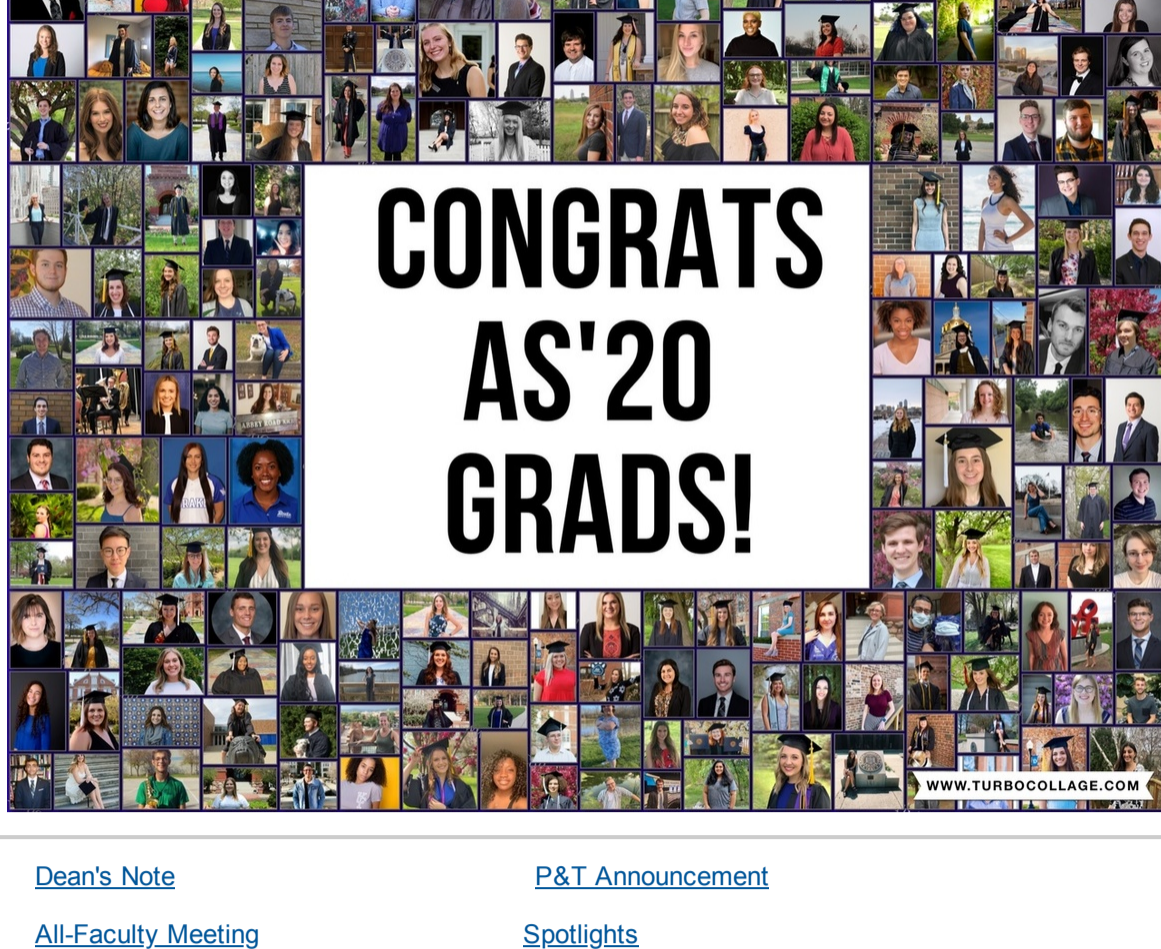




A&S Newsletter

May 12, 2020

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Dean's Note

Dear all,

We've made it! I trust that you were able to bring this unusual semester to a meaningful conclusion. And I hope the end of grading is in sight! What have your students shared with you as their biggest challenges this semester? A few weeks ago students responded to a survey that was sent to all Drake students asking about their experience with remote learning this spring. Students reported that they had the most difficulties with time management, adjusting to online instruction, balancing family and school responsibilities, finding a quiet space, and balancing work and school. Many students also reported feeling disconnected from other students and their instructors. Students expressed that they needed faculty and staff to show empathy for their challenges, they had financial concerns, and they are worried about the fall semester.

The results of the student survey come as no surprise. The challenges students describe will guide our actions as we prepare for the fall semester. Our highest priorities are ensuring that our students return in large numbers, yielding a robust class of first year students, and "pandemic-proofing" the curriculum for the fall. Those three things are closely connected. President Martin will send out a message today to all undergraduate students, assuring them that we will continue to deliver on the Drake promise and provide them with an exceptional learning environment in the fall. We are continuing to reach out to students who have not committed to a school yet, and we target especially students in Iowa who might want to stay closer to home during these uncertain times. Finally, we will prepare for classes in the fall that deliver on the Drake promise, no matter the modality—teaching classes face to face, online or as a combination of the two.

What does that mean for faculty? For us in the Arts & Sciences? Thank you for joining our all-faculty meeting last Friday in such great numbers where we started the conversation. Since then, Provost Mattison's group charged with pandemic-proofing the curriculum has finalized the parameters of what the fall semester will look like. I would like to share the plan with you asap and provide some context. I will hold three meetings on MS Teams by division tomorrow, Wednesday. Please join us if you can for your divisional meeting. If the time slot does not work, feel free to join one of the other two meetings. The meetings will also be recorded. The information shared will help all of us to proceed with fall planning.

