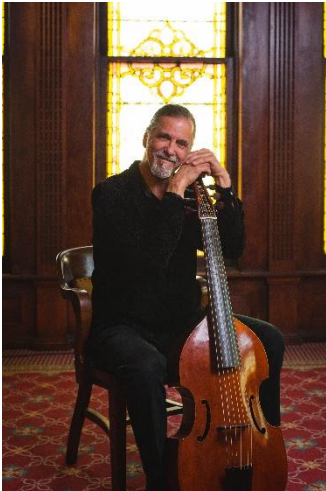


Katie Albright is the Student Success Librarian at Otterbein University. She received her MLIS from Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts, with a concentration in Cultural Heritage Informatics. Her current work and research focuses on the Hidden Curriculum and the barriers it presents to student success, retention, and belonging. However, she remains deeply fascinated by and involved with cultural heritage research and information-sharing, and she hopes to work more actively in the field at some future point.

November 12, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Michael Praetorius, the *Syntagma Musicum* and his Theater of Instruments

Join us as we explore historically informed performance (HIP) through Michael Praetorius' *Syntagma Musicum* a three-volume work published between 1614-1620. Jim Bates, Director of Orchestra Activities at Otterbein University is also the Creative Director of The Early Interval, Columbus' professional early music performance ensemble, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. LOTS of early instruments will be heard and seen as part of this HIP show-n-tell.



Dr. Jim Bates is Director of Orchestral Activities at Otterbein and serves as an assistant conductor for the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestras (2006-present). He was a conductor for the Louisville (KY) Youth Orchestras (1983-2001), serving as music director from 1996 – 2001. He has served as a clinician or guest conductor throughout North America, including an active involvement with ASTA at the state and national levels. He has served as president of Ky ASTA and currently serves as the immediate past president of the Ohio chapter of ASTA. He serves on the National Board of Directors of Classical Mandolin Society of America, and is chair of their educational initiative. Dr. Bates is assistant conductor and principal bassist of the Westerville Symphony (OH), and a member of The Early Interval, Columbus' professional early music ensemble.

**November 13, 2026 – 12:30 p.m. CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH UMC 51 N. STATE ST.,
parking in the lot across State St.**

“This Song:” A New Composition By Dr. Gayle Walker For the Otterbein Concert Choir

Dr. Gayle Walker will discuss her new composition, written during sabbatical in spring semester 2026. The work was written specifically for the 30 students in Concert Choir. The piece is based on a poem by Rabindranath Tagore called "My Song," which begins "This song of mine will wind its music around you, my child, like the fond arms of love..." Dr. Walker and the choir will also introduce works to be sung on their June 2027 performance tour of Berlin, Leipzig, Vienna, and Prague in June 2027.



Dr. Gayle Walker is in her 27th year as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Otterbein University in Westerville, OH, where she is responsible for the organization of all choral ensembles, conducts Concert Choir, and teaches classes in conducting, music education, and music history. Dr. Walker is a recipient of Otterbein University's *Exemplary Teaching Award*. Dr. Walker's choirs have performed in major venues throughout Europe and China, including St. Casimir Church in Vilnius, Lithuania, Thomaskirche in Leipzig, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Ireland, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, St. Nicholas Church in Prague, and the Beijing Conservatory. In addition, under her direction, the Otterbein University Concert Choir has performed frequently at conferences of the Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association, the Ohio Choral Directors Association, and the Ohio Music Education Association, as well as multiple performances with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Walker is a past President of the Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association, having served as President 2015-2017. She also served as President of the Ohio Choral Directors Association in 2009-2011. Dr.

Walker is a recipient of the OCDA Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Walker's degrees - in choral conducting and piano - are from University of Northern Colorado (DM) University of Colorado (MM) and Macalester College (BA). She is currently studying composition with Grammy Award-winning composer, Libby Larsen.

