



A&S Newsletter

October 11, 2023



Drake singers and musicians for the Immersive Opera: *Cadence of Life*, with composer **Nathan Felix** (in the front), Anderson Gallery manager **Liah Anderson** and Drake Opera Theatre Director **Dr. Isaiah Feken**, inspired by the works of Judy Pfaff currently on exhibition at the Anderson Gallery.

Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,



It has been a busy and glorious couple of weeks in the College of Arts and Sciences! It started with a footnote in the announcement of the Physics Nobel Prize, included a beautiful performance by the Drake Opera Theatre of the immersive opera *Cadence of Life* in the Anderson Gallery, the announcement of a 5 million dollar gift to the now-called *Ron and Jane Olsen Center for Public Democracy*, and concluded with four sold-out performances of the powerful musical theatre *Wings*, a world premiere made possible by the William S.E. Coleman Guest Artist Series. In between there were teaching highlights and research successes. Even the Drake football team won their home game! What a whirlwind! The Board of Trustees met and approved our FY 24 budget, which means that the dean's office is now able to accept your applications for faculty development grants (due October 27) and travel awards (next deadline December 1).

As we are reaching the midpoint of the semester, we see students juggling multiple exams, due dates and other pressures. Thank you for your great commitment to their success! Your mentorship and support is the reason these students are here—and they will need it to stay at Drake. We have started recruiting the next class of Bulldogs for Fall 25, and are adding new strategies to reach current high school students who are weighing their options. We want them to choose college—and we want them to decide on Drake! We are adding video content, digital advertisement and social media outreach to highlight our programs and invite prospective students and their families to come to our campus. We know that once they visit and meet with you, 70% will make a decision to become a Bulldog. Thank you!

This is the last week for Karla Rincon, who has assisted many of you with college business, kept the dean's office afloat through busy times, and was there to help me with daily tasks. I will greatly miss her! Please join me in wishing Karla best of luck in her next adventure, and in thanking her for her great work, her embrace of all things Arts & Sciences, and her endless willingness to help out. She has made a difference every day! I ask for your patience as we manage college affairs with one less staff for the time being. Please send any questions and requests you have directly to me or to one of our fantastic dean team members.

Wishing you a great start of the second half of the semester!

Gesine

New Visiting Faculty



Mollie Gossage, Anthropology

Mollie's initial interests in graduate school were Tibetan Buddhism and the anthropology of religion, and she has participated in Tibetan Buddhist communities in both the US and China. She volunteered as a tour guide at a glacier national park in southwest China. She examines the cultural-perceptual factors behind climate change inaction. She also studies the moral economy of place and mobility, which became particularly salient during the coronavirus outbreak. Mollie has taught ESL and has TA'ed for both cultural and biological anthropology courses. She would love to work on a cross-sub-

disciplinary course in the future.

Fun Fact: Mollie draws turtle comics, some of which are autobiographical in nature, and it is her secret

wish to incorporate them into her first book publication.



Abby Lagemann, History

Abby earned her BA in History with secondary teaching certification from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois, where she also earned her MA. Her PhD in early modern European and Tudor-Stuart British history comes from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her research examines the social impact of the Reformation and the Military Revolution in England by looking at the post-war experiences of veterans—many of whom lived by illegal means before being sent abroad and struggled to reintegrate into society upon their return. Abby

has taught courses in European, World, and U.S. History and won a graduate teaching award in her first year as the instructor of record at CU.

Fun Fact: Abby has conducted research at nine different archives in six different counties in England and has converted that work into a book chapter with Routledge and incorporated some of it into her classroom.



Erik Meixelsperger, Theatre Arts

Erik received his BFA in Acting from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and his MFA in Acting from Florida State University. He has been a professional actor in stage and film for the last ten years. He also has extensive certifications and professional experience in stage combat. Along with acting, his main area of research is Playwriting. He has had several plays produced across the US including a play called *Fishbowl* that was produced at the Kennedy

Center in Washington DC. Prior to teaching at Drake, Erik was an Adjunct Professor of Theatre at the Johnson County Community College in Kansas City. He has given workshops in Voice, Movement, Shakespeare Acting, and Stage Combat for local High Schools and theatre companies in the Kansas City area.

Fun Fact: The reason Erik got into acting was because when he was a kid, he saw Dick Van Dyke in *Mary Poppins* and loved it. Then, the first professional acting job he got when he finished school was the role of Bert in *Mary Poppins*!

Shayne Mims, Theatre Arts

Shayne received his MFA in Theatre Arts (emphasis in Musical Theatre) at San Diego State University. He has spent close to 20 years in the professional performance world in all mediums from stage to film/tv, off Broadway and on a national tour. Teaching has always been at the heart of everything he has done. His master's thesis research covered choosing audition material using traditional archetypes and matching those with the essence and personality of the actor. Shayne's particular skill set is in teaching acting and musical theatre performance.

