

Welcome to Drake!

September 7, 2022



Dean's Note

Dear all,

How is week two of the semester going for you? I am still in the "thrill stage" of starting a new academic year, but have to admit that fires small and bigger have put somewhat of a damper on the excitement! Grateful to have a team and so many capable colleagues in the college that work together and find solutions to any problem that pops up. The closure of Meredith Hall has had a domino effect on several other spaces across campus. We've had to convert conference rooms into office spaces, and lounges into classrooms. Not ideal! Please let me know of any challenges you are facing in your classrooms, studios, labs or offices, and we'll try to address. Thanks for your patience and flexibility as bumps get ironed out.

As I mentioned in a summer email, improving communication is one of my goals for this year. The spring survey showed that many faculty don't feel that their voice is heard, and I am determined to change that! To that end, I have met with each department chair in the summer to talk about their department priorities. I am now making my rounds to visit each department during a regular department meeting to hear directly from you and to find out what you need to be successful. So far, staffing and hiring of new faculty and instructors has been a recurring theme. It is at the top of my list! I look forward to listening to all of you and will add your priorities to my list.

We are thrilled to have new colleagues in the Arts & Sciences. We've hired five new tenure track faculty—check out their short bios below. We also welcome a number of new VAPs this fall—watch for their introductions in the next edition of the newsletter. You will have a chance to meet our new colleagues at our all faculty meeting on September 16, at 2pm in Levitt Hall. Mark your calendars! The agenda includes an update on the capital campaign and on the big ideas as they pertain to many of our programs and majors. John Smith, Vice President for Advancement and Doug Lampe, Senior Gift Officer, will join us for this part of the meeting. We'll make sure we have time to check in with each other, hear updates and bring up new ideas.

We have begun our searches for six tenure track lines this year. Retirements and job changes coupled with growth in some departments have created real challenges and opportunities to staff all the courses we need to offer. I hope you all had a chance to meet our new administrative assistants—they have weathered the stormy beginning of the semester with great courage and success! So thrilled to have them as part of the A&S team.

Have a good rest of your week!

Gesine

Dean's Office Hours

Gesine will hold open office hours on Thursday, September 15, 3-4pm, in Olmsted Cafe or on [Zoom](#). No appointment needed.

Andrew Becklin, Assistant
Professor of Mathematics

Andrew earned his Ph.D. and MS from the University of Nebraska and his BA in Mathematics and Economics from Luther College. His graduate school work was predominantly in Applied Analysis and Partial Differential Equations, focusing on Acoustics Models. Since he started at Drake as a VAP, he has been building Agent Based Models to analyze social issues. He loves using Inquiry Based Methods in his math courses, and getting students to discover math.



Fun Fact: He has already fallen in love with the Des Moines bike trails.

Robert Collis, Assistant
Professor of History

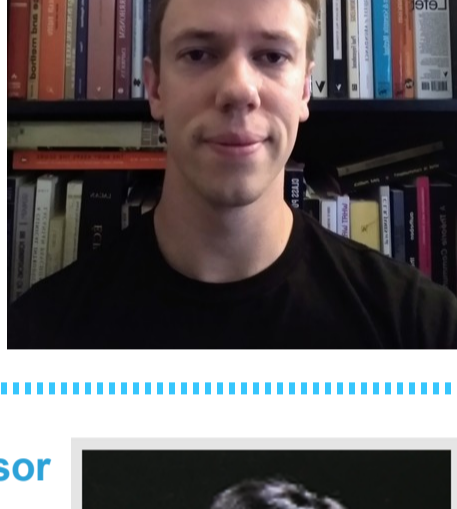
Robert grew up in rural Suffolk, north-east of London, Britain. He got his undergraduate and MS from the University of Sussex in Brighton. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Turku in Finland. His research focuses on Western Esotericism in Eighteenth-Century Russia. He has taught courses on Russian and Soviet history. As a VAP at Drake for several years, he established his reputation as a highly popular and griffed teacher, covering classes from the Renaissance to the Cold War.



