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## Drew Community Questions Safety Protocols After Shelter-in-Place

NICOLE SYDOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In light of the shelter-in-place at Rider University on April 3rd and the Convent School Shooting in Nashville, TN, Drew University was on high alert and was put in a shelter-in-place protocol due to an investigation at Saint Elizabeth University. According to the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, there was a threat of violence made by a potentially armed suspect on Saint Elizabeth's campus near Convent Station. This event has raised much concern over preparation for dangerous, high risk situations among students and faculty.

At 10:48 a.m., a message as sent out through the university campus alert system stating: "Drew is aware of a situation at St. Elizabeth University and is monitoring the activity. There is no known threat to Drew's campus." A similar email was sent out a few minutes later, adding: "We will provide any updates through emergency channels as needed."

At 11:27 a.m., another alert was sent out asking students and faculty to follow shelter-in-place guidelines and assuring that there was no known threat to campus. A corresponding email, sent out 11 minutes later, contained more information: "While there is no known threat to the Drew campus, out of an abundance of caution we have issued a shelter-in-place. Accordingly, students, faculty and

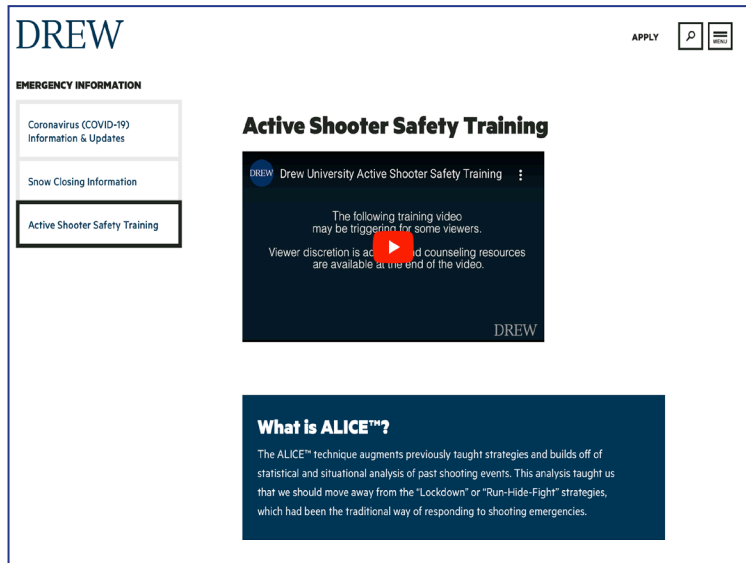


IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW.EDU

Drew University Active Shooter Safety Training information.

staff are to remain indoors and await further instruction. Please do not leave until an 'all clear' alert is received. More information will follow."

As articulated on Drew's website, the standard shelter-in-place protocol is to remain indoors. Students are to remain within a building, rather than walk around campus, until an "all clear" message is received. In the event of biohazards, students and staff may be asked to move to a sealable room; during extreme weather conditions they may be asked to move to a room with no windows.

A lockdown, on the other hand, is used when there is "an immediate threat of violence in or around the school." In this case, doors are to be locked and lights are to be turned off until an "all clear" message is received.

Following the message, there were a variety of reactions across campus. Some classrooms went into lockdown mode, locking doors and closing blinds, some students were walking about campus and many were left with questions about the situation.

At 1:03 p.m., the university campus alert system informed students that the reason there continued to be a shelter-in-place was to comply with the requests of Morris Co. & Madison Officials. Students that were in class when the protocol started remained in their buildings until 3:03 p.m., when the "all clear" message was received.

During the nearly three-and-a-half hour shelter-in-place, many professors were left in the dark as they were not receiving messages from the university campus alert system, which was provid-

ing more information than email.

Some professors, like adjunct Professor Bridget Looney, were left in a difficult position when it came to ensuring the safety of their students.

"Just some thoughts for the future about how we could improve the space [Seminary Hall 210]: an interior lock would be helpful, a fire extinguisher even if it's just to use as a weapon," said Looney. "Also window coverings for the exit door and a way to keep somebody from easily climbing up the fire escape, because, although it was a great alternative exit for us, it was still another way for someone to get into the room."

She also emphasized the need for more consistent communication about ongoing situations and protocols, which she thinks would leave everyone much less stressed.

Isla Ubiles ('24) also commented on the management and communication during the event. "I've had experience with this, but this felt worse. It was incredibly mismanaged; we [the United States] have had hundreds of school shootings. There have been hundreds of mass shootings [in this country] since I have been at Drew and there is not an efficient enough plan in place for if someone has a gun near here or makes a threat in the surrounding area."

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## DYTT: MedFest Celebrates its 36th Year

JOCELYN FREEMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Drew University has many long-lasting traditions, but few can rival the 36-year-long tradition of That Medieval Thing's Medfest. On a college campus with a "castle," it makes sense that an annual renaissance fair would be hosted free of charge to Drew students. This long-standing tradition consists of performances, crafts, dancing, music and more, and it is one of the most anticipated events at Drew. This week's article will be dedicated to the fascinating history of the event and will also serve as a reminder to dust off your corsets and crowns and get ready for a day of fantasy and fun.

The first-ever Medfest was actually called the "Medieval Festival" and was

held on Monday, May 4, 1987. Originally hosted by Drew's English department, the event featured "a living chess game where 'the cosmic forces of the good and evil battle for the fate of mankind,' the mystery plays 'Noah' and 'Lazarus' and Jacob's Ladder, plus vexillators, minstrels, madrigal singers, jugglers, and mounted knights," according to an advertisement in the May 1, 1987 edition of the Acorn. It was an all-hands-on-deck event made possible by various departments, vendors and over 50 student volunteers.

By 1989, the event was being called "That Medieval Thing" (or just the "Thing" for short) and was run almost solely by students as part of an academic assignment for an independent study with

five students. Students putting together the event were required to reflect on their experiences in a two-page paper. That same year, the event also received a grant from the state of New Jersey meant to fund humanities projects. Student opinions about the festival were captured in a letter to the editor from April 28, 1989, in which a student wrote, "A Medieval Festival is often seen as an opportunity for certain people (who have missed the joys of Halloween since adolescence) to dress in odd clothes and act in an odd fashion" and that the event was so important "because everyone needs to fool around once in a while."

The tradition continued in a prominent fashion for years to follow. Games of live chess, plays, musical



IMAGE COURTESY OF OAK LEAVES 1995

Students at Medfest in 1995 partake in a life-size game of chess, as they have since the very first event!

performances and competitions in archery continued to color the event. At times, even The Commons stepped in to serve themed meals in association with the festival. As the event grew, it became more complex and widespread, involving students from all three schools of the university and attracting an increasing number of community members and alumni with each passing year.

CONT. IN DREW, PG 4

#### GOT A NEWS TIP?

Email [theacorn@drew.edu](mailto:theacorn@drew.edu) and let us know!

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Getting to pie the seniors in the face has been one of my favorite memories as a professor so far. —Dr. Andrea Lee

SEE NEWS, PG 6

**We're Nuts for our Website!**  
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The Drew Acorn is looking to fill out its staff. Here are the positions currently open:  
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Graphics Editors  
Writers (all sections)  
Photographers

CORRECTIONS & TIPS

If you have any corrections, tips or suggestions for The Drew Acorn to follow up on, contact [theacorn@drew.edu](mailto:theacorn@drew.edu).

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**2 NEWS**

**HAVE A NEWS TIP?**

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**Drew Community Questions Safety Protocols After Shelter-In-Place**

CONT. FROM DREW, PG 1

**U**biles, a prospective school teacher, felt that Drew did not do enough to keep students informed. “We had no idea what was going on and so I was incredibly anxious during it.”

