



Friday, Dec. 8, 2023

MADISON, NEW JERSEY

VOL. 96, No. 7

RANGER UPDATES

3



NEWS:
Student Government Presidential Debate
Read about the interview for Student Government President and Vice President.

6



STUDENT LIFE:
Fiber Arts at Drew Year in Review

Learn about all of Fiber Arts at Drew's activities from over the course of the semester.

OPINIONS:

7

Internet Outage Disrupts Students

University Technology's planned internet outage posed a problem for students and their work

SPORTS:

12

Swim and Dive Team Invitational

Drew dominated and broke records at the invitationals

INSIDE

NEWS.....	2
S. LIFE + ARTS.....	4
OPINIONS.....	7
DIVERSIONS.....	10
SPORTS.....	11

President Link Sets New Precedent For Student Engagement

ANNABELLE SMITH
WEBMASTER AND STAFF

Although President Hilary Link only joined the Drew community this past July, she has made it abundantly clear just how invested she is in fully integrating herself. Students have not only seen, but spoken with her at a multitude of gatherings across a wide range of contexts. From athletic events to club activities to even the annual Commons Thanksgiving celebration, Link has shown her dedication to forming a relationship with Drew students.

"Being on campus is the thing that brings me the most joy," President Link said when asked about her interest in student engagement, "getting to meet the students where they're at." Although the conversation addressed a variety of hot-button issues, the focal point was to communicate Link's main goals for the Drew community.

Link has begun the consultation process of analyzing—through student and

staff focus groups—the issues most dire to Drew's current state. The intent of the consultation project, which will conclude in January, is to compile a concise, five-year plan on how these issues can be tackled. The inclusion of each step's financial price is crucial for this plan.

"I didn't want it to be 'here are all the amazing things we could do,'" Link explained. "We're trying to be very focused on financial sustainability so that we know that, into the future, we have the resources to invest in the infrastructure... whatever we decide to do will be financially viable now."

Drew students, from first-years to seniors, can understand the importance of weighing each step's financial impact. Drew has long been struggling with financial instability, a problem which Link seems most intent to stabilize.

Her second focus is going to be on properly establishing, in her words, what Drew is as a university. "What defines us?" she asked.

Link seems particularly interested in better integration of the three schools which exist on campus: undergraduate, graduate and theological. Although interaction between the three does occur, its occasionality leaves a connection perhaps waiting to be properly established.

"For the potential advantage of our undergraduate students," she said. "Here's an idea: to be able to say 'okay, I got my undergrad degree in sociology'—and I want to get my masters in divinity. You can combine those things here."

CONT. IN PRESIDENT PG. 3



Drew University President Hilary Link

IMAGE COURTESY OF LINKEDIN

Drew Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: Escaping Japanese Internment

JOCELYN FREEMAN
STAFF WRITER

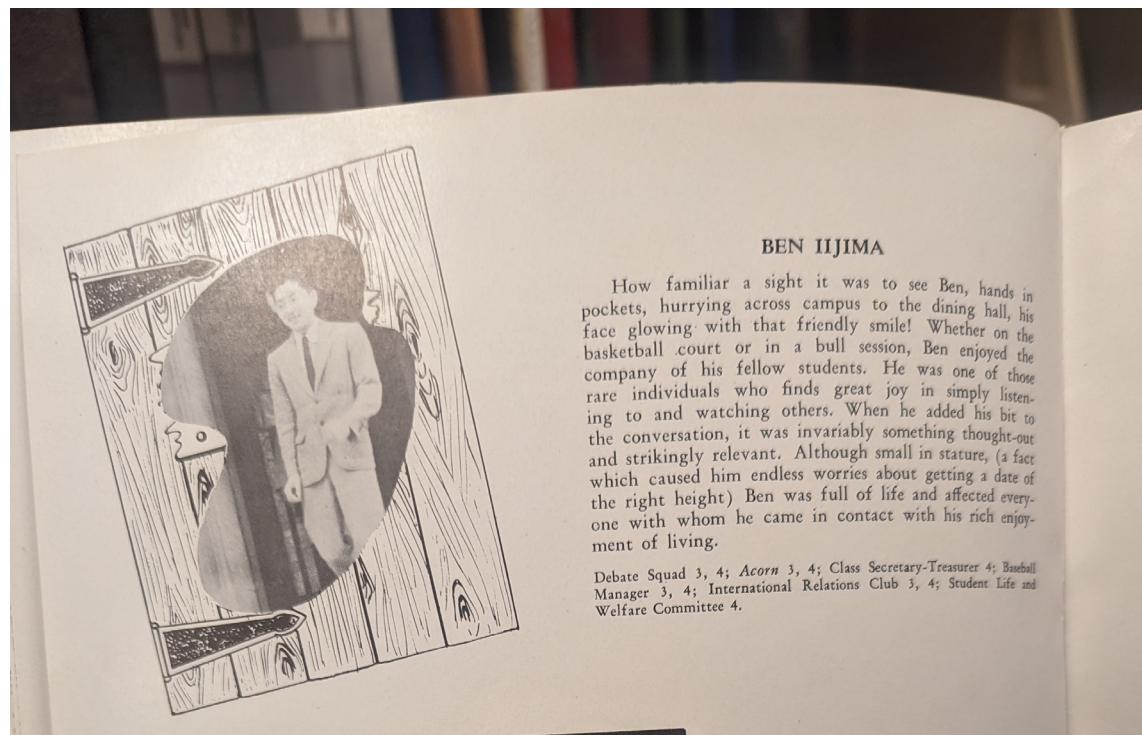
On December 8, 1941, in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed the American public, famously declaring the day as "a date that will live in infamy." The attack on Pearl Harbor launched the U.S. into the global conflict of WWII and sparked an intensifying of racial tensions on American soil. This war

time hysteria hit Japanese-American communities particularly hard. In February of 1942, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, calling for the removal of anyone with Japanese ancestry from the West Coast of the U.S. due to paranoia surrounding potential espionage. As a result, over 120,000 people were forcibly removed from their communities, typically getting less than 24 hours to make arrangements regard-

ing their property. Thousands lost their jobs, homes and businesses, and within weeks the Japanese-Americans of the west coast were relocated to 10 internment camps in isolated regions of the western and southern U.S. to sit out the remainder of the war.

This story, while seemingly distant from our home here at Drew University, has an interesting connection to our history. In 1943, six

Japanese American students arrived at Drew from internment camps out West. According to The Oak Leaves, the student-produced yearbook, in conjunction with the student-published Drew Acorn, Ben Nobutaka Iijima (C '44), Dr. John Kikuchi (C'44), Dr. Albert Kazuye Mineta (C '44), Sayoko Nakata (C '44), Sumiko Kobayashi (C '46) and Tom Tomihiro (unable to graduate) made their way to Drew from internment camps in the American West. Their story is one of perseverance in working towards their education, despite the obstacles that their own government placed in front of them, and is important to understanding the human impact of WWII.



Ben Iijima in The Oak Leaves

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE OAK LEAVES

BEN IIJIMA

How familiar a sight it was to see Ben, hands in pockets, hurrying across campus to the dining hall, his face glowing with that friendly smile! Whether on the basketball court or in a bull session, Ben enjoyed the company of his fellow students. He was one of those rare individuals who finds great joy in simply listening to and watching others. When he added his bit to the conversation, it was invariably something thought-out and strikingly relevant. Although small in stature, (a factor which caused him endless worries about getting a date of the right height) Ben was full of life and affected everyone with whom he came in contact with his rich enjoyment of living.

Debate Squad 3, 4; Acorn 3, 4; Class Secretary-Treasurer 4; Baseball Manager 3, 4; International Relations Club 3, 4; Student Life and Welfare Committee 4.



CONT. IN DYTG PG. 5

GOT A NEWS TIP?

Email theacorn@drew.edu and let us know!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I think it's really fun. I didn't know that we had a Fiber Arts Club until now, so it provides exposure for both clubs and we meet people...”
—Maura Kelly ('24) SEE DREW, PG 6

We're Nuts for our Website!
www.thedrewacorn.com

EXECUTIVE
theacorn@drew.edu

NICOLE SYDOR
Editor-in-Chief
nsydor@drew.edu

EDITORIAL

SIERRA WALKER
News Editor

TEDDY DROAR
Student Life & Arts Editor

EMILY PIECZYRAK
Opinions Editor

CHARLOTTE WELLS
Co-Sports Editor

BRANDON DENNIS
Co-Sports Editor

ELIZABETH BLANK
Chief Photographer

OLLIE ARNOLD
Copy Desk Chief

GRAPHICS

ANNABELLE SMITH
Cartoonist and Webmaster

CHLOE GOCHER
Copy Editor and
Webmaster

DEE COHEN
Photographer



POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

Assistant Section Editors
Copy 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.

The Drew Acorn is a weekly newspaper run and published by Drew University students. The Drew Acorn publishes on a weekly basis on Fridays during the fall and spring semesters, with exceptions for examination periods and University closings.

The Drew Acorn is a member of the New Jersey Collegiate Press, Associated Collegiate Press and Student Press Law Center.

114 McLendon Hall
36 Madison Ave.
Madison, N.J. 07940

2 NEWS

Student Government Presidential Debate Turns Interview

KATIE CARMICHAEL
STAFF WRITER AND COPY EDITOR

This year's student government presidential debate transformed into an interview with the single presidential candidate, Brazil Brown ('26). On Thursday, Dec. 6, The Acorn and Election Chair Joshua Bach ('27) facilitated an opportunity for students to learn more about their student government presidential candidates. Acorn Editor-in-Chief Nicole Sydor ('24) and News Editor Sierra Walker ('25) co-moderated questions generated by Acorn members and the community.

