



*Photo from Drake Theatre Art's Dracula, which ran November 21st - 24th. Directed by **Erik Meixelsperger**, scene design by **Noah Files**, lighting design by **John Pomeroy**, and costumes by **Josie Poppen** in her last design before her retirement this December. Congratulations to all on a successful run!*

A Note from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I don't usually mind Iowa winter. It's a good excuse to make that extra cup of tea, and to curl up on a sofa with a blanket and a good book. I am not so sure about that anymore, after coming home last night and being greeted by our huge trampoline flying in the street and towards my car! It didn't help that my husband was 2,000 miles away in California (60 degrees weather!) as I was trying to stop that thing from wreaking havoc in our neighborhood! But then again, it's Iowa, and within a couple of minutes two neighbors were there to help me. We secured the heavy beast to the basketball hoop and staked it down like a tent. And yes, the trampoline was still there this morning!

I hope you are staying warm and safe. It's the last day of classes, and a mountain of grading is waiting. Hang in there! A gentle reminder to please turn in all grades before Tuesday, December 18, 10am, and to resolve incompletes where possible. The days towards that end goal are filled with activities, special events, concerts, final presentations, and community gatherings. Check out just a few of those happening in the Arts & Sciences listed below! It's amazing to see the fruits of a semester's labor coming together. I couldn't be more proud of our students, faculty and staff!

I hope you can take a break from the end of the semester activities and join us for our College meeting today, Thursday, from 3-4pm in the Cowles Library Reading Room. There'll be hot coffee and cookies waiting for you! We will hear updates from our colleagues on council and senate, learn about initiatives to reimagine the Arts

and Sciences, see photos from the Qingdao trip, and find out about other things happening in the Arts & Sciences. After the meeting, we will be gathering for pizza and drinks at Dough Co. Pizzeria from 4:30-6pm. Please stop by to connect with your colleagues and to celebrate the end of the semester together.

I am grateful for all of you, for a good semester that has brought renewed energy and initiatives, and for the things you all do to enrich the lives of students and our community. I look forward to seeing you, and I wish you strength for the final stretch before winter break!

Warmly,

Gesine

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



Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event/Activity
December 5	All Faculty & Staff Meeting 3:00-4:00PM, Cowles Reading Room, followed by Winter Social 4:30-6:00PM at Dough Co.
December 5	Last day to submit AOI proposal to University Curriculum Committee for Spring 2025
December 6	Day free for study
December 9-13	Final Evaluation Period
December 13	End of fall semester
December 14	December commencement ceremony
December 18	Last day to add a J-term class online
December 18	Fall semester final grades due by 10:00AM
December 23	Winter break begins (University closed)
January 2	Campus reopens after winter break

January 6	J-term courses begins
January 15	PARs/PAEs/PAHEs officially due to Department Chairs (work within departments on any alternatives)
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (university closed, classes do not meet)
January 24	End of J-term courses

[Access the Full College of A&S and University Calendar 2024-25 Here](#)

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

College of Arts & Sciences

Harmon Fine Arts Center
1310 25th Street
Des Moines, IA 50311

Phone: [515-271-3939](tel:515-271-3939)

Email: ask.as@drake.edu



Curriculum & Faculty Development Corner

2025 Drake University Conference on Undergraduate Research in the Sciences (DUCURS)

Join us for an exciting afternoon to celebrate Drake STEM students' research accomplishments! DUCURS 2025 will feature student oral and poster presentations and opportunities to connect with colleagues. We are thrilled to announce this year's keynote speaker: Dr. William Humphrey, distinguished Drake physics alumnus and Numerix Chief Technology Officer & Senior VP.

Save the Date! Details on DUCURS registration, abstract submission, and the full schedule of presentations will be posted on the [DUSCI website](#). In the meantime, please mark your calendar for the afternoon of April 10th and consider offering flexibility for students to participate as you build your spring 2025 syllabi.

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 12:30-4:30pm

Location: Olmsted Parents Hall & Conference Rooms

Upcoming Faculty Development Opportunities

The Dean's Office will be sponsoring a **mentoring breakfast** for all tenure-track and visiting faculty in the College in February 2025.

This event will offer a chance to find community, ask questions or discuss common challenges, and engage with a common resource from the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) (resource freely available to Drake faculty through the Deputy Provost's Office). Further details will be available (and including poll for availability) in the coming weeks. In the meantime, all faculty are invited to consult the online resources available from NCFDD, including two upcoming topics of interest:

Blog Post (A Countdown to 2025), by Kerry Ann Rockquermore. Features helpful strategies for navigating the end-of-semester crunch time and ending the academic year strong!