Katie Carmichael (‘25), who was with Looney for the shelter-in-place, discussed the results of the insufficient information provided by Drew. “The lack of information that we were getting and understanding led to a lot of misinformation.”

Commuters were also put in a precarious situation, due to being without keycard access to all buildings.

Frank Merckx, Vice President for Enrollment Management & Campus Life, indicated that commuter students, during a shelter-in-place, can either enter a residence hall with a friend, stay in one of Drew’s public buildings or remain in their car. Some commuter students, however, felt otherwise about what should be done during a shelter-in-place, or even a lockdown.

Nicole Giao (‘25) said the shelter-in-place was extremely unorganized and inconsiderate to commuter students, highlighting that commuters have no set place to go. “For future shelter in place protocols, commuters should be able to have a

place where we feel safe and not just the school buildings, which, may I add, have no locks,” she said.

After the event, many students and faculty were left with much to consider.

Adjunct English Professor Jacob Soule commented “I think, though, that often when a shocking and/or stressful event happens, the effects can be delayed. I know for my part, I was much more tired than I normally would be on a Tuesday evening and I think this week as a whole feels a lot longer and more intense than an average week as a result.”

Ubiles also attested to the fact that there was no attention to student mental health after the event. Students who have experienced similar events in the past could have had a traumatic response, amplifying their stress and negatively impacting their mental health.

In an official statement, Drew Student Government President Ashley Kibel said “I am relieved that everyone on campus is safe and unharmed. This event caused a lot of anxiety for many people but I am going to work with Drew’s administration to ensure better communication, should this happen again. Security measures should be clear and available to everyone to prevent any confusion and distress. That being said, I encourage

everyone on campus, staff and faculty included, to be educated or educate themselves on safety procedures such as shelter-in-place and lockdown.”

Merckx said “The objective [of Drew faculty, staff, and administration] was first and foremost to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff on campus, and all decisions were made with this in mind and in accordance with local authorities.” Merckx outlined the current protocol for shelter-in-place or lockdowns on campus. He underscored the importance of reviewing the ALICE™ training program on Drew’s website or reaching out for training from ALICE™ educators.

He also highlighted the variety of safety protocols we have on campus. “This includes access to campus at certain times of the night, limitations on access to certain buildings, camera systems that are monitored, and other commonly used protocols and tools. Community members play an important role in this process as well, and we always encourage students, faculty, and staff to report things they think are suspicious. That can be done by contacting Campus Security at 973-408-3379 or via the LiveSafe app.”

Merckx finally noted that: “I am very grateful that

there was never a known threat to Drew’s campus and that the extensive search by law enforcement officials found no threat to the St. Elizabeth University campus. All of Drew’s actions were made with an abundance of caution in mind, and I am thankful for the cooperation of our students, faculty, and staff during this time.”

After the events on Tuesday, many Drew community members are similarly relieved that there was no known threat. However, many have been left with lasting concerns regarding Drew’s protocol and what it means to be prepared during events like a shelter-in-place or an active shooter threat.

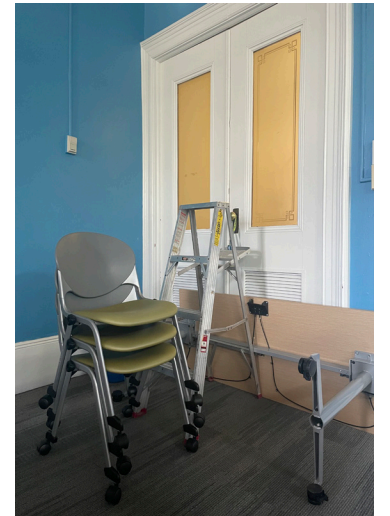


IMAGE COURTESY OF NICOLE SYDOR  
Photo of blockade to lock door in Seminary 210.

Nicole Sydor is a sophomore majoring in English and French minoring in education and psychology.

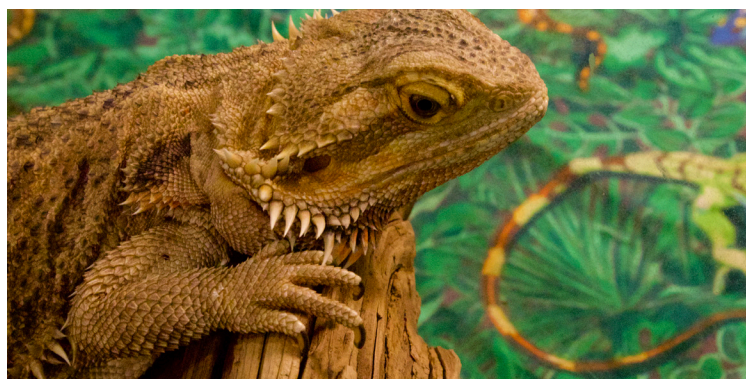
**Reptiles Slither into the Hearts of Drew Students at DNL Event**

**CHLOE GOCHER**

COPY EDITOR, WEBMASTER AND STAFF WRITER

In honor of National Velociraptor Awareness Day, Drew Night Life brought the Herps Alive Foundation to Drew to give students a fun, educational and hands-on experience with reptiles last Friday night in the EC’s 1867 Lounge. Drew Night Life also hosted a raffle, the prizes for which were a large plush dinosaur and a dinosaur-themed book, and played educational videos about dinosaurs in The Space.

The main attraction, of course, was the hands-on reptile experience, in which students were given the opportunity to hold and pet various species of snakes, along with skinks, tortoises and bearded dragons. Supervising the reptile extravaganza was Herps Alive’s executive director, Keith Gisser, who taught students how to handle the reptiles with care and offered a wealth of information about the reptiles



Bearded dragon in action.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

present at the event, as well as various other types of reptiles.

“Part of our mission, in addition to doing rescue and rehoming, is education and outreach,” explained Gisser. “Although some of the cable TV channels have changed their tune, reptiles are still probably among the most misunderstood animals on the planet. So by giving folks a hands-on experience like this, folks get a chance to really relate to the animals a lot better.”

Students were absolutely enamored with the reptiles they were given the chance to interact with, and many listened to Gisser talk

about the notable features of the species of reptile he had brought to the Velociraptor Awareness Day event. For example, Gisser taught students about the harmless milk snake, which students were able to hold, as compared to its venomous look-alike, the coral snake, and how to tell the difference.

“It’s still important to know what snakes are venomous and what snakes aren’t, and we do teach that a little bit with the coral snake and the milk snake,” said Gisser, talking about the importance of reptile education. “None of the snakes here are venomous, though. Obviously, being a hands-

on program, we don’t want anybody to reach into the wrong cage. But we do try to explain the difference between venomous snakes and non-venomous snakes, and the vast majority of snakes are not venomous.”

The Herps Alive Foundation’s reptile experience truly stole the show from the raffle and a chance to win free things, which few students would ever pass up.

Students walked away from Drew Night Life’s Velociraptor Awareness Day event with both a fun, memorable experience and more information about some of the wildlife we share this earth with.

For more information on the Herps Alive Foundation, which is based out of Cleveland, visit their website or check out their Facebook page. For news about upcoming events at Drew, check out @drewstuact on Instagram or the Drew Today emails.

Chloe Gocher is a sophomore majoring in English and minoring in Spanish.

# Drew is Epic: Admissions and Communications Department

NICOLE SYDOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Drew University is refreshing its marketing on campus with Epic, resulting in several new marketing materials that are meant to express what the essence of Drew is. The Communications Department and Drew University Undergraduate Admissions have been working to create this updated version of Drew in order to truly represent the community on our campus.

