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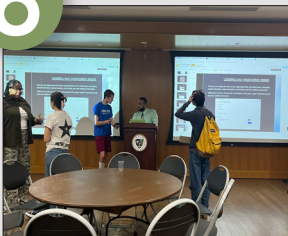


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HAVE A TIP?

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Peer to Expert: 'Discover Your Major' Session

Jadelyn Villa
Staff Writer

With so many opportunities to study education at Drew University, dozens of students gathered in the Kean Reading Room on Sept. 26 to learn about the institution's different pathways. This information session focused on the teaching minor and Master of Arts in Teaching tracks. From 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., both certified educators and fifth-year students encouraged students to pursue teaching and guided those already in the field to their next steps.

Before the formal introduction began, all attendees were directed to the lunch platters and prompted to enjoy an assortment of goods while interacting with the other event staff and prospective students. The table consisted of various deli wraps, chips, fruits, veggies, and water.

All those part of the MAT program wore 'Drew-TEACH' t-shirts, leading their separate tables in discussion for underclassmen either interested or within the preliminary track already. Each table focused on a different subject of education, with some overlap to foster diverse conversation.

After lunch was served, teaching minor coordinator Professor Maureen O. Sullivan conducted a presen-



An image of a bookshelf.

tation on various elements of the teaching minor—more specifically, how it translates into their five-year program post graduation with a bachelor's degree.

Outlined in an on-screen diagram, Sullivan briefly explained the steps toward the MAT program taken as an undergraduate.

By their junior year, students declare their teaching minor and take EDUC 220 as a prerequisite class. Once this is completed, students earn their NJ substitute teaching certification and take four graduate-level courses. To become certified, requirements include

a college transcript, fingerprinting, a background check and online training courses.

It is recommended to apply to the five-year program by Jan. 15 of the student's junior year. Alongside the previously mentioned obligations, they must also have a declared major, a 3.0 GPA, a diversity statement and a teaching statement. This way, students can gauge their progress within the program and receive feedback before the formal MAT application.

Lastly, in their senior year, students must pass their Praxis exams (I and II) by Sept. 1. Receiving a recommendation from an education professor and others in outside fields, the MAT application is submitted by Nov. 1.

With their senior year completed and a bachelor's degree under their belt, fifth-year students focus on pedagogy, method and most importantly, their clinical internship/student teaching.

One of Sullivan's main points was the significant pay raise between teaching with an undergraduate and a graduate-level degree. "Districts are going to have a chart for you and they're going to say, okay, we'll pay you five dollars, because you are a first-year teacher with a bachelor's degree," said Sullivan.

Comically explaining that it will not really be five dollars, she emphasized that with Drew's accelerated track, those with graduate

degrees are instantly paid more in salary, even in an entry-level position. "Okay, it's your first year, you graduated, but oh, you have a master's degree? Well, we'll pay you eight to ten dollars," said Sullivan. Even with the same level of experience, the higher-level degree makes a large impact on the teaching profession.

A student expressed concern regarding this, asking if this consequently impacted the hiring process, as districts may not want to pay a potential candidate as much. Sullivan affirmed that this is not the case, elaborating, "I think that school districts are looking for highly qualified teachers... what they're getting from you as a hire is more training."

To wrap up her set of reasoning, Sullivan highlighted a key component of the MAT track: pairing students with aligning districts.

"We are big on finding a place that matches you," she stated in response. "You'd be looking for a place that would say, 'We honor this extra degree in this space and this knowledge...' We have not hit a year where someone has not gotten hired." This perfect success rate provides students with ease, ensuring their time with the program is not going to waste.



Jadelyn Villa is a junior majoring in English creative writing with a minor in teaching.



A view of Brothers College.

Image Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Bringing people back to reading for pleasure is great — I just hope that thinking for oneself makes a comeback as well.
— Arianna Marmol ('29)

SEE TIKTOK, PG 6

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2 NEWS

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The Government Shutdown, What Happened?

Kayla Kiernan
Assistant Opinions Editor

The government has officially been shut down after the House and Senate failed to pass a crucial funding bill. According to NBC News, Speaker Mike Johnson canceled the votes for next week as it is a “district work period.” This means that the shutdown will go on through next week.

A government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass funding for government agencies. These agencies are then stopped from using their budgets since they haven’t been approved by lawmakers, though this does not mean that work is stopped.

This is the second government shutdown in the Trump Administration’s time. This shutdown occurred because House Republicans passed bill H.R. 5371 to extend government funding temporarily through December. A main point of contention for Democrats on this bill is that the bill does not want to extend tax subsidies for the Affordable Care Act. This would increase the cost of Health Care for the 22 million low and middle-income people and families enrolled under the bill by more than 50 percent of the original costs, as derived from numbers according to Clinical Trials Arena.

Although this was the main point of concern for Democrats, other concerns were the bill’s reductions for Medicaid, similar to reductions stated in the “Big Beautiful Bill,” and no protection for the funding of medical and public health research.

The consequences of this shutdown are already being seen nationwide. The Trump administration has said it intends to enact massive layoffs of federal employees. “We’ll be laying off a lot of people,” as stated by President Trump. From the BBC news article, Why the US government has shut down and what happens now, this is an almost unprecedented move, as in past government shutdowns, we have seen federal workers get furloughed rather than fired. As of now, an estimated 750,000 workers will be placed on furlough as well.

Many essential and non-essential workers will not be paid throughout the shutdown. Workers deemed essential must work through the shutdown even without



Image courtesy of Pexels.com

pay. Although members of Congress and President Donald Trump will still be paid.

Federal programs will be affected in different ways. Spending for agencies deemed essential or for mandatory spending like Medicaid, Medicare, air traffic control, social security, border control and protection, ICE and in-hospital care will not be affected. This is because no matter what budget bills are passed, the budgets for these programs are already set aside regardless of what occurs with different financing bills.

Discretionary funded programs have no designated allocated funds given to them in this situation, since discretionary programs depend on Congress passing bills for finances and budgeting to receive their funds. When the House and Senate are in a budgetary stalemate, discretionary programs suffer.

There are programs that are deemed to have mandatory spending, but they have many discretionary spending components that affect all their operations. Mandatory spending programs sometimes need discretionary money to distribute services supported by mandatory spending. The committee for a responsible budget states that programs like SNAP and Social Security have funding deemed mandatory, but various other aspects of these programs will greatly cease operations. SNAP may not be able to send out checks for food stamps, while benefit verification and card issuance for Social Security may cease as well.

Aspects of the Department of Education, like the direct loan program, are deemed necessary. Due to the current stalemate, and with the department being

forced to both roll back on non-essential employees as well as have essential employees work without pay, most of the services towards new grants and loans will be heavily affected.

Air traffic services will be greatly impacted as well because of employee roll-backs and their having to work forcibly without pay. Delayed flights and staff shortages will become commonplace.

The Department of Agriculture has many parts deemed essential as well, but they have already been forced to shut down several operations, such as the processing of farm loans and the ability to distribute resources for natural disasters, according to American AG Network.

Programs for children’s and adults’ nutrition and medical needs, such as WIC, will also be affected, as well as educational programs for youth. Head Start, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, for example.

Talk of the numerous effects of this shutdown has already been widely circulated, but not enough is being distributed from our communities on how these actions can have disastrous consequences.

Allison Cannon (‘28) talked about the impact recent events have had on her. “The shutdown really impacted my family. My dad is in the military, and in the past, he wouldn’t have been paid. I am using his GI bill, and if the VA goes through any more cuts and issues, I won’t be able to pay for my tuition here.”

