



## A Note from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

My favorite American holiday is coming up—Thanksgiving. Like every year, however, I wish it came three weeks earlier. We need it now!! I hope you are all hanging in there during these turbulent times. It is good to be part of a community where we can lean on each other, share our fears, and find encouragement.

As some of you know, I just got back from a short trip to China. I was part of an academic delegation from Drake that visited our new partner university, Qingdao University. The purpose of the trip was to see the campus, meet our colleagues, and finalize the curriculum details for our two dual degree programs in Biology and Data Analytics. We also had a chance to meet some of the students of QU-Drake United College, as the first cohort of 167 students has started taking classes this fall. The delegation included Dr. Maryann Huey, co-chair of our Math and Computer Science Department, Dr. Deb Christensen, chair of the Biology Department, and Dr. Alimoor Reza, faculty in Computer Science who will be among the first to teach in China. To summarize it briefly—we were deeply impressed by what we saw! One of the highlights was meeting the students. They were, just like Drake students, extremely committed, highly engaged, eager, and excited to learn. They had prepared for our visit, written postcards with good wishes and aspirations, and even sang the Bulldog fight song for us! The photo above was taken at the end of our meeting with the students.

We were also impressed by the campus, its teaching and research facilities. QU is a nationally ranked university with over 30,000 students in various undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. We visited labs and computer classrooms, got to see future Drake faculty offices and the Student Innovation Center with a student-run café (yes, we even got lattes and americanos there, but the Chinese tea satisfies all cravings!). The city of Qingdao (see photo below), is beautiful, located right on the Yellow Sea and gives out an inviting flair of a global metropolis, with German-style architecture in the old center (dating back to the early 1900s when Germans founded the Tsingtao Brewery) and a modern Asian cityscape and cosmopolitan lifestyle (see photo below!).

We were humbled by the hospitality, warmth, and excitement of our Chinese hosts, and thrilled to see how Qingdao University is already deeply invested in this partnership. They are eager to work with us to make the two dual degree programs successful for students and hope to grow the partnership. They even asked us about additional programs and possible graduate pathways.

While all four of us were supportive of this project to begin with, the visit helped us realize what a unique and great opportunity this is for Drake. We came back inspired by the global project that promises to be impactful and rewarding for students, faculty and for Drake overall. I am extremely proud of our faculty who represented

the best of what Drake offers and are adventurous enough to embark on this project. I could tell that our hosts were thrilled with the faculty they met! We have our work cut out to get this partnership off to a successful start! Thank you for all you do for your students, for Drake, and for the communities near and far away!

Wishing you peace,

Gesine

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



### Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event/Activity
November 8	Admissions Event: Fall Campus Preview Day
November 15	Second-year faculty reviews due to the Dean's Office
November 15	Independent Study/Internship/ UR Course Release <a href="#">Applications</a> are due
November 27- 29	Thanksgiving break (university closed)

December 1	<a href="#">Travel Grant form 2024-25</a> due (2nd deadline)
December 1	Covid Course Release <a href="#">Applications</a> for 2025-26 are due

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

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

## College of Arts & Sciences

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*from top: Dr Eric Saylor; Dr. Saylor and the student choral singers; Dr. Inbal Mazar and Dr. Maria Valdovinos*

## 40th Annual Stalnaker Lecture

On October 23rd, the College of Arts & Sciences hosted the 40th Annual Stalnaker Lecture in Sheslow Auditorium.

The Lecture, "Navigating the Politics of Music History: Or, A Reflection on Two Years at Trivia Night," was presented by **Dr. Eric Saylor**, Professor of Music History, who gave an engaging lecture on the history of the politics of music, who creates it, how listeners perceive and value it, and who selects what is "canon" for future generations of scholars and musicians. Dr. Saylor illustrated one of his points about the perception of music by engaging four music students to perform a 15th century choral piece. And of course, Dr. Saylor answered the question of why the Music Department's faculty team doesn't do better at "Name that Tune" during Confluence Brewing Company's Trivia Night. There was a lively question and answer session following Dr. Saylor's lecture.

The College of Arts and Sciences also presented several faculty awards. **Dr. Maria Valdovinos** was announced as the 2025 Stalnaker lecturer. She was introduced by Dr. Inbal Mazar, Associate Professor of Spanish, who nominated her for the award.