Typically, the debate allows candidates to answer questions to inform the student body of their stances. This allows student voters to make an informed decision about who they want to represent the voice of the student body. In the 2023 election, Brown is currently running uncontested alongside her vice president, Julia Satola ('26), who was unable to attend the event.

Brown introduced herself as a media and communications and business major who has served as freshman and sophomore senator, and she introduced Satola as a history and philosophy major who is trilingual and very organized.

The facilitators then asked Brown to state her

campaign's mission. "My mission is to restore student government as a powerhouse on campus," said Brown, "StuGov was created to be a voice for students, and it can't be a voice on campus if it's just another club."

Brown was asked questions regarding her experiences and qualifications, her intentions for the future and her approach to certain issues around campus.

Brown explained, "I've been involved in student government since I stepped onto campus freshman year." Both Brown and Satola feel prepared to take on their respective roles. Brown also explained that she feels fit for the role of president: "I am not afraid of controversy. I'm not afraid to take a stand. I will try my best to do the best for the public, not just individuals." She noted that she is outspoken, opinionated and direct, and she refuses to take no for an answer, traits she considers necessary for the role.

Brown would like to establish a student census so that the administration has data that will represent what Drew students care about. She would also like to address the division across campus between student groups.

Brown distinguished how her administration will differ from Drew's current governance, saying, "The current administration

HAVE A NEWS TIP?

Email News Editor **SIERRA WALKER** at swalker1@drew.edu

doesn't realize the power they have on the campus. They didn't really make any big moves on campus, and they didn't really have anything they wanted to do, and planning-wise there wasn't any of that. I want to add more events and more advertising...making sure people know what we do."

Another goal of Brown's is to create better third spaces at Drew. "Drew has a lot of third spaces in the dorms, but not a lot of effort is put into them," said Brown. "After eight there's nothing to do on campus."

Following a short break, the floor was opened to students to voice their questions and concerns. Brown answered many of the student questions by directing the students to the applicable department or organization.

Matt Agudelo ('24) attended the event and spoke about why he thought the presidential debate is an important event on campus, saying, "I do think it's helpful because it gives students

an insight on what the goals of the student body president is, and these types of meetings are necessary to bridge that gap between student body leaders and administrators."

Agudelo added, "It definitely is unfortunate that there's only one candidate running. You would ideally want more than one running because it would create motivation and incentive for the leaders running to involve themselves and have tangible goals."

Bach closed the event by reminding everyone of the importance of hearing from our student leaders and being involved in elections even if there is only one candidate. He also reminded everyone to vote.

Be sure to vote on the Path from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 8. Results will be announced that night at 8:30 p.m.

Katie Carmichael is a junior majoring in English with an emphasis in creative writing and minoring in teaching



Students watch the presidential debate.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE CARMICHAEL

Bite-Sized Politics: Unwrapping the PSCI/IR Department

SHANNON THOMA
STAFF WRITER AND COPY EDITOR

The Political Science/International Relations annual bake-off invited political science, international relations and law, justice and society majors and minors to the pub this past Wednesday for a department-wide competition to determine which faculty member can bake the best dessert.

To vote, the students taste tested each treat, so having enough servings is a crucial factor for winning. Students each voted for their favorite dessert, all of which were anonymously submitted by staff. The importance of anonymity is no joke, and all of the faculty were serious about keeping their submissions secret.

After students voted anonymously for the best dessert, the chair of the political science department, Professor Jason Jordan announced the student raffle winners and the results of the competition.

Picking from a hat, the political science department first gave away a stuffed unicorn complete with its own

Drew hoodie, followed by a pack of 3-ply Drew tissues (just in time for finals), and then the hat itself (still filled with the remaining tickets—the winner of the hat is in charge of recycling them).

Then came the competition results. In sixth place came administrative assistant Lydia Feldman with her scrumptious chocolate cake, complete with rainbow sprinkles. Then in fifth, Professor Chelsea Ebin with brookies.

Fourth place went to the tiramisu baked by Professor

Phoebe Tang. Second and third nearly tied, with Professor Patrick McGuinn narrowly beating out Professor Timothy Carter's brownies with delicious cake pops.

Taking home the win and the coveted squirrel trophy was Professor Jason Jordan with his tangy lemon bars. "This proves democracy works after all: Professor Jordan, me, the guy that counted the votes..." said Jordan.

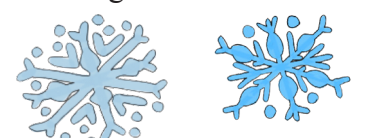
When asked about the bake-off, Luiza Vaskys Lima ('25), an international rela-

tions student and winner of the Drew-nicorn, answered, "This was my fourth bake-off, I think. I really enjoy this event and try to attend it every time!"

Vaskys Lima added, "As an IR student, it is great to connect and reconnect with other people in the department, including the professors. It is a great opportunity to talk about the different programs offered and ask about the IR-related experiences the other students have been having during the semester. And the food is usually pretty good! I voted for the winner, lemon stick, so I am pretty proud!"

Overall, the department saw a decent turnout, filling the Pub with students across disciplines. The desserts were good, the conversation perhaps even better, and the company unbeatable.

Only criticisms for next year? Bigger servings and some to-go boxes.



Shannon Thoma is a senior majoring in English literature and political science.



Professor Jordan standing with the squirrel trophy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON THOMA

The Drew Music Department Hosts Community-Building Concert

SHANNON THOMA
STAFF WRITER AND COPY EDITOR

The music department has always been a place of acceptance, inclusion and inspiration for musicians of all ages. Closing out the fall term, the music department ended another successful semester showcasing musical talent at Drew.

Friday kicked off with Music After Noon, an event showcasing the talent of students taking Drew's vocal and instrumental lessons. The event, previously called Music At Noon, is now held at 3 p.m. to be more accessible and accommodating to individuals' schedules.

Drew's Choral Union and Chorale held their concert on Saturday night. Both are soprano, alto, tenor and bass groups that feature both men and women. Choral Union features Drew students as well as community members while Chorale is a smaller auditioned ensemble.

As Professor Sarah Michal, the choirs' conductor, said during the concert, "Choral Union is open to everybody, everybody. Students who don't want to audition, faculty members, staff, members of the community...If you're free on



Singer performing in the Drew concert hall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Tuesday nights, this chorus is open for you!"

She added, "I believe deeply that if you can talk, you can sing."

The choirs were accompanied by guest violinist Professor Michael Avagliano (who typically plays in Drew's orchestra) and pianist Robert Colby-Witanek.

Sunday saw the most traffic throughout the Drew Concert Hall. At 3 p.m. the Drew University Flute Ensemble performed. Then at 7:30 p.m., the Drew Orchestra played, performing works such as music from "The Nutcracker."

Drew's Orchestra practices as a class but is also

home to community members in addition to Drew students. The Orchestra features many types of musicians including the strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion sections.

"The orchestra is a place to feel at home," said cellist Jason Velder ('25). "It is a place where we can casually play our instruments comfortably. No need to be a music major!"

The music groups at Drew welcome music majors, musicians not majoring or minoring in music and even those not attending Drew at all. After all, Drew promotes the message that music is for all.

At 7 p.m. on Monday, the Concert Hall premiered Drew composers Joey Best ('24), Rachel Cabrera ('25), Jenni Grafilo ('25), Kristy Hand ('25), Brynn McCarthy ('25), Josh Soiferman ('25) and Zhaoyi Yue ('26). Under the direction of Dr. Trevor Weston, these students from the MUS 260: Music Composition class composed various pieces in preparation for this showcase.

The concert was divided into two parts and featured a reception afterward. First came the world premiere of the choral works of Drew composers, sung by the professional choir

group Convoco. Following this, Convoco performed various pieces composed by ensemble members.

Hand, who is a soprano in Choral Union and Chorale as well as one of the featured composers this week, praised the Drew music community. "The music community is relatively small, so almost all of the music majors/minors know each other," she said. "And it's awesome because you have a friend in almost every class. It is also really welcoming, so any music subject you take part in, people will talk to you."

Lastly, on Wednesday, the jazz ensemble performed at 7 p.m.

As Professor Sarah Michal stated at Saturday's concert, "I believe that making music together in a community is the way to make the world a better place...this is what I love, so this is what I do; and this is what we love, this is what we do."

Music is meant for everyone. And at Drew, if music is your passion, you have a home here within the Drew music department.



Shannon Thoma is a senior majoring in English literature and political science.

President Link Wants to Increase Engagement at Drew

CONT. FROM PRESIDENT, PG 1

Her third focus lies more in Drew's relationship with Madison. Similar to the university's financial stability, its connection to Madison has become strained over a series of miscommunica-

tions and debate - particularly about Drew's Forest.

Link is seeking to eliminate this antagonism and allow for a more beneficial, equal relationship to form in its place. "Historically there had always been a pretty good collaboration between

Madison and Drew. This unfortunately faded away during the pandemic..."

A strengthening of this relationship includes establishing Drew as an academic hub for those outside its campus population. "What could Drew be as a learning

hub for people throughout their whole lifetime? For people who never went to Drew? Are there locals who might want to come back and do skill retraining - a certificate program, etcetera...how can we think broadly about new types of students and

new types of partnerships so that we can be a place people locally look to to educate and engage themselves..."

Annabelle Smith is a sophomore majoring in studio arts.

Student Government Speaks On Strategic Planning During Meeting

ROSALIE SAPPERSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Nov. 29 marked the last Senate meeting for the fall semester. As a result, the Senate prefaced their typical meeting schedule to express appreciation for the contributions each member has made to their constituents and highlight hopes for future contributions.

In preparation for the next semester, the Senate discussed plans for next term. Specifically, Chief of Staff Elizabeth Sauerman ('24) informed her fellow senators that all of the board representatives for several on-campus student body organizations associated with all three Drew schools had been invited to a strategic planning meeting with President Hilary Link and Drew's strategic planner. The purpose of this meeting was to proactively invite student representatives to discuss their hopes and insights about the future of the university.