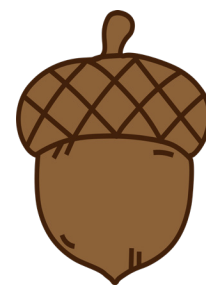
She spoke more about it, “My family is entirely dependent on my dad’s income from the military. This

shutdown means that they are going weeks without pay, and they aren’t sure if they will be able to get any support when it comes to buying groceries or paying for medical visits,” said Cannon.

Another student talked about the impact this shutdown will have on themselves and their family, “I’d say the government shutdown has been difficult, considering my mom works for the government and she no longer has income. I also don’t have a dad to help out, either, so it adds to the already difficult situation. It has not impacted us quite yet because of saving, but if it continues on for much longer, it will,” said Leah Deselms (‘28).

We see the article headlines, but we do not see the people affected by these shutdowns discussed enough. This country will not only have to handle the economic and political consequences of this shutdown, but also handle the possible losses of talent and potential from our generation, Generation Z.

“I hope that my time here at Drew will continue, but if anything happens to the GI bill, I won’t be able to afford to go here,” said Cannon.



Kayla Kiernan is a sophomore who is majoring in Spanish and political science and minoring

New Jersey Governor's Race Shows Plans For Rights

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Section Editor

The 2025 New Jersey Governor's race is gearing up to be a hotly contested one, with Democratic candidate and current Congressional Representative Mikie Sherrill facing off against Republican candidate and former state Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli. One of the most pressing issues for both candidates is education, on which they have many different perspectives.

Ciattarelli and Sherrill agree on some points—namely that the way the state funds its schools (both K-12 and higher education) must be revised, and student-focused programs should be expanded. However, they diverge when it comes to what exactly those revisions should focus on, especially on representation in curricula.

Ciattarelli, while calling himself an “inclusive guy” in a Republican candidate debate panel, has a significant track record of opposing LGBTQ+ rights, according to both local education reporting organization Chalkbeat Newark as well as nationwide queer advocacy group GLAAD. Chalkbeat reports that he does not believe that the state should implement an “LGBTQ curriculum,” and GLAAD adds that he would “repeal protections for trans-



New Jersey turnpike Mur-

gender and nonbinary youth “on day one.”

Of the many protections he would repeal, one he specifically referenced would be a state Board of Education policy that prohibits school districts from conducting a process known as ‘forced outing,’ where a school discloses a student’s preferred name and other facets of their gender identity (such as pronouns) to parents despite the student explicitly requesting that that information be withheld for their own safety and well-being.

Forced outings “compromise [queer and trans youth’s] safety and access to affirming support,” points out GLAAD, and are a move that could at best result in severe family tension and at

worst potentially even cost a student their life in some situations.

Ciattarelli further advocated for an “overhaul” of the New Jersey school system. He told a Lawrenceville crowd that he would focus on a “back to basics” approach, removing many cultural breadth requirements and general curricula in favor of what he termed “critical life skills” – without elaborating on what specific skills those would be. He aligns with Donald Trump on many of his policies and has been endorsed by him for Governor.

Sherrill, on the other hand, has advocated for more mental health counseling and merging some districts to “help eliminate unnecessary administrative costs.” Re-

garding the federal government’s recent dissolution of much of the Department of Education, she noted that her government would take legal action in response to these actions to “claw back as much money from the federal government as we can” and reinstate research grants that were previously revoked by the Trump administration.

Sherrill advocated for increased student privacy in many public K-12 and higher education schools, also noting that Artificial Intelligence now poses “a whole extra set of issues” when it comes to privacy and mental health.

She has also voted to enshrine protections for vulnerable communities,

including students, into law, supporting and strengthening measures like the H.R. 5 Equality Act (adding protections for the LGBTQ+ community to the 1964 Civil Rights Act) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (an established state guardrail that protects N.J. residents against “practices of discrimination” {10:5-3, 2019} in any form, including racial and socioeconomic discrimination).

New Jersey is one of only two states to be holding a gubernatorial election this fall, the other being Virginia. New Jersey and Virginia are the first to do so since the Trump administration took office in January, and the race is being closely watched by many across the country. Sherrill currently leads Ciattarelli in polls by about five to ten points, but only time and votes can tell who will helm New Jersey for the next four to eight years.

The N.J. governors’ election will be held this year on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. The deadline to register to vote or to update your registration (for example, if you would like to vote in Madison near Drew instead of your home polling location) is Tuesday, Oct. 14. To register or find your polling location, go to www.vote.org.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior who is majoring political science and double minoring in sociology and journalism

Games And Prizes Galore at The Grand States Fair

Allison Cannon
News Section Editor

What can bring happiness to Drew students? Other than fun games, cool prizes and awesome events, good food can bring a smile to any student’s face.

In a collaboration with Student Government and the Drew African Student Association, the States Fair was held on the top floor of the Commons on Thursday, Sept. 25.

With the entrance to the Commons filled with games and huge prizes, the event

rocketed from zero to 100 as students started filing in for a chance to participate.

Games featured at the event were carnival-like, tossing and aiming, many of which were “pay to play.” The more they spent with the provided tickets, the more chances they got to earn points and win.

Students raced to play again and again, earning more points as they kept playing to win one of the many large prizes available.

President of Student Government, Zaire Wright (‘27), said that he was

“Proud of the turnout, and we gotta order more prizes for the next time.”

Energies were high before students even walked through the entrance to the eating area. Even students working at the event with Student Government enjoyed the festivities.

One of the many students who were running the games, Ann Marie De Jesús (‘28), had a wonderful time guiding students through the games. “It’s important for Drew to hold these events, to make the students engaged and happy,” said De Jesús.

Inside, more lay in wait for the students to explore. A live caricature artist and custom signs were available, and a wide variety of food themed from different states were being offered.

The food was carefully curated for this night specifically. With a wide variety of meals, everyone could enjoy a taste of some classic American dishes.

Meals included were East Coast favorites like Philly cheesesteaks, funnel cake, pizza and wings from New York and Pennsylvania. From Tennessee and Texas,

there were southern classics like hot honey chicken sandwiches, mac and cheese, barbeque pork and beef and corn on the cob. And from Georgia and Vermont, there were delicious desserts such as peach cobbler and apple pie.

While the food was a star feature of this event, the games and activities stole the show and students’ hearts.

Allison Cannon is a sophomore who is majoring in psychology and double minoring in Spanish and law, justice and society



Image courtesy of Allison Cannon

Entrance sign at Commons.



Image courtesy of Allison Cannon

The winnable prizes.



Image courtesy of Allison Cannon.

A student getting a caricature.

Growing Violence Around ICE Concerns Communities

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Section Editor

Around 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025, a shooter opened fire on people at a federal Immigration & Customs Enforcement facility in Dallas, killing three (including himself) and injuring one. The shooter, later identified by law enforcement as Joshua Jahn, was not known to have participated in any previous political expression other than simply voting.

Jahn, who was 29 years old and born in Texas, was registered as an “independent” voter (not a member of the Democratic nor the Republican Party) in Oklahoma, where he had also lived, and his only prior interaction with police had been a 2015 drug arrest for possession of marijuana, for which he was on probation until 2017. He had most recently voted in the 2024 general election.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, it was unclear what Jahn’s motivations were, as the three victims of the shooting were all detainees who were in ICE custody at the time. However, after a search of his car and of unspent bullet casings at the scene (one of which read “ANTI-ICE”), it became clear that he intended to target and “terrorize” agents themselves, according to NPR.

