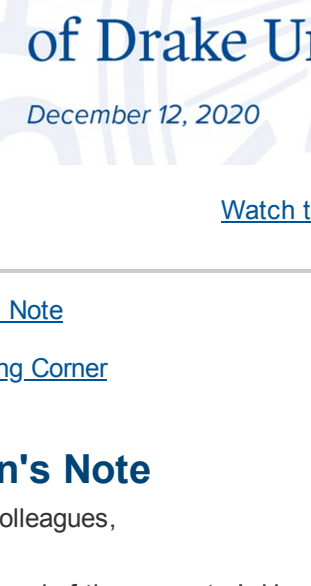


A&S Newsletter

December 15, 2020



149th Commencement of Drake University

December 12, 2020

Watch the December Commencement here!

- Dean's Note, Professional and Career Development Services, Advising Corner, Important Action Items

Dean's Note

Dear colleagues, Happy end of the semester! Happy holidays! Please check out the notes of appreciation below. They say it all! Thank you for making this most unusual semester a success...

- I appreciate John Gitua for his calm and patience in difficult times. I really made a difference this semester! I appreciate the Dean's Office Staff for all they do to keep the college humming... I appreciate Sofia Turnbull for responding to pleas for help so quickly and for working so hard to keep Howard Hall as functional and as safe as possible... I appreciate Alice Fynaardt for her excellent support of the Chemistry Department... I appreciate Karen MacKinnon, Administrative Assistant, for her consistent responsiveness and assistance as we navigate these challenging times... I appreciate Karen Leroux for making the Department meetings efficient, concise, and lightweight... I appreciate Natalie Bayer for her compassionate commitment to student success... I appreciate Leah Kalmanson for her consistent support, creative approach, and positive accommodation to faculty research... I appreciate Leslie Marrs for helping me navigate the e-file portion on Blackboard... I appreciate Jim Romalin for his constancy, stability, and peaceful leadership as Chair of the Music Department... I appreciate my colleagues in the Theatre Arts Dept. for stepping up and in to carry the work forward when students or faculty became ill... I appreciate all that Kayla Jenkins does for A/S to keep us informed and working together... I appreciate Tristan Miedema for joining the music theater faculty and requiring excellent work from his students... I appreciate John Pomeroy for his support and mentorship of the Theatre Department... I appreciate Ashley Rasmussen for her great handling of budgets, her balanced approach and quick follow-up... I appreciate the Musical Theatre Faculty (Erin, Tristan, Rebecca, Sonya, Francine, Flint, Ling and Amelia) for being inspirations to the students and me... I appreciate Karen MacKinnon and Claudia Kyalangaliwa for orientation assistance... I appreciate Janelle Aussenhus and Marcella Hangen for all the work they did to establish the Blank clinic and for their flexibility and accommodation in working with our students... I appreciate Pamela Moore for all the work she has done this semester to keep our students on track and to recruit new students to our program... I appreciate Maria Bohorquez for her sense of humor, her amazing use of spreadsheets, and her thoughtful application of data... I appreciate Nicole Gaughan, ABA adjunct, for the supervision and mentorship she's provided our students... I appreciate the A&S administrative assistants for always helping me problem solve... I appreciate the entire Department of English for supporting our students with grace and good humor... I appreciate Jody Swilky, who ran a wonderful Faculty Writing Workshop... I appreciate Marc Busch for his tireless service to the Biology Department as Chair since 2017... I appreciate Dr. Eric Barnum for his vision, leadership, inclusivity, and warm welcome to the faculty this fall... I appreciate Dani Peters for her tireless care for facilities (FACI), her professionalism, and her dedication to make things work... I appreciate Nancy Berns for her tireless work this fall representing the needs of the department to college and university administration... I appreciate JMC, you keep it real & never lose the plot... I appreciate having an epidemiologist as provost and that good, difficult decisions about the health of students, staff, and faculty were made by the administration throughout the semester... I appreciate the extraordinary efforts of the administrative assistants and all of the college staff... I appreciate the custodial staff for their continuous efforts to keep the classrooms and office spaces Covid-free... I appreciate Kayla Jenkins for keeping things going through thick and thin... I appreciate John Pomeroy, for his leadership and support this semester and every year... I appreciate Adam Yankow, for his friendship, support, and passion for teaching... I appreciate Andrew Becklin and Sara Chari, who kept me company on this semester and worked very hard to deliver excellent math instruction... I appreciate Chrystal Stanley for helping students find their strengths, find internships and career opportunities... I appreciate Adina Kilpatrick for steering our department through these very challenging times... I appreciate Julia Franklin, who has worked tirelessly to maintain the vibrancy of the Anderson Gallery... I appreciate Mary Beth Holtey for all she does for our students... I appreciate Karen MacKinnon for always being knowledgeable, efficient, and friendly... I appreciate Kayla Jenkins for her assistance in understanding the P&T process... I appreciate Natalie for caring so much about our students... I appreciate Maria B for working so hard to help us accomplish our admissions goals... I appreciate Megan Brown, Marc Bush, Michael Renner, Yasmina Madden, and Deb Delaet for well-timed text messages during meetings... I appreciate all of the A&S Chairs for how we worked together this semester to reduce faculty stress and workload... I appreciate Melissa K, for her really good questions and continual justice-lensed focus... I appreciate Nate and Will and Ali for being tremendously good LPS colleagues... I appreciate Mary Beth and Alina for their unending commitment to help students make good choices... I appreciate Craig for his work with Bright College - and I appreciate all the A&S faculty... I appreciate Keith because he is both deputy provost for enrollment management AND a fantastic teacher... I appreciate Gesine for bringing people together and supporting us through difficulty times... I appreciate Jen H, for her work with Crew Scholars... I appreciate Mary Beth for all the work she does to help our students succeed... I appreciate Inbal for her compassionate honesty with the students we share and her dedication to them as humans... I appreciate Claudia K, for all she does to support our department/building... I appreciate Karen L for being such a good university-citizen and fabulous cross-campus colleague... I appreciate Matt Z for the work he is doing on Faculty Senate... I appreciate RPC for all the work we get to do together to build a Center for Public Democracy... I appreciate Janelle Aussenhus for all of her assistance with learning the ropes of my new role... I appreciate Maria Valdivinos for all your support and ensuring that I always had the resources to be successful this semester... I appreciate Alice Fynaardt for working tirelessly to cover a staff vacancy while still always being willing to lend a listening ear!... I appreciate Chrystal Stanley for her contagious smile and good humor!... I appreciate Inbal Mazar for going above and beyond to support and care for her students... I appreciate the whole Dean's Office team and A&S staff for being great colleagues!... I appreciate Alina for providing much-needed support to student students this semester... I appreciate Gesine for being an advocate for A&S... I appreciate Ashley for her professionalism and willingness to help... I appreciate Matt Bruinekool for his continued service as an outside chair of the Dept of Political Science...