On March 14, 2023, Admissions revealed their new Ranger Bear design with a Ranger Bear event in the EC. The Admissions team pulled out all the stops to unveil Ranger Bear's glow up with a build-your-own Ranger Bear station, Crowley's Cupcakes decorated with Teddy Grahams and a photobooth that made little keychains featuring Ranger Bear.

"Ranger Bear really is a symbol of the entire university, the Drew community," said Megan McHugh, Drew University Admissions Director of Events. "So when we celebrated the new Ranger Bear, I was hoping that it felt campus-wide."

Ranger Bear's refresh, involving a lot of time and effort on the part of the Admissions team and coordination with their student coordinator to time the release,

is just one of many changes happening around campus.

As many have noticed, Epic is growing to be synonymous with Drew University.

Margaret Kiernan, Senior Director of Communications and University Branding, said, "The new Epic recruitment campaign was developed to support Drew's overarching goals: to expand awareness, to positively position Drew among its competitors, to strengthen our undergraduate prospects and to generate pride in the internal Drew Community."

The new messaging does not replace what Drew has marketed in the past: a great location, rigorous academics, networked mentorship, immersive experiences or a powerful community.

By refreshing the narrative and visuals, the goal is to attract and better tell Drew's story to prospective students.

The one word that Kiernan used to best describe "Epic" was "authentic." She commented, "Our new recruitment materials showcase the unique and authentic experiences and benefits of a Drew education."

"To keep our messaging real, we always try to encourage current Drew students to tell their stories by participating in videos, news stories and photo shoots."

McHugh and Kiernan both highlighted that the narrative refresh of Epic is

meant to highlight the energy and spirit of the Drew community. It is meant to show prospective students what Drew is and what opportunities they would have here and to make sure that what they are seeing in marketing is the reality when they get here.

One of the major questions Kiernan said is often asked about Drew is "Who is the Drew student?"

Kiernan stated, "Drew students tend to be hard-working, highly engaged and curious. They're eager to learn and appreciate and take advantage of all that Drew offers, from mentorships and networking to many opportunities to build real-world experiences."

Kiernan highlighted that these are also the kind of students Drew is marketing to. In order to attract this audience, the Communications Department worked with students with varying personalities, backgrounds, interests and aspirations. Each of these students who was a part of the production of the new marketing video served as a testament to Drew students who take advantage of what Drew has to offer.

"Drew has a diverse community, and it is impossible to express the wide variety of personalities and backgrounds, but hopefully by students telling their stories through our marketing



IMAGE COURTESY OF MEGAN MCHUGH

Students taking a picture with Drew Mascot, the Ranger Bear.

Get ready to make it

epic

IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW.EDU

Epic marketing logo.



Admitted students gathering for Drew Admitted Students Day.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @DREWUNIVERSITY

assets, our prospective students can get a glimpse of what Drew is all about and who the Drew student is," Kiernan said.

Epic, among other factors, is already yielding visible results within Admissions. "We have definitely seen an increase in our event registration numbers, in visitors to our website, in followers on social media, and I think there's definitely two big reasons for that," said McHugh.

According to McHugh, the positive response is a result of the new Epic marketing and the staff working directly with prospective students. The admissions counselor team, who interacts with prospective students on a personal basis, making phone calls and visiting high schools, is having a very positive impact on Drew's perception and success.

The new Epic banners, updated marketing materials and strong efforts from Drew's Admissions team, along with the update of Ranger Bear, a symbol of the Drew community and what it stands for, are all uniting Drew University and yielding results.

In the hopes of continuing to unite the Drew com-

munity with Ranger Bear, McHugh hopes to create a mascot team and provide Drew students with another student employment opportunity on campus. With a mascot team, Ranger Bear can be requested to appear at more school events, whether they be sporting events or club-related. Ultimately, one of McHugh's long-term goals is to make Drew's unofficial mascot, the squirrel, an official supporting member of the mascot team.

For students interested in being a part of the new Ranger Bear mascot team, email [mrieske@drew.edu](mailto:mrieske@drew.edu). For students interested in being part of future videos, photos and stories on Drew's website and social media channels, email [communications@drew.edu](mailto:communications@drew.edu).



Nicole Sydor is a sophomore majoring in English and French minoring in education and psychology.

# STUDENT 4 LIFE+ARTS

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Check out how Fiber Arts at Drew and DEAL Eco-Dyeing in the Photo Story!

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## Drew Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: MedFest Celebrates its 36th Year

CONT. FROM DYTTPG 1

**B**y its fifth year, the festival still did not have access to school funding. This was especially problematic when the group's storage space was cleared of all props and costumes in the summer of 1991, leaving the members of the planning committee scrambling to raise money and recreate all necessary materials. Despite the setbacks, the event was still successful, bringing the Drew community together to find a solution to the shortage of funds and materials.

In researching this week's article, several Drew alumni who took part in That Medieval Thing were contacted and asked a few different questions. In response to the question of why they thought the event has been successful enough to run for 36 years, past members of the club—alumni ranging from 2005 to 2017—stated that the alumni network is to thank for such a long-standing tradition. That Medieval Thing's alumni continue to attend events, financially support the program and advocate for keeping the



IMAGE COURTESY OF THAT MEDIEVAL THING

A group photo of alumni and club members at the conclusion of MedFest 2022.

organization alive. Some of the interviewees pointed out that the club had provided so many wonderful memories and that the hard work put into the event led to wonderful experiences; others emphasized that such a unique and exciting event has always been cherished by the Drew community, explaining the massive turnouts that the event sees with each passing year.

The alumni were also asked why they feel drawn to continually participate in MedFest, to which they responded that it allows them to share their unconventional interests with people in their communities. Many said that they felt like the group became a second family dur-

ing their time at Drew, and thus they feel compelled to show up and be an active member in order to make their community both happy and proud. Overall, That Medieval Thing's members are some of the most committed students on campus, and they work hard all year round to put together an event for the whole Drew community to come together and enjoy.

This year, MedFest, as it is now referred to, will be on Saturday, April 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. around the grounds of S.W. Bowne (the castle in the middle of campus). Attendance remains free, but remember to bring money to support the vendors that have been invited. There will be performances

from TikTok personality and professional performer @jacqueszwhipper (Jack The Whipper), who has been performing at MedFest for nearly 15 years. Jack the Whipper also has a personal connection to Drew—his mother used to be a Drew professor. There will also be other Renaissance fair activities such as the consumption of giant turkey legs, the making of flower crowns, a small jail cell for unruly friends and madrigal performances. So come join That Medieval Thing for one of Drew's oldest traditions, and make sure you dress up!

Jocelyn is a sophomore majoring in history, English and Chinese.



COURTESY OF OAK LEAVES 2010

Jack The Whipper performing at one of his first MedFests in 2010.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THAT MEDIEVAL THING

Photo of members from MedFest 2022 in action.

## ARIEL Celebrates Diversity With Annual Fiesta Del Barrio

CHLOE GOCHER

STAFF WRITER, COPY EDITOR, WEBMASTER

ARIEL, Drew's Latinx cultural society, hosted their annual Fiesta Del Barrio event in collaboration with Drew African Student Association, South Asian Student Association, Black Student Union and the BIPOC mentoring center this Wednesday, April 12 in the Tolley-Brown circle. "Fiesta del barrio" translates to "block party" in English, and this multicultural celebration was full of all the vibrant music and food that you would expect from this sort of party.

