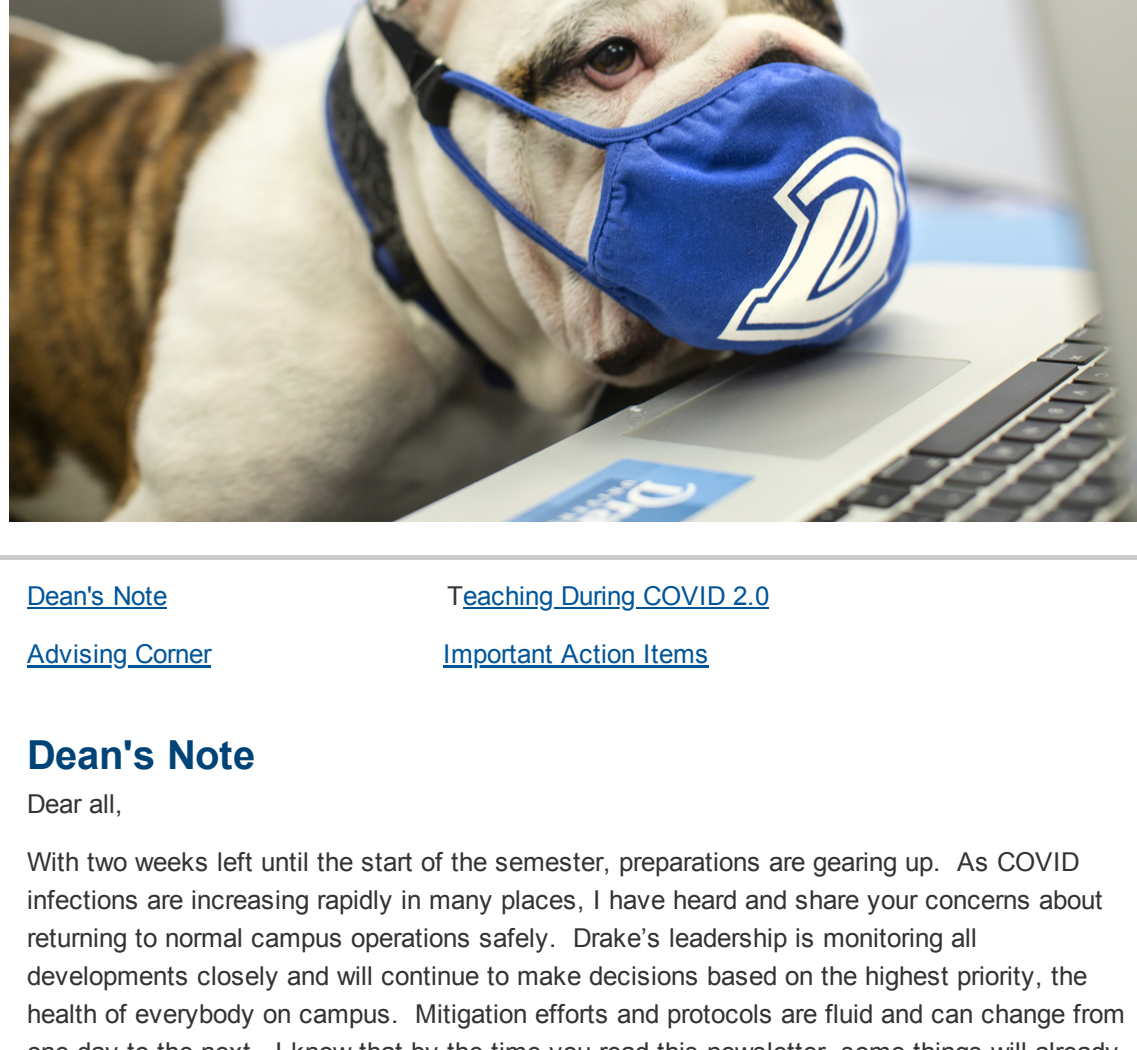


## A&amp;S Newsletter

August 16, 2021


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## Dean's Note

Dear all,

With two weeks left until the start of the semester, preparations are gearing up. As COVID infections are increasing rapidly in many places, I have heard and share your concerns about returning to normal campus operations safely. Drake's leadership is monitoring all developments closely and will continue to make decisions based on the highest priority, the health of everybody on campus. Mitigation efforts and protocols are fluid and can change from one day to the next. I know that by the time you read this newsletter, some things will already be out of date. But here is where we are at as of Friday, August 13! We are inencing on in-person classes. Vaccinations are strongly and actively encouraged, with big incentives for students to turn in their vaccination record. Please check out the section below on [Teaching during COVID 2.0](#) with important numbers, updates, and reminders. I have heard a couple of rumors that I'd like to debunk: As of today, fall break is still planned for October 18-19, and classrooms operate at full capacity. I will update you on any changes as soon as I receive them. Please direct any questions to me, I will follow up with Sue and Chris Nickell, if needed.

