

## February 2026

### **What is the AFA?**

It's your union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjunct faculty members. We are affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association. Visit <https://oaktonadjuncts.com> for more information and how to join.

### **SPRING 2026 Payroll Dates**

1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22

Non-instructional pay is typically delayed. Union dues are deducted from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> paychecks.

### **Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings for Spring 2026**

1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/26  
all at 6:00 in the DP Board Rm

### **AFA Board Meetings**

Next one: Wednesday, March 4 at 5:00 on [Zoom](#).

### **AFA Open Office Hours**

TBA



### **Fall Already?**

By now, you have been asked to submit your [Fall semester preference forms](#). You need to submit your completed preference forms by **Feb. 13**. By Feb. 28, most of us will have received their class assignments for Fall. After you receive your course assignment, you have **two weeks** to either accept or decline the assignment.

### **We Are Invited...**

Adjunct faculty are invited to attend the joint AFA/OCCFA Faculty Senate meeting on **Tuesday, February 10**, from 2:15-3:45 PM in DP 2737 as well as via [Zoom](#). Kanchana Mendes, Dean of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, will address questions regarding accessibility.

### **Wondering How Much You Got Paid?**

You can see and keep track of how much you have been paid during a semester. Go to your *Employee Dashboard* card and then to the Faculty Load and Compensation (FLAC). You'll see amounts for your classes, the meeting package, subbing, etc. Mistakes can be made, so keep track to ensure that you are being paid for what you did.

### **Two 4-week Paid Seminars Begin Soon**

There are two 4-week seminars starting soon. They are both compensated at .405 LHE's.

#### [Converting a 16-Week Course to 8-Week Course](#)

4 weeks; asynchronous; 2/16 - /5/13

#### [Understanding of Regular Substantive Interaction \(RSI\)](#)

4 weeks; asynchronous; 3/30 – 4/26

### **Get Involved!**

Adjunct faculty have been invited to be part of the process of developing the assurance argument to be shared with the Higher Learning Commission. The HLC is our accrediting body and will be visiting Oakton in 2027. Teams have been created to work in each of the [four essential criteria](#). Meetings will be online about twice a month plus additional asynchronous work. This is paid. Interested? Use this [form](#) to let us know.

Volunteers are also needed to work on committees, and observation tools for tutors and coaches need to be developed. The AFA is also looking for members interested in serving as an Ethnic Minority Representative who would be a delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly in Denver, July 3-7. If you are interested in working more closely with the union, email the AFA at [afaoakton@gmail.com](mailto:afaoakton@gmail.com).

### ***Take advantage of NEA Benefits!***

Check out the NEA website for their no-cost benefits. Members can get a year's free subscription to 2 magazines. The titles rotate periodically. I am thrilled to get a subscription to Archeology Magazine! Traveling for Spring Break? There are also \$500 "travel dollars", portions of which are deducted from the cost of a rental car, hotel, or cruise. Not air fare, but still worth checking out. If you are a member of the AFA, then you are also a member of NEA, the National Education Association.

### ***Kudos to Our Colleagues!! Look What You've Done!***

#### ***In Publishing:***

**Ann Gadzikowski's** (BCT) book *Every Drop Counts: Exploring Water Science with Young Children in a Changing Climate* was published by Gryphon House this past November.

<https://shop.gryphonhouse.com/products/every-drop-counts-exploring-water-science-with-young-children-in-a-changing-climate?variant=51251227722020>

**Adrienne Smith** (BCT) has published a new book, [\*Sis, Ya' Slip is Showing!\*](#), a bold guide to ending toxic friendships and choosing yourself.

**Nathan Harpaz** (Fine Arts) contributed the chapter "The Gospel of John, the Iconography of John the Apostle, and Anti-Jewish Images in Christian Art" in the book *Jewish Studies and the Gospel of St John* published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in last February.

**Gary Eckstein** (HUM) contributed a chapter to the textbook *White Collar Crime: A Practitioner's Perspective* by Christopher James Utecht ed. and Darren Stocker, ed. Gary has also had a number of photographs published in the arts journal *Moss Piglet/Krazines*.