Jahn reportedly fired “indiscriminately” at the facility, prompting it to go into an apparent lockdown and agents to rush bystanders to a secure area, before shooting and killing himself. He wished to “maximize lethality against ICE personnel and...minimize any collateral damage or injury to the detainees and any other innocent people,” Nancy Larson, acting US attorney for Northern Texas, told Ben Hatton of the BBC. “No evidence was found to suggest [that] Jahn was a member of any specific group...but he did express a hatred of the federal government,” Hatton added.

While attacks on ICE facilities have been increasing in frequency, so have incidents of violence and indiscriminate arrestsnatching by ICE agents. In Washington, D.C. alone, the New York Times reports that ICE arrested at least 1,200 people from “early August until mid-September,” most of them immigrants from more vulnerable areas of the world with no criminal record. An immigrants’ advocacy group sued the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in late September, accusing them of racial profiling, indiscriminate



ICE officer in front of a plane.

Image courtesy of getarchive.net.

inate detention and “[causing] terror in Latino and other communities across the District [of Columbia].”

A previous article in the Acorn from April 2025 gives another example of this in the case of Kilmar Abrego García, a resident of Maryland for almost 15 years. García was arrested by DHS on March 12, despite the fact that he had a court order legally protecting him from being deported to his native El Salvador. Ever since, even though he has never been charged or convicted of a crime in the United States, he has been denied his Constitutional right to due process and has been embroiled in a bitter legal battle with the federal government to be allowed to return home to his family in Prince George’s County. The government has

repeatedly ignored and violated court orders to return him to the U.S. and free him from custody.

“Our friends, neighbors, and families are told to ‘do it the right way’ – to follow the legal process. They’re doing just that – showing up to court, complying with the law,” said interim CEO Priyanka Gandhi of the Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative to the National Immigrant Justice Center. However, even when they do in fact follow purely lawful pathways to remain in the U.S. like García and so many others, ICE has begun to arrest them without cause as they enter a courtroom for their immigration hearings – “weaponizing immigration courts by threatening people who follow the law and appear for their hear-

ings as directed,” said Skye Perryman of Democracy Forward. The administration has essentially built a trap where immigrants are stuck in a self-fulfilling prophecy and are detained regardless of whether they follow the law or not.

Furthermore, just this past week, TIME reports that armed ICE agents “rappelled from helicopters” onto the roof of a Chicago apartment building in the city’s South Shore neighborhood, indiscriminately breaking down doors and using flashbang grenades designed to blind people. Agents rounded up “adults and screaming children alike,” ransacking homes, separating kids from their families and binding American citizens for hours outside (many without clothes) with zip ties in a “military-style” raid. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker decried the operation, dubbed “Midway Blitz” by the Trump administration, as a “manufactured performance,” calling it, along with Trump’s demands to activate the Illinois National Guard, “absolutely outrageous and un-American.”

Not many state and local government officials are happy about this sudden blitzkrieg of ICE operations in their territory. Many across the country have begun holding town halls with their constituents to clarify “what they look like – and, more pointedly, what ICE does not,” reports Meg Anderson of NPR. “Whatever happens around the country...you are our community. We are your officers,” said police chief Paul Joye of Santa Fe, New Mexico. “It is a fundamental human right that you feel safe in your

home regardless of where you’re from.” Leaders anxiously told NPR that they are already noticing a downtick in immigrants reporting crimes, citing research that shows that immigration status “can be a barrier to calling the police.”

Many communities and their representatives across the country have begun to question their previous trust in and reliance on the American justice system, especially amid the warrantless raids and constant flagrant violations of Constitutional due process laws that have become synonymous with the agency’s name in recent months. Given this flurry of recent conflict and turmoil caused by the federal government’s new immigration policies, it is clear that violence and authoritarianism have become almost the defining characteristics associated with ICE. Amid the relentless political uproar that continues to surround immigrants’ rights today, it remains to be seen how long these waves of violence will persist.



The Dallas ICE Facility.

Image courtesy of PICRYL.com

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior who is majoring political science and double minoring in sociology and journalism.

5 STUDENT LIFE & ARTS

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Lots of Fun Activities at Drew Family Weekend 2025

Nadia Yusko
Contributing Writer

Marking the completion of the first month of this fall semester, on the weekend of Sept. 26-28, families and friends of Drew students were invited to the campus to celebrate the annual Family Weekend 2025.

With many different kinds of activities throughout the weekend, families were provided with various opportunities to make great memories.

On Oct. 27, activities such as walking ghost tours, complex escape rooms, pumpkin painting, axe-throwing and spending time with animals in the petting zoo were offered. The photograph above

shows a pumpkin painted by one of Drew Acorn's own members, Aly Geyer ('29).

A delicious Sunday closing brunch wrapped up the weekend on Oct. 28. Along with the buffet-style breakfast and lunch, the brunch also included a live DJ, a photo-booth, coloring activities and an all-about-Drew trivia. The trivia included questions like "Where is Drew located?" and "How many acres is the entire campus?". "Drew swag" winnings in this activity were offered; third place won a Drew water bottle, second place won a Drew cookie jar filled with treats and the first place prize (which I won) was a crocheted blanket in Drew colors.

Geyer shared how she spent her time with her fami-

ly over the Family Weekend. "We did some activities, and I showed them around the campus. It was nice to see them engage with my new life here. My mom really wanted to see the buildings, so we were able to visit and admire the Great Hall in the S.W. Bowne building. Feeling their sense of pride for my future during their visit brought a sense of home and was refreshing after not seeing them for a little while."

This much-needed weekend with family and friends relieved the homesickness that many have been starting to feel at this point in the semester. The abundance of families, activities and smiles clearly showed this event to be a success.

Nadia Yusko is a first-year student majoring in Psychology.



DEAL club board members pose for a photo.

Image Courtesy of Joe Catalano

Clubs Looking for New Members This Semester!

Joe Catalano
Contributing Writer

There is a great number of wonderful clubs students can join here at Drew University. While this is a great thing, it also means some clubs will fly a little under the radar. Below, you can read about some clubs that are looking for new members.

The Drew Women's Rugby team is a great place for any female student interested in the sport of rugby. It consists of running, passing and some tackling, as well as set pieces called scrums and lineouts. Though it may seem intimidating at first, almost everyone on the team learned how to play rugby here at Drew, so there is no need to know anything prior. All that matters is

that you try your best and be yourself, because there is a position open for anybody. Practices take place at Tilghman Field every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., so feel free to stop by to meet the team! If you have any questions, reach out to the captains Ana Hatch at ahatch@drew.edu or Gretchen Rollinger at grollinger@drew.edu.

If you enjoy creating a positive impact in your community, you should join the Drew Performing Arts Accessibility Coordinators. This club is dedicated to providing accessibility resources for Drew's theatre and dance performances, and is also hoping to provide workshops centered on disability justice and history. If you are an Action Schol-

ar, you can even receive experiential learning hours for participating in the club. Anyone interested should email dpaac@drew.edu, as well as follow [@dpaac_](https://www.instagram.com/dpaac_) on Instagram.

With elections coming up, it is as important as ever to be aware of the importance of your vote. The Drew Student Voter Project's mission is to inform students on campus about the election cycle and voting without fear of judgment. For some students, voting may not be a high priority, so they make voting as simple and easy to understand as possible. By delivering short presentations to classrooms and encouraging voter registration at various events across campus, learning how to vote becomes as easy as

ever. If you're interested in joining or learning more about voting, you can email DSVP@drew.edu.

All of the clubs mentioned above are welcoming new members with open arms. Their leaders will make sure you are comfortable and having fun, so if you are even a little interested, think about joining; you may find something you end up loving.

Joe Catalano is a first-year student majoring in English & Communications and minoring in Music.

