



A Note from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. I hope you were able to get away for a few days, spend time with family and friends, and do the things that you like doing best in the summer. My highlight was spending three nights in a treehouse in the Palatinate Forest in southern Germany, where we took my parents for a little family reunion. The perfect getaway! It feels like summer has flown by, and somehow the first day of classes is less than two weeks away. Busy days ahead, as we welcome new faculty, get syllabi ready and meet the newest Bulldogs during Welcome Week.

We have two other big events coming up next week that you don't want to miss: the Learning Symposium on Tuesday, August 20 from 8:30am-12pm, and our first all-faculty and staff meeting on the same day from 2-4pm. The Learning Symposium will investigate potential uses of AI inside and outside the classroom, and several of our A&S faculty will lead breakout sessions, hold workshops, and give the keynote speech. After lunch at 2pm, A&S faculty and staff we will gather in the Cowles Library Reading Room to commence the new academic year and to decide on our strategic priorities for the College. Many faculty engaged in conversations over the summer about reimagining the arts and sciences, and we are eager to share with all of you some of the ideas that have been generated! Together, we can decide on what to tackle first, and define our long-term goals for the college. There will be lots of ways to engage in the conversations and pursue innovative changes in the coming year. I am excited about doing this work together with all of you.

Thank you to all of you who helped recruit, orient and welcome new and returning students to campus over the summer. Our latest admission funnel shows 665 EFR, with 325 of those with a primary major in the Arts & Sciences. Not all of these students have participated in orientations over the summer, so the final number might be closer to 610-620 EFR. Another 125 transfer students have chosen Drake, with 52 of those in our college. Our newest Bulldogs will arrive on campus next week! Check out [this Chronicle article](#) for ideas on how to change up the first day of class—or share your own ideas with a colleague. Please let me know if there is any way the dean's office can support you and your students as the fall semester begins.

I will hold my first open office hours on Thursday, August 29, 3-4pm in the Olmsted Starbucks. Stop by if you like—no appointment needed. Please email me if you have any questions or are looking for a different time to meet. Here is to a great start of the new academic year!

Gesine

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



Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event/Activity
August 20	Learning Symposium, with Lunch, 8:00am-12:00, Olmsted Parents Hall
August 20	A&S All Faculty & Staff Meeting, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Cowles Library Reading Room
August 21	A&S New Faculty Orientation, 8:30-12:00pm, Collier-Scripps 207
August 21	New First Year & Transfer Student Move-In
August 22-24	Welcome Weekend
August 22	A&S Staff Retreat, 12:00-2:00pm, FAC Pavilion (rain location: Turner Jazz Center)
August 25	Summer term ends
August 26	Fall 2024 semester begins

Access the Full College of A&S and University Calendar 2024-25 Here

[Academic Calendar](#) [University Events Calendar](#)

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Curriculum & Faculty Development Corner

J-Term 2025 Course Proposals due Tuesday, Sept. 3

Due to new University policy on caps for J-Term courses taught as overload, a new proposal process begins this year. Two tracks are offered including a streamlined track for who proposing to teach a J-Term course in-load (only cover sheet required) and a competitive track for those requesting overload pay (cover sheet and tentative syllabus/reading list required). Applications are due to the Dean's Office by **Tuesday, Sept. 3**, with decisions announced by Monday, Sept. 9. Faculty are encouraged to begin early conversations about J-Term within their departments to allow time to prepare proposals. [Access the application form here](#).

ULTRA Hours 2024: Get Your Fall Courses Up and Running With Help from Drake Online's Instructional Design Staff

Drake Online & Continuing Education and the Center for Teaching & Learning will once again host Ultra Hours to kick off the semester. Get your fall courses ready to go in Blackboard with the assistance of Drake Online's instructional design staff.

Ultra Hours are from 11am – 2pm on the following days:

Thursday August 15 – Collier-Scripps Room 120 (Kelley Conference Room)

Friday August 16 - Howard Hall Room 131

Thursday August 22 - Howard Hall Room 212 (Faculty Commons)

New developmental resources available through the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)

Be sure to sign up for your free Institutional Membership to the NCFDD, which gives you access to a wide range of development resources you can access including webinars, handbooks, writing challenges and a discussion forum for peer-mentoring and problem-solving. Drake's Academic Affairs Advisory Council (AAAC) has made this fantastic resource available to faculty.

