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HAVE A TIP?

Email theacorn@drew.edu and let us know!

Administration Surprises Club Leaders by Slashing Budgets in Half

Sierra Walker
Editor-in-Chief

University administrators announced that they cut all club budgets in half, in addition to other significant policy changes, Monday, Feb. 3.

Effective immediately, Student Engagement is cutting club budgets in half, purchase request policies are changing and the department will not have access to ad hoc funds, said Dean of Students Michelle Brisson in an email to club leaders.

In response to the announcement, many club leaders expressed concern for their clubs' events and the state of the university.

Eva Woolard ('26), vice president of the Drew Environmental Action League, said, "[Our club] saved up all of our fall budget for Fern Fest in the spring, so we're really upset at the sudden budget cuts."

The budget cuts, despite surprising many students, follow a previous announcement from President Hillary Link that the university needed to cut expenses by \$5 million.

"Effective immediately, there will be a significant suspension on spending, including on budgeted expenses," Link said in her update on the fiscal year 25 budget, which she sent to staff and faculty Jan. 16.

In a statement to the Acorn, Link explained that the administration is taking a proactive approach to balancing the budget. She said this is in response to challenges caused by inflation, the decline in the number of college students nationwide



Money fanned out on a table.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN.

and structural deficits that the university faced over the past decade.

Their approach to balancing the budget included reviewing all budget lines and making cuts across all departments.

"There are no easy decisions and the cuts that were made across the institution were done through the lens of having the least possible impact on our students and the academic experience. While we face challenges, there are so many great things happening at Drew," said Link.

Despite emphasizing the strength of Drew's community, Link's fiscal update explained that deficit spending and financial aid costs are straining the budget. Furthermore, Link noted that the success of the fiscal year budget depended on both expense cuts and the

aggressive growth of several revenue streams.

While Link said that spending was mostly in line with the approved budget, the university needed to change the budget based on current revenues and expenses.

"For the rest of the year, we will only be spending funds on items that are arguably critical to our operations," said Link, after saying the finance team has already identified \$2.5 million in potential cuts.

In their announcement to club leaders, administration said they know club budget cuts are disappointing and that club programming will have to be changed in response to budgetary constraints.

When asked if administration has plans to help support clubs with important events in the spring, such as Fern Fest, they emphasized that

there are no additional funds available.

"Club leaders are encouraged to collaborate on events to maximize their budgets," said Ellen Johnson, vice president for Enrollment Management & Strategic Communications.

During the Winter Leadership conference, Student Engagement staff encouraged club leaders to find and share creative ideas to circumvent budgetary challenges, including running fundraisers and cutting events.

"Clubs may also pursue merging, which should be done first at the club level and then through approval of BOB. Staff in Student Engagement is able to assist clubs in these processes," said Johnson.

In her email, Brisson also informed student leaders that all purchase requests must be made at least two weeks before event dates and requests would be closely monitored and evaluated. Johnson said, "All requests for items now have a multiple step review process, ultimately requiring area [vice president] approval," when explaining the two week time frame for purchase request.

Student Engagement staff also told club leaders that they should use all the money they request or inform the department of unused funds.

Sierra Walker is a senior majoring in media & communications and marketing and minoring in Spanish.



Outside of the Student Engagement office.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It's incredibly unfortunate to think that we have come to the point where education is not right and it's being used as a weapon against our own people,"

—Lindsay Orellana ('26) SEE TRUMP, PG 3

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2 NEWS

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Los Angeles Wildfires Continue to Tear Through City

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
Assistant Student Life & Arts

Deadly wildfires have recently continued to tear through the northern Los Angeles, California, region with alarming frequency, with the latest blazes this past month burning nearly 60 thousand combined acres. The Palisades and Eaton fires, both started on Jan. 7, continue to render much of the area uninhabitable, with many evacuation and stay-out orders still in place as of February. Almost 40 thousand acres of January's total destruction were caused by both Palisades and Eaton fires. About 29 fatalities have been confirmed, and vast swathes of L.A. have entirely burned down.

Although state fire agency CAL FIRE has been able to fully contain both fires as of Feb. 8, the damage that the flames have caused is severe and widespread. CAL FIRE's Incidents page indicates that the two recent fires form a significant part of the over 16 thousand structures destroyed by fires in 2025 alone so far. According to CAL FIRE, the Palisades fire (named for the neighborhood in which it started, known as Pacific Palisades) originated in an area southeast of Palisades Drive, while the Eaton fire (named for Eaton Canyon, also where it started) may have originated near Altadena and Midwick Drives.

Some have pointed to old equipment from regional power company Southern California Edison as the possible culprit behind the ignition of the Eaton fire. NBC Los Angeles showed a "cellphone video clip ... [recorded from a] different position than most other videos of the first moments of the fire" that appears to be of a blaze starting below a decommissioned local electrical tower. NBCLA reports that "dozens" of lawsuits have been filed alleging that this should result in Edison being held liable for starting the fire.

Electrical engineer and fire investigator Ken Buske said to NBC that "one would not expect a non-energized line to come to life," but that it remains a very real possibility that the line was indeed re-electrified through a process known as induction, where improper grounding of wires could cause heat or sparks to develop. Edison itself also acknowledged this



Damage leftover from the fires.

IMAGE COURTESY OF FREEMALAYSIA TODAY.

in a regulatory filing, saying that it was "exploring" whether the decommissioned line that the tower was on could have contributed to starting the blaze. Sources are still divided over the potential cause of the Palisades fire, with some speculating that it may have been ignited by the remains of another, much smaller blaze from days earlier.

CNN reports that more than 12 thousand homes have been completely destroyed in the flames. On top of that, LA resident Eva Esqueda ('26) said that "even people whose houses were untouched can't move back in for at least a year or two since gas, water, electricity, etc. will not be restored to affected areas until the damage is safely repaired," rendering untold thousands more residents and their families unable to return to what remains of their day-to-day lives for an indeterminate length of time.

Many Drew students come to the Forest from various areas of California, including diverse areas of

L.A. In regards to students who reside in areas affected by natural disasters, Administration sent out an email to all students from California as the fires exploded to a combined size of about 27 thousand acres on the evening of Jan. 8:

"As we watch the news about the wildfires impacting California, our thoughts are with you as our records indicate this is your home state. While we recognize that California is quite vast and your specific hometown may not have been directly impacted, we also know that many people, families, and friends may navigate the aftermath of tragedies like this in a variety of ways."

The email encourages affected students to reach out to Dean of Students Michelle Brisson or Vice President for Campus Life Frank Merckx for support, highlighting that they are available "should [students] need anything during this time."

Esqueda added that "the situation out west is devastating. Although I'm lucky to have just had my power shut

off, I know several friends and family members who have had to evacuate their homes as well as those who have lost their homes completely."

She expressed disappointment in the federal government's sluggish response to the disaster after it approved emergency funding but did not assist much in the way of material aid like federal fire resources, saying that "everyone has been affected in some way or another, and it's hard to watch all of this happening knowing that the state and federal government are lacking in their aid." However, she noted, "it's been extremely heartwarming to see people on this side of the country stand with us by donating clothes, food and other materials while spreading important information to their communities, too."

While the fires have been fully contained, the focus turns now to recovery from disaster and reconstruction of communities. Many residents (including Drew students) have been left to pick up the pieces of what remains of their lives and livelihoods after the devastating blazes ripped through the area. Rebuilding their cities is likely to take years, if not decades.



Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a sophomore majoring in Sociology and minoring in Journalistic



Flames ravage across the San Fernando

IMAGE COURTESY OF FREEMALAYSIA TODAY.

Trump Order Issued and Rescinded, Leaving Students Confounded

Eva Esqueda
Managing Editor

After officially taking office earlier this month, the Trump administration issued an executive order on Monday, Jan. 27, calling for a temporary pause in government funding to federal aid and programs, including grants and loans.

Students and Americans both were taken aback by the decision, which comes after a slew of other aggressive actions on part of the presidency. The order was then rescinded, however, after receiving legal pushback and criticism from political opponents and citizens alike.

