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## A Note from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

October has arrived, with crisp mornings and beautiful fall colors. It's time to switch from iced coffee to hot tea for the daily caffeine break! It also means that we are rushing toward the mid-point of the semester, the publication of spring schedules and fall break. The College is buzzing with activities. I hope this Newsletter will help you stay on top of what's going on when and where! I will try to catch as many events as possible, including our first musical theatre production of the year later this week, *First Date!*

I just completed my application for a Chinese visa (the lengthy process included digging up an old German passport with a 1997 Chinese visa in it) to prepare for our trip to Qingdao at the end of the month. A small delegation from the College (thanks Deb Christensen, Maryann Huey and Alimoor Reza!) will join President Martin and Annique Kiel to check out classrooms and lab spaces at Qingdao University, meet Chinese colleagues, and inaugurate the Dual Degree partnership. The first cohort of students has already begun their Gen Ed and language classes, and next fall we will be teaching Biology and Data Analytics courses to some 170 second year students in Qingdao. This is an exciting partnership that will help Drake recruit new student populations across the globe. Already in its first year, the program will bring in valuable tuition dollars and contribute to Drake's budget as we adjust to a smaller EFR number (we landed at 589 EFR on Census Day September 9). With a first-year Qingdao cohort of 80 Biology and 90 Data Analytics students, we are currently finalizing curriculum requirements and started searching for faculty who will teach our Chinese students in fall 2025. As we prepare for the short trip, please send in your questions and inquiries that we can address while there. The four of us will be leaving on October 29 and return on November 3.

Check out the other exciting developments and faculty accomplishments described below. And please send in your own highlights, so that we can brag about them and celebrate you and your students! Our biggest event of the year, the Stalnaker Lecture, is coming up on October 23. Please mark your calendar and join us as we showcase the intellectual vibrancy and breadth that is the Arts & Sciences at Drake!

Please also note that faculty development grant applications are due on October 25. We have increased the number of collaborative grants to support the development of new initiatives that lead to a Reimagining of the Arts & Sciences. We were able to earmark funds for faculty stipends to recognize the work you do moving

these projects toward completion. Each collaborative grant can include up to \$1,500 for stipends. Reach out if you have any questions!

Enjoy this beautiful day!

Gesine

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



## Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event/Activity
October 4	Admissions Event: Fall Campus Preview Day
October 4	Spring 2025 <a href="#">schedule of classes</a> available through MyDrake
October 14-15	Fall Break (classes do not meet; Mon-Tues)
October 16	Classes Resume; Fall semester midpoint
October 17-18	Admissions Event: Campus Preview Half-Days
October 21	Fall semester midterm grades due by 10:00am
October 23	2024 Stalnaker Lecture (Prof. Eric Saylor), 6:00pm, Sheslow Auditorium
October 25	A&S All Faculty & Staff Meeting, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Shivers Courtside Club
<b>October 25</b>	<a href="#">Faculty Development Grant Application</a> <b>due to Dean's Office</b>
October 27	Last day to <a href="#">drop</a> a full-term course with a "W" (Students must take action by Friday, October 25 to consult advising specialist).
<b>November 1</b>	<a href="#">Sabbatical Leave Application</a> <b>due to the Dean</b>
<b>November 1</b>	<a href="#">Second-year faculty review</a> (PAR) <b>due to the department chair</b>

November 2	Admissions Event: Fall Saturday Visit Day
November 4	Spring 2025 registration begins

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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# Curriculum & Faculty Development Corner

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Mary McCarthy at DU Harlaxton



The fall 2024 cohort of [DU England: Drake Semester at Harlaxton](#) started their experience with a fancy-dress sit-down dinner at a convocation ceremony honoring locals who have been instrumental in making this study abroad program one of the best in the country. Led by Professor Mary M. McCarthy (Department of Political Science), students Camden Eckhoff, Kylie Greer, Isaiah Hulshof, Lizzy O'Neel, and Samantha Pollack are studying topics such as sacred architecture, international law, and Shakespeare, with visits to places like the Lincoln Cathedral, the UK Supreme Court, and Stratford-upon-Avon. You can follow their adventures through Sam's blog [here](#).

