

## Upcoming Events at Cowles Library

The Comet Morehouse exhibit runs from September through December 2008.

An exhibit of Artist's Books will be shown on the main floor of the library during the fall 2008 semester.

The library will host an exhibit on Abraham Lincoln in early 2010.

Check our Web site for the latest news.  
<http://library.drake.edu>

**Drake**  
UNIVERSITY

Cowles Library

Drake University  
2507 University Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50311

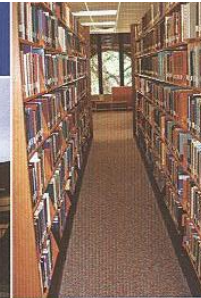
Phone: 515-271-2113  
E-mail: [reference@drake.edu](mailto:reference@drake.edu)  
Web: <http://library.drake.edu>

**Drake**  
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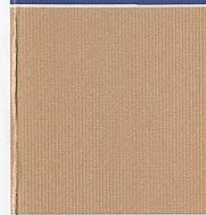
COWLES LIBRARY

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## Comet Morehouse


100 years of astronomy at Drake University 1908



Morehouse Comet, discovered in 1908  
by Dr. Daniel Walter Morehouse







Drake University has always had a close association with astronomy. This relationship dates to 1895 when Francis Marion Drake (for whom the University is named) donated the telescope that now rests in the Drake Municipal Observatory.

Many Drake students and faculty have made names for themselves in the discipline (such as Forest Moulton, Philip Fox, Seth Nicholson, and Theodore Mehlin).



### **Dr. Daniel Morehouse**

Dr. Morehouse was connected to Drake University as a student, professor and administrator.

In 1908, while studying for his graduate degree at the University of Chicago, his reputation as an astronomer was established when he discovered the comet that bears his name. He was awarded the Donahue Comet Medal for his discovery. After earning his PhD from the University of California, Morehouse returned to Drake in 1914 as an astronomy professor. In 1922, he was made president of the University, a position he held until his death in 1941.

While president, Morehouse made lasting contributions to Drake University. He was

instrumental in raising funds for Drake Stadium, the Fieldhouse, and Cowles Library. In addition, Morehouse greatly expanded the graduate programs available at Drake.

Morehouse remained an avid astronomer throughout his life, teaching at least one astronomy course a semester until his death. His ashes, and those of his wife, are interred inside the Drake Municipal Observatory.

### **Astronomy at Drake University**

Led by Dr. Charles Nelson, the Astronomy section of the Physics and Astronomy Department, is performing fascinating research on space and the cosmos; such as: active galaxies, starburst galaxies, and STIS. [www.drake.edu/artsci/physics/physics.html](http://www.drake.edu/artsci/physics/physics.html)

### **Student Research**

DUSCI (Drake Undergraduate Science Collaborative Institute) supports student research in astronomy and other science disciplines through internships and other hands-on learning opportunities as well as organizing an annual conference (DUCURS) which highlights this research. [www.drake.edu/dusci](http://www.drake.edu/dusci)

DUCURS (Drake University Conference on Undergraduate Research in the Sciences) is held every spring. The conference, celebrating its fifth year in 2008, features student oral presentations and poster presentations on current research by students and faculty. [www.drake.edu/ducurs](http://www.drake.edu/ducurs)

Student research and milestones are chronicled at: [www.drake.edu/artsci/physics/physics.html](http://www.drake.edu/artsci/physics/physics.html)

### **Astronomy in Des Moines**

Astronomy is popular beyond Drake University. The Des Moines Astronomical Society caters to amateur astronomers throughout the area and hosts a seminar series at the Ashton Observatory. [www.dmasonline.org](http://www.dmasonline.org)

### **Drake Municipal Observatory**

Dedicated to Dr. Morehouse, the observatory was built in 1920-21, and made possible due to the cooperation of the City of Des Moines and Drake University. While the city supplied the land and the funds to build the observatory, the university provided the scientific instruments and staff. The observatory rests on the highest ground in the city.

The observatory hosts a series of seminars throughout the year that are open to the public and geared towards non-scientists.

A major renovation in 2000 (funded in part by a \$150,000 gift from Madelyn Levitt and additional funding from the Morehouse family) ensured that the observatory would remain accessible to researchers, students and the public.

Donations are always welcome. Right now, the observatory would like to purchase a new sundial which would sit outside the observatory. Previous sundials have been vandalized. [www.drake.edu/artsci/physics/observatory.html](http://www.drake.edu/artsci/physics/observatory.html)