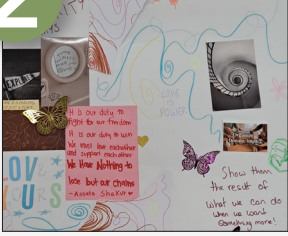




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HAVE A TIP?

Email theacorn@drew.edu and let us know!

Rangers Sweep Rival as Mehalick Reaches 300 Wins

Gillian Sampson
Sports Editor

It was a day to remember for Drew University softball, as head coach Erica Mehalick (C'03) notched her 300th career victory in a dominant doubleheader sweep of cross-town rival, FDU-Florham, on April 9. Mehalick has built her legacy across two programs, collecting 157 victories at Stevens Institute of Technology before adding 144 and counting at Drew.

The Rangers took game one 10-6 to secure Mehalick's monumental win before grinding out a 6-4 victory in a nine-inning thriller in game two. The sweep came against a Devils squad that entered the day with an impressive 17-4 record, underscoring the significance of the performance.

Drew wasted no time asserting control in the opener, jumping out to a commanding 7-0 lead through the first three and a half innings. In the third, Haley Meierhofer ('26) and Izzy Wiemer ('29) delivered back-to-back RBI singles before Karly Severinsen ('27) cleared the bases with a double to make it 5-0.

The Rangers added two more runs in the fourth, maintaining pressure even as the Devils attempted to rally late. Kaitlyne Streets ('27) and Wiemer helped seal the game in the sixth with clutch hits, including a two-run single from Streets.

In the circle, Allie Porbansky ('26) earned the win,



Drew softball on the field at FDU-Florham.

IMAGE COURTESY OF GILLIAN SAMPSON

allowing three runs over four innings, while Gabby Duran ('28) closed the door with three innings of relief to secure her fourth save of the season.

The nightcap proved to be a battle, with Drew twice erasing early deficits. A run-scoring single from Sloan Walmsley ('29) tied the game in the third, and Streets delivered again in the fourth to knot things at 2-2.

Olivia Datilio ('28) took over from there, tossing a complete nine-inning game. She kept the Devils scoreless from the fourth through the seventh, helping push the contest into extra innings.

After trading runs in the eighth, Drew broke through in the ninth. Wiemer delivered an RBI single, and Lorelei Lorentzen ('29) fol-

lowed with a two-run single to give the Rangers the lead for good. Lorentzen also provided the final defensive highlight, throwing out the tying run at the plate to end the game.

Streets led the offensive charge across both games, finishing 4-for-8 with three RBIs, while Wiemer drove in four runs on the day. Meierhofer added three hits and scored three times, consistently setting the table at the top of the lineup.

Datilio's endurance in game two was equally pivotal, scattering nine hits while allowing just two earned runs without issuing a walk.

With momentum on their side and a milestone victory in the books, the Rangers return to action Saturday when they host the University of

Scranton in a Landmark Conference doubleheader.

For Mehalick and her squad, Thursday's sweep was more than just two wins—it was a statement against a rival and a celebration of sustained excellence.



Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the masters of education program.



Drew softball at bat at FDU-Florham this past weekend.

IMAGE COURTESY OF GILLIAN SAMPSON

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Because in the end, we are not just asking for a ceremony that works; we are asking for a farewell that feels worthy of everything we've given to this place.

—Gillian Sampson (C'24)

SEE GRAD, PG 7

We're Nuts for our Website!
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2 NEWS

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Email theacorn+news@drew.edu or visit thedrewacorn.com/submit-a-tip

FOCC Hosts Intergenerational Discussion

Kayla Kiernan, Jaden Finn
Assistant Opinions Editor,
Assistant SLA Editor

On April 2 in Crawford Hall, students and faculty members alike gathered to have an open discussion and reflection on their experiences. Hosted by the Faculty/Staff of Color Caucus, or FOCC, and Black & Brown at Drew in collaboration with student government, the discussion was centered on student and faculty of color at Drew's experiences as people of color on campus.

The goal of the event was to create conversations across the generations of our Drew community—faculty, staff and students. Dr. Maria Turrero-Garcia of the Spanish department and Casey Gonzalez, director of student engagement, facilitated the group reflection. Through guided questions and reflections, participants shared experiences and discussed important current events impacting their communities.

Dr. Turrero-Garcia provided insight from how the event felt from the perspective of a mediator: "Facilitating the event was, more than anything, incredibly inspiring. Everyone shared their experiences with openness and vulnerability, and it was very enriching to have an evening where hierarchies were dropped in favor of genuine connection."

President Edgar Guzman ('28), Vice President

Kayla Kiernan ('28) and Attorney General Ann De Jesus ('28) represented the student government association. President Guzman provided more insight into what the experience meant to him: "The event felt so meaningful, the ability to communicate with [peers and faculty] was something so special that [today] holds so much weight and value especially as a person of color."

The FOCC has been hosting events such as this since the spring 2025 semester. As an organization, they strive to facilitate and create these kinds of spaces for students. Associate Dean of Curriculum, Jinee Lokaneeta reflects, "The efforts of the FOCC has helped us to create spaces for each of our students, especially those sometimes historically ignored or marginalized in a [predominantly white institution]." Together, we can define our Drew community through speaking out for ourselves and each other.

Previous events include: Conversations in Community, a similar event held in spring 2025 focused on sharing the experiences of students of color; Confronting Profiling, a panel held last semester to address the Supreme Court's decision to allow racial profiling in immigration-related operations; Community in Conversation Potluck, a gathering centered on reflection and celebration of our collective diversity; Afro-Caribbean Linguistic

Diversity, a collaborative panel discussion to explore lived experiences of language and belonging.

Dean Lokaneeta also highlighted the importance of this intergenerational dialogue. "It felt particularly special to come together with other members of the FOCC and students whose inspiring work really reminds us each day of the reason why the responsibility of responding to urgent problems of our time need to be centered in our education."

Another faculty member present, Dr. Andrea Lee of the chemistry department, shed more light on the importance of intergenerational dialogues. "To me, this event represented an evolution in the relationship that the Faculty/Staff of Color Caucus have with our students of color. With the addition of student leaders in SGA and Black & Brown, we [can] humanize our experiences in a way that allows us to speak without power structures."

This intergenerational connection was felt by many present. A student participant, Stephanie Yanes ('27) highlighted what feelings the event left her with. "It was refreshing to be in a space with students and faculty who wanted to help students feel more seen in our campus community," said Yanes.

The space created not only connection, but inspiration for students. "I felt seen, heard and very proud that I was surrounded by people who have the conviction

to break through barriers, [which] many are so afraid to do," said Guzman.

Dr. Turrero-Garcia also emphasized the importance of these spaces: "Organizing the Stories & Solidarities intergenerational dialogue felt necessary and urgent. Our students, faculty and staff of color deserve spaces where they can share their experiences and feel heard and seen, and I think the FOCC managed to provide such a space."

Both sides exchanged knowledge and inspiration as people of color, as shared by Dr. Lee. She reflects, "this event will allow us to create meaningful change together as we move forward. It's the students who create the drive and direction for the work that we do."

At the end of the event, students and faculty came together to create a mural reflecting the messages and emotions they took away from the event.

The FOCC looks forward to holding more events and fostering more spaces like this in the future, and they strive to create community between both faculty and students. To stay updated with future events, follow their account on Instagram, @drew_facultyofcolor.

Kayla Kiernan is a sophomore majoring in English: writing and communication and political science and minoring in Spanish and Italian. Jaden Finn is a sophomore majoring in environmental science and

"TWENTY" Premieres at Drew Library

Alex Bernstein
Guest Writer

"TWENTY" Set to Premiere at Rose Memorial Library

Indie film "TWENTY" debuts at Rose Memorial Library on 05/13/2026

MADISON, 04/01 - "TWENTY" is an experimental, short documentary that tells no one person's story, instead giving a look into the lives of many twenty-somethings to bridge gaps and create a heterogeneous narrative. Taking the audience from early childhood memories through college, adulthood, financial/relationship woes and beyond, the film takes an in-depth look at what being twenty can mean in many different forms.