Advising Corner

- End of Term Reminders: 1. Final grades are due before 10:00am on Wednesday, Dec 16. 2. Submit grades for everyone on your roster(s). 3. If you enter a grade incorrectly... 4. If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) or in-progress grade (IP) and the student has now earned a letter grade... 5. If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work... 6. If you are considering granting an incomplete (I), please refer to the Academic Regulations... 7. If you encounter a case of plagiarism, please refer to the procedures outlined here... 8. If you teach J-Term 21, please be sure to complete enrollment validation...

Levitt Teacher/Mentor of the Year Nominations

Nominations for both the Levitt Teacher of the Year and the Levitt Mentor of the Year are due to the Associate Provost by February 8, 2021. Nominees for both awards must be a faculty or staff member in at least her/his fourth academic year of service...

Meeting Free Days

The day off from meetings that was scheduled this past November 3rd was a welcome break, and enhancing the mental and emotional well-being of students, staff, and faculty. Because of the resounding success, one day each month will be designated as meeting-free.

- Upcoming meeting-free dates: Tuesday 12 January, Wednesday 17 February, Tuesday 16 March, Wednesday 13 April, Tuesday 27 May, Wednesday 23 June

ITS Update

Learn More About the Big Changes Coming with Blackboard Learn Ultra

Throughout November, we've released training modules covering the new navigation and the new look and feel for the Ultra Course View. In addition, we've provided all instructors with sandbox courses where you can practice using new functions and see how your current course structures will translate into the Ultra Course View.

Communication and training will continue to be provided throughout Spring of 2021 to support your preparedness for your Fall 2021 courses in the Ultra Course View. It is important to be engaged with the training offered as the changes in workflows and functionality will be extensive.

You can learn more about the coming changes by watching this preview of the Ultra Course View.

Important Action Items:

Undergraduate Assistantship Applications

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...

Student Financial Planning provides a 2-to-1 match with department, program, or unit funds. A maximum of \$1,100 is awarded per project (for proposals whose total assistantship budget is \$1,650 or more).

Application form, Deadline: February 8 (Submission to the Dean via Kayla Jenkins)

Global Engagement Grant Applications

Full-time faculty and staff members are eligible to apply for Global Partnership Grants for activities taking place during FY22. Preference will be given to proposals that identify activities with a partner institution, demonstrate impact on Drake curriculum, advance Drake's global engagement.

Deadline: December 18 using this Qualtrics link.

Performance Evaluations for CY 2020

Performance Evaluations for tenured faculty for Calendar Year 2020 are due to your department chair by the first day of the spring semester (January 25th). Those whose last names end in Q-Z should turn in a PAR with supplementing documents. All others should complete the PAHE. Please include a current CV with your evaluation.

Tenure-track faculty who are undergoing their 1st, 3rd, 4th, or 5th year review should turn in their PAR and supplementing documents by January 15.

Note to department chairs; tenure-track faculty reviews are due to the Dean's Office by February 15, reviews for tenured faculty by March 1st.

Front Row @ Drake Submissions

Front Row @ Drake premiered December 3 at 7pm with Andy Classen's Jazz Ensemble One. We had over 1,000 views in the first hour of posting the video! Join every Thursday night at 7pm to stay connected at a distance.

Budget Requests

To request funds for presenting at virtual professional conferences and for materials for teaching blended and/or virtual classes, please fill out the following form and return to Ashley Rasmussen. Full-time faculty are eligible for up to \$500 in funds for registration to virtual conferences for which they are presenters.

COVID-19: University Updates Page

Professional and Career Development Services

Mark your calendar now for the Drake Spring 2021 Virtual Career Conference, February 19, 2021! Be Unstoppable: Flexible & Fearless! More Information to Come. Flyer located here.

A&S Important Dates

The full fall calendar is located here.

- Each Thursday Night: Front Row @ Drake, 7p.m.
December 16: Fall semester grades due by 10 a.m.
December 18: University closed after 4:30pm.
January 4 Campus reopens after holiday break
January 4 J-Term begins
January 17 Senior Scholar Status requests due
January 18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day: University closed
January 22 End of J-Term
January 25 Spring 2021 term begins, Spring Break Begins
PARs due to Department Chairs

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