Since his inauguration on Jan. 20, President Donald Trump has made clear his mission to undo policies set during the Biden administration. According to the American Council on Education, Trump has issued over two dozen executive orders, many of which carry the potential to affect the lives of students in higher education.

Alongside various directives that seek to impact the livelihood of undocumented students and demand for the rollback of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies, the memo issued by the Office of Management and Budget just a week into the Trump presidency marked another attempt to cease federal funding to programs that remain inconsistent with Trump's agenda. Starting at 5 p.m. on Jan. 28, the order would allow the government



The White House.

IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

time to decide precisely which programs are most in line with the president's objectives.

"Federal agencies must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the

green new deal," said Matthew J. Vaeth, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Yet, the vague wording of the memo sparked confusion and unease among officials and members of the public as it wasn't clear which programs would be affected by the pause in funding.

"It's incredibly unfortunate to think that we have come to the point where education is not right and it's being used as a weapon

against our own people," said Lindsay Orellana ('26). "For first-generation students like myself, these kinds of policies can be especially concerning because they often depend on grants and loans to break cycles of economic hardship."

The order also prompted immediate legal action and questions concerning the constitutionality of the hold. Federal district judge Loren AliKhan issued a block just before the freeze was to go into effect Tuesday

night, "pausing the plan for a week and setting a hearing for further arguments Monday morning," according to Daniel Barnes via NBC.

Following this, Vaeth informed federal agencies on Wednesday, Jan. 29, that the memo was being rescinded. Despite the rescission, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt assured the populace on X that other such Trump directives would carry on in being implemented.

As lawmakers and public officials hurry to keep up with ongoing changes under the Trump administration, the implications of such actions will continue to reveal themselves to students and citizens alike.

"While its rescission is a relief, the fact that it was even considered highlights the ongoing instability in education funding and the need for stronger protections for students who are already navigating an uphill battle," said Orellana.

The Drew Acorn is committed to updating the university's community on subsequent current events. Drew students may continue to monitor our publication for ongoing updates on developments and information that could potentially affect the well-being and livelihoods of those on campus.



Eva Esqueda is a junior majoring in Media & Communications and minoring in Film, French, and American Studies.



President Trump.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PICRYL

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Raids Worry Students

Jodi Velez
Staff Writer

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
Assistant Student Life & Arts

Drew's Office of Campus Life & Student Affairs released an updated version of their "Protocol for Responding to Requests for Information About Members of the University Community" in an email blast to students and community members on Wednesday, Jan. 29. This comes in the wake of the recent drastic actions taken by the United States Department of Immigration & Customs Enforcement since Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20, including a marked spike in raids on businesses in northern New Jersey and other diverse areas.

The updated policy outlines procedures for "an appropriate response ... [to requests for information about the community] in some situations," and sets out guidelines for access to University data and other protected information, said Vice President for Campus Life Frank Merckx. Merckx acknowledged the recent heated political climate in his email to students about the policy.

"[Drew] values the rich heritage of our diverse student and employee populations, many who come to Drew from around the world" and "I would be remiss not to recognize that the current national dialogue has raised some of our community's concerns about their privacy and safety, questioning how other potential changes may affect them," said Merckx.

The policy starts by laying a ground rule that



Image courtesy of PICRYL

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement make an
"Drew University faculty and staff must take great care when responding to requests for information ... about members of the University community."

It goes on to stipulate that the University has a working understanding with local law enforcement, and requires that any warrants or other legal notices that law enforcement may have to be served to the Vice President for Campus Life (Merckx, in this case) at the Ehinger Center.

It also addresses media presence on campus, stipulating that while media representatives do not need permission to be on adjacent streets (for example, across the street on Madison Avenue or Green Village Road), they must obtain prior approval from the Office of Communications or Athletics to be anywhere on Drew's campus. If they enter without approval, Campus Security will "work with" Communications and they may be asked to leave.

The document instructs anyone who witnesses or is confronted by law enforcement walking onto campus that "per institutional policy," they must immediately direct said agency to Campus

Security and gives additional contact information for third parties to reach out to for specific inquiries. At the end of his email, Merckx also provided a number of other contacts that community members may "reach out to a variety of offices on campus for support or assistance or with any questions," including the Counseling Center and International Student and Scholars Services.

As Merckx acknowledged, the political climate in the U.S. has become increasingly heated and volatile, due to the aftermath of Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration. In the past few weeks alone, Trump has rapidly passed multiple executive orders commanding drastic changes that have thrown the country into disarray.

These orders, while reversing several policies from the Biden administration, address topics including erasing queer and trans representation in government, birthright citizenship and locking down immigration and border security.

The orders are often criticized for being rushed and poorly thought out, causing widespread confusion — a recent loophole in one anti-trans release accidentally

rendered all U.S. citizens legally female, due to the administration's failure to take into account that all humans have female biological traits at conception.

Although New Jersey's current governor, Philip Murphy, has repeatedly vowed to meet any order targeting the state with non-compliance and to protect vulnerable minorities at all costs, Trump has repeatedly deployed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to many majority-Hispanic and majority-Black areas of New Jersey.

"Regarding the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids, it's definitely something I think a lot about as much as other Hispanics and people it affects. Being on campus, I feel safe, but it's always a lingering thought that anything can happen in this world," said Edgar Guzman ('28).

These recent deportation raids have led to random and warrantless detentions in nearby towns such as a local business in Newark, New Jersey — despite Newark having established itself as a sanctuary city for immigrants in 2017.

One of the detainees there was a U.S. military veteran who was interrogated about the authenticity of his military documentation. Mayor Ras Baraka of Newark said in a statement shortly after that "[the city] will not stand by idly while people are being unlawfully terrorized," and condemned the incident as a "plain violation of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

Even after the veteran, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, showed agents his valid veterans identification card, he was detained without a warrant regardless and questioned repeatedly by officers, said a statement jointly published by Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner Pablo José Hernández and New York congressman Adriano Espaillat.

This terror that many immigrants feel is by no means new — it traces its roots all the way back to a lesser known part of history during the Great Depression when the U.S. government deported between 300,000 and 2 million Mexican Americans and Mexicans, in a program known as the Mexican Repatriation.

About 60% of them were American citizens whose parents were first-generation immigrants, and even minorities born here continue to be targeted by predatory immigration policy. These widespread misconceptions about undocumented immigrants fuel angst and hatred,

and this has left members in educational and religious spaces to be cautious for the unexpected.

Trump's recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deployments are not limited just to New Jersey — a recent early-morning visit to an apartment building in Alexandria, Virginia, left many residents fearful and livid while speaking with local media outlet NBC4 Washington after agents began banging on their doors and in some instances, trying repeatedly to force their way into their homes at about 6:15 a.m.

Local leaders in Maryland and other states throughout the country are preparing for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to begin entering previously private and protected spaces like churches and even elementary schools in attempts to ferret out children whom Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, outlandishly claims are teenage MS-13 gang members.

Many Drew students, witnessing these incidents day-by-day as one of the most connected generations in history, are shocked and appalled. "The treatment that immigrants face in this country is incomprehensible and needs to end. The U.S. is meant to be an open, free nation and we must work as a community to make it so," said Stephanie Yanes ('27).

Note from the Authors:

Is there really such a thing as the American dream? Is a country that prides itself on being the "melting pot" discarding the main ingredient? The snacks and spices from the international section of a grocery store, abroad summer vacations and upbeat, soulful music that Americans cherish, originate from the people who uphold these traditions and values. From our cultural clubs such as ARIEL, South Asian Student Association, Drew African Student Association, Black student Union, Asian Student Union and Muslim Student Association, the purpose of Drew is to provide new experiences and education for all on campus. As a community that stands for unity and acceptance, we have a responsibility to look out for our peers and staff regardless of where they come from.

Jodi Velez is a sophomore majoring in Media & Communications and minoring in

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a sophomore majoring in Sociology and minoring in Journalistic



A U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement officer in uni-

IMAGE COURTESY OF NARA & DVIDS PUBLIC DOMAIN ARCHIVE

5 STUDENT LIFE & ARTS

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Happy Black History Month!!
 Learn more about how Drew celebrated this holiday with a bingo event.

