



A Note From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all had a wonderful weekend and enjoyed what felt like the last days of summer. One of my highlights was attending the musical theater production of "Cabaret" at the Coleman Theatre, and I must say, the students were absolutely phenomenal! The show was hilarious, provocative, and deeply moving, culminating in a powerful reminder about the consequences of remaining silent in the face of hatred and intimidation. Kudos to Director and Choreographer Erin Degner, Musical Director Taylor Mayne, and the entire theatre faculty for putting on such an amazing show. The costumes, lighting, stage design, and German accents were also spot on! It was an honor to have alumni and Theatre supporters in the audience, especially as they got to try out the new chairs generously funded through our recent campaign.

Another highlight of the week was the author reading event with Rachel Yoder on Thursday, co-sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies and the Humanities Center as part of the Susan Glaspell Writers and Critics Series. Professor Yasmina Madden did a fantastic job as the emcee!

As we approach October 15, it's hard to believe we're already halfway through the semester! I hope you all find some time to relax over Fall Break, so we can continue the semester on this positive and energetic path. Last weekend also marked the beginning of our admission events, with around 30 families visiting Drake as college applications start to roll in. The positive feedback we received from prospective and current Drake families about your outstanding representation of our programs makes all the difference and is something we can truly be proud of. Thank you!

Please take a moment to check out other accomplishments, due dates, and reminders in this newsletter. With spring schedules now live, I appreciate your efforts in reaching out to your advisees to help them plan their classes for next semester. This can be a stressful process, and your support and mentorship are what makes Drake student success possible.

At the end of this week, I'm off to Qingdao to check in on our Drake faculty in China. When I asked if they needed anything from the US, our colleagues requested stickers and swag for their students, who are eager to show off their Bulldog pride already. This is a great indicator of the tremendous success our faculty have had in launching the program! I'll share more details and photos when I return.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Stalnakar lecture on October 16, the highlight of the academic year in the Arts and Sciences. Dr. Maria Valdovinos will be this year's speaker, and as always, we'll announce some of the most prestigious college awards at this ceremony. You definitely don't want to miss it!

Thank you for all you do, for a fantastic first half of the fall semester, and for the exciting times ahead.

Gesine



Gesine Jernard

Upcoming Deadlines and Important Dates

Date	Event/Activity
Friday, October 10	Admissions Event: Fall Campus Preview Day
Monday-Tuesday, October 13-14	Fall Break (classes do not meet Mon.-Tuesday)
Wednesday, October 15	Classes Resume; Fall semester midpoint
Wednesday, October 15	College of Arts & Sciences Fall Connections
Thursday, October 16	2025 Stalnakar Lecture , Dr. Maria Valdovinos, 6:00pm, Sheslow Auditorium
Thursday-Friday, October 16-17	Admissions Event: Campus Preview Half-Days
Monday, October 20	Fall semester midterm grades due by 10:00am
October 25	Last day to submit proposal to A&S Cabinet for new major/degree/certificate or to remove a degree/certificate (Chair must inform Provost before submitting form)
October 31	Faculty Development Grant Applications are due to Dean's Office

October 31	Textbook adoptions due https://fast.ecampus.com/courses
November 1	Sabbatical Applications due to the Dean
November 3	Spring 2026 registration begins (tentative)

Access the Full College of A&S and University Calendar 2025-26 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



Celebrating A&S Highlights

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
PRESENTS

THE 41ST ANNUAL **STALNAKER LECTURE**

**"How Did We Get Here?
Undertreatment of, and
Psychotropic Overprescription
to, People with Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities"**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 16
6:00 P.M.
SHESLOW AUDITORIUM**

Reception to follow in Levitt Hall
Free to Attend or stream live at
tinyurl.com/mrx9n2me