To claim your free Institutional Membership, complete the following steps:

Go to <http://www.ncfdd.org/join>

Choose your institution from the drop-down menu.

Select "Activate my Membership"

Complete the registration form using your institutional email address

Check your email to find a confirmation/welcome email. Click "Activate Account" in the email.

Applications for Centennial Scholar, Stalnaker, and Distinguished Engagement Faculty Awards Due on September 1

Nominations for the Stalnaker Lecturer, Distinguished Engagement Award, and Centennial Scholar are due **September 1!**

The Centennial Scholar Award is presented in even-numbered years to a faculty member in the College in recognition of distinguished achievements in scholarship. The criteria for selection include professional contributions through scholarly/creative activity, holding leadership roles in the profession/discipline, consulting activities related to scholarship and research, and contribution to the mission of the department, college, and university.

The Stalnaker Award is presented to a distinguished faculty member who is invited to present a lecture to the University community on a topic in his or her discipline in the following September or October. This award is funded in part by the emeritus professors of the College. Selection of the award recipient is by a committee consisting of the three most recent Lecturers and a representative of the emeritus faculty.

The Distinguished Engagement Award recognizes outstanding contributions of Drake faculty and staff to the college community. Criteria for the award include a demonstrated personal commitment to Drake-related volunteerism and campus engagement, an outstanding record of leadership or substantial involvement in community projects, services and activities contributing to the quality of life in our institution, and professional and personal values and behavior that typify the integration of citizenship and professional responsibility.

More information about these awards, the nomination process, and eligibility requirements [can be found here](#).



Admissions & Enrollment Corner

Reaching out to prospective students remains a priority in these years of lowered enrollment. Surveys and interviews consistently show that meeting with faculty is essential to recruitment. Thank you to all faculty members who took time to meet individually with students, to provide academic overviews, or to help at Academic Fairs. Arts & Sciences completed two successful admissions events over the summer. We held two June Sneak Peeks in which various faculty helped host Academic Fairs for roughly 70 high school students. In August, Bulldog Days of Summer saw over 100 students coming to campus for academic overviews and Academic Fairs. In addition to meeting with prospective families, Arts & Sciences also hosted a bus tour of 30 high school counselors from Illinois, in which faculty collaborated to give a tour to all things Drake in very minimal time.



Advising & Student Support Corner

Welcome to the Fall Semester!

This summer, our office has been busy orienting new students to Drake across five in-person orientation sessions and one virtual experience. We also have been fortunate to welcome a new Advising Specialist, Katie Evenson. Katie will be a great asset to our team and has already hit the ground running. She will be working with the following students, entering in the fall 2023 on, with a primary major in the below fields. We also include the programs our returners engage with:

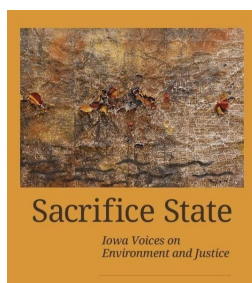
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Biology Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology (BCMB)	Math/Math Ed/AI/Data Analytics/Computer Sci/ Quantitative Economics	Anthropology & Sociology/ All Art Majors	All Music Majors All Theatre Majors
Chemistry	Physics/Astronomy	English, Writing, Rhetoric & Media Studies	American Politics, International Relations, Politics
Kinesiology	Environmental Sci, Env Sci/Sust/Resiliency	History Sociology	Economics
Law, Politics & Society	Zoo Conservation	Psychology and Neuroscience	Philosophy, Spanish, Religion
STEM-Leaning Open Students	Dual Degree Engineering	Non-STEM-Leaning Open Students	3+3 Law Program Interests



Celebrating Faculty Highlights

Drake Community Press and ENSS collaborate with Iowa Environmental Council for environmental justice





Carol Spaulding-Kruse and Dian Nostikasari as well as Drake students and staff are featured [in this fantastic video](#) by The Iowa Environmental Council, which introduces the collaboration between Drake and the IEC to produce the publication *Sacrifice State: Iowa Voices on Environment and Justice*.