PAGE 6

Commons Celebrates the Year of the Snake

Evelyn Labbe
 Staff Writer, Copy Editor

In collaboration with Gourmet Dining, Drew NightLife and the Asian Student Union hosted a celebration of the Lunar New Year on Friday, Jan. 31, with trivia, activities and cultural foods. Tables lining the lobby of the Commons welcomed students as more gathered inside to feast and test their knowledge of Asian culture.

Once checked into the event, students were given Panda Express goodies, including a booklet of activities, a sticker sheet and some coupons. Several activities invited students to test their artistic skills, the first being an opportunity to practice the art of Chinese calligraphy. Afterward, they could take a photo with friends and props or try several crafts including making festive lanterns or origami hearts, cranes and snakes.

Before dining inside, students could visit the snack-tasting table crowded with several goodies from



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Year of the Snake, Lunar New Year celebration at The Commons.

different East Asian countries. Most popular were Korean Jeollanam-do honey rice cakes, salted egg yolk pastries with green bean mochi filling and sesame peanut brittle.

At the end of the line of tables was Heart of Dinner note writing. The table was filled with stickers, markers, crayons and other craft supplies. Here, students created heartfelt notes, writing messages in traditional Chinese, Tagalog, Korean or Japanese, and decorating

them to be included in care packages for Asian elders in New York City.

The Commons served up several cultural dishes for the celebration, including three-cup chicken, edamame, dumplings and spring rolls – to many, a noticeable upgrade in deliciousness from the usual menu. Dessert consisted of not only fortune cookies, but yummy mango sago and themed cupcakes as well.

While eating, students gathered around the



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Students participate in Lunar New Year trivia and Kahoot. projector screen to play of Asian culture and the Lunar New Year.

several Kahoot trivia games about different aspects of Asian culture, including questions about Lunar New Year traditions and history. Winners of the trivia games were given festive red gift bags filled with prizes like Ramune soda, Pocky and a stuffed plush.

With students crowding The Commons in festivity, the combined efforts of student organizations and Gourmet Dining elevated the night into a true celebration



Evelyn Labbe is a first-year student who is undecided on

Make Boba not War with SASA

Katie Germinder
 Assistant Opinions Section

The South Asian Student Association hosted an event in Crawford Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 6. It was primarily a group discussion on the current conflicts happening in South Asia and everyone in attendance was welcome to sip on boba while having these conversations.

Two of the board members of the South Asian Student Association, Arya Patel ('27) and Aaran Robinson ('28), led the discussion and briefly educated everyone on the history of the Israel-Palestine and Kashmir conflicts. They asked questions such as "How might the media be influencing our opinions?" and "When, if at all, is the use of violence justified?" These questions sparked interesting and important discussions of war and how we are informed about it, allowing for all participants to be better educated on both conflicts and their long history.

All of the students in attendance were highly encouraged to participate openly, sharing their

opinions and views on the current conflicts. Several students were eager to raise their hands and initiated serious discussions on war and politics.

While there were questions asked specifically about the two conflicts, there were also some asked about war and genocide in general. Most people did not realize how messy conflicts can get when other powers interfere, or when someone resorts to violence to resolve a conflict.

The event wrapped up with the hosts thanking everyone for coming to learn more about the conflicts.

Overall, it was a well-attended event that provided students with the opportunity to gain more knowledge about current events and share their thoughts in a welcoming environment.



Katie Germinder is a sophomore majoring in environmen-



Boba ready for students to en-

IMAGE COURTESY OF MELANIE SANCHEZ



SASA committee members pose for group photo.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MELANIE SANCHEZ

SheLeads Jeopardy: Informational and Enriching Night

Devan Sutaria
Sports Section Editor

A joyous, lively energy met Crawford Hall on Monday, Feb. 3 when SheLeads hosted their annual Jeopardy event. With creative questions and an infectious energy from the hosts, the participants exited the event with not only a newfound knowledge of the historic achievements of women, but with creative prizes as well.

The club's Chief Operating Officers, Nadia Porchetta ('26) and Anjelina Grisafe ('26), both designed the questions and categories as well as cohosted the event, asking a variety of questions ranging from "She's a Ten!" on women Olympians to "Femininomenon" on female popular culture icons. The duo also had the difficult task of determining which team was the first to raise their hands, which led to some playful banter between the three competitive teams.

Porchetta thoroughly enjoyed her time hosting the event and was pleased with possessing the ability to further her

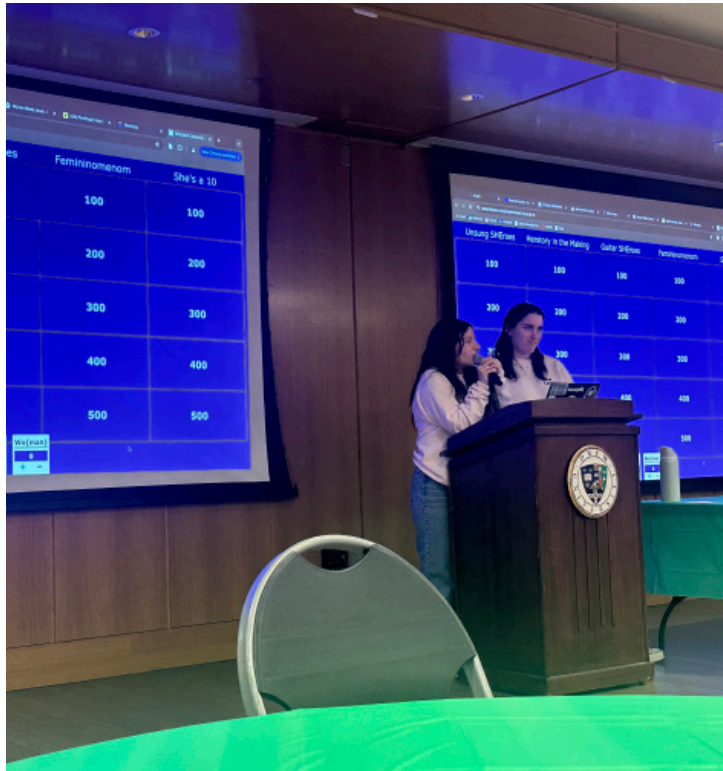


IMAGE COURTESY OF DEVAN SUTARIA

SheLeads Members calling out bingo numbers.

campus's knowledge of the significance of female achievement.

Reflecting on the event, Porchetta said, "The experience was fabulous. To have a platform, even if it is a very small one, that I can use to highlight unsung female heroes and bring about more everyday knowledge in a creative, fun way is very special. I, myself, even

learned a lot throughout the process of making the questions."

The SheLeads team in attendance also gave out various prizes for all contestants. Prizes included SheLeads crew neck sweatshirts, fuzzy socks and a skincare routine.

Founded in 2023, SheLeads has proved to be an enriching, empowering staple on Drew's campus.



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEVAN SUTARIA

SheLeads members gathered together.

President Holly Clare ('25), who was unable to attend the event, reflected on the experience of Monday's event, as well as the strides the club has taken in just two years.

"I am so proud of this team who put everything together, and it's made me so happy to hear how much everyone enjoyed it. It has been a special experience to be a part

of building up a community of empowered women who are ready to take the next step in their future chapters," Clare said.

SheLeads will host their next event – a fashion show in collaboration with the Career Closet – on Monday,

Devan Sutaria is a junior majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Bingo Event Celebrates Black History Month

Kayla Kiernan
Staff Writer

Drew's Student Engagement Diversity Department and Drew Night-Life hosted a Black History Month-themed bingo event on Feb. 7.

When entering Crawford Hall at the Ehinger Center for this event, participants were given a bingo board as well as a punch card.

The punch card is for individuals to bring to every Black History Month event they attend. For every event, they are given a sticker to add to the card. By Feb. 28 at the "A Touch of Soul" event, whoever has the most stickers and therefore whoever has attended the most events for Black History Month by then will get a prize – so make sure to keep up with all the Black History Month events happening in the future!

