

## Amazing Facts

### Drake's Incredible Reading Duck!

Before Drake had bulldogs, it had ducks. The duck was Drake's original mascot, as Drake is also a breed of mallard. And though the duck as mascot hardly inspired fear among opponents on the athletics field, at least one Drake duck earned nationwide attention for its remarkable intelligence years after the bulldog replaced the esteemed mallard.

During the 1978-79 school year, a fine web-footed specimen named Sir Lancelot was taught by members of the psychology department to read. The literate bird, affectionately known as Lance, could recognize the words "peck," "talk" and "turn," and he proudly held library cards from St. Paul, MN, and Des Moines.

The amazing Sir Lancelot was featured nationally on Paul Harvey's syndicated radio show and received press coverage from New York to Los Angeles. Lance traveled on behalf of Drake to events in St. Louis and Colorado, and, may have even spent an hour or two chasing away the stress of fame at Peggy's over a cold one.

### The president's ghost

It's long been rumored that the ghost of former Drake President Daniel Morehouse can be seen walking the stairs of the Drake Observatory. And though no proof exists of a haunting, there is ample evidence to suggest that Morehouse had an unusually strong attachment to the facility.

Morehouse was Drake's own Renaissance man. A transfer student, he played center on Drake's "Champions of the West" football team in 1898, discovered a comet in his graduate studies and rose to become president of Drake University, a position he held from 1923 to 1941. Morehouse was also a friend to Eleanor Roosevelt and raised funds to create Drake Stadium, Cowles Library and the Drake Observatory, which he apparently loved enough to make his final resting place after his death in 1941.

Since his passing, Daniel Morehouse has remained in the observatory, where his remains and those of his wife were interred. A memorial plaque is located inside the main rotunda, which serves as a gathering place for descendents of Morehouse and his wife who often come to hold memorial services for the couple.

### Wartime and Education

With more than 925 students Drake University will have more first-year students in the 2007-2008 school year than ever before. While this record-setting number is a direct result of a hard-working admission staff, it is also worth noting enrollment numbers tend to fluctuate when the country is at war. During World War II, overall enrollment at Drake dropped by nearly 39 percent, likely due to the number of young men serving in the military and women entering the domestic workforce in their place. Following World War II, temporary war surplus buildings were acquired to accommodate a postwar

enrollment boom and trailer camps were opened as housing for the flood of married veterans who enrolled at Drake. The trailer village remained until 1954. The Vietnam War, however, seemed to have the opposite effect on enrollment. In the 1960s, young men wishing to avoid the military draft had few options. They could flee the country and live in exile, hope to qualify for an exemption or continue their education and receive a deferment. As a result, enrollment at Drake among men increased by 20 percent from 1966 to 1971.

#### Football firsts

On Oct. 6, 1928 The Drake Bulldogs defeated Simpson College 41-6 in what is believed to be the first night football game west of the Mississippi.

Believe it or not, Drake was the first Iowa university to make an appearance in a bowl game, playing in the Raisin Bowl in its inaugural year. The Raisin Bowl, which was played for four years, featured a California Team playing an out-of-state team. Drake defeated Fresno State 13-12 on January 1, 1946, the first and only non-California team to win the Raisin Bowl.