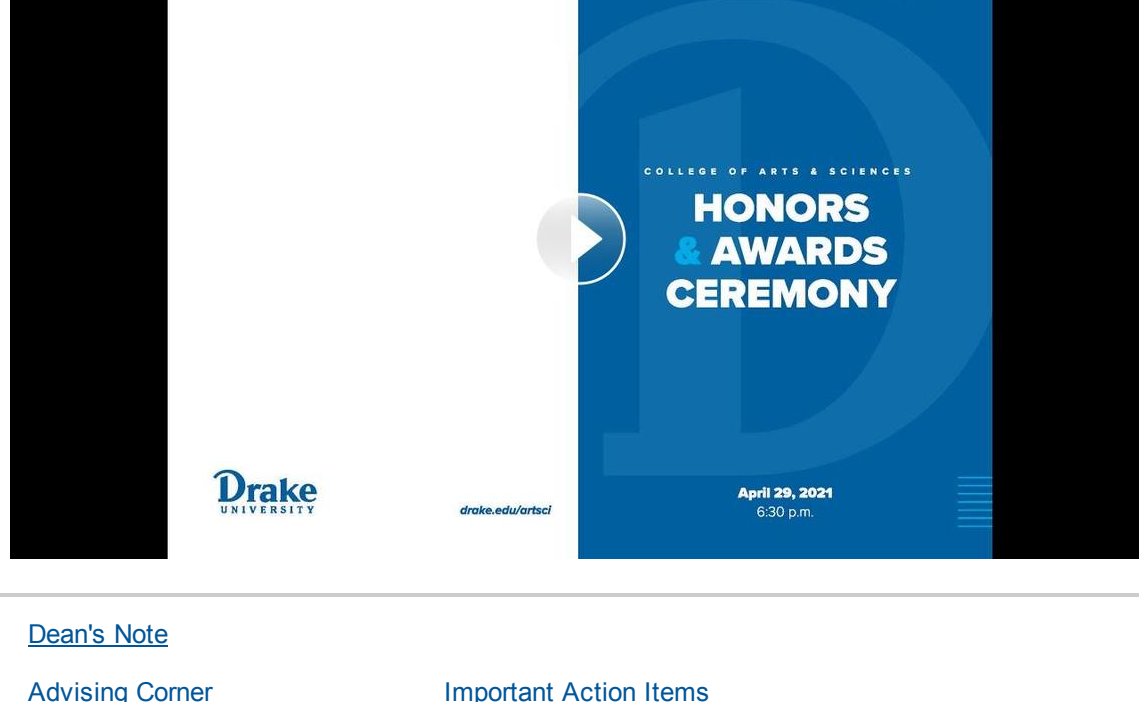


A&S Newsletter

May 11, 2021


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Dean's Note

Dear all,

Finals week is upon us and with it the sheer endless amount of grading of final exams and papers. What waits on the other side is a well-deserved summer reprieve that will hopefully allow for time to relax and rejuvenate, to focus on research activities, and maybe even travel! Please strictly adhere to the deadline for turning in final grades, as a lot of other things depend on the timely submission of these grades. Other end-of-semester activities have already taken place. I hope you had a chance to "attend" (aka watch) the A&S honors convocation (see link above), as departments recognized their most outstanding students. Thank you also for attending the all-faculty and staff meeting in such large numbers (see the link to the recording below, in case you missed it). We had so many people to recognize that we ran out of time! Please check out the recognitions below. We will follow up on topics we weren't able to cover and schedule meetings to further talk about Big Ideas, and about the future of online teaching. Moving forward, I would like to institute more frequent and shorter faculty meetings so that we can continue conversations and brainstorm the next steps together on a regular basis. Maybe this is one of the things we'll keep virtually, at least for now, as it makes it easier for people to attend. Especially on a Friday afternoon! You'll receive calendar invites as we plan the schedule for next year.

Speaking of next year...our incoming class of first-year students is at a record high—we surpassed our target number by 20%! We have 446 committed students in A&S, compared to 361 in May 2020 and 369 students in 2019! That is an amazing number, and no doubt the result of the great engagements you all had with prospective students. A special shout-out to Maria Bohorquez, for coordinating this massive project with chairs and faculty. The close collaboration and detailed planning with the Admissions Office has paid off, and it is a well-oiled machine by now! Now on to Summer Orientation planning and execution, coordinated masterfully by Natalie and her team. June is going to be equally busy with those activities. We also will turn our attention to melt mitigation, as we do every summer. We know that some low-key engagement with students—a postcard or email from their future professor—will go a long way. Department chairs have shared ideas of easy ways to connect over the summer.

Commencement is going to be in person this Saturday. I hope to see many of you at this joyous event. Let's hope that Iowa weather doesn't disrupt the carefully orchestrated plans! My next office hour is this Thursday, from 3-4:30pm. Stop by the Library Café or join via Zoom, if you want to chat without making an appointment. Our newsletter will go on the summer production schedule, but I'll keep you posted on anything that happens in between.

Happy end of the semester!

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Dean's Office Hours

My next open office hours are scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 3-4:30 pm. I'll be in the Library Café and on [Zoom](#).

