



A&S Newsletter

September 22, 2023



Welcome to our New Faculty!

First Row (left to right): Eric Emmons, Sharonda Woodford, Nicole Ramsey, Donovan Watts, Abby Lagemann, Mollie Gossage, and Greg Rohlf

Second Row (left to right): Shekoofe Saadat, Claire Hruby, Leanne Purdum, Erik Meixelsperger, Shayne Mims, Vincent van der Vinne, Ines Rojas, Benjamin Sheller, and Sang Lee





Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

It has been a turbulent start of the fall semester! I hope things have calmed down a bit and your classes are sailing along smoothly now. The next few weeks will feature some great Arts & Sciences events—I hope you'll have a chance to enjoy many of them! The Stalnaker Lecture is scheduled for October 12, the first mainstage theatre production, *Wings* will be performed October 5-7, and an immersive opera will premier in our Anderson Gallery on October 5. You can also bring your family and friends to the Drake Municipal Observatory tonight for a special event featuring astronaut Peggy Whitson. Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our **first all-faculty and staff meeting this afternoon from 2-4pm in the library reading room**. It'll be a great chance to meet our new colleagues, connect with old friends, and talk about priorities for the College of Arts & Sciences this year.

As you saw in President Martin's email earlier this week, our class of new first year students is smaller than last year (616 compared to 710 in fall 2022). Our transfer numbers are up, but we can feel the impact of the reduced overall numbers. We will work together on ways to align our programs with the new enrollment realities. We will continue to identify growth areas and new initiatives that will bring additional student populations to Drake. We will need to entice students who might not consider Drake, or a college degree right after high school. A survey we conducted during Welcome Week illustrates that prospective students who visit campus and meet with a faculty member are much more likely to attend Drake. Students also identified our one page program fliers as memorable and impactful for their college decision process. I also like to think that our great swag could make a difference!! Thank you for your great work promoting all that the College of Arts & Sciences has to offer. Let's keep doing what we are doing and find additional ways to connect with prospective Bulldogs in Iowa and far beyond.

Week four of the semester is coming to an end. If you haven't met our new colleagues yet, check out their short bios below. We have so many faculty joining us this fall that we'll spread their introductions over two newsletters. Stay tuned!

Let's hope the beautiful fall weather will stay with us for a little longer. Thank you for getting this semester off to a good start.

See you at 2pm today!
Gesine

New Faculty

Eric Emmons

Eric did his Ph.D. in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience at the University of Iowa followed by a brief stint of postdoctoral research at Yale University. For the last three years, he was on the faculty at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, teaching intro biology, neuroscience, and upper-level research courses. His research is based on how the brain handles information and allows for



cognitive functions like attention and working memory. He works with mice and rats to model basic aspects of disease and injury states, like concussions, that might give insight into how these processes work in the human brain. His approach to teaching involves creating a collaborative classroom where students feel connected and engaged. He tries to teach science in a way where students see themselves as an active participant in the scientific enterprise from their first course to their last.

Fun fact: He has played cello nearly his entire life and he intends to continue playing a few concerts a year with the Wartburg Community

Symphony in Waverly, IA.

Jamey Hart

Jamey received his B.F.A. in Painting from Cleveland Institute of Art in 2014, and his M.F.A., also in Painting, from the University of Houston. His research is focused on how we mistake objects as facts within discourse. He made objects that begin in language, and through the process of making, he tries to make wordless objects. We assume that sight is given; it's direct, instantaneous. Seeing is anything but direct. In his classrooms, he encourages his students to routinely question the boundaries of our world and perception, especially our own assumptions about what we observe.

Fun fact: Over the last decade, he has engaged in what he calls ongoing projects. The most recent project he is still in the process of completing. It is called "Box" and involves him writing poems and phrases on Amazon packages while working as a delivery driver after moving to Massachusetts.



