



A Note from the Dean

Dear colleagues,

As the week is winding down and spring break is just a few hours away, I wanted to say thank you for all you do to demonstrate and magnify the power of the liberal arts! It has been a difficult few weeks but the conversations, feedback and vision you all continue to share is inspiring. Yesterday I attended a panel discussion on “How to make the world better?” by our own Professors Kieran Williams, Leanne Purdum and Ali Malik. They reminded us that making the world just a little bit less worse, engaging locally in something that we feel passionate about, and thinking about what future generations will need is what makes life worth living. And that is exactly what we help our students to do so that they can make a difference. The Arts & Sciences are uniquely positioned in this endeavor, and we will continue to do so.

This mindset came through also on our first admitted student day last Friday. It was a big one, and after attending one of the fabulous academic overviews, mock classes and individual meetings with you all, several students and their families put down their tuition deposit. Yesterday’s admission numbers show that we are closing the gap to last year (141 students with an A&S major compared to 148 last year to date, 299 EFR tuition deposits for Drake overall)—let’s keep at it!

The many achievements and upcoming events (some of them listed below in this newsletter—check it out!) are another sign of the vibrancy of the liberal arts—let’s continue to celebrate and advocate for that.

Thank you for all you do. And most importantly—have a wonderful spring break!

Warmly,

Gesine

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



Important Upcoming Dates

Mar 11-15 Spring Break (classes do not meet)

Mar 18 Last day to submit proposal to A&S Cabinet changes to an existing major/minor/concentration program

Mar 22 Spring semester midpoint

Mar 22 Admissions: Spring Admitted Student Day

Mar 27 Midterm grades due by 10:00 AM

Apr 1 Student Award forms for Honors Convocation due to Dean's office

Apr 1 Deadline by which field-of-study changes must be made to be considered for summer/fall/J-Term registration

Apr 5 Admissions: Spring Admitted Student Day

April 8 Summer and Fall 2024 registration opens

Apr 11 DUCURS

April 12 Case Statements due to the Dean

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

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

[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

Beth Younger Discusses the Shifting Narratives of Women in the Horror

Genre

Associate Professor of English Beth Younger was interviewed by WBUR's Kalyani Saxena for a story on Krystal Sutherland's new YA horror novel, *The Invocations*. Professor Younger shared insights about the book's context within the fields of young adult fiction, feminist theory and horror. Younger discussed the ways in which traditional slasher films and horror stories are being transformed, and in examples like *The Invocations* can shift the narrative towards the empowerment of female protagonists through agency. You can listen to the story, as well as read an excerpt from Sutherland's book, [here](#).



True Blue! Alina Grimm Recognized by All Staff Council

Alina Grimm has recently been recognized with the True Blue award for her exceptional dedication to Drake students and Drake Fine Arts community. As Assistant Dean, she consistently supports students, the College, and the University with passion for higher education and student success. She goes above and beyond to ensure that students receive tailored guidance, by advising them on program of study, degree requirements, course offerings, and prerequisites, and making explicit connections between their path at Drake and their future aspirations. Alina recently took on a big and complex task of planning and logistics for admissions events on the A&S side. Her knowledge of Drake, communication skills, and genuine investment in making things better are already making a difference.

Thank you, Alina, for all you do for us in the Arts & Sciences!



New publication from Kieran Williams

Kieran Williams, Associate Professor and Co-Chair of the Department of Political Science at Drake, has co-edited a collection of essays on the Czech writer-statesman Václav Havel, [*Václav Havel's Meanings: His Key Words and Their Legacy*](#). Each chapter focuses on a key word closely associated with Havel's work and thought – such as truth, power, responsibility – and uses it to explore what that word meant in Havel's original Czech texts and in the context of his experiences as an artist, dissident and president, and what it tells us about the enduring meaning of Havel's work and life in our time.

Contributors were recruited by Williams and his co-editor, David Danaher (University of Wisconsin-Madison) from a range of academic disciplines and from around the world; Williams himself wrote two of the chapters. The book was published in Prague by Charles University's Karolinum Press in partnership with the University of Chicago Press.