Packaged in a sub-20 minute runtime, "TWENTY" runs the gamut of emotions, making the audience experience the many differ-

ent feelings that a decade of one's life can bring in a short amount of time. Spearheaded almost entirely by twenty-somethings, "TWENTY" is a student-made documentary through and through, which has served to only benefit its production and allow for experimental filmmaking to take the forefront of the MCOM 373 Advanced Video Production class' efforts.

A variety of interview types ranging from in-depth hour-long interviews, impromptu interviews in participant households and even a recent "speed-interview" event in the Ehinger Center, creates a collective experience. The film seeks to dazzle the eyes, using a variety of off-beat and unexpected methods of filmmaking that bring both a further meaning to participants' stories, as well as creating a distinctly "TWENTY" look. To be

present for the film's premiere, you'll want to attend the screening on May 13 in the Rose Memorial Library in LC 28 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on "TWENTY," please use the

contact information below or visit our Instagram page @twentysomethingdoc.

Alex Bernstein is a junior majoring in media and communications and minoring in film studies.



"TWENTY" the indie film's poster
IMAGE COURTESY OF ALEX BERNSTEIN



Artemis II Launch: The Space Venture of the Century

Katie Germinder
Opinions Editor

The latest spacecraft that was sent off into space on April 1, 2026, was the Artemis II. It carried four astronauts and orbited the moon for 10 days. On April 10, 2026 the spacecraft splashed down after a successful journey.

The primary goal of the mission was to test deep space exploration and to establish human presence on the moon. Even if the mission was not to land on the moon, rather to orbit it, it was the first time that an Artemis mission has had a crew onboard, with the first one that launched Nov. 16, 2022, having two fabricated crew members.

This was a very historical event, since the last time humans executed a



NASA's Space Launch System rocket launches on the Artemis II mission, Wednesday, April 1, 2026

space mission to the moon was Dec. 11, 1972, with the Apollo 17 mission. This was the most recent mission where humans landed on the moon and carried out a geological survey of the moon's surface.

Back on the most recent space mission, the Artemis II crew was composed of four astronauts: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen. Wiseman was the commander of the mission,

with Glover as the pilot and Koch and Hansen both as mission specialists. Koch was the first woman to travel to the moon.

Drew University students have voiced some of their thoughts on the moon orbit mission. Eva Esqueda ('26) said, "I think it's really cool to see a launch like this in our generation. Still, I wonder if the purpose of the mission was enough to justify the relative costs and publicity regarding other issues going on in the world at the moment."

Social media has contributed to the overall publicity around the mission, as Esqueda mentioned above. The Artemis II team has their own Instagram account, @nasaartemis, where they have been sharing some updates about their mission. The crew had even shared

with the world what their morning song of the day was. Even though previous space explorations have had media coverage like this through television and newspapers, none have appeared on social media like Artemis II.

Follow the Artemis II Instagram above and NASA's Instagram, @nasa, and anywhere you find news to get updates on the Artemis II mission's splashdown and the perspective of the astronauts after they have now returned home.

Katie Germinder is a junior majoring in environmental studies and sustainability and minoring



Breaking Barriers in Dance: Women's History Month

Gillian Sampson
Sports Editor

The Drew University community celebrated Women's History Month on March 19 with an evening of dance history and lived experience that brought two powerful voices to the stage: Jennifer Jones and Sheila Rohan. Their conversation traced parallel journeys through exclusion, resilience and ultimately transformation in the world of American dance.

Hosted by the Drew University Bookstore in collaboration with Africana Studies, women and gender studies, theatre and dance, the Center for Civic Engagement and the Dean's Office, the event brought together students, faculty and community members for a night of reflection, storytelling and performance.

The program allowed both Rohan and Jones to share about their groundbreaking careers. The impact of their stories reflected in the question-and-answer session that immediately followed.

Rohan, a founding ballerina of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, joined the company in 1969 at age 27 and quickly became part of a cultural movement that reshaped classical ballet. A survivor of the polio epidemic, dance became a source of physical therapy that quickly turned into a passion.

Touring across the United States, the Caribbean and Europe, she performed both ballet and modern works, later serving as a soloist and ballet mistress with the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Theatre. Her international teaching and performance career has tak-

en her as far as Japan and China, and she later instructed students at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater School. Rohan is also featured in the book "The Swans of Harlem," which chronicles the early years of Dance Theatre of Harlem and the women who defined it.

Jones made history in 1987 when, at just 19 years old, she became the first African American Rockette at Radio City Music Hall. She performed for the first time with the Rockettes at the 2022 Super Bowl halftime show. Her achievement, however, was not met with universal celebration. As she shared with the Drew audience, many within both the lineup and management resisted her presence. The Rockettes had long been defined by uniformity, height, body type and even skin tone, and Jones's entry disrupted that tradition.

Jones' love for dance began long before Radio City. She recalled a formative moment in a fourth-grade recital: "the curtain went up, and I felt like I was at home." That sense of belonging became her anchor through years of resistance. She trained at the Broadway Dance Center and pursued her passion for Broadway, eventually performing in high-profile productions including the 2022 Super Bowl halftime show. Even in environments that felt unwelcoming, she emphasized, no one could take away her love for dance.

One of the most striking moments of the discussion centered on something seemingly small but deeply symbolic: tights color. The Rockettes' signature look required dancers to wear "flesh-toned" tights—

tones that historically only matched white skin. For Jones, this created an immediate visual marker of difference. The expectation of uniformity clashed with the reality of diversity, exposing how even costume design can reinforce exclusion. Her presence forced a reconsideration of what "uniform" truly means, not just aesthetically, but culturally.

The evening continued with a dance performance by Drew student Aziza Hopkins, whose work paid tribute to the legacy of the honorees. "Getting the opportunity to dance and share art with two groundbreaking Black dance pioneers was a wonderful experience I'll never forget. It is because of them that I will be able to get the professional training and opportunities that would not have been open to me 70 years ago," Hopkins said when reflecting on her experience. "As a dancer and aspiring choreographer, art has been, and always will be, activism. It is up to the newer generations to continue this work of breaking barriers, overcoming adversity and proving racist stereotypes wrong."

The Pioneers in Dance event not only celebrated the accomplishments of Rohan and Jones, but also highlighted the ongoing influence of their work on the next generation of artists, reinforcing the vital connection between art, history and social change.

Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the masters of education program.



Jennifer Jones and Sheila Rohan



Jennifer Jones and Sheila Rohan and Hillary Link



Jennifer Jones and Sheila Rohan and students

IMAGES COURTESY OF GILLIAN SAMPSON

4 STUDENT LIFE & ARTS

S. LIFE & ARTS EDITOR: SABR KERES-SIDDIQI | skeressiddiqui@drew.edu
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Laughs, Tears and Music to Your Ears: Jamfest 2026

Jadelyn Villa
Copy Editor

The concert hall at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts was full of applause on Apr. 9, with fans coming from near and far to watch Drew University's own trio of a cappella groups battle it out through streams of beatboxing and harmonies. This year's Jamfest performance was hosted by 36 Madison Avenue, our very own premier tenor-bass a cappella group, with features from On A Different Note and All of The Above in a fun-filled evening of not only smiles and cheers, but also a few touching tears.

MadAve kicked off the night with a cover of Britney Spears's "Toxic," bringing their trademark lively energy in with a strong start before leading the way to OADN's set of songs. The group's whimsical presence was heard all throughout the hall as they paid homage to Swedish pop band ABBA. All three of their tracks were from the band's discography, featuring hits like "Lay All Your Love On



Performers at JamFest.