The event was opened by recently graduated Muthoni Githinji (C'24). Being very engaged in various clubs before graduating, she talked about passing the baton of student and club engagement to others like the students hosting the event, Fundi Ngcongwane ('27) and Grailin Simmons ('27). Ngcongwane and Simmons are helping coordinate and plan all of the Black History Month events.

The event kicked off with participants having to achieve bingo in various unique shapes. For example, in one of the games, one had to have a heart on their bingo board to call bingo. When one achieved the winning shape, they would be able to win prizes. Some prizes like cards, hair products, a sweater and more were offered. The most coveted prize of the evening was a new record player.

There were several instances of multiple participants calling bingo at the same time. In these cases, Drew's classic bingo settler was always brought out: rock, paper, scissors, shoot. Everything from the event, prizes and bingo settlers all made the event something everyone in the community could enjoy.

When playing a game as heart-wrenching as bingo, it has the power to bring communities together. Overall, it was a very successful and energetic event.

There will be many more events to come: Black In Politics in Crawford Hall on Feb. 17, Movie Night in Crawford Hall on Feb. 18, Roots In Rhythm: Afro Diasporic Dance Workshop in Crawford Hall on Feb. 20 and many more. Other such events are listed on the Black History Month Calendar on the @drewstuact Instagram page.



Kayla Kiernan is a first-year student who is undecided on



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Bingo boards.

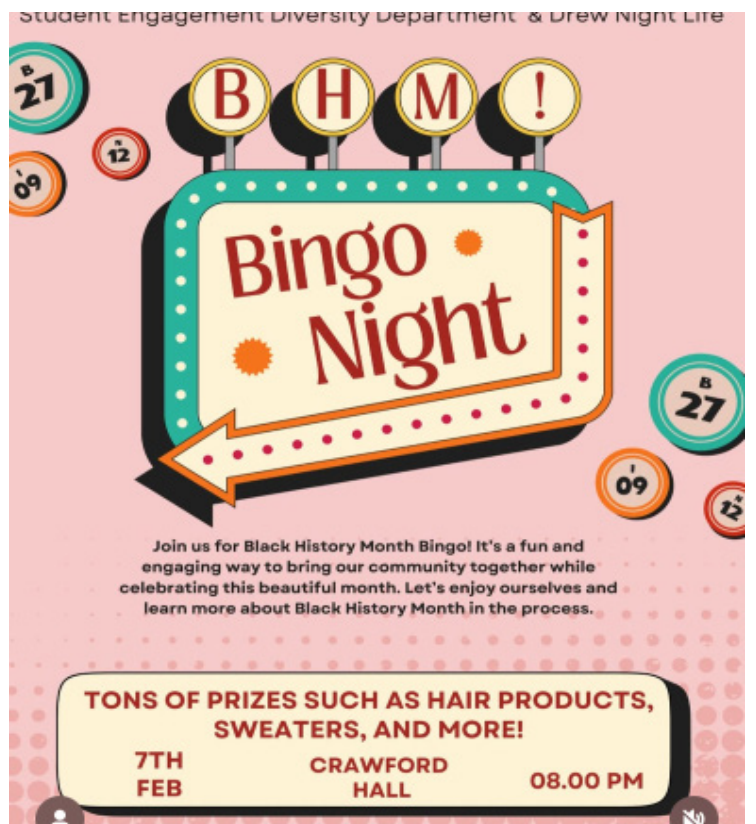


IMAGE COURTESY OF DREWSTUACT

Black History Month Bingo poster.



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

Bingo presentation area.

OPINIONS

SPEAK UP! OPINIONS EDITOR: KEIRAN DUGAN | kdugan@drew.edu
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 Submit a letter to the editor or contribute an opinion piece (500 WORDS
 APPROX). Email theacorn+opinions@drew.edu



Students are Concerned as Drew's Finances are Failing

LEAD EDITORIAL

In light of Drew's recent budget cuts and added expenses, many students are urging administration to be more transparent about budgeting. Already, students have been voicing dissent in regard to student life and concerns pertaining to the future of our institution.

Some students have even begun to fill out transfer applications. With Drew's failing reputation, we can expect greater transfer rates and lower application rates. If our financial reputation is not transparently addressed, it is not only the student body, but the future of the university that is at risk.

Students on Yik Yak have voiced concerns that the school may be shutting down. One anonymous poster wrote, "Is no [one] else freaking tf out bc it really feels like we're about to shut down?" The post received 25 upvotes from students who felt similarly. Given the closure of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia only last year, the possibility seems very real to Drew students – especially since the administration continues to keep us in the dark.

It is unlikely, however, that Drew will actually shut down.

It is a fact that Drew has had financial issues for a while. As a private institution, Drew relies on donations from various sources – especially alumni – for funds. Compared to other liberal arts schools, however, they receive a lot fewer donations. Drew's endowment – its collection of

Drew 11h
 STOP TELLING THE CLUB LEADERS TO KEEP BEING MORE ACTIVE BUT THEN TAKE AWAY OUR MONEY TO DO SO ISTG THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ONLY TWO BRAIN CELLS! WE KNOW THE TRUTH I WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE SCAMMING US AS STUDENTS !!! FEB 6TH IS GONNA COME IN REAL HOT.

Drew 23h
 Ive got more money than my clubs budget since its getting cut to 50%, awesome job as always Drew

Me looking at the gigantic plastic container on my naanarito remembering how Drew cited "environmental concerns" as their reason for getting rid of commons to-go boxes



A collection of Yik Yak posts regarding Drew's current financial situa-

tioned assets – therefore is much less than that of other liberal arts colleges.

Moreover, on average, Drew gives out more scholarships to its students than the average liberal arts college. "Drew University offers an average school grant of \$22,610, which is \$8,811 higher than the average for private not-for-profit schools, which is \$13,799," according to PrepScholar. Although this is good for students and for the school's reputation, it is not so good for the university's finances.

Following past spending on campus renovations such as the construction of McLendon in 2009, the current administration is facing a desperate need to replenish the endowment. The Drew Forest and land sale was intended for this purpose; however, while the terms

for the sale have been agreed upon, the transaction has yet to take place. This delay may be related to Trump's efforts to freeze federal funding, though this is currently unconfirmed.

The delay of the forest cut in club budgets and the attachment of fees to what should be free campus amenities.

Before the spring semester began, a mass email was sent out to the student body with a new lockout policy. Any student who accidentally locks themselves out of their room is now required to pay a \$25 fine for Campus Security to come and help them get back in. This is automatically charged to our student account with no questions asked.

Similarly, a new policy has been implemented in the

Drew 1d
 Nah. We need all need to get together and send emails like hell. Club budgets are getting cut and food is getting worse.

We're paying so much money and getting what in return? This is ridiculous.

Drew 1d
 They can't afford to have good food but they can afford to plow after ONE SINGULAR snow flake

Drew 21h
 They're keeping more money in the bank this semester and passing the costs onto us. The more money they have in the bank, the more interest they gain. It's a longterm solution to Drew's fiscal crisis

Drew 14h
 Has the school tried pulling itself up by its bootstraps??

Drew 1d
 Where is our money going?

Drew
 They cut all club budgets down to nothing, things are getting cancelled for this year, the commons food is bad, C-store went downhill, water issues, classrooms falling apart, dorms are in shambles, what is happening? How can they keep making us pay?

Drew 1d
 This makes no sense how are club budgets getting cut but they just BUILT a "teaching kitchen" and REACQUIRED commons. Like we don't care what the space looks like as much as we care abt the quality of food and life here tbh

guys drew is operating at a loss



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

English department for both professors and students. Professors who require a course reader for their curriculum now need to send in the request before the semester begins so that it can be added to the student's tuition.

We can only hope that the university and the Borough of Madison complete the Drew Forest transaction soon.

In the meantime, however, students are frustrated that despite Drew's financial issues, money is being put into expensive renovations. Students feel that the expansion of the LIFE station and the addition of a do-it-yourself teaching kitchen space in The Commons are not necessary additions to student life on campus.