Vice President Jocelyn Freeman ('25) shared her

sentiments that while she would be less directly involved with the Senate in the future, she still wants to provide guidance for Senate members.

As for the Student Concerns and Compliments portion of the meeting, Kibel stated that there are not enough trainers on campus, leaving athletes ill-equipped to properly manage injuries. "Multiple athletes have been just grinding out their injuries and/or aches and pains that aren't natural instead of going to see the trainer," Kibel said. Kibel proposed hiring another trainer to combat delays in physical health assistance and access.

Frank Mercx, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Campus Life at Drew University, had this to say about Drew's athletic department: "We use the NATA (National Athletic Trainers' Association) tool for how we go ahead and staff our athletic training department, and we're more than in compliance with national medical standards."

The Social Responsibility Committee's representatives were in attendance to introduce their organization to the Senate. Co-chairs Amineh Al-Aydi ('25) and Marianela Piña De La Hoz ('25) stated the goals of the committee: "Essentially, the Social Responsibility Committee hopes to work with the school to have conversations, have a better investment plan that reflects the values of the school and the Drew community and students."

The committee also outlined their future plans. "We hope to work for students to have bigger representation where the school's endowment fund [is concerned]," said Al-Aydi. They provided a petition to increase institutional transparency, which would allow the Drew community to see where Drew aligns its involvement.

Al-Aydi expressed concern about Drew's ethical practices, claiming that research has found that universities across the country have financial investments

in controversial companies that have been complicit in environmentally destructive behaviors or contradict the values of Drew's Students for Justice in Palestine.

"We actually have no idea what the school's invested in that's unethical. We don't even know where to start," Al-Aydi said about the lack of access Drew's populace has to Drew's financial activities. "But we'd love to begin these conversations somewhere, to have a starting point, to start talking about 'what are we investing in?'"

When reached for comment, the two co-heads had this to say about achieving communication between Drew and its populace in the future: "As student body representatives, our aim for the Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) is to forge a strong and respectful relationship with the university's administration and board of trustees. Our overarching objective is to collaboratively engage with the school's decision-makers, evaluating



Student government seal. PHOTO COURTESY OF DREWSTUGOV ON FACEBOOK

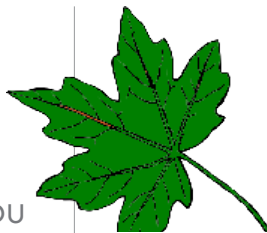
and proposing guidelines for the university's affiliations with entities that may not align with Drew University's community standards and values. We also strive to align the school's internal practices with the sentiments of the broader Drew University community."



Rosie Sapperstein is a senior double majoring in English literature and media and communications.

STUDENT 4 LIFE+ARTS

SECTION EDITOR: TEDDY DROAR | EMAIL: TDROAR@DREW.EDU



Learn how Fiber Arts at Drew members hone their crocheting, sewing and embroidering skills!

PAGE 6

Jumping Into The Age of Aquarius With WMNJ

JULIANNA VEHSLAGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the pandemic, Drew University's radio station, WMNJ, suffered a great fall, much like many other sacred things—Humpy Dumpty, the Roman Empire or my sanity after listening to eight hours' worth of "Five Nights At Freddy's" lore. In order to recover, WMNJ has attracted Drew University's students with the vivacity of their new bi-monthly event: Fridays with WMNJ.

This Friday, WMNJ celebrated the Age of Aquarius by hosting a viewing of the movie "Hair: The Musical." The station was vibrantly decorated with purple string lights while students sat on couches, immersed in the excitement of the music.

"Hair: The Musical" dives into the counterculture of the hippie movement of the '60s, celebrated with the song "Aquarius" by the 5th Dimension. Different astrological ages are said to have different associations, such as the Piscean Age marking the beginning of modernization; according to astrolo-

gists, we are just now entering the Age of Aquarius. In the musical, the Age of Aquarius represents ideas of togetherness and a conscious shift from independence to unity, a transition from "me" to "we."

Griffin Harris ('24), station manager of WMNJ, helps host Fridays With WMNJ. "My favorite part is the ending. 'Hair' is the hippie movement versus the backdrop of the Vietnam War, and the final scene is gut-wrenching with a beautiful song," said Harris. "It's really tubular, man."

The event takes place in the radio station every other Friday, and it typically follows a preplanned theme. While this weekend's theme was "Hair: The Musical," past themes have included "Friday the 13th," in which the station was stained with fake blood and decorated with spiderwebs as the shrill sound of "Thriller" by Michael Jackson beat against the walls.

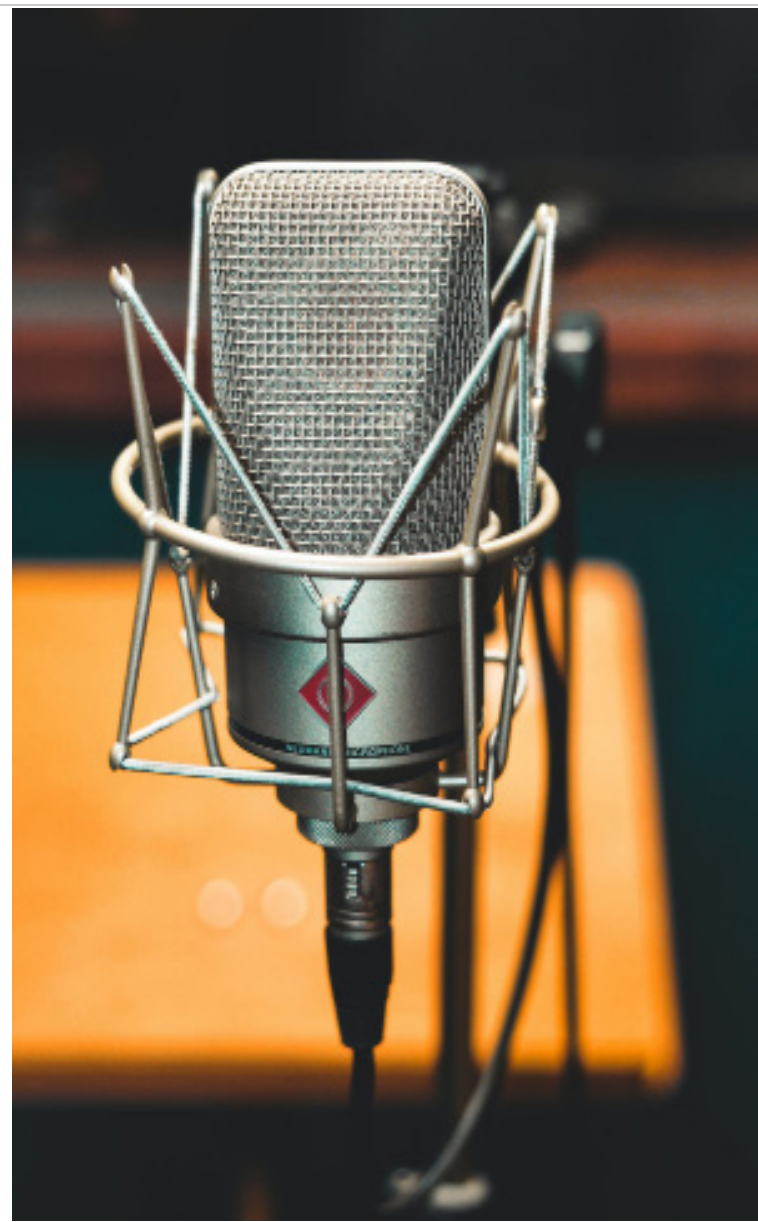
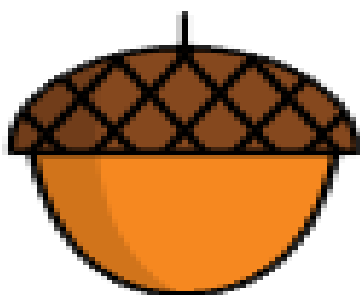
Harris said the event started with the aim of having people get a better idea of WMNJ. He hopes this inspires people to begin their own radio shows. "These

have been going on for about a month now," said Harris. "After postponing one of our events, we came back to this event cooler than ever."

Matt Sherman ('24), who participated in the event, said he attended because he wanted a good, fun start to the weekend. "I hadn't seen the musical beforehand; the event was fun, lowkey and intimate."

Alice Flynn ('25) said, "My favorite part of the event was hanging out with people in The Space. It was really nice to see an actual community in there using the space. That's sort of what we're hoping to do with the station in the next few years, is foster a space for open communication between people at Drew."

Julianna is a senior majoring in media and communications and cybersecurity and minoring in English literature



Studio microphone

IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

Drew's Alpha Phi Omega Chapter Hosts Variety of Events

LINDSAY ORR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Drew University's A.P.O. chapter was nearly disbanded after most members graduated during the COVID-19 pandemic, but has held steadfast and continued to operate on Drew's campus, luckily a graduate student had enough time on their hands to help bring it back.

Alpha Phi Omega, or A.P.O., is a coeducational service fraternity that prioritizes developing leadership, promoting friendship and providing service to society. Through A.P.O. students can gain volunteer experiences, help organize fundraising events and get involved in their community. A.P.O. is also a national organization with chapters at over 350 campuses, an active membership of over 25,000 students and over 500,000 alumni members. This means that Drew members of A.P.O. have the opportunity to join events from schools such as Rutgers University and Seton Hall University, which also have A.P.O. chapters.

Currently, the group is up to 14 members and beginning to become a lot more active in the Drew communi-

ty. Throughout the previous and current semesters, they have held various exciting events, with no plans to stop any time soon. Events that they have already been able to accomplish have been the Red Cross Blood Drive in April 2022, a food drive with local stores around Madison and a volunteer event at Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter. Upcoming events planned for next year include a Relay for Life event, volunteer work at Morristown Neighborhood House, a Red Cross blood drive, a Gift of Life event and more. The organization is also very open to new ideas brought by new members, and are flexible as to what volunteer and fundraising opportunities they offer.