Claire Hruby

Claire studied volcanoes in Greece for her Bachelor's, earthquakes in Los Angeles for her Masters, and the fate and transport of manure-derived bacteria in the environment for her Ph.D. She comes to Drake after 20 years working as a research geologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, where she was responsible assessing water quality for drinking water and recreational uses. Claire is excited to share her passion for geology and water resources with Drake students and to continue her partnership with Polk County Conversation to better understand risks associated with swimming, fishing, and playing in lakes and streams in Central Iowa.

Fun fact: When she is not out sampling and enjoying Iowa's natural areas, you might find her salsa dancing or listening to her daughter sing 90's rock songs.



Sang Lee

Sang has a background in both Fine Arts and Graphic Design. She graduated with an M.F.A. in Graphic Design from Iowa State University and is finishing her Ph.D. in Human-Computer Interaction. Her research interests are inclusive design for social impact. Currently, she is working on research to further understanding of the intersectional identity of audiences and designers, emphasizing the importance of addressing issues relating to equity and biases in design classrooms. She is passionate about teaching Art and

Design, and she has been investigating how to support educators and design students to create projects that involve and focus on marginalized communities and identities.

Fun fact: Sang has a unique cultural background. She grew up as a three-culture kid. She grew up in Korea and Thailand and later came to the U.S. to study Art and Design. Due to that background, it is hard for her to answer the simple question "where are you from?" without giving a long-winded answer.



Leanne Purdum

Leanne is originally from Houston, Texas and moved to Des Moines two years ago from Athens, Georgia. She has a Ph.D. in Human Geography from the University of Georgia. She specializes in critical legal geography, with a focus on U.S. immigration policing. Her dissertation research stems from work as a legal advocate for women and children detained by immigration officers in South Texas. She was a Future Faculty Fellow at University of Georgia, and she completed the interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in University Teaching. Her most popular classes are Detention and Deportation Systems, Geographies

of Law and Power, and Legal Advocacy.

Fun fact: She is a master gardener and this summer she has planted a native garden at her new house.



Nicole Ramsey

Nicole has a B.M., M.M., and Ph.D., all in Music Education, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was the Director of Vocal Music at Page High School in Greensboro, and has worked as a Teaching Associate at UNC Greensboro. Her research centers around professional development of pre-service and in-service music teachers, specializing in leadership development and the intersections of personal and occupational identity. She is also in the process of launching a new study investigating current culturally responsive leadership practices in state Music Educators Associations with the goal of highlighting successes and illuminating areas in need of improvement. Nicole

teaches courses in music education, vocal methods, elementary general music methods, assessment, and supervises music student teachers.

Fun fact: Nicole is an outdoor endurance sports hobbyist. She has completed 8 triathlons, one half marathon, and several 5k and 10ks. She is currently training for a 10k in October!



Benjamin Sheller

Benjamin graduated from Iowa State University in 2014 with a BSc in Mathematics and a minor in Biology, and from Iowa State University in 2019 with a PhD in Mathematics with a graduate minor in Physics. He worked as a post-doc in mathematics, physics, and computer science departments in Shanghai University, University of Pittsburgh, and Rutgers University. His research utilizes pure math tools from geometry and abstract algebra to analyze questions in quantum control, data science, and more. Ben has taught mathematics courses as either a lead instructor or a teaching assistant from the level of pre-calculus through graduate-

level algebra courses. He believes in creating an inclusive environment in the classroom, welcoming of students with a diverse array of backgrounds.

Fun fact: Ben likes to rock climb, though he is not very good at it.

Vincent van der Vinne



Vincent was born and raised in Groningen, Netherlands, where he did his BSc in Life Science & Technology, a MSc in Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences and a PhD in Chronobiology. All his major research themes revolve around the question of what the pro's and con's are of having a set of biological clocks (the circadian system) that regulates all aspects of our internal physiology and behavior. How do changes in how our internal clocks are organized impact performance and how do disturbances in clock organization impact our health? Vincent's teaching focuses on linking the processes occurring at the intra- and intercellular level to what we can observe in the physiology and behavior of individuals and even in the way this impacts the way our society is organized.