**Michael Smith's** (HUM) new book, *Bob Dylan as Filmmaker: No Time to Think*, will be published by McNidder & Grace on March 2: <https://www.casemateipm.com/9780857162991/bob-dylan-as-filmmaker/> On March 3, there will be a book-release party at the Music Box Theatre that will include a 35mm screening of the film MASKED AND ANONYMOUS: <https://musicboxtheatre.com/films-and-events/masked-and-anonymous>

#### ***Presenting:***

**Marc Buslik** (BCT) presented on a panel, "New Technology for Training: Integrating Virtual Scenarios and AI to Enhance Curricula and Learning," at the *International Association of Chiefs of Police* (IACP) Technology Conference in Indianapolis last May. Last October, he was on the panel, "Buyer Beware - Guidance for the Assessment, Procurement, and Contracting of AI," at the *IACP*

*Annual Conference* in Denver. Later that month, Marc was the keynote speaker at the *Illinois Police Benevolent and Protective Association Annual Meeting* on "The Role of Law Enforcement Organized Labor in Transforming the Criminal Justice System."

### **Exhibiting:**

**Teresa Parod** (Fine Arts) painted six murals located throughout the area. You can find a link to a map of her murals at the website, [www.teresaparod.com](http://www.teresaparod.com).



**Vesna Jovanovic** (Fine Arts) has had a number of exhibitions this past year including

- Five solo exhibitions at: Compound Yellow in Oak Park, IL; Lawrence Arts Center in Lawrence, KS; Arts and Literature Laboratory in Madison, WI; Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago, IL; and Governors State University in University Park, IL.
- Group exhibitions at Dominican University in River Forest, IL; and The Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle, WA.
- Art fair exhibition in the OS Projects booth at Door County Contemporary art fair in WI.



She also has a solo exhibition at the *Hyde Park Art Center* in Chicago; she will be hosting gallery hours from 1 to 4 on the last day, Sunday, Feb. 15.

Vesna has also had positive exhibition reviews in the *Hyde Park Herald* and *Whitehot Magazine* and publication of her artwork in *Kinbaku Society of Berlin Magazine*. In Philadelphia, she presented on a panel at the *Health Humanities Consortium conference*.

### **Academic Recognitions:**

**Keiko Anno** (Modern Languages) received the *HIP* award in Fall 2025.

**Steven Brody** (PE and Head Men's Soccer Coach) received the *2025-26 Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award* at Harper.

### **New Roles in Academia and Civic Life**

**Laura Campbell** (ACEPPS) is starting a position at Northwestern University as a therapist working with the MBA program and students.

Last summer **Vesna Jovanovic** was a guest lecturer and workshop facilitator for a summer selective course at UC Davis, CA School of Medicine.

**Rondell Merrill** (SOC) was appointed Commissioner to the *Skokie Commission on Family Services*.

**Stephen Dickman** (STEM) did Flip the Classroom through JoVE last fall.

## ***Theatrical and Musical Contributions***

**Dan Wirth** (Speech) continues to direct productions locally with three plays produced at NEIU in 2025

**Tim McNamara** (Music) is a woodwind faculty instructor and part of the "Jazz Faculty" concert that was last Friday February 6 in the Footlik theater. The OC 'jazz faculty' play after the Evanston Township HS jazz band and also hold a clinic for the students in the afternoon.

The ensemble includes Mark Olen, trumpet, Tim on saxophones and maybe flute, Tom Clippert Guitar and Bret Sher on Drums and then special guests, Jim Trompeter on piano, and Dennis Carroll, on bass.

Tim also plays with a Steely Dan tribute band - *The Bad Sneakers Orchestra* - playing at Fitzgerald's in Berwyn on March 12.



**Rin Marten** (ENG) started an ongoing project late last year called *The Fifth Beatle*, a one-person Beatles tribute band. Rin put out a short EP of their first two singles, a re-arranged version of their debut album (*Please Please Me*), and on Feb 9th is releasing an EP celebrating their historic appearance on Ed Sullivan in 1964. The full releases are available here: <https://thefifthbeatle.bandcamp.com/> Rin also has an Instagram account with other content: [https://www.instagram.com/the.fifth\\_beatle](https://www.instagram.com/the.fifth_beatle)

**Donovan Mixon** (HUM) received the 2025 Evanston Mayor's Awards for the Arts for performing a monthly jazz series, *Donovan's Garage*. For info about the performances: [donovanmixon.com](http://donovanmixon.com). Check out Donovan's just released a new CD recording called "[Finding Center, A Sonic Memoir](#)" on Bandcamp.com.

**Ross Capaccio** (BCT) has been in the at the Old Town School of Folk Music for about 8 years; she recently got to sing lead on many of the songs on *Abbey Road*. Here's a link to the concert. Ross is the one on the right with the white shirt. <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL289Y23IISgooPyKg4BD3QKKogISCRKu&si=aN9saHKFduxkzjY>