Along with A.P.O.'s own events, they also partner with other clubs and organizations at Drew. A frequent club partner is C.H.O.I.C.E., the Community for Humanitarian Outreach & Intercultural Engagement. The mission statement of C.H.O.I.C.E. is very similar to A.P.O. which is to encourage collaboration among people with different values through meaningful and civil engagements. A.P.O. is also looking to collaborate with other clubs as well to

allow more students to get involved and informed of volunteer opportunities and events in their community. Action Scholar students and Baldwin Honors students can also gain volunteer hours and leadership skills by being a part of A.P.O. At the spring semester club fair, A.P.O. will be accepting new members and is looking forward to expanding at Drew.

Lindsay is a sophomore majoring in psychology and minoring in philosophy



Past and present A.P.O. presidents

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN



Alpha Phi Omega members pose for the camera

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

DYTT: Escaping Japanese Internment Through Education At Drew

JOCELYN FREEMAN
STAFF WRITER

CONT. FROM DYTT PG. 1

While this article will not focus on the conditions under which these people lived while interned, there is a vast literature on the topic. In fact, Iijima, a passionate writer both before and during his time at Drew, kept detailed diaries of the experience during the early days of his internment. The three diaries can be accessed as part of the University of California at Berkeley's Bancroft Library's "The Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement: A Digital Archive." Iijima's recounting of his experience has also been featured in "Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience," a collection of stories from Japanese internees published in 2000.

When Executive Order 9066 was issued, Asian students were sent to internment camps and forced to leave behind not only their homes but their education. Among these Americans were thousands of Nisei — second generation Japanese Americans raised in the U.S. — of college age. These young adults attended universities from California to Washington. Among the thousands of displaced were the six Nisei students who enrolled at Drew in the following year.

Each cross-country journey was a uniquely personal experience and is documented to different degrees. Kikuchi made his way to Madison from the Tanforan

detention center, located on a former horse racing track in San Francisco. Tanforan was the first stop for many of the other students as well. Mineta came from the Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming. Tomihiro came from the Colorado River Internment Camp in Arizona. Three students, Iijima, Kobayashi and Nakata came to Drew from the Topaz Internment camp in Central Utah in consecutive years.

In 1943, the government approved the creation of The National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to resettle Nisei college students in universities away from the Pacific Coast. During its first two years of service, the Relocation Council helped over 3,000 students resettle and find suitable colleges further east. Private colleges with religious affiliations, such as the Methodist Drew University, were more willing to accept these incoming students. Having recently started accepting women, two of the six Nisei students were among the first "co-eds" at Drew.

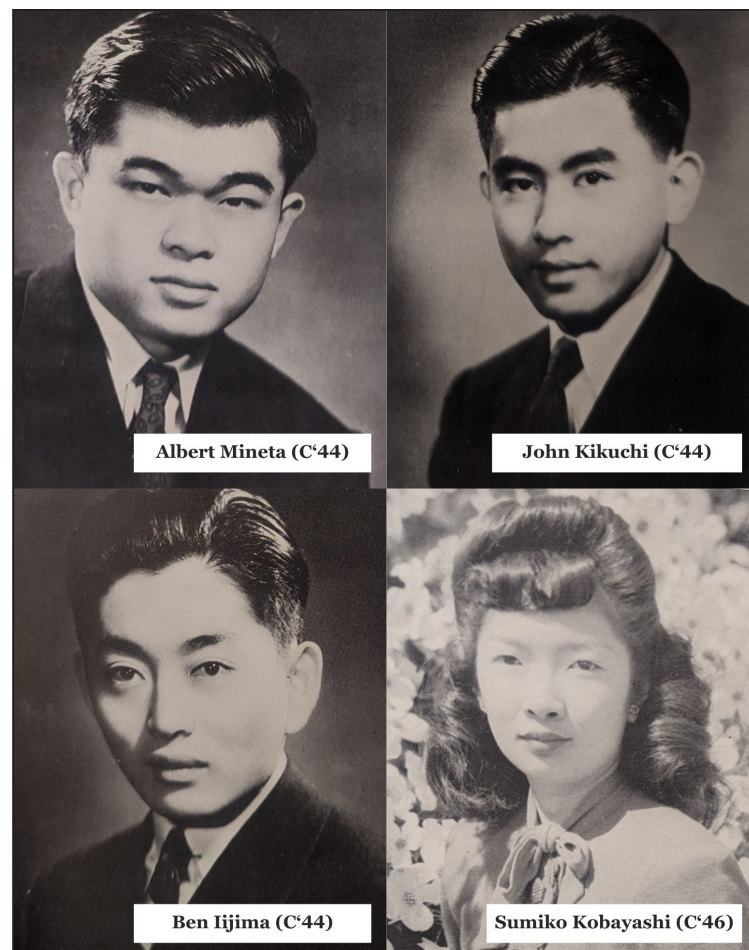
Students found their way to willing universities through various religiously-affiliated organizations, such as the Methodist Board of Education, which provided Tomihiro with a scholarship to Drew. The American Friends Service Committee worked closely with the Relocation Council to help recruit other students, such as Kobayashi, to schools that would accept them. The process was not always easy; in the Drew Magazine from the winter of 2013, Kobayashi recalls in an interview, that it

was a lengthy and frustrating process to find a school willing to accept her. Following her acceptance, she made the cross-country trek on her own, arriving in time for the fall semester of 1943.

The students arrived at Drew to a welcoming environment, which contrasted the treatment they received back home. Like many relocated Nisei students, those who arrived at Drew used the new opportunity to their full advantage. The 1944 graduates participated in a variety of organizations around campus. Iijima served as a featured writer for the Acorn, a baseball team manager, a member of the international relations club and a distinguished member of the debate team. According to the 1944 yearbook, Iijima brought "his rich enjoyment of living" with him to Drew. Kikuchi was noted in the 1944 year book to be a biochemistry major who was always dressed "according to the newest fashion" despite his busy schedule packed with labs and lectures. Kikuchi used his time at Drew to continue his work toward a career in the medical field. Mineta took up positions as a news reporter for the paper, the role of student council treasurer and the student life and welfare committee, all while studying chemistry with the intent to pursue medicine. Despite the obstacles in front of them, these young people became active members of their community while achieving their educational goals and maintaining honors status. Since they were all transfers with credits from previous institutions, their time at Drew was limited. In 1944 the three men were the first Nisei to graduate from Brother's College.

As the war decreased the enrollment at Brother's College, the school opened up its classrooms to women for the first time. In October of 1944, Nakata would achieve an impressive feat of her own— being the first woman to ever graduate from Brother's College. Nakata transferred into the college from the University of California, bringing her previously earned credits with her. This meant she was able to graduate early, ahead of the other women in her class. The New York Times honored Nakata's historic achievement with a small article on October 20, 1944. The November 4, 1944 edition of the Topaz Times, a newspaper produced by the internees at the Topaz Internment Camp in Utah, also recognized Nakata's prestigious role as the first female graduate from a previously all male institution.

The second Nisei woman to graduate from Drew was Kobayashi in 1946.



Four of the six Nisei students

IMAGE COURTESY OF OAK LEAVES '44-'46

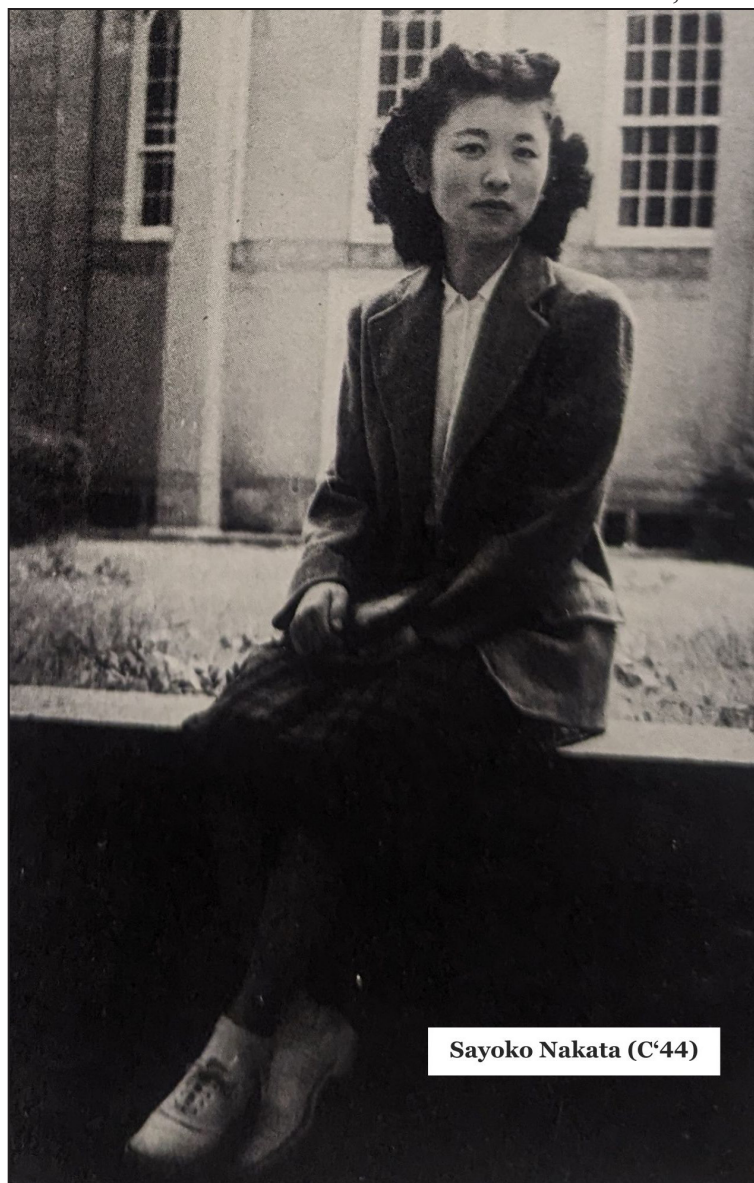
Kobayashi had fought hard to get to Drew and worked hard in her time at school. In her first year, she split her time between school work and working for a local Quaker family who were gracious enough to host her. Her last two years were spent living on campus and being actively engaged in Drew's social scene. She graduated with a degree in economics and remained in Madison following her graduation to work in the registrar's office and pay off her remaining bills. Following her graduation, Kobayashi became a computer programmer, took up roles in community organizations and became an active member of the Japanese American Civic League. She was inspired by young people shaped by the Civil Rights movement and spent the majority of her adult life working towards seeking justice for Japanese-American families who had been affected by Executive order 9066. She and her counterparts were successful in their push for redress; The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 included a payment of \$20,000 to individuals of Japanese ancestry who have been affected by internment.