If Harlaxton looks like the adventure you have been looking for, the [application](#) for the fall 2025 Faculty-in-Residence position is currently open. To learn more about this opportunity attend an information session on Friday, October 4th at 10 am, Cowles 201. Or if you want to discuss your ideas one-on-one, set up a meeting with Director of Education Abroad, [Maria Rohach](#).

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## NCFDD's Faculty Success Mentorship Program – Applications due November 1

The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) offers a popular and intensive Faculty Success Program, which includes individualized coaching, weekly training, and cohort-based community. Drake's Center for Teaching & Learning has one fully-paid scholarship seat in the 2025 Program which runs from January 27 to April 6, 2025. All tenure-track and tenured faculty are eligible to apply for the opportunity, at no charge to the individual (registration for the program is typically around \$5,000/person). For more information



about the Faculty Success Program offered to Drake faculty members through the Office of the Deputy Provost, visit the [NCFDD website](#).

To apply for the 2025 scholarship, [complete this brief interest form](#) by end of day Friday November 1, 2024.

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## Faculty Opportunities from Global Engagement: J-Term Travel Seminars, DU England Faculty-in-Residence

### Call for Proposals for 2026 J-term Travel Seminars

Travel Seminars are short-term, faculty-led study abroad (or domestic) experiences. Travel Seminars provide an opportunity to teach a course that integrates an academic experience with intercultural and experiential learning while traveling. Interested in leading a J-Term 2026 travel seminar? Submit your travel seminar proposal by **Sunday, Oct. 27, at 11:59 p.m.** to Global Engagement.

This year, there are two Qualtrics options: [New Travel Seminar Proposal](#) (PDF preview of Qualtrics survey) / [Repeat Travel Seminar Proposal](#) (PDF preview of Qualtrics survey). Please review the [Travel Seminar Guidelines PDF](#) to prepare for submission. If you plan to submit a proposal, please contact Chelsea Funk, assistant director of education abroad, at [chelsea.funk@drake.edu](mailto:chelsea.funk@drake.edu). New Travel Seminars are required to meet with Chelsea to discuss ideas, and repeat Travel Seminars should notify Chelsea of intent to repropose. For questions, contact Chelsea at [chelsea.funk@drake.edu](mailto:chelsea.funk@drake.edu).

### DU England semester Faculty-in-Residence position open for Fall 2025

Drake University is seeking interested faculty to apply for the DU England Faculty-in-Residence position to teach and support student learning on Drake's semester-long, cohort-model, study abroad program at Harlaxton College. The DU England Semester Faculty-in-Residence application is live through [Qualtrics](#) for Fall 2025. To learn more about this opportunity including eligibility, compensation, and responsibilities, [please click here](#). Submissions are due **Sunday, October 27th**. If you have questions or want to learn more about this opportunity, please reach out to Maria Rohach, director of education abroad, at [maria.rohach@drake.edu](mailto:maria.rohach@drake.edu) to schedule time to meet.

All of these forms, previews and guidelines can also be accessed on the [A&S Faculty and Staff Resources>Forms](#) page.

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## Call for Faculty Pitch Proposals: *The Conversation* offers public media outlet for scholarship

Recently, representatives from [The Conversation](#), visited Drake's campus to meet with faculty and Colleges about contributing explanatory scholarship that ranges from "the curious to the serious". Drake is one of 90 institutional members of this organization, and our University Communications & Marketing team is encouraging faculty consider offering a "pitch" based on their research that can be categorized by: a) a connection with a current event, or b) an application of their research that would be of interest to the general public. Drake faculty who have published in The Conversation have reported increased publicity (including international exposure, radio interviews, etc.) as the articles are distributed to outlets such as Yahoo News, PBS, Nova, and more. Impact reports of faculty scholarship in this outlet suggested that 21% of pieces influenced policy by a decision maker, 26% saw an increase in citations of their scholarly articles, and 40-45% received a request to be interviewed by a print or radio outlet! To learn more, consider attending an upcoming webinar arranged through the Dean's Office (specifically for Drake faculty, separate sessions available for Humanities/Social Sciences & Natural Sciences).