"Where is our money going?" asked one anonymous Yik Yak poster. Another responded, "To remodel Commons because that's totally what we needed ..."

When asking Gourmet Dining's Resident Manager, Joseph Cavanaugh, about how they would respond to student criticism about these additions, he said, "We understand that change can be complicated, especially as we've faced some delays in our construction timeline."

While campus additions are important in improving the quality of life on campus, many students would much rather their tuition money go toward things such as club funding, which they view as integral to student life.

Clubs are responsible for planning and administering student events. Cutting club budgets in half will presumably cut the number of campus events in half, or else seriously impact

their quality and attendance. Student Government, for example, has voiced frustration at their inability to provide funding for all of the events that are pitched to them, given that their budget this semester is only \$2,000.

Others would like to see Drew focusing its efforts on saving Sitterly House, The Other End and the Commuter Lot – spaces that will be sold when the Drew land sale is finalized – but serve integral functions for student life and are landmarks of university history.

Although we acknowledge the necessity of replenishing the endowment and budgeting spending, we believe that the Drew administration needs to adjust their budget according to student voices and needs.

Moreover, the administration needs to be transparent with the student body about the university's financial situation and the reasons behind added expenses and budget cuts. When students learned that Drew was cutting funding for clubs in half, they experienced a wake-up call – many students had no idea that we are, and have been, low on funds. This realization has left students concerned about the future of the school they have invested so much time and money into.

With both their savings and their futures on the line, it is understandable that students are concerned. Now it is Drew's turn to respond.

The Lead Editorial is a reflection of the collective opinion of the editorial board.



The Commons' New Changes.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEE COHEN

The Sydor Synopsis: A Baby's Perspective on Being God

Nicole Sydor
Staff Writer

For Amélie Nothomb in “The Character of Rain,” life begins with nothing until we have the ability to claim our identity. Translated from its original and more compelling French title “*Métaphysique des tubes*,” Nothomb introduces us to the mind of God on its transition to humanity, using language and the image of “tubes” to illustrate the narrator’s descent from divinity.

Following Japanese tradition, before the age of three, children are considered to exist in the realm of the divine, comparable to God’s. The novel takes the reader on the journey of three-year-old Nothomb, following her evolution from a God to a child with a sense of self. As we follow the child’s development, we are flooded with her philosophical musing on being, language, nothingness, fluidity, identity and life itself.

The narrator enters the world incapable of producing speech, silent and immobile, but becomes aroused from her plantlike state with an engaging desire to produce complex language. God is aware and makes it incredibly clear to the reader that they are cogent and ar-

ticulate, understanding Japanese and French, but without the ability to use either to express herself outwardly.

God, however, begins as a tube: an entity with no cycle, only a definitive beginning and a definitive end. God constructs a winding metaphor for what it means to have life pass through us as passive vehicles, only to be roused by pleasure.

It is not until the narrator’s grandmother gives her a piece of white chocolate that the screaming to express words ceases, and the narrator discovers that with pleasure exists “me.” It is at this moment that the narrative perspective shifts from an external “nothing,” observing the narrator, to occupying the position of the storyteller and finally switching to first-person. It’s the sweetness of pleasure that rouses the infant: “I’m not an ‘it’ I’m a ‘me!’”

With her vocal agency, the narrator manipulates the perception of those around her with her first words, after “mama” and “dada.” On a quest to say what captures her vision of the universe in a tubular sense, she gravitates toward words that turn something into nothing and vice versa. For the narrator, to utter a word is to give it weight and meaning, to give it an identity worth engaging

with, and likewise to turn nothing into something.

Eventually, as the narrator grows, she realizes she has less power over her surroundings. We come to see the transition of a child who consumes the world with their divinity, to a world that consumes the child and at its heart the individual. Claiming identity becomes more difficult, and society assigns identity to you when you are no longer God. It is suddenly not so simple as the narrator suggests, using a pleasure as pure as white chocolate to launch and solidify one’s being into existence.

An observer and a master of language, God devolves and evolves simultaneously, coming to possess their own identity in exchange for divinity. The reader is placed on a journey, much like that of something passing through a tube, like the rice cakes our narrator feeds the carp bestowed upon her for her birthday. They are an assumption of her identity that brings her a grotesque and all-consuming disorientation, robbing her of her selfhood and her essence; they suck the life and godly being out of her, as much as those in her life around her.

“The Metaphysics of Tubes,” a much more fitting and intriguing translation for

Nothomb’s short 132-page work, gives the reader the opportunity to reexamine what it means to exist, especially once we fall to nothing in our descent from being God and are stripped of our agency to dictate what’s around us.

Trigger warning: The novel does have references

and discussion of death and suicide or suicidal ideation.

Nicole Sydor is a graduate student pursuing a masters in teaching.



A baby gripping an adult's hand.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY

A Valentine's Day Opinion: Love is Great. Here's Why

Allison Cannon
Assistant News Editor, Staff

With this publication coming out on Valentine’s Day, it is more than necessary to talk about why love is great and the advancements the world has made in the category of love.

If the world is feeling heavy, especially on a day like Valentine’s Day, it is easy to forget that love is more than just a societal construct; it is a concept that overflows almost every single living organism on this planet and has outlasted recorded history.

To start, there have been some major wins for love recently around the world.

Thailand became the first Southeast Asian and third Asian country overall to legalize same-sex marriage, and on Jan. 23, hundreds of couples celebrated the occasion with a mass wedding.

The ceremony was hosted by a rights group named Naruemit Pride, which means “Creating Pride” when translated. The hall was filled with lovers old and young, gay and straight, to celebrate this massive victory for the country.

Despite the raging fires occurring in Southern

California, many engaged couples are still finding ways to celebrate their marriages. Through the support of their communities, couples have been able to continue with their wedding plans by hosting their weddings in community spaces instead of the original wedding venues that had been chosen.

According to the New York Times, in light of the fires, many couples moved up their wedding dates in order to create a sense of community and be able to gather with loved ones in their times of need.

“My mom convinced us that people need some sort of outlet for community right now, and that’s how it felt,” said Nick Campell, one of the grooms interviewed for the New York Times.

Love can get you through the hard stuff.

Even when it is hard to be in love, it is the effort that makes it feel so wonderful. Love is still strong when a couple is fighting. It is present in the small jokes that are made to try and make the other person laugh during a serious discussion.

Love is also everywhere.

It finds itself in almost every aspect of life, creating

a beneficial environment for us all.

We have found love in a plate of food on a day when everything seems to go wrong and a pick-me-up is needed. We have found love in the friendships we seem to create when we enter new spaces and in the awkward first conversations that will soon turn into inside jokes and conversations.

Love is even known to bring better physical and mental health, with benefits being linked to low blood pressure and greater life satisfaction.

But even with all the benefits, love can be

overlooked and pushed into a stereotypical category. People say that they wish to be in a relationship—that it will “fix them” and that a lover is the only thing that is worth putting effort into.

But something that can be easily forgotten is that those same people can have friends, family and even pets that fill their lives with love.

Platonic love is the first thing we learn as children. Phrases like “Always treat others how you want to be treated” and “Love thy neighbor” have been ingrained into our minds for good reason. The love we feel in life is not always de-

efined by relationship status, popularity or where we fall on the social ladder. It is defined by personal growth and the joy we feel in our communities.

If anything, I want the takeaway from this article to be that love is complex, and that it can show up as empathy or passion, but also as friendship and loyalty, tenderness and appreciation.

Allison Cannon is a first-year majoring in psychology and studio art and minoring in Spanish.



Student digital drawing of a heart.

IMAGE COURTESY OF ISABEKKA DASILVA

The Power of Personal Branding: A Course Suggestion

Benjamin Castro
Staff Writer

With the opening of In the fast-paced, digital world of today, having a strong personal brand is both a necessity and an advantage. Whether you are applying for internships, preparing for job interviews or building a professional network, how you present yourself can shape your future opportunities.

Employers are no longer focused solely on resumes. They want to know who you are, what you can bring to the table and how effectively you can market yourself. This is where personal branding can make a difference.