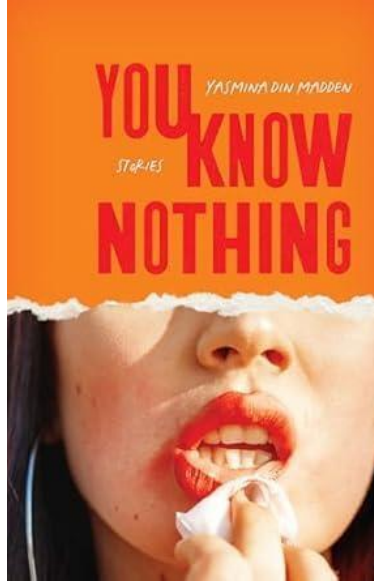
***Dr. Maria Valdovinos, Ellis and Nelle Levitt
Distinguished Professor of Psychology***

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are prescribed psychotropic medication at a level that is disproportionate to the general population. This presentation will discuss the factors that have influenced this pattern of prescription, the effectiveness of medication within this population, and policy changes that could provide greater access to preventative, supportive, and effective treatments for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Congratulations to **Leanne Freeman-Miller**, Ellis & Nelle Levitt Distinguished Professor of Voice, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Central Region of National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)! Professor Freeman-Miller, who is celebrating 30 years of service to Drake University, will be presented with the award at the regional conference in Illinois on November 1.

[View the announcement here](#)



Congratulations to **Associate Professor of English Yasmina Madden** on her upcoming publication *You Know Nothing*, a collection of stories being published by Curbstone Books in February 2026.

"Following women and girls as they navigate everyday life in contemporary America, *You Know Nothing* explores the experiences of mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, and lovers whose inner worlds are animated by a tangle of emotion—from desire to rage and everything in between."--from the publisher's website.



Anthropology and Sociology student **Chloe Lepak** recently participated in a study abroad program in Kosovo with local anthropology professors and students. She says of the experience, "Studying abroad in Kosovo was one of the most rewarding and intellectually stimulating experiences I have had. I was able to be fully immersed in the culture, learn about history, and make friends from all over the world."



Faculty Development Corner

The Center For Teaching and Learning will host their second 3rd Friday Event Series--Faculty in Community--on October 17.

Join faculty and staff colleagues to discuss teaching, scholarship, and higher education throughout the day in the Howard Hall Faculty Lounge (Room 212).

Upcoming Schedule for October 17

9:30 - 10:30 AM Books for Breakfast	<i>Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning</i>
11:00 AM- 12:00 PM Research Talk	Dr. Meaghan Rowe-Johnson , Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Dr. Eric Emmons , Assistant Professor of Neuroscience will discuss their latest work. <i>Note: 11am Research Talk will be livestreamed on Zoom Click to join.</i>
12:00 - 1:00 PM Teaching Brown Bag	This month, in partnership with the Drake Center for the Humanities, join us to hear from Dr. Gabriel Ford as part of the Fall 2025 Humanities Colloquium (note: this event is in the Cowles Library Reading Room starting at 12:15 PM)
12:30 - 2:00 PM Medbury Hall Writing Club	An informal faculty writing club meets every Friday from 12:30-2:00 in Medbury Hall Room 221. Contact Dr. Leanne Purdum (A&S Law, Politics,& Society) for more information.
2:00 - 3:00 PM Campus Conversation	Equity and Inclusion: Dr. Terrance Pendleton (A&S - Math) and Director of Equity & Inclusion Jazlin Coley-Smith will discuss current issues surrounding DEI on campus today. this is a moderated discussion so bring questions or comments.
3:30 - 5:00 PM Faculty Social Happy Hour	Kick off your weekend with a family-friendly happy hour: refreshments, conversation, and maybe even a game of darts.

You can find a full schedule for the upcoming month at [the CTL News & Events page](#).



2025-2026 Faculty Development Grant Applications open through October 31

The College of Arts & Sciences offers support for research, scholarly work, grant writing, pedagogical development, and creative endeavors (submit by October 31, 2025).