IMAGE COURTESY OF JADELYN VILLA ('27)

Me," "Fernando" and a stunning senior solo by Felicity Schmitt ('26) of "Thank You For the Music." OADN also introduced their new board members for the 2026-2027 academic year.

After their astounding run, AOTA's captivating pop aura took the stage with new-age classics like "Runaway Baby" by Bruno Mars and "Borderline" by Tame Impala. The group ended their segment with Beabadoobee's "A Perfect Pair" alongside a set of choreographed dance moves

to bounce off the arrangements' jazzy bossa-nova closing bridge, signaling the reintroduction of MadAve's final three selections to bring the show home.

MadAve jumped right into a Beach Boys medley, with flashes of groovy rock-n-roll from songs like "Surfer Girl" and "California Girls" to entertain the crowd. Embellished by some fun stylistic twists for a dynamic performance, their composition left the crowd wanting more—however, before they continued, President Casey

Cornwell ('27) delivered a small speech in honor of James Van Der Beek, late Drew and MadAve alumni best known for his role in hit American television show "Dawson's Creek." "We want to dedicate this concert," Cornwell stated, "and this next song, to James Van Der Beek, and the MadAve that he was a part of." In his dedication, the group sang "Take It To The Limit" by Eagles.

But that wasn't all for Jamfest's emotional rollercoaster. Before finishing off with their alumni song, Eagles's "Seven Bridges Road," they invited tenor member Kayla Rose ('26) to present her senior solo piece which was her favorite song by her favorite band of all time: "Oldies Station" by Twenty One Pilots. The track helped them through a lot of tough times throughout their teenage years—and she explained in a touching opening, "When I really needed it, MadAve found me here." They expressed their immense gratitude and love for the group, and Rose threw open her jacket

to reveal her signature elf attire, turning around in a heartwarming shock to see her fellow members adorned with the same fantasy ear extensions. Concluding her soul-stirring number, she thanked her mother and father for their constant support and embraced their friends on stage. Rose garnered a rumbling standing ovation just before MadAve's showstopping alumni performance, putting Jamfest 2026 to a beautiful and cinematic end.

On Saturday, May 2, at 8 p.m. AOTA will be presenting End of Classes which will be the last concert of the semester. Be sure to check out the groups' last concert of the spring semester because their hard work and dedication is always evident in their vibrant performances.



Jadelyn Villa is a junior majoring in English creative writing and minoring in teaching.

There's a New Publication in Town: DEAL Magazine

Allison Cannon
News Editor

Hold on to your horses, there is a brand new publication coming to Drew University. The Drew Environmental Action League is launching their very first student publication, the DEAL Magazine.

This magazine will feature a collection of environmental news reports, opinion focused writing, a story submission section, a photography section and a highlight of local initiatives that focus on nature.

Unlike the other publications on campus such as The Acorn, which serves as the student newspaper, and Insanity's Horse, which is a reviewed collection of literature and art, this magazine will be a different type of outlet for artists and writers alike. Kayla Kiernan ('28), the creator of the magazine and a vice president of DEAL, wants to foster a different kind of community on campus for nature lovers who also happen to write. Kiernan stated that "I think that nature is something that deserves more attention and love, so the concept of a nature based magazine seemed very cool to me."

A strong point for this new niche would be the story submissions section. Similarly to Insanity's Horse, students will have the opportunity to submit their written works for a chance to share their stories with the community as a whole. There are no limits to genre for this magazine, Sci-Fi, non-fiction or fantasy are all welcomed, as long as there is a strong theme of nature.

Kiernan is looking forward to seeing the array of stories sent in. "People can also submit stories of any genre- fiction, science fiction, fantasy etc-on nature related concepts ... I started this magazine because I wanted to give more opportunities to creatives on campus to have a platform where they can gain more experience and see their work be published."

The main goal of the magazine is to open up more opportunities for students, and Kiernan is focused on making it happen. "I think this is a great way to explore creatively, and since this is in a magazine format, it can be formatted in many fun and non-restrictive ways."

DEAL as a club is focused on taking action that will benefit the environ-

ment directly or indirectly, and this magazine will be a wonderful edition to the work they do to keep nature relevant in the daily life of students on campus.

"I hope the magazine will put a spotlight on nature, and I hope that the audience it does reach will really have that love of both nature and writing. I also hope it will inspire some to start taking an interest in nature, and even an interest in writing," said Kiernan.

DEAL is looking for writers, artists, photographers and anyone else interested in the magazine to help get it up and running, so if you or anyone you know is interested, find the QR code posted around campus or email Kayla Kiernan kkiernan1@drew.edu to get involved.



Allison Cannon is a sophomore majoring in psychology and minoring in Spanish and law, justice & society.



Poster for the DEAL Environmental Magazine.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEAL

Students for Justice in Palestine Unveil “Apartheid Wall”

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Editor

On Monday, March 30, Drew’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine unveiled the “Israeli Apartheid Wall,” a set of panels painted with statistics about what have been recognized by many international human rights organizations as war crimes committed by the State of Israel in the Gaza Strip. The wall was set up outside the Ehinger Center on the patio area close to the building’s windows.

The wall serves as a stark reminder of what SJP terms “Israel’s apartheid policy on Palestinians,” and gives readers and viewers an opportunity to “learn about

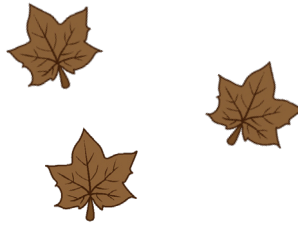
Palestinian history and their struggle.”

The wall comes on the heels of SJP hosting a “night of Palestinian movie and snacks” on March 26, where a documentary to bring awareness to the killing of Hind Rajab, a 6-year-old Palestinian girl, was screened. Since it was unveiled, the wall has attracted many visitors who paused to read the sobering facts emblazoned on each panel.

The facts include a definition of apartheid, a map of “Disappearing Palestine” over time (showing Israel’s annexation of more and more of the Strip from 1948 until now), an estimate of total deaths (over 187,000) and a list of countries who

still provide tools to Israel despite its actions in Gaza – among others.

The wall remained on the Ehinger Center patio for many days, though it is no longer available to be seen today. More information is available at SJP events and on its Instagram page, @drewsjp.



Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in sociology and media & communications.



IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI

The SJP’s Apartheid Wall outside the Ehinger Center.

Cultural Clubs Organize Night in Asia

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Editor

On Thursday, April 9, Drew cultural clubs representing countries throughout Asia held a Night in Asia event in the Ehinger Center’s Crawford Hall. The event was organized by the International Students Association, South Asian Students Association, Asian Student Union and That Medieval Thing, among others.

The event started around 7 p.m. and stretched all the way to about 9:30 p.m. It featured food from all regions of the continent,

as well as plenty of desserts and raffles. The sign-in line stretched out the door for most of the event, and the atmosphere inside was boisterous and lively.

Many different foods were served, such as Chinese sesame buns and Indian chili paneer and samosas. There were also drinks available to those in attendance like fruit juice and mango lassi. The event was set up to look like a traditional Asian street market, with stalls and booths representing each country from the large and diverse region.

“It’s one of our highest-attended events of the year, and I can see why – SASA is very appreciative of ASU for spearheading this event; we know it’s always going to be a success because of our collaborative leadership,” said SASA President Jordyn Casanova-Ghosh (‘28). Casanova-Ghosh added that it was “lovely” to see the turnout and enthusiasm both behind the stalls and from those in attendance, and that they too greatly enjoyed the event.

To enter the raffles, those in attendance visit-

ed each booth to fill out a “passport” booklet that they would be given when they signed in. The person behind each booth stamped the respective spot on the “passport” and, once all the booths had been visited, attendees would take the booklet to the front of the room and show it to event organizers in order to claim their raffle entry.