Tomihiro, the youngest of the Nisei students, arrived in 1943 and did not graduate from Drew alongside his counterparts, as he was called back to perform military service before completing his degree. Previously, the Selective Training and Service Act made Nisei men ineligible for service. Yet as the war waged on, the demand for men to serve became so great that the U.S. military overturned the act. Nisei, both interned and resettled in colleges and universities, were called on by the new draft order. According to an April 29 edition of The Acorn, Tomihiro was

called back to the Colorado River Internment camp in Poston, Arizona on April 3, 1944. The Drew community was sad to see Tomihiro, a "distinguished" member of the campus community, go. He went on to serve in the Military Intelligence Service for the remainder of the war and was stationed in Minnesota.

The internment of Japanese-Americans has had lasting impacts on the Japanese diaspora across the U.S. but remains widely unknown. Similarly the stories of the Nisei students who made their way to Drew have mostly been forgotten. Yet, these students have a part in the history of this institution and should be remembered for their dedication to their education and their community despite the obstacles placed in front of them. Some of these students went on to be vital parts of recording and sharing the history of Japanese Internment in the U.S. and served their community following a time of hardship. All of the students who arrived at Drew in 1943 have since passed away, but their legacy is not to be forgotten. December 7, 1941 may be the date that lives in infamy, but the strength displayed by the Nisei students during their time at Drew should be remembered all the same.

Jocelyn Freeman is a junior majoring in history and English and minoring in Chinese



Sayoko Nakata (C'44)

Yearbook photo of Sayoko Nakata

IMAGE COURTESY OF OAK LEAVES

Drew Fiber Arts Knits, Sews and Crochets The Semester Away

ROSALIE SAPPERSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Fiber Arts at Drew has ventured into a diverse array of crafting throughout their events this semester, with crocheting, embroidery, sewing and knitting all being a part of the group's activities. It is a hope of Fiber Arts to see the aforementioned skills translated into a heightened enthusiasm for artistic expression and engagement in the slow-fashion movement as opposed to the more environmentally taxing fast-fashion culture. The community as a whole emphasizes the value in learning more about fiber arts, but also wishes to see more engagement from Drew's student population through their events.

Consistent with Fiber Arts' efforts to promote sustainability and give back to the community, President Jaden Mena ('25) mentioned the washcloths made in collaboration with "Each Stitch Counts," a charity dedicated to alleviating hygiene insecurity. Club members have expressed interest in having a speaker from the organization come in sometime in Spring semester of 2024. While "Each Stitch Counts" has built a reputation on donating containers of dish detergent, their website also mentions they include hand-made dishcloths donated by crafter volunteers. As for the sustainability goals that make up the club, the materi-

als offered are typically second hand with the exception of the crochet hooks.

Fiber Arts at Drew's October 18th event "Crochet and Chill!" combined a calm social atmosphere with technical teachings of crochet for beginners and established crocheters alike in the midst of stressful midterms. Alongside frosted cookies, the committee supplied the event's attendees with crochet materials and offered the opportunity to ask questions in case anyone needed help. Mena expressed that it was the organization's goal to crochet blankets for the non-profit 'Warm Up America!' and that there are plans to donate to a local ward sometime next year when there is a substantial amount.

On Nov. 1, the club collaborated with Drew U Bookworms to DIY their own bookmarks. At the event, book club member Maura Kelly ('24) said "I think it's really fun. I didn't know that we had a Fiber Arts Club until now so it provides exposure for both clubs and we meet people." When asked about her favorite part she said "I've really been collaging with the bookmarks so I've been vibing with that."

On November 15, FAD welcomed guests to their "Eco-dyeing with Black Walnuts" event, where people were welcome to dye bandanas and scrunchies with the help of black wal-

nuts. This event called to attention the issues associated with fast fashion such as harmful dyes, dangerous chemicals and heavy metals as well as unsustainable water use. The walnuts provided at the event were located around Drew, specifically in the Hall of Science parking lot, showing an appreciation for native materials. In the hour that materials were soaked, they came out a khaki color but would have appeared darker had they been left in longer, something that FAD's advisor and Drew's biology department's assistant professor, Jess Mc-

Quigg informed attendees. After the event, guests were allowed to take their crafts home.

Nov. 29 saw FAD putting on their "Knitting 101" event. McQuigg informed guests that they each had a project that was already set up for them and there was a live demonstration set up so that knitters could knit for the cause that the event was helping that day, in this case, knitting square hats for premature babies around the world.

For the last event of the semester, Dec. 6 was a collaboration between Fiber

Arts and Drew Environmental Action League to do some sustainable gift wrapping. Materials were gathered through Facebook swap in order to cut down on waste and outdated Drew Acorn Newspapers were used as well. Attendees were able to bring their own items to wrap or could take jars that the committee provided to fill.

Interested readers can follow Fiber Arts at Drew on Instagram at @drewfaad.

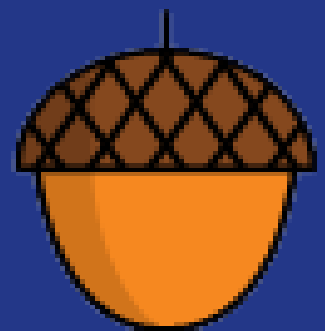
Rosie is a senior majoring in English literature and minoring in media and communications



Fiber Arts members expertly work on their crochet skills

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Revels Photo Story



COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Lead Editorial: Internet Outage Kept Students From Finals Prep

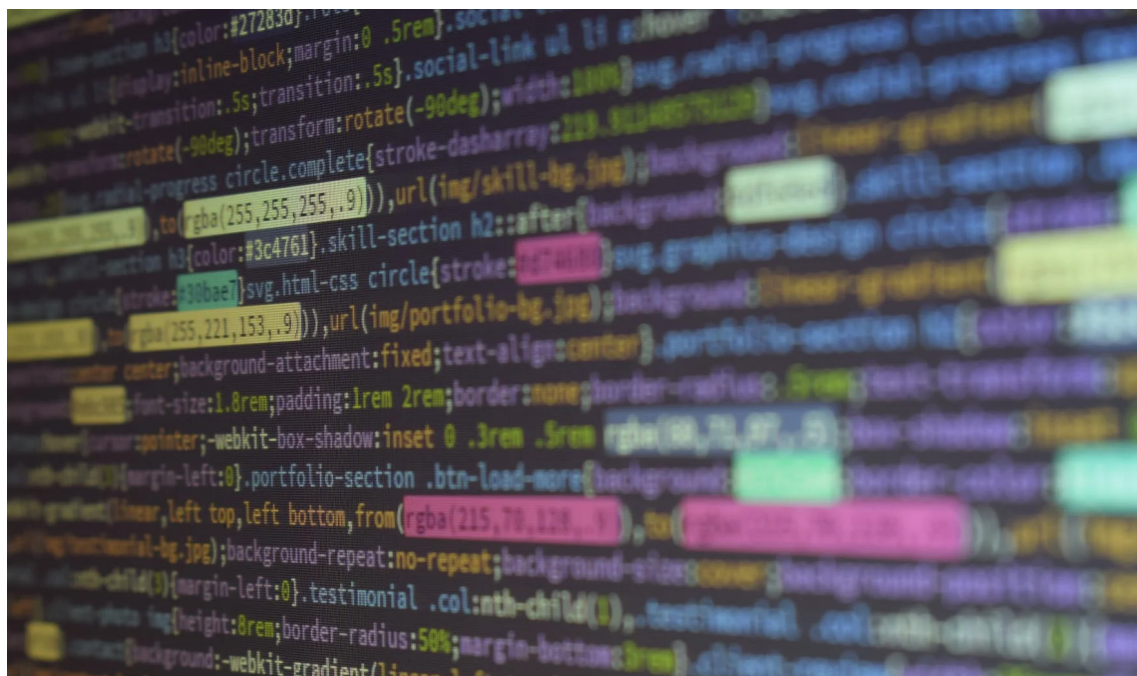
LEAD EDITORIAL

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The last two weeks of the semester are filled with strenuous projects, papers, presentations and exams. As if that was not enough, University Technology planned an internet outage in the second-to-last week of the semester, causing more than just a few problems for students and faculty looking to do their work during finals.

University Technology issued notice via email on Nov. 17 that on Nov. 28 they would be implementing a new firewall starting at 9:30 p.m. However, internet connectivity on campus, and therefore access to services like Google, Moodle and so much more, was unavailable to students for six hours.

This prevented students from working on finals-related material, especially students who do not start working on coursework until late at night. Student athletes, leaders and staff have packed schedules. Attending class, going to practice, hosting and planning events and going to work can often keep a student



Colorful computer coding.

