

# SYMPOSIUM AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

## *Thinking About Intelligence: Human and Artificial*

The College of Arts and Sciences at Ashland University inaugurated the Symposium Against Indifference in 2001 as a biennial series of events and lectures. It is dedicated to overcoming apathy in the face of human concerns by raising awareness and promoting compassionate engagement. The symposium seeks to challenge the university community—as well as the wider Ashland community—toward a deeper understanding of difficult affairs and creative responses from individuals and organizations.

Symposium themes from previous years include:

- The Holocaust
- Human nature
- Terrorism
- The promises and perils of technology
- Inquiry into what makes a hero
- Against global indifference
- Engaging in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Environmental sustainability
- Building bridges through dialogue
- Truth in the age of disinformation
- Perspectives on the mental health crisis

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401 College Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805  
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**SYMPOSIUM**  
AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

**2025-2026 Event Schedule**  
[ashland.edu/symposium-against-indifference](http://ashland.edu/symposium-against-indifference)

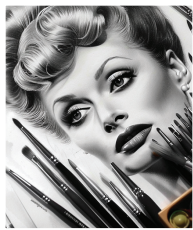
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## *Thinking About Intelligence: Human and Artificial*

### **2025-2026 Event Schedule**

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## Transcending Barriers Beyond Time: Visual Reminiscence of Older Adults with Chronic Illnesses Facilitated by Generative AI

Aug. 25 to Sept. 27, 2025  
Coburn Art Gallery, Center for the Arts Room 157

How can we recollect the past as we advance in age, given the limitations of body and mind? This exhibition showcases a stunning response to that question in featuring imagery created by older adults living with chronic illnesses who used generative AI in tandem with researchers exploring how the technology could facilitate visual reminiscence of their long-ago memories and experiences.

Co-curated by **Rebecca D. Miller**, Program Director and Associate Professor of Counseling and Art Therapy at Ursuline College, together with the project's lead researcher and sponsoring institution, **Janet Reed**, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Kent State University.

*Co-Sponsoring Organizations*  
*Kent State University and Ursuline College*



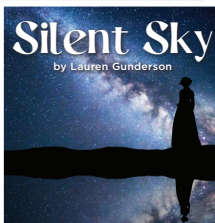
## Autism: Strategies for Collaboration and Success

Sept. 16, 2025 at 7 p.m.  
Ronk Lecture Hall, College of Education

"In Autism: Strategies for Collaboration and Success," Kloey will address three challenges people with autism face when attending university before presenting solutions staff, students and parents, and community members can employ when working with neurodiverse learners. Kloey brings a unique, lived experience to her presentation.

**Kloey Kaeser** is a passionate autism advocate, living with level 1 autism. Throughout her life, she has faced many challenges with her autism. Attending school, making friends and establishing an identity were barriers Kloey struggled with and continues to struggle with to this day. She began taking an interest in other children with special needs at her school at the young age of 8. Her mission is to educate people on the challenges people with autism face in higher education and provide some strategies for adults, educators, and parents to assist their children.

*Co-Sponsoring Organization*  
*Ashland University Psychology Department*



## Silent Sky

Oct. 23 to 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.  
and Oct. 26, 2025 at 2 p.m.  
(discussion panel to follow Sunday show)  
Hugo Young Theatre

The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth.



## AI and You: Partnering for the Future

Nov. 11, 2025 at 7 p.m.  
HCSC Auditorium

In a world increasingly shaped by AI, staying relevant means more than coexisting—it means becoming an irreplaceable collaborator. This presentation explores how rigorous, human-driven learning prepares us to partner with AI, not rely on it. Move beyond transactional education and discover how to thrive in an AI-powered future. True innovation happens when we bring knowledge and creativity to the table—things AI alone can't do.

**Lew Ludwig**, Director of the Consortium for Teaching and Learning for the Great Lakes College Association and Professor of Mathematics at Denison University, is distinguished by his leadership in educational development, with a focus on integrating generative AI into higher education. He has conducted over 40 workshops and webinars on generative AI, sharing his insights on regional and national platforms. In 2021, he received the POD Innovation Award for his groundbreaking faculty development program and the Ohio MAA Effective Teaching Award. Renowned for designing engaging webinars and workshops, Lew is committed to advancing education through innovative teaching methods and promoting inclusive learning environments.



## AI as Artistic Collaborator: A Hands-On Exploration of Art, Process and Machine Learning

Jan. 20, 2026  
Presentation 1:40 p.m. CFA 339  
Workshop 2:40 to 4:40 p.m. CFA 340

A lecture and hands-on workshop exploring AI as a creative tool. The lecture covers Tracy Miller-Robbins' journey with AI, discussing its ethical implications, its role as a collaborator and how it enhances traditional artistic practices. The workshop allows students to experiment with AI tools like Playform, guiding machine-generated imagery while maintaining artistic intent and fostering creativity through a hybrid approach.

**Tracy Miller-Robbins** is a visual artist specializing in digital art, paintings, prints and site-specific animation installations. With over 30 years of teaching experience, she currently teaches at several universities. Her work integrates technology as a creative tool alongside traditional media. Her art has been showcased nationally and internationally at venues like Blink Cincinnati, the Melbourne International Animation Festival, and Animafest Zagreb. Tracy holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing and an MFA in Electronic Art. She lives and works in Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Co-Sponsoring Organization*  
*Department of Art and Design*



## i am sam

Feb. 17, 2026, at 6 p.m.  
at the Student Center Auditorium

In our upcoming discussion of *i am sam* (2001), we'll first watch and then explore the film together through the thought-provoking lens of "Thinking About Intelligence." This lens invites us to question what intelligence truly means—who defines it, how it is measured and how it shapes the way people are treated by society. *I am sam*, which follows the story of Sam Dawson, a man with an intellectual disability fighting to retain custody of his daughter, offers a compelling opportunity to reflect on the assumptions and biases surrounding intelligence in both personal and institutional contexts. The discussion afterward will be led by **Carly George**, MSW, LISW-S, clinical assistant professor and field director at Ashland University. She will be joined by a panel of local mental health professionals.

*Co-Sponsoring Organization*  
*Ashland University Social Work Department*



## Harnessing the Power of Youth: The Role of YA Literature in Combatting Indifference

March 18, 2026  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Library, Fifth Floor

This event features an interdisciplinary exploration of reminiscence bump in developing resistance to complacency and indifference in young and new adults by harnessing the power of literature. A panel including teachers, youth librarians, authors of middle grade (MG) and young adult (YA) literature, editors and publishers will discuss the potential influence of this formative literary experience on the heightened recall of late adolescence and early adulthood.

The panel will examine themes, characters and cultural impact of YA literature in relation to memory formation and emotional resonance, which affects indifference later in life. Furthermore, the event will incorporate dedicated workshop time for educators and librarians to collaboratively develop concrete, curriculum-based activities that leverage the reminiscence bump to combat complacency and indifference. This event aims to bridge cognitive psychology, literary studies, and educational practice, offering practical strategies for educators to connect with young and new adult learners through shared cultural memories that will extend through middle and late adulthood.