



A Note from the Dean

Dear colleagues,

We are entering the final stretch of the semester. It is hard to believe how it can get any busier! It has been a stressful semester for everybody. I want to focus on the many amazing things happening in the Arts & Sciences. See below! Our faculty has been featured on IPR, getting prestigious awards, and led students to conduct prize-winning research projects. Our staff continues to shine in their commitment to the Drake community and keeps the institution going day in and day out. We remember dear colleagues and their long service to Drake, as their legacy continues with the many students they taught. Thank you for all the things you do in the classroom and far beyond! Admissions work continues with another Admitted Student Day and a Saturday visit program. The Arts & Sciences shine on those days, and your tremendous work recruiting students is crucially important. Thank you for the extra time you give to that.

Next Thursday, April 18, at 6pm we'll celebrate our students' accomplishments. The Arts & Sciences Honors and Awards Ceremony is going to be a glorious event—please come to cheer on your students and recognize what they have achieved under your mentorship. We'll also announce this year's recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award. There were so many amazing nominations—all these tremendous teachers are winners and need to be recognized. We will kick off the evening with a reception at 6pm, followed by the awards ceremony at 6:30 in Sheslow Auditorium. See you there!

Have a good rest of the week!

Gesine

Gesine Gerhard, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences



YOU'RE INVITED!

College of Arts and Sciences HONORS & AWARDS CEREMONY

The College of Arts and Sciences invites you to attend the 2024 Student Honors Convocation. Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding students and faculty! Bring your friends and family!

Sheslow Auditorium

April 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Reception at 6:00, Ceremony begins at 6:30

Also available on live stream

<https://www.youtube.com/>

@sheslowauditoriumlivestrea9770



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NOTE: As always, be on the lookout for Email Phishing Attempts! A new message is making the rounds in several departments inviting faculty to open a folder with faculty evaluations with department names listed. This is spam and should be directed to Information Security. You can do this by either clicking on the three dots to the right of the email message header and selecting "**Phish Alert Report**" with the fishhook/envelope icon, or you can submit a [Phishing Attempt Report](#) through ITS. Finally, if you haven't done so already, please take the **Cyber Security Training course by April 19.** You should have received an email from ITS on March 25 with a link to the course.

Important Upcoming Dates

April 12, 13 Admissions: Spring Admitted Student Days

April 15 Last day to submit proposal to A&S curriculum committee for new course, course change, course removal for inclusion in spring 2025 course schedule and fall 2025 catalog. Links to the forms as well as helpful guidelines [here](#).

April 18 A&S Honors and Awards Ceremony, Sheslow 6:00 PM

April 21 45th Annual Beautiful Bulldog Contest®, The contest will take place Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m.

April 24-27 Drake Relays (Non-Law) classes suspended for Drake Relays at 1:50 pm. on Friday, April 26

April 27 BCMB 25th Anniversary Celebration, Room #301, Science Connector Building

May 10 Day Free for study

May 13-17 Spring term ends

May 19 Commencement

[Academic Calendar](#) [University Events Calendar](#)

College of Arts & Sciences

Harmon Fine Arts Center

1310 25th Street

Des Moines, IA 50311

Phone: [515-271-3939](tel:515-271-3939)

Email: ask.as@drake.edu

Inbal Mazar Organizes Recognition of Drake Graduate Who Became First Black Teacher in Des Moines

Perkins Elementary recently celebrated the dedication of their library to Harriette J Curley, a Drake graduate who became the first black teacher in Des Moines. Ms. Curley taught kindergarten at Perkins from 1946-1954.

Associate Professor of Spanish Dr. Inbal Mazar was integral in the process of getting Ms. Curley recognized. Working with Harriette's family, Mazar did research at Drake Archives and the State Historical Society, as well as on social media, Mazar also worked with the PTA to get a plaque and dedication of the Perkins Elementary Library to Ms Curley.

Des Moines Refugee Support, where Mazar is a volunteer, has more information about the dedication [here](#).





Carol Spaulding-Kruse Discusses Her Family History's Influence on Her Writing on *Talk of Iowa*

Professor of English Dr. Carol Spaulding-Kruse was featured on IPR's *Talk of Iowa* on April 3. Spaulding-Kruse, who publishes under the pen name Carol Roh Spaulding, discusses her family history and culture, and the way in which it informed her writing of the short story collection, [Waiting for Mr. Kim](#), winner of the 2022 Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. You can listen to the interview [here](#).