Assistant Dean **Alina Grimm** received the 2024 Arts & Sciences Distinguished Engagement Award. It was presented by Dr. Lisa West, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, who nominated her for the award.

The 2024 Centennial Scholar Award was presented to **Dr. Jim Romain**, Professor of Music, by Dr. Meredith Luttrell, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Chair of the Arts & Sciences Council. Dr. Romain was nominated by Professor of Voice Leanne Freeman-Miller.

The final award of the evening was the 2024 Humanities Research Scholar Award, presented to **Dr. Inbal Mazar**, Associate Professor of Spanish, by Dean Gesine Gerhard.

Congratulations to our outstanding faculty and staff!





*Assistant Dean Alina Grimm and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Lisa West*



*Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Meredith Luttrell, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Chair of the Arts & Sciences Council and*



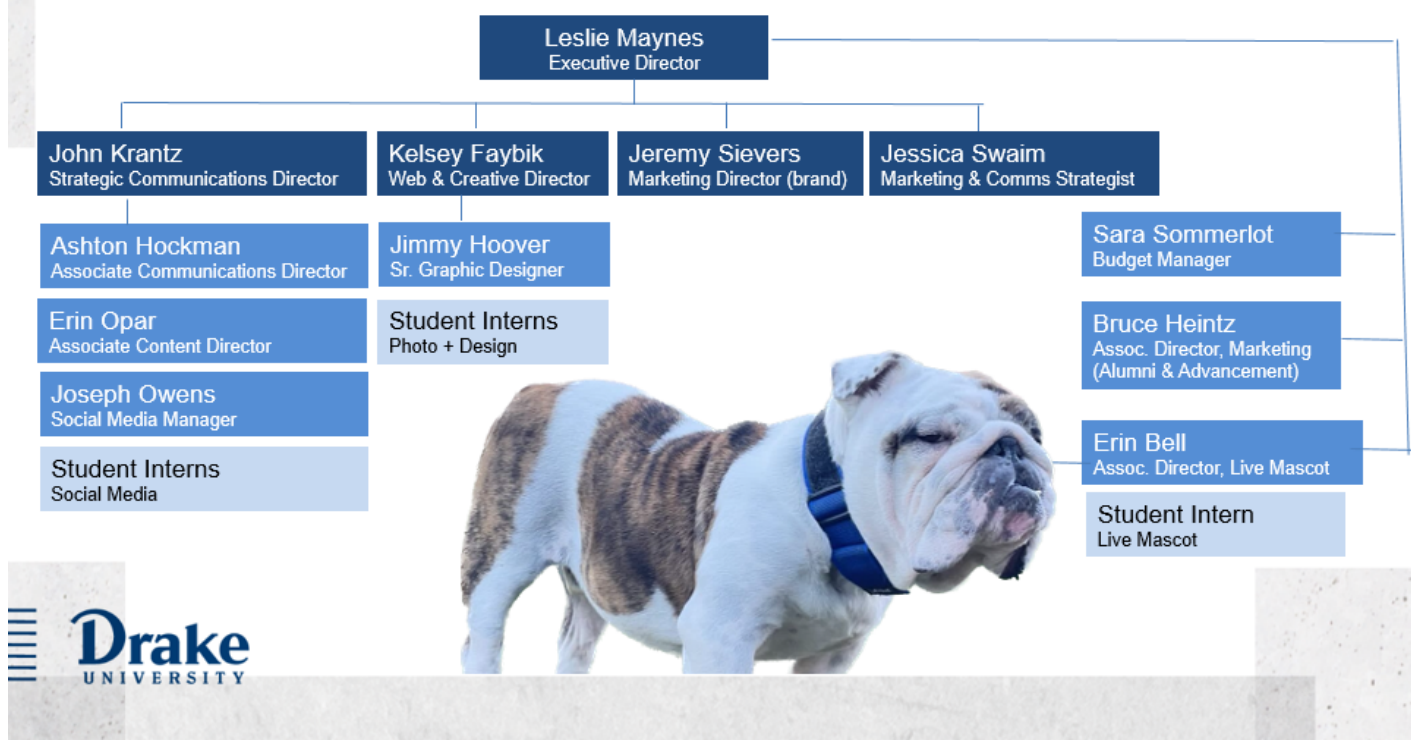
*Associate Professor Inbal Mazar and Dean Gesine Gerhard*