How You Can Plant Your Seeds for Success at Drew

Casey Bush
Copy Editor

The Drew Environmental Action League, the Center for Academic Excellence and DrewFIRST collaborated to help students plant their seeds for success in Crawford Hall on Sept. 29. Students were welcomed by leaders of participating organizations with specialized tables unique to their groups' missions.

The CAE table offered pamphlets and informational cards with details about what is offered to students through the program, while members of the group met students with smiling faces and helpful answers

to any questions that were brought to them.

The CAE provides free services such as academic support, accessibility resources, tutoring and more to ensure the best academic performance for Drew students. Kathleen Hower, who is the tutor coordinator, was helping students find specialized tutoring sessions to fit their needs during the event.

"We're here to serve the students and to show them how to use the resources," said Jordyn Casanova-Ghosh ('28), an academic coach for the CAE.

DrewFIRST was one of the other collabora-

tors, which is Drew's club for first-generation college students. The President of the group, Gabriela Ribau ('27), along with other group members, represented DrewFIRST and provided snacks and helpful information to attendees about the organization, upcoming events and their overall mission during this event.

Students should be on the lookout for upcoming events run by DrewFIRST, as they will be participating in First-Generation Week. This celebration begins Nov. 3 and ends on National First-Generation Celebration Day, which is held annually on Nov. 8.

Drew Environmental Action League, or DEAL, was one of the other organizations advertising at this event, and their table was a big hit among Drew students in attendance.

The President of DEAL, Katie Germinder ('27), sat with other board members to promote the social media pages of each of the partnering groups and to spread joy to the lucky students who were able to take home their own small succulent plant.

The students who followed all three of the organizations' Instagram pages were able to take home their very own succulent, which came with special-

ized instructions for how to successfully take care of the plant.

All of these organizations joined forces to host this widely successful event, which spread awareness about the goals of each group, unified the groups and their members, brought joy to Drew students with treats and succulents and helped students plant their seeds for success.

Casey Bush is a sophomore majoring in Psychology.



Club Leaders Unite for Annual Club Leadership Conference

Eva Esqueda
Editor-in-Chief

The Office of Student Engagement recently held its annual Club Leadership Conference to kick off the 2025-26 academic year. Over 40 club leaders and representatives from a variety of Drew organizations were in attendance to discuss how to be effective leaders and hear exciting new announcements.

Held in person on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 10:30 a.m. in Crawford Hall, the coordinator of student engagement and club life, Terrance Somesla-McCornell (G'25), presided over the event. Somesla-McCornell guided club members through activities to build leadership skills and fielded any questions that club representatives happened to have. He also kept clubs up to date on the Drew Club Life Manual with details on purchase requests, event checklists and the Freedom of Expression policy.

After an icebreaker that united attendees over common struggles that club leaders face, Somesla-McCornell announced the revival of an old tradition: the Battle of Madison Avenue. However, rather than hosting a competition where Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and



IMAGE COURTESY OF EVA ESQUEDA

Terrence Somesla-McConnell (G'25) converses with club leaders.

Saint Elizabeth University compete to assert their dominance through sports or some other means, the three schools will instead engage in a challenge as to who can raise the most money over a matter of months.

For this friendly fundraising rivalry, Drew will focus on hosting a community service event each month throughout the academic year. Examples of the planned programs include a Food Insecurities Donation Drive during the month of November, followed by the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Festival of Trees decorating, where each event will focus on raising money for the Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation. Organized by the non-profit organization Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, this

string of events will revolve around making a real impact and difference for kids who are fighting for their lives and cannot enjoy the same everyday experiences as their peers.

"The initiative is all about building school spirit, fostering community and strengthening engagement between students and the greater Madison area," said Somesla-McCornell. "It's not just about raising money; it's about raising awareness and making a difference for kids who can't enjoy the same everyday experiences that we do."

To culminate and celebrate the amount of funds raised, a dance marathon will be held in the spring semester, featuring music, dancing, games and stories from the families that are

supported by the fundraising efforts. Students can form a team, donate or simply show up and dance to demonstrate their solidarity with the cause.

In order to coordinate event planning, there will be a joint board of student peers from all three universities. Any students who are interested in participating and have a passion for serving their community will have the opportunity to come together to gain leadership and event-planning experience.

Aside from this huge announcement, Somesla-McCornell also enlisted the help of other Drew staff members to provide club leaders with important resources and information. New to the team is Cassandra Gonzalez, director of student engagement, who introduced herself and greeted students at the beginning of the conference.

Matt Dizinno, assistant facilities and events manager, reviewed steps to take for booking rooms for events, while Lisa Iannello, the executive director for institutional relations, explained how student clubs can seek grants and proposals for funding. The director of the Center for Career Development, Kim Giorgio, also conducted a Club Programming Power Session to suggest ways that club representatives can lead their

clubs effectively through planning, programming and organization.

Looking forward, students can expect a Pumpkin Carving and Illumination event with Morris Arts on Saturday, Oct. 25. Additionally, any students interested in volunteering, planning and attending events, or simply spreading the word should look out for opportunities to sign up via QR codes or PATH postings. Any questions regarding club life and the Battle of Madison Avenue should be directed to Somesla-McCornell via tsomeslamccorne@drew.edu.



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

Student Engagement Kicks Off "Queering the Forest"



IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDQUI

Lexi DeRonde ('26) hosts the Queering the Forest table.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Section Editor

This past Wednesday, Oct. 8, the Drew Office of Student Engagement kicked off its three-day-long "Queering the Forest" event series, setting up a table in the Ehinger Center lobby to promote their events for the upcoming week.

Tabling started in the E.C. at 11 a.m. and ran until 1 p.m., and those who stopped by could answer an

LGBTQ+ historical trivia question by Lexi DeRonde ('26) in exchange for a prize of their choice if they gave the correct response.

One question that participants were asked, for example, was the year that the Stonewall Inn riots (a well-known 1969 uprising at an LGBTQ+ bar in Greenwich Village, New York, after police attempted to raid the establishment, causing patrons to fight back) took

place. Participants could choose from items like rainbow baseball caps, bracelets and mugs, among others, as their reward for answering correctly.

The Path description of the programming for all of the events stipulates that it is "not exclusive to only queer-identified students, faculty and staff," adding that "we welcome all members of the Drew community to engage and celebrate with

us." Events, which can be found on The Path, will run through Friday, Oct. 10. Organizers also invite anyone who may be interested in participating in or joining the effort to revive Drew's Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA) to visit www.tinyurl.com/saga-acorn for more information.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology.

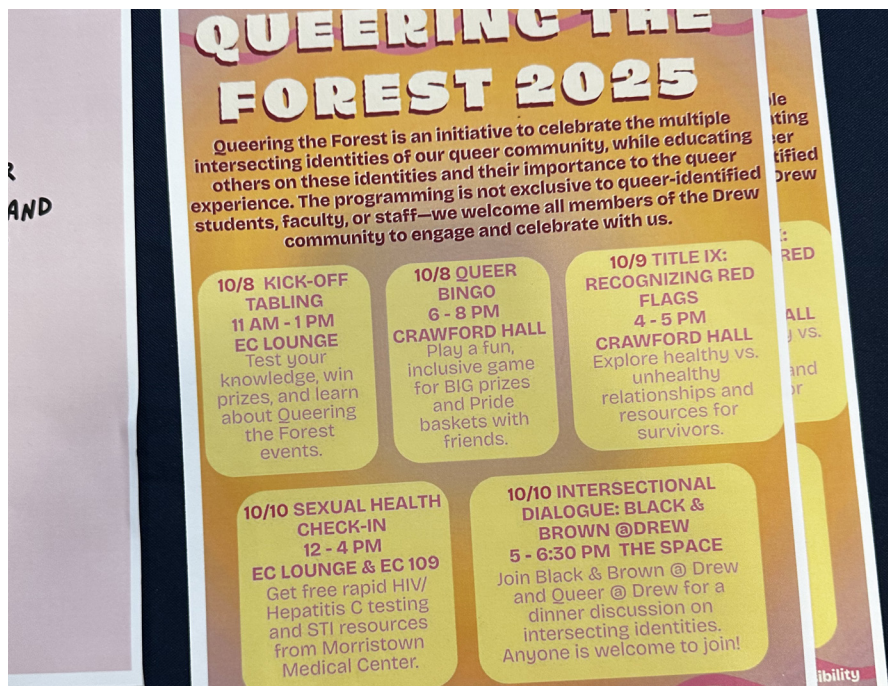


IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDQUI

Posters advertise the timings of "Queering the Forest" events.

