Dear all,

Drake University's Commencement ceremony has been created. Please join us when this goes live on May 16. Oh, and it's also that time of the year where we celebrate our graduates! A wonderful virtual Fine Arts, 2:00-3:00.

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 the pandemic, our priorities shifted: protect our community, deliver on the Drake promise, no matter the modality—teaching classes face to face, online or remotely. President Martin will send out a message today to all undergraduate students, assuring them that they are our first priority. A wonderful virtual Commencement! "Pandemic-proofing" the curriculum for the fall. Those three things are closely connected.

The results of the student survey come as no surprise. The challenges students describe are numerous: access to technology, lack of social engagement, balancing school and work. Many students also reported feeling disconnected from one another and the university. Students expressed that they needed faculty and staff to understand their social needs and to show empathy for their challenges, they had financial concerns, and they are worried about the future. The challenges students face are significant.

The Dean host office hours from 1-2 on MS Teams on Thursday, May 14th. Please use Dean's Office Hours to ask for permission for one-on-one teaching situations (applied lessons, individual work in class). 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 here.

If you were not able to join us for the all-faculty meeting held on May 8th, you can watch the recording here.

The challenge is daunting, but we are optimistic. The feedback from the survey will guide our actions as we prepare for the fall semester. Our highest priorities are ensuring students' safety, providing them with a Drake experience, and delivering on the Drake promise and providing them with an exceptional education.

The Alumni Spotlight! Congratulations to John G. Mahoney, Jr., President of the Board of Trustees, who is being honored by the Donald V. Adams Leadership Institute as the 2020 Oreon E. Scott Outstanding Senior of the Year Award recipient. John has excelled both academically and personally throughout his years at Drake University, and his achievements and character have been an inspiration to his peers.

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

- Jordan G. Mahoney was determined to be the most metitorious in terms of her record of service to the university and her potential for the future. The fellowship is accompanied with a monetary award of $5,000 and a certificate of recognition.
- Sandi Patton-Imani, associate professor of Sociology, was recognized for her outstanding teaching and research accomplishments. She was determined to be the most metitorious in terms of her record of academic achievement and in her potential for the future. The fellowship is accompanied with a monetary award of $5,000 and a certificate of recognition.

Announcements:

- Virtual Commencement
- Advising Corner
- Dean's Office Hours
- Dean's Note
- All-Faculty Meeting

Congratulations to all of our graduates! It has been an honor to serve you all. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.