Fun Fact: Shayne has four children between the ages 2-12. He is



also a rare combo of a guy who loves showtunes and sports. He can talk about baseball all day long (if he could have chosen a different career path it would be as a Pro Baseball player)!



Greg Rohlf, History

Greg is trained as a historian of modern China, with interests in comparative long-term change in frontier regions. He has taught for twenty years at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. His current research project, "The Battleship and the Lecture Hall" examines transnationalism in higher education between 1880 to 1930. This project will show that leaders and ideas on both sides of the Pacific shaped what higher education "looked like" in the uniquely transnational period leading up to the first world war. This semester, Greg is offering a course that is new to him, "Games in Chinese History." In this course, students

learn how to play the classic East Asian strategy game, Go. Students will also examine how sports have become part of global culture.

Fun Fact: Greg served as the officiant in a wedding ceremony in Fall 2022; and will marry another couple this weekend!



Ines Rojas, WLC and Bright College

Ines background spreads over two distinct areas: literature and linguistics (teaching of English and Spanish as foreign languages, and translation), and political science (focused on Latina America and International Organizations). She has tried to combine both in ways that while teaching a foreign language, students learn about the politics and society of Latin America and/or

international Organizations. As a political scientist, her research focuses on the politics of Venezuela since Hugo Chavez came to power in 1999, the women's movements in Venezuela, and on youths living in Venezuela under the current economic and social conditions. She strives for creating learning opportunities that are transformative and engaging (both in foreign languages and in social sciences). She commits to erasing the differences that sometimes are emphasized in the teaching of foreign languages and politics of different countries by focusing on our common humanity.

Fun Fact: Ines got a 500-hour yoga instructor certificate in India in 2019.

Shekoofe Saadat, Kinesiology

Shekoofe's training and background is in electrical engineering and kinesiology/ biomechanics. Her research has been on ACL injury mechanisms, gait analysis on stroke survivors as well as device testing such as exoskeletons and crutches. Shekoofe has taught biomechanics, motor control and learning and swimming in the past.

Fun Fact: Shekoofe learned most of her English from the tv shows *Lost* and *Friends*—which has led to some confusion and awkward moments!



Donovan Watts, Political Science

Donovan is a first-generation graduate from Detroit, MI who received his PhD in Political Science from Indiana University Bloomington. His research interests are situated in American Politics with a focus on Black politics, racial and ethnic politics, political behavior, and political socialization. Donovan has a particular interest in the political behaviors of Black millennials and his research examines how experiences with race have shaped Black millennials' views on politics. Furthermore, he uses his research experience to complement his teaching philosophy by creating a safe and open space for students to have conversations on any subject matter. Moreover, Donovan is a firm believer in understanding his students as individuals, which is an instrumental component of his teaching philosophy.

Fun Fact: Donovan enjoys spending time with his family and has played the trumpet for over 14 years.



Sharonda Woodford, Political Science

Sharonda earned her BA and MA in political science from Jackson State University, Missouri. Her current research interest includes examining the media framing and media agenda-setting of housing and housing policy, the media framing of Black masculine, queer women and the political behavior of Black masculine, queer women. Sharonda strives to create open and safe spaces for intellectual growth. She is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion inside and outside the classroom. She has taught courses on American Government, Black Political Participation, The Black Athlete, Introduction to African American Studies, and Women and Politics.

Fun fact: Sharonda likes to golf, but she hasn't had the chance to do so in a while.

Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. **Jeff Karnicky** on the publication of his new book [*The New Nancy: Flexible and Relatable Daily Comics in the Twenty-First Century*](#) with University of Nebraska Press, 2023.

Congratulations to Dr. **James Romain** on his solo performance of Marquez's Danzon No. 6 with the Des Moines Symphony. The recording is still available to view and listen to. You don't want to miss this—it's just beautiful! Please use [this link](#) with the Access Code: DISCOVER924. Jim comes on stage at minute 27:00!

Visiting Assistant Professor **Dylan Rollo**, and co-presenter Professor **Faber McAlister** were selected as discussants and panel organizers for *Rhetorics of Scale: Assessing Multi-Scalar Terrains and Social Struggles*, at the upcoming National Communication Association in the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division.

Advising Corner

October is a busy month, and we first want to call your attention to a few key dates, as well as forecast spring 2024 registration.

Key Dates

Friday, Oct 13 – Spring 2024 Schedule (including those courses offered in over J-term) is live.

Monday, Oct 16 – Tuesday, Oct 17 – Fall Break; Classes do not meet.

Wednesday, Oct 18 – College-wide registration communication is sent to student, faculty and staff.

Monday, Oct 23 – Midterm grades due before 10 a.m.

Sunday, Oct 29 – Deadline to Drop a Course with a W (students seeking to have a conversation about a drop with a W, should plan to connect by Friday, Oct 27).

Monday, Oct 30 – Spring 2024 registration begins.

A Bit More Detail...

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades are due before 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct 23. Please enter a midterm grade for all first-year students and any student with a low grade. Entering midterm grades will result in the Dean's Office conducting outreach to any student with a low midterm grade(s).