For questions, please contact John Krantz, UCM Strategic Communications Director ([john.krantz@drake.edu](mailto:john.krantz@drake.edu)) or follow the steps below to explore the portal.

The two Drake-specific virtual sessions with Editors at *The Conversation* will occur following fall break (**Natural Sciences**: Tuesday, Oct 22 at 4-5PM; **Humanities/Social Sciences**: Friday, Oct 25 at 10-11AM). Please consider joining us to learn more!

1. **Go to** <https://theconversation.com/us>
2. Click on “**Become an Author**” in the upper right-hand corner of the home page
3. **Verify your institution** by entering your Drake.edu email address, full name and job title.
4. **Provide your education history** by confirming you’re the year of your most recent degree, the degree name, the institution from which you received it, and provide an optional summary of your academic and professional qualifications.
5. **Choose a password** and agree to the terms
6. **Confirm and log in** – you may receive an email to verify your email address, at which point you can log in and start submitting article ideas.

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## Join Us: The College of Arts & Sciences Celebrates the 40th Annual Stalnaker Lecture

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES PRESENTS



# 40th Annual Stalnaker Lecture

**"NAVIGATING THE POLITICS OF MUSIC  
HISTORY; OR, A REFLECTION ON TWO  
YEARS AT TRIVIA NIGHT"**

**WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 23**

**6:00 P.M.**

**SHELOW  
AUDITORIUM**

*Reception to follow in Levitt  
Hall*

*Free to Attend*

Also available  
on live stream  
<https://tinyurl.com/644dfpju>

**DR. ERIC SAYLOR, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC**

As a discipline, music history is inextricably bound up with political considerations. From ancient Greece to medieval France to contemporary America, politics have shaped who creates music and under what conditions, how listeners perceive and value it, and how historians present and preserve it. In this year's lecture, Dr. Eric Saylor will consider some questions arising from the intersection of music and politics. Is "objectivity" possible in a musical-historical context? What did Plato get wrong about music (and why does it matter)? And most importantly, why doesn't the Music Department's faculty team do better at "Name That Tune" during Confluence Brewing Company's Trivia Nights?



## Admissions & Enrollment Corner

**Yes - another cycle has begun! Here are some recent and upcoming events:**

### Recent Events

- **SEPT 16** - A bus tour of 50+ high school guidance counselors from across the country visited Drake as they trekked across the Midwest. Gesine delivered a 20-minute Arts & Sciences presentation (accompanied by student stories and a student musician), focusing on ways Drake envisions Arts & Sciences to distinguish it from other schools, offering examples of our interdisciplinary programs, experiential learning opportunities, and pre-professional pathways.
- **SEPT 20** - The student ambassadors had a guided tour to review talking points about all Colleges. They also received a copy of the Ambassador Manual that chairs updated over the summer. Thank you, **David Senchina**, for providing a tour of the A&S Science buildings and lab/class space.
- **SEPT 28** - was the first Saturday visit, welcoming 23 prospective students and their families to campus. Art & Sciences held an Academic Fair to introduce students to our programs and opportunities.

### Upcoming Events

- **OCT 4** - will be the first "Campus Preview Day," with both Academic Overviews and an Academic Fair.
- **OCT 7** - There will be a "fly into" (rather than flyover) event for high school counselors. This event is not long enough for our usual presentations, but Gesine and Jill will be present at a mix-and-meet event for questions.
- **OCT 17 and 18** - yes, right after Fall Break - are the "Campus Half-Day Programs," timed to coincide with Minnesota Public School Fall Break. These are three-hour long programs both morning and afternoon that cover a variety of events for prospective students.
- **OCT 25** - is a STEM/Health Professions Day with Arts & Sciences and CPHS presentations. A highlight will be the three mock labs taught by A&S faculty (**Deb Christensen**, **Deb Cronin**, and **Meredith Luttrell**), joint academic overviews, and an academic fair. We hope to involve faculty in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts whose work overlaps with STEM topics.
- **NOV 1** - Lisa is traveling to the Twin Cities to participate in an Admissions event for high school counselors.

