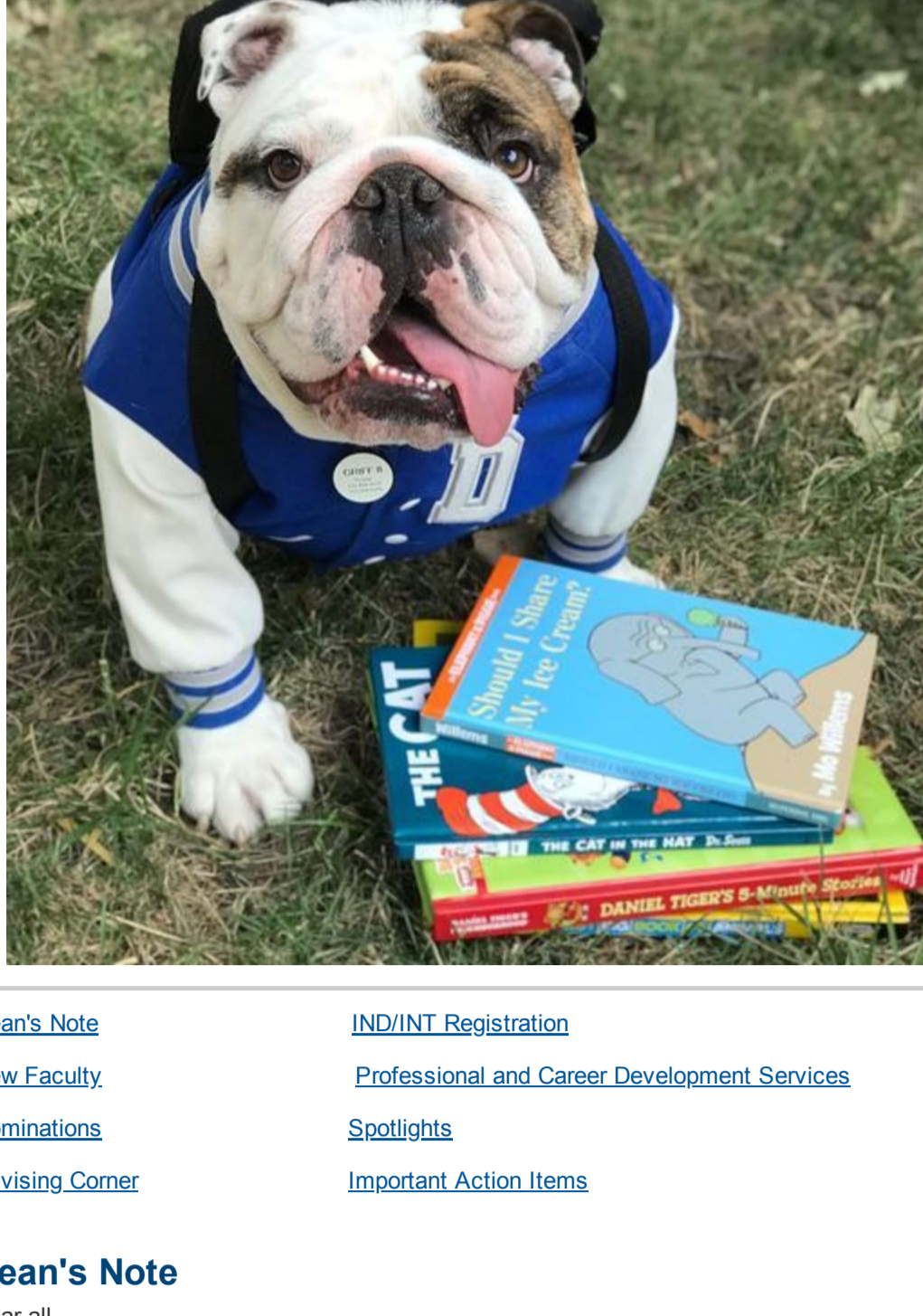


A&S Newsletter

September 2, 2020


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Dean's Note

Dear all,

It felt good to get the semester started last week, to meet students on zoom, and to see some of them in our classrooms this week. But it's a fragile feeling, diluted by worries and foreboding. The national zoom outage on Monday when the first class meetings were to commence and the spiking numbers of COVID cases in Iowa's college towns do little to ease our anxiety. But then again, Drake seemed to have taken the right precautions, sent the right signal to students. Will it be enough? Only time will tell.

