



Alfred Gourdji Distinguished

LECTURE SERIES

Sept. 9 - Dec. 9

Morris Lawrence Building- Washtenaw
Community College

4800 E Huron River Dr. | Ann Arbor MI, 48105

olli-umich.org | (734) 998-9351 | olli.info@umich.edu

OLLI's Distinguished Lecture Series has been renamed as the **Alfred Gourdji Distinguished Lectures Series** in memory of our friend and colleague who was the heart and soul of the series for many years.

The Series features prominent, engaging speakers from "town and gown." It consists of eight lectures, four in the Fall session and four in the Winter/Spring session. Learn from well-known experts about an array of fascinating topics. Each lecture is just the beginning; a stimulating question-and-answer period follows each session.

The **Alfred Gourdji Distinguished Lecture Series** was planned by **Bernard Banet, Ron Bogdasarian, Ron Frisch, Judy Gourdji, Frances Schultz, Katherine Woo** and co-chairs **Gerald Gardner and Marie Vitale**.



M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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LEARNING NEVER
RETIRES.

WHEN

2nd Tuesday of every month
10 - 11:30 am

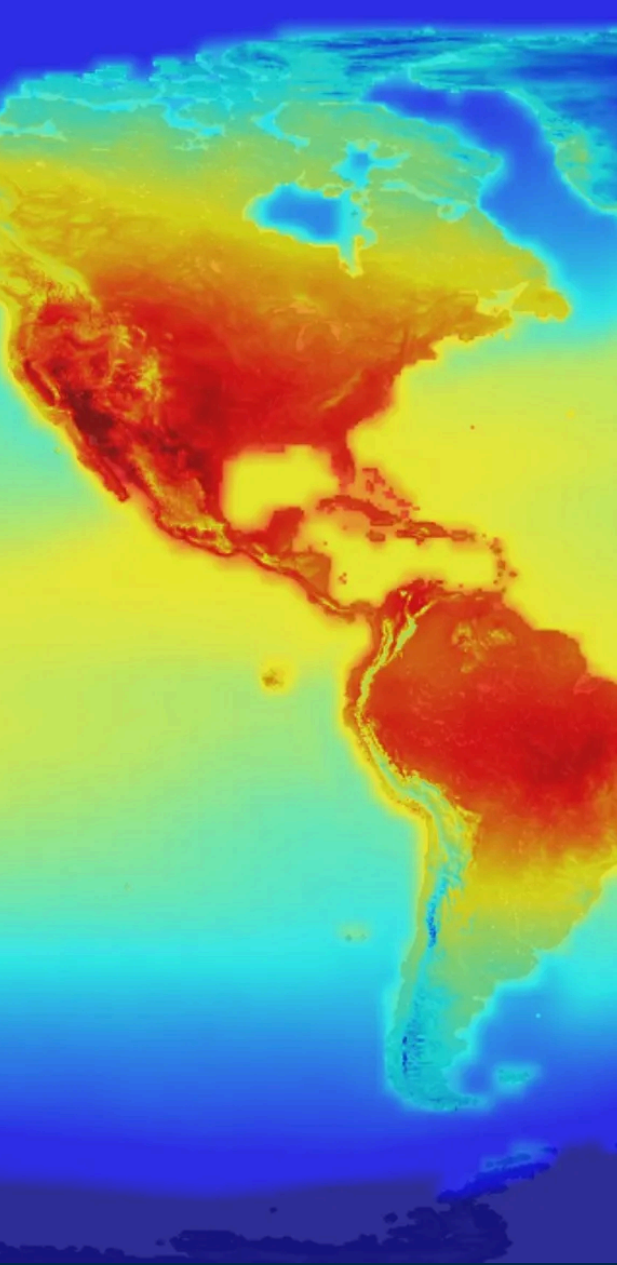
WHERE

Morris Lawrence Building- Washtenaw
Community College / Towsley Auditorium

ADMISSION

\$15 (members) | \$25 (non-members)
\$55 for the Fall 2025 series





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The Increasing Costs of Natural Disasters Fueled by Climate Change: Who Pays?

Tues. Sept. 9 / 10am - 11:30am
Sharon M. Gourdji, Ph.D.

Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, droughts and flood events, and slower-moving disasters like sea level rise and land subsidence. Adapting to ongoing climate change is a costly endeavor. Some of these costs involve immediate disaster response, but longer-term investments are also needed to climate-proof homes and infrastructure like roads, bridges, water and waste systems and electricity and natural gas networks. These costs will be shared by federal, state, and local governments, but also the private sector, including our health systems and financial institutions, and the public at large. This lecture will discuss the extent of these costs in the U.S. and the longer-term battle to distribute them in a proactive, equitable and cost-effective way.

Dr. Sharon M. Gourdji is an environmental scientist with a background in economics, and expertise in climate change, agriculture, and natural disaster modeling. She was awarded a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Earth System Science Fellowship during her Ph.D. studies at the University of Michigan. She has since led the Climate and Crop Modeling Group of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia, and was previously an environmental engineer for the National Institute of Standards & Technology. She is currently Associate Director, Modeling & Analytics, of Moody's Corporation.