**Later this fall**, we will host a series of Virtual Spotlights, which were quite successful last year. These provide an introduction to those who find it more difficult to travel to Drake.

As you can see, recruitment efforts have multiple approaches and involve many faculty and staff. If you have suggestions for materials we can use and reuse, let me know. These might be videos, posters, student work, or more. In addition to these specific events, individual campus visits have begun, in which students meet 1-on-1 with faculty members to ask questions and perhaps have an individualized tour of major-specific resources. We



are working this year to reach students who are less major-focused as well as those interested in particular majors. These range from Open Enrolled majors to students who have potential career interests, such pre-law or pre-med. We are hoping to work more with these populations to expose them to a variety of options available to them at Drake and to work with Admissions to help us recruit these students who may be less sure about their initial major upon entry. Please direct any admissions-related questions or suggestions to Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Lisa West (lisa.west@drake.edu).

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## Advising & Student Support Corner

October is a busy month and we first want to call your attention to a few key dates, as well as forecast spring 2025 registration ...

### Key Dates

Friday, Oct 4 – Spring 2025 Schedule (including those courses offered in over J-term) is live

Monday, Oct 21 – Midterm grades due (Before 10 a.m.)

Sunday, Oct 27 – Deadline to Drop a Course with a W (students seeking to have a conversation about a drop with a W, should plan to connect by Friday, Oct 25)

Monday, Nov 4 – Spring 2025 registration begins

### A Bit More Detail...

#### Midterm Grades

Midterm grades are due before 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct 21. Please enter a midterm grade for all first-year students and any student with a low grade. Entering midterm grades will result in the Dean's Office conducting outreach to any student with a low midterm grade(s).

To view an individual advisee's midterm grades in MyDrake, follow these steps:

Self-Service > Advising Card > Student Selection > Search by Name or ID > Student's Profile Page > View Grades (under the student's photo)

Faculty Advisors with advisees who **have two or more** low midterm grades will receive a separate communication from either Alina Grimm or Mary Beth Holtey. *Please consider using upcoming advisee meetings to discuss low midterm grades, as needed. Remember, a student registered for 12 credit hours who drops a course with a W, is not taken to part-time standing, but student athletes, international students and those receiving V.A. benefits should speak to their respective contact before seeking a drop with a W.*

*Students have through Sunday, Oct 27 to drop a course(s) with a W, but see above on contacting offices by Friday, Oct 25; University academic offices are not open on weekends.*

To view all advisees' midterm grades in Starfish, follow these steps:

1. Log into MyDrake > Starfish (on home page)
2. In Starfish, click on the dropdown menu in the top left-hand corner and select **Students**.
3. To search your advisees, select the **Tracking** tab.
4. Within the "Connection" dropdown menu, select **Faculty Mentor**.
5. Then select the **Add Filters** button.

6. Under Tracking Type, select **Flag**.

7. Under Item Name, select **Low Midterm Grade** and **Submit**.

## Registration

- Registration for J-Term and Spring 2025 begins on Monday, Nov 4.
  - The registration times for students are based on earned hours (not including their in-progress, Fall 2024 credits). The registration timetable for Spring 2025 can be found at [Registration Times.pdf \(drake.edu\)](#)
  - 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 and a how-to-register guide.
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## Celebrating Faculty Highlights



Congratulations to Dr. Klaus Bartschat, Ellis & Nelle Levitt Professor of Physics, who has received a \$319,059 from the National Science Foundation for his grant proposal, "Photon- and Electron-Driven Atomic Collision Processes: General Theory and Accurate Numerical Calculations."