Fun fact: Vincent has been displaying a sign saying "The mouse is always right" in his office for years. This seems to be true also in his personal life. A mouse in his new home in Des Moines decided to take the food from the bag containing this sign instead of trying the wonderful peanut butter from the nearby mousetrap!

Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. **Carol Spaulding-Kruse** for her stellar review in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) for her award-winning collection *Waiting for Mr. Kim and Other Stories*.

Student Spotlight

At the April Society for Ecological Restoration Midwest and Great Lakes Chapter, **Evelyn Ince** (ENS Senior) took first place in the research poster competition, which included both graduate students and undergraduates. Her work was titled: *Short- and long-term recovery transients in Erebidae: Arctiinae, SpHINGIDAE, and Saturniidae species in harvested oak-hickory forests*. Ince, E. and K. S. Summerville. 2023. Society for Ecological Restoration- Midwest and Great Lakes Chapter Annual Meeting, April 14-16, 2023.

At the same Annual Meeting, ENSS students **Ava Hohn, Madison Luna, and Bella Evan-Cook** were awarded the competitive student project grant for their project: *Restoring diverse Tallgrass prairie to Pattee Park, Perry, Iowa*. Society for Ecological Restoration, Midwest and Great Lakes Chapter, \$1950.

Alexandra Doughty (AS'23) and **Mallory McGuire** (AS'23) traveled to the Association for Psychological Science national meeting in Washington, D.C. with Dr. **Jill Allen** to present their research entitled *Everyday Belonging: Communal Goals as a Route to Bolstering Student's STEM Motivation*.

The following three students received the prestigious undergraduate research award from the NASA Iowa Space Grant Consortium. Congratulations!

- **Jackson Kilburg**
- **Tepary Cooley**
- **Tristan Parmerlee**

Advising Corner

A Gentle Reminder, Meeting with Advisees: If you serve as a Faculty Mentor this semester, please send an email message as a mentor to welcome your entering first-year and/or transfer mentees, providing them with information about your office location and office hours, and inviting them for a meeting individually or as a cohort.

Send a similar message to continuing advisees, welcoming them back. Sent early in the semester, your messages will hopefully help cultivate a sense of belonging and aid in creating meaningful connections with your advisees for the rest of the academic year.

Early Alert: If you have any student concerns, please use Starfish (linked through MyDrake faculty and advising tools) or the [early alert form](#). Whatever method you choose, early alerts help identify at-risk students and share that information with advisors and other student support staff on campus. Allowing for timely intervention, this has proven benefits for retention and graduation rates.

New Graduation and Commencement Applications

It's imperative that advisors/faculty mentors urge students to check and verify their graduation date in the system. If the student is planning on graduating early, they must fill out a change of record form: MyDrake > Student Records > Change of Record Request. With the implementation of the new graduation application, students will not be prompted to, or be able to see, the graduation application until the semester before their recorded graduation date in Banner and then, only if their graduation date is accurately listed. Our office and the Registrar's Office have reached out to Dec 2023 graduates with information on applying for graduation.

Last Call for Validation

Do you grimace internally when a student tells you in December that they don't understand a concept introduced in the first week (and are telling you now)? Same story when courses are validated in December...if you're not sure of a student's plan in your course, send that student's name to [Alina Grimm](#), science courses and [Mary Beth Holtey](#), non-science courses and let us reach out to the student to finalize their enrollment now. The accurate validation of courses (now) makes the rest of the semester run more smoothly for the student and University offices.

But, they validated and are now ghosting...

Send that student's name to [Alina Grimm](#), science courses and [Mary Beth Holtey](#), non-science courses and let us reach out to the student to finalize their enrollment now.

Tutoring Services

[Tutoring services](#) are available for course-based support in the areas of actuarial science, accounting, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, organic chemistry, physics, math, Spanish, and statistics. The resources of the Writing Center and Speaking Center are also available to all students in any course.