Prof. Williams published a biography of Havel in 2016 that recently appeared in a Turkish translation.



Sandi Patton-Imani Awarded Research Fellowship for fall 2024

Professor Sandi Patton-Imani has been awarded a Residential Research Fellowship at The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. She will conduct ethnographic research on the public construction of national history at Mount Vernon, and will utilize the historical archives available focusing on the life of Ann Fairfax Washington, a biracial woman who, as George Washington's sister-in-law, was the first mistress of Mount Vernon. The research focuses on historical erasures regarding race, gender, sex, and class in America. She will spend part of her fall 2024 sabbatical there.



Mary McCarthy Guest Editor for *Memory Studies*

Mary McCarthy was the guest editor of a [special issue of *Memory Studies*](#), the premier journal of this interdisciplinary field, published in February 2024. "Finding place in Northeast and Southeast Asia: Collective memory construction of the marginalized, disenfranchised, and dislocated" explores how the field of memory studies needs to be expanded to incorporate cases and experiences from Asia.

Speaking Center Open for Personal Tutoring Sessions

Students can make an appointment at <https://library.drake.edu/speaking-center/> for a personal session with a tutor.

Speaking Center tutors have experience and training in speech pedagogy and are prepared to assist students when selecting and narrowing topics, organizing ideas, drafting and revising an outline, preparing visual aids, and practicing delivery. The Speaking Center staff also facilitate access to research and resources that can help speakers and presenters with situational anxiety, stereotype threat, imposter syndrome and delivery accommodations..



Admissions Corner

Spring activities: Please welcome future Bulldogs to campus this spring during Admitted Student Days (ASDs- March 1 & 22; April 5, 12, 13, & 20). Nearly 100 admitted students participated in the March 1 ASD, and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive! These special visits are designed for admitted students to learn more about their major(s) of interest, participate in a mock class, and learn about opportunities as a Bulldog. **Thank you** to our many faculty, staff, current students, and Admissions Partners who are helping with ASDs, individual student visits, Audition Days for Music and Theatre, and additional recruiting activities! Student visits are impactful- a majority of students who visit campus and meet with faculty/staff choose Drake!

Fall recap: In addition to fall preview days which included academic overview meetings, mock classes, and academic fairs, our A&S faculty presented three virtual spotlights in the fall: Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Math/Computer Science. In all, 188 prospective students joined the virtual events! We also hosted a STEM & Health Professions Day and Theatre Audition Days.



Advising Corner

FERPA Reminders

Students are increasingly wishing to include their parents in academic advising conversations (and parents new to the college setting are used to receiving frequent updates about student progress in high school courses, without a consideration to privacy law). If you're faced with a remote appointment where a student is nodding off camera or you receive requests for parents to join in on a conversation, please direct the student to complete the release of information form at [Authorization for Release of Information rev071217.pdf \(drake.edu\)](#).

There are best practices for receiving the Release of Information Form:

1. The student should complete the form in-person, in front of faculty and/or staff.
2. If the form cannot be completed in-person, the completed and signed form should be sent from a Drake email to registrar@drake.edu. The Registrar's Office will then send the completed form to the AS Dean's Office.
3. Any revocation of the Release of Information Form should be submitted by the student, in writing, to registrar@drake.edu.

Please note that if a student enters the University before turning 18, enrollment in a post-secondary institution results in adherence to privacy law, i.e., a 17-year-old student is still protected by FERPA and information should not be shared with a parent/guardian without the student's consent.

Missed Enrollment Validation, No Judgement Here, But...