Collaborative Projects (up to \$2,500) These grants are available to two or more faculty who are working on a joint project: reading groups, conference planning, curriculum revision and development, and so on. Funds may be used to purchase materials and/or compensate student research assistants.

Teaching/Scholarship/Research Projects (up to \$2,000) These grants provide faculty with support for research, creative activity, writing projects, and pedagogical development. Grants may be used to purchase materials (books, software, permissions, supplies), support project-related travel (libraries, laboratories, archives, sites, etc.), and/or compensate student research assistants.

Professional Activities Small Grant (up to \$300) This easy-to-apply-for grant provides funds for faculty to purchase items related to professional activities (e.g., books, software, permissions, instrumentation fees, facility admission, teaching/research supplies, subscriptions, honorariums, publication charges).

[Access the Faculty Development Grant Proposal Form Here](#)

Drake Faculty Open Educational Resource Grant Funding Available

The Drake Faculty OER 2025 Grant Program is once again offering **stipends of up to \$1,200.00** for full-time Drake faculty interested in adopting, adapting, or creating an open educational resource (OER*) to use in one or more courses.

Priority will be given to courses with high enrollment and/or high-cost textbooks in order to ensure the largest impact.

This program will begin in November 2025, and participants must complete all requirements. Participants will be asked to **replace a required commercial textbook** or course materials with OER** in one or more courses before the end of FY 2027 in order to receive the full stipend. *Faculty who have completed previous library OER programs at Drake are also welcome to apply, although courses that already use OER are not eligible.* Here are some examples of faculty using OER in their courses at Drake.

- **Required:**
 - Half-day workshop on **November 14th, 9 am - 1 pm** (lunch will be provided).
 - **\$200.00** for attending the workshop.

- Adopt, adapt, or create OER to use in a course.
 - Replace a commercial textbook** or course materials with OER.
 - OER must be used in the course by the end of spring 2027.
 - Complete an online evaluation form by the end of spring 2027 that will include a reflection of how you used the OER and its impact on your teaching and your students.
 - **Award for this work between \$500.00 - \$1,000.00** depending on whether the work involves adopting, adapting, or creating.

Application and additional details:

Deadline: Applications are due by **Oct 27th**. Please fill out the [Qualtrics application here](#). Individuals will be notified of the status of their application by November 5th. Grants will be awarded based on application strength as [determined by this rubric](#) and the discretion of the project leads.

Questions? Contact the project leads: **Priya Shenoy** priya.shenoy@drake.edu, **Andrew Welch** andrew.welch@drake.edu, or **Teri Koch** teri.koch@drake.edu



Admissions Corner

Recruitment season is here! The next 6-7 weeks will bring many prospective students to campus through a variety of group visit days arranged through the Admissions Office. Thank you for your involvement in these programs, whether through hosting a formal academic overview session to excite students about possibilities in your department, 1:1 student meeting to dive deeper into Q&A, or informally representing your department or division at an Academic Fair to showcase our College as a whole. We appreciate the time and energy that you invest into these interactions – **please remember that we are recruiting families in addition to prospective students** (a glimpse back on Parents Weekend reveals that parents also play a key role in our student retention!).

Key Event Dates include:

- **Fall Campus Preview Days** (Friday, October 10 & Friday, November 7)
- **Campus Preview Half-Days** (Thursday, October 16 - Friday, October 17)
- **Saturday Visit Days** (Saturday, October 4 & Saturday, November 15)
- **Fridays with Griff**, including faculty appointments (September 26, October 3, October 24, October 31, November 14, November 21, and December 5)
- **Music Major for a Day** (Thursday, November 13 – Friday, November 14)
- **Theatre Audition Day** (Friday, November 21)

Special thanks to our faculty and staff representatives who will represent our programs at Academic Overviews or Fairs this fall during the group visits:

Chris Kliethermes, Keith Summerville, Chris Porter, Beth Younger, Maura Lyons, Leslie Marrs, Erik Meixelsperger, Martin Roth, Andrew Becklin, Inbal Mazar, Jamey Hart, Tim Urness, Rachel Paine Caufield, Neil Ward, Vince Kenney, Rob Collis, Claire Hruby, Hector Aguero, Shauna Kaplan, Marc Busch, Adam Case, John Fender, Dave Courard-Hauri, Josh Carlson, Chinatsu Sazawa, Leanne Purdum, Rob Craig, Shayne Mims, Jill

Allen, Daria Trentini, Taylor Mayne, Meredith Moore, Eduardo Garcia Villada, Sang Lee, Alyssa Becker, Michael Rothmayer, Sascha Crasnow.

If you'd like to **get more involved in the admissions work of the College**, you are encouraged to reach out to Associate Dean, **Jill Allen** (jill.allen@drake.edu) for future opportunities and events, to welcome in the entering Fall 2026 class.



Student Support Corner

This Edition is Brought to You by the Letters M, N, O and P ...

M is for Midterm Grade Entry

Midterm grades are due by 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct 20. Please enter mid- term grades for all first year students. While, ideally, you also will enter midterm grades for all students in your courses, if that is not possible, please be sure to enter midterm grades for those upper-class students with a D, or below, in your courses.



As you meet with your advisees, if you receive inquiries about dropping a course with a W and concern that doing so will result in being moved to part-time standing, please reassure the student that dropping with a W will not result in part-time status. ***But, student athletes, international students and those receiving V.A. benefits, need to remain enrolled in at least 12 credits.** Students who fall into one of these categories should meet with their respective contact in these offices. **** And, see the letter “P” below for additional information on dropping with a W.**

Students have through Sunday, Oct 26 by which to [drop a full-term course with a W](#), using the form at [Microsoft Word - Drake University Add Drop Form 102116.docx](#). Students who wish to speak to an Advising Specialist about their decision should reach out by Friday, Oct 24; academic offices are not open over the weekend.

N is for New(er) Thinking

Recently, our advising team attended a conference on academic advising. One of the takeaways was that when someone (read: student) criticizes an event, action, situation, etc, that what they're actually vocalizing is an unmet need. We're not validating the need as realistic or "meet-able", but reframing criticism to reflect this sentiment may increase empathy and soften harsh words. We recommend applying this thinking to non-work situations, too.

O is for October (OMG, How is it October?)

Key dates in October

- **Monday, Oct. 6** Faculty can begin submitting textbook adoptions for Spring 2026 classes: <https://fast.ecampus.com/courses>. Starfish progress survey launches.
- **Monday-Tuesday, Oct 13 - 14** Fall break (classes do not meet)
- **Wednesday, Oct. 15** Fall semester midpoint
- **Monday, Oct. 20** Fall semester midterm grades due by 10:00am
- **Friday, Oct. 24** Starfish progress survey closes.
- **Monday, Oct. 27** Deadline by which field-of-study changes must be made to be considered for spring registration.
- **Friday, Oct. 31** Textbook adoptions due: <https://fast.ecampus.com/courses>

P is for Proactive (and NEW-ish Policy)

Last year, the [new academic standing policy](#) went into effect.

**** Revisiting the letter “M”:** If you are working with an advisee(s) who may have ended the spring semester on academic notice or who appealed a suspension, or who has a low midterm grade, please help these students identify coursework which may be retaken, and/or to create strategies for better study skills. Beyond letter grades, students must earn 67% or 2/3 of their attempted credit hours; credits transferred to Drake are not included in this calculation. **The student profile page in Starfish calculates the progression rate for continuing students.**

Quick Example: A first-year student enrolled in 15 credits wishing to drop one course/three credits with a W, can do so, resulting in a completion rate of 80% (12/15). But, if that student were to drop two courses/six credits with a W, they would have a completion rate of 60% (9/15) and be placed on first academic notice at the end of the fall term. Students must also maintain at least a 2.0 to remain in good academic standing, so some decisions on whether to drop a course(s) with a W, may involve these two competing factors. *Students in this position can be referred to our office for additional discussion.*

This fall also saw the implementation of kudos and concerns flags in starfish. The concern flag appears to the student and our office as an invitation to connect. **If the student meets with you, you can clear this flag, alerting our office that a connection has occurred.** Flags not cleared by Oct 3, will be cleared in bulk.