To view an individual advisee's midterm grades in MyDrake, follow these steps:

Self-Service > Advising Card > Student Selection > Search by Name or ID > Student's Profile Page > View Grades (under the student's photo)

Advisors with advisees who have two or more low midterm grades will receive a separate communication from either Alina Grimm or Mary Beth Holtey. *Please consider using upcoming advisee meetings to discuss low midterm grades, as needed. Remember, a student registered for 12 credit hours who drops a course with a W, is not taken to part-time standing, but student athletes, international students and those receiving V.A. benefits should speak to their respective contact before seeking a drop with a W.*

Students have through Sunday, Oct 29 to drop a course(s) with a W, but see above on contacting offices by Friday, Oct 27; University academic offices are not open on weekends.

To view all advisees' midterm grades in Starfish, follow these steps:

1. Log into MyDrake > Starfish (on home page)
2. In Starfish, click on the dropdown menu in the top left-hand corner and select **Students**.
3. To search your advisees, select the **Tracking tab**.
4. Within the "Connection" dropdown menu, select **Faculty Mentor**.
5. Then select the **Add Filters** button.
6. Under Tracking Type, select **Flag**.
7. Under Item Name, select **Low Midterm Grade** and **Submit**.

Registration

Registration begins on Monday, Oct 30.

The registration times for students are based on earned hours (not including their in-progress, Fall 2023 credits). The registration timeline for Spring 2024 can be found at [Registration Times.pdf \(drake.edu\)](#).

Many practical advising resources can be found at [Registration Information | Drake University](#), including a listing of courses restricted to certain programs during the first two weeks of registration and a how-to-register guide.

Invitation

The Iowa Nature Summit at Drake would like to invite you to a two-day event that brings together a broad spectrum of nature enthusiasts and organizations who share a common goal - to preserve and protect nature's diversity. The purpose is to engage, energize, and inspire lowans who care about nature and all its wonders. Whether you're a seasoned nature lover or just starting to explore the great outdoors, this event is for you.

Connect with like-minded individuals, learn from experts in the field, and discover new ways to make a positive impact on the environment. With a variety of workshops, presentations, and activities, there's something for everyone at this event.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of the movement to protect our planet. Join us for an unforgettable two-day gathering that will leave you feeling inspired and empowered.

[Register now](#) and be a part of the change, November 16 and 17! If you have any questions, please contact Dr. [Tom Rosburg](#).

39th Annual
College of Arts & Sciences

**STALNAKER
LECTURE**

**"THE WRECK OF THE SPARROWHAWK: WHAT IS
THE FATE OF HUMAN STORYTELLING?"**

DR. CAROL SPAULDING-KRUSE, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

We live in a unique cultural moment in which storytelling has never been more powerful, more contested, or more important. Using brief excerpts from her new story collection, Dr. Carol Spaulding-Kruse will illustrate ways that the democratization of writing, the culture wars, and technological advancement have led to a perfect storm and uncertain future for narrative. As we shift more fully into a digital age, our ideas about literary merit evolve with it. Stories will always be with us but tracing the role of writing as distinct from books, markers, or even conventional notions of authorship best positions us for narrative's happy ever after.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 12
6:00 P.M.
SHESLOW
AUDITORIUM**

Reception to follow in lobby
Free to Attend

Also available online
<https://live.drake.edu>

915-271-3939 ask@drake.edu drake.edu/ask/

**Drake
UNIVERSITY**

2023 Stalnaker Lecture

The College of Arts and Sciences invites you to the 2023 Stalnaker Lecture: *The Wreck of The Sparrowhawk: What is the Fate of Human Storytelling?* by Dr. **Carol Spaulding-Kruse**, Professor of English.

When: October 12

Where: Sheslow Auditorium

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Followed up by the reception in the Lobby.

If you are not able to join us in person, do not worry, event is also available online at <https://live.drake.edu>

A&S Important Dates

The full calendar is located [here](#).

October 13: Spring 2024 Schedules of Classes available

October 16-17: Fall Break (classes do not meet)

October 18: Fall semester midpoint

October 19-20: Admissions: Campus Half-Day Preview Days

October 23: Fall semester midterm grades due by 10:00am

October 23: Deadline by which field-of-study changes must be made to be considered for spring registration

October 27: [Faculty Development Grants](#) applications due to the Dean's Office

October 29: Drake Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Hector Agüero, Sheslow Auditorium 3:00pm

October 30: Spring 2024 registration begins

October 30: Last day to submit proposal to A&S Cabinet for new major/degree/certificate or to remove a degree/certificate

November 1: Sabbatical [Applications](#) due to the Dean's Office

November 1: Admissions: Campus preview day

November 1: Second-year faculty review due to the department chair

November 2: Jazz Orchestra Presents: *Sweet Suites*, Patty & Fred Turner Jazz Center at 7:30pm

Contact Us

Submit News

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

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