IMAGE COURTESY OF ABDUL KAYUM ON PEXELS

away from their computer until 10 p.m. Then, when it came time to start their work that day, the lack of internet access prevented students from doing so.

Although University Technology informed students and staff via email that “If you are already logged in to Google or Moodle, your connection should continue,” this still left many students who needed to use other resources in the dark.

Conducting research for a presentation or research project was not an option, and students who needed to use other online resources for their classes, like specific study materials or online language courses, were unable to do so. Not to mention, if a student did not have the opportunity to log into Google and Moodle shortly before the outage, since these services automatically sign out after some time, there was no

hope of working on assignments or submitting them.

To make matters worse, the following day, Nov. 29, University Technology issued a follow-up email, announcing that there had been a problem the night before that prevented them from implementing the firewall. The internet was offline again that day from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Many students, at this point planning to make up work they could not

accomplish yesterday, had to halt their academic work for two nights in a row.

Although this is a necessary update, as the firewall is, according to University Technology’s Nov. 17 email, a “prerequisite step before the upgrade of Drew’s internet connections,” this could have been planned at a better time in the semester. This time of year is busy for students, professors and all staff and administrators. If the completion of tasks with normal internet connectivity was not stressful enough, this outage was another source of unnecessary stress.

The internet updates and outages could have been planned for earlier in the semester, when coursework was less strenuous and impactful on final grades. There were countless weekends when work could have been conducted on the system. Alternatively, updates could have been conducted at the end of the semester, once finals were done and after professors finished submitting grades.



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.

Collecting Student Opinions: A Call for Change in the Commons

LAPO MILES
PHOTOGRAPHER

In the intricate tapestry of university life, the Commons emerges not merely as a dining hall but also as a vital hub for social connections. However, the current constraints of the commuter meal plan inadvertently cast shadows on the Commons’ potential as an inclusive social space, particularly affecting the communal experiences of first-year commuters. Insights from students resonate, emphasizing the need to reassess these commuter meal plans. This reevaluation is pivotal to preserving the Commons as a social epicenter for all, including those constrained by time.

Recalling her life as a first-year, seasoned commuter, Emily Pieczyrak (‘25) warmly reminisced about her freshman year when the Commons was not merely a dining space but a social hub. She shared, “When reflecting on my freshman year, I opted for a meal plan to join the homesick crowd, seeking that sense of belonging.” Pieczyrak emphasized that the Commons was more than a dining space; it was where connections flourished. “Many friends turned out to be commuters, leading us to share meals outside the Commons.”

Keiran Dugan (‘26), a resident at Drew, stated, “Meals are a cornerstone of socializing and hold utmost importance for commuters with evening schedules.” She pointed out, “The Commons, distinct from the EC, is where friendships deepen over shared meals.” Dugan suggested adjustments, like to-go boxes and evening events, to cater to varying schedules, ensuring every student enjoys communal dining.

Pointing out the limitations in the Commons’ food offerings, Danielle Knesl (‘26), another resident, emphasized, “The current plans, despite providing a set number of meals, lack the variety necessary to cater to various dietary needs.”

This issue extends beyond mere variety, as menu inaccuracies and repetitive food choices not only affect the range of options but also make it more difficult for students with dietary restrictions to select meals. For a more inclusive and healthier dining experience, there needs to be a call for improvements in the range of food options and accuracy in menu representation. This adjustment is crucial, not only for meeting dietary needs but also for reinforcing the Commons’ role as a social hub on campus.

Immersed in a whirlwind of activities, Laya Ranganathan (‘26) highlights the challenges faced by those with hectic schedules. “Balancing classes, clubs and jobs leaves little time to eat,” observed Ranganathan. She envisioned to-go boxes as a game-changer for students on the go, emphasizing the need for flexibility in dining options. Pointing out the limitations of the commuter lounge, she noted, “While useful, it lacks food options and event spaces,” underscoring the importance of creating a versatile space that caters to the diverse needs of busy students.

Echoing this sentiment, Dee Cohen (‘26) emphasized the cafeteria’s role as an opportunity to encourage diversity. “The cafeteria isn’t just a place for meals; it’s a nexus for diverse interactions, fostering inclusivity and diversity.” In contrast to formal classrooms, the Commons’ relaxed atmosphere encourages spontaneous conversations, contributing to a positive campus culture.

In addition to fostering a vibrant community for residents, it’s crucial to consider the needs of commuter students who may not opt for a meal plan but still seek a social space on campus. These students, while living off-campus, should not be



The entrance to The Commons

IMAGE COURTESY OF LINDSAY ORR

excluded from the enriching experiences that come with a communal center. By providing a welcoming environment that goes beyond residential and commuter distinctions, we can bridge the gap and create a space where anyone, regardless of background or living situation, can come together to meet, eat, and hang-out. This not only enhances the overall college experience for commuters but also promotes a sense of unity and shared community among all student

Drawing insights from the experiences of students like these, a call for change echoes through Drew Uni-

versity. It’s time to reconsider the commuter meal plans, making them more adaptable and inclusive, and create a space to gather where all students are welcome!

Let’s transform the campus dining experience into one that not only satisfies the hunger for food but also the hunger for communal connection. By doing so, every student, whether commuter or resident, will find a place at the table of university life. Breaking down these barriers enhances the richness of the college experience.

Lapo Miles is a sophomore exploring her major.

Being Busy Does Not Make You a Better Community Member

JOCELYN FREEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Every student at Drew came to campus following some period of extended isolation from the rest of the world. Some students were unable to finish high school in the presence of their peers while others struggled through the loss of upperclassmen mentors and friends as COVID-19 deemed it impossible to resume activities in shared spaces, at full capacity and in some instances altogether. I am deeply interested in how this phenomenon of structural collapse has affected the current student body and our habit of taking up too much in order to serve our communities. In turn, this article will be dedicated to exploring what I have observed in my fellow student leaders who are grappling with the social landscape we have been handed.

Our community's student leaders are largely being asked to start from scratch when it comes to revitalizing groups across campus. Upperclassmen who held important institutional memory of how these organizations functioned graduated while the university was partaking in virtual learning. This means that student leaders are not only tasked with running successful events but also with trying to reestablish their groups' board structures, reinvent traditions that were halted due to social distancing and engage members of their community. Many of these

brave souls were first- and second-years, attempting to fill a role for which they had no successful predecessor to use as an example. The difficult task of running an organization has transformed into navigating a myriad of tough tasks without any sort of guidance. Even years after the initial shutdown, the effects of the abrupt halt to daily life continue to linger.

Student leaders, already reestablishing their organizations' roots, have also been asked to juggle multiple positions at once. For some students, the opportunity to find community after isolation, add a new experience to their resume and fill up a previously empty schedule was too good to pass up. For others craving any sort of community involvement, the opportunity to be a respected and responsible part of the community is exciting. Regardless of the reason, many student leaders have taken on more roles than they can feasibly handle. This can be attributed to a fear of saying "no," something many students have expressed possessing. It is not unreasonable to assume that subconsciously, some students are trying to make up for lost time and experience.

This overindulgence in responsibility can also be attributed to a lack of developmental experience that comes with the upperclassmen years of high school. Successfully handling extra-curricular leadership roles is a skill that is practiced in the last years of high school, an



Wall filled with clocks

IMAGE COURTESY OF MEHMET TURGUT KIRKGOZ ON PEXELS

experience that many Drew students who hold leadership positions today missed out on. An important component of this skill is learning to understand personal limits and strengths. Unfortunately, a lack of practice in this field has led to student leaders taking on too many responsibilities while also trying to keep up with their coursework and mental health. Eventually, something snaps. For many student leaders, burnout, guilt and anxiety have accompanied their overindulgence.

Yet, mentors on campus have praised students for taking on so much as the Drew community struggles to find its footing as students return to in-person learning. Many of these mentors were unable to see the true effect that packed schedules have on the best and the brightest. Student leaders compare

Google Calendars, struggle to find decent hours to meet with their executive boards and deal with the highs of success and lows of failure. As student leaders take on more than they can handle, the quality of their personal lives and the quality of their community contributions diminish. Some of these leaders have struggled to support their clubs and organizations and have had to grapple with the guilt of letting others down. I think it's important to treat all leaders with grace, especially as they struggle to keep up with the various responsibilities that have been piled atop them. The trait students were once praised for has now become a noticeable downfall.

As a word of parting wisdom from a student leader who is actively attempting to step away from taking on too much, I want to remind

you that it's okay to step away and that no one will hate you for putting your mental and physical health, school work and personal happiness first. We are students, and people, first and foremost. Communicating your needs, delegating responsibilities and setting boundaries can help facilitate a better community of healthy leaders who can help lead Drew to a better future of community involvement. We are here to learn, and learning not to take on too much is a lesson. We may be learning late, but we're learning it all the same.

Jocelyn is a junior majoring in History and English and minoring in Chinese.



Insanity's Horse

Drew's Art & Literature Magazine

**SUBMISSIONS
ARE OPEN!**

**Deadline:
February
9th, 2024**

Submit to our email:
insanity@drew.edu

Check "Submission Guidelines"
on our website:
insanityhorse.wordpress.com

LOOKING FOR A PUBLICIST

Responsibilities Include:

- photographing each event
- attending board meetings
- uploading/editing photos for the performers

Email mortiz1@drew.edu
if interested



Join
The
ACORN

Contact us at
thedrewacorn@gmail.com

“House of Leaves”: Horror, as Beautiful and Convoluted as It Gets

MICHAEL INDOVINA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Weighing in at 709 pages, “House of Leaves” is no joke. Mark Danielewski’s massive debut novel, published in March 2000 by Pantheon Books, is barely a novel, and that is precisely why I love it so much.

“House of Leaves” falls into the literary genre of ergodic literature, which is known for its insanely open use of formatting. It incorporates text in various different shapes, languages and colors, and it is home to some of the most elaborate footnotes I’ve ever seen. In other words, “House of Leaves” might be the densest book you have ever read, for better or worse.