After swiping in, students were able to grab a wide variety of cultural food and treats, including samosas, empanadas, rice and beans and more. Afterwards, students congregated with friends on lawn chairs, tables and picnic blankets spread out across the Tolley-Brown circle. Students were enjoying fantastic food from around the world with small giveaway gifts (such as stickers) and beautiful weather.

"The importance of Fiesta Del Barrio is to embrace the people of our 'block,'" explained ARIEL Treasurer

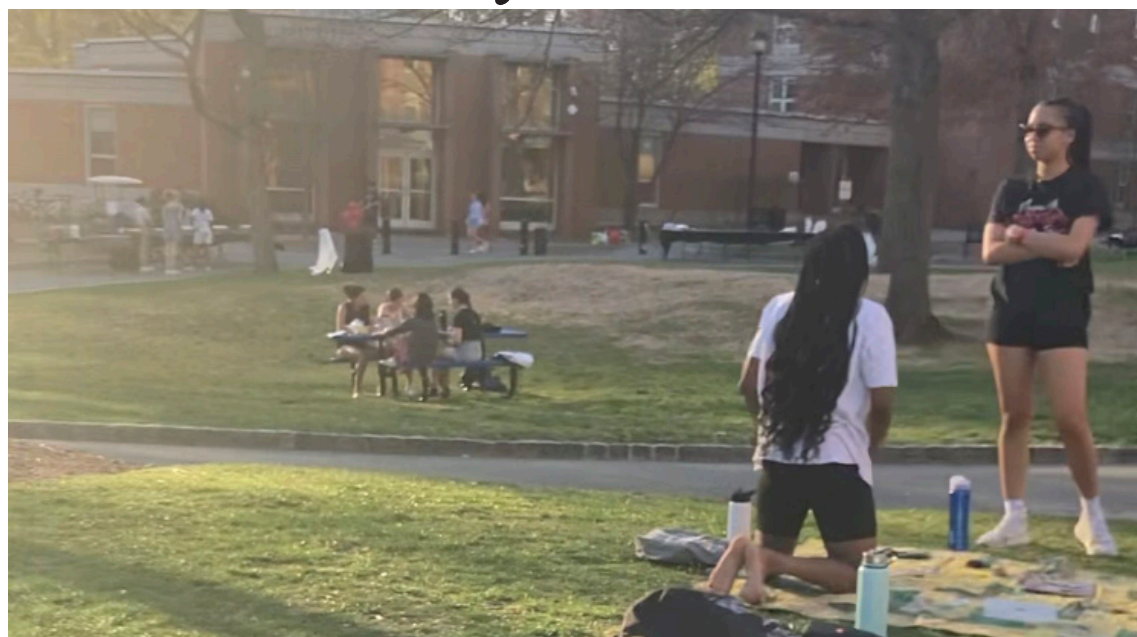


IMAGE COURTESY OF CHLOE GOCHER

Students enjoy food and community at ARIEL's Fiesta Del Barrio.

Vicky Fuentes ('25). "Every cultural club has a special traditional event. Black Student Union has their masquerade ball, Drew African Student Association has their fashion show and so much more! It means a lot for ARIEL to be able to host an event that everyone can be a part of."

When asked about the organization of the event, ARIEL Vice President Maria Vazquez-Maldonado ('23) responded, "It involved meetings with [Diversity Equity and Inclusion] direc-

tor Monica, and Club Life coordinator Terrance, to see how they could best assist our club so that the event is successful and communication with other cultural club leaders to determine in what capacity they would be able to participate, either by advertising, providing food, games, giveaways, and/or providing man-power to set-up/clean up."

A key aspect of this event is embracing and celebrating the great cultural diversity of the Drew community.

"'Barrio' in English means neighborhood, which is why we ask other cultural clubs for collaboration," said Fuentes. "They exist in the same university as ARIEL with similar mission statements: to increase and celebrate diversity/culture. As most of our board is Latinx, we acknowledge that Latinos come from all different backgrounds, shapes and sizes. For a community that is so diverse, it means so much to be able to host a space that celebrates the diversity that exists in this university."

"The core of what Fiesta Del Barrio has now come to be is built on celebrating cultural community," said Vazquez-Maldonado. "To be able to work with all these different clubs was absolutely vital in delivering this message. It is not enough for the Drew community members to be represented through only the establishment of their respective cultural clubs, but also for the Drew community to not only show-up but also show-out and embrace all of our cultural differences, and celebrate each person's unique identity. Which they did!"

Drew's incredibly diverse community is certainly something worth celebrating, and ARIEL's fun, laid-back Fiesta Del Barrio was a great way to remind us all of the key community aspect of celebrating culture and diversity.

For more information on upcoming ARIEL events, follow them on Instagram @drewsariel.

Chloe is a sophomore majoring in English with an emphasis in creative writing and minoring in Spanish.

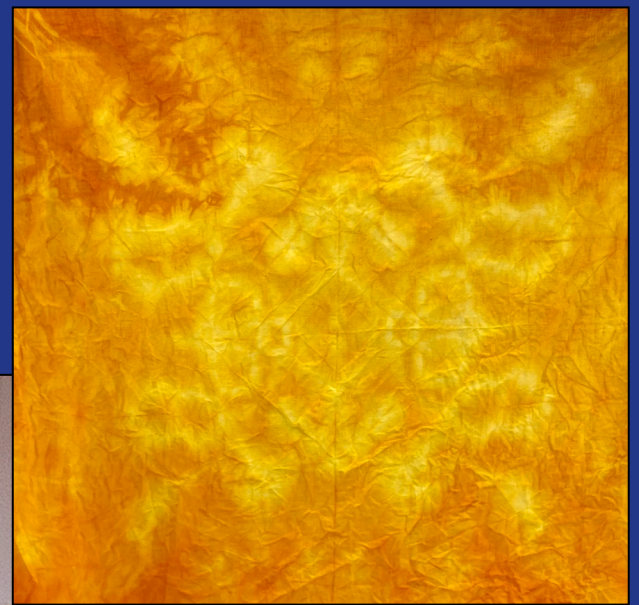
# Fiber Arts at Drew & DEAL Eco-Dying Photo Story

IMAGES COURTESY OF JULISHA MOSES ('26)



The students used dried bandanas that they bound with string to make tie-dye patterns. They, then, soaked the bandanas in a jar of chemically-activated water (containing salt and an aluminum compound) before submerging them in a pot of boiling water that contained turmeric powder.

It is unlike traditional tie-dye in that the students did not use bottles of dye and tubs of water. Eco-dying uses only about a gallon of water that is contained and later disposed. This demonstrates Fiber Arts at Drew and DEAL's goal to be sustainable clubs through minimal resource consumption.



# Drew Professors Pie Students at Drew University Chemistry Society Family Feud

ABIGAIL GOLDMAN  
STAFF WRITER AND COPY  
EDITOR

Drew students competed against chemistry professors and their peers at a “Family Feud”-style event hosted by the Drew University Chemistry Society this past Tuesday. Students and professors guessed the most popular answers to survey questions, and a team of seniors vied for the ultimate prize: pieing the chemistry professors in the face.

In each round, two teams were given a prompt such as “name something that has the word super in it” or “name something people put on top of a salad.” These prompts had been sent out to students in a Google form before the event. The top four to eight answers from the survey were obscured on the game board and revealed

as participants guessed them correctly, with answers that were most frequently given awarded more points.

Each round started with a face-off in which one person from each team tried to guess the top answer. The teammates of the person who guessed the most popular answer then had the opportunity to guess the remaining answers one at a time. Guesses that were not on the game board caused the teams to gain a strike. After three strikes, the opposing team had the chance to guess and steal the points for the round.