Kayla will send an outlook invite to you for the meetings tomorrow, Wednesday, May 13 on MS Teams:

[Natural Sciences Wednesday, 9:00-10:00](#)[Humanities/Social Sciences, 11-12:00](#)[Fine Arts, 2:00-3:00](#)

Oh, and it's also that time of the year where we celebrate our graduates! A wonderful virtual university commencement ceremony has been created. Please join us when this goes live on May 16! [You can find the link here.](#)

Finally, I will hold open office hours this week Thursday from 1:00 and 2:00pm. [Call me on MS Teams if you want to talk!](#) I look forward to hearing from you.

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Dean's Office Hours

The Dean host office hours from 1-2 on MS Teams on Thursday, May 14th. Please use [this link](#) to join in a conversation with the Dean!

All-Faculty Meeting Follow-Up

If you were not able to join us for the all-faculty meeting held on May 8th, you can watch the meeting using this [link](#). A transcript of the chat session that ran concurrently can be found [here](#).

Grades Reminder

Grades are due before 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20. 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.

Virtual Commencement

Commencement is going virtual! There is a hub that will host the commencement itself as well as material from each college located [here](#). We are also encouraging faculty/staff/parents/friends of those graduating to participate in the #DearDrake2020 social media campaign. Show how proud you are of your students with a video or a student in a social media post with #DearDrake2020 so the University can share your kudos to the world!

Promotion and Tenure Announcement!

The Board of Trustees approved the following promotion and tenure recommendations. Congratulations to the successful candidates!

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

- Neil Ward, Art & Design

Promotion to Full Professor

- Benjamin Gardner, Art & Design
- Olga Lazareva, Psychology
- Sandra Patton-Imani, Study of Culture and Society
- Athan Petridis, Physics
- Lisa West, English

Faculty Spotlights!

Sandi Patton-Imani, associate professor of Sociology, was selected as the 2020-21 Troyer Research Fellow. She was determined to be the most meritorious in terms of her record of research accomplishment and in her potential for the future. The fellowship is accompanied by a stipend to help support her research.

Student Spotlights!

The following students were honored by the Donald V. Adams Leadership Institute:

Outstanding Sophomores: Cora Holt, Madyson Sklar

Outstanding Juniors: Ian Klein, Raeann VanDrongelen

Outstanding Seniors: Nick Johnston, Josie Martin

David Maxwell Outstanding Student Organization President: Meghan Kier (RHA)

Outstanding Student Organization Officer: Nate Wright

Oreon E. Scott Outstanding Senior of the Year Award: Lauren Kennon

Alex Rogers, senior Computer Science and Data Analytics major, has been volunteering with the Des Moines Refugee Support. He states that he enjoys volunteering because "our world is filled with negativity so volunteering is a great way to get away from what's wrong and corrupt in the world."

Alumni Spotlight!

John Emmons, dual-degree pre-engineering alumni, is currently pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at Sandford University. John works at Tesla in Palo Alto as a Staff Machine Learning Scientist. He leads a group doing 3D perception for autonomous driving in urban environments and presents his group's progress directly to Elon Musk.

Advising Corner

1) Grades are due before 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20. This semester, students had the option of moving to CR/NC grading through Friday, Apr 10. In order to receive a grade of credit (CR), a student must earn no less than the letter grade equivalent of a C-. Upon receiving a final grade, a student cannot change his/her/their grade mode to CR/NC or back to a standard letter grade if he/she earned less than a C-, but managed a passing grade (D-, D, D+). As such, it will be important to keep careful records detailing a student's points and final grade.

2) 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.

3) If you enter a grade incorrectly, i.e. you enter a grade of B, but the student earned an A, please email [Mary Beth](#) with the student's name, ID, and course name.

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 please update the grade in MyDUSIS > Faculty and Advisors Tab > Update an Incomplete (I), In Progress (IP) or Non-Reported (NR) Grade.

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.

5) If you oversaw an independent study or internship this semester, please remember to enter a grade.

Important Action Items:

Temperature Reporting and Masks

All Drake University faculty and staff members (including sub-contracted employees) who must come to campus to perform their job functions will be required to measure and record their own body temperature from home or at one of several self-serve stations on campus for indications of a COVID-19 like illness. This step will be required before each work shift or work session on campus. Additionally, PCHD directed that Drake faculty and staff who come to campus be required to wear fabric or cloth face masks.

To report your temperature, fill out the Qualtrics Form [located here](#).

Tenure-Track Clock

Tenure-track faculty can choose to pause their tenure clock by one year. Faculty have one year to request this change and can withdraw the request at a later time. Please email Gesine and Sue with the request. Please cc Kayla Jenkins and your department chair.

Waiver for One-on-One Teaching

During the summer while classes are remote, under certain circumstances, professors can ask for permission for one-on-one teaching situations (individual work in research labs, etc). To request permission, please fill out this [waiver form](#).

A&S Important Dates

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

- May 16-Virtual Commencement Celebration

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