



# A&S Newsletter

February 24, 2020

Drake students performed Mozart's *così fan tutte* this weekend—what a show!

## Dean's Note

Dear all,

It sure felt like spring was in the air this weekend. And that made me think of spring break.. A lot has to happen before then, I know, but it's coming soon! Last week continued to be busy with faculty searches in several departments. We finalized one hire in History, and are excited to add a specialist on the history of race relations to the department. Other offers are out—let's keep our fingers crossed that we get our top candidates. Thank you all for submitting your annual evaluation reports, and for department chairs to complete the PAEs. As I am reading through the first files I am struck by the amazing accomplishments and many things you all did. What a year it was in the College of Arts & Sciences! Transformative for our students, engaging for and with the community and enriching on so many levels. Kudos!

Several deadlines are coming up to nominate colleagues and students for awards. Please keep sending in your nominations! The details and forms are listed and linked below. It takes an extra offer to nominate somebody, but these recognitions of hard work and accomplishments are so worth it, and we want to celebrate them together. The date for the A&S spring convocation has been set—it's Thursday, April 16, at 6:30pm in Sheslow. Mark the date! It's during a busy week with DUCURS going on that day, but I hope we can all get together to applaud our outstanding students.

Speaking of accomplishments—the accomplishment rate for students in the Arts & Sciences is the highest in the University. 98.5% of our students last year reported that they were in graduate schools, were employed or involved in an activity related to their professional goals six months after graduations. That is astonishing and testimony to the preparation they have received here in your classes.

Tis' the season, so I can't end this note without a shout-out to all you amazing recruiters out there. The number of students who have deposited tuition for next fall continues to trend up and it's higher than it was the last two years at this time. But as we all know, the next few weeks are crucial to get our first year student class where we want it to be. Thanks for all the meetings, mock classes and overview sessions you give. They make all the difference.

And last but not least: Congratulations to Alina Grimm—her baby girl Olive is almost two weeks old now!

Have a good week!  
Gesine

## Dean's Office Hours

The Dean will hold her open office hours in the Cowles Library Cafe on Thursday, March 5 from 3-4:30pm.

## Save the Date

The A&S Honors Convocation will be held in Sheslow Auditorium at 6:30pm on April 16th this year. Please come and support your students as they receive their awards! Information on award submission/nominations is later in the newsletter.

## Advising Corner

- With advising sessions for the summer and fall 2020 and J-term 2021 beginning next month, how do you direct advisees interested in transferring credits from another institution to Drake
  - You'll first wish to ensure your advisee is not planning an August or December 2020 graduation, as the last 30 hours are required to be completed at Drake. \*Study abroad is an exception to the last 30 hours rule.
  - For all other advisees, encourage the use of the transfer resources found at [www.drake.edu/registrar/transfercreditinformation/](http://www.drake.edu/registrar/transfercreditinformation/). Here, students can search databases indicating how a course has transferred to Drake previously. Note that in order for a course to transfer, the student must earn no less than a C-. Only the credit, not the grade will transfer (meaning a student cannot raise his/her GPA by taking a course equivalent to Drake at another institution). At the above URL, students are also linked to the transfer credit request form, a required form for the transfer of credit. Upon completion of any coursework away from Drake, the student must request an official transcript be sent to [registrar@drake.edu](mailto:registrar@drake.edu).

## A&S Honors Convocation Awards Deadlines

**Departmental Awards Forms: Due: April 1st to Kayla Jenkins**

### A&S Teacher of the Year Award:

- The College of Arts & Sciences solicits your help in selecting a faculty member of the College to receive the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" award.
- Full-time/tenure-track faculty with three years of service at Drake
- Submit your nominations by March 6th using the [following form](#).
- Full information located in the A&S Faculty Handbook, Page 27-28

### E.A. Sheslow Prize for Distinguished Leadership

- The Sheslow Prize recognized the achievements of students in the College of Arts & Sciences who:
  - are in their junior year (graduating the following fall or spring semester—students graduating this May are not eligible)
  - are working towards a B.S., B.F.A., B.M., B.M.E., or B.A. degree to be awarded by the College of Arts & Sciences
  - have demonstrated leadership
  - have a record of performance in student life activities or on and off campus employment.
  - Eligible nominees will be invited to submit a resume, an essay on leadership, and three supporting letters of recommendation.
- Nominations due by March 6th to [ask.as@drake.edu](mailto:ask.as@drake.edu)
- [Full information located here.](#)

### Edward C. Truman Award for Outstanding Student in the Humanities

- The Center for Humanities confers the Edward C. Truman Award upon a Drake University undergraduate not yet in his or her fourth year at Drake who has made outstanding achievements, both in and out of the classroom, in the humanities.
- Nominations can be made by any Drake faculty member. After receiving nominations, the Center requests a statement of purpose from each nominee (approximately 1000 words).
- Nominations Due by February 28th to [leah.kalmanson@drake.edu](mailto:leah.kalmanson@drake.edu)
  - Please send a letter of nomination outlining the nominee's Humanities-related achievements and potential for future development as a student and practitioner of Humanistic inquiry.
- [Full information located here.](#)

## Important Action Item:

### [New Course Proposals or Course Changes](#)

Any permanent changes to courses, including new courses (not offered under a Special Topics course) should be submitted using the two forms on the A&S Form page. New courses and course changes for Fall and Summer 2020 should be submitted prior to **March 1st** to allow for approval by Curriculum Committee and A&S Council before registration begins. Once registration begins, changes courses can cause complications with a student's schedule (even causing a course to have to be removed from their schedule).

