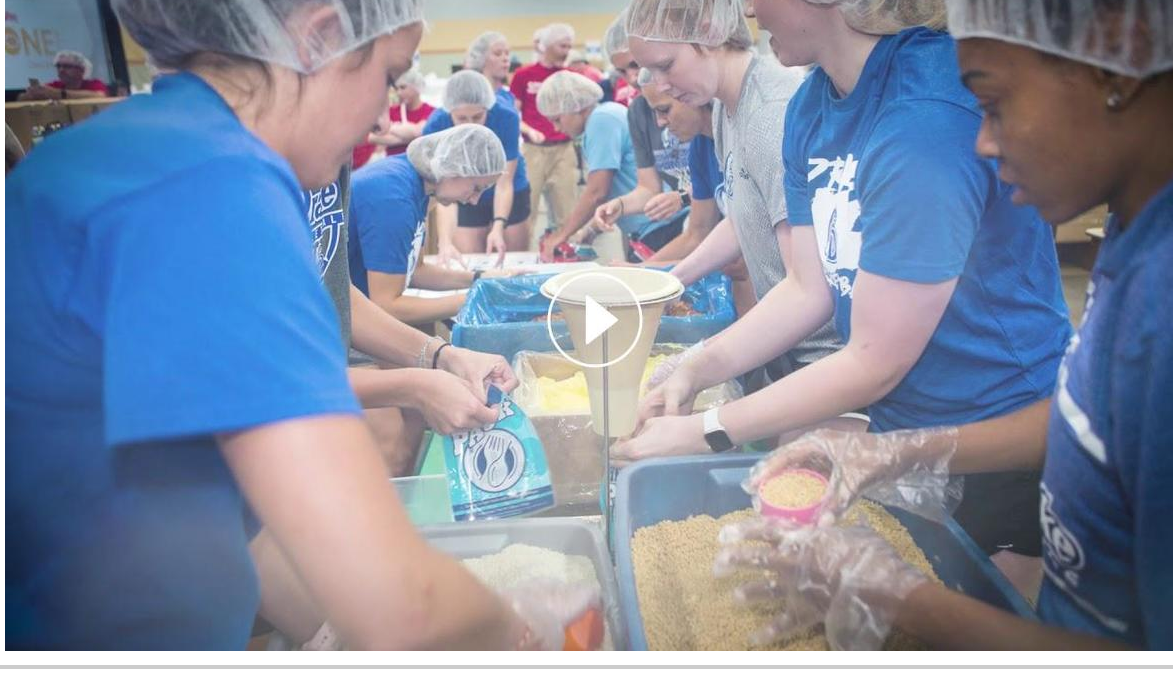




## A&S Newsletter

June 1, 2020

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### Dean's Note

Dear all,

I am trying to remember what June 1 felt like last year. Definitely relief that the semester was over, the academic year close to its end. The campus deserted, FAC hallways and study rooms suddenly quiet and empty. Lots of parking available. Time to take a breath. Time to look at the summer list and prioritize projects. I feel none of that this year. The rhythm of the academic year eludes me. I see the important dates on my calendar, I know all grades are turned in. Commencement is behind us. We celebrated our graduates in the virtual space. We are equally proud of them, but had no chance to see the excitement on their faces as they walk across the stage in Knapp Center. I am sure you feel relieved that the semester is over, but I guess you also feel robbed of the end-of-the-semester exhilaration and the coming of a well-deserved break.

There are so many unknowns, so many questions, so much to worry about. What will the fall semester look like? What class delivery should we plan for? Will our students come back? As I shared with you on Friday, we reached our target number of 390 EFR. We have 408 new students signed up for A&S majors! This is a huge accomplishment, in any year, but especially this one. The University's EFR goal is 800, and we are currently short of that by about 50 students. The focus is now on preventing melt over the summer, among those who have said they would start at Drake in the fall, and among those who have registered for classes. We are planning to return to campus and begin classes on August 24. The first week of the semester will be online for all classes, to ensure that everyone is safe and healthy, knows where to go and how to participate at a safe social distance. But what about residence halls and gathering places? Classroom COVID capacity? Live performances and choir? Athletic events and science labs? I know you are all planning proactively, and for different scenarios. Thank you! I will keep you posted and will communicate any decisions that are being made asap.

And then I watch the news, read the newspaper. The grim news of continuing COVID outbreaks and its disastrous effects on our communities was overshadowed last weekend by reports of social unrest, anger and hurt, triggered by a video showing the horrific death of an African American man in police custody on a Minneapolis street. It is shocking and painful to see how racial inequalities and hatred still play out and take place right in front of our eyes, in our neighborhoods. We cannot accept intolerance and injustices like this. As educators we must advocate for equality and social justice. Diversity is our strength, and we must speak up where this idea is being violated. Check out Jennifer Harvey's powerful open-ed on the [CNN website](#). Diversity, tolerance, and standing up for one another starts right here and now.