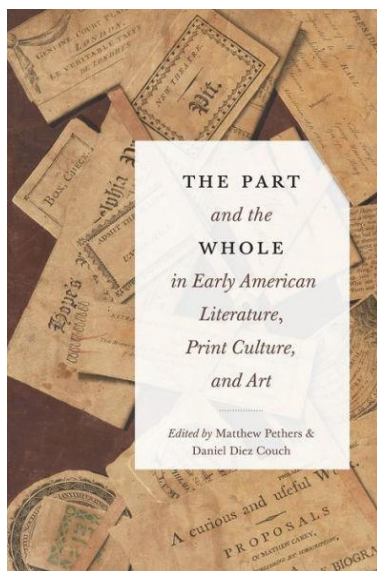
From the IEC video description: The DCP, led by Dr. Carol Spaulding-Kruse and assisted by student interns, helped facilitate a dialogue with Iowans to advance conversations around the evolving environment. Artwork from Madai Taylor, a mixed-medium artist residing in Fort Dodge, are displayed at the beginning of each chapter. Taylor's collection, "When the Earth Cries," explores the fundamental, enigmatic themes of human rights, connection, and personal growth. *Sacrifice State* speaks to the current and amplifying issues of environmental conditions in Iowa, while highlighting the unique beliefs and experiences of those who were interviewed. We acknowledge that this book cannot possibly grasp the true diversity of this state, but we believe this book still captures the array of challenges, tensions, triumphs, and dreams of Iowans. Learn more about the book at <https://arccg.is/1vrOaO> or on IEC's website iaenvironment.org.

Professor Chris Porter Hosts NSF-conference on Mathematical Science at Drake



The NSF-funded conference “Algorithmic Fractal Dimensions” was held in Collier-Scripps Hall from May 20-May 24, featuring ten lectures by Dr. Jack Lutz, Professor of Computer Science at Iowa State University (and Ph.D. advisor to our very own Adam Case and Andrei Migunov). The grant for the conference, part of the CBMS conference series (Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences), provided funds for over thirty participants from across the US (and one participant from France) to attend the meeting. Our meeting was just one of three CBMS conferences in the US in 2024. [You can find more about the conference here.](#)

Professor Lisa West publishes essay on Indigenous ruins bridging culture and history



Lisa West published an essay, "Visualizing the Incompleteness of 'Mound-Builder' Ruins," in *The Part and the Whole in Early American Literature, Print Culture, and Art* (Bucknell UP, eds. Matthew Pethers and Daniel Diez Couch) a collection of essays that explore the aesthetics and politics of the "fragment" in literary and visual culture.

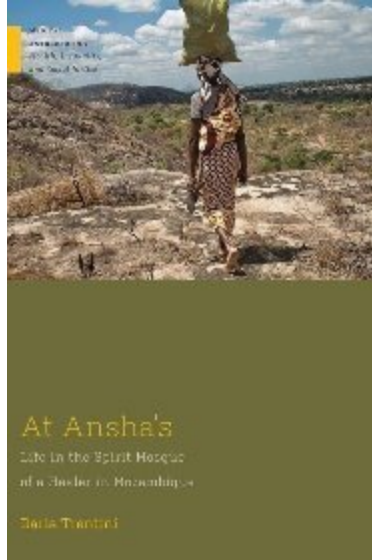
Lisa's essay argues that the visual representations of Indigenous ruins rely on Anglo-American visual conventions and that they recast the notion of incompleteness from one of a distant, unknown past to a present dissonance of convention or style. The editors note, "As these essays reveal, the casting of the fragmentary as aesthetically eccentric or incomplete was a way of reckoning with concerns about the related fragmentation of nation, society, and self. For a contemporary audience, they offer new ways to think about the inevitable gaps and absences in our cultural and historical archive."

New Review of Professor Daria Trentini's book, *At Ansha's*, emphasizes connections between spirituality, culture, and healing

Daria Trentini's book, *At Ansha's: Life in the Spirit Mosque of a Healer in Mozambique*, was recently reviewed by Amina Alaoui Soulimani in the latest issue of *Kronos*.

“At the heart of existential anthropology, perhaps the questions Trentini invites us to think about are: what can bodies do and undo? How does a body recognize the extension of other worlds in metaphysical realms? What vocabularies emerge when language does not extend to the rescue of medical malpractice and inner turmoil? What comes to view when we tell the story of Mozambique through the eyes, body, and life of a woman and her spirits?”

[You can read the review here.](#)



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