In the meantime, we need to start thinking about the spring semester, as course schedules are due in a few weeks. At the moment, it's hard to imagine that we will be going back to normal as we knew it before the pandemic. No final decision has been made yet, but I would recommend we plan with the "new normal" in mind. We will probably still have to consider special arrangements for safe distancing in classrooms and labs, performance halls and common spaces. We will still need to accommodate vulnerable groups who can only participate or teach remotely, and we will have to prepare our classes in ways that rely on virtual learning as part of our course delivery. And that is not a bad thing! For classes that will meet face-to-face, you might want to make adjustments to your preferred class meeting times or room preferences. Please keep these considerations in mind as your department puts together the schedule for spring semester.

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 designed for first year students to help bridge the long gap between early December and February. Details of how registration will be handled are currently being worked out by a taskforce. The goal is to maintain the opportunities for special learning experiences and extent them to first year students who have had such an unusual start of their college career.

September paychecks will see the temporary salary reductions President Martin had announced. Having worked so hard over the last six months, and especially over the summer when we had to prepare online classes often from scratch, the pay cuts hurt on many levels. I feel the pain and I am deeply sorry that this step was necessary. But I am also grateful for our vibrant new class of students, for our resilient returning students, for the creative approaches and strong commitment to our students that I see in all you do. The arts & sciences at Drake are going strong, despite the pandemic and the economic crisis around us. And we will continue to be strong and grow, because we teach and use the skills that are needed to overcome difficulties and to succeed. Thank you! Thank you for all you do.

Gesine

New Faculty Bios: Felicia Jamison!

- **Training and Background:** Before coming to Drake University, Felicia was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Loyola University Maryland. She received her B.A. at Mercer University, her M.A. at Morgan State University, and her Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Additionally, she was a President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the History Department at the University of Maryland College Park.
- **Research:** Her research focuses on the lives and experiences of 19th and 20th-century African Americans who lived in the rural South. She is currently working on a monograph that analyzes the strategies Southern Black women used to accumulate property during slavery and purchase land during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- **Teaching:** Felicia's ethos is to teach and write history in a manner that is accessible to all. She believes that learning is a dialectical process between the teacher and the student. As such, she actively promotes diversity in learning by creating courses that are inclusive of many cultures, reflect the complexity of history and allow students to actively participate in the learning process.
- **Fun Fact:** A fun and interesting fact about Felicia is that she is from a military family and was born in Nuremberg, Germany. She hopes to visit the city again after the pandemic.

Dean's Open Office Hour

The Dean's Open Office Hour will take place on September 8 from 2:30-4; use [this link](#) to join!

Nominations for Stalnaker Lecture 2021 and the Distinguished Engagement Award

Nominations for the Stalnaker Lecturer 2021 and the Distinguished Engagement Award 2020 were due on September 1st. We will extend the deadline until September 15. Please consider nominating a colleague. The awards will be announced at the 2020 Stalnaker Lecture on October 27 (save the date!). Please submit nomination letters to [Kayla Jenkins](#) for each award. Please find the descriptions of the awards below and past recipients [here](#):

Stalnaker Lecturer:

The Stalnaker Lecture Award is presented to a distinguished faculty member who is invited to present a lecture to the University community on a topic in his or her discipline. The lecturer must be a faculty member holding the rank of professor or associate professor (in at least her/his fourth academic year at that rank). Previous recipients are not eligible.

Distinguished Engagement Award:

The College of Arts & Sciences established the Distinguished Engagement Award to recognize outstanding contributions of Drake faculty and staff to the college community.

Eligibility: The nominee must be a current faculty or staff member with at least five years of employment at Drake.

Advising Corner

A Gentle Reminder, Meeting with Advisees: If you serve as advisors this semester, please send an email message to welcome your entering first-year advisees, providing them with information about your office location and office hours, and inviting them for a meeting individually or as a cohort.

Send a similar message to continuing advisees, welcoming them back. Sent early in the semester, your messages will hopefully help cultivate a sense of belonging and aid in creating meaningful connections with your advisees for the rest of the academic year.

When you meet with your advisees, please emphasize relevant academic deadlines (see bottom of the page at [www.drake.edu/registrar](#)).

The deadline to drop a course is Friday, Sept 4 at 11:59 p.m. Following the end of the drop period, an add/drop form is required for schedule changes.

Early Alert and Validation: If you have any student concerns, please use Starfish (linked through MyDrake faculty and advising tools) or the [early alert form](#). Whatever method you choose, early alerts help identify at-risk students and share that information with advisors and other student support staff on campus. Allowing for timely intervention, this has proven benefits for retention and graduation rates.

If you did not submit your **enrollment validation**, please confirm the accuracy of your course roster(s) with [Mary Beth Holtey](#).

Holiday Exemption Form: In an effort to streamline student requests for missing class for holidays, Erin Lain, Associate Provost for Campus Equity and Inclusion, created a holiday exemption form. Any student who will miss class because of a holiday or observance can fill out the form to automatically notify their faculty. You can find the form on the [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion page for Initiatives and Programs](#), or click here to directly access the [form](#).

