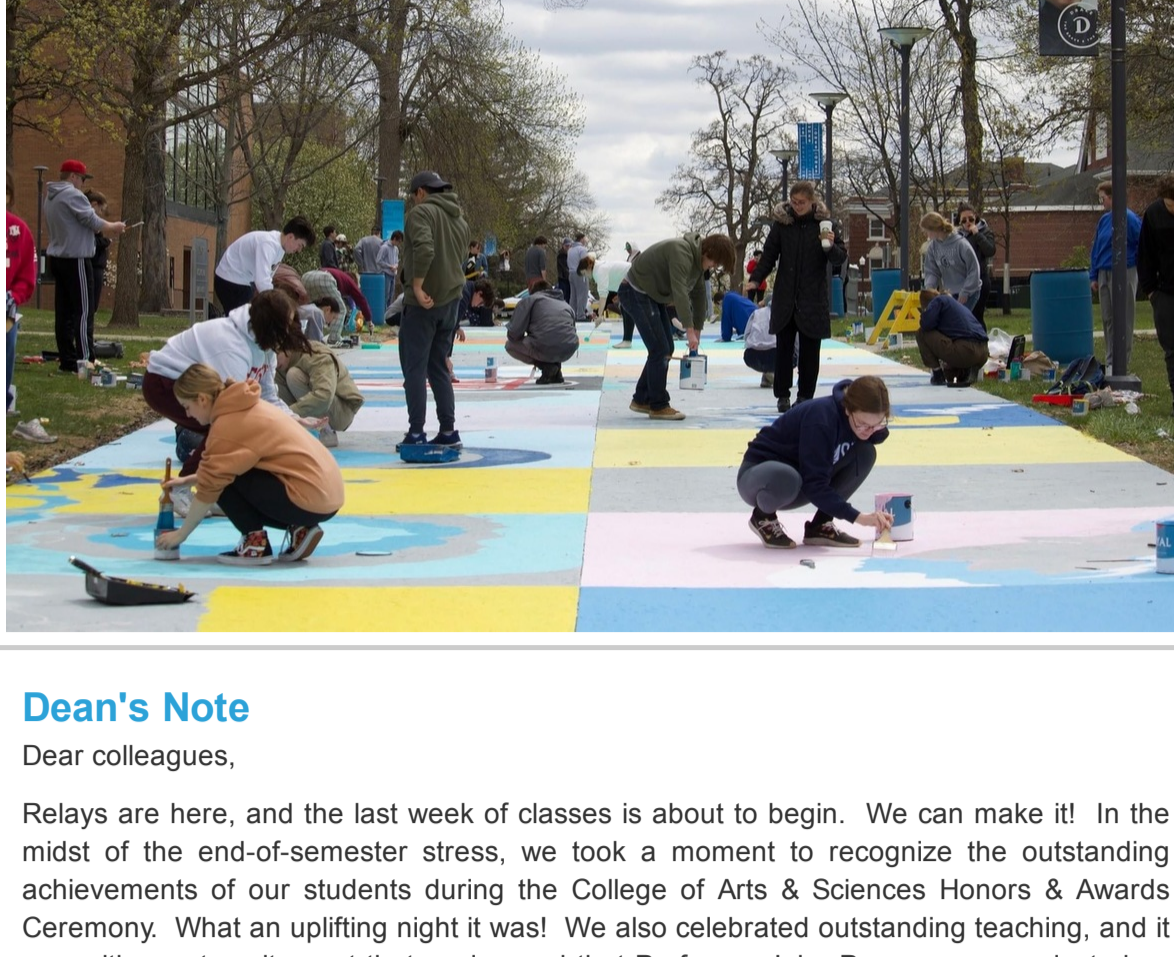


A&S Newsletter

April 25, 2023



Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

Relays are here, and the last week of classes is about to begin. We can make it! In the midst of the end-of-semester stress, we took a moment to recognize the outstanding achievements of our students during the College of Arts & Sciences Honors & Awards Ceremony. What an uplifting night it was! We also celebrated outstanding teaching, and it was with great excitement that we learned that Professor John Pomeroy was selected as the 2022-23 Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to John, and to all the outstanding teachers who were nominated for the prestigious award!

Thank you for attending the all faculty and staff meeting on April 14. We celebrated the upcoming retirements of Associate Professors Angela Battle, Karen Leroux and Lenore Metrick-Chen, learned about the recommendations for promotion and/or tenure for nine colleagues, and applauded Dr. Jerry Hont's selection as the inaugural Marshall and Judith Flapan Endowed Professor of Biology. We also had the chance to remember John Graham, whose recent death is felt deeply by his students and colleagues in the Theatre department and across the college. A celebration of John's life will take place on Saturday, May 20, 11:00 am – 1pm at the Noce Jazz Club in Des Moines.