Live Webinar (Every Semester Needs a Plan) – Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 1:00-2:00pm CST (*pre-registration required*)

Description: We offer this planning webinar at the beginning of each semester so that you can take time out of your schedule to identify your personal and professional goals, create a strategic plan to accomplish them, and identify the types of community, support, and accountability you need to make this your most productive and balanced semester ever!

Faculty Input needed for Generative AI survey by December 20

The A&S Council (Technology Committee) seeks your input on best practices around Generative AI, exploring syllabus statements and pedagogical uses of artificial intelligence across disciplines. You are invited to share your anonymous feedback **by December 20** and responses will be compiled in time to report back for the start of the Spring 2025 semester. This effort aligns with broader University considerations around how AI is changing the landscape within higher education. Please reach out to any member of the [A&S Technology Committee](#) with additional feedback on this initiative.



Admissions & Enrollment Corner

It is December! We are through with the series of **Fall Admissions events**. November 8th was the final Preview Day for 2024. A total of 75 students attended: 45 High School Seniors (fall 2025), 1 Transfer (Fall 2025), 3 transfers (Spring 2025), 24 High School Juniors (2026) and 2 High School Sophomores (2027). Of the HS Seniors, 29 are admitted, and four of those have submitted a tuition deposit.

It is now the season for **Virtual Spotlights**. There will be 9 Spotlights total for Drake, 4 of which feature A&S programs: Natural Sciences; Tech, Math, Data, and Computer Science; Humanities and Social Sciences; and Pathways to Pre-Law (A&S and other schools). Here is the link for more information: <https://apply.drake.edu/portal/academicspotlight>. Please encourage prospective students to check these out, even if they have already been to campus. These Spotlights include faculty and students talking about Drake experiences, as well as Q&A sessions.

The College has engaged in **other segmented Admissions activities** - see, for example, the Political Science event under Celebrating A&S Highlights. In addition, Music held two “Music Major for a Day” sessions; Theatre has held an Audition Day; and Drake alum/high school math teacher Ellie Soosloff (Math/Math Ed majors with Spanish minor) brought 65+ Creston High School students to campus for exposure to Drake's Math and Computer Science Department. I encourage Departments to consider other local outreach and smaller scale Admissions events.

Innovation! Music is piloting new software to enhance their Admission process. If it works, we might look into similar systems to reach out to students more quickly with program-specific information.

THANK YOU to all the faculty and staff for their time and dedication to running all admission events this fall. Students come to Drake because of their interactions with you, faculty, so thank you! It makes a difference. In reading the comments from parents and students, their conversations with faculty and students are what they praise the most. Almost all leave campus feeling more excited about Drake than before they arrived.

We have some **spring events** coming up, and we still need some support! If you're interested in answering questions at an Academic Fair, showcasing student work at a program Overview, or have any ideas for unique recruitment events, please let us know!



Advising & Student Support Corner

As the end of the semester approaches, please provide your students with an opportunity to complete **student evaluations**. According to the A&S Handbook, “the College of Arts and Sciences affirms the importance of student course evaluations to both the development of teaching excellence and of evaluation of faculty performance in relation to tenure, promotion and merit reviews.” It mandates that “all faculty must provide for student evaluation of each course taught” (section 4.7 of the Handbook - Fac Handbook rev February2023.pdf (drake.edu)).

Final grades are due before 10:00 am on Wednesday, Dec 18. University offices will be closed beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec 20 and will reopen on Thursday, Jan 2. It is extremely important to submit final grades by the deadline because academic standards (probation/suspension), graduation, transcripts, and scholarship awards are all dependent upon the timely submission of grades. Grades submitted late may affect a student's academic standing, progress towards graduation, pre-requisites checks, eligibility for financial aid, or, importantly, ability to graduate.

Submit grades for **everyone** on your roster(s). If a student appearing on your roster did not validate their attendance at the beginning of the semester, or stopped attending, please email marybeth.holtey@drake.edu, so follow-up can be completed. If a student has a non-reported grade on their transcript they cannot be listed on the Dean's List or President's List or earn a degree, as applicable.

If you enter a **grade incorrectly**, i.e. you enter a grade of B, but the student earned an A, please complete the following steps: MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading Card > Grade Changes

If you are considering issuing an **incomplete** to a student who has disappeared in the last part of the semester, hasn't submitted substantial portions of work, and is not responsive to your outreach, please note that while it may seem friendly to extend an incomplete, in many cases experience (and data) has shown that these students rarely successfully complete the work or earn a high grade. Furthermore, the presence of several incompletes gives the student a false sense of hope. Students who take several incompletes may be in a type of financial aid “limbo,” without resolved credits and a clear sense of hours earned. **And, new this**

year, students who obtained books using Course Ready will need to return these books. If the successful resolution of an incomplete requires access to course text(s), please keep this in mind, when issuing an incomplete.