This study examines collisions of light (mostly lasers) and charged particles (mostly electrons) with atoms and ions. Elastic and inelastic processes, including excitation, single and double ionization, autoionization, and excitation-ionization for a wide variety of targets will be investigated by combining general collision theory with the development and subsequent application of highly sophisticated numerical methods. Continuing the close interaction with many groups in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia will lead to a deeper understanding of the quantum-mechanical collision dynamics while simultaneously producing data needed for many modelling applications, specifically in plasma and astrophysics.

Full public information on the grant can be found on the [U.S.National Science foundation website](#).

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Congratulations to Dr. Carole Spaulding-Kruse, Professor of English, who is the recipient of an [Iowa Author Award](#) from the Des Moines Public Library Foundation and will be honored at a dinner celebrating literacy and Iowa authors taking place on October 10th.

Carol also won the IPPY Award Gold Medal for Short Fiction for her 2023 publication, [Waiting For Mr. Kim and Other Stories](#). A full list of the Independent Publisher Book Award winners [can be found here](#)--scroll down to number 8 for the Short Story Fiction category.

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Dr. Elizabeth Talbert, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Slay Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Learning, was recently featured on Iowa Public Radio's "River To River." The September 24 episode focused on the Des Moines City Council's approval of ordinances aimed at preventing those who are homeless from camping or sleeping on public property.

Following an interview of Mayor Connie Boesen, Dr. Talbert discussed her views on the vote and shared her research on the unsheltered community in Des Moines, discussing alternative approaches to understand this complex social issue, along with Executive Director of Homeward Iowa Angie Arthur. [Listen to the interview here](#) (segment with Dr. Talbert begins at 32 minutes).

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Dr. Maria Valdovinos, Ellis and Nelle Levitt Distinguished Professor of Psychology, recently celebrated the publication of her new book, *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Dynamic Systems Approach* (2024).

This new reference provides a comprehensive overview of intellectual and developmental disabilities, incorporating multiple perspectives and disciplines (including developmental neuroscience, genetics, psychiatry, and psychology) with a multifaceted approach, offering readers appreciation for the richness of the population and field. It provides readers with an understanding of the developmental, biological, and behavioral aspects of developmental disabilities with the aim of understanding their causes, the differences between disabilities, and familiarity with the prognosis and developmental outcomes for children diagnosed with various developmental disabilities.

Congratulations, Dr. Valdovinos!

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## Upcoming Events



***October 3 – 5 at 7:30PM, October 6 at 2:00PM in Coleman Studio Theatre, FIRST DATE***

Directed by Shayne Mims

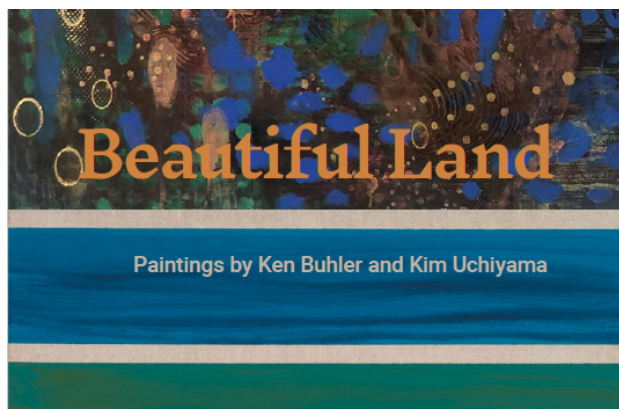
Book by Austin Winsberg

Music and Lyrics by Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner

When two people who seem to have nothing in common are set up for their first date, blind date newbie Aaron is matched up with serial-dater Casey. Hilarity ensues as a casual drink at a busy New York restaurant turns into a high-stakes dinner. As the date unfolds in real time, the couple quickly finds that they are not alone on this unpredictable evening. Filled with fun and energetic songs that make up the contemporary rock score, *First Date* gleefully pokes fun at the mishaps and mistakes of blind dates and gives hope that there still could be that one perfect moment and perhaps that one perfect person for everyone.