The event was structured so that two teams of students competed against each other for two rounds. The team that earned the most points in total then competed against a team of six chemistry professors dressed in matching lab coats. The first bracket consisted of two teams of gen-

eral chemistry students, and the second bracket consisted of two teams of sophomores and juniors. Although the professors won against the sophomores and juniors, they failed to beat the general chemistry students.

The highlight of the event was when one team of seniors, distinguished by their matching blue shirts, faced off against the professors for three rounds. The winners of this portion of the competition could pie the losers in the face. Attracted to the event by the promise of pieing their professors, the seniors soon discovered that their confidence had been misplaced as the professors proved to be victorious.

After the seniors’ massive disappointment, spectators and competitors headed outside to watch the professors enjoy their winnings. Wearing trash bags to minimize the mess, the seniors

showed no resistance as the professors smushed paper plates of whipped cream in their faces.

Dr. Andrea Lee viewed the event as an opportunity to build community between students and professors. “In the buildup leading to the event, there was such a buzz about who would get to pie whom in the face between the seniors and the professors. I had the utmost confidence in our team of professors that we would pull out the win together,” Lee said.

Lee also enjoyed pieing the seniors, stating, “Getting to pie the seniors in the face has been one of my favorite memories as a professor so far. I made sure that I put extra whipped cream on the pies that I got to throw.”

According to Drew University Chemistry Society president Luisa Ospina (‘23), the event was inspired by the chemistry department’s “The

Price is Right” event earlier in the semester. “I wanted to do an event welcome to everyone while also giving the amazing chemistry department a chance to participate and compete in a fun way with their students. It was super fun seeing how excited the students team and the professors were,” Ospina said. She hopes that Drew University Chemistry Society will continue hosting this event in future years with the additional round of alumni competing against professors.

Make sure to follow @drewducs on Instagram for updates on more Drew University Chemistry Society events. Also be sure to attend STEM on the Field—a picnic and de-stress event co-hosted by Drew University Chemistry Society and Drew’s other STEM clubs—outside the Hall of Sciences on Tuesday, April 25 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BRIDGET WILLSON

Photo of the chemistry professors after winning against the seniors.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BRIDGET WILLSON

Seniors covered in whipped cream outside of Hall of Science.

Abigail is a first-year majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology



## Calendar of Events

### That Medieval Thing’s MedFest

Saturday, April 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the EC lawn

### La Casa Latina Earth Day House Meeting

Monday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. in front of La Casa (Townhouse 27)

### Civic Engagement Showcase and Awards

Tuesday, April 18 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the EC

### Insanity’s Horse Open Mic Night

Wednesday, April 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in The Space

### Insanity’s Horse Launch Party

Thursday, April 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Great Hall in S.W. Bowne

### Lavender Ceremony

Saturday, April 22 from 1 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in Crawford Hall

### Rites of Passage Ceremony

Saturday, April 22 from 2:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Crawford Hall

## Lead Editorial: Time Management is Crucial for Finals Season

### LEAD EDITORIAL

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

At this point in the semester, professors are letting students know what is expected of them for their finals. The final exams, essays and research papers can easily pile up and become overwhelming. However, there is a way to avoid the stress.

It is easy to underestimate the time needed for all of the studying, writing and researching needed for finals. So, it is important for students to manage their time during the last weeks of the semester to avoid cramming and mental breakdowns.

There are multiple methods to keep from procrastinating and there are ways for students to maximize their time. The first step

is to compare the due dates of assignments and times of the final exams. With the dates in mind, students can list their tasks in priority order of most to least urgent. Students should also consider which finals will be more difficult for them or which ones will take more time. Once students have all of the information about their finals, they can begin to plan.

According to simplilearn.com, one of the most important steps for good time management is breaking down the work into small tasks. This would include simply starting to think about the final assignments. Students should read the directions to their assignments or prompts to their essays and think about how they will approach their work. Starting brainstorming early without a stressed and overwhelmed mindset can be extremely

helpful. This will help visualize the whole task and make it more manageable.

It is important to start this process early. So, as soon as students receive the information for finals, they should start taking these steps to keep everything from piling up.

Students should begin to recognize when they are procrastinating and take steps to stop themselves from continuing. However, taking breaks is important so students should also recognize when they need a short break. It is important to balance the amount of work done in a day with the amount of time taken to rest every single day.

Students should not overwork themselves if they are feeling unwell mentally or physically, but they also should not put studying and work off until the

last minute. Procrastination usually doesn't involve any real relaxation. So, the time spent away from working and studying should be truly relaxing.

It is vital for students to take all the necessary steps to spread their workload out over the last few weeks of the semester. This will save them the headache of working for 24 hours straight trying to finish an essay or cram for their exam.

The work done over a spread amount of time will be more bountiful and stronger than the work done last minute. So, students need to think now and make a plan for finals season. Planning and staying on task are easier said than done, but students just need to stay mindful of their time and actions in order to do well without excessive stress.



IMAGE COURTESY OF TIMA MIROSHNICHENKO ON PEXELS  
A person picking up the phone with a clock on their head.

NOTE: The Lead Editorial reflects the collective opinion of the Drew Acorn's editorial board. All other opinion pieces represent solely the opinions of their respective authors.

## Drew University Needs a Sustainability Coordinator (Again)

ELISABETH SAUMERMAN  
COPY EDITOR

Over the past year, Drew University students have increasingly engaged with sustainability issues on campus. The undergraduate Student Government Roark-Lora administration created a Sustainability Committee to address sustainability issues according to a resolution passed Jan. 23, 2022.

Additionally, students have brought their concerns and plans to the Center for Civic Engagement to lead projects such as a campus climate rally and a Climate Change Teach-In. Drew also has active environmental advocates in the form of student organizations such as the Drew Environmental Action League and Drew Theological School's Transforming Environmental and Religious Resources for Action organization.

Most environmental and sustainability efforts on campus are organized by students. Prioritizing and promoting student voices on campus issues is never detrimental. However, students should not be expected to organize everything needed for environmental change on campus. Drew University needs a Sustainability Coordinator.

Drew previously had a Sustainability Coordinator; according to the Director of Facilities Stephanie McCormick, prior to 2010 the Sustainability Coordinator was part of the President's Office. In 2010, the Sustainability Coordinator was moved to the Facilities Management

Department, and then the Sustainability Coordinator left Drew in 2019 for other opportunities. The position has not been filled since due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and during the pandemic the responsibilities of the position were split between Facilities and Student Activities.

According to a job description from 2008, the Sustainability Coordinator was a full-time staff member who would "work under the direction of the University Sustainability Committee with various campus groups to help create, develop and enhance sustainability programs across the University to reduce the campus impact on the environment." The Sustainability Coordinator worked directly with students in many different ways, such as directing the EcoReps program (which was a group of work-study students who served as environmental community advisors for the residence halls) or investigating student waste.

Reintroducing the Sustainability Coordinator to Drew would help take some of the pressure for environmental action and change off of students. Although students would still need to hold the Sustainability Coordinator accountable, they would not be required to helm all of the environmental changes on campus.

Having a Sustainability Coordinator at Drew is an urgent, pressing issue, particularly when addressing the global climate crisis.

For instance, after a week of sessions, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change produced a report that warns that "Emissions need to go down now, and be cut by almost half by 2030" to avoid warming above 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Drew has a Climate Action Plan, which was developed and released in 2010 by the university's Sustainability Committee. The Sustainability Coordinator was a major part of this committee and provided invaluable guidance during the process. The report discusses how Drew "aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2035." Having a Sustainability Coordinator would aid in easing into an effective transition to carbon neutrality. Acting on climate change is beyond necessary.

