

College of Arts & Sciences

WE BELONG TO THE CITY

In previous issues of *Drake Blue*, I have highlighted the many places around the globe to which our students and faculty travel to learn, teach, research, and serve. Our global engagement, however, begins right here at home in Des Moines. Established in 1881, Drake has a long history of service to and engagement with the Des Moines metropolitan area. It should come as no surprise that the College of Arts and Sciences has continued that tradition.

WE BUILT THIS CITY ON ROCK 'N' ROLL

Okay, maybe not rock 'n' roll but certainly on music. This past April the Des Moines Symphony—originally the Des Moines Civic Orchestra, a joint effort between Drake and community musicians—celebrated its 75th anniversary. Fittingly, the celebration itself honored the partnership that founded the symphony by featuring Drake faculty and students in the performance. The Drake Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Associate Professor of Music Akira Mori, performed side by side with the Des Moines Symphony—which is populated by current and former Drake music faculty, including Clarence Padilla, professor of music, department chair, and principal clarinetist. The concert also featured Drake's four choruses: Drake Choir, Chamber Choir, Drake Chorale, and the Drake University/Community Chorus, all conducted by Aimee Beckmann-Collier, professor of conducting. The University/Community Chorus, incidentally, is composed of Drake faculty, students, and staff and Des Moines-area residents.



This past April the Des Moines Symphony, originally the Des Moines Civic Orchestra, celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Our history with the Des Moines Symphony illustrates just one of the ways in which Drake enriches the cultural climate of central Iowa. If you live in the Des Moines area and have a child who is taking music lessons, chances are good that he or she is learning through the Drake University Community School of Music (DUCSOM). For years DUCSOM has been offering noncredit, individual instruction to musicians of every level and age in the same studios and practice rooms as our (very talented) music majors. And I could fill up this entire issue of *Drake Blue* with examples of music faculty who visit area schools, giving clinics and judging competitions. As expected, the Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center at Drake has become a hub for jazz performers in and passing through central Iowa. Additionally, Sheslow Auditorium hosts the Civic Music Association's Des Moines concert series, drawing thousands of community members to campus each year.

HOT TOWN, SUMMER IN THE CITY

Last fall I wrote about the many ways our faculty are fostering an early appreciation of STEM by developing summer camps for area middle school students, giving lectures at the Drake Observatory (jointly operated by Drake and the City of Des Moines), conducting research with high school students, and visiting area schools to promote the study of science.

This past summer the Drake service-learning program received a competitive grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board. Totaling \$44,544, the grant funded the Des Moines Urban Youth Learning Garden, located on the corner of 25th Street and Forest Avenue. (I can see it from my office in Harmon Fine Arts Center.)

Four Drake students from the Environmental Science and Policy practicum course wrote the grant application: Cara Pratt, AS'12; Matthew Prather, AS'12; April Hansen, AS'12; and Rachael Stern, AS'12. Mandi McReynolds, director of community engagement and service, and David Courard-Hauri, associate professor of environmental science and policy, helped with the grant process.

The garden is designed to create a holistic learning space for elementary- to college-aged students, encouraging engagement in environmental, health, and urban gardening education. Drake will share the garden with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa and other youth organizations to expand environmental awareness, food access, and educational opportunities to youth in the area. In addition to the many garden beds, the space features fruit trees, composting, a cold shed, raised garden beds, and multilingual signage. Students from every college and school on campus,



For alumni and friends of the Drake University College of Arts & Sciences

DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Joe Lenz

joseph.lenz@drake.edu

DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Doug Lampe

doug.lampe@drake.edu | 515-271-3055



The Des Moines Urban Youth Learning Garden—or Sprout for short—is designed to create a holistic learning space for elementary- to college-aged students. The service-learning project is sponsored by Drake, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa.

along with area children, will have an opportunity to work in the garden in various capacities.

IN THE CITY

With the World Food Prize headquarters located in downtown Des Moines and the Agricultural Law Center on campus, it is no surprise that our faculty and students have an appetite for food as a topic of thought and action. Indeed, the Des Moines Urban Youth Learning Garden germinated from a First Year Seminar class, Food History: From Local to the Global, taught by Amahia Mallea, assistant professor of history. Students in this class tour Des Moines neighborhoods during their very first semester, visiting the Drake and downtown farmers markets and engaging with the local chapter of Buy Fresh Buy Local. The students also participate in a “historic cook-off,” preparing a regional dish from the 1930s for themselves and an audience (kind of like *Top Chef* but without the cameras and high-end appliances). Students from this class have gone on to intern at the World Food Prize, Agricultural Law Center, and Living History Farms. Relatedly, Mallea, along with other Drake faculty, started the Drake Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group, a cohort “subscribing” to area

farms for produce to be delivered to and distributed from campus (Meredith Hall, to be exact). This past summer 20 households had organic produce grown in the Des Moines area delivered to them each week.

MY KIND OF TOWN

These are just a few examples of the many ways in which our students, faculty, and staff engage with the community to make Des Moines our kind of town. Not included here are the hundreds of students who intern with organizations, companies, and agencies in and around Des Moines; the thousands of hours logged by students doing community service; the research and consulting done by faculty that impacts the area’s ecology and economy; or the clubs, Little League teams, churches, neighborhood associations, and schools to which our faculty and staff contribute their time, energy, and effort (e.g., read ‘Una Historia Diferente’ on page 11). But perhaps the most telling statistic to demonstrate the symbiotic relationship between Drake and Des Moines comes from an Iowa Workforce Development Study: 30 percent of Drake students come from Iowa; 60 percent of Drake graduates stay in Iowa. Location, location, location.