

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

With summer come cranes and construction crews. Several projects began on campus in recent months, including the renovation of Crawford, Stalnaker and Morehouse residence halls; renovation of Cole Hall; the creation of new parking spaces on the west side of Drake Stadium; relocation of the entrance to the Olmsted parking lot; updating of the Medbury Honors lounge and completion of the HVAC project in Cartwright Hall.

The space at 30th Street and Carpenter Avenue will soon be transformed as construction is well underway on the \$37 million mixed-use housing and retail complex that will officially be called "Drake West Village."

The development consists of three buildings totaling 226,000 square feet that will provide housing for up to 500 students, primarily juniors and seniors as well as graduate students in the pharmacy program and Drake Law School.

The buildings will provide a village atmosphere on the west side of the campus where students can live, work, study and socialize, while the community can patronize businesses in The Shops at Drake West Village.

Additionally, a 34-foot-long decorative steel archway placed atop two brick pillars now serves as the entrance to the plaza at Drake Stadium. The archway, with the words "Drake Plaza" incorporated into the design, provides access to the new red brick walkway that serves as the entrance to the facility that has been home to the Drake Relays since 1926. The project was made possible by a \$500,000 gift from Peggy Fisher, FA'70, and her husband, Larry Stelter.

DRAKE INITIATES NEW EXCHANGE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

Three representatives from Drake University spent last spring break formalizing a partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, to

establish Drake's first study abroad exchange program in the southern hemisphere.

Gretchen Olson, director of international programs and services, Rahul Parsa, professor of actuarial science, and John Rovers, associate professor of pharmacy and health sciences, met with UKZN officials and arranged for undergraduates from the two universities to exchange places for one semester or academic year, effective spring 2008.

In addition, sixth-year pharmacy students will have the option of completing a portion of their clinical training in Durban at King Edward Hospital, McCord Hospital or The Center for AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa.

"This exchange will be an eye-opening experience for our students — the kind that can change lives," said Olson. "And we are equally excited about having South African students at Drake."

Sixth-year pharmacy student Natalie Bainbridge completed the debut South African rotation last fall and provided feedback to Drake faculty that was used to develop the program.

"I had an amazing experience," Bainbridge said. "It's a completely different world. Here, people hear a lot about HIV/AIDS, but it's a distant problem — not up close and personal like it is in Africa. It really provided me with a perspective on what the HIV/AIDS epidemic means in other places."

STUDENT WINS REGIONAL ART AWARD

Tara Lange, a junior drawing and environmental policy student,

the HOT list

The Drake campus was overflowing with politics, music and art in the early part of 2007. Arkansas Governor **Mike Huckabee** spoke on campus at a luncheon sponsored by *IowaPolitics.com*. U.S. **Senator Chris Dodd** (D, Conn.) spoke to a national audience from Olmsted Center. Australian rock group **Jet** performed at the Knapp Center for students who volunteered through the 10,000 Hours Program. Drake Opera Theatre presented the English version of the comic opera **Die Fledermaus (The Bat)** by Johann Strauss. The Anderson Gallery hosted the department of Art and Design's **36th Annual Juried Student Art Show**. Drake Law School hosted a symposium on the topic of renewable energy and alternative fuels. Internationally acclaimed pianist **Svetlana Belsky** taught a piano master class in Sheslow Auditorium. More than 300 Drake musicians joined forces to perform **Ein Deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)** by Johannes Brahms. Faculty and students participated in the fourth annual Conference on Undergraduate Research in the Sciences. **Neenah Ellis**, JO'77, best-selling author and reporter for National Public Radio, spoke to a packed house for the **Live! at Cowles Library** lecture. U.S. **Senator Joseph Biden** (D, Del.) lectured at the Law School on civil liberties in the United States. And **Craig Armstrong**, vice president and general manager of Iowa Speedway, concluded Drake's spring 2007 "**Let's DU Lunch**" lecture series.

was recently awarded second place in the National Society of Arts and Letters National Career Awards Regional Competition in the Visual Arts.

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CULVER SIGNS BILL CHAMPIONED BY DRAKE LAW STUDENTS

Iowa Governor Chet Culver, GR'94, recently signed legislation drafted and championed by Drake University law students that mandates visitation rights for siblings split up through foster care and adoptive placement in Iowa. Before signing the bill, which took effect July 1, Culver praised the work of the Drake Legal Clinic and the students who worked to get the legislation passed.