Martin Roth discusses Drake's AI Major and Minor on IPR's "River to River."

Professor of Philosophy Dr. Martin Roth was featured on March 29th's IPR "River to River" with Ben Kieffer. Roth discussed the Artificial Intelligence Major and Minor at Drake, its intersections with Philosophy, and the rapid nature of change in the AI world. You can listen to the interview [here](#).



Erik Meixelsperger wins Kennedy Center Awards for AFTER EVER HAPPILY

Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Erik Meixelsperger's play, AFTER EVER HAPPILY, has been awarded TWO national awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival: The Citizen Artist Award and the award for Distinguished Production of a New, Devised or Company-Generated Work. In AFTER EVER HAPPILY, eight intertwined stories examine the complications of the one thing that connects us all: love. And pie. A young single mom, a hopeless romantic, a lifelong optimist, a hopeful idiot, a couple with a gay secret, and unyielding parents somehow all combine to become a recipe for a delicious romantic comedy where at the forefront will always be themes of life, love, and pie.

Congratulations, Erik!



Called to be True Blue! Mary Beth Holtey Honored by All Staff Council

Congratulations to Assistant Dean for Student Services Mary Beth Holtey! She was recognized with a True Blue Award by the All Staff Council for epitomizing the values of leadership, teamwork, integrity, and exhibiting a commitment to the Drake community.

Thank you, Mary Beth, for all you do for the Arts & Sciences!



The Drake University All Staff Council presents the

Called to be

TRUE BLUE AWARD

to
Mary Beth Holtey

for epitomizing the values of leadership, teamwork, integrity, and exhibiting
a commitment to the Drake community.

Nominated by **Natalie Bayer**

Mary Beth Holtey

M. Bayer

February 2024



Political Science and English Major Libby Johnson reflects on an experiment in living offline

Political Science and English major Libby Johnson worked with Associate Professor of English Dr. Amy Letter last January on an experiment in living offline. She just published one of the essays she wrote for that project on Substack, an online platform writing platform that allows writers to build an audience and share their writing. Libby is currently in Washington DC doing an internship with MIT focused on public policy responses to advances in AI. You can read her essay [here](#).



Ansleigh Ragan Wins 1st Place at Medieval Matters Conference

Congratulations to History major Ansleigh Ragan, who won 1st place in the Lightning Research Presentation Contest at the Medieval Matters Conference in South Carolina. Their presentation was entitled Edward VI and the Development of Religion in England: Rebellion and Suppression, and covered the development of religious policy during the 1549 Western Rebellions and the ramifications of suppressing the rebellions as well as the general enforcement of Protestant policy. Well done, Ansleigh!

COME
OUR
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Medieval
Matters
Conference
Registration
↑

1st Place
Lightning Research Presentation
Analeigh N. Ragan
Debra Hummel
Presentation given at the Medieval Matters Conference
March 2024 at Spartanburg Methodist College
Dr. Debra Hummel
Dr. Debra Hummel
Conference Organizer



Friends and Family Gathering Planned for June in remembrance of Julian and Jane Archer

Professor Emeritus Julian Archer and his wife Jane passed in November and October, 2023. Professor Archer was a member of the history department for 42 years, from 1968-2010, teaching Ancient Greek, Roman, and French History. Their son Laird invites faculty and staff who knew Julian and Jane to share stories and photographs on the following [website](#). Obituaries for Julian and Jane can be found [here](#).



Drake Emeritus Professor of Chemistry Robert C. Larson 1932-2024

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Dr. Robert C. Larson, who served as chair of the Chemistry department and faculty member at Drake. His legacy will continue in the thousands of students he taught over his long career. Please find his obituary [here](#).

Faculty/Staff Resources in Cowles Library

Cowles Library continues to support faculty efforts to adopt, adapt, or create Open Education Resources (OER) as course materials. From the Faculty Select search portal to the Pressbooks publishing platform, Cowles Library has tools to help faculty lower the cost of course materials for students. Visit the library's OER Guide to learn more, or contact Teri Koch (teri.koch@drake.edu) or Andrew Welch (andrew.welch@drake.edu).