According to a podcast interview, Drew President-Elect Hilary Link, in her previous presidency, helped Allegheny College become "one of the first 10 institutions of higher education to be declared carbon neutral." Link is passionate about campus environmental sustainability, and having a Sustainability Coordinator would help Drew accomplish a variety of campus sustainability goals under her leadership.

Having an institutional role for environmental sustainability is necessary, as it takes some pressure off of students who are acting on campus sustainability issues and helping efforts to make changes.

As a student environmental advocate, I am burnt

out and exhausted. While I have an amazing support network of others at Drew who are passionate about and engaging with campus environmental advocacy, student environmental advocates only have so much mental bandwidth. It is not sustainable for students to continually push for environmental action on campus.

I have been working with students, faculty, staff and administration over the past year to create an institutional structure that would administer and oversee a variety of environmental activities. This structure, the Sustainability Council, provides a way for students to be involved with and direct sustainability activities but does not shoulder them with the burden of

orchestrating every single change. It involves a variety of departments and offices around campus that would be in charge of sustainability goals in their specific areas.

This is one step closer to my long-term goal, which is reintroducing the Sustainability Coordinator. It is not sustainable, in the traditional sense, for students to always have to advocate for, plan and execute the changes they want to see on campus. Students need a Sustainability Coordinator to provide institutional support to accomplish environmental changes on campus.

Elisabeth Saumerman is a junior majoring in public health and minoring in anthropology and environmental justice.



IMAGE COURTESY OF ELIZABETH BLANK  
Drew students protesting.



# Book Review: “The Code Breaker” and the CRISPR Discovery

ABIGAIL GOLDMAN  
COPY EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

The discovery that CRISPR, a bacterial defense mechanism against viruses, could be used to edit human genes is one of the most significant scientific advancements of the last half-century. This breakthrough in biological research is credited to Jennifer Doudna, who was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work. Walter Isaacson’s book “The Code Breaker” chronicles Doudna’s immense contributions to the development of CRISPR as a gene-editing tool as well as the applications of this technology. The book’s narrative structure, accessible scientific explanations, compelling themes and thought-provoking questions about the future of humanity make it a worthwhile and informative read.

Inspired to become a scientist after reading James Watson’s “The Double Helix,” Doudna began her scientific career by researching RNA, which acts as an intermediary between DNA and proteins. After learning about CRISPR, which had been discovered in the 1990s, Doudna sought to determine how bacteria used the CRISPR system to destroy viral DNA sequences. Collaborating with Emmanuelle Charpentier (with whom Doudna shared the Nobel



IMAGE COURTESY OF POLINA TANKILEVITCH ON PEXELS

A gloved hand holding a test tube in a lab surrounded by other test tubes.

Prize), Doudna elucidated the functions of key CRISPR components and realized that CRISPR could also be used to edit human DNA. Doudna and Charpentier’s seminal 2012 paper explaining how CRISPR could be harnessed for gene editing in humans revolutionized the field of biotechnology.

In “The Code Breaker,” Isaacson examines the impact of Doudna’s work. He explores CRISPR’s therapeutic potential, particularly its use in developing diagnostic tools and treatments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Isaacson also details the damage that CRISPR has left in its wake, including the contentious patent battles between Doudna and her rival Feng Zhang and the birth of the first “CRISPR babies,” whose genomes had been edited by a rogue Chinese scientist.

Although “The Code Breaker” is a work of nonfic-

tion, the book has many narrative elements that keep the reader engaged. Isaacson’s meticulous research, detailed interviews and first-person account of certain events immerse the reader in the story of the development of CRISPR as a gene-editing tool. The inclusion of quotes from interviews with key figures in CRISPR research is particularly powerful and helps bring these individuals to life. The scientific explanations of CRISPR and its applications are accessible to those without an extensive knowledge of biology and do not distract from the narrative.

“The Code Breaker” also depicts intriguing themes such as the challenges faced by women in science. Isaacson draws parallels between the discriminatory treatment of Rosalind Franklin, who helped discover DNA’s structure in the 1950s, and the misogyny that Doudna

confronted as she pursued a career in science and later sought credit for her work on CRISPR. The development of CRISPR technology also illustrates the nature of scientific discovery itself, particularly the balance between competition and collaboration and the desire for fame.

What makes “The Code Breaker” a necessary read, however, is the questions it raises about using CRISPR for germline editing, or editing the genes of embryos so that the resulting individuals and all of their descendants will possess a desired trait from birth onward.

Should parents be allowed to prevent their children from inheriting a deadly genetic disease? What about making their children immune to viral infections? What about making them taller, stronger, more intelligent? What about giving them superhuman abilities? Who should be allowed to

answer these questions? Should we be tampering with human evolution at all?

“The Code Breaker” gives readers the necessary information to try to tackle these questions, which Isaacson purposely leaves open-ended. Addressing these issues now will help lay the groundwork for future ethical guidelines surrounding the use of germline editing, which will almost certainly become a common practice within the lifetimes of today’s young adults.

Of course, “The Code Breaker” is not without its flaws. Isaacson sometimes inserts his opinions into the book, which interrupts the flow of the narrative. The ending is also unnecessarily tidy and somewhat disappointing. However, one could argue that there is no perfect ending to this book given the ever-evolving nature of CRISPR research and the critical decisions that lie on the horizon. Ultimately, the future of CRISPR—and of humanity—lies in the hands of the book’s readers, who will one day choose whether or not to embrace gene-editing. This alone makes “The Code Breaker,” already a captivating book, required reading for those who wish to begin confronting the next step in human evolution.

Abigail Goldman is a first year majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology.

## Eye-Opening Jazz at Marjorie Eliot’s Parlor Entertainment Harlem

DEE COHEN  
PHOTOGRAPHER

I recently went to an eye-opening jazz performance in Harlem, New York thanks to the wonderful photography department and my professor, Richard Choi. The 555 Edgecombe Ave. apartment in Harlem may just seem like a beautifully articulated building to the ordinary eye, but on the third floor of the early 1900s old-style New York apartment lives a boisterous jazz fanatic, Marjorie Eliot.

For anyone that craves authentic jazz, the apartment is open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and accommodates 50 people. Eliot’s decor creates a universe with red-cushioned chairs lining the entrance hall and living space. Eager listeners face the back of the apartment where the ensemble of Eliot, her friends and her family play their instruments and sing their hearts out.

The joy they experience while performing is infectious. They make sure to sprinkle a little bit of themselves and their humor into every show, making the wait outside her apartment to be let in incredibly worth it.

Given the outstanding performance you are witnessing, it would be understandable to be worried about the price. Well, there is no need to worry, because it’s free. All you need to do to give back for the astounding performance is enjoy the tunes, clap when the performers are finished and tip the performers a few bucks when they come around with the tip bucket.

I believe that our generation has lost touch with the swinging music of the past. Jazz is not just a style of music but rather a creative outlet for emotional expression that can bring a variety of diverse groups together despite their differences. Kids need to be exposed to the roots of the music they hear today on the radio in order to understand where the culture from which the music originated. Jazz was a fundamental component in the creation of modern-day music. For instance, rock, pop and country music were heavily influenced by the 19th-century jazz boom.

It truly was an amazing and refreshing experience to encounter raw jazz in such an unlikely venue. Visiting

Marjorie Eliot’s Parlor Entertainment and listening to its exquisite combination of trumpet, vocals and piano has rekindled my adoration for the genre.

After more than ten years of performances, the idea for this outstanding concert in her own apartment came from Eliot herself in memory of the death of three of her four sons. She hopes that by letting strangers enter her home and join together in clapping and singing along to both familiar and foreign songs, she can create a family between frequent visitors.