Personal branding involves defining your unique value proposition and leaving a lasting impression. Whether you are a first-year student exploring career paths or a senior applying for full-time roles, a well-developed personal brand can set you apart from the competition.

In an increasingly challenging job market, recent college graduates face stiff

competition. It is not just from their peers but also experienced professionals adapting to the evolving workplace shaped by artificial intelligence. As AI continues to automate traditional roles, the ability to stand out with a strong personal brand has never been more crucial.

At Drew, students have the opportunity to develop these essential skills in the Personal Branding course

taught by Professor Robert Donnelly. The course focuses on helping students identify their strengths, craft their professional narratives and create cohesive online profiles that reflect their goals and values.

“Given the fact that technology and AI is altering the nature of work, it is imperative that Drew students, all students for that matter, consider developing their personal brand to market

themselves via social media in the new world of work,” said Donnelly.

The course goes beyond theory, offering practical exercises that prepare students to navigate the evolving job market with confidence.

“One of the most significant takeaways for me was the focus on self-discovery. The class helped me identify my unique strengths, values, and skills and align them with my career aspirations,” said Taylor Dombalis (C’24). “It taught me that personal branding isn’t just about presenting myself professionally but about staying true to who I am and communicating my authenticity effectively.”

With a job market that is becoming increasingly competitive, building a strong personal brand is not just about finding a job, but about creating opportunities and leaving lasting impressions. Taking steps to develop your personal brand can help you stand out in the crowd and open doors you may never have imagined.

With evolving trends reshaping the market and reducing traditional opportuni-

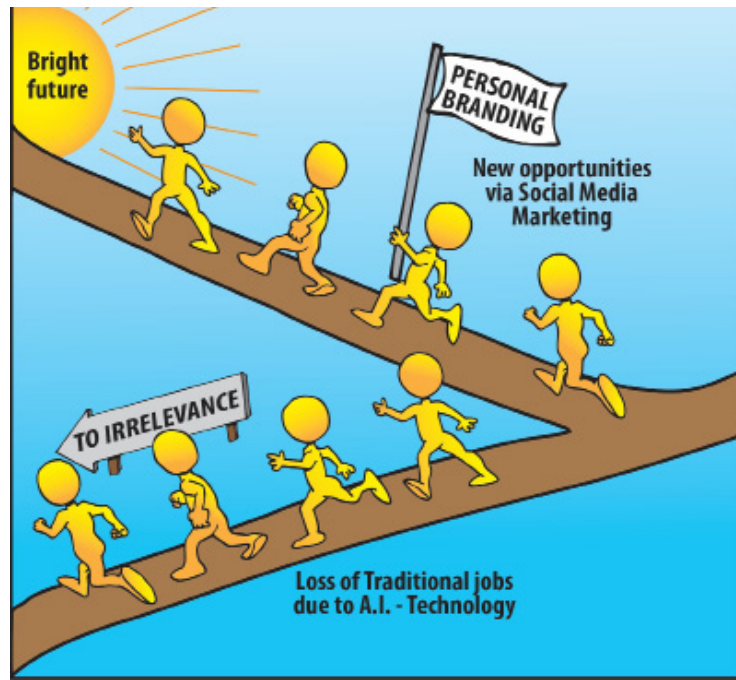
ties, recent college graduates must be proactive. Instead of simply waiting for opportunities, students can create them by leveraging social media to showcase their brands and connect directly with professionals.

This approach helps students stand out and access roles that may not exist through traditional job searches.

For students looking to develop themselves, the Center for Career Development at Drew is an excellent resource. The staff provides assistance with digital profile development, crafting and refining your resume and perfecting small details such as your elevator pitch. The center also offers guidance on job and internship opportunities.

If you are ready to develop your personal brand and take it to the next level, consider registering for the Personal Branding course in future semesters.

Benjamin Castro is a senior majoring in marketing and business..



A personal branding graphic.

IMAGE COURTESY OF ROBERT DONNELLY

Nosferatu (2024) Review: Sucking The Life Out of Film

Dalila Benmakhoulouf
Staff Writer

The original “Nosferatu” (1922) film was very popular, with Rotten Tomatoes ranking it a 97%. In comparison, the recent remake directed by Robert Eggers led to a downfall in the gothic horror genre.

The film is loosely based on Bram Stoker’s “Dracula.” The plot is set around Thomas Hutter, who gets sent to work with an isolated man named Count Orlok for a real estate transaction. As the plot progresses, Orlok is revealed to be a vampire who is obsessed with his wife, Ellen, and has been possessing her for years. This leads to a blood plague that Orlok spreads to the town, causing terror to the people living there.

“Nosferatu” has become a huge phenomenon in the recent year. That does NOT mean the remake of the film has hit a mark for accurate Gothicism.

For starters, Eggers was known for also directing films such as “The Witch” (2015) and “The Lighthouse” (2019).

The video editing throughout the film made the pacing feel slow; at first, I believed it was intentional until they got to the scene introducing the blood plague.

It was an attempt to make the climax of the plot feel chaotic, like an action movie that essentially did not have a thorough execution.

The characters were interesting to learn about; however, they were nowhere similar to the original, but instead just variants from his past films. This was especially irritating to discover when the children of Friedrich Huttering were introduced. What made it unoriginal was how the two little girls, Clara and Louise, were an exact depiction of the twin siblings in his other film, “The Witch” (2015), Mercy and Jones.

Clara and Louise both had the same personality, bratty and extremely whiny. It is almost as if Eggers directed them to have identical voices as well. This was an extremely cheap way of trying to use his directing skills as a signature style for his movies. Like other directors such as Wes Anderson and Greta Gerwig, every director has a signature style in every element that makes a film. Eggers attempts to make this film a signature “artsy” film the same way A24 studios would have. In light of this, it made the film very sad to watch.

This is only a terrible attempt given that “Nosferatu” is an original from back in 1922, making it a silent film. Ellen Hutter is known in the film for being possessed by Count Orlok. The constant groaning and moaning she does in the film seems to be sexualized given how the original is known for being silent (it’s

giving Dan Schneider if you ask me).

On top of that, Eggers uses multiple shots that he attempts to make into his style such as the beginning of the film when he is seen sucking the blood of Ellen’s husband, Thomas, who is meant to be working for him in his mansion. The shot used for this was a full shot to see Nosferatu’s entire body shaking while sucking Thomas’ blood.

If it was a close-up shot instead, it would’ve been less humorous to see Nosferatu shaking his butt while doing his vampire deeds. Next to Ellen’s scene where she is sticking out her tongue as she is being possessed in front of her husband, the film seemed more humorous than scary or horrific.

With that being said, Eggers’ films are known for being produced by A24, a film studio that scouts for films with a certain style or aesthetic, most famous for “Euphoria” (2019) and “Everything Everywhere All At Once” (2022). The unfortunate case for audiences to understand is that A24, in fact, did not work for this film. This understanding made me realize how his focus on making Nosferatu a signature A24 style made him lose the focus on making a well-developed remake of the original, especially for the horror film. The perfect example of this is another recent film, “Joker 2” (2024).



Theater seats.

IMAGE COURTESY OF LINDA GSCHWENTNER ON PEXELS

There are certain films that have a much greater need to adhere to a certain plot and other forms of action. A director should not, for example, turn a superhero film into a musical, or a vampire film into what is essentially an adult pornography film.

The remake of “Nosferatu” lacks a more accurate depiction of the narrative from the original, especially with the characters’ depth. Instead, the narrative was undeveloped, rushing just to get to the ending. The ending of “Nosferatu” is the only real thing I can fully remember, given how it was the only time they made an attempt at showing the real essence of the original film and how it could have

looked if it was properly remade today.

Even though this film has already been nominated for an Oscar, I will not change my opinion on how I see “Nosferatu.” Even Count Orlok will always be a fan fiction’s attempt at representing Count Dracula (literally, as Movie Web explains it). This is the one film that I truly hope down the line can be remade once again.