The drop period ended on Sunday, Feb 11. If a student remains on your roster and they have not attended, please reach out to marybeth.holtey@drake.edu. **Likewise, if a student validated, but has not attended your class regularly, please email alina.grimm@drake.edu (science courses) or marybeth.holtey@drake.edu (non-science courses) so follow-up can be completed. Please communicate with us about students who are disappearing so that interventions can be made and we can be assured of student safety.**

Change of Grade Requests

Only the Registrar's Office can change grades after they were posted. If a student brings to your attention a grading error or if the date by which to update an Incomplete, In Progress or Not Reported Mark has passed but work has been submitted and a new grade earned, please submit a Change of Grade Request: MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading Card > Grade Changes

Responding to Students of Concern

We hear that stress, burnout, health issues and fatigue are increasingly taking toll on students, affecting their attendance, response to outreach, and submission of work. If you are concerned about a student in your course, please raise a flag in Starfish. Depending on the type of the flag, students will either be able to see your comments or receive a follow-up from the appropriate office. Another option is to complete an [early alert form](#). The form feeds directly to the Dean's office and facilitates our proactive outreach to students who need assistance and connections to key college and university resources.

Forecasting Midterm Grade Entry

Midterm grades are due before 10 a.m. on Wed, Mar 27. The entry of midterm grades helps students to make informed decisions on whether or not to remain in a spring course(s). If working with advisees enrolled in 12 credits, please note that dropping a course(s) with a W will not take a student to part-time standing. *But if working with a student athlete, international student or student receiving Veteran's Administration (V.A.) benefits, please urge the student to consult the appropriate office before seeking a drop with a W.* Students have have through Sunday, Mar 31 to drop a course with a W, but should take action before Friday, Mar 29 if they want to speak to someone about their decision. Students will need to complete the add/drop form at

www.drake.edu/registrar > Forms > Add/Drop Form. Completed drop forms should be submitted to studentsupport.as@drake.edu.

Upcoming Events

16 Pianos in Surround Sound

composed by Nathan Felix

Featuring the Drake University Piano Program
March 20 & 21 at 7:30pm
Anderson Gallery

[16 Pianos in Surround Sound](#)

March 20 & 21, 7:30 PM | Anderson Gallery, Harmon Fine Arts Center

The Anderson Gallery will host the premiere of a new composition by Nathan Felix for 16 pianos performed in an immersive environment by the Drake University Piano Program. This is a historic performance, the first of its kind, not only in Iowa, but in the country. With 16 pianos, it will be the largest "original" piano composition to be performed live—ever! This immersive composition will be performed in and around the Anderson Gallery allowing the audience to walk amongst the pianos and performers. The soundscape installation will also incorporate the experimental videos of Felix.

Felix, who premiered his immersive opera, *The Cadence of Life*, with the Drake Opera Program last fall, is known for his guerilla-style approach in presenting classical music in unconventional spaces including work with multiple pianos. *16 Pianos in Surround Sound* will be performed by Dr. Nicholas Roth and Drake University students from his piano studio. The ensemble is rounded out with Drake music professors Susan Ihnen, Ling-Yu Hsiao and Rika Uchida. This unique concert that blurs the bounds of music, installation and performance art is made possible by the Friends of Drake Arts. The piece will be performed on March 20 and 21 at 7:30 pm. Performances are free and open to all.





[Transmedia Adaptation & the History of Storytelling](#)

March 21, 6:00-7:00 PM | Cowles Library Reading Room

The Writers and Critics Reading Series is proud to present a public lecture by special guest, Dr. Lissette Lopez Szwydky.

Transmedia Adaptation and the History of Storytelling: When we think of adaptation, we typically think of books adapted into film and television and other contemporary forms. However, adaptation across forms and media is a cultural practice as old as storytelling itself. This talk will dive into the history of transmedia adaptation and how it evolved into the commercial, cultural powerhouse it is today.

Please join us for the talk, Q&A, and refreshments. Those interested in storytelling, narrative, film, theater, art, book history, and media adaptations are especially encouraged to come. Event is free and open to the public!



Finding the Music in Your Classroom: Enhancing Non-Music Pedagogy Through Music Integration

March 22, 2:30-4 PM | Turner Jazz Center

Humanities Center Colloquium Series welcomes Dr. Nicole Ramsey, Assistant Professor and Director of Music Education.