Information on more upcoming events by these clubs can be found on the Path or the clubs’ social media pages: @isa.drewuni, @drew_sasa, @drew_asu

and @thatmedievalthing on Instagram.



Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in sociology and media & communications.



SASA Secretary Aaran Robinson (‘28) and Freshman Representative Vamsikrishna

Image Courtesy of Sabr Keres-Siddiqui



Volunteers Angela Loeser (‘27) and Kayla Kieran (‘28) at the event.

Image Courtesy of Sabr Keres-Siddiqui

Title IX and WoCo hosts Take Back the Night Event

Katie Germinder
Opinions Editor

On the evening of April 8, 2026, the Women’s Concerns House and Title IX office came together in the 1867 Lounge of the Ehinger Center to host Take Back the Night, an event that raised awareness about sexual assault.

Students signed in by the front of the lounge and were invited to enter a raffle to win a variety of prizes; a water bottle, a book titled “A Feminist Theory of Violence” by Françoise Vergès, a soft blanket, “For the Love of Men” by Liz Plank, a Birdie alarm keychain and

“Who’s Afraid of Gender” by Judith Butler.

As attendees were arriving, they were encouraged to write letters to sexual assault survivors through the Morris County Sexual Assault Center, letting them know they are not alone and providing other words of encouragement. The program was also tabling at the event, allowing for students to ask any questions they had.

Planned Parenthood’s Chapter at Drew was present to provide information on how to register to vote and a survey about campus locations where students felt unsafe or uncomfortable.

After a good amount of people gathered, the vigil walk started. Although the specifics of the walk cannot be disclosed out of respect for sexual assault survivors, it was very impactful and will happen again next spring semester. Both organizations hope as many people as possible can attend future events to raise awareness.

The walk concluded back at the 1867 Lounge where the raffle winners were announced.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, so the office of Title IX will be hosting more events to raise

awareness throughout the month. The next event will be Denim Day on the EC patio from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on upcoming events, follow Title IX on Instagram @drewtitleix. For updates on events hosted by WoCo, follow their Instagram @drewu_woco.



Katie Germinder is a junior majoring in environmental studies and sustainability and minoring in anthropology.



OPINIONS

SPEAK UP!

OPINIONS EDITOR: KATIE GERMINDER | kgerminder@drew.edu
 ASSISTANT EDITOR: KAYLA KIERNAN

Submit a letter to the editor or contribute an opinion piece (500 WORDS APPROX). Email theacorn+opinions@drew.edu



Lead Ed: How Does The Community See Drew?

LEAD EDITORIAL

When you're at school, the word community has a different meaning than when you are not in school.

To college students, our community is made up of our peers, our teammates and coaches, our professors and those we choose to spend our time with. It is time consuming to think about how our daily lives compare to those around us, and how we choose to spend our time on or off campus looks different for every person.

It is easy to get caught up with classes and activities that we don't notice when things are changing outside of our bubble that is Drew University.

It can make a person wonder, when was the last time that we thought of the community outside our own? And what does that community think of us?

Madison, N.J. is a small college town, having three different campuses a short distance away from downtown. The town has always welcomed the students at these colleges into its life, from actually welcoming students at the start of the school year with flags, to providing essential resources like a pharmacy and a grocery store a short walk away as well as easy access into New York City.

It is wonderful having so much access in a small town, but in a way, all we do is take. As students, it is hard to give back to the community we are residing in, but that

raises the question of "what does the school do?"

In an interview with Reverend Mark Shoal of the Madison United Methodist Church, a location students might be familiar with since it is on the corner of campus, it was brought to the Editorial Board's attention that Drew University does not give off the welcoming demeanor that they promote.

Every year, on the first Saturday of October, Madison has a day dedicated to celebrating the creation of the town and the local businesses. Everyone participates, every restaurant, bookstore, band and choir, the fire and police departments and even local crafters get in on the action.

This event is called Bottle Hill Day, named after the historic Bottle Hill that used to be downtown Madison. It is a chance for everyone in the community to come together, support the local businesses and interact with one another.

However, despite the other two universities participating in this day, Drew University has been absent

for quite a few years. One has to wonder why. Is it just a coincidence that Bottle Hill Day happens to fall on the weekend of fall break every year and the school has no time to attend? Or is it because they don't have the time or resources to send a representative downtown?

Whatever the reason is, the absence is noticeable to those who pay attention.

Bottle Hill Day isn't the only time when it is noticeable that Drew is absent. In a previous meeting with Rev. Shoal, it was mentioned that many of the theological students who attend the Methodist church have been scared for their safety while at Drew.

With the recent ICE attacks all over the country and some as close as Morristown, many of the students in both the College of Liberal Arts and the Theological school, have been seeking peace of mind and haven't been able to find it in the school.

Quite a few of the students are international students, and they have felt the need to carry their visas and

documentation with them on the short five minute walk from their dorms to the Methodist church.

The question as to why they are afraid is easy to answer, it is rather the question of why they feel like the school isn't doing enough that needs to be answered.

Drew University has sent a few emails regarding ICE and the scares that have been reported, always ensuring that student safety is at their top priority, but if the students are feeling the safety that has been ensured to them—what is the point?

Many of the clubs at Drew, Esperanza for example, have held multiple sessions for students to become educated about their rights in regards to speaking to ICE agents, this includes making and carrying a card explaining those rights. These clubs have made it clear where they stand and are offering their support outwardly.

Again, the question is, where is Drew?

This sentiment is a common one. Whether you love this school and your life in it, or you don't, it shouldn't

be common to feel that your school isn't doing enough.

This question is not one that critiques the food at Commons or the hours of the Ehinger Center food court, it is questioning the values that Drew holds and is asking that the school do as they say, not just for the sake of their students, but for the sake of the town it resides in.



Drew students walking through downtown Madison, NJ.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW.EDU.



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

Turning Point US Op-Ed

Migda Baptiste, Natalie Bovair, and Destiny Disarro
 Contributing Writers

This upcoming July 4, we will celebrate 250 years of America's independence. While we have come a long way, there is definitely room for improvement. In the past few years, it seems that a core belief that makes America what it is, is no longer valued. It seems that Americans have forgotten how to converse respectfully or engage in civil discourse. We now live in an age where if you do not agree with someone, they see you as a threat or do not want to engage with you at all.

This is why we have decided to create a Turning Point USA chapter here at Drew University. We be-

lieve that we should be able to discuss vital issues in a respectful manner, regardless of opinion. While we are very grateful for the plethora of events that the university and clubs offer, we feel that they only cater to people who hold "progressive" beliefs. A university cannot be true to its mission if everyone has to conform to the same ideology. It must be open to the free exchange of ideas, however controversial they may be.

We therefore decided to create a space for students who may hold conservative values. Most people may not even understand what conservatism is, and many misrepresent it and descend to name-calling. Our beliefs may be seen as traditional or

archaic because our moral principles (like Martin Luther King Jr.'s) are based on the Bible, but we are willing and open to mutually respectful discussions of other points of view. We absolutely reject all forms of discrimination and bigotry, and we welcome anyone who may be interested to become a part of our club. All we ask is that you come with an open mind.

A recent Acorn op-ed seriously misrepresented our new club, so we want to set the record straight and assure the Drew community that we do not pose a threat to anyone. We simply want to create a space for those who hold similar values to us while also engaging with those with different points

of view. Todd Chrisley said it best: "Disagreement is not hate. Debate is not violence. Standing on principle is not extremism. What is dangerous is silencing people who think differently, and this is what Charlie Kirk stood for."



Migda-EI (Migda) Baptiste is a junior majoring in engineering physics.

Natalie Bovair is a junior majoring in political science and psychology.

Destiny Disarro is a junior majoring in biology.