Lead Ed: A Love Letter to Libraries & Their Resources

LEAD EDITORIAL

Public libraries are places where anyone can go to check out books, from adult fiction to picture books for kids. It is a space where people go to read in peace and quiet. However, books are not the only things a library has to offer.

The public library closest to Drew University, Madison Public Library, allows Drew and other college students to get their own public library card so that they can access all these resources as well. All you have to do to acquire one is show the front desk your current student ID, and they will help you get your very own library card.

Madison Public Library's quiet space can be utilized as a study and work space for students and full-time workers who need to get any kind of work done. There are several tables for group work and individual booths for people who are working by themselves. The library even has study rooms patrons can reserve to take meetings online or over the phone, or use as



Front entrance of the Madison Public Library.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITE

a group study space. Some academic tutors also host sessions there, since it is a public and accessible space for everyone in the community. They also have several online research resources available for public use.

Museum passes are also available to anyone with a library card at the Madison Public Library. This is especially convenient for Madison residents and university students due to the fact that there is a train station downtown that has a direct

line to Penn Station, New York. The library provides patrons with free programs for all ages, such as adult craft workshops, teen art breaks, college prep workshops and more. The events are either hosted by library staff or volunteers who are part of the MVP Teen Volunteer Program. The volunteers also host tech help for patrons and homework help for elementary students.

Patrons not only have access to physical books, but to digital and online re-

sources such as Libby and Hoopla. These services are free to use with your library card and provide a wide range of ebooks and even movies to stream. These resources are great for people who prefer audiobooks or books on their devices rather than physical books, and they are all free with a library card.

Public libraries provide more than just a space to read to their communities. They are a space for people to connect with each

other and thrive. Learn more about the resources the Madison Public Library offers and its hours on its website.



The lead editorial is the collective opinion of the editorial board.

The TikTok-ification of Literature and Original Thought

Arianna Marmol
Contributing Writer

If you have walked into a bookstore within the past five years, chances are you have seen a table labeled 'As Seen on BookTok!' smack-dab in the middle, a beacon to all who have gotten their latest quick reading recommendations from the short-form video app, TikTok.

BookTok, a term coined for the subcommunity of readers on TikTok, has become a prominent hashtag on the app, as well as a marketing gimmick for publishers (loudly proclaimed by the app itself) and bookstores alike. But what has it actually done for reading?

Most videos on BookTok barely make it past the 60-second mark, competing with the decreasing attention spans of viewers and the impatience of those simply consuming the content without wanting to do any actual thinking of their own.

Not new to social media but certainly exacerbated by the popularity and accessibility of TikTok, literature is now forced to be palatable and keep the

dwindling attention spans focused on trendy content. Posts are made with an articulately but still somehow effortlessly chosen indie pop song ("Fade Into You" by Mazy Star seems to be a common choice) while having nothing to do with the literature being advertised.

Being a reader is now an aesthetic without any of the substance. While reading should always be enjoyed by everyone, intellect has become an image rather than a practiced skill. Not only is being a bookworm now "in," it's another reinstatement of status. However, rather than gaining the privilege of education and literary prowess, it is now 'look at how many books I am able to buy that I have not yet, and maybe never will, read!'. Another popular hashtag through the subgenre is a T.B.R.: the daunting To Be Read list.

Many BookTokers post huge haul videos of their latest buys, stacks of books sometimes taller than they are, only for the same stack to sit in the back of their videos for months on end, collecting dust. All the while, they will continue to make monthly book-buying

videos without even having read the books they have already purchased.

Recommendations tend to be the same, regardless of whether the book is well-written; Colleen Hoover and Sarah J. Maas regurgitate the same material over and over again because more young adults are unsure of what to read if someone is not telling them.

Books are watered down by AI voiceovers, classic literature is reduced to hashtags, and nuanced novels are recognized only by whether or not they have an enemies-to-lovers trope, or if they are "spicy," containing mostly smut rather than plot. Impressionable readers are exposed to an echo chamber of "Expert Readers," with color-coded bookshelves and fifteen versions of the same novel, showing that perhaps you can be a reader without actually reading.

This past week, I saw a TikTok user (in a video that has since been deleted) going over the books she'd read in order to share how she would read multiple books at a time and finish them within a week or so. Her secret? Entering the books into an AI database

so that it would generate a summary for her. The summary, around a few paragraphs, was what she would read in order to count the book as completed.

Collecting literature has become a higher point of interest than the literature itself. It is better to be seen as a curated bibliophile than to sincerely cultivate one's opinions, critiques or analyses sans anticipation of likes. The critical thinking and beyond surface-level takeaways that come from reading and create productive conversation have been lost in this social media community. Whether it be because you loved a piece or absolutely detested it, the reasons should be built by your own thoughts instead of reviews from BookTok influencers stacked on top of each other in a trench

coat. With the consumerist, conformist tendencies rapidly becoming apparent in the BookTok sphere, that is becoming impossible for anyone to do.

BookTok has made reading and imagination a chore for the supposed reader. Books are now only conduits for instant gratification and spoon-fed metaphors where subtlety goes to die. Nuance is a thing of the past; readers can readily supply themselves with paperbacks of similar plots that get praised for the bare minimum of decent grammar and a love interest that may or may not brood every three pages.

Arianna Marmol is a sophomore majoring in psychology, minoring in theater.



Shelves full of books

IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXNIO

Playing Devil's Advocate: A Review and Analysis of "Him" (2025)

Tereza Mercado
Contributing Writer

As of Sept. 19, Monkeypaw Productions' first film this year, "Him" (2025), saw its theatrical debut. Monkeypaw is the production company of famed director Jordan Peele, and he is the producer of this new project. Throughout its press tour and advertising, "Him" utilized Jordan Peele's name as producer as the main selling point of the movie. However, instead of drawing people in through their admiration of Peele's work (notably "Get Out" (2017) and "Us" (2019)), it set people's expectations of the movie too high and led to the movie's sour public perception. Now, I will be analyzing the movie, so spoilers are ahead.

To summarize, "Him" is about up-and-coming football star Cameron Cade (Tyriq Withers), who is taken under the wing of notorious legend of the sport, Isaiah White (Marlon Wayans), to prepare Cam to replace him in the wake of his retirement. However, there is something off about Isaiah and the sports world Cam will soon fall into.

Personally, I did not hate "Him." I found that it had good cinematography, and there was great attention to detail. Isaiah White's mansion shows the divide between normalcy and his "legendary status;" it is more of a facility than a home, and comes off as cold and amoral (mirroring his rituals and his lack of morals). I also liked the detail of Isaiah being a religious name, which contributes to what I think was the general idea of the movie. I felt that the cinematography

and especially the chaotic shots mirrored Cameron's deteriorating psychological state. I also found the casting to be well done, where Withers shows his potential and Wayans delivers a jarring and off-putting performance as Isaiah.