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## Tuesday, October 8, 6-7PM Poetry Night at the Anderson Gallery

Bring your poems and/or original art works to share at this open Drake event, co-hosted by Provost **Sue Mattison** at the Anderson Gallery. On view for our visual pleasure will be **Beautiful Land: Paintings by Ken Buhler and Kim Uchiyama**. The abstract paintings speak to the landscape of the Midwest and set the perfect stage for sharing poems of your choice, particularly those that may relate to the natural world.

This friendly setting is the perfect place to enjoy poetry together! Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to all.

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## Friday, October 11th, 2:30-4:00 PM Humanities Center Colloquium on 'How the Humanities Matter';

The Humanities Center Colloquium continues its fall 2024 series, "How the Humanities Matter," with "How the Humanities Matter... for Repairing Reality and Being Less Awful Humans." Featuring **Melisa Klimaszewski**, Professor of English, and **Chris Porter**, Associate Professor of Math, Computer Sciences, and Artificial Intelligence. This colloquium is the second in a series launching this fall bringing together colleagues from different disciplines to have rich intellectual conversation and community. Refreshments are provided (meets in Science Connector Building, Room 301).

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## Friday, October 18, 2024, 2:00 PM, Olin 206, Research Colloquium in Neuroscience from Vincent van der

An open research colloquium featuring Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, Dr. Vincent van der Vinne, will be held on Friday, Oct. 18 at 2pm (Olin 206). Dr. van der Vinne’s talk “*Clocks in our modern 24/27 society: Causes and consequences of disrupting the mammalian circadian system*” emphasizes how all organisms on Earth have evolved on our rhythmic planet and environmental changes between day and night are matched by our internal circadian clock system. Circadian clocks control daily rhythms in nearly all aspects of our physiology & behavior, and their disruption is associated with a range of adverse health outcomes. Living in our modern 24/7 society provides many benefits, but unfortunately, it also disrupts our circadian organization since environmental rhythms no longer match the environment we evolved in. This talk will describe how circadian clocks are affected by disruptions of the rhythmic environment. I have identified different aspects of circadian regulation that are changed in mice during simple environmental disruptions. Current and future studies in my lab use a range of genetic, physiological, imaging, and computational tools to test the contribution of these different component of disruption in driving (or reversing) the adverse health outcomes of circadian disruption.

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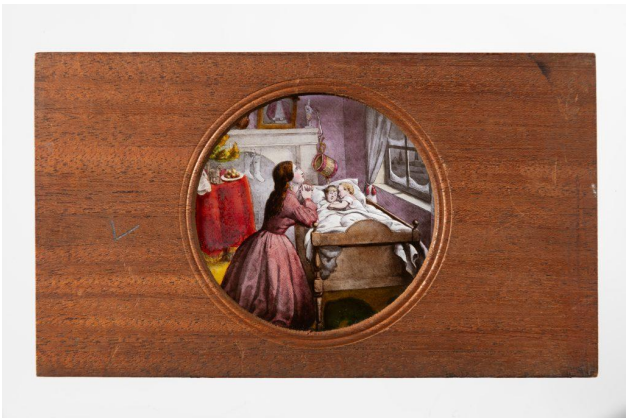


**Virtual Information Sessions with *The Conversation* Editors**

**Tuesday, October 22, 4-5 PM: Natural Sciences**  
**Friday, October 25 10-11 AM: Social Sciences/ Humanities**

Two Drake-specific virtual sessions will be available for faculty to interact directly with an Editor at *The Conversation*. You are invited to receive an overview of the publishing process, engage in Q&A with colleagues in similar disciplines (Natural Sciences, Humanities/Social Sciences), and even get feedback on potential story ideas.

No RSVP needed; please join us on Zoom (links will be available after fall break).



**November 7, 2024 - January 17, 2025 Anderson Gallery "Acts of Projection: Magic Lantern Shows and the U.S. Civil War"**

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.

*Acts of Projection* 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.

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

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