“House of Leaves” is a combination of psychological horror and the ergodic. These two genres fuse extremely well within “House of Leaves,” so well that you finish the book not understanding how they could

have ever existed without one another. The plot explains the necessity of their fusion well enough: it follows Johnny Truant, who discovers the unfinished manuscript of “House of Leaves” in-universe, written by Zampanò, an eighty-year-old, recently deceased blind man who Truant thinks was a graphomaniac (someone with a pathological impulse to write, usually incoherently and meaninglessly) when he was alive. Truant decides to try publishing Zampanò’s work posthumously, and he edits the manuscript through his own footnotes (which sometimes take up several pages in their own right).

Zampanò’s manuscript was an academic study of “The Navidson Record,” a film surrounding the Navidson family moving into a new home and Will Navidson’s horrific ventures into a dark hallway that pops up in their living room. This hallway grows into a terrifyingly dark labyrinth in which the Minotaur, lying

dormant in the center, is waiting to be let out and/or satiated. It is implied that Zampanò struck the Minotaur from the manuscript, while Truant has a primal need to keep it in. Neither the striking of the Minotaur from the manuscript nor the need to maintain it are further explained by the book.

As Truant is reading and editing the manuscript, he becomes more and more mentally unstable, largely due to the Minotaur portions of the manuscript that he finds through his own scholarly research. He becomes an absolute agoraphobe, afraid of the Minotaur specter that he has effectively let loose by engaging with the manuscript in the way that he has.

Because of Truant’s transformation, we cannot trust anything that occurs within the novel. Firstly, we cannot rely on Truant’s footnotes due to his mental instability, which runs in his family; his mother’s mental instability is highlighted in The Whalestoe Letters, an epistolary section of “House of Leaves” in which his mother writes to him from a mental institution called The Three Attic Whalestoe Institute. We also cannot believe anything Zampanò writes because he is a blind man writing about a film, and it is not clear if “The Navidson Record” is even real in-universe in the first place.

The entire novel highlights these instances of found documents, how much we can trust them and how much we can trust those who engage with the material. Furthermore, we learn about

each character’s collective trauma through these found documents.

By the end of the novel, we can only begin to understand the toll of these documents on the characters’ psyches, the way this trauma spreads from one person to another through engagement with (or inclusion in) the found materials and how the end of catharsis is never found for anyone involved.

This does not even scratch the surface of what “House of Leaves” covers. There are still supporting sections after “The Navidson Record,” like The Polaroids, The Pelican Poems, The Collages, The Index (yes, even the Index seems to have a coded meaning) and so much more.

I personally believe it’s impossible to read this book without a magnifying glass in hand. “House of Leaves”—and Danielewski through it—are sticklers for this type of maximalist, inaccessible writing. Although I find beauty in the fact that no one will ever fully know or understand this novel other than Danielewski, others may find that extremely frustrating and impenetrable. “House of Leaves” tells readers to either deal with this or get out of the way.

Speaking of impenetrable, The Index is elaborate and confusing to no end. In this Index, there’s a list of seemingly random words from “House of Leaves.” Its gimmick is that there are some words that are listed as “DNE,” or “Does Not Exist.”

It seems that the words that “Do Not Exist” any-

more are ones related to the labyrinth, the “Minotaur” (which always appears in red in the text), the house itself (“House” always appears in blue in the text) and the chambers within the said labyrinth. Perhaps their existence in the manuscript disappeared when the labyrinth itself disappeared? You will either love the minutiae of this, as I did, or hate it and make its too-tall demands the centerpiece of your next rant session.

If you are like me, and you love torturing yourself by scrolling through old online forums from the 2000s and dredging up your own theories, then you will love “House of Leaves.” You will find that its parts are all connected in ways that no one can quite understand, but everyone can palpably feel. If you are not the type of person who wants to make a research project out of your reading experience, then you will likely hate this book and find it pedantic, intimidating, antagonizing and an overall pain in the ass to figure out. This book is incredibly polarizing in this way, which has led to its small, cult-like following.

Danielewski gives us a gargantuan task with “House of Leaves,” one that may never be completed by its readers. But depending on your willingness to be a participant in this experiment of his, you will either want him dead or anointed as a saint of literature.

Michael Indovina is a junior majoring in studio art and English creative writing and minoring in theatre arts.



Maze corridor

IMAGE COURTESY OF GRUA ON PEXELS

Confessions of a Quiet Girl: Unplugging for Wellbeing

DALILA BEN
STAFF WRITER

As someone who reinstalled social media out of curiosity to see what apps look like now, I can personally attest to the evidence that the world needs to disconnect from social media.

I took a break from social media in 2021, the pandemic era that caused the world to quarantine. It was very scary but something that changed my life forever.

How did it happen? How did someone like me who was once addicted to social media with a screen time of more than eight hours suddenly quit cold turkey? I’m going to say exactly what my very old friend, a philosophy major, said to inspire me:

“In life, it isn’t always necessary to conform to society’s standards,” whether it’s getting a tattoo of a rat on your neck because your friend group is doing the same, or saying you enjoy Marvel simply because it’s what’s “popular” but don’t even understand what infin-

ity stones are. If someone is on an app that constantly stresses them out, it’s simply best to delete the app and take a long break.

When I deleted social media, I hoped to never have to look back at the apps ever again. Not only does social media cause young students (at the average age of twelve years old) to compulsively over-consume online content, but it also generates a large amount of dopamine that activates the brain’s reward system, which is the same effect that alcohol and drugs like heroin and meth have according to scopeblog.stanford.edu.

Those who have the chance to take a break from social media will actually feel the benefits. My break from social media allowed me to become much more social and productive than I ever could have predicted, which included teaching myself how to make friends in real life and not be dependent on making friends online.

The internet can be a scary place, not just in terms of content, but in terms of the

overall expectation that social media should be something we will have for the rest of our lives, the same constant cycle of looking down instead of up.

Which brings me to my next set of questions: When was the last time you looked up at the stars or the clouds? Had the chance to keep the conversation going without having to take a phone break? Woke up in the morning just looking at the ceiling or reading a book instead of scrolling on your phone?

The overall pressure to have to download social media can feel like being hit by a bag of rocks; on the other hand, the thought of deleting it and losing an online status, online friends, and an online presence where you want to be perceived can feel like a creeping void. When deleting social media, I can’t say that this feeling goes away, nor will it become better.

People are always going to want to be seen, to have friends, to make connections with people, whether it’s sentimental or professional. This makes us humans. Re-

gardless, if real life still gives you this feeling, then why add another layer of weight to it by being online?

This especially goes out to people who want to romanticize their lives and want to find meaning in them. There are plenty of ways to start doing this, whether it is attending the events on campus or even the many clubs that are a part of campus (even club hopping, which can be very fun). I can assure you that making friends in real life is not a lost art.

The start to finding purpose in one’s life beyond so-

cial media is by experiencing the world. As a 22-year-old, I promise that social media is simply a tiny ant compared to the vast and meaningful possibilities of the world.

Confessions of a Quiet Girl is an advice column meant to help those who need advice on anything. If you want to send a letter or a confession to be published in the paper or just to get advice, please don’t be afraid to contact me.

Dalila Ben is a junior majoring in English literature and minoring in classical studies.



Phone home screen

IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABY ON PEXELS

Winter Animal Themed Word Search

N	P	A	N	I	F	F	U	P	P	E	B	R	C
L	A	H	W	R	A	N	O	R	E	R	E	X	A
O	E	E	F	A	A	L	A	I	N	W	L	O	R
T	F	N	N	N	A	B	R	S	G	C	U	F	D
W	H	U	E	R	A	E	W	E	U	G	G	C	I
L	N	O	B	L	E	I	C	A	I	D	A	I	N
E	L	E	R	D	L	N	A	L	N	A	W	T	A
S	A	W	N	P	W	W	R	R	N	A	H	C	L
R	A	I	A	C	O	S	I	U	A	H	A	R	E
A	E	N	W	L	N	N	B	H	F	W	L	A	I
R	I	E	T	T	R	H	O	I	L	F	E	A	R
L	N	P	N	A	A	U	U	L	O	W	O	A	L
E	A	H	P	N	B	C	S	A	W	O	I	D	E
S	N	O	W	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	A	R	D

- SEAL
- POLARBEAR
- SANTA
- CARIBOU
- WOLF
- NARWHAL
- BELUGAWHALE
- HARE
- REINDEER
- SNOWLEOPARD
- PUFFIN
- BARNOWL
- WALRUS
- ARCTICFOX
- CARDINAL
- PENGUIN

Out of the Box Photo

GET FEATURED:

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



Graphics courtesy of Lapo Miles

Swim & Dive Teams Cruise to Victory at Invitational

CHARLOTTE WELLS
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The men's and women's swim & dive teams threw down tremendous showings in the pool during the 12th annual Ranger Invitational on the way to each team clinching its seventh straight title.

On the men's side, Drew rounded out their performance with 382 points, topping Elizabethtown College (213), FDU-Florham (80) and Moravian University (3).

The Rangers proved to be an unstoppable force, with the men's team taking down 13 meet records, 10 school records and three conference records and effectively rewriting Drew's record board over the course of the two-day competition.

The men's 200-freestyle relay, made up of Nicholas Heinio-Widell ('27), Brendan Burkett ('26), Finn Armitt ('24) and Hayden Koh ('25) broke the Landmark Conference, school and meet records twice in one day, first with a time-trial in the morning before improving their own time by almost a second that same afternoon. The second performance landed the group an NCAA B cut on top of the broken records.

Two more relays broke conference records: the 200-medley relay, made up of Koh, Gabe Spivak ('26), Armitt and Heinio-Widell, and the 800-freestyle relay, made up of Armitt, Heinio-

Widell, Yan Zheng Lew ('25) and Koh.