November 19, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

The Clean Water Act: 50+ years of restoring and protecting the ecological integrity of Ohio's surface waters as demonstrated by fish, aquatic insects, and mussels

The Clean Water Act celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2022. That Act of Congress was different from the other acts passed to protect the environment in two ways: 1st, it protected high quality streams, and 2nd, it based on its assessment of compliance with ecological integrity, or stream health. The Clean Air Act restores air quality, the Endangered Species Act restores species, and the many other acts such as RECRA, CERCLA, Superfund, and others did the same: where water was already clean, it was protected and the health of that reach of stream helped to make other, contiguous streams healthy when their ecological integrity improved. Biocriteria are used to assess compliance with the CWA, and they were not developed until 10 years after the Act was passed. Aquatic organisms benefitted from this Act in three ways, 1) significant taxonomic, and ecological information was required to design biocriteria, 2) species' abundance and distribution data and patterns were required to implement biocriteria, and 3) species' long-term health (species richness, biodiversity, and symbiosis) was required to remain in compliance with the CWA. Fish, aquatic insects, and mollusks (especially mussels) are the animals used in bioassessment, and the organisms used to determine and maintain compliance with the law.



Dr. Michael Hoggarth grew up in the rocky intertidal zone of Washington state, and by the time he graduated from ninth grade, he could identify every invertebrate found during low tide and decided to be an invertebrate zoologist when he grew up. He took every marine biology course offered at Seattle Pacific University, graduating with a B.S. in Biology in 1977, and then switched to mussels as he completed his M.S. in Biology at the University of North Alabama in 1980. His Ph.D. in Zoology at The Ohio State University (1988) continued his work, and he has since authored many papers on the ecology, life history, and

systematics of freshwater mussels. Mike's first job was as an environmental scientist with the Ohio Department of Transportation, later moving to Otterbein University, where he recently retired as Professor Emeritus from the Department of Biology and Earth Science. He is one of the authors of *The Freshwater Mussels of Ohio* (2009, OSU Press), author of *A Naturalist's Guide to the Mussels of Ohio* (2026, Ohio Biological Survey) and a mentor to numerous students and current environmental profession.

December 3, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Everyone's a Critic! Developing Your Inner Cinephile

Ever wonder what it is film critics are looking for? Do you enjoy movies and would love to get a better sense of how and why filmmakers make certain choices? Why they find fault in movies that are enormously popular, or why they champion weird little movies? Ever thought about writing your own movie reviews?

MaddWolf—Hope Madden and George Wolf—have been reviewing movies for 25 years and have made a few movies of their own. They're going to give you a peek behind the film critic curtain, breaking down what critics look for, digging beneath the surface of a film to evaluate its qualities. They'll also talk a bit about how to write a movie review—no spoilers!—and the best way to go about developing your own movie reviews.



Hope Madden and **George Wolf** make up MaddWolf, film critics and filmmakers based in Columbus, Ohio. Both writers reviewed films for 12 years at the award-winning independent weekly newspaper *The Other Paper* before beginning MaddWolf. Their written reviews are carried by *Columbus Underground*, *UK Film Review*, *Ginger Nuts of Horror*, *HalfPopped Reviews*, *Veboli* (Sweden), and dozens of US radio station websites.

George and Hope co-host the weekly movie review podcast [The Screening Room](#) and the bi-weekly horror film podcast, [Fright Club](#). They also host a live recording of Fright Club the second Friday of every month at Gateway Film Center on Ohio State University campus. In Columbus, Ohio, you can catch Hope and George reviewing films on TV every Friday morning on ABC6/Fox28's Good Day Columbus. Both Hope and George are members of the Critics Choice Association, Columbus Film Critics Association, and are longtime jurors for the acclaimed Nightmares Film Festival.

MaddWolf has made a dozen short films, most of which can be found on their YouTube channel @maddwolfcolumbus. Their feature film *Obstacle Corpse* is streaming on Amazon, Tubi, Plex and other streaming services.