Fun fact: He believes in perseverance: It took him four attempts to pass his driving test in England.

Andrei Migunov, Assistant
Professor of Computer Science

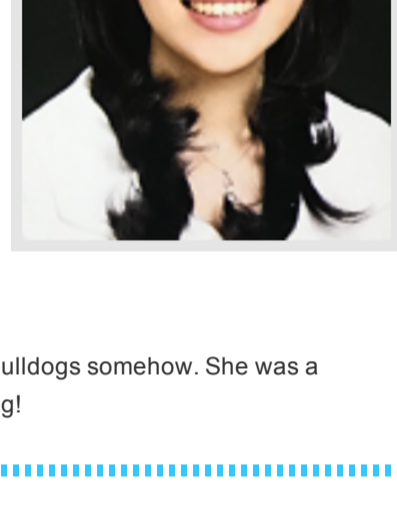
Andrei is originally from Riga, Latvia. He recently received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Iowa State University. His research is in the areas of Algorithmic Randomness and Analog Computation. He loves teaching to see scientific curiosity form in students, going beyond immediate practical utility.



Fun Fact: His favorite national park so far is Arches, Utah.

Hyejin Park, Assistant Professor
of Mathematics

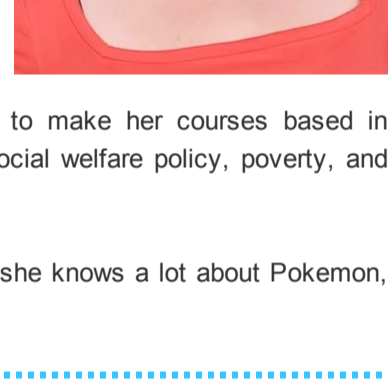
Hyejin graduated from the University of Georgia with a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education. She worked at Marquette University as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate and as a VAP at James Madison University. Her research focuses on learning and teaching argumentation and proof in K-12 classrooms. Her current work explores how to support teacher learning about using robotics to promote student understanding and argumentation in mathematics classrooms. As a teacher educator and mathematics teacher, she has taught content and pedagogy courses for prospective teachers and mathematics courses for non-education majors.



Fun Fact: Hyejin thinks that she must be deeply connected to bulldogs somehow. She was a Georgia bulldog during grad school and is now a Drake bulldog!

Elizabeth Talbert, Assistant
Professor of Sociology

Elizabeth completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center on Poverty and Inequality at Stanford. Prior to that, she did her undergraduate work at Yale, taught fourth grade in the Bronx for a few years, and did a MS in Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Her research revolves around social policy, poverty, and inequality in the United States, with a particular emphasis on family and housing. Currently working with the unsheltered population in Des Moines to inform the country's Homeless Coordinating Council and its Extreme Weather Workgroup. She tries to make her courses based in community-engaged research. She teaches courses on social welfare policy, poverty, and work.



Fun Fact: Elizabeth has three boys, ages 8, 5, and 1, so she knows a lot about Pokemon, karate moves, and the origins of all Marvel superheroes.

Welcome to Arts and Sciences!

We also want to warmly welcome our new A&S Visiting Assistant Professors (VAPs):

- Amira Allen, Sociology
- Peggy Lockhart, Psychology
- Marcella Mulhollem, Sociology
- Nikki Orth, Rhetoric
- Nicole Ramsey, Music
- Dylan Rollo, Rhetoric
- Brett Russler, History
- Claire Sedovic, Art and Design

Please watch for introductions to our new VAPs in upcoming newsletters.

Student Spotlight

Congratulations to our Arts & Sciences students who were recently selected to receive scholarships from the NASA Iowa Space Student Consortium. **Lydia Thompson** (Bioc) received an incoming freshman award. **Tepary Cooley** (BCMB, Chemistry) and **Abbie Whittemore** (BCMB) were awarded undergraduate research fellowships!