The usual Progress Survey will launch **October 6 and be open through the 24th.**

Arts and Sciences Welcomes New Staff



Catelin Haight-Haack recently joined the Music Department as an Administrative Support Specialist, where she supports daily operations including scheduling, communication, and event coordination. With a background in student services and program coordination, she brings strong organizational skills and a student-centered approach to her work.

Before joining Drake, Catelin worked as a GEAR UP Grant Assistant with Des Moines Public Schools, coordinating college access programming and managing event logistics across multiple schools. She also served as an Admissions Counselor at Mercy College of Health Sciences, guiding students through the enrollment process and collaborating on initiatives to enhance the campus experience. She was drawn to this role at Drake by the opportunity to contribute to a creative, collaborative environment that values both excellence and connection.

Outside of work, Catelin enjoys exploring cozy and creative hobbies like weaving, macramé, and spending relaxing evenings with friends playing cozy story-driven tabletop RPGs. She finds joy in small moments and in communities where creativity and connection thrive.



Mindy Cathcart has recently begun in the position of Advising Specialist, rounding out our Student Support team. Mindy is looking forward to collaborating with faculty and staff to create the most positive experience for our students at Drake.

Mindy comes to us from Iowa State University where she was an Academic Advisor in the Kinesiology department for the past 2 ½ years.

Before ISU, Mindy spent most of her career in the health and wellness field serving as the Wellness Director at Grand View University where she also instructed in the Kinesiology department and was an adjunct advisor as well for 13 years.

Outside of work, Mindy enjoys watching her two sons (Brady a Junior in HS and Mason an 8th grader) play football, run cross country, play basketball and run track at North Polk. She enjoys traveling with her husband Andy, attending concerts and exploring new coffee shops.



Career Services Update from Rebecca Muntz, Assistant Director and Liaison to Arts and Sciences

Percent Satisfied With Their Career

N=1,026

81.3%

Experiential
Learners

72.6%

Nonexperiential
Learners



Source: Early Career Talent Survey,
National Association of Colleges and
Employers.

Over 80% of Gen Z professionals who engaged in experiential learning (internships, co-ops, or study abroad) report higher early career satisfaction, faster career progression, and stronger professional networks. These experiences can even translate to an average annual salary increase of \$15,000 compared to peers without such experiences. Integrating experiential learning into academic programs offers lasting benefits for students' careers (Source: NACE, *Impacts of Experiential Learning on the Gen Z Early Career Experience*).

Internship Corner

It's internship application season! Many employers recruit for Summer 2026 internships during the fall semester, so now is the time for students to begin applying. Please encourage them to search opportunities on [Handshake](#) and submit applications early to maximize their chances.

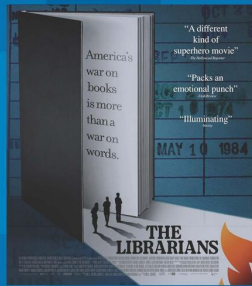
Know a student who completed an internship this summer? Send them our [internship survey](#), so we can include them in future opportunities to share about their internship with other students, faculty, and staff.