## **Curriculum & Faculty Development Corner**

**University Communication & Marketing Panel, with Social Media**

UCM TEAM



At the October All Faculty & Staff meeting, we were joined by a panel from University Communications and Marketing (John Krantz, Jessica Swaim, and Erin Opar) with faculty spotlight on A&S/UCM partnerships with Assistant Professor of Sociology, Elizabeth Talbert. The presentation offered four key insights: (1) Drake.edu website redesign updates; (2) Paid social media marketing strategies; (3) Public relations to enhance the profile of Drake within the media and broader community; (4) Social media resources and opportunities. Chairs and Program Directors will be engaged in the initial phase of the website re-design planning beginning this month. The organizational chart of the UCM team is provided here to orient your outreach and/or you are welcome to connect with the Dean’s Office on potential story ideas or publicity approaches.

UCM is particularly interested in advancing stories which center unique learning experiences and community partnerships. Here are two examples of upcoming project highlights that were featured in the presentation:



# Community Writing

**Wrongful Convictions: Stories of  
Individuals and the Law  
Fall 2024 \* ENG 119/  
LPS 135/ HONR 116**

## Experiential Learning Video Project

Feature students, faculty, representatives of the Drake Legal Clinic and the Wrongful Conviction Unit of the State Public Defender's office, and an exonerated individual.



LIVED EXPERIENCES OF  
FAMILY HOMELESSNESS AND  
HOUSING SEARCHES IN THE  
DES MOINES METRO AREA



## Research Study: Public Relations Support

Press release and targeted media outreach to secure interviews and publicity with KCCI, The Register, and IPR's River to River.

Finally, UCM offered two routes to engage with official University social media channels, and their slides are [attached here](#) for your reference. For the second year, A&S has hired a social media intern (supervised by the UCM team) to bolster our College presence on Facebook and Instagram. **Please submit social media stories, links, or photos to Jennifer Cooper and/or Associate Dean, Jill Allen.**

Our **social media challenge** remains open for departments to “like” and “follow” the official College of Arts and Sciences Instagram and Facebook pages!

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# ACTS OF PROJECTION

MAGIC LANTERN SHOWS &  
THE U.S. CIVIL WAR



## ***Acts of Projection* exhibit opens at the Anderson Gallery**

**Professor of Art History Maura Lyon's exhibit *Acts of Projection* opens this Thursday November 7, and runs through January 17, 2025. Join the Anderson Gallery for a series of events throughout November and December.**

*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.

During the U.S. Civil War, the Northern public had a surprising outlet for processing traumatic events: magic lantern shows. These multi-media spectacles were built around the projection of colorful designs in darkened theaters and assembly rooms. Such displays were accompanied by sound: music, narration, or other audio effects. While nineteenth-century magic lantern shows often featured famous works of art, travel narratives, or stories from the Christian Bible, they also began to present war-related imagery after the outbreak of conflict in 1861. *Acts of Projection* 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.

### **Opening Reception**

Student curators will give a gallery talk at 5:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

### **Magic Lantern Show at the Varsity Theater, November 20, 7 PM**

Historian and collector Mike Zahs will be bringing the magic lantern show to life! In this immersive event Zahs will recreate these historic projected shows of the 1800s. Tickets available through the [Varsity Theater](#).

### **Panel Discussion, December 4, 4:30 PM, FAC 336**

With artists Sean Downey, Lauren Haldeman and Johnny DiBlasi, moderated by Dr. Maura Lyons.



## **Admissions & Enrollment Corner**

Admissions hosted two campus half-day events on October 17 and 18, coinciding with days off for Minnesota and Wisconsin schools. 102 students attended these four programs. We also held a STEM day event (with CPHS) on October 25, which featured mock labs. Lisa West traveled to the Twin Cities on November 1 to attend a luncheon with high school guidance counselors, along with representatives from Admissions, SJMC, and Education. November events include a Saturday November 2 Academic Fair and a Friday November 8 Campus Preview. Individual faculty visits and a series of Virtual Spotlights will continue over the next few weeks.



Students are being admitted earlier in the process than in years past, in part to speed up the communications delivery. Other Admissions strategies include an increased focus on Iowa schools and new financial offers that will keep costs low for Pell-eligible students and their families. Thank you to all faculty and staff who have participated in these important recruitment activities!

