



A&S Newsletter December 1, 2023

December Calendar--Important Dates

- December 1 Travel Grant Applications are due (2nd deadline)
 - December 1 Course Release Applications for 2024-2025 are due
 - December 8 Free Day for study
 - December 8 Last day to submit AOI proposal to University Curriculum Committee for spring 2024
 - December 8 All Faculty and Staff Social (3:30-5, Dough Co. Pizza)
 - December 11-15 Final evaluation period
 - December 13 Last day to add a J-term class online
 - December 15 End of fall semester
 - December 16 December commencement ceremony at 10:00 a.m..
 - December 20 Fall semester grades due by 10:00am
 - December 21-January 3 Winter Break (university closed)
-

Note From the Dean

Dear colleagues,

As we enter the last two weeks of the semester, this newsletter provides a few reminders and deadlines, shoutouts to faculty, staff and students, and a big thank you to everyone for making this semester a successful one! We've had some difficult conversations and are hard at work addressing the challenges we face, but we are strongly positioned to make it through this year and many years ahead—and that is because of the amazing human resources we have (you!!)



December 1st is the deadline for another round of travel awards applications. If you are presenting your scholarship or creative activities at a conference or serve in a leadership role for a professional organization this year, please send

in your application to the dean's office by Friday. We still have some funds reserved for the second half of the year to support any eligible faculty with one travel grant. We also welcome your feedback and ideas regarding restructuring our curriculum or administrative structures. Three faculty groups have been meeting and brainstorming together—not only about how we can align what we do and aspire to do with tighter resources, but also identifying ways to bring in new revenue to the college, attracting new students, welcoming middle and high schoolers to campus events, pursuing partnerships with businesses, industry and community organizations, and imagining new models for providing education to everyone who wants to gain additional skills and qualifications. If you have any ideas—as uncooked and “wacky” they might be—please send them to us via the anonymous Qualtrics form linked [here](#).

Once classes are over, it has become our tradition to get together at Dough Co. for pizza, drinks and company. Stop by the restaurant on Friday, December 8 after 3:30pm to say hello to colleagues and friends. It'll be a nice way to celebrate the end of the semester and to connect with people from across the Arts & Sciences. I remain thankful for being part of this college, for seeing the commitment, the hard work and amazing things you do to provide a stellar liberal arts education to all Drake students day in and day out. I look forward to seeing friendly faces every day I come to work—even on days when my office is a freezing 58 degrees!!!☺☐

Good luck for the remaining two weeks of the semester! Enjoy your last class meetings and remember that behind the mountain of final grades there will be winter break!

Warmly,
Gesine



Share Your News on A&S Social Media!



The College of Arts & Sciences is launching a new college social media effort to include Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. This is a great opportunity to share information about our programs, events, and faculty/staff/student accomplishments with prospective students, current students, and alumni.



Submit your news items to: <https://tinyurl.com/artscinews> or use the QR code below. Thank you for spreading the word about what Drake A&S is up to!

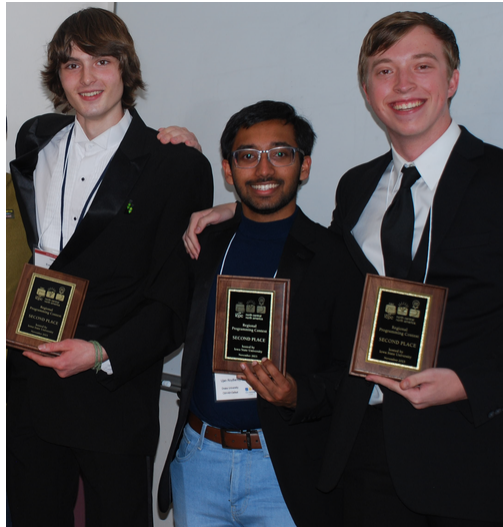


Darling Corps Receives Boost with Multimillion Dollar Grant

Dr. Keith Summerville, Drake Darling Corps students and project collaborators from the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Iowa DNR, The Nature Conservancy and others received a 4.77M grant from the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Program. The funds will support Drake students that work to restore native vegetation as part of interdisciplinary habitat management teams on private pastures and public lands throughout southern Iowa and Missouri. Students Madelyn Christian and Rory Hetz will lead the management team based out of Dunn Ranch during the summer 2024.

Computer Science Students Take Second Place

Computer science students Evan Scherrer, Ujan RoyBandyopadhyay, and Nicholas Haisler recently won second place at the ICPC North Central North America regional programming contest at Iowa State University. The contest also combines rankings from surrounding states and provinces. Evan, Ujan, and Nicholas ranked 20th out of nearly 130 teams that were competing. Congratulations!



From Left to Right: Evan Scherrer, Ujan RoyBandyopadhyay, Hicholas Haisler



From Left to Right: Olivia Tice, mezzo-soprano, Caitlin Dean, soprano and Lanie Anthan,

Voice Students Receive Honors at the State MTNA Competition

The following voice students of Prof. Leanne Freeman-Miller received honors at the state MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) Competition at Iowa State University on November 4th. Singers in the Young Artist

*mezzo-soprano. Not pictured is
Delaney Downs, mezzo-soprano.*

Division prepared and sang a
30-minute program of eight to
nine songs and arias from
required genres. Singers in the
Senior Division sang a 15-minute

program of four songs/arias from required genres. The winner advances to
the regional division competition and the winner of regionals advances to the
national competition in Atlanta, GA in March.