Upcoming Events:

- **Iowa Wild Career Fair** Tues, Oct. 28, 2:30 – 4:30pm, Casey's Center
You are invited to come to the Casey's Center and meet with companies looking for their next great hire! Attendees of the career fair will receive one free ticket for the Wild game at 7pm that evening. [Click here to register.](#)
- **Save the Date: Spring University-Wide Career Fair**
Thurs, Feb. 12, 3:00 – 6:00pm, Upper Olmsted



Upcoming Events



VARSITY THEATER
The Librarians

**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 7
6:30 P.M.**
VARSITY THEATER
\$12 Regular Admission
\$9 Students & Seniors



AMANDA JONES:
Activist, Author, Librarian

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 8
7 P.M.**
PARENTS HALL
Free

READ FOR YOUR RIGHTS

As part of Des Moines' citywide Banned Books Week, The Varsity will screen *The Librarians*, a documentary that explores the origins and impact of the Krause List, which targets more than 850 books focused on race and LGBTQIA+ stories. A panel discussion will follow the showing at 8 p.m.

The next evening, national speaker Amanda Jones will speak at Drake about her experience confronting censorship in education. There will be a book signing following the presentation and a range of challenged and censored titles available for purchase from Beaverdale Books.

REGISTER:

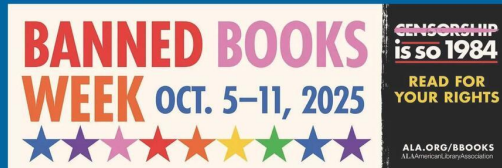


SPONSORS:

Cowles Library, the Slay Fund for Social Justice, Deming Fund, School of Education, and The Office of Equity & Inclusion

RELATED EVENTS:

<http://bit.ly/4lsG0Tv>



Drake
UNIVERSITY

Amanda Jones Fireside Chat

Wednesday, October 8

7:00- 8:00 PM, Parents Hall in Olmsted Center, Drake University

Cost: Free and open to the public. Free parking passes can be obtained through the [Eventbrite](#).

Drake University is proud to host activist, author, and librarian Amanda Jones. Her book, *That Librarian: Fighting Book Banners in Today's America*, explores the importance of libraries serving a wide range of perspectives and the pushback she and other librarians have faced speaking up for the right to read. The fireside chat will be moderated by current American Library Association president, [Sam Helmick](#). There will be a book signing following the presentation and a range of challenged and censored titles available for purchase from Beaverdale Books.

Presented by Drake's Cowles Library, the Slay Fund for Social Justice, the Deming Initiative, the Drake School of Education, and the Drake Office of Equity and Inclusion.



College of Arts and Sciences Fall Connect

Wednesday, October 15

4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Ray Promenade (Rain Location: Medbury Honors Lounge)

Enjoy snacks, play yard games and connect with Arts & Sciences students and colleagues!

This event is free and open to Arts and Sciences students, staff and faculty.



Drake University Choirs: Passage with Ted Brimeyer and Steve Woodin, conductors

Sunday, October 19
3:00 PM, Sheslow Auditorium Auditorium/Jordan Stage

This event is free and open to the public. Free will donations and Fundraising for choral tours.



**Drake Vocal Jazz Singers:
Ann Cravero, director**

Friday, October 24
7:30PM, Patty & Fred Turner Jazz Center

This event is free and open to the public.



Keys to Excellence Piano Series 2025-2026

Spencer Myer – Indiana University

Masterclass: October 26 @ 4:00pm

Concert: October 27 @ 7:30pm



Marta Aznavoorian & Janet Sung (violin)

DePaul University

Masterclass: November 9 @ 4pm

Concert: November 10 @ 7:30pm



Nicholas Roth – Drake University

Sally B. Bartlett Memorial Concert

December 1 @ 7:30pm



Molly Roseman – Univ. Wisconsin Stevens Point

Masterclass: February 15 @ 4:00pm

Concert: February 16 @ 7:30pm



All events in Sheslow Auditorium

FREE ADMISSION

Contact Nicholas Roth for information:
nicholas.roth@drake.edu



Keys to Excellence Piano Series 2025-2026

Concert: Spencer Myer, Indiana University

Monday, October 27

7:30 PM, Sheslow Auditorium

This event is free and open to the public.

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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!

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