Thank you for all you do. Be well, be safe!

Gesine

### Dean's Office Hours

Gesine will host office hours from 3-4 on MS Teams on Thursday, June 4th. Please use [this link](#) to join in a conversation with the Dean!

### Planning for Fall

If you couldn't attend the faculty meetings on May 13 about fall planning, you can listen to the recordings. Here are the links to the various meetings and the transcripts of the webchats.

- Fine Arts Meeting [Recording](#) and [Transcript](#)
- HUM/SS Meeting [Recording](#) and [Transcript](#)
- NS Meeting [Recording](#) and [Transcript](#)

The Center for Teaching Excellence created a [Planning Guide](#). Check out other resources and information on [upcoming workshops](#).

### Virtual Orientation

We have our first Virtual Orientation for incoming first-year students in five sessions in June: on June 4, 8, 12, 22, and 26 (<https://www.drake.edu/virtualorientation/>). A huge thank you to all faculty who agreed to provide Orientation advising to incoming first-year students in A&S through livestreams! We all know how important it is for students to have this opportunity to meet with faculty as early in their college journey as possible. Hopefully, those advising sessions will help build community, facilitate introductions, provide a general information about the major and its trajectory, share faculty and students' experiences and interests, and ease students' general anxieties about the transition to college.

### Blackboard Updates

There are two Blackboard updates:

- Zoom will be an integrated tool available this summer
- Inline Grading (see information from ITS below);

#### Bb Annotate replaced New Box View for inline grading and feedback in Blackboard Learn

Bb Annotate is a new tool in Blackboard Learn for inline assignment grading that became available on May 25. Bb Annotate replaced the current New Box View integration tool. Bb Annotate offers new features for instructors to provide customizable feedback to students including a sidebar summary view, freehand drawing tools, and various color selections.

Learn more about the Bb Annotate tool by visiting:

- [Bb Annotate Student Help Page](#)
- [Bb Annotate Instructor Help Page](#)
- [Adding a Score and Feedback to Blackboard Assignments \(How-to\)](#)

### Faculty/Staff Spotlights!

Over 100 Drake undergraduates across ten courses participated in the creation of one of the most recent book from the Drake Community Press *Above and Beyond Cancer*. **Yasmina Madden and Melisa Klimaszewski** of the English department, helped collect and contribute to the stories in the book. The book can be reserved [here](#).

**Jennifer Harvey, professor of religion**, wrote an op-ed for the [CNN website](#) in response to the cases of Amy Cooper in New York and George Floyd in Minneapolis. This piece led to an interview with WHO-TV about how white Americans can support their neighbors of color.

### Advising Corner

1) If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) or in-progress grade (IP) and the student has now earned a letter grade please update the grade in MyDUSIS > Faculty and Advisors Tab > Update an Incomplete (I), In Progress (IP) or Non-Reported (NR) Grade.

2) If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work in a class currently marked as incomplete or in-progress, please email [Alina](#) or [Mary Beth](#), so they can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.

### Important Action Item: All-In!

Please share widely on your social media accounts: Drake University is taking 24 hours to be All In for Drake and to support the University's bright future on June 4-5. Join with us and connect with the Drake community and share what it means to be a Bulldog: resilient, innovative, adaptable, and loyal. For those of you who manage college/department affiliated social media, we ask that you share the link [A&S giving page](#).

### Iowa Space Consortium Grant Proposal Call

The Iowa Space Grant Consortium (ISGC) requests proposals for the curriculum development program which will support the development of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related curricula aligned with NASA Mission Directorates, with a focus on improving student skills.

Deadline: July 13, 2020

[Proposal Guidelines](#)

### Noyce Scholars

Noyce@Drake, officially titled Improving Secondary Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Computer Science Teacher Preparation through a sequence of Active Teaching Experiences, will support the development of four cohorts of secondary STEM teachers starting in the fall of 2020.

The program will provide scholarships, stipends, and enhanced learning opportunities to high achieving students interested in teaching, secondary physics, mathematics, chemistry, or computer science.

For more information, [visit the website!](#)

### Virtual Public Nights-Drake Observatory!

During the summer months, the Drake Observatory will be hosting their public nights virtually! These lectures/viewing of the sky through the telescope will be held each Friday. Each Monday, the link to that week's lecture will be posted on the [Observatory's website!](#)

### Art Week Lectures

Benjamin Gardner, professor of Art & Design, is hosting two lectures for Art Week Des Moines; the [Treasury of Folk Meditation](#) on June 21 and a [Live Reading of "The Cabin" on June 22](#).

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