



## College of Arts & Sciences

Joseph Lenz, Dean  
[www.drake.edu/arts](http://www.drake.edu/arts)

This year we made a commitment to provide Drake students with opportunities for the high impact learning experiences—internships, practicums, community-engaged learning, and research—that translate classroom knowledge into application. While it was an easy commitment to make (92 percent of our seniors already report such an experience by the time they graduate) it was also important to verbalize our dedication to providing these experiences. Our graduates have a phenomenal accomplishment rate, with 98.9 percent of our May graduates getting a job or graduate school placement within six months of commencement. To maintain that success, we need to provide the learning experiences that help them transition from campus to careers.

### Multiplier Effect

Opportunities for our students have just expanded, with Vote Smart recently moving its operations from Montana to the Drake campus. A leading source of non-partisan political information, Vote Smart conducts research on candidates' biographies, voting record, speeches, campaign financing sources, and special interest group ratings. We expect the partnership to generate internship opportunities—up to 70 annually—for students not only in areas traditionally associated with politics, including political science, strategic political communications, sociology, and rhetoric, but also in fields such as data analytics, computer science, and graphic design, which help the organization to analyze and visualize information. This will strengthen Drake's reputation as a center for political and policy study, adding yet

another resource to those such as The Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement; Principal Center for Global Citizenship; Agricultural Law Center; and the Drake University Archives, which house the archival papers of former Iowa Gov. Robert D. Ray and retired U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin.

The 2016 election may be over, but the 2020 campaign is just beginning.

### Applause, Applause

Thomas Rosburg, professor and chair of biology, received the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's 2016 Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award in recognition of his exceptional commitment to conservation in Iowa. One of Rosburg's most remarkable achievements has been the Drake Prairie Rescue and Restoration Program, through which he organized 165 events in 22 counties between 2004 and 2016. He involves Drake students in his projects, providing them with valuable field experiences.

Joan McAlister, associate professor of rhetoric, media, and social change, was selected to receive the Francine Merritt Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Lives of Women in Communication. McAlister is editor of *Women's Studies in Communication*, an international, peer-reviewed quarterly academic journal created by the Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC). Numerous Drake undergraduates have worked with her as editorial assistants on the publication.

### Scholarly Endeavors

Deborah Kent, associate professor of mathematics, has a co-authored book titled *Game Theory: A Playful Introduction* (American Mathematical Society).

David Skidmore, professor of political science and the director of the Principal Center for Global Citizenship and the R. W. and Mary Nelson Institute of

Diplomacy and International Affairs, co-authored a new international relations textbook (Routledge).

Karla Kash, associate professor of musical theatre, directed and choreographed a production of *West Side Story* at the Des Moines Playhouse with Drake students Chris Bernard, Erin Besser, Mitch Donohue, Nick Black, Brent Neary, and Elliott Newman in the production, as well as theatre professor John Graham.

Megan Brown, associate professor of English, published *American Autobiography after 9/11* (University of Wisconsin Press). The book explores the myriad developments in American autobiography and memoir since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

### Student Achievement

International relations major Emma Muth received a U.S. Department of State Gilman Scholarship for study in Switzerland in summer 2017.

Four musical theatre majors have taken their shows on the road. Nathan Smith and Hank (Henry) Fisher are studying at the Eugene O'Neill National Theatre Institute in Waterford, Connecticut. Dariya Kimmes and Kathleen Gabriel are even further afield, participating in the National Theatre Institute's Moscow Art Theatre semester in Russia.

Psychology major, Alyssa Wilkinson, received the Laraine Masters Glidden Undergraduate Travel Award to attend the 50th annual Gatlinburg Conference on Intellectual and Developmental Disorders.