When “One Ceremony Fits All” Misses the Mark

Anonymous
Contributing Writer

Graduation is supposed to be a moment of recognition, reflection and celebration, a carefully structured event that honors years of work and marks the transition into a new chapter. That’s why Drew University’s decision to combine the Theological School, the College of Liberal Arts and the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies into a single, unified commencement ceremony raises serious concerns about logistics, accessibility and the overall student experience.

At first glance, a combined ceremony might seem efficient or even symbolic, a gesture toward unity across disciplines. But in practice, merging three distinct schools into one event creates a scale problem that cannot be ignored. The sheer number of graduates, faculty, families and guests multiplies dramatically, turning what should be a meaningful ceremony into a crowded, drawn-out production. More people means more names to read, more transitions and more opportunities for delays. Even under the most optimistic planning, it is difficult to imagine how such a large event could remain streamlined.

I say this not just as an observer, but as someone who experienced Drew’s commencement the way it used to be. As a member of the 2024 graduating class, before the ceremonies were combined, I remember a day that felt intentional and personal. The ceremony was beautiful. It flowed seamlessly, each moment



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW.EDU.

A picture of Drew’s 2022 graduation ceremony.

clearly designed to honor the students it was meant to celebrate. I felt seen. I felt heard. There was space for recognition, for reflection and for genuine pride in what we had accomplished.

That contrast became clear when watching the Class of 2025 graduate alongside the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies. Even with just two schools combined, the imbalance was noticeable. The sheer number of College of Liberal Arts students outweighed those in the graduate programs so significantly that, by the end of the ceremony, it was easy to forget it was meant to celebrate graduate students as well. Those who had spent years working toward their master’s degrees—often balancing careers, research and personal responsibilities—were folded into a ceremony that felt primarily designed for undergraduates.

The messaging reflected that imbalance. Speeches leaned toward broad, generalized themes that aligned more closely with the undergraduate experience, offering only occasional acknowledgment of

the distinct challenges and achievements of graduate students. What should have been a defining moment of recognition instead became a brief moment in a much larger, less focused event.

Now, with all three schools combined, including the Theological School, which carries its own unique identity, traditions and academic journey, the concerns only grow. Each of these communities represents a fundamentally different educational experience. To merge them all into a single ceremony risks flattening those differences entirely. If two schools already created an imbalance in recognition and tone, it is hard to imagine how adding a third, especially one so distinct, will improve the experience. More likely, it will amplify the very issues already observed. The most obvious of which being recognition. Each of Drew’s schools has its own identity, traditions and academic culture. A combined ceremony risks diluting those distinctions, reducing the opportunity for each group to be meaningfully acknowledged. What was once a personalized

experience becomes generalized, with individual achievements feeling less visible in the crowd.

It also changes who feels able to participate in meaningful ways. At one point, I had seriously considered putting myself forward as a commencement speaker. After six years at Drew, I felt I had something genuine to say about growth, community and the experience of spending such a significant chapter of my life here. But when I learned the ceremony would bring together all three schools and their families, I reconsidered. The scale alone, speaking in front of such an enormous, mixed audience, made the opportunity feel less personal and more overwhelming. What once felt like a chance to speak to my peers became something entirely different: a speech delivered to a crowd so large and varied that it would be difficult to connect in a meaningful, authentic way.

None of this is to say that innovation in graduation planning is unwelcome. Universities should always look for ways to improve efficiency and foster community—but those goals should never come at the expense of the student experience. In fact, recent decisions suggest that this balance has already been lost.

It has come to my attention, through conversations and quiet word of mouth, that no water will be provided to students or guests during the ceremony. This is not simply a logistical oversight; it is a decision with real consequences. For an outdoor event in May, this is a glaring health and safety failure. Graduates, their families and the staff required to work the event

will be left vulnerable to heat and dehydration, all while this critical detail remains conspicuously absent from any public communication. Most attendees will reasonably assume basic provisions are in place, especially when outside beverages are often restricted at formal ceremonies, leaving many unprepared.

Beyond the immediate risks, this decision speaks volumes. It reflects a troubling disregard for the well-being of the very people the event is meant to celebrate and raises serious questions about institutional priorities. How is it that an institution capable of funding the pageantry of a commencement cannot manage to provide something as fundamental as water? If resources have been allocated elsewhere, then they have been mismanaged—plain and simple.

Graduation is the closing of our chapter at Drew. This moment carries weight that goes far beyond logistics and budgets. It is not just a reflection of time spent in classrooms, it is friendships formed, challenges overcome, identities shaped and futures imagined. Graduation is where all of that is supposed to come together in a moment that feels intentional and earned. It is the last time we gather not as individuals, but as a community that grew alongside each other. To see that moment become diluted, generalized, and potentially unsafe is more than disappointing, it feels like a quiet loss. Because in the end, we are not just asking for a ceremony that works; we are asking for a farewell that feels worthy of everything we’ve given to this place.



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



A Trip to Spain... & A Deep Dive Into Catalonia

Isabella Sarcomo
Guest Writer

Spain. A nation of rich history and an empire with influence around the globe. When I said “Spain,” what did you think of? For most, it’s the cities of Madrid, Zaragoza and Barcelona. This past summer, I was fortunate enough to experience all three. While I was in Barcelona, I visited a place I had never heard of before—hidden away in the northeast of Spain lies a beautiful region named Catalonia.

Catalonia is now classified as a single region of Spain, but this was not always the case. Spain itself is a collection of states that weren’t brought together until 1492. In comparison, Catalonia has been its own organized nation since the 1100s. The history of Catalonia and Spain is complex, including a number of wars, marriages between royal families and various questionable governments. The union of Catalonia and Spain came in 1469 when Isabella I of Castile was wed to Ferdinand III of Aragon, bringing several states from Aragon into the kingdom. Still, Catalonia remained independent—but only to a small extent.

From the 18th to the 20th centuries, suppression of Catalán culture was strong and relentless. Catalán political institutions were banned, movements to erase the Catalán language swept the country, and massive cultural erasure began alongside the emergence of a new tyranny. The Spanish dictator, Francisco Franco, effectively outlawed Catalán customs, dances, foods, language and all other aspects of its culture, forcing the Catalán people to convert their customs into Spanish equivalents. But the people of Catalonia persisted; when Franco’s rule came



IMAGE COURTESY OF ISABELLA SARCOMO.
La Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, home to the primary government office of Catalonia.

to an end, their autonomy was largely restored. The Cataláns created their own government, the Generalitat.

Even under their own government, the Catalonians were still under Spanish rule. During October of 2017, the Catalán government voted to secede from Spain and declared independence. This was the *procés*: a dramatic push for independence. Unfortunately for the Cataláns, the Spanish military held powers 10 times their strength, and their people fell to extreme brutality, conviction and exile. Though the movement failed, instances of repression had not been lost on the people of Catalonia. Tensions are still present throughout Catalonia and notably in Barcelona.

Our plane landed in Barcelona at around 3 p.m. We left the United States early in the morning, but with layovers and a combined eight hours in flight, we started our trip on a sunny, mid-afternoon. I was visiting Spain for a week at the end of June with a cohort of 25 classmates from my school. The immediate group I travelled with was eight of my friends (including my little brother). We went everywhere together, from food stands, stores, monuments and more. The days were relatively struc-

ured, typically doing an excursion as a large group in the morning and then freedom to explore for the rest of the day.

On the second day, we took a bus to the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona. This region of the city features the remains of an old Roman city, a medieval style based on the Gothic era and a transformative period of architectural innovations. We explored cathedrals, roamed the streets and did a scavenger hunt looking for different architectural signatures. My favorite was the statue of Saint Eulalia. She has a tragic story, fighting for her Christian faith during Roman persecution before passing from torture. Though her final experience was violence, she represents youth, faith and justice.