A few other reminders:

- Summer/Fall 2022 schedules will be due on October 8 this year (spring schedules are due on September 17). This early deadline is necessary in order to plan for the closure of one of our main classroom buildings, Meredith Hall, from mid-May 2022 to December 2022. Please plan accordingly.

- Remember to check out your classroom before the first day of class. IT has been doing walkthroughs, but please familiarize yourself with the set-up before classes start.

- Please note the additional layer of approvals needed for all university travel (see below)

With the beginning of the fall semester, we have been able to fill staff positions that had been vacant (some for more than one year). Take a moment to greet our new administrative assistants: Julianna Dubin (Chemistry/Physics) and Brooke Carter (Music). An offer has been made to the new administrative assistant in LPS, Math & Computer Science. We are currently searching for a new third assistant dean who will support students in open-enrolled programs and in pre-professional tracks, as well as focus on student retention initiatives for the college. We are also currently searching for a new Director for the Anderson Gallery. Tenure-track faculty searches have already begun for the next academic year. It's going to be another busy year!

Thank you to all of you who have already begun recruiting our next cohort of Bulldogs. The Bulldog Days of Summer (three in-person, one virtually) provided engagement opportunities with 254 prospective students, and we know that these personalized conversations with Drake faculty are what makes our recruitment so successful. The next two weeks are going to be busy with class preps, Blackboard Ultra training, department and chair retreats, learning symposia, and welcome week activities. I for one can't wait to see everybody back on campus, eyes lit up as we imagine the smile behind the masks.

Happy last days of summer!

Gesine

## Dean's Office Hours

The Dean will be available from 4-5pm on Tuesday, August 31st for open office hours. You can join her in the Cowles Library Café or on [Zoom](#).

## 2022 Stalnaker Lecturer Nominations

Nominate a colleague for the 2022 Stalnaker Lecturer Award!

The Stalnaker Lecturer Award is presented to a distinguished faculty member who will receive an honorarium and give a presentation to the University community on a topic in his or her discipline. This is our most prestigious award in the Arts & Sciences—please consider nominating one of your colleagues.

The lecturer must be a faculty member holding the rank of professor or associate professor with four years at rank. [Previous recipients](#) are not eligible. The Stalnaker Lecturer Award is funded in part by A&S emeritus professors.

To submit a professor for this distinguished honor, please email a nomination letter to [Kayla Jenkins](#) by **September 1st**. Nominations from two prior years will be considered.

Please mark your calendars for this year's Stalnaker Lecture, given by the 2021 award winner Dr. Maura Lyons. The lecture is going to be on September 23rd.

## Are you ready to use Blackboard Learn Ultra?

Check out the following videos for step-by-step instructions on how to organize content, create assignments, use discussion boards, share announcements, upload course content, and lots of other features! These videos are available from [Drake Online Design Dialogues](#).

1. Building and organizing content in Blackboard Learn Ultra from scratch: [video](#)
2. Assignments and Rubrics: [video](#)
3. Communications tools: [video](#)
4. Working with Groups: [video](#)
5. Creating Tests: [video](#)
6. Using the Gradebook: [video](#)

[Visit the following page](#) for additional resources on how to use the new Blackboard Ultra, the only platform available this fall.

## Advising Corner

## Grades

Summer 2021 grades are due by **10 a.m. on Wed, Aug 27**. Please remember to update grades for those students for whom you issued an **incomplete**, if they have since the end of the spring term, submitted work to resolve the incomplete. The entry of grades is tied to a variety of processes, namely the awarding of financial aid based on earned credit hours. To update an incomplete grade, please follow these steps: MyDrake > Faculty & Advisors Tab > Update an Incomplete, In Progress or Not Reported.

## 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 add a course is Friday, Sept 3 at 11:59 p.m. Following the end of the drop period, an add/drop form is required for schedule changes. The deadline to drop a course is Monday, Sept 13 at 11:59 p.m. (yes, Monday – students have an extra day due to the Labor Day holiday).