During the latter half of the performance, Eliot spoke about the meaning behind the creation of Parlor Entertainment and the personal importance of the community it has built. “I’m not alone. I’m not alone. This vast family, it’s holding me. I am filled with so much love for you,” Eliot said.

Eliot opens the door to her house and her heart as she lets people in with the utmost hospitality, offering scrumptious snacks and drinks during the performances. She treats every guest that enters the threshold of her small, homely apartment like her

own children. Everybody needs that second home away from home that will welcome indiscriminately with wide open arms.

My time at Eliot’s was heartwarming, and I felt like I belonged in a place I had never before visited. For any musical or lyrical nerd like me who adores a bopping jam along with catchy lyrics, Marjorie Eliot’s Parlor Entertainment is the place to visit. Whether you grew up a jazz kid, only recently discovered your love for it or have never even

it is undeniable that jazz created an entire culture that needs to be more thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Drew students need to reconnect with their roots as innately musical creatures. I mean, why else would you be at a liberal arts college? So I urge you to empty your Sunday schedule, travel down to 555 Edgecombe Ave., and reconnect with jazz in the Marjorie Eliot way.

Dee Cohen is majoring in English and minoring in French.



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Trumpet player at Marjorie Eliot’s Parlor.

# End of Semester Word Search

## End of Semester!!!

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

R	Y	R	B	N	B	J	K	N	L	Z	T	V	Y	F
M	R	L	H	J	X	R	L	Y	E	W	Q	Y	I	K
A	F	E	J	L	O	R	R	Z	W	E	T	N	Z	X
S	B	L	P	I	E	S	S	H	S	R	A	F	H	H
T	Q	L	N	M	U	N	R	E	R	L	V	C	C	K
E	G	E	M	O	N	O	O	R	S	W	W	A	N	J
R	S	U	Y	H	V	I	L	G	F	H	E	M	A	X
S	S	C	M	M	P	T	E	Z	C	B	M	C	V	L
T	K	N	I	I	H	A	H	S	I	S	E	H	T	Y
N	F	T	Y	B	N	C	C	P	W	H	E	Z	F	Y
H	W	T	M	O	G	A	A	V	A	C	J	L	L	M
S	L	O	Y	E	C	V	B	Q	Q	C	A	N	O	H
S	Q	I	G	N	H	N	E	L	E	E	R	G	E	D
I	D	A	G	R	A	D	U	A	T	E	X	P	G	P
O	Z	R	E	P	A	P	U	S	J	A	J	W	V	P

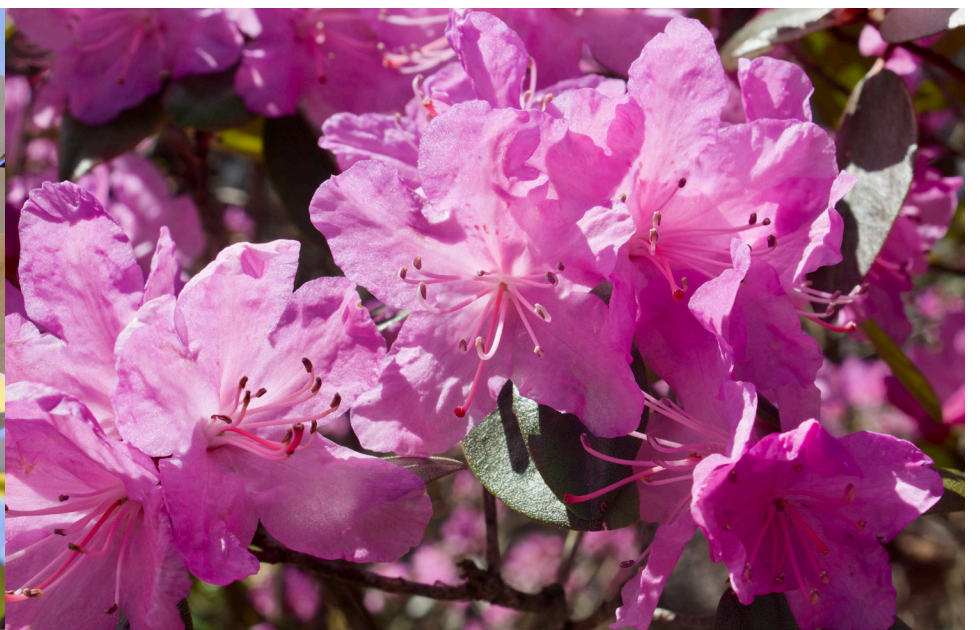
### Word Bank

- |            |              |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. gown    | 5. bachelors | 9. senior    | 13. graduate |
| 2. masters | 6. thesis    | 10. degree   |              |
| 3. cap     | 7. summer    | 11. paper    |              |
| 4. finals  | 8. beach     | 12. vacation |              |

# Spring Photo Story

## GET FEATURED:

If you are interested in contributing art (comics, illustrations or photography) for The Drew Acorn, please contact us at [thedrewacorn@gmail.com](mailto:thedrewacorn@gmail.com)



Photos courtesy of Dee Cohen

# Women's Lacrosse Cruises to Victory Against Goucher College

CHARLOTTE WELLS  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The Rangers celebrated two victories for the women's lacrosse team on April 7, as the team cruised to an easy 19-2 win over Goucher College's Gophers with Jenna Draney ('23) scoring her 100th career point that same night.

Drew was quick to establish dominance on the field, scoring five back-to-back goals within the first few minutes of the game before Goucher was able to make their first goal. The Gophers managed to secure two goals for themselves during the first quarter but could not hold a torch to the Rangers' scoring prowess; the quarter ended 11-2 in Drew's favor.

Unfortunately for Goucher, this was the closest the game ever got; the Gophers did not make another goal for the remainder of the game.

Despite their clear lead, Drew did not hold back from making a strong statement on the field as they continued to widen the gap between the Rangers and the Gophers, with the Goucher's defense proving to be no match for the Rangers' top scorers of the game. By halftime, Drew was winning 15-2.

Leading the way for the Rangers on the field was Draney, who scored four goals over the course of the game. She contributed an impressive three goals in the third quarter alone, with her final goal of the night being



Photo of Women's Lacrosse teams moving downfield after timeout.

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE WELLS

the one to earn her the milestone of 100 career points.

Also helping the Rangers to secure their victory against Goucher was Lizzy Barrett ('24), who scored four goals as well as causing three turnovers to aid the Rangers, and Emma DiPatri ('24), who posted three goals and one assist.

The Rangers' win over the Gophers put them at a 7-5 overall season record and a 2-1 game record within the Landmark Conference.

The Rangers faced the University of Scranton this past Wednesday, losing to the Royals 20-6, and will take on rival Catholic Uni-

versity in Washington, DC on Saturday.

Charlotte Wells is a junior majoring in English and French and minoring in humanities.



Photo of Drew Rangers huddling during defensive timeout.

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE WELLS



Photo of Jenna Draney ('23).

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHRIS PADOTA

# Injury Prevention Should Be A Top Priority for Student-Athletes

CHARLOTTE WELLS  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Many student-athletes who have been involved in sports for an extended period of time have experienced a sports-related injury at some point in their athletic career, or have friends and teammates who have been injured.

While some injuries are unavoidable, such as those sustained due to a collision on the field or landing wrong during a practice or competition, many sports-related injuries can be prevented if proper care is taken during training.

Head Athletic Trainer Chris Ryan, who has been leading Drew University's athletic training department for 22 years, discussed the importance of practicing injury prevention in athletes' routines, describing it as one of the key domains of the athletic training profession.