On-Campus Study spaces: If students are looking for a spot on-campus where they can 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 accommodate their needs. For all the classrooms and spaces in Olmsted Center, they will need to check-in using a brief check-in survey, which is available [here](#) or via QR code on the signage located in the flex space. They are responsible for wiping down their space before and after use with the provided sanitizing wipes.

Notes for Cowles library: Students are requested to limit their visit to 75 minutes, if possible. Cowles library will be monitoring capacity and will post at the entrance when the library is at capacity.

Independent Study/Internship Registration

To register for an independent study or an internship, students will work with their faculty to [fill out the form](#) and obtain their signatures. Students and advisors will make every effort to be sure that students enroll in courses (especially those required for degree completion) when they are regularly offered. Individuating or extenuating circumstances that prevent students from taking courses when regularly offered will be taken into consideration.

Student Spotlights!

Drake senior **David Atri-Schuller** presented two posters at the American Physical Society virtual DAMOP (Division of Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics) conference, describing his research with Klaus Bartschat and collaborators at Kennesaw State, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and the Max-Planck Institute in Heidelberg, Germany.

Faculty Spotlights!

Terrance Pendleton, assistant professor of mathematics, received an NSF grant for \$264,000 for his project "Research on the Impact of Inviting Early College Students to be Mathematicians." This project aims to serve the national interest in high quality undergraduate mathematics education and career pathways. Specifically, this exploratory research project will investigate whether mathematics research projects conducted early in students' college mathematical careers will spark students' engagement and interest in mathematics. Congratulations Terrance

Leah Kalmanson, associate professor of philosophy, will have a new book, [Cross-Cultural Existentialism](#), published through Bloomsbury Publishing in September. **Cody Dolinsek**, alumni and adjunct of philosophy, is working on a companion book feature at the humanities website [Syndicate](#) that will be published this spring.

Alumni Spotlights!

Noah Carrell ('20) was accepted by the JET program to teach English in a Japanese public school this fall. His departure has been delayed, but he will be travelling to Japan soon.

Alyssa Becker ('16) received a Summer Research Fellowship where she is exploring the respiratory kinematics of Broadway singing. She is currently in her final year at the University of Minnesota completing her doctorate in musical arts.

Important Action Items:

ITS Request; Bring Your Computer to Campus

ITS needs all faculty/staff to connect their computers to the campus network to change their passwords and renew the Microsoft Office licensure. This must be completed using an Ethernet connection before September 14th.

Current Plans for Fall 2020 Classes

If you have not done so yet, please fill out [this Qualtrics Form](#) to describe how you are conducting your fall classes including any innovative ideas. We will use this information to answer questions from current and prospective students, parents, donors and anybody who asks!

Budget Requests

To request funds for attending 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. 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](#)

Professional and Career Development Services Update:

Professional & Career Development Services and Community Engaged Learning are very excited to announce a virtual panel series on **Careers in Social Change**. [Please see the flyer](#). Please encourage your students to attend. Registration is available through Handshake.

Panelists include:

Corporate Responsibility

Panelists: Shekinah Young, Program Officer for Community Relations & Principal Foundation, and Alejandro Hernandez, Dean of College of Business & Public Administration (Formerly in charge of Global Corporate Social Responsibility at Wells Fargo)

Policy & Governance

Panelists: Retired Senator Tom Harkin; Candidate for Iowa State Representative Sarah Trone Garniott; Lobbyist David Adelman; and Staff Attorney for the Iowa Environmental Council, Michael Schmidt.

Social Entrepreneurship

Panelists: Ken-Matt Martin, Co-Founder of Pyramid Theatre Company; Dylan DeClerk, Executive Director of Opportunity on Deck; Megan Tensen and Sarah Helleson, Founders of Try Pie.

Philanthropy

Panelists: Kristin Young, Corporate Engagement Director for United Way of Central Iowa; Jordan Richardson, Director of Charitable Giving for The Des Moines Foundation; and Renee Hardman, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa.

Additional career events can be found at: <https://www.drake.edu/career/events/>

Reading Corner

As we start the new semester online, the Chronicle has posted an article on "[How the Pandemic is Pushing Professors to Improve Their Pedagogy.](#)"

A&S Important Dates

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

- September 4: Last day to drop a class without a "W"
- September 7: Labor Day: University Closed
- September 15: Stalnaker Lecturer and Distinguished Engagement Nominations are due. Extended from September 1.
- September 18: Spring 2021 schedule due to the Dean's Office

[Submit News](#)