LECTURES

Lectures offer you another opportunity to gather and learn in the evening and on weekends. Listen to engaging and passionate speakers who come to Bradley University to share their stories and expand our world view through their experiences.

Though seating is usually plentiful, registration is required. OLLI Lectures are free and brought to you by OLLI member donations.

1. The Honorable Ray LaHood:  
Seeking Bipartisanship – My Life in Politics  
Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015  
Refreshments: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Presentation: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Peplow Pavilion, Hayden-Clark Alumni Center  
During his 36 years of public service, the Honorable Ray LaHood was renowned for civility and bipartisanship. When elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, he refused to sign Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America,” showing his independence. He won praise for his abilities to bridge bitter partisan divides and worked to build personal relationships that enabled cooperation across party lines. With the help of Dr. Frank H. Mackaman from the Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin, Illinois, LaHood has written a memoir titled Seeking Bipartisanship: My Life in Politics, scheduled for release in 2015. Join us as The Honorable Ray LaHood shares his experiences from Washington, D.C. and highlights from his book.

2. Larry Swedroe on Investing: Strategies to Improve Your Results  
Tuesday, October 6, 2015  
Refreshments: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Presentation: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Marty Theater, Michel Student Center  
Larry Swedroe is the BAM Alliance Advisor Services Director of Research and has spent his time, talent, and energy educating investors about evidence-based investing. Larry was among the first to publish a book that explained the science of investing in layman’s terms. Many investors debate whether we should be content with the same returns as the market at large (i.e. “beta”) or whether we should work to beat the market (i.e. “alpha”). Larry regularly reviews the findings from numerous academic financial papers, and he has concluded that it is harder and harder to beat the market, for a number of reasons that he will explain in this lecture. Larry’s newest book, The Incredible Shrinking Alpha: And What You Can Do to Escape Its Clutches, was co-authored with Andrew Berkin and published in January 2015. Cypress Asset Management will distribute copies of this book to people who register and attend this lecture.

3. Renewable Energy – Advantages, Disadvantages, and Tradeoffs  
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015  
Refreshments: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Presentation: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Marty Theater, Michel Student Center  
Some environmentalists would like everyone to change all our energy consumption to renewable resources, but there are tradeoffs between renewable and non-renewable resources. Every type of renewable energy has advantages and disadvantages that makes one preferable in any given application or geographic area. (For example, wind farms are not cost effective in the southeastern United States because of the low winds there). Dr. David Loomis, Professor of Economics at Illinois State University, will outline both the positive and the negative of each type of renewable energy and provide an understanding of the economics of these choices.

4. Economic Perspectives on the Arts: Money in the Bank  
Thursday, November 19, 2015  
Refreshments: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Presentation: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Executive Suite, Michel Student Center  
Across America, the arts are cut from schools and communities as an unnecessary luxury. The facts show a different reality: the arts deliver surprising, measurable, economic benefits to our communities and contribute to economic development, making it easier to attract young people and companies looking to relocate. In addition, education for students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) topics has proven to be more effective when students are also educated in the arts STE(A)M. Cognitive research shows that involvement with the arts helps build and maintain stronger minds at all stages of life. Maestro George Stelluto, Music Director and Conductor of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra since 2010, is passionate about the real benefits of the arts for communities, the economy, and for our children. He will share facts that prove the measurable benefits of the arts, as well as the impact he has personally seen in his work with youth and adults on four continents.