Leading the way for the men was Heinio-Widell, who in his first major competition for the Rangers turned in an astonishing performance that saw him win all eight of his events and contribute to the fall of nine school records.

Heinio-Widell put up record-setting times in each of his individual races, including breaking the oldest record on the board in his 100-breaststroke. His time of 56.79 shattered the previous record of 59.29, set in 2017.

Heinio-Widell also raced on all five of Drew's top relays, each of which took first place and established new school and meet records.

Other set of top individual competitors for the Rangers during the meet were Koh, Lew, Kyle Talerico ('27) and Liam Gregory ('27); all four set new meet records, with Lew breaking the school record in the 400-individual medley as well.

Koh took first in the 100-butterfly with a time of 48.37, earning an NCAA B cut and narrowly missing his own school record. Meanwhile, Talerico and Gregory both established new Ranger Invitational records in the distance events, with Talerico winning the 500-freestyle and Gregory cruising to first in the 1650-freestyle.

Complementing the swim team's dominating performance, Drew's divers

also made themselves known in the competition. Jonathan Benowitz ('24) took first on the one-meter, while Santiago Rubio Marrodan ('27) won the three-meter competition.

On the women's side, the Rangers secured an equally decisive victory. Drew finished the weekend with 290 points, racing past Bryn Mawr College (183), Elizabethtown College (181), FDU-Florham (105) and Moravian University (5).

The women's team rewrote the record board as well, breaking three school records and one meet record.

Sam Trodick ('25) led the way with two new records for Drew. Trodick won the 100-breaststroke in a time of 1:07.34, breaking the previous record of 1:08.04 set just last season. She went on to win the 200-breaststroke in a time of 2:25.79, breaking her own record by nearly two seconds.

Amira Hadri ('24) also put up a new record—as the lead-off in the 200-freestyle relay, she lowered her own school record in the 50-freestyle and set a new meet record with her time of 24.27.

Aside from their record-breaking swims, the Rangers racked up a number of first-place finishes, winning 14 out of the 18 events during the competition.

Trodick and Hadri each turned in three individual wins, with Trodick claiming the 200-individual medley in addition to the breaststroke



Photo of Sam Trodick ('25)
IMAGE COURTESY OF CHRIS PEDOTA FROM DREW RANGERS.COM

events and Hadri winning the 50-freestyle, 100-freestyle and 100-backstroke.

Other eye-catching races included Katerina Poulathas's ('25) victory in the 1650-freestyle, which she won by a full minute, and Emilie Tobin's ('25) narrow win in the 400-individual medley, as she caught up on the last stretch to out-touch her competitor by a mere .08 seconds.

The women's team also turned in a tremendous showing in the relays, winning four out of the five races.

The relay team of Hadri, Trodick, Poulathas and Kaitlyn Zayle ('26) secured decisive victories in both the 200- and 400-medley relays. Drew snagged a win in the 200-freestyle relay as well, led by Hadri's record-breaking first leg and followed by

a team of Trodick, Charlotte Wells ('24) and Zayle.

The Rangers's 800-freestyle relay, consisting of Poulathas, Zayle, Tobin and Wells, tied for first with Elizabethtown with an exciting late comeback. After falling behind in the first three legs, Wells closed a two-second gap to tie the relay, with both teams finishing in a time of 8:05.58.

For the divers, Chandler Straub ('27) took first in both the one-meter and three-meter competitions.

The Ranger Invitational marked the completion of this semester's racing for the Rangers; the swim & dive teams are now off from competition until they return to take on Goucher College in January.

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



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM
Photo of Hayden Koh ('25)



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM
Photo of Brendan Burkett ('26)



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM
Photo of Amira Hadri ('24)



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM
Photo of Finn Armitt ('24)



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM
Photo of Nicholas Heinio-Widell ('26)

Records Broken

Landmark Conference Records

Men's 200-freestyle relay (Nicholas Heinio-Widell, Brendan Burkett, Finn Armitt, Hayden Koh - 1:21.79)

Men's 800-freestyle relay (Finn Armitt, Nicholas Heinio-Widell, Yan Zheng Lew, Hayden Koh - 6:48.95)

Men's 200-medley relay (Hayden Koh, Gabe Spivak, Finn Armitt, Nicholas Heinio-Widell - 1:31.78)

Team Records

Women's 50-freestyle (Amira Hadri - 24.27)

Women's 100-breaststroke (Sam Trodick - 1:07.34)

Women's 200-breaststroke (Sam Trodick - 2:25.79)

Men's 50-freestyle (Nicholas Heinio-Widell - 20.42)

Men's 100-freestyle (Nicholas Heinio-Widell - 45.20)

Men's 200-freestyle (Nicholas Heinio-Widell - 1:40.80)

Men's 400-individual medley (Yan Zheng Lew - 4:07.16)

Men's 100-breaststroke (Nicholas Heinio-Widell - 56.79)

Men's 200-freestyle relay (Nicholas Heinio-Widell, Brendan Burkett, Finn Armitt, Hayden Koh - 1:21.79)

Men's 400-freestyle relay (Nicholas Heinio-Widell, Brendan Burkett, Finn Armitt, Hayden Koh - 3:04.90)

Men's 800-freestyle relay (Finn Armitt, Nicholas Heinio-Widell, Yan Zheng Lew, Hayden Koh - 6:48.95)

Men's 200-medley relay (Hayden Koh, Gabe Spivak, Finn Armitt, Nicholas Heinio-Widell - 1:31.78)

COMING UP

Get live stats
@GoDrewRangers

Saturday Dec. 9 - WBB vs
Lycoming College @ Drew,
Madison, NJ

Saturday Dec. 9 - MBB vs
Lycoming College @ Drew,
Madison, NJ

Saturday Dec. 16 - WBB vs
FDU @ Madison, NJ

Saturday Dec. 16 - MBB vs York
College @ Jamaica, NY

SPORTS

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

INSIDE:

Swim and Dive Teams Cruise
to Victory in Invitational

12

Women's Basketball Defeated by Scranton

DEVAN SATURIA
STAFF WRITER

The Drew Rangers took on the Scranton Royals in the Baldwin Gym on Wednesday in what proved to be a crushing loss for the Rangers. The game ended in a decisive 87-47 victory for Scranton, marking the third victory of 40+ points for the Royals in their first eight games this season.

Scranton took the lead early in the game, going 9-2 in the first five minutes of the game. A series of one-sided runs gave the Royals a 19-point lead going into halftime that they continued to consolidate throughout the second half, leading to a 40 point victory.

The Rangers struggled to get going on both sides of the ball as Scranton outscored Drew by at least eight points in every quarter. One of the few bright spots of the game for the Rangers was point guard Amy Rachilla ('27), who poured in 12 points with two 3-pointers, both career records for her. Guard Madelyn Morgan ('26) also contributed 10 points with an efficient 55% shooting average.

Speaking on the loss, Morgan remained optimistic

about the team's path moving forward. "We are going to learn from tonight and continue to grow as a team," Morgan said. "It's a learning experience and we're all going to get better and move on to the next one."

Scranton, a perennial powerhouse in Division III women's basketball, came into the contest ranked 6th in the nation, averaging an impressive 78.0 points per game while giving up just 47.1. Undefeated both in conference and overall, the Royals entered the game against the Rangers coming off of a commanding 72-33 win over Juniata on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Rangers also entered the game coming off a conference win, following their victory against Goucher College on Dec. 2 where 23 points from Jamie Struble ('24) carried the Rangers to a win.

The Rangers look to bounce back this Saturday, Dec. 9 against conference rival Lycoming College in another home gym match up.

Devan Sutaria is a sophomore majoring in biochemistry and minoring in public health.



Photo of Amy Rachilla ('27)
IMAGE COURTESY OF BASIM HORSHAW FROM DREW.RANGERS.COM

Highlight Reel (Nov. 10 - Dec. 6)

Landmark Conference Awards

- MSWIM Athlete of the Week (Dec. 5):
Nicholas Heinio-Widell ('27)
- WSIM Athlete of the Week (Dec. 5):
Sam Trodick ('25)
- MBB Athlete of the Week (Nov. 27):
James Anderson ('24)
- MBB Athlete of the Week (Nov. 20):
Josh Kline ('25)

Regional Honors

- Named to United Soccer Coaches All-Region Team:
Kevin Kiernan ('25) & Tino Puentes ('25)
- Named to United Soccer Coaches All-Region Team:
Jessie Brannick ('24), Rebecca Racine ('24) & Alexa Krause ('25)
- Named to All-Landmark Conference Women's Volleyball Team:
Teeya Desgoutte ('26)
- Named to MXC Division III All-Metro Region Team:
Toby Gaynor ('25)

Rangers of the Week (Nov. 27 - Dec. 3)

- Nicholas Heinio-Widell ('27), Brendan Burkett ('26), Finn Armitt ('24), Hayden Koh ('25), MSWIM Caira Blake ('24) WFENC
(Nov. 13 - Nov. 19)
- Josh Kline ('25), MBB
(Nov. 6 - Nov. 12)
- Nicholas Heinio-Widell ('27), MSWIM
Amira Mutakabbir ('25), WFENC

Team Performance Highlights

- WFENC Caira Blake ('24) reaches 200 career wins
- MFENC Danny Stevens ('25) reaches 100 career wins
- MSWIM: Rangers ranked 7th in Northeast-South Region from CSCAA, landing their first regional ranking in program history
- MXC: Toby Gaynor ('25) finishes top-35 at NCAA Division III Metro Region Championships
- WFENC: Rangers boast 4-2 finish at Vassar College Invitational
- MFENC: Rangers finish competition 3-3 at Vassar College Invitational
- MBB tops Scranton, extends winning streak to 8-0