After exploring the Gothic Quarter, my group split off and headed towards La Plaça de Sant Jaume, a large open plaza nearby home to many Cataláns. The primary government office of Catalonia is in La Plaça, named La Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya.

Walking around La Plaça de Sant Jaume was a surreal experience. People were dancing, singing and talking in the streets. Catalán is the language of Catalonia—while similar to Spanish, it is noticeably different in

verbiage and pronunciation. The most interesting observation however, was the subtle hints of underlying tension. Through the singing, dancing and talking, we noticed a lack of Spanish flags, graffiti with Catalán words spelling out rebellious phrases, posters and fliers against the nation and more. When listening to a local tour guide, they spoke about the “*procés*” in 2017, and how locals are still pushing to secede from Spain. While tensions are drastically different than they have been in past decades, there is still a clear separation between Spain, the nation and Catalonia, the region.

After leaving the Gothic Quarter, we found a little pop-up restaurant to grab lunch and end our excursion to both Barcelona and Catalonia. There, I ordered *paella*, a Valencian dish showcasing the diversity of the region. It was a fantastic end to our visit, and a final reminder of how lucky we were to travel to a beautiful area, eat delicious food and share what I learned about the Catalan people.

Exploring this part of Catalonia changed my mindset for the rest of my trip. As we left from lunch, I kept thinking about the Catalán people. Before coming to Spain, I had never heard of Catalonia. I didn’t know there was an entire language fighting effacement, or that there was an entire society of people trying to push back against the erasure of their culture. Revolutions and independence movements can feel like ancient history when you’re reading about them in a textbook. But they’re not. There are people in Catalonia today, in another country tomorrow and all around the world every day fighting for the simple right to exist. Whether that means existing physically or culturally, every person

deserves the space where they came from.

Here at the Drew Acorn, we prioritize hearing student voices. Whether that student is a year six graduate student or a first semester freshman, we value the input all students have to give. This includes students at other universities. This article was sent in by a student at Northeastern University, and we have decided that it was important to publish the message being shared. Drew University, like many colleges, values what travel can do for education, especially when current society promotes ignorance and hate towards communities different from your own. If you find yourself traveling abroad, for vacation, for class or for work, please take the time to learn about the ground you are standing on, what has that community seen and been through and how can you be a respectful guest.

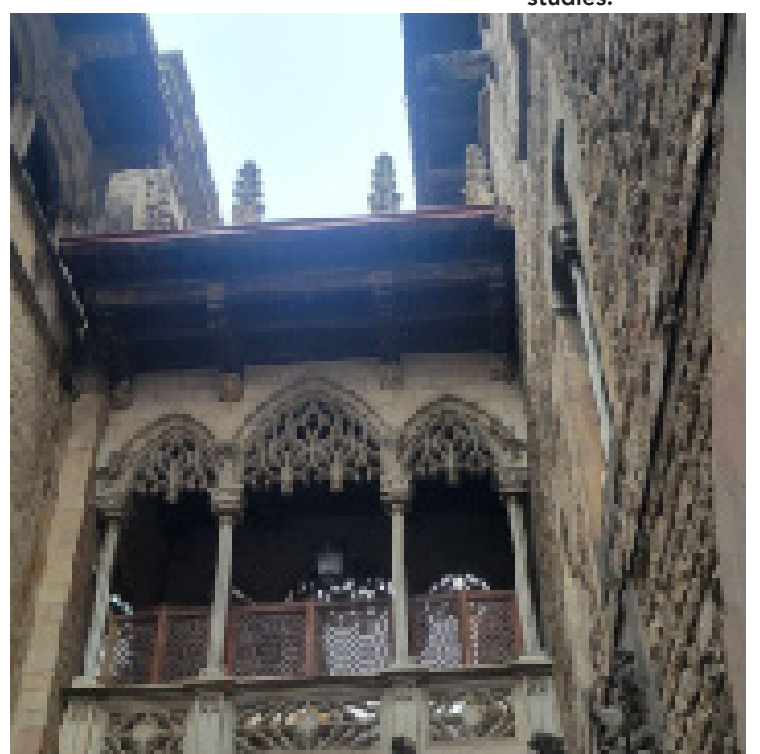


Isabella Sarcomo is a first year at Northeastern University who is majoring in behavioral neuroscience and minoring in Latinx, Latin American and Caribbean studies.



La Plaça de Sant Jaume, hanging on the right most building is multiples of the flag of Catalonia.

IMAGE COURTESY OF ISABELLA SARCOMO.



A bridge between buildings in the gothic quarter in Barcelona, a very famous part of the city located in Catalonia.

IMAGE COURTESY OF ISABELLA SARCOMO.

The Drama Review: Marriage and Upset all in One!

Eva Esqueda
Editor in Chief

After months of anticipation, A24's "The Drama" finally hit theaters the weekend of April 3, 2026. Starring Zendaya and Robert Pattinson, the new flick follows a happy couple as they learn of some startling news and must deal with this new information days before their wedding.

As an AMC Stubs A-List member, I just had to make sure I caught this film in theaters. Fortunately, my two friends joined me for a morning screening complete with Dunkin' and pajamas to enjoy the marriage of Charlie Thompspon and Emma Harwood.

In terms of plot, I never knew what was going to happen next. When the plot twist was revealed, I had no idea that the film was going to take the sort of turn that it did. However, I think the fact that the filmmakers chose to focus on something so pertinent and frightening in American society was a well-made, albeit risky choice.

Regarding the acting of the film, I found each and every character on screen



Image of a bride and groom.

IMAGE COURTESY OF STONEHOUSE VILLA.

to be completely compelling throughout. Zendaya and Robert Pattinson's lead performances truly helped the audience realize the complexity of the narrative by foregrounding the incredibly strong relationship between Emma and Charlie respectively. In fact, their chemistry and connection seemed so convincing to the point that I could see how hard it was for each character to struggle with the information that was uncovered. Additionally, Alana Haim's character Rachel made for a very easy character to hate on despite the fact that her reasoning was technically

sound. Finally, Rachel's husband, Mike—played by Mamoudou Athie—was my favorite seeing as he was conflicted between Emma's past, his friendship with Charlie and his own marriage with Rachel while still keeping true to his personal morals.

Technically speaking, the film's editing, cinematography and sound stood out to me most. Intercutting flashbacks based on appropriate cues in the present moment provided the audience with enough background to demonstrate the strength of Charlie and Emma's relationship. Not

to mention, cutting to imagined reactions during tense scenes allowed us a window into the characters' state of mind. It was also incredibly helpful to juxtapose Emma's matured emotional state in the present with instances from her past that illustrated her poor mental health and reasoning for her past actions.

The way in which the shots were composed were beautiful in and of themselves. Using close-ups to highlight emotions of anxiety, fear and anger gave the audience an opportunity to be up close and personal with the main characters' feelings and thoughts. Furthermore, I greatly enjoyed the color-grading throughout the film which felt refreshing given the recent trend of generic "Netflix" lighting and color-grading.

Lastly, the element of sound in the film was insanely well-rounded. Featuring a soundtrack with romantic hits and different genres, I felt like each and every song used in the film served a greater purpose. Similarly, the film's score helped engage the audience through its use of strings, supporting unsettling and even disturbing moments throughout.

After watching "The Drama," I ran to my Letterboxd account to give it an easy four and a half stars. Having been blown away by director Kristoffer Borgli's work, I highly recommend this film to anyone interested in watching. Moreover, I strongly encourage anyone who wants to watch this to go see this film while it's still in theaters—at a precarious time in the entertainment industry, it's more important than ever to support original movies on the big screen among several other audience members who can gasp alongside you.



Eva Esqueda is a senior majoring in media and communications, minoring in French, American studies and film studies.