According to Ryan, the cardinal rule of sports and athletic training is the progressive overload principle, which essentially states that the best and safest way to increase and improve one's training is by gradually building up over time.

"My biggest probably pet peeve would be a lot like when a student-athlete...

[does] too much too soon. They're not consistent with their training and they kind of break the overload principle," Ryan said.

It is essential to have a solid foundation on which to build before an athlete can begin slowly increasing their training, whether that is in the form of lifting heavier weights or running longer distances.

This is especially true for freshman athletes; coming in their first year, they often are not as aware of the need to practice injury prevention and are not as prepared for the switch from high school to college sports regimes in terms of intensity.

Although each sport is different and will cause different types of injuries, there are general steps that athletes across all sports can take to help prevent injuries.

One of the greatest factors in ensuring injury prevention is recovery.

"If you go hard a couple of days, you need an easy recovery day just to give your body some rest," Ryan said, discussing the importance of recovery in athletic training.

Recovery is especially crucial when it comes to avoiding overuse injuries, as constant exercise and training will wear the body down without giving it the

necessary time it needs to repair itself.

"Every time when you're training, you're kind of breaking down your tissue, right, you got microtears in your muscles," Ryan said. Eventually, these microtears will worsen and prevent athletes from training as well as they normally would without proper recovery time.

"Athletes tend to feel a little bit stronger when they get that day or two of rest," Ryan said.

Mental recovery is also a key part of injury prevention for student-athletes; Ryan described how mental fatigue can place athletes at greater risk of overuse injuries or pushing themselves too far and how sometimes a mental break from training is needed to fully recover.

Ryan went on to discuss how important good nutrition is in preventing injuries as well; it helps provide the body with everything it needs to generate energy and recover from muscle exertion.

Unfortunately, many student-athletes fail to maintain proper nutrition.

It is easy, particularly as a student-athlete in college, to end up skipping a meal or not eating the right foods to sustain one's body during sports practice.



Photo of Chris Ryan.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM

"We always talk about food is fuel; it's gas, man," Ryan said, reiterating the importance of nutrition in injury prevention.

Aside from taking steps to prevent injuries in the first place, there are also clues that suggest that athletes may be overdoing it in their training.

The most obvious would be any pain in the body that starts while training, but athletes may also be pushing themselves too far if they feel themselves becoming tired more easily or are suddenly unable to perform at their usual level.

For example, if an athlete finds themselves unable to run as fast as normal or cannot lift as much weight as

usual, they are likely overexerting themselves and are at a greater risk of an overuse injury.

Ryan explained that another way to recognize the possibility of overuse is if an athlete's resting heart rate is higher than usual; he said that when you are in good physical condition, your resting heart rate will be lower.

Returning to the overall importance of injury prevention and how to keep yourself in the best condition possible to participate in your sport, Ryan had one final key take away: listen to your body.

Charlotte Wells is a junior majoring in English and French and minoring in humanities.

**COMING UP**  
 Get live stats  
 @GoDrewRangers

Friday 14-- BB vs Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA

Saturday 15-- WLAX vs Catholic University, Washington, DC

Sunday 16-- MTEN vs The College of New Jersey, Madison, NJ

Tuesday 18-- SB vs Stevens, Madison, NJ

# SPORTS

**INSIDE:**

Why Injury Prevention Should Be a Top Priority for Student-Athletes

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CO-EDITOR: CHARLOTTE WELLS CWELLS@DREW.EDU  
 CO-EDITOR: BRANDON DENNIS BDENNIS1@DREW.EDU

## Drew Rangers Celebrate DIII Week with Series of Games & Competitions

CHARLOTTE WELLS  
 SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Every spring, Drew's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee plans a week-long series of events and activities to celebrate Division III Week, a national event created by the NCAA to honor student-athletes and build awareness of and support for Division III athletics.

This year's D3 Week started on April 10 and continues until April 16 with a multitude of opportunities to participate in the events planned by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Sam Trodick ('25), one of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representatives for the women's Swimming & Diving team, explained the importance of D3 week for the Rangers and how it is relevant to the rest of Drew University.

"SAAC plans a D3 week every year to celebrate the student-athletes and all of what they do throughout the year, and kind of give them a week where they can have fun and not think about the sports that they have to do in their season or their off-season, or any academics they have as well," said Trodick.

The week kicked off with a focus on mental health among student-athletes; for a few hours, students could take a break from the busyness of school to hang out with therapy dogs by the Simon Forum.

The theme of mental health continued with a game of Jeopardy in Crawford Hall Monday evening. This event was co-hosted by Drew's Counseling Center, and participants had the opportunity to win prizes.

Tuesday's main event is a favorite among stu-



Photo of Gio DeGiglio at Pie Your Coach.

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE WELLS

dent-athletes every year: the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee organized a Pie Your Coach event outside of the Ehinger Center, where athletes could pay a few dollars in return for getting to pie their coaches with a plate of whipped cream.

The Pie Your Coach event drew such a turnout that the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representatives running the table ran out of supplies, forcing them to end the event earlier than planned.

An evening Tug of War tournament sparked a battle between the classes, as each team tried to outdo the others in the Baldwin Gym Tuesday night.

Wednesday's events saw a continuation of the battle between the class years with the Change Wars. From 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., student-athletes could donate coins to their class's jar in the Ehinger Center or deduct coins from other classes; the class with the highest number of coins won the war.

Wednesday night's festivities featured another chance to win prizes with a large game of bingo being hosted in Crawford Hall.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee also organized a white-out theme for the women's lacrosse game against Scranton Wednesday afternoon, as it was one of their Ranger Nation games. These games are designated Ranger Nation by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee in an

effort to get more athletes and teams to come out and support their fellow Rangers.

A Giralda clean up was organized for Thursday in an effort to help give back to the surrounding community.

Friday's festivities include a Drew Spirit Day, for which student-athletes are encouraged to wear Drew gear and send photos to @drewsaac on Instagram, and an afternoon game of kickball for everyone to have some fun outside and enjoy the nice weather.

To round out D3 Week, Saturday will feature a Landmark Conference Instagram takeover by members of the different sports teams, as well as several home games for the Rangers; tennis, men's lacrosse and softball will all be competing throughout the day.

Participating in D3 Week allows student-athletes to take a break from the stress of school and sports and have a little fun with their friends while also helping to raise money for future events.

"My favorite thing from D3 Week is Pie Your Coach because we get to put plates of whipped cream in our coach's face so that's a lot of fun, and the money goes towards the foundation that we're profiting towards and half towards SAAC so we can have more fun events," Trodick said.

A portion of the money collected from these events goes to the Taubstrong Foundation, which focuses

on raising money to help fight pediatric brain cancer. Each of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's fundraisers this year have gone towards aiding this foundation.

Since one of the main aims of D3 Week is to raise awareness for Division III athletics and increase support from others, a common focus throughout D3 week is highlighting why student-athletes chose to attend a Division III school.

As part of the national celebration of D3 Week, each of the schools within the Landmark Conference share posts and videos from their athletes explaining why they decided to attend and compete at the Division III level, contributing to the overarching #whyD3.

Genevieve Sarinelli ('25), a member of Drew's women's volleyball team, shared her own perspective on why she chose a Division III school.

"I decided to go D3 for the academics and flexibility with scheduling," Sarinelli said.

Overall, the events and activities hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee throughout the week recognize the hard work put in by Drew's student-athletes and increase appreciation for Division III athletics in general, providing Drew with a way to celebrate their athletes.

Charlotte Wells is a junior majoring in English and French and minoring in humanities..



Photo of Sam Trodick ('25).

Thank you for reading.

Please Recycle!