Admissions Corner

Thank you for welcoming hundreds of admitted students to campus this spring and sharing about your program's distinctive features and exceptional student outcomes and offering mock classes! This Friday, April 12 is our last Admitted Student Day group event- it's a big one! We'll wrap up the semester with individual/small group admitted student academic visits with faculty on Saturdays, April 13 and 20, a preview for sophomores/juniors on April 13, and weekday individual appointments with prospective and admitted students throughout April and May. Forecast for summer: in addition to student individual visits, we will reach out to faculty to help with a few group events this summer: June Sneak Peeks and August Bulldog Days of Summer. Thanks for your support as we recruit our future Bulldogs! We appreciate you!!



Advising Corner

Registration

Registration for summer and fall courses began this week. Students can view the registration schedule and determine when they become eligible based on [earned hours](#) (earned hours do not include spring 2024 courses).

Change of Record Form

If you're working with an advisee needing to make an update to a major/minor/concentration, please encourage them to complete the change of record request found at MyDrake > Student Records > Change of Record Request. Completion of this form will send a message to the Registrar's Office who will update the student's record. The Dean's Office will then make an advisor assignment.

Financial Holds

Advisees with financial holds on their accounts are urged to contact stuacct@drake.edu to determine if a hold can be lifted to allow registration. Small holds may be eligible for a temporary lift to allow registration.

Course Overrides

To assist students needing an override(s) to add your course(s), keep in mind the steps for setting a registration override – MyDrake > Self Service > Course Management Card > Registration Overrides. From here, remember you may need to set more than one override to allow a student's registration.

Helping Students Complete the Semester

As we near the end of the spring term, we understand that students' stress levels can increase. Mental and emotional health services are just one way to help support our students, including all the tools provided through [Access and Success](#) and the Starfish Success Portal.

Reporting Non-Attendance

Students who feel they do not have a path forward in a class, may stop attending. It's important that information on absent students is reported to the Dean's Office through the [Early Alert Form](#) or that a flag is raised in Starfish, so that the student may be directed to resources.

Incomplete Resolution

April is the cruelest month, or so the saying goes...and this may be the time students who were issued an incomplete in the fall semester begin to think about work submission. If you entered an incomplete in the fall semester, the system will update any remaining incomplete marks to the default letter grade you set in December, on Friday, May 10. If you're anticipating receiving work from students, remember to leave yourself grading time...and maybe reach out to students with a reminder of the grading timeline. If a formerly-issued incomplete has now earned a letter grade, please take these steps to enter a grade: MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading > I/IP/NR Grade Updates.

Upcoming Events



53RD Annual Juried Student Exhibition

March 24th – April 14th
Juried by Jill Wells

[At the Anderson Gallery: 53rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition](#)

March 24 - April 14, 2024 | Anderson Gallery, Harmon Fine Arts Center

Celebrate Art & Design students whose work was featured in the Annual Juried Student Exhibition. Exhibition will run through April 14.

Upcoming at Anderson:

BFA Thesis Exhibitions

April 20 - May 2 Thesis Exhibition of Lily Bassett, Esme Belmont, Jack Burns, Grace Flammang, Kathleen Menjivar and Ryan Pont

May 7 - May 18 Thesis Exhibition of Shykala Brinkman, Paige Minor, Annie Pool, Heath Wheeldon, Eli Woodson and Alanna Wuensch



Drake University Jazz Ensemble One: Andrew Classen, Director
Sunday, April 14 at 7:30 PM | Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center



STOP KISSES

by Diana Son

WALKER

May 2-5 Coleman Studio Theatre

Student Theatre Production: Stop Kiss

May 2-5 2024 | Coleman Studio Theatre

Stop Kiss, by Diana Son, Directed by Erik Meixelsperger, will run at the Coleman Studio Theatre May 2-5. Purchase tickets [here](#).

“A poignant and funny play about the ways, both sudden and slow, that lives can change irrevocably,” says *Variety*. After Callie meets Sara, the two unexpectedly fall in love. Their first kiss provokes a violent attack that transforms their lives in a way they could never anticipate.

Like A&S on Social Media!



Please check out and like/love/share posts on A&S Facebook and Instagram! We're excited to have UCM intern Rebecca Ehn's help with social media this semester. We would love to spotlight faculty, students, staff, and alumni this semester and feature your programs- please send your suggestions to heidi.sleister@drake.edu and jennifer.cooper@drake.edu. Thanks!!



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W drake.edu/artsci

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