As a note; the curriculum forms will now allow you to complete them even if you do not yet have departmental approval. After submission, you will receive a downloadable pdf and retake link that will allow you to take it to your department for review and then resubmit with any edits. Curriculum Committee WILL NOT receive the proposal until after it has been resubmitted.

### Faculty Development Grants

Faculty Development Grant applications for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are due by **March 27th**. Please use [this form](#) to submit your proposal to [Kayla.Jenkins](mailto:Kayla.Jenkins).

## Spotlights!

**Matthew Esposito**, professor of history, published [A World History of Railway Cultures, 1830-1930](#), in 4 volumes, 1st edition (Routledge, 2020), the first compilation of primary sources to historicize the cultural impact of railways on a global scale from their inception in Great Britain to the Great Depression. Gathered together are over 200 rare out-of-print published and unpublished materials from archival and digital repositories throughout the world.

Drake graduates **James Saxton** (Biology '16) and **Ben Mardis** (Kinesiology '19) recently had their undergraduate research project published with [International Journal of Exercise Science](#). Their work showed that people's perceptions of unfamiliar running shoes (i.e., similar to what they'd experience trying on new shoes at a shoe store) may be influenced by how long they wear the shoes and how they compare them.

## Reading Corner:

[This article](#) outlines the "Persistence Project" in Oakton Community College which seeks to use the connections students form with their professors to keep more of them enrolled, thus directly affecting retention. The college invites all professors to participate, and those who decide to do so receive guidelines asking that they, among other things, give students feedback early in the term and avoid course policies that "doom students to failure for a few missteps." One powerful initiative is encouraging instructors to incorporate 15-minute one-on-one meetings with each and every student in their classes early in the semester.

## We All Live Downstream (and Upstream)

**Lecture by Dr. R. Eugene Turner, Drake Alumnus**  
March 6th, 3:30pm, Cowles Library Reading Room

Dr. Turner, a distinguished wetland ecologist and Drake alumnus (M.S. 1969), has devoted his career to understanding the effects of multiple stressors on coastal ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Turner will be returning to campus for his seminar on how people and policies affect soil and water quality, coastal wetland restoration, and low oxygen zones offshore.

## Live Webinar featuring ACE's Terry Hartle

February 28th from 8-9:30am in Collier-Scripps 301

Terry is one of America's most effective and experienced advocates in higher education. He will be providing an update on federal policies and the potential impact on higher education. Please attend using this [RSVP link](#) and get the latest information about higher education straight from Washington D.C.

## Language Events

### Weekly Spanish Conversation Hours

Weekly Hours for Spring 2020 are:  
Tuesday 7-8 PM TMR132 (Olmsted)  
Wednesday 4-5 PM Meredith 204  
Friday 10:30AM-12:30 AM Meredith 204

The Department of World Languages and Cultures sponsors weekly Spanish conversation hours. This is a fun, informal setting where speakers of all levels are welcome to practice speaking in Spanish. Feel free to join late or leave early.

### Arabic Workshop-Spring 2020

Sessions time: Every Monday 5:30PM - 7:00PM March 23rd through April 20th, 2019  
Location: Olin Hall - OLIN 0206

This workshop is offered for FREE, to Drake University community, students, staff and faculty members. No previous knowledge in Arabic is necessary. Text books are not required for this workshop, but highly recommended. At the end of the workshop, those who attend ALL sessions of the workshop will receive a Certificate of completion of the Arabic Language workshop. [Register here.](#)

## Upcoming Events

These events are on the University Calendar at [calendar.drake.edu](http://calendar.drake.edu). You can submit an event to this calendar yourself—please do so to spread the news about all the things we do in A&S!

- Until March 1, 2020: [Leyendas/Legends Project](#), Weeks Gallery.
- February 26: Faculty Recital, Nicholas Roth, piano. 7:30-8:30, Sheslow Auditorium
- March 3 - March 22, 2020. [DRIP PAINTINGS IN THE STYLE OF JACKSON POLLOCK](#), Weeks Gallery, Harmon Fine Arts Center, Drake University. An exhibition of paintings created by teams of students in the Material World of Art course. After an introduction to Pollock's life and work including photos and films of the famed US artist in the act of painting, the artists fashioned their own responses using Pollock's style.
- March 4: [Arabic "Breakfast with us:"](#) Medbury Honor's Lounge, 9:30am.

## A&S Important Dates

All of these dates are located [here](#).

- March 6: A&S Teacher of the Year Award, E.A. Sheslow Award Nominations Due
- March 13: Midpoint of the semester
- March 16-20: Spring Break
- March 25: Midterm grades due by 10am
- Marcy 27: Faculty Development Grant applications for 2020-2021 year due
- April 1st: Departmental Award Forms due.
- April 16: A&S Honors Convocation; 6:30pm

[Submit News](#)