Henry VI Review: War and Bloodshed on Stage

Eva Esqueda and Katie
Germinder

Editor in Chief and Opinions
Editor

The Drew Theatre department celebrated its inaugural joint production with the Shakespeare Theatre on campus the weekend of April 26 to 28, 2026. With shows spanning up to 200 attendees in the audience, "Henry VI: The Rise of Richard" was a true success for the Drew theatre community.

Upon entry into the theatre, audience members had a chance to admire the magnificently-built set. Consisting of a multi-level chessboard and broken columns and arches, the stage immediately established a world of war reminiscent of "Game of Thrones" level conflict.

The pre-show also gave the audience a quick glimpse into the warring factions within the play, the house of Lancaster and the house of York. Introducing almost all of the characters in just under a minute, the audience was immediately able to grasp the relationships and tensions between the characters while providing a precursor to the type of action that would be seen later in the play.

The costumes seen during the pre-show and throughout also reflected the status and relative positions

of each character expertly. Even mirroring elements of chess here as well, audience members could easily understand who was fighting who in this War of Roses and whether they operated as a pawn, knight or bishop, or king and queen. Additionally, the patterns and textures seen in the style of dress complemented each actor and the character they portrayed in terms of personality, rank and importance.

The performances of all the cast were outstanding and provoked much emotion from the audience. One performance that stood out was that of Queen Margaret, played by Natalia Rakviashvili ('26). The actress perfectly portrayed the ruthless queen and how devoted she was to her husband and King Henry, ready to do anything to maintain Henry's position as king of England. The actress also showed how much the queen cared for her son, Prince Edward (played by Maria Quintiliana ('28)), and would stop at nothing to ensure he would be ruler of England after Henry passed.

Henry VI, played by Gin Mitchell ('26), was also a noteworthy role in the show. The internal struggle Henry faced throughout the show is depicted through Mitchell's mannerisms.

Henry's speech after the battle between the White and Red Rose houses truly shows how conflicted Henry is between maintaining his role as king of England or giving his throne to York, played by Hallie Benway ('28), to finally stop all the bloodshed between the houses.

Corinne Iacobucci's ('29) performance as Richard, the cunning and scheming younger brother to Edward (played by Grady Cummings ('27)) was remarkable. Iacobucci was able to put on a perfect poker face when working with Richard's brothers, while secretly scheming their downfalls so he could rightfully assume the crown and become king of England. The cliffhanger at the end left the audience wanting more of Iacobucci's performance, wanting to know what would happen next with Richard's story arc.

Kayla Rose's ('26) iconic role as Clifford was also outstanding. You could see the pure rage on Rose's face and the vengeance that Clifford was after for his father, who was slain by Rutland's father (Rutland is played by Troy Larkins-Johnson ('28)). The combat scenes between Rose's character of Clifford were phenomenal. Even after the character was killed, you could still feel

Clifford's presence looming in the set, his loyalty to the Red Rose never fading even in death.

Speaking of loyalty, well more like uncertain loyalty, Sophia Taylor's ('28) portrayal of Warwick really showed that Warwick was only interested in saving himself. His constant flip flopping between the houses in order to save himself was intriguing and you never knew quite where his true loyalties were. Even though Warwick starts as a clear ally to the White Rose, he is seen going back and forth as to not be killed by either house at a given time. It really made you want to understand what was going

on in Warwick's head at any given moment.

Considering all of these aspects of the show, Drew's first-ever collaboration with the Shakespeare Theatre was a hit. Students were clearly able to showcase their talents in a show of this size and all the hard work that went into this production was evident from the moment one walked through the doors.

Eva Esqueda is a senior majoring in media and communications, minoring in French, American studies and film studies. Katie Germinder is a junior majoring in environmental studies and sustainability, minoring in anthropology.



Image of the Henry VI cast.

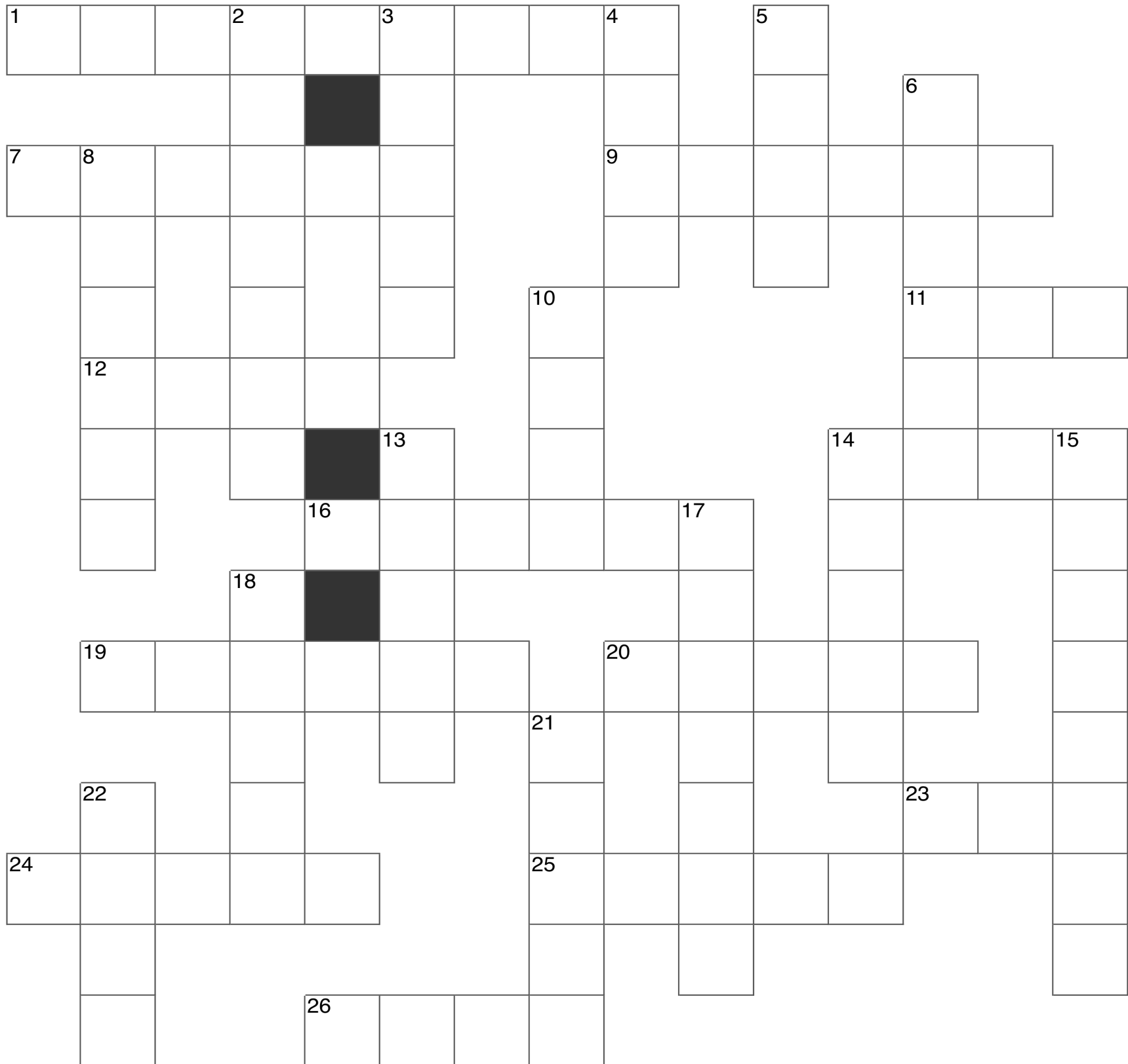
IMAGE COURTESY OF LYNNE DELADE.

10 DIVERSIONS

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Try This Edition's Crossword: Jumping into Spring!