**Early Alert:** 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.

**Enrollment validation** is the first step in ensuring the accuracy of your course roster. By submitting enrollment validation, you confirm your class roster is accurate or identify the name(s) of those students who did not attend class without first contacting you. After you submit validation, there is still a hands-on-key process completed by Alina Grimm (science courses) or Mary Beth Holtey (non-science courses) that ultimately drops the student from the course. To complete enrollment validation, follow these steps: MyDrake > Faculty & Advisors Tab > Enrollment Validation Submittal.

**Visit the classroom before the first day** and try out the technology. If you have further questions regarding classroom technology, see [here](#). Contact ITS if you need assistance at 515-271-3001 or request assistance [here](#).

## 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](#).

## "Question, Persuade and Refer" Gatekeeper Training:

On **Friday, August 27th**, please consider attending the QPR gatekeeper training session led by Dr. [Greg Lengel](#). QPR stands for [Question, Persuade, and Refer](#) — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

QPR can be learned in the QPR gatekeeper training course. This course is taught in a clear, concise format using the latest in educational technology and practices and takes approximately one hour to complete.

## KEY COMPONENTS COVERED IN TRAINING:

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E3uJBQmeQ>

More information about QPR: <https://qprinstitute.com/about-qpr>

We will meet in **SCB 101 at 10am on Friday, August 27th**. If you plan to attend, RSVP [natalie.baysr@drake.edu](mailto:natalie.baysr@drake.edu) so that we have enough training materials prepared.

## Faculty Spotlights

Congratulations to **Ryan Sturms** and **Peter Levi** on receiving the NASA award! The project *"Elemental: Chemistry from Molecules to Macrosystems"* was funded by the Iowa Space Grant Consortium's curriculum development program with \$10,000. The proposal supports NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD).

The proposed curriculum development will create and refine a course titled *Elemental: Chemistry from Molecules to Macrosystems*, that demonstrates the connections between chemistry at the molecular level and the impact that various chemicals have at the ecosystem level. The goal is to develop a curriculum that promotes a broad understanding of biogeochemical cycles, motivates new scientists to confront the challenges posed by human interactions with and perturbations of these cycles, and provides an opportunity for students to engage in original research into biogeochemical cycles that affect our local ecosystems.

*Elemental* will be designed and developed to provide tools, interactions, and knowledge to foster confidence in Drake's diverse student-scientists with the long-term benefit of increasing the participation and success of underrepresented groups in STEM careers.

Dr. Lenore Metrick-Chen received a \$36,000 Historical Resource Program Development grant for her project, *A People's History*. This is project brings together years of Dr. Metrick-Chen's research and will result in a multi-dimensional website that explored the historical experiences of black Iowans through an archive of digital artifacts, recorded narratives, and curated themed exhibits. The final project will also include lesson plans for K-12 classrooms to help children explore this hidden history. Congratulations, Lenore!

## Student Spotlights

Check out one of our history students in an interview aired on **WHO13!** Drake students in collaboration with community groups are promoting the recognition of Des Moines' Woodland Cemetery by the National Park Service. History major **Allie Shambaugh-Miller** shared details about the Forever Free Pilot Mentoring Program on **WHO13**. Allie also participated in a longer webinar in July held by the State Historical Society sharing their research.

*Inside Science*, the publication of the American Institute of Physics, and ABC News published an [article](#) describing the efforts of a student-led, interdisciplinary collaboration at Drake to design radiation artificial and artificial gravity systems for interplanetary travel. The undergraduate team of researchers works on the project called MISSFIT, or Magnetization Spacecraft Shield for Interplanetary Travel under the supervision of Dr. Petridis.

Julie LaFranzo, a fourth-year student pursuing a BS in Physics, was awarded an internship with the NASA Glenn Research Center as an Outreach and Communications intern. She will be writing articles and posts for the Glenn Research Center website. In addition, she will work with researchers on preparing presentations and other aspects of their work in data science. She will be able to contribute to educational outreach programs through the Glenn Research Center.

## Important Action Items:

## Travel Grants

As we announced in our previous newsletter, university travel can be approved by Chris Nickell, who is **closely monitoring COVID numbers in travel destinations**. Please submit your travel grant application to Kayla using this [electronic form](#). Faculty presenting research at a conference are eligible for a travel grant of up to \$1300/\$1,500.

The first deadline to submit a travel request is September 1. As in the past, there will be multiple deadlines to submit your travel application. If you plan to travel before September 1, please submit your request as soon as possible. Travel grant applications need to be submitted to Kayla for the Dean's review and for final approval by Chris Nickell. Please note that all air travel must be booked through the university travel provider, Direct Travel.

## Funding Opportunity for Sabbatical

The Institute for Humane Studies is offering funding in the amount of \$50,000 for semester-long