However, I acknowledge that there are a lot of things that the movie could have done much better. The last act is a hot mess in comparison to the rest of the movie and leaves the viewer with more questions than answers. It's less abstract and artsy than the rest of the movie and feels rushed, along with contradicting what I believed to be the intended commentary of the movie. Of course, there are aspects of it that were interesting, but it could have been executed better. It is clear Peele's direction is present in ideas and symbolism, but not deep and hitting enough to be a true Peele film. This film is also more glaringly obvious about its message than the rest of Peele's work, leaving it to be less contemplative and more performative, as some things come off as too direct when they were intended to be clever.

The message of this movie is made obvious: sports as a cult or a religion in concept, and as commentary on how sports are treated like a religion in America. The Saviors football team is seen as actual saviors saving Cameron's career after his concussion. Isaiah states that he is God indirectly, and Cameron is clearly meant to parallel Jesus. However, I believe there is a deeper nuance to this message that could have been acknowledged better. Isaiah already thinks that he is God, and that is clearly established. How-

ever, Cameron's parallel to Jesus is different, where the things he does do not mirror any actions of Christ (rather, the opposite). So, rather, Isaiah believes that Cam mirrors Jesus in that he is the Son of God (kin of Isaiah in greatness), but is destined to be sacrificed, whereas God lives forever.

Sacrifice is a clear theme throughout the movie, where Cameron is meant to question what he is willing to give up to be the best and do what he believes he has always wanted to do: football, and reach Isaiah's status of putting football over everything else. I think this theme integrates into the recurring pattern of body and blood, a religious tie once again, but is related to not only the direct ritual of passing down godly blood from 'greatest' player to 'greatest' player, and Cam giving up the health of his body. However, where this strays from Christianity is that Cam overall does not mirror Jesus; he mirrors the antichrist. The Devil mimics Jesus, and that's shown with these rituals that are meant to be holy, but are evil in spirit because the requirements of these rituals are to abandon anything in good faith.

Outside of the movie, it comments on how sports fandoms are treated like a religion, where characters like Marjorie (Naomi Grossman) and Cameron's father, Cameron Sr. (Don Benjamin), are meant to show the parasocial relationship between fan and sport, where they believe they are a part of the sport and show faith and devotion in something they are not involved in and do not control. I think a lot of people had misconceptions about this message because we do not realize



IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Headshot of director Jordan Peele.

how we treat sports like religion. I conducted a survey amongst people I know who are sports fans to make the connection between religious devotion and faith to the diehard loyal mentality of sports fandom. The majority of adamant fans of sports are usually very loyal to their teams, consistent when it comes to their hope and dedication, and integrate sports into their identity. This is the common mentality of not only sports fans, but also religious people, and I think people overlook this when watching the movie because it is not a usual connection that is made. The final thing I want to say is about the overarching theme of obsession: Isaiah is obsessed with football and being the best, prioritizing that over everything else in his life. Sports fans and sports media also have an obsession with sports and occasionally prioritize that over everything else.

Overall, I do not think "Him" was one of the worst movies of the year, nor do I think it was the best. There were good ideas present, but it is clear that the movie prioritized style and visuals over substance. The third act could've had more punch if it had more time dedicated to it. There was too much set up, and the climax and resolution felt poor and rushed, leaving nothing to be thoroughly explained. Peele's touch as producer in this movie adds to the good ideas and the commentary the movie tries to convey. Even though it comes off as obvious at times, it can still be unclear to some of the audience. The movie had the potential to be an interesting collision between sports and horror, but it fell flat when key concepts were not fully fleshed out. I would recommend waiting for this movie to come out on streaming platforms.

Tereza Mercado is a first year discovering her major.

Laundry Room Chaos in Tolley-Brown Basement!

Aly Geyer
Contributing Writer

Doing laundry is one of the most unreasonably difficult tasks to complete in college. At Drew, this could not be closer to the truth.

In the residence hall that I live in, there are only four washing machines and four dryers. This has proved to be a huge inconvenience to people, since it seems that it is impossible to find a time when a machine is available for someone to do their laundry.

Even on weekdays, when you would expect that there would be fewer people worrying about washing their clothes, the machines are usually all taken. This problem could be easily solved if there were more machines available in the laundry rooms. Four wash-

ing and drying machines are not enough for all three floors of Brown Hall.

Not only does the number of machines cause issues, but they also function very poorly. In both Brown and Tolley Halls, at least one of the machines is always broken. This leaves even less room for residents' laundry that needs to get done, and sometimes it is unclear when the machines are even out of order.

Marley Wetzel ('29) spoke on her experience with this. "I used a washer in the Brown laundry room, and when my washing cycle was complete, my clothes were soaking wet because someone had taken off the 'out of order' sign from the machine. It took several full cycles in the dryer to get them even slightly dry."

It is likely that Wetzel's experience is similar to many other students due to the ignorance of other residents. "It turns our laundry room into an absolute war zone, and our CA has even been trying to get it fixed for weeks, but has been met with no response," she said.

The laundry rooms themselves are not entirely the issue. At least in Brown and Tolley, there is a huge problem with students' etiquette when it comes to doing laundry. Specifically, patience seems to be completely absent amongst many.

Delaney Smith ('29) said, "One time, when I was doing my laundry, I went downstairs to find that someone had taken my clothes out mid-cycle and left them on top of the dirty

washing machine. It was really annoying because I did not have time to re-wash my clothes and just had to put them straight in the dryer."

Clearly, some people need to be more aware of others doing their laundry. Yes, it is frustrating for there to only be four of each machine in the laundry room; however, the people who do have their clothes in the washer already do not need to be punished for having claimed one of those machines at the right time.

Overall, there needs to be a serious change made in the laundry rooms here at Drew. The number of machines is not only a major inconvenience, but also causes some to act impatiently and make things even worse for others. Ma-

chines that run more efficiently should be added to the laundry rooms so that the task of doing laundry can be made much easier for students who already have a lot on their plates.



Aly Geyer is a first-year exploring her major.

Take Me to Tommen: A Book Series Guide

Emma Joyce
Contributing Writer

The “Boys of Tommen” (“BOT”) series by Chloe Walsh contains several topics that may be triggering to people.

I want to preface this by saying:

Although the series does deal with a lot of intense topics, ultimately these books are about survival, found family and self-discovery.

Think of this article as a miniature, spoiler-free guide to the hardships, heartbreak, hope and happiness that is the “Boys of Tommen.”

xxo,
Emma

Reader’s Tip:

At the beginning of the U.S. editions of each book, there is a glossary of the Irish terms that are used throughout the series. There is also a name pronunciation guide that tells you how some of the traditional Irish names are pronounced. These are both helpful reference guides when reading.

Reading Order

Now, the series is ongoing as it is still being written, but this is the current reading order of all of the “Boys of Tommen” books thus far.

The order is:

1. “Binding 13”
2. “Keeping 13”
3. “Saving 6”
4. “Redeeming 6”
5. “Taming 7”
6. “Releasing 10”

Locations

There are three main settings or locations in BOT.