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## Advising & Student Support Corner

The deadline to drop a course with a W was Sunday, Oct 27. If a student requests to drop a course at this point in the semester, that request should be directed to Associate Dean Lisa West and should be accompanied by evidence of an extenuating circumstance to justify the withdrawal.

Registration is in full swing! Registration times for students are based on earned hours (not including fall 2024 courses). The registration timeline for spring 2025 can be found at [Registration Times.pdf](#).

Many practical advising resources can be found at [Registration Information | Drake University](#), including a listing of courses restricted to certain programs during the first two weeks of registration.

If you have advisees, who aren't sure how to navigate registration on MyDrake, please direct them to these "how-to" resources, [Knowledge Base - Registration](#).

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**National First Gen Celebration Day is Friday, November 8!**

The Arts & Sciences Student Support Team will be hosting a table in Olmsted from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on **Friday, November 8**, to recognize students and address any lingering registration questions.

We also want to encourage A&S faculty and staff to self-identify as First Generation Students - or to incorporate messaging recognizing the particular achievements of these students.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Drake First Gen emblem, let Lisa know. We will also have them available in the A&S Dean's office. And - please stop by our table!

Thank you in advance for your support. Drake is enrolling increasing numbers of First Gen students (29% of this year's EFR!), and we expect this demographic to continue to grow. We want A&S to participate in this celebratory week!

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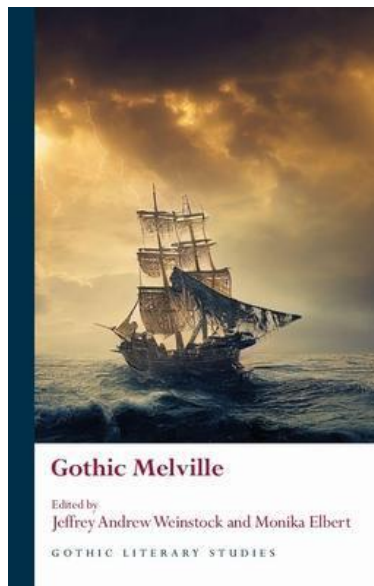


## Celebrating A&S Highlights



Congratulations to **Dr. Jeanette Tran**, Associate Professor of English & Director of Women's and Gender Studies, and **Dr. Will Garriott**, Chair and Professor of Law, Politics, and Society, for their recent publications in *The Conversation*. [Dr. Tran's essay](#), *As more Americans go 'no contact' with their parents, they live out a dilemma at the heart of Shakespeare's 'King Lear'* has already received close to 200,000 views. [Dr. Garriott's essay](#), *Cannabis legalization may hit a 'red wall' at the ballot box*, has already received nearly 20,000 views. We celebrate both of these examples of public scholarship in the College, and hope you will check out these articles in support of your colleagues.

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**Dr. Lisa West's** essay, "Spectre-Tortoises and Other Monstrous Bodies in Melville's 'The Encantadas'" was published in *Gothic Melville* (University of Wales Press). This international collection of essays forefronts ways in which Melville's writing engages with differing aspects of the Gothic, from eco-gothic to political gothic, to expressions of slavery and horror.

Lisa also has a chapter forthcoming in *Secret Histories: A New Era in Constance Fenimore Woolson Scholarship*, edited by Kathleen Diffley, Caroline Gebhard, and Cheryl B. Torsney. This collection has been

selected by JSTOR to be included in its global network/open access initiative, "The Path to Open," which selects a group of scholarly books from over 35 university presses to offer to libraries internationally.

Congratulations, Lisa!

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Congratulations to Assistant Professor **Erik Meixelsperger**, whose play *AFTER EVER HAPPILY* has been picked up by Minot State University for production in the spring as part of their MainStage Season.

In *AFTER EVER HAPPILY*, eight intertwined stories examine the complications of the one thing that connects us all: love. And pie. A young single mom, a hopeless romantic, a lifelong optimist, a hopeful idiot, a couple with a gay secret, and unyielding parents somehow all combine to become a recipe for a delicious romantic comedy where at the forefront will always be themes of life, love, and pie.