Finding the Music in Your Classroom: Enhancing Non-Music Pedagogy Through Music Integration: Musicking is an innately human phenomenon, and music making and consumption are woven into the very fabric of the human experience, both personally and societally. Music is in our homes, in our phones, in our cars, in places of retail, in places of worship, in our favorite movies and TV shows, in politics, and in so many other experiences central to our realities. As such, integrating music into instruction is possible and indeed relevant in almost any content area, particularly in the humanities. In this interactive presentation, we will explore best practices for enhancing learning through meaningful and culturally accurate music integration in pedagogy beyond the music room.

Refreshments served.



53RD
Annual
Juried
Student
Exhibition

March 24th – April 14th
Juried by Jill Wells

[Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony for the 53rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition](#)

Sunday, March 24, 1-3 PM | Anderson Gallery, Harmon Fine Arts Center

Celebrate Art & Design students at the opening reception for the Annual Juried Student Exhibition. This year's juror is Jill Wells, artist, advocate, mentor and alumni of the Drake Art & Design BFA program. Awards will be presented at 1:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

BOOK BY
MICHAEL STEWART
MARK BRADBLE

MUSIC BY
HARRY WARRER

LYRICS
AL COBURN

42nd

STREET

MARCH 28-31

PERFORMING ARTS HALL

[Drake Theatre Arts Presents: 42nd Street](#)

March 28th - 31 | Harmon Fine Arts Center Performing Arts Hall

Come along and listen to the lullaby of Broadway! 42nd Street celebrates Broadway, Times Square and the magic of show biz with wit, humor and pizzazz. At the height of the Great Depression, aspiring chorus girl Peggy Sawyer comes to the big city from Allentown PA, and soon lands her first big job in the ensemble of a glitzy new Broadway show. But just before opening night, the leading lady breaks her ankle. Will Peggy be able to step in and become a star?

[Get your tickets today.](#)

Drake University Community School of Music

Summer Voice Intensive for Young Singers

Sponsored by
Drake University Department of Music

June 9-15, 2024

Singers Ages 14+

Audition Prep
Performance Skills
Vocal Pedagogy
Voice & Piano Lessons

Full Choir Experience
Opera & MT Scenes
Acapella/Jazz Choir
Show Choir

Drake Music Faculty



Cynthia Giunta, Director Dr. Alyssa Becker, Artistic Director Dr. Eric Barnum Leanne Freeman-Miller Dr. Ann Cravero Christine Blanner Dr. Isaiah Feken Amanda Jones Cassie Makeeff

Along With Guest Clinicians

Sunday-Saturday
10:00am-8:30pm

\$375

Overnight &

Commuter Options Register by June 1, 2024

Link to Register:
[drake.edu/ducsom/upcoming
opportunities/](https://drake.edu/ducsom/upcomingopportunities/)

Drake
UNIVERSITY

[Summer Voice Intensive for Young Singers](#)

June 9-15, 2024 | Harmon Fine Arts Center

Now is the time for people with children to get their summer schedules together! If you or someone you know is looking for an exciting summer camp opportunity for kids 14+, check out this Voice Intensive daytime camp with our faculty from the Department of music!

DUCSOM invites students ages 14+ to participate in the [Drake University Voice Intensive \(DUVI\)](#) taking place **June 9-15, 2024**. This weeklong daytime camp provides students with voice lessons, coaching, classes, full choir experiences, and performance opportunities to develop their voices, build confidence in performance, and prepare for auditions. Students will get the opportunity to work one-on-one with Drake voice faculty, as well as other faculty throughout the week. The camp will culminate into a performance for friends and family to attend. Please reach out to Dr. Alyssa Becker if you have any questions at alyssa.becker@drake.edu.

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. Recent posts include highlights of several of our travel and on-campus J-term courses, faculty and student spotlights, and information about a few A&S majors! 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!!

Drake
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences

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T [1-800-44-DRAKE \(37253\) x3939](tel:1-800-44-DRAKE)

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

W drake.edu/artsci

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[Drop or change a class](#)



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