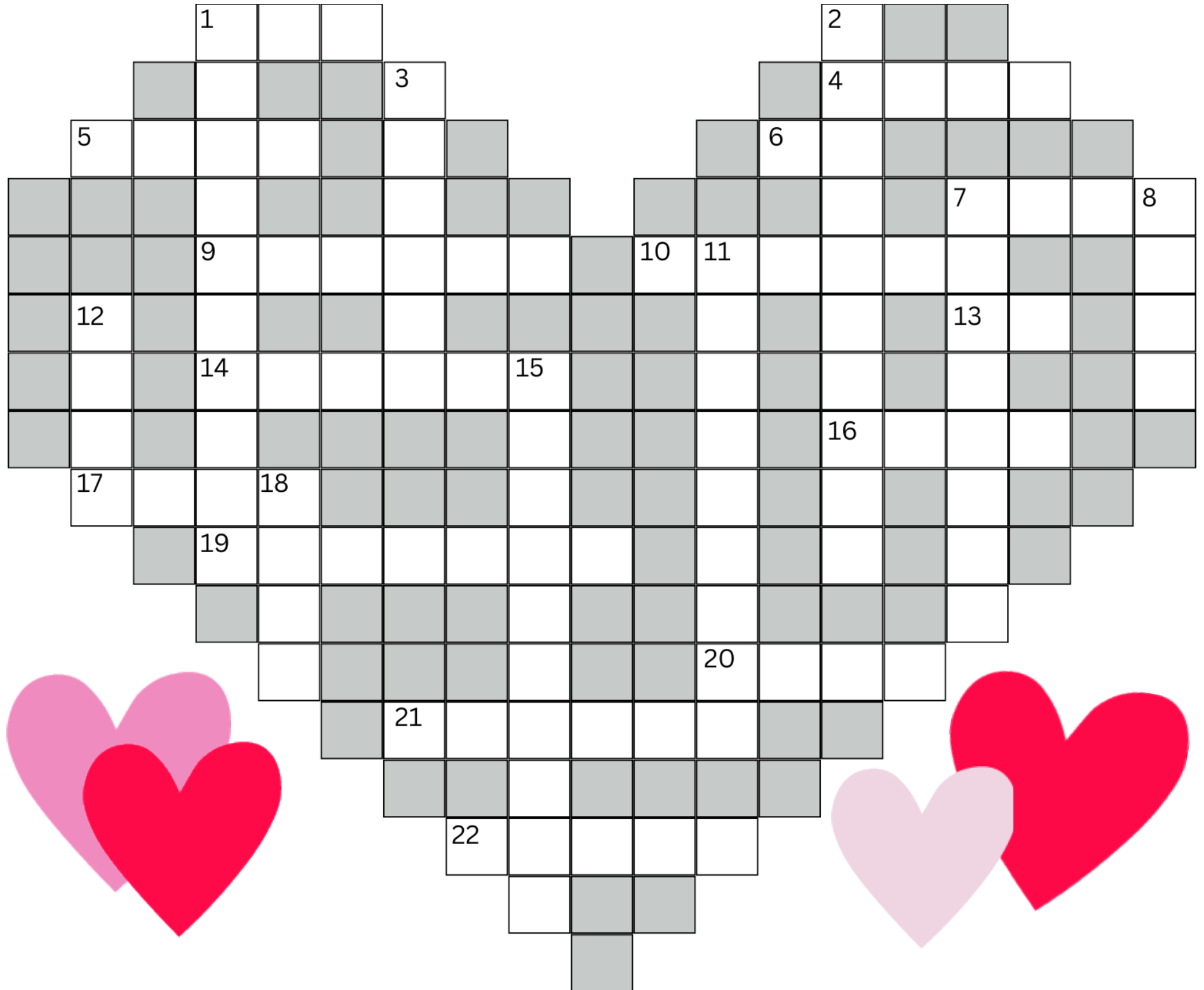
Dalila Benmakhoulouf is a senior majoring in English literature and minoring in classical studies.

HAVE IDEAS?

10 DIVERSIONS

Submit your art, photography and more by emailing theacorn@drew.edu or join the Acorn by visiting thedrewacorn.com/join

Treat Yourself to a Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Warm embrace
- 4 Grasp
- 5 Letter starter
- 6 A hug and a kiss
- 7 Gift tag word
- 9 Special delights

10 Under Cupid's spell

- 13 (With 8 Down) A candy heart saying
- 14 Valentine's decorations
- 16 The best type of love
- 17 Look to buy gifts
- 19 Flower arrangement

20 Dinner and a movie, perhaps

- 21 Peanut-butter candy that come's in hearts
- 22 Strong devotion

DOWN

- 1 Dreamboat
- 2 Candy that the lovers gift on Valentine's Day
- 3 Romantic interests could have an _____ of the hearts
- 7 Cupid's month

8 (With 13 Across) A candy heart saying

- 11 Happy couple
- 12 Affectionate greeting
- 15 Affectionate pet name
- 18 Verse that might be written for a lover

We'd *love* it if you joined the

Drew Acorn

Meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. in our office in McLendon 117
 Email theAcorn@drew.edu for more information

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

- 15 Sweetheart
- 18 Poem

- 3 Affair
- 7 February
- 8 Mine
- 11 Newlyweds
- 12 Kiss

DOWN

- 22 Ardor
- 1 Heartthrob
- 2 Chocolate

- 16 True
- 17 Shop
- 19 Bouquet
- 20 Date
- 21 Reeses

- 7 From
- 9 Treats
- 10 In love
- 13 Be
- 14 Hearts

ACROSS

- 1 Hug
- 4 Hold
- 5 Dear
- 6 XO



Getting to Know Our Rangers On and Off the Field: Lauren Cagliostro

BENJAMIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

Balancing academics and athletics is no easy feat, yet Drew's student-athletes continue to rise to the challenge.

This edition of our Ranger spotlight highlights the achievements of undergraduate student Lauren Cagliostro ('25), a dedicated student who recently completed her fourth and final year on the field hockey team. A standout both academically and athletically, Cagliostro is a double major in business and marketing with double minors in computer science and psychology, all while serving as a two-year captain for the Rangers.

A key defender for the team, her ability to balance a demanding course load while excelling in her sport is a testament to her dedication and drive. Since her first year, Cagliostro has been a consistent force on the field by starting every game in her collegiate career and earning several All-Landmark Conference honors across all four years.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BASIM HORSHAW (@freebhp ON INSTAGRAM)

Cagliostro poses for her media day photo

Beyond athletics, her leadership extends across campus. She has served as one of the field hockey representatives for Drew's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is the founder and president of Bookworms, the Drew University Book Club.

In her time at Drew, Cagliostro has received several recognitions for her academic achievements. She is a member of the prestigious Psi Chi, the international psychology honor society, was named on the dean's list on multiple occasions and was awarded the Business

Prize for demonstrating the best overall performance in academics and service to the business major. She has participated in several Bear Dens, while also helping with the setup of these events.

When it comes to academics, she identified Mobile App Development as her favorite course at Drew. Taught by Professor Barry Burd, this course allowed her to blend her creative expertise with technical skills. "Not only is he one of my favorite professors, but I also love coding and having the

opportunity to get creative with it."

During the recent summer break, Cagliostro pursued professional growth by participating in a real estate and property management internship with Dimora FUA-AUF Guest Apartments in Florence, Italy. Additionally, she works on campus as a library circulation desk employee and a student worker for the Department of Business.

When asked about her favorite aspect of being a student-athlete, she emphasizes the unwavering support of her teammates outside of just the competitions. "I don't have a specific favorite moment, but my favorite thing about being a student-athlete is having a second family to back me up at all times," said Cagliostro.

From Cagliostro's perspective, being a student-athlete "allowed me to manage my time more efficiently. When I stick to a strict schedule, I do better physically, mentally and academically."

Cagliostro's dedication to academics, athletics and leadership has made her

a standout member of the Drew community. As she approaches commencement, she leaves behind a legacy of hard work, perseverance and passion.

If you would like to nominate another student-athlete to be featured in future issues, please send their name to theacorn+sports@drew.edu.