Advising Corner

Grades

Grades are due before **10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19**. The timely submission of grades is tied to a variety of end-of-term processes, including the posting of degrees and confirmation of those who should be listed on the Dean's and President's Lists. A few reminders:

1. Submit grades for everyone on your roster(s). If a student appearing on your roster didn't validate his/her attendance at the beginning of the semester, email [Mary Beth Holtey](#). If a student has a non-reported grade on his/her transcript, he/she cannot be listed on the Dean's List or President's List, or earn a degree, as applicable.
2. If you enter a grade incorrectly, i.e. you enter a grade of B, but the student earned an A, please follow the steps: MyDUSIS > Faculty and Advisors Tab > Change of Grade Request (last option on the page).
3. If you oversaw an independent study or internship this semester, please remember to enter a grade.
4. If you encounter a case of plagiarism, please refer to the procedures outlined [here](#).
5. 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.
6. If you are considering granting an Incomplete (I), please refer to the [Academic Regulations in the General Catalog](#) for the procedures and note the differences between an incomplete (I) and In Progress (IP).
7. 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 Mary Beth, so she can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.

A Caution on Iowa Nice:

If a student has not attended your course for several weeks or submitted any work during the term, it may seem friendly to extend an incomplete, but experience has shown that these students rarely successfully complete the work or earn a high grade. Furthermore, the presence of several incompletes gives the student a false sense of hope (don't most of us have the best of intentions to complete work, only to find we take on too much?). And, students who take several incompletes may be in a type of financial aid "limbo," without resolved credits and a clear sense of hours earned.

Promotion and Tenure Announcements

Promotion

Ann Cravero, Professor of Music
Brad Crowell, Professor of Religion
Muir Eaton, Professor of Biology
Mary McCarthy, Professor of Political Science—International Relations

Promotion and Tenure

Nate Holdren, tenured Associate Professor of LPS
Peter Levi, tenured Associate Professor of ENSS
Yasmina Madden, tenured Associate Professor of English
Inbal Mazar, tenured Associate Professor of Spanish
Chris Porter, tenured Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science
Jeanette Tran, tenured Associate Professor of English

Congratulations on Your Retirement!

Dan Alexander, Professor of Mathematics
Brian Sanders, Professor of Psychology
William Schneider, Ellis and Nelle Levitt Professor of Music Theory & Composition
Joseph Dougherty, Ellis and Nelle Levitt Professor of Sociology
Arthur Sanders, Ellis and Nelle Levitt Professor of Political Science
Ramesh Dhussa, Professor of Geography
Nancy Reincke, Professor of English
Michael Rieck, Professor of Computer Science
Venita Svaldi, Administrative Assistant, Music
JoBeth Schoneberg, Lab Assistant, Chemistry

Dean and Sue Wright A&S Teacher of the Year 2021

Congratulations to En Li, assistant professor of History, A&S Teacher of the Year for 2021!

In their nomination letters, students praised Dr. En Li for her approach to discussion in the classroom. One student stated that "the discussions led the students to look at the subject from a holistic, non-ethnocentric perspective." As many of Professor Li's students stated, they began taking the course as a requirement for their AOI's, but soon came to love the course. Her passion and love for the subject combined with her encouraging manner of addressing students' fears on tackling difficult subjects guided especially first-year students towards greater confidence and understanding. Her combination of using videos to visualize the content and then using debate-style discussion helped make the history feel real. Congratulations!

E.A. Sheslow Prize for Distinguished Leadership 2021

Congratulations to Layana Sariah, junior psychology major, E.A. Sheslow recipient for 2021!

With delight, we are pleased to announce that Layana Sariah is this year's winner of the E.A. Sheslow Award for Distinguished Leadership. Layana's approach to leadership emphasizes the importance of collaboration, working closely with and being a resource to others. She is described by those who work with her as living out this commitment to collaborative leadership giving 100%, willing to do that which needs to be done and always with a positive attitude. A leader in her classes, her major, her residence hall, and the organizations of which she is a part of, Layana is certainly deserving of the E.A. Sheslow Award for Distinguished Leadership as both recognition from the College of her exemplary work and as a sign of our confidence that she will continue to be a leader in all aspects of her life when she is a Drake alumna.

Faculty Spotlights

Peter Levi, assistant professor of ENSS, was elected as the treasurer for the Society for Freshwater Science for 2021-22. The society is an international scientific organization that promotes further understanding of freshwater ecosystems.

Student Spotlight

Paige Penningroth, junior Environmental Science and Resilience major, has received Honorable Mention from the Udall Foundation. The Udall Foundation recognizes young leaders working on environmental and Native American issues with scholarships.

Cydne Ratliff, junior engineering dual degree program student, has been recognized as the outstanding junior award for academic excellence in the department of biomedical engineering at Washington University in St.Louis.



All-Faculty/Staff Meeting

Missed the All Faculty and Staff Meeting held on April 30th? Watch it via the video above!

Planned Power Outage

As previously communicated, our campus is scheduled to be closed due to a planned power outage Sunday, May 16, at 7 a.m., until Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. Facilities has established that if by Thursday, May 13, all project components are not on site or confirmed for arrival, a delay will be necessary and there will be no power outage May 16–19. Communication will be sent to campus via email on the morning of Thursday, May 13, with information on the project's status.

Meeting Free Days

Upcoming meeting-free dates:

- **Tuesday 25 May**
- Wednesday 23 June

Important Action Items:

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. Requests for teaching materials will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The dean's office will submit requests to the provost's office for final approval.

[COVID-19: University Updates Page](#)

A&S Important Dates

The full calendar is located [here](#).

- May 10-14: Final evaluation period
- May 14: Spring 2021 term ends
- May 15: Spring Commencement Ceremony
- May 17: Summer Session A Begins
- May 19: Spring 2021 grades due to Registrar's Office
- May 31: Memorial Day; University closed

[Submit News](#)