YOUNG ARTIST DIVISION

LANIE ANTHAN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, WINNER

CAITLYN DEAN, SOPRANO, ALTERNATE

DELANEY DOWNS, MEZZO-SOPRANO, HONORABLE MENTION

SENIOR DIVISION

OLIVIA TICE, MEZZO-SOPRANO, WINNER

Congratulations to all!



Photo Credit: Joni Kinnan

True Blue Jorge!

Congratulations to Jorge Romero-Castro, Administrative Specialist for the Music Department, who received the True Blue Award in October. He was nominated by Professor Leanne Freeman-Miller, who wrote:

"He is incredibly organized, helpful, professional at all times, though

approachable and warm, and is such an asset to our department. His assistance with recruiting (meeting with parents and students, as well as audition days) is

invaluable – so many parents and students have commented on how helpful and kind he is as they navigate this process."

We are so glad you are here, Jorge!

In Memoriam: Professor Emeritus C. Walter Clark

It is with great sadness that we share that Professor Emeritus C. Walter Clark passed away on Nov. 9; he was 88 years old. Walter had a long and impactful career at Drake from 1963 to 1998 as professor and chair of the Department of Political Science.

Walter is remembered fondly by his faculty colleagues and by generations of students who he taught how to engage in political conversations. The Department's Outstanding Senior Award in Politics is named in his honor and his family has supported that prize since its inception.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, four of his five children, his older sister, and many grandchildren. He loved educational travel, learning about world cultures and the environment. He had a significant and lasting impact on so many people around the world. He will be deeply missed. Walter's celebration of life will be scheduled in the near future. You can share a memory and read his full obituary [here](#).



Advising Corner

- As the end of the semester approaches, please provide your students with an opportunity to complete **student evaluations**. According to the A&S Handbook, "the College of Arts and Sciences affirms the importance of student course evaluations to both the development of teaching excellence and of evaluation of faculty performance in relation to tenure, promotion and merit reviews." It mandates that "all faculty must provide for student evaluation of each course taught" (section 4.7 of the Handbook - Fac Handbook rev February2023.pdf (drake.edu))
- **Final grades are due before 10:00 am** on Wednesday, Dec. 20. University offices will be closed Thursday, December 21 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3. It is extremely important to submit final grades by the deadline because academic standards (probation/suspension), graduation, transcripts, and scholarship awards are all dependent upon the timely submission of grades. Grades submitted late may affect a student's academic standing, progress towards graduation, pre-requisites checks, eligibility for financial aid, or, importantly, ability to graduate.
- Submit grades for **everyone** on your roster(s). If a student appearing on your roster did not validate their attendance at the beginning of the semester, or stopped attending, please email marybeth.holtey@drake.edu, so follow-up can be completed. If a student has a non-reported grade on their transcript, he/she/they cannot be listed on the Dean's List or President's List or earn a degree, as applicable.
- If you enter a **grade incorrectly**, i.e. you enter a grade of B, but the student earned an A, please complete the following steps: MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading Card > Grade Changes

- If you are considering issuing an **incomplete** to a student who has disappeared in the last part of the semester, hasn't submitted substantial portions of work, and is not responsive to your outreach, please note that while it may seem friendly to extend an incomplete, in many cases experience (and data) has shown that these students rarely successfully complete the work or earn a high grade. Furthermore, the presence of several incompletes gives the student a false sense of hope. Students who take several incompletes may be in a type of financial aid "limbo," without resolved credits and a clear sense of hours earned.
 - The grade of "**IP**" (**in-progress**) is appropriate only in the case of internships, practicums, or courses that do not fit the standard academic calendar.
 - If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) or in-progress grade (IP) and the student has now earned a letter grade, please enter that grade: MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading Card > I/IP/NR Grade Updates.
 - If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work in a class currently marked as incomplete or in-progress, please email marybeth.holtey@drake.edu so she can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.
 - If you oversaw an **independent study or internship**, please remember to enter a grade.
 - If you encounter a case of **plagiarism**, please refer to the procedures outlined at Policies and Regulations | Drake University.
-

Human Rights Day 2023: 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On Monday, December 4 and Tuesday, December 5, Drake Campus will commemorate the UDHR's 75th anniversary with two campus events, open to all members of the campus community.

On Monday December 4 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) in Cowles Library Reading Room, students enrolled in Professor DeLaet's course on Racial Justice and Human Rights in the United States will share their final projects. Student projects include research posters, works of art, creative writing, and video compilations. There also will be a display of human rights posters sponsored by the Iowa United Nations Association. The event will be an open house, with attendees invited to stop by at any point from 5:30-7:30 to chat with students and to discuss their projects. Light refreshments will be served.

On Tuesday December 5 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) in Cowles Library Reading Room, students enrolled in Professor DeLaet's course on Human Rights and World Politics will share their final projects. Student projects include research posters, works of art, video compilations, and interview projects. There also will be a display of human rights posters sponsored by the Iowa United Nations Association. The event will be an open house, with attendees invited to stop by at

any point from 5:30-7:30 to chat with students and to discuss their projects. Light refreshments will be served.

A&S Students in the News

[Kinesiology student Zoey Mahoney is a social media star after her amazing flip-throw goal in September win over Northern Iowa](#)

[Kinesiology's Jake Thompson's inspiring relationship with friend battling muscular dystrophy](#)

Drake University College of Arts & Sciences 2507 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311
T 515-271-3939 F 515-271-2558 W www.drake.edu/artsci

[unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.