Thank you! Thank you for all you do. Having worked so hard over the last six months, and especially over the summer, September paychecks will see the temporary salary reductions President Martin had announced. J-Term will also look very different this year, as all classes will be held online and travel seminars have been postponed. We have added a few new courses to the schedule that are virtual learning as part of our course delivery. And that is not a bad thing! For classes that will face classes, there are now designated Flex Spaces available around campus to study between classes, or need a place to participate in a virtual class between their face-to-face classes, there are now designated Flex Spaces available around campus to study between classes, or need a place to participate in a virtual class between their face-to-face.

In the meantime, we need to start thinking about the spring semester, as course schedules are published soon. The new virtual learning environment is different, but it is not a bad thing! It is an opportunity to rethink how we teach and learn, how we interact with each other, and how we support our students. It is an opportunity to be creative and innovative in our teaching and learning, and to find new ways to engage our students and support their success.

New Faculty: Felicia Jamison

Felicia Jamison joins the A&S faculty this fall as an assistant professor in the Department of Music. She comes to Drake from The University of Kansas, where she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Musicology. Felicia holds a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she also earned an M.M. in musicology. She received her B.A. in musicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Felicia is interested in the history and culture of American black music and the role of music in African American social and cultural life. Her research focuses on the relationship between music and race, gender, and identity, and she has published articles on topics such as African American gospel music, blackface minstrelsy, and the role of music in the civil rights movement.

Felicia is currently working on a book project that examines the role of gospel music in African American communities in the post-Civil War era. Her book, tentatively titled “Gospel in the New South,” explores the history and culture of gospel music in the American South from the Reconstruction era to the present. Felicia is also interested in the role of music in African American education and will also be involved in a research project that examines the history and culture of African American education in the American South.

Felicia is excited to join the Drake community and is looking forward to working with students and colleagues in the Department of Music. She will be teaching courses in musicology and African American music, and she is also involved in the planning and implementation of new curricular and co-curricular initiatives in the Department of Music.

Felicia Jamison was born in Nuremberg, Germany. She hopes to visit the city again after the pandemic. She believes that learning is a dialectical process between the teacher and the student. As a result, she has always treated her students as partners in the learning process. She has also been involved in community service and outreach programs, and she has been a mentor to young students. Felicia is a member of the American Musicological Society and the Society for American Musicology, and she has presented papers at conferences in the United States and abroad.

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