They are:

1. County Cork, Ireland (real area of the Republic of Ireland)
2. Ballylaggin (fictional town in County Cork, Ireland)
3. Tommen College (fictional private secondary/high school in County Cork, Ireland)

Plot summary and info for “Binding 13” (“Boys of Tommen” Book 1)

“Binding 13” is a young-adult contemporary romance novel. The book is focused on the main character, Shannon Lynch. Shannon is a 15-year-old girl from Cork, Ireland. She has a troubled home life with a physically abusive father and a neglectful mother. She is the only daughter of her family, with two older brothers and three younger brothers. After being relentlessly bullied at her old school, Shannon transfers to Tommen College, the town’s expensive private school. On her first day at Tommen, Shannon meets Johnny Kavanagh, the



Chloe Walsh’s Boys of Tommen book series.

Image courtesy of @authorchloewalsh on Instagram.

star player and captain of the school rugby team.

Throughout the book, a strong connection develops between these characters as they navigate issues such as Shannon’s family and Johnny’s dream of professionally playing for the Irish National Rugby team. Throughout the series, Johnny and Shannon seem to find a sort of peace within each other that they hadn’t known existed before in their own lives.

Characters

The main characters in the “Boys of Tommen” series are a large friend group who are often referred to as the Core 10.

The characters in the group are:

- a. Johnny Kavanagh
- b. Shannon Lynch
- c. Joey Lynch
- d. Aoife Molloy
- e. Gerard “Gibsie” Gibson
- f. Claire Biggs
- g. Hugh Biggs
- h. Elizabeth Young
- i. Patrick Feely
- j. Kathryn “Katie” Wilmot

Jersey Numbers

The sport of rugby is an important part of Tommen; it is the basis of storylines and aesthetics of the series, as well as the title of each book. All of the male main characters play rugby and other sports, and the numbers in each book title correspond to their jersey numbers.

- #13 - Johnny Kavanagh
- #6 - Joey Lynch
- #7 - Gerard Gibson
- #10 - Hugh Biggs
- #12 - Patrick Feely

The Couples, Their Books and Their Vibes

Binding and Keeping 13
Johnny and Shannon a.k.a. the Sweethearts

Saving and Redeeming 6
Joey and Aoife a.k.a. the Protectors

Taming 7
Gerard “Gibsie” and Claire a.k.a. the Sunshine

Releasing 10
Hugh and Lizzie a.k.a. the Fighters

Feeling 12
Patrick and Katie a.k.a. the Rockstars

Siblings

In the series, Joey and Shannon Lynch are siblings, along with Hugh and Claire Biggs, but there are other siblings in the world of “BOT” who also play crucial roles in the plot:

The Lynch siblings (in order from oldest to youngest):

- Darren Lynch
- Joey Lynch
- Shannon Lynch
- Tadgh Lynch
- Ollie Lynch
- Sean Lynch

The Malloy siblings:
Aoife Molloy

Kevin Molloy (twins)

The Biggs siblings:
Hugh Biggs
Claire Biggs

The Gibson siblings:
Gerard Gibson
Bethany Gibson
Mark Allen (older step-brother)

The Young Siblings:
Caoimhe Young
Elizabeth Young

Nicknames

Because “Boys of Tommen” is an interconnected series with a large friend group and many couples, all of the main characters have a lot of nicknames for each other. Here is a list of some of those nicknames.

Nicknames for Johnny:

- Kav
- Cap
- Bulldozer
- Captain Fantastic

Nicknames for Shannon:

- Shan
- Shannon like the river (by Johnny)
- Little Shannon
- Little fighter
- Baby (by Johnny)

Nicknames for Joey:

- Joe
- Lynch
- Joey the hurler
- O-ee (by Sean)
- Stud (by Aoife)

Nicknames for Aoife:

- Aoif
- Molloy (by Joey)
- Baby (by Joey)
- Sexy Legs
- Queen (by Joey)

Nicknames for Gerard:

- Gibsie
- Gibs
- King Clit (by himself)
- Thor (by Lizzie)
- Gussie (by Joey)
- Fatty (by Tadgh)

Nicknames for Claire:

- Claire-bear (by Gibsie)
- The Quintessential Sunshine Girl
- Baby Biggs
- Blondie (by Tadgh)

Nicknames for Hugh:

- Hughie
- Baby (by Lizzie)
- Brave Knight (by Lizzie)

Nicknames for Elizabeth:

- Lizzie
- Liz
- Viper (by Gibsie)
- Milady (by Hugh)

Nicknames for Patrick:

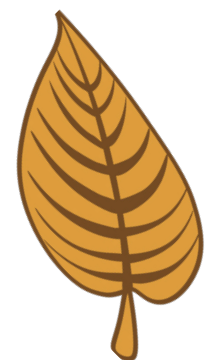
- Feely
- Pa
- Freaky Farmer

Nicknames for Kathryn:

- Katie
- Princess
- Kitty Kat (by Patrick)

Playlists

Walsh doesn’t use social media often; she mainly communicates with fans via the Spotify playlists that she creates about the series. Her Spotify account is @authorchloewalsh.



Emma Joyce is a sophomore majoring in English writing and communications.

10 DIVERSIONS

HAVE IDEAS?

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

Try Solving This Intermediate Level Sudoku!

					6	9		
3								
	6		1			8		5
				7			9	
		6	8	4		5	2	
	2				5	6		
				1				
	5		9		4	7		
		8				2		3

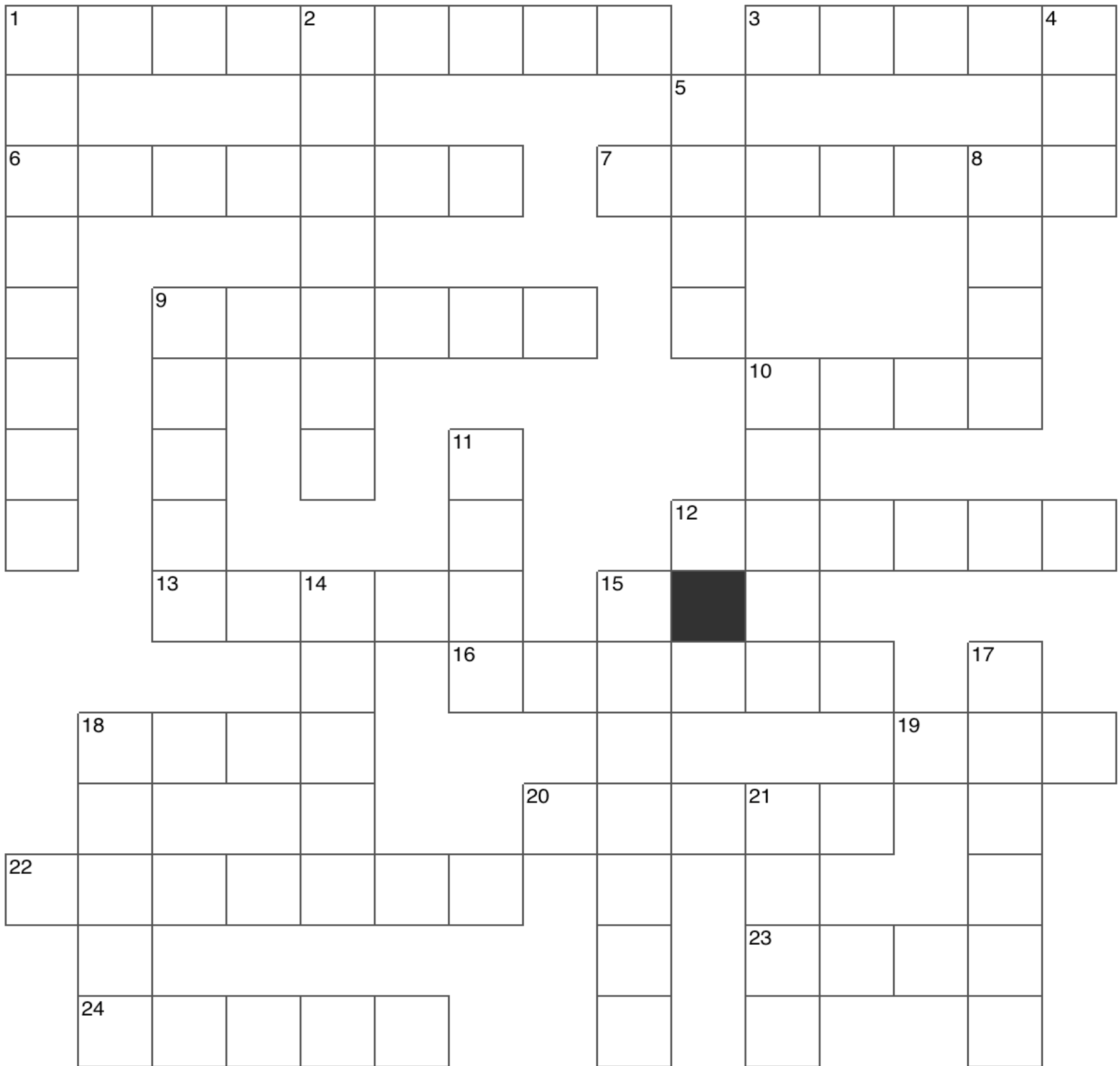
Eager to make your voice heard?