December 10, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

Route 66 at 100

The famous Route 66 turns 100 on November 11, 2026. Paul Stroble shares the story of the origins of the road, some of its famous businesses and tourist places, and the ongoing fascination with the highway, over 40 years after it was bypassed by interstates. Paul talks about the way automobile travel transformed American life, the special symbolism of Route 66, and the ways that human community is found "on the road."



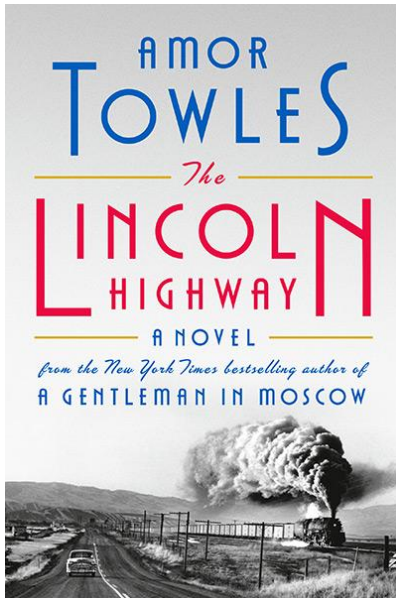
Dr. Paul Stroble is a retired professor of philosophy, religion, and history. A native of Vandalia, IL, he is the son of a truck driver who traveled Route 66. He has taught at universities in Virginia, Arizona, Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri. He has written 25 books, including church curriculum, religious studies, and poetry. See paulstroble.com.

December 15, 2026 - 11:30 a.m. Holiday Luncheon in the Campus Center



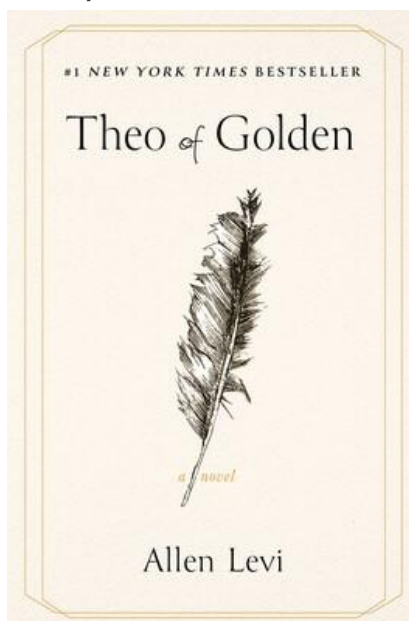
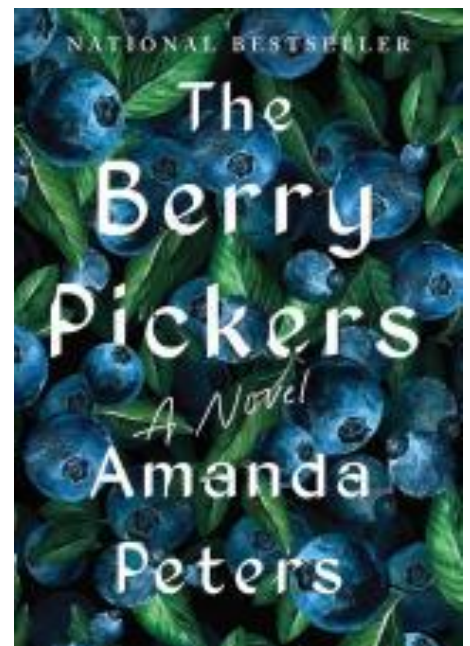
LUNCH AND A BOOK FOR FALL 2026

Add these selections, chosen by the group, to your summer reading list. Dates and details for each discussion will be announced at a later date.



In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew.

Amanda Peters is of Mi'kmaq ancestry, an Indigenous people in Nova Scotia. Her debut novel centers on a family of seven who travel south to Maine each summer to pick blueberries and apples and pull potatoes from the ground. Their housing conditions are migrant-poor, but others arrive each summer, become friends and make money.



A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, Theo of Golden is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.