The Writing Center (opened Sept 11)

Students can schedule an appointment at <https://library.drake.edu/writing-center/>.

The Writing Center is directed by a faculty member and staffed by undergraduate students who are trained to tutor. Writing Center tutors are experienced writers and friendly critics who can help students on essays, reports, or research papers.

The Speaking Center (opened Sept 12)

Students can schedule an appointment at <http://library.drake.edu/speaking> to schedule a personal online meeting 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's staff also facilitates access to research and resources that can help speakers and presenters.

Starfish Progress Survey

The Starfish Progress survey went live on Friday, Sept 15 and will remain open until Friday, October 6. The completion of this survey assists our office in reaching out to students who may need additional support, as well as provides positive feedback to students who are doing well in a course.

Invitations

The **Drake Municipal Observatory** is honored to host Astronaut, **Dr. Peggy Whitson**, on September 22nd. The Observatory is teaming up with Capital City Pride of Des Moines to make this event possible.

Event Details:

Presentation: September 22 at 8:00pm, at 4898 Observatory Rd, Des Moines.

Meet and Greet: 4898 Observatory Rd, Des Moines at 6:30pm.

Drake is hosting the second annual **U.S.-China Symposium** on September 22nd in Levitt Hall in partnership with Ambassador Terry Branstad. Topics include international trade, foreign affairs, and national defense. The 2023 symposium will include sessions on national security and defense with Lieutenant General Larry Nicholson (Retired), advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff; trade and business with Greyson Mann, Government Affairs Manager at the U.S.-China Business Council; and international relations with Bobby Richey, former Deputy Chief of Mission and Agriculture Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Learn more and register for the symposium at drake.edu/branstad.

Drake Undergraduate Science Collaborative Institute (DUSCI) would like to invite you to the Drake University [Science Colloquium Series](#): *Memory Systems and Metacognition in Nonhuman Primates* presented by Dr. **Robert Hampton. Dr. Hampton received his B.A. in Psychology from Macalester College. He did his graduate work in Psychology at the University of Toronto and continued his training at the National Institute of Mental Health. The event will take place at Harvey Ingham 134, Wednesday, October 11, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

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.



STALNAKER LECTURE

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

DR. CAROL SPAULDING-KRUSE, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 12
6:00 P.M.

SHESLOW
AUDITORIUM

Reservations to follow at a later date.
Free to Attend

We live in a unique cultural moment in which storytelling has never been more plentiful, more contentious, or more imperiled. Using brief excerpts from her new story collection, Dr. Carol Spaulding-Kruse will illustrate ways that the demarcations 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 literacy must evolve with it. Stories will always be with us but trusting the role of writing as distinct from books, markets, or even conventional notions of authorship least positions us for our own happy ever after.

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

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



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](#).

September 22: All Faculty and Staff Meeting, 2:00-4:00pm, Cowles Library Reading Room

September 22: Friday Night at the Drake Municipal Observatory, with Astronaut Peggy Whitson, 8:00pm

September 30: Admissions: Fall Saturday Visit Day

October 1: Last day to submit proposal for new travel seminar to A&S Curriculum committee for J-term 2025

October 2: Department recommendations for 2023 P&T Candidate due to Dean by 8:00am

October 2: Intent to apply for promotion to professor in Fall 2024 due to Dean/Chair

October 2: Keys to Excellence Series: **Garik Pedersen**, Sheslow Auditorium, 7:30pm

October 5-7: Theatre Arts Presents: WINGS, Coleman Studio Theatre, 7:30pm

October 5: Immersive [Opera Premiere](#): *Cadence of Life* by Nathan Felix and inspired by Anderson Gallery new exhibition of **Judy Pfaff**, Anderson Gallery, 7:00pm

October 6: Admissions: Campus Preview Day

October 6-8: Parents and Family Weekend

October 11: Science Colloquium Series, Harvey Ingham, 2:00-3:00pm

October 12: 2023 Stalnakier Lecture, 6:00pm, Sheslow Auditorium

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