

A&S Newsletter

January 7, 2019



Dean's Note

Happy New Year 2019! I hope you all had a restful break filled with joy and peace. I certainly did, even though I am somewhat in trouble with my kids whom I had promised a white Christmas in Iowa to sweeten the move...Oh well, there is still the chance for snow days! The fall semester ended on a high note. We finalized three tenure-track searches (Choral Director, ENSS and Computer Science) and one visiting position. In the coming weeks we hope to wrap up searches in American Politics, English, Theatre, Math and Violin. We are also entering the next stage in the admission cycle, hoping to bring as many visitors to campus and to turn admits into registered students. J-Term classes begin today, and I wish those of you who teach a good start, wherever you are. The list of travel seminars is impressive! If you are on campus, stop by FAC sometime for a chat—I'd love to hear from you. I understand January is somewhat quieter here on campus and actually the time to get stuff done! Perfect time also to talk to colleagues we never had the time to connect with during the fall semester—and maybe brain about a big idea to submit (see below!). Let me know what's on your mind, and how I can help to support you. Have a good week!

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Save the Dates!

A&S All-Faculty Meetings: Fridays, February 15 and April 12th from 2-4pm.

A&S Honors Convocation: Thursday, April 18 at 6:30pm in Sheslow Auditorium.

Big Ideas Process

Many of you are already talking to each other and hatching big ideas, and I hope A&S will submit several big ideas for consideration! These big ideas can and should build on what you have been doing (or dreaming to do) for a long time, so now it's about possibly repackaging these ideas and getting them on the radar of upper level administrators and donors!

The Big Ideas initiative asks faculty, staff, and students to identify and propose bold, innovative ideas that build on Drake's strengths to dramatically elevate the University—and to solve some of society's largest challenges.

Top selected proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees in April. Those ideas that move forward will be developed into 2-3 page whitepapers and tested for external funding feasibility. Submitters will be notified in late winter/early spring if their Big Idea proposal is moving forward.

The submission period runs from **Jan. 14–Feb. 15, 2019**. Big Ideas will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- transformative impact
- increases institutional recognition
- fosters campus collaboration
- builds off current strengths and potential
- aligns with the continuous improvement plan

For more information on the process and to find planning sheets, please visit the [Big Ideas webpage](#). On January 14th, the planning sheet will be replaced with the submission form.

Faculty Spotlights

Maria Valdovinos, professor of psychology, is one of the Des Moines Register's 15 People to Watch in 2019. Maria helped found the graduate program at Drake in Applied Behavior Analysis, and the this MA program will move into the College of A&S at the end of the spring semester. Maria focuses her work on finding way to adjust disruptive behavior in those who are on the autism spectrum rather than simply medicate. Maria does most of her work at the Blank's Children Hospital and is hoping to increase the accessibility of applied behavior analysis services. [Visit the Des Moines Register to read the full article.](#)



Reading Corner

- Check out this article in [The Chronicle](#) for some nice ideas about starting a class!

Student and Faculty Awards

Consider nominating your colleagues and your students for the following awards:

Student Awards:

- February 1st: We have two new forms of research funds for students: the International Travel Fund and the Koch Scholars. [Submission Guidelines can be found here.](#) Please encourage your students to apply.
- February 15: [E.A. Sheslow Prize for Distinguished Leadership](#): For students in their junior year who have demonstrated leadership.
- April 1: [Departmental Award Forms due to college](#)

Faculty Awards

- February 11: [Levitt Mentor of the Year](#): For faculty and staff to recognize their commitment to students
- February 11: [Levitt Teacher of the Year](#): For instructors to recognize their teaching excellence
- February 15: [Distinguished Engagement](#): For staff and faculty who are engaged in the community
- February 15: [A&S Outstanding Teacher of the Year](#): for faculty who go beyond the call of duty
- June 1: [Brown University's Lynton Awards](#): For pre-tenure faculty who connect their teaching, research, and service to community engagement.

Grants

[Drake Research Grant](#)

Deadline: February 8, 2019. Submit to Kayla.

The Drake Research Grant offers up to \$3,000 to fund activities and materials necessary to support research undertaken by Drake University faculty on continuing appointment: supplies (including animals), student research assistance, and when central to the research process, travel associated with research or creative activity.

[Undergraduate Research Program](#)

Deadline: February 8, 2019. Submit to Kayla.

The Undergraduate Assistantship Program involves students in project-based collaboration with faculty and/or administrative staff in order to create significant experiential learning opportunities. These opportunities offer student collaborators skills and experiences that will prepare them to advance in their education or chosen professions, while also offering administrative staff and faculty the chance to work closely with student assistants.

[Levitt Distinguished Professorship](#)

Deadline: February 11, 2019. Submit to Kayla.

The Ellis and Nelle Levitt Distinguished Professorship has long been an important way to recognize and reward superior performance by Drake University faculty members. At this time, we are pleased to announce that one new Levitt Professor will be selected this year.

The criteria for selection includes teaching effectiveness as demonstrated by teaching in a classroom setting and/or mentoring in an experiential learning setting, professional contributions through scholarly activity, demonstrated leadership, consulting activities, and contributions to the mission of the department, college and university.

Upcoming Events

All of these events are on our new University Calendar at [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!

- **January 24, 25, and 26:** *Little Women*, J-Term Musical. All performances are at 7:30 p.m.

Important Dates

January 7	J-Term Begins
January 18	Senior Scholar Status requests due
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; University closed
January 25	End of J-Term
January 28	Spring 2019 term begins
January 28	PARs due to Dept. Chairs
January 30	College elections begin
January 31	Sabbatical Leave Reports due (for calendar-year sab)

[Submit News](#)

A&S Newsletters

While we can compile some of this information from reports and official Drake news, we want to be able to share what everyone is doing! Please share your ideas on how to make the newsletter better as well as news around campus. If you or your students are doing something really exciting, SUBMIT YOUR NEWS!