A busy hiring season has yielded seven offer letters for new tenure track colleagues to join us in the fall. We are still working on three VAP searches and hope to fill these positions asap. The last of five admitted student days is behind us, with great involvement by many faculty and staff. Our admission numbers at this point are trailing slightly behind last years, and it's all hands on deck to drum up more tuition deposits by early May. Thank you for all you do to recruit new bulldogs! The mock lectures, academic overviews, individual meetings and interactions with you is what convinces students to choose Drake as their home for the next few years.

I wish you a good last week of classes, lots of energy for grading those final exams, presentations, projects and performances, and I hope you will squeeze in moments of rest and fun. Summer will come, even to Iowa! ☺

See you on commencement day, if not before!

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Dean's Office Hours

Dean Gerhard will hold open office hours on Tuesday, April 25, from 3:30-4:30pm in Olin Hall Lobby, and on [Zoom](#). Just stop by --- no appointment needed.

Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. **Jerry Honts** for receiving a \$376,000 NSF Grant! The NSF grant is for a collaborative research project (faculty at Drake, U North Carolina, Georgia Tech, UCSF, and U Chicago) aimed at understanding proteins that enable an ultrafast form of calcium-dependent contraction in the ciliated protozoan *Spirostomum*. Dr. Honts' contribution to this project is figuring out how to make and assemble the component proteins into a functional contractile motor. The other part of his work will be to determine the atomic structures of the motor components in order to understand how they generate force, and then use this knowledge to engineer new versions of proteins for novel biological and non-biological functions.

Zoo Conservation major on WHO13 News!

Check out the interview with Dr. **Michael Renner** on WHO13 featuring Drake's new Zoo and Conservation Science major. Click [here](#) to watch the clip!

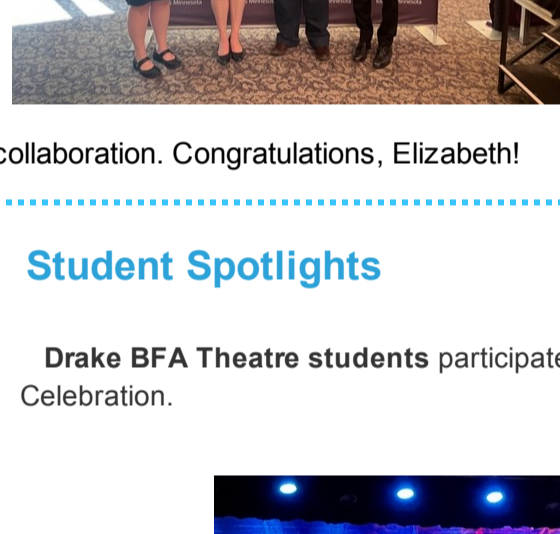
The National Endowment for the Arts

The **Anderson Gallery** was awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts grant for the upcoming exhibition of artists Duane Slick and Martin Smick. Duane Slick is an artist of Native American descent, the Meskwaki Nation of Iowa, and the Ho-Chunk Nation of Nebraska. His acrylic paintings blend the subjects of oral and visual Native American traditions with a focus on trickster strategies and modernist/post-modernist painting histories. Martin Smick is an artist who has been living and working in Rhode Island since 2007 and has taught in the Painting Department at Rhode Island School of Design since 2013. Both artists have exhibited nationally and have collaborated on two previous exhibitions. As collaborators, Slick and Smick are conscious of their respective cultural identities and have been able to create exhibitions that engage in issues surrounding Native culture. The grant will fund their site-specific installation at the Anderson Gallery that will be open to the public from Oct 26-Dec 10, 2023.

Dean Sue Wright A&S Teacher of the Year 2022-2023

Congratulations to **John Pomeroy**, professor of Theatre Arts, A&S Teacher of the Year 2022-2023!

The committee's recommendation was based on numerous factors, but particularly noted John's innovative teaching techniques, use of physical activities to promote learning, genuine and heartfelt connections with students, infectious enthusiasm, and masterful orchestration of student development. The committee also noted his enviable blend of humility, humor, patience, and care for individuals. A former student wrote that "As a teacher, mentor, supporter, and friend, this professor's many imparted lessons continue to reveal themselves to me as I move through my career." His colleague wrote "John Pomeroy is the single finest teacher I know. I can say this because of something else I know to be true. John Pomeroy is the single finest person I know".



A group of Drake students and faculty went to St. Catherine's University for the Minnesota and Iowa Campus Compact Awards on Thursday April 13. Drake (and Iowa overall) had a great showing at the awards, and the project *Unsheltered Des Moines Study*, coordinated by Dr. **Elizabeth Talbert** Assistant Professor of Sociology, won a competitive award for community

collaboration. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

Student Spotlights

Drake BFA Theatre students participated in the Hoyt Sherman 100 Year Celebration.