JOIN THE DREW ACORN

All the cool kids are doing it.*

*By "doing it" we mean practicing journalist integrity while wearing some sweet merch.

Try This Autumnal Crossword: Welcome Fall!



ACROSS

1. Tart red fruit, popular in fall
3. Cool and fresh, like autumn air
6. Day marking the start of autumn
7. Collective term for leaves
9. Mildly cold, characteristic of autumn
10. Crisp breeze of the autumn season
12. Warm drink often spiced in autumn
13. To cook chestnuts over a fire
16. Autumn vegetable, often roasted
18. Comforting warm dish for cool days
19. Fiery color of fall foliage
20. Flavoring like cinnamon in fall treats
22. Time for gathering ripe crops
23. Tool for gathering fallen leaves
24. Ice crystals forming in cool mornings

DOWN

1. Edible nut often roasted in autumn
2. Outdoor fire for warmth and gathering
4. Dessert often made with pumpkin or apple
5. Feeling snug and warm in autumn
8. Color of some autumn leaves
9. spiced apple drink, hot or cold
10. Forest areas with colorful autumn trees
11. Squirrels gather these in autumn
14. Fruit often picked in autumn
15. Orange gourd often carved for Halloween
17. Colorful foliage that drops from trees
18. Warm neckwear for cool autumn days
21. Stalks harvested in the fall

COMING UP

Get live stats @GoDrewRangers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
SWIM vs. Catholic University
Madison, NJ
1:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15
FH vs. Wilkes University
Madison, NJ
7:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
WLAX vs. Juniata College
Madison, NJ
1:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
WTEN vs. Scranton
Scranton, PA
4:00 PM

SPORTS

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INSIDE:

Take a swing at solving our autumnal crossword!



Coach Spotlight: Men's and Women's Fencing Head Coach, Joseph Zanko III

Nate Ferrone
Contributing Writer

Coach Joseph Zanko III is entering his fourth season as the head coach of Drew University's men's and women's fencing team in the 2025-2026 season. From the start, Zanko has dedicated himself as a coach, not only committed to building winning teams but also to fostering growth, resilience and a sense of community among his student-athletes.

Before joining Drew University, Zanko successfully coached at the high school level, highlighted by leading Montgomery High School to a state championship title. These experiences shaped his approach to developing a positive team culture and mentorship as a whole. Reflecting on his career, Zanko advises, "Find Mentors. Coaches want to help other coaches."

Since joining Drew, Zanko has worked towards de-



IMAGES COURTESY OF DREW.RANGERS.COM

Zanko is entering his fourth season as head coach of Drew's fencing program, developing a student-centered environment that values both competition and personal development. He's known for his approachable and grounded leadership style, as well as his focus on helping his fencers reach their full potential both competitively and personally. Under his guidance, Drew's fencing program has shown steady improvement, with athletes growing stronger each year. Zanko's coaching philosophy emphasizes respect,

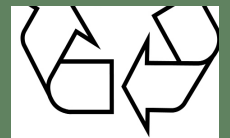
personal interests that reveal his curiosity and creativity. He is a classically trained vocalist and enjoys playing guitar, both hobbies that reflect the same precision and patience he brings to coaching.

As the 2025-2026 season begins, Coach Zanko remains focused on supporting Drew fencers through building confidence, sharpening their skills and representing the university with pride. His leadership continues to shape competitive results. Looking to the future, Zanko intends to instill in the student-athletes who train under his guidance a mindset that prepares them for challenges beyond fencing.

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

Nate Ferrone is a freshman who is currently exploring his interests.

Thank you for reading and recycling The Drew Acorn



Men's and Women's Tennis Teams Notch Wins at Manhattanville

Devan Sutaria
Sports Editor

On Saturday, Oct. 4, the men's and women's tennis teams traveled to Harrison, N.Y., to take on the Manhattanville Valiants from Manhattanville University in their final matches of the fall season. The men's team cruised to a 5-2 victory, while the women's team fought hard to clinch a 4-3 nailbiter.

Both matches began with the doubles portion, in which the school that wins two out of three matches earns the elusive "doubles point." Both the men's and women's teams captured two of the three doubles sets, giving each side an early 1-0 lead.

On the men's team, singles matches featured a mix of hard-fought battles and dominant performances. Despite dropping the first set, Jesse Faro ('26) won a two-and-a-half-hour match against Manhattanville's Thomas Jouanneau in a thrilling third-set tiebreaker, securing the overall victory for the team.

Daniel Arcari ('27), Nicolas Mobayed ('27) and Shivendra Perera ('26) all recorded straight-set wins at the first, third, and fourth singles positions, respectively.

The women's singles lineup featured tightly contested matches as well. Riley Rosesel ('27) earned her first career victory at the top singles position in a third-set tiebreaker. Daylin Evans ('27) cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 win in the first victory of her collegiate career and Kapriana Payami ('27) clinched the match for the women's team in straight sets.

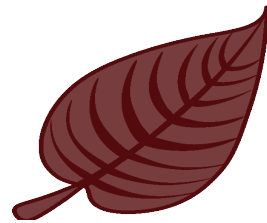
With the win, the men closed out their fall season undefeated at 2-0, winning 12 of a possible 14 points after their 7-0 victory over Pratt Institute on Sept. 27. With new faces in the bottom of the lineup, the team looks to carry this momentum into the spring season and Landmark Conference, both beginning in February.

The women's team overcame injuries to key players to secure their first win of the fall at Manhattanville, showcasing the lineup's depth and

resilience. Both the men's and women's teams will conclude their fall seasons at this Saturday's Alumni Match at 11:00 a.m., when former players will return to Drew courts to compete in matches and mini-games against the current roster.



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HIGHLIGHT REEL

SEPTEMBER 26 TO OCTOBER 10
INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Landmark Conference Athlete of the Week • MGOLF • Elliot Parker ('26)

Landmark Conference Athlete of the Week • FH • Emily Caporrino ('28)

Landmark Conference Athlete of the Week • FH • Beth Kelly ('27)

TEAM PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

11-1 Start to Season • Field Hockey

6th Straight Senior Day Win • Field Hockey

Second Place Finish at Stevenson Tournament • Women's Golf
Sweeps of Lycoming, CCNY and Ramapo • Women's Volleyball

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