The grade of “**IP**” (**in-progress**) is appropriate only in the case of internships, practicums, or courses that do not fit the standard academic calendar.

If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) or in-progress grade (IP) and the student has now earned a letter grade, please enter that grade:

MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading Card > I/IP/NR Grade Updates.

If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work in a class currently marked as incomplete or in-progress, please email marybeth.holtey@drake.edu so she can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.

If you oversaw an **independent study or internship**, please remember to enter a grade.

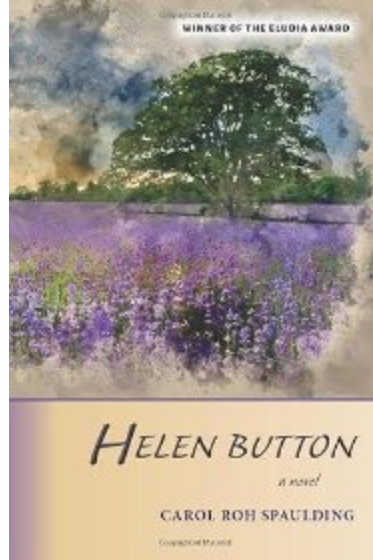
If you encounter a case of **plagiarism**, please refer to the procedures outlined at [Policies and Regulations | Drake University](#).



Celebrating A&S Highlights

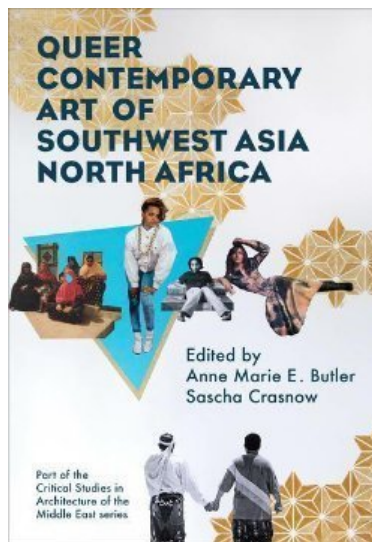


Congratulations to David E. Maxwell Distinguished Professor of International Affairs **Deb DeLaet**, who recently published "Female Genital Cutting Across Borders: Cultural Biases in the Contestation of Global Human Rights" in the journal, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*. While much of the focus on female genital mutilation (FGM) has been constructed as a set of non-Western practices, Professor DeLaet's article examines global norms condemning FGM and anti-FGM laws in Western countries as sites of power and contestation of fundamental human rights, including female genital cosmetic surgeries, male circumcision, and genital 'normalization' surgeries performed on intersex children. As a companion to the article available [here](#), Professor DeLaet published a post on the Identity Journal's blog, "[Whose voices and bodies matter? Global norms condemning FGM.](#)"



Professor of English **Carol Spaulding-Kruse** recently celebrated the launch of her new book, *Helen Button*, at Beaverdale Books, where she read from her Eludia prize winning novel, followed by a conversation with professor and award-winning author, Kali White VanBaale.

In this dual timeline narrative, a young French housekeeper lives out the years of World War II near Vichy France with her famous employers, Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas. Decades later, she returns to France from the United States, finding that a fateful decision she made as a young woman echoes in the present in unexpected ways. You can find out more [here](#). Congratulations, Carol!



Assistant Professor of Art **Sascha Crasnow**'s new book, co-edited with Anne Marie E. Butler, has been published by Intellect Books. *Queer Contemporary Art of Southwest Asia North Africa* presents new perspectives on queer visual culture in the Southwest Asia North Africa region from artists and scholars. The volume focuses on artworks produced in the contemporary era while recognizing historical and contextual connections to regional and Islamic art and culture. [Check out the link here](#). Congratulations, Sascha!



The Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Professor **Deb Symonds**, and Dr. **Brett Russler** from the Department of History, and the Slay fund sponsored a lecture from Women's History Professor Bonnie Morris, "Title IX & Women's Sports History" which looked at the way in which 1970's female athletes like Billie Jean King influenced President Nixon's signing of the Education Amendments of 1972, now known as Title IX, which bans discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity at all federally-funded educational institutions.

The talk drew students and faculty from WGS and History during Bonnie's visit. It was an exceptional talk, held on the day of the Drake/Iowa Women's Basketball Game which Bonnie also attended!



In collaboration with Drake alum and Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Dr. Amber Graeber, the Department of Political Science welcomed a group of AP Government students from Roosevelt High School on October 30. During their half-day on campus, they visited Dr. **Kieran Williams**'s Supreme Courts and Elections class and Dr. **Rachel Paine Caufield**'s FYS, "What to Expect When You're Electing: Election 2024." They also had a campus tour with the admissions office and lunch at Hubbell, which they loved!