Carrie the Musical was recognized with the American College Theatre Award at the Kennedy Center for the following categories:

Distinguished Achievement in Stage Management: **Maren Grant, Mylo Bissel and Kai Williams**

Distinguished Performance by an Actor: **Chloe Fox and Laura Breyner**

Distinguished Production of a Musical: **Carrie the Musical**

Distinguished Choreography: **Erin Degner**

Congratulations...

Tierra Colvin and **Matthew Jordan** were accepted into the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) program. The JET program is a highly competitive governmental program with a 10-30% acceptance rate. Every year, Drake students and faculty work hard on students' applications and interview preparation. Congratulations to Matthew and Tierra! Matthew, a Philosophy and Religion double major with a minor in Japanese Studies, was also selected as a 2023-24 Fulbright finalist. He will be going to Japan on a Study/Research Grant. Congratulations!

Four Drake University students were selected as finalists in the 2023 OpenAir Carbon Removal Challenge. This worldwide competition tasked teams to create new processes, approaches, and prototypes to remove carbon from the land, water, or air. The Drake team was invited to present their design called SPARCC: A Semi-Passive Algae Rooted Carbon Capture device, at New York University. More information about the event can be found [here](#). Congratulations to **Tyler Bartolome, Bryan Coronado, Anna Miller, and Betsy Richardson** and faculty advisor **Edward Kelley**.

Grant Writing Faculty Workshop

You're invited to participate in a May grant-writing workshop for humanities and social sciences faculty led by Mary Pat Wohlford, director of Drake's Sponsored Programs Office. Please see the [call](#) for participation for more information. Applications are due on Friday, April 28.

Screenwriting Intensive

Aspiring screenwriters (film and TV) can register for a unique one-week summer experience with Drake University and Hollywood TV writer Eric Ziobrowski ('02). ENG 198 is open to all majors who have taken at least one previous writing course. No instructor permission required. You can find more information [here](#).

Honors and Award Ceremony

Many outstanding students in the College of Arts & Sciences were recognized during the best night of the year: The Arts and Sciences Honors & Awards Ceremony. Thank you for your participation in this big event! In case you missed it— [here](#) is the link to the recording.

Free Pride Flags from Women's and Gender Studies

As Relays Week commences, the Women's and Gender Studies Program is offering each faculty and staff members a free Progress Pride flag to show support for the LGBTQ+ community. You can get a flag from your department assistant. For more information on the flag design (updated in 2018): <https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-progress-pride-flag>.

Advising Corner

Course Waitlists:

On Wednesday, Apr 26, waitlist automation begins. Automation means that should a student drop from a course, the first student on the waitlist will receive an email and have 24 hours to act on the seat offer. If no action is taken, that student will be dropped from the waitlist and the seat offered to the next student. Waitlist notifications are sent over weekends and holidays. See [Registration Waitlists](#) for more information and to help advisees navigate the process.

Resolving Incomplete (I) Marks:

If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) and the student has now earned a letter grade, please update the grade: MyDrake > Self Service > Course Grading > 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, please email [Alina Grimm](#) or [Mary Beth Holtey](#) so they can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.

If working with a student who will not successfully complete your course this spring, it may seem "friendly," to offer the student an incomplete and urge them to re-register for the course in the fall, but please do not pursue this path. Why? Only one grade can be included on the transcript/calculated in the GPA. Repeated courses will result in an XX on the transcript and (only) the higher grade in the course calculated in the GPA. It is in the student's better interest to resolve the incomplete and not re-register for the course.

If you are considering granting an Incomplete this semester, please refer to the [Academic Regulations in the General Catalog](#) for the procedures and **note the differences between an Incomplete (I) and In Progress (IP)**.

A Caution on Iowa Nice:

If a student has not attended your course for several weeks, nor submitted any work during the term, it may seem friendly to extend an incomplete, but 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 (don't most of us have the best of intentions to complete work, only to find we take on too much?). And, students who take several incompletes may be in a type of financial aid "limbo," without resolved credits and a clear sense of hours earned.

A&S Important Dates

The full calendar is located [here](#).

April 26-29: Drake Relays

April 27-29: *The Theory of Relativity*, Coleman Studio Theatre, 7:30pm

April 30: *The Theory of Relativity*, Coleman Studio Theatre, 2:00pm

April 30: Drake Choir, Sheslow Auditorium, 3:00pm

May 1: Drake Symphonic Band, Performing Arts Hall, 7:30pm

May 2: Drake Wind Symphony, Performing Arts Hall, 7:30pm

May 4: Drake Orchestra Sheslow Auditorium, 7:30pm

May 5: Free day for study

May 8-12: Final evaluation period

May 13: Commencement, Knapp Center 10:00am

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