Across

- 1. Birds' seasonal journey
- 7. Relating to spring
- 9. New growth from a seed
- 11. Morning moisture on spring grass
- 12. Ice and snow melt in the spring
- 14. What you plant to grow flower
- 16. A gentle spring wind
- 19. Where spring planting happens
- 20. Another name for a rabbit, often seen in spring
- 23. A flower before it opens
- 24. The smell of spring air
- 25. Flowers do this in spring
- 26. April showers bring May flowers

Down

- 2. Feeling of new beginnings in spring
- 3. Cup-shaped spring flower
- 4. Birds build this in spring
- 5. Temperature in spring
- 6. Forms after a spring shower
- 8. A spring holiday with eggs
- 10. Flies high on a windy spring day
- 13. Color of new grass and leaves
- 14. Bright spring weather
- 15. Yellow trumpet-shaped spring flower
- 17. When spring officially begins
- 18. Amphibians active in spring
- 21. A bird often seen in spring
- 22. What plants do in spring

Sit Outside and Enjoy the Sun with this Sudoku!

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

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COMING UP

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SUNDAY, APRIL 19
BB at University of Scranton
Scranton, PA
12:00 PM

THURSDAY APRIL 23
MTEN vs Wilkes University
Madison, NJ
4:00 PM

TUESDAY APRIL 28
SB vs DeSales University
Madison, NJ
3:00 PM

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29
BB at Centenary University
Hackettstown, NJ
3:30 PM

SPORTS

SPORTS EDITORS: DEVAN SUTARIA & GILLIAN SAMPSON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR: NATHAN MOLDOVER
Contact by emailing theacorn+sports@drew.edu

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When “One Ceremony Fits All”
Misses the Mark

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Getting to Know Women’s Track and Field’s Emily Camlet

Gillian Sampson
Assistant Sports Editor

For Emily Camlet ('26), being a student-athlete isn't just about competition—it's about community, connection and finding balance across every part of campus life. A member of the Class of 2026, Camlet competes in both track and field and cross country while pursuing a double major in statistics and Italian. Her experience reflects the kind of dedication and multidimensional involvement that defines Drew athletics.

Ask Camlet about her most memorable moment as a Ranger, and her answer isn't centered on personal accolades, it's about her team.

“There are so many moments I cherish as a Ranger, but what really sticks out to me is anything involving my team celebrating

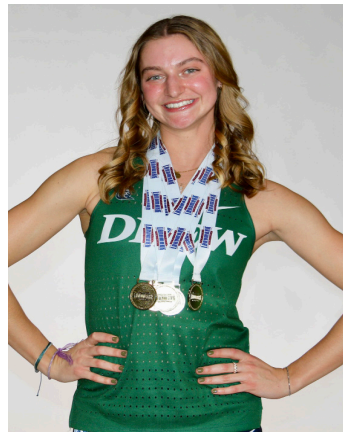


IMAGE COURTESY OF EMILY CAMLET ('26)

each other,” she says. “I remember rewriting a conference record, where the best part wasn't the new record, but the way my teammates swarmed me on the track. They celebrated as if it was their own record, and I think that really speaks to our culture as a team. Nothing could beat this.”

That sense of shared success is something Camlet carries with her beyond competition. On campus, she serves as President of the Cultural Italian American

Organization, helping foster community and cultural awareness. Her academic achievements are equally impressive—she has been accepted into multiple honor societies, including Chi Sigma Alpha (athletics), Gamma Kappa Alpha (Italian) and Pi Mu Epsilon (mathematics), as well as the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa.

Outside of academics and athletics, Camlet is also a company dancer with the Bridget Ryan Dance Company, performing throughout the tri-state area. She also gives back to her community as a substitute teacher in her hometown school district, demonstrating a commitment to leadership both on and off campus.

In the classroom, Camlet has found courses that challenge and inspire her in equal measure. Among her favorites is Statistical Computing in R with Professor Yi Lu.

“I liked learning from and building connections with my favorite professor while having the opportunity to analyze data that mattered to me and write about it in a comprehensive way for others to better understand,” she said.

She also highlights Mafia Myths and Realities with Professor Sisler as another standout experience, noting how the course challenged misconceptions and encouraged deep analysis of media portrayals and historical context.

Balancing such a wide range of commitments is no easy feat, but Camlet credits athletics with helping her stay grounded and organized.

“Athletics have really helped me with time management,” she says. “It has kept me on my toes and helped me consistently plan out when to get work done throughout the semester,

not just at the beginning. It encourages making appropriate time for studying and also practice or meets.”

More than that, running provides a necessary mental reset.

“Being a collegiate athlete has also given me an outlet to escape academic stress even for a short time, allowing me to return to class responsibilities a little bit more refreshed after I've worked at something I truly love.”

Whether she's racing on the track, leading on the campus or excelling in the classroom, Camlet exemplifies what it means to be a Ranger: driven, balanced and deeply connected to the people around her. Her name will be forever embedded into the legacy of Drew Athletics.

Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the masters of education program

Getting to Know Men’s Track and Field’s Cieran Plancer-Murphy

Gillian Sampson
Sports Editor

Cieran Plancer-Murphy's journey is one defined not just by achievement, but by resilience, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to his passions. A member of the Class of 2026, Plancer-Murphy was recruited to Drew for track and field and cross country, bringing with him a lifelong dedication to the sport and an equally impressive academic drive.

Now a double major in computer science and cybersecurity, with minors in creative arts and technology, Plancer-Murphy is charting a path that blends technical expertise with creative exploration. His academic journey has already reached milestones few undergraduates achieve.

“My favorite moment was when I learned I was the first undergraduate student to begin graduate school classes at NYU in the dual degree program as a junior,” he said. “I was also informed I would be one of the first students to graduate Drew as a double major in computer science and cybersecurity.”

Beyond the classroom, Plancer-Murphy has immersed himself in hands-on learning opportunities. He

is an Action Scholar, participated in the Drew Summer Science Institute during his sophomore summer focusing on cybersecurity and has completed internships in his field, building a strong foundation for his future career.

Among his academic experiences, one course stands out: Computer Architecture with Professor Michlin.

“He is extremely knowledgeable in the field of computer science and cybersecurity and made the topics so interesting,” Plancer-Murphy said, emphasizing the impact of engaging faculty on his educational experience.

But Plancer-Murphy's story is perhaps most powerful when it comes to his relationship with running. As a lifelong athlete, he has been competing in cross country and track since the age of five. Over the years, the sport has become more than competition—it has been a source of stability and personal growth for him.

“It has helped relieve anxiety and given me a sense of accomplishment,” he explained.

His athletic career includes competing in the Junior Olympics and earning recognition as a 12-time high school varsity athlete.

Being recruited to Drew was a moment of pride, especially after the challenges he had already faced.

“I was very proud when Coach Zach Mower called me my junior year of high school to officially recruit me,” he recalled. “I had gone through two stress fractures and developed compartment syndrome. I never thought I would be back to a level enough to be recruited.”

That condition, however, did not disappear. Compartment syndrome is a lifelong challenge, bringing significant pain when training exceeds certain limits. Despite this, he remained determined to continue competing at a high level.

Heading into his freshman year, he followed a strict training regimen set by his surgeon to prevent reinjury. But unexpected changes complicated his transition to collegiate athletics. When his recruiting coach stepped away and new staff joined, Plancer-Murphy found himself navigating a system that no longer fully understood his needs as an athlete managing a chronic condition. Eventually, he was placed on the injury list and sidelined for the season.

Faced with difficult circumstances, Plancer-Murphy made the decision to

step away from the team and continue running independently, a choice that reflects both self-awareness and perseverance.

Even now, his connection to the sport remains strong.

“I still imagine what it would be like to wear my Drew singlet when I compete,” he said.

Plancer-Murphy's story is not one of a traditional collegiate athletic path, but it is no less meaningful. It is a story of persistence through injury, of adapting when plans change and of continuing to pursue both academic and personal excellence despite setbacks.

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Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the masters of education program