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Growing Up in the *Real* River City

Tues. Oct. 14 / 10am - 11:30am

Dr. Penelope (Penny) Fischer

Dr. Fischer grew up in the real River City -- Mason City, Iowa -- the hometown that inspired *The Music Man*, the Broadway hit by Meredith Willson who also grew up there. Mr. Willson wrote the script, lyrics, and music of *The Music Man*, which became one of the five longest running musicals in Broadway history and won several prestigious awards. Fischer will talk about the actual places and events that gave Mr. Willson many of the ideas for the musical, and how they differ from what was depicted in the Broadway show and movie. Although two generations apart, Meredith and Penny, both flutists, knew each other and played together. She will also talk about Willson's stellar career in Sousa's Band and the NY Philharmonic, as music director on national radio shows, and composer for Hollywood movies.

Dr. Penelope (Penny) Fischer is a professional flutist and college music educator. She is principal flutist emeritus of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. She has taught flute and chamber music at several universities including George Washington University, University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Interlochen. She can be heard on recordings on the Naxos, CRI, Crystal, and Koch labels. She has performed in Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Russia, Japan, and China and around the US, and is winner of several professional competitions.



What Does Putin Want?

Tues. Nov. 11 / 10am - 11:30am

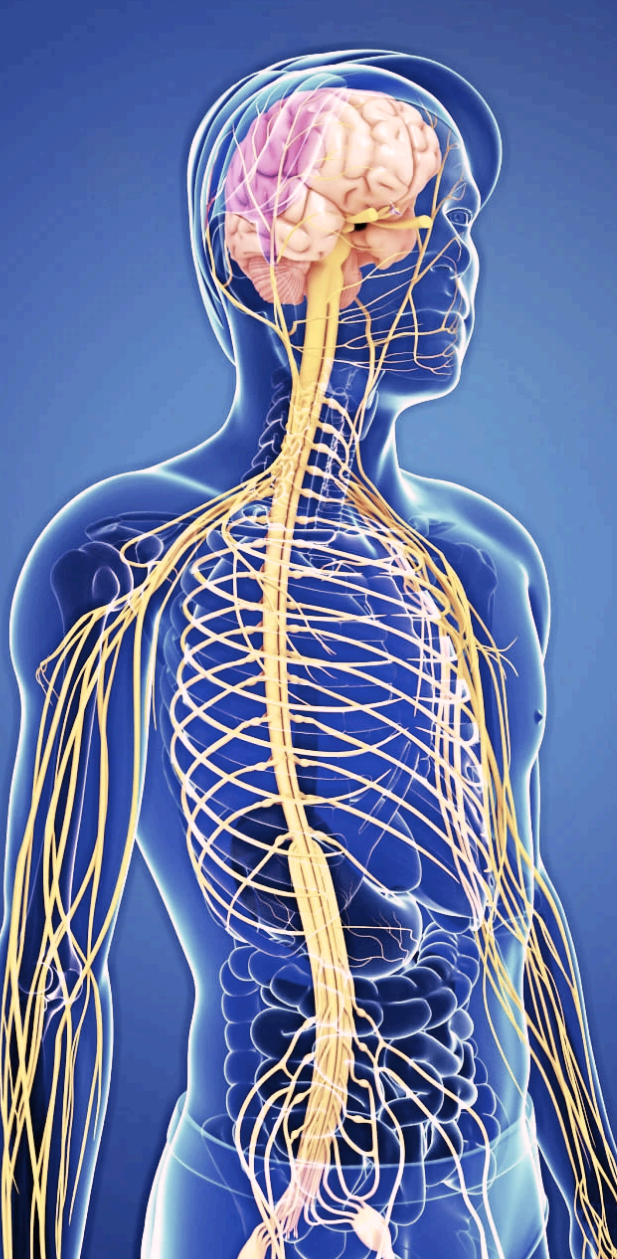
Professor Ronald G. Suny

Everyone has ideas about who Vladimir Putin is and what he wants. As a long-time researcher, analyst, and teacher of Soviet and Russian history and politics, Prof. Suny will discuss the various ways Putin is imagined, and provide his interpretation of the Russian president's views and policies, particularly as regards the war in Ukraine.

Ronald G. Suny, Ph.D. is the William Sewell Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of History and Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Michigan, and Emeritus Professor of Political Science and History at the University of Chicago. His research has centered on Russia and the former Soviet Union, including the non-Russian nationalities of the Russian Empire. He has authored numerous scholarly books and articles. Professor Suny has twice been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and has received both a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship.



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“Miles to Go Before We Sleep”: Cutting Edge Treatments and Technologies in Sleep Health

Tues. Dec. 9 / 10am - 11:30am

Professor Cathy Goldstein

Prof. Goldstein will present the latest research findings on treating insomnia, obstructive sleep apnea, restless legs syndrome, and circadian rhythm sleep-wake disorders.

Cathy Goldstein, M.D. is Professor of Neurology at the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center, and faculty lead at UM's Eisenberg Depression Center Mobile Technologies Core and the UM Mobile Technology Research Innovation Collaborative (MeTRIC). Professor Goldstein's research uses sleep tracking devices and mathematical modeling to assess sleep patterns and circadian rhythms to determine their role in health and disease (including women's reproductive health, multiple sclerosis, and gastrointestinal conditions). Her international expertise in sleep tracking technology is highlighted by her role as a lead author of the 'State of the Science and Recommendations for Using Wearable Technology in Sleep and Circadian Research' from the Sleep Research Society, and as a member of the task force on Consumer Sleep Tracker Guidelines of the World Sleep Society.

Sponsorship: University of Michigan Health | Victors Care



SCAN ME

Programs will be
available in person and
live through Zoom.

zoom

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The views expressed are those of the speakers
and do not necessarily reflect those of OLLI-UM or
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