Advising Corner

Add/Drop Period

The add period ended on Friday, Sept 2 at 11:59 p.m. If you're working with a student you wish to have add a course, please direct them to submit the [add/drop](#) form to ask.as@drake.edu. Students have through Monday, Sept 12 at 11:59 p.m. to drop a course in MyDrake without a W.

Last Call for Validation

Do you grimace internally when a student tells you in the first week of December that they don't understand a concept introduced in the first week (and are telling you now)? Same story when courses are validated in December... if you're not sure of a student's plan in your course, send that student's name to [Ailina Grimm](#), science courses and [Mary Beth Holtey](#), non-science courses and let us reach out to the student to finalize their enrollment now. The accurate validation of courses (now) makes the rest of the semester run more smoothly for the student and University offices.

But, they validated and are now ghosting...

Send that student's name to [Ailina Grimm](#), science courses and [Mary Beth Holtey](#), non-science courses and let us reach out to the student to finalize their enrollment now.

Proactive Advising

It's hard to believe that in just one month, you'll start to be approached by advisees to discuss spring 2023 courses. To best work with those advisees who may have ended the spring semester on academic probation or who appealed a suspension, you will hear from Ailina Grimm or Mary Beth Holtey, who will share with you a list of your advisees on academic probation or returning from suspension. Please work with these students to identify coursework which may be retaken, or to create strategies for better study skills.

Tutoring Services

[Tutoring services](#) are available for computer-based support in the areas of actuarial science, accounting, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, organic chemistry, physics, math, Spanish and statistics. The resources of the Writing Center and Speaking Center are also available to all students in any course.

The Writing Center (opens September 12)

Students can schedule an appointment at <https://library.drake.edu/writing-center/>.

The Writing Center is directed by a faculty member and staffed by undergraduate students who are trained to tutor. Writing Center tutors are experienced writers and friendly critics who can help students on essays, reports, or research papers.

The Speaking Center (opens September 12)

Students can schedule an appointment at <http://library.drake.edu/speaking> to schedule a personal online meeting with a tutor.

Speaking Center tutors have experience and training in speech pedagogy and are prepared to assist students when selecting and narrowing topics, organizing ideas, drafting, and revising an outline, preparing visual aids, and practicing delivery. The Speaking Center's staff also facilitates access to research and resources that can help speakers and presenters.

Counseling Center Resources and Events

Process for Communicating Academic Accommodations:

- 1) When a student requests accommodations, they must provide documentation to Access & Success.
- 2) First-year students, students new to requesting accommodations, and transfer students are required to make an appointment with Access & Success. Access & Success work together with the student to determine reasonable accommodations for each of the student's classes.
- 3) An Accommodation Flag will be raised in Starfish
- 4) The instructor will receive an email stating the accommodations for the student. The student receives a similar email at the same time. As the email states, students are responsible for reviewing this information with instructors in a timely manner.

Returning students can fill out an accommodation request form, found on the Access & Success website, www.drake.edu/access-success. The same process will be followed as above, however returning students do not need to meet with Access & Success unless their accommodations need to be changed.

Visit [Starfish Resources for Faculty and Staff](#) to find out how to filter your accommodated students for each of your classes – we have heard from faculty teaching large classes that this is a very helpful feature!

Please reach out to Michelle Laughlin with any questions or concerns.

Reading Corner

"The last few years have been very weird for the academic humanities." Check out this interesting essay about [The Hysterical Style in the American Humanities](#).

A&S Important Dates

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

- September 8: Vibrant Expressions Opening Reception, Anderson Gallery 5-8pm
- September 12: Last day to drop a class without a "W"
- September 16:
 - Spring 2023 schedules entry completed to be reviewed by the Dean's Office
 - All Faculty Meeting, Levitt Hall 2-3:30pm
- September 21: Faculty Senate Meeting, 3:30pm
- September 27: Spring 2023 Schedule of Classes available in MyDrake
- September 29: The Bald Soprano, Coleman Studio Theatre at 7:30pm
- September 30:
 - P&T recommendations are due to the Dean
 - Intent to apply for promotion to professor in Fall 2023 due to the Dean and Chair

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