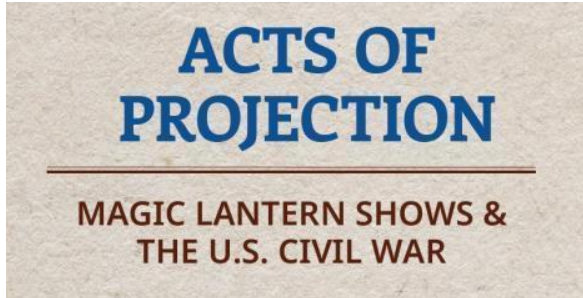


Check out this Tech Podcast with Professor **Klaus Bartschat** who participated in International Faculty Week at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. In addition to lectures and a seminar about his research, Klaus participated in a 15-minute radio show about "Quantum Mechanics in Everyday Life".

You can listen to the podcast here—it'll switch to English after the first 1:10 minutes.

<https://tecsoundsradio.tec.mx/es/hablemos-de-ciencia> Episode 68

Upcoming Events



Professor of Art History **Maura Lyon**'s exhibit *Acts of Projection* runs through January 17, 2025 at the Anderson Art Gallery. Click here for more details on the gallery's [Winter Hours](#).

Acts of Projection: Magic Lantern Shows and the U.S. Civil War encompasses both the material artifacts of lantern shows – hand-painted slides and period projectors – as well as actual projections to simulate the original viewing experience. The exhibit examines two interrelated definitions of the term projection: using light to cast designs on a surface and the psychological concept of externalizing internal anxiety. It includes a site-specific work by the artist Johnny DiBlasi in order to demonstrate the continuing relevance of the projection format.

■ PLACE AND BELONGING: A COLLABORATIVE ORAL HISTORY OF THE DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD

INVITATION TO ATTEND

This is an invitation to attend the reception for the upcoming exhibition, *"Place and Belonging: A Collaborative Oral History Project of the Drake Neighborhood."*

The exhibition showcases the stories collected by students of the "Practice of Oral History" class in collaboration with the local and global communities of the Drake Neighborhood. The class partnered with the Drake University Archives & Special Collections.

Leaders of the community, students and participants will guide visitors through the exhibition.

The exhibition will run December 2024 thru May 2025.

DECEMBER 6TH, 2024

5:00 PM

JAMES COLLIER HERITAGE
ROOM & COWLES READING
ROOM, DRAKE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

*Food & Beverages will be served.
Enjoy selections from Lzaza Indo-Pak
Cuisine, Gursha Ethiopian Grill, Lady Jerk
Soul Food and Sodexo Drake University.*

For more information please contact:
Daria Trentini
daria.trentini@drake.edu
OR
Holly Boorman
holly.boorman@drake.edu



Drake
UNIVERSITY

The project is generously sponsored by the Slay Fund for Social Justice with the collaboration of the Office of Community Engaged Learning & Services.

Place and Belonging: A Collaborative Oral History of the Drake Neighborhood

December 6th, 2024 5:00 PM, James Collier Heritage Room & Cowles Reading Room, Drake University Library

Professor **Daria Trentini** and her students in the "Practice of Oral History" class invited you to attend the reception for their upcoming exhibition. The exhibition showcases the stories collected in the class in collaboration with local and global communities of the Drake Neighborhood. The class partnered with the Drake University Archives & Special Collections.

Leaders of the community, students and participants will guide visitors through the exhibition. Food and beverages from Lzaza Indo-Pak Cuisine, Gursha Ethiopian Grill, Lady Jerk Soul Food and Sodexo Drake University will be served.

The project is sponsored by the Slay Fund for Social Justice with the Collaboration of the Office of Community Engaged Learning and Services.

Like A&S on Social Media!



Please check out and share on A&S Facebook and Instagram. In partnership with UCM, we would love to

spotlight faculty, students, staff, and alumni and feature your programs through the College of A&S accounts: please send your suggestions to jennifer.cooper@drake.edu. Thanks!



1310 25th Street | Des Moines, IA 50311 US

T [1-800-44-DRAKE \(37253\) x3939](tel:1-800-44-DRAKE)

T [515-271-3939](tel:515-271-3939)

W drake.edu/artsci

[Academic Calendar](#)

[Course Descriptions](#)

[Add a class](#)

[Drop or change a class](#)



This message was sent to , because you opted in to communications from the Drake University College of Arts & Sciences. Got this as a forward from a current subscriber? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

[View online](#) | [Manage your preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Nondiscrimination & Accessibility](#) | [Privacy Statement](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.