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Congratulations to **Ashley Rasmussen**, for being recognized with the True Blue Award in October. Ashley was nominated by Associate Dean Jill Allen.

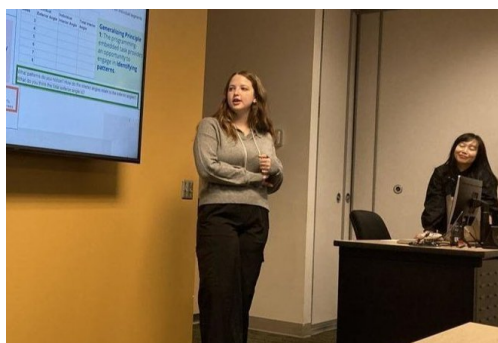
Ashley was nominated for demonstrating joyful accountability, generosity of spirit, and commitment to mission values in her role as the College of Arts & Sciences Budget Manager. In navigating a complex set of budgets and balancing many competing priorities among countless spreadsheets, we can always count on Ashley to show up for her constituents – faculty members, staff members, and University and College leaders. She always offers grace and a welcoming smile to those who are new to the processes.

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Two of Dr. Mark Vitha's mentees recently presented their analytical chemistry research at the Midwest American Chemical Society in Omaha, Nebraska. **Ashlyn Hobbs** (Chemistry and Computer Science) and **Sydney Dvorak** (BCMB and LPS) have developed a way to burn polymeric fibers, capture the products that get created in the burning process, and analyze the products using chemical instrumentation. They have found that different fibers produce different products and thus the products act like a 'fingerprint' that can help differentiate between polymeric fibers. The goal is to be able to use the method to determine the chemical identity of fibers when their composition is not known, Ashlyn and Sydney are also working to create a laboratory experiment based on their work to be used in future upper-division chemistry labs.

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**Dr. Hyejin Park** and junior Math Education student, **Lauren Dragon**, co-presented their research at the annual Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference Tuesday, October 22, 2024 in Ankeny. The presentation was titled: *Principles of Designing Tasks that Develop Student Mathematical Skills of Conjecturing and Proving through Programming*.

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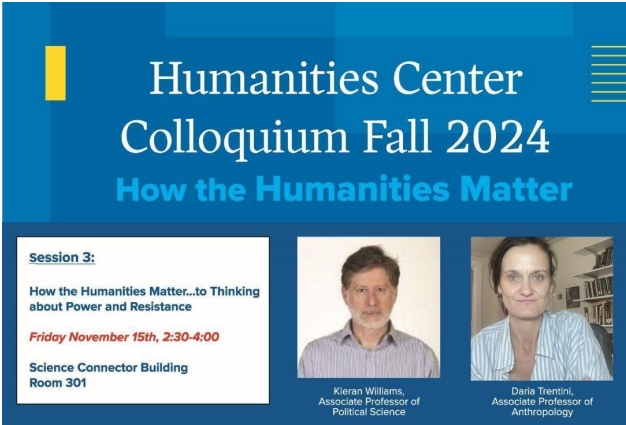
A&S students proudly represented the Drake student body at the Board of Trustees meeting on October 18, 2024.



From left to right: Vice President of Student Activities **Katelyn Martin** (Graphic Design Major), Vice President of Student Organizations **Samra Aksamovic** (LPS), Student Senate President **Ashley Dyson** (POLS and History), and Vice President of Student Life **Abby Tillotson** (PSY and Public Health)