Benjamin Castro is a senior majoring in Business and Marketing



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEJA ROBINSON

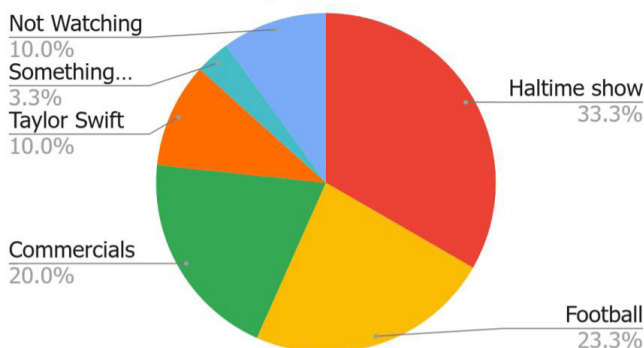
Cagliostro makes a defensive

Super Bowl Prediction Polls

Dr. Dre
Lil Wayne
Dr. Dre
Drake
Beyonce
Bruno Mars
Halftime Show Guest Predictions
Miley Cyrus
Dolly Parton
Dr. Dre
Taylor Swift

Swifties
Foresters
If we had a football team, what would it be called?
Fighting Squirrels
Rabid Squirrels
Nuts
Ferns
Acorns
Ferns
Taylor Swift

Main Reason for Watching SB LIX



HIGHLIGHT REEL

JANUARY 16 TO FEBRUARY 14

LANDMARK CONFERENCE AWARDS

Nicholas Heinio-Widell • MSWIM • Jan. 16 • Conference Player of the Week

Sam Trodick • WSWIM • Jan. 16 • Conference Player of the Week

Brendan Burkett • MSWIM • Jan. 28 • Conference Player of the Week

Matthew Zenker ('27) • MBB • Feb. 4 • Conference Player of the Week

200m Medley Relay Team • Feb. 13 Conference Record Time (1:30.90)

Men's Basketball • Feb. 12 • University Record-Tying 11th Straight Victory

Maddie Beyer ('26) • WBB • Feb. 5 • Go-ahead 3-pointer with 8 seconds

remaining

Izzy Anderson ('26) • WFENCE • Feb. 9 • 100th Career Win

Assata Mutakabbir ('25) • WFENCE • Feb. 9 • 200th Career Win

Henri Degremont ('26) • MFENCE • Feb. 8 • 100th Career Win

Brenna Behensky ('25) • WFENCE • Feb. 9 • 200th Career Win

Amy Rachilla ('27) • WBB • Feb. 12 • Tied University Assist Record (12)

Have an athlete you want to highlight? Submit their name, class year and accomplishment by emailing sports.theacorn@drew.edu or visiting thedrewacorn.com/submit-a-tip

COMING UP

Get live stats
@GoDrewRangers on X

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
MTEN/WTEN vs. Ithaca
Ithaca, NY
12:00 PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
WFENCE vs. EWFC
Madison, NJ
8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
WBB vs. Elizabethtown
Elizabethtown
7:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
BASE vs St. Elizabeth
Madison, NJ
2:30 PM

SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR: DEVAN SUTARIA | dsutaria@drew.edu
ASSISTANT EDITOR: GILLIAN SAMPSON
Contact by emailing theacorn+sports@drew.edu

INSIDE:

Get to Know Rangers On and Off the Field: Field Hockey Captain Lauren Cagliostro

12

Spring Sports Preview: Rangers Set to Spring into Action

GILLIAN SAMPSON
Assistant Sports Editor

As the fall and winter sports seasons are winding down, the spring sports look to take their respective places, whether it may be in the Simon Forum, Baldwin Gym or Ranger Stadium. Whether they are seeking to build on last year's successes or looking for redemption, our athletes have been gearing up for their season openers, as others are getting closer to a chance at playoffs.

The track and basketball teams are wrapping up their seasons with great success and amazing accomplishments.

Owen Browne ('28) of the men's track and field team became the first Ranger to ever compete in pole vault. He cleared 4.30 meters, finishing second out of the Division III competitors. The distance medley squad of Matt Ellis ('28), Jarred Saltz ('26), Dylan Crain ('26) and Thomas Edwards ('27) placed third among six



IMAGE COURTESY OF BASIM HORSHAW (@freehlp ON INSTAGRAM)

teams with a Drew record of 11:02.87 at the ESU Deschriver Invitational.

For the women's team, Sage Hendershot ('27) recently broke the Landmark Conference record for the long jump and Emily Camlot ('26) posted a record-breaking performance in the 300-meter dash timed at 41.09 seconds. This performance gives her both a team and Landmark Conference record.

For basketball, the men's team is going into their last four games of the regular

season on a 10-game winning streak, putting themselves in a great position to stake another claim at the coveted Landmark Conference Championship.

The women's team is having an equally impressive season, clinching victories against conference opponents to ensure that they too make it into the playoffs.

Yet to make their 2025 season debuts are lacrosse, baseball and softball.

The men's lacrosse team is set to begin their season as they take on

Neumann University on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. in Ranger Stadium. Coming off a 10-8 season where they made it to the first round of the Landmark Conference playoffs, this season could prove to be even more successful.

The women's team is also coming off a similar 2024 season, though a noticeable change lies within their coaching staff. The team welcomed new head coach Stephani Peluso at the end of last season.

Peluso comes to the Forest from Division I Manhattan College, where she served as an assistant coach, offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator for the last two seasons. She was also a Division I lacrosse player at Wagner College, where she was a 100-point scorer.

Coach Peluso's first game as a Ranger will be on Feb. 15 at 12 p.m. against Montclair State University in Ranger Stadium.

The first pitch of the baseball season is set to begin on Feb. 15 at Kean University and softball will start their

season on March 4 at William Paterson University. The team aims to build off last year's historic campaign in which they reached the Landmark Conference playoffs for the first time in the new era ushered in by 2024 Coach of the Year Brian Eberly.

The 2024-2025 sports seasons have seen stellar performances from our Rangers, and if last season is any indication, this spring season will prove no different.



Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the Masters of Education Program

Men's Volleyball Makes History Despite Loss

GILLIAN SAMPSON
Assistant Sports Editor

The Ranger's men's volleyball team entered conference play for the first time in team history last Friday as they took on Southern Virginia University, who are currently ranked second in the Continental Volleyball Conference.

While the Rangers were dealt a quick 3-0 loss, this game marks the beginning of a historical moment for men's volleyball at Drew.

Last spring, the team wrapped up their third season as a Division III independent with a promising record of 14-15 and set the team up for the ability to make further progress in expanding the program led by head coach Julian Diaz. Part of that progress is playing within a conference.

The Continental Volleyball Conference currently consists of Eastern Mennonite University, Elizabethtown College, Juniata College, Kean

University, Marymount University, Randolph Macon College, Roanoke College, Rutgers University-Newark and Southern Virginia University.

Alongside Drew as their newest addition is a familiar face to other Drew athletes in the Landmark Conference, Wilkes University.

In addition to their inaugural conference appearance, Drew welcomed a freshmen class of seven students, the largest class in team history. Each has played a major role already in the first half of this season.

Notably, Matthew Adegbite ('28) currently leads the team in kills, Quinn Donohue ('28) has tallied 201 assists in the first thirteen games alone, and Michael Shipman ('28) leads in blocks. Their ability to thrive in the competitive nature of collegiate athletics provides optimism for the future of the Rangers' volleyball.

The success of the freshmen class and the ability to enter this new chapter



The Men's Volleyball Team squares off against Southern Virginia University
IMAGE COURTESY OF SIERRA WALKER

in team history is a testament to their success in the leadership of their returning players, including seniors CJ Addeo ('25), Bryan Do ('25), Ephraim Smith ('25) and Huriel Perez ('25), as well as stat leaders Barend Oostdam ('26) and Andrew Duhaime ('26).

The Ranger's next game is a tri-match against Stevens and Wentworth Institute of Technology on Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., returning to Baldwin Gym against John Jay College on Feb. 22 at 11 a.m.



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The Drew Acorn