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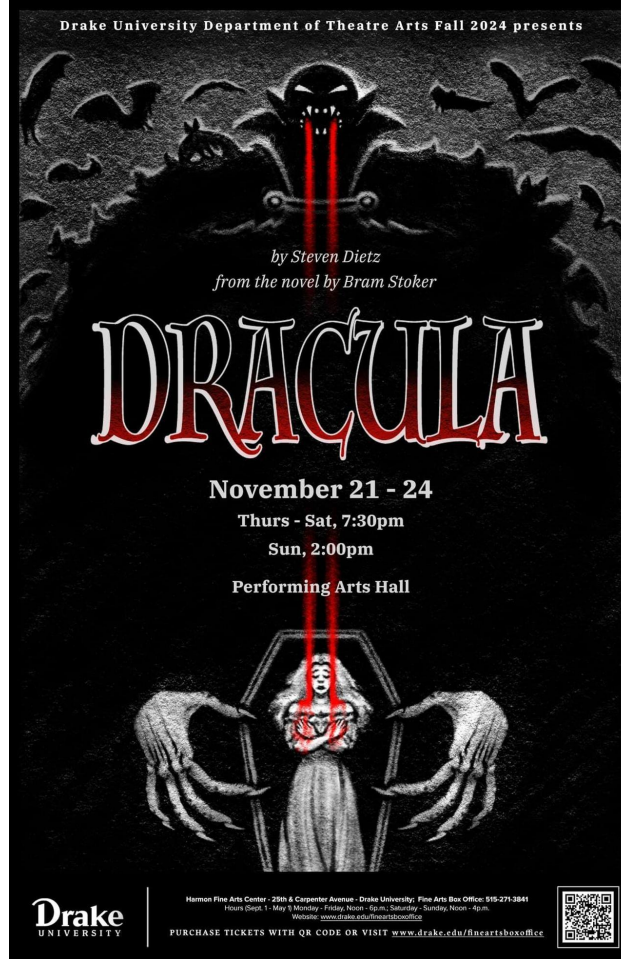
## Upcoming Events



**'How the Humanities Matter; Friday, November 15, 2:30-4:00 PM, Science Connector Building, Room 301**

The Humanities Center Colloquium continues its fall 2024 series "How the Humanities Matter," with a presentation by **Dr. Kieran Williams** and **Dr. Daria Trentini**, "How the Humanities Matter...to Thinking about Power and Resistance." This colloquium is the third in a series launching this fall bringing together colleagues from different disciplines to have rich intellectual conversation and community. Refreshments are provided.

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**Drake University Blood Drive | Friday, November 15th, 11:00AM-3:00PM, Harmon Fine Arts Center**

DRACULA wants your blood!

Donate at LifeServe's Bloodmobile at Drake University on Friday, November 15th from 11 am - 3 pm and receive a free ticket to Dracula.

**Department of Theatre Arts Presents Dracula | Thursday, November 21 - Saturday November, 7:30 PM, Sunday, November 24, 2:00 PM, PAH Hall**

*Dracula*: An adaptation by Steven Dietz; directed by Erik Meixelsperger

"I want your fear. For your fear, like a current, rushes through your body. Your fear makes your heart pound, it renders your veins rich and full. Your fear hemorrhages deliciously within you." This new adaptation restores the suspense and seduction of Bram Stoker's classic novel to the stage. As Count Dracula begins to exert his will upon the residents of London, they try to piece together the clues of his appearances—in a valiant attempt to save themselves from a hideous fate. (Credit: dramatists.com)

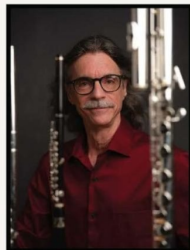
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## Upcoming Drake Music Events



# *Drake University*

## FLUTE DAY



KELLY VIA  
FLUTIST & COMPOSER



KEITH HANLON  
FLUTIST & REPAIR  
TECHNICIAN

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NOVEMBER 9TH 2024

[HTTPS://DRAKEFLUTEDAY2024.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://drakefluteday2024.eventbrite.com)

9am check-in; 10am-4:30pm

Drake Harmon Fine Arts Center

1310 25th Street; Des Moines 50311



DRAKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
PRESENTS  
MADE IN THE AMERICAS

George W. Chadwick



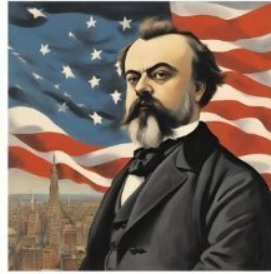
Arturo Márquez



Robert Nelson



Antonín Dvořák



A Celebration of Music Composed in the Americas  
with  
spēro Chamber Choir

Thursday, November 21st  
7:30 p.m.

Sheslow Auditorium

FREE ADMISSION

**Drake**  
UNIVERSITY



**Drake University Jazz Ensemble One and Drake Vocal Jazz | Sunday, November 17, 7:30 PM, Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center**

Directed by **Professor Andrew Classen**

**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](mailto:jennifer.cooper@drake.edu). Thanks!



# College of Arts & Sciences

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

**W** [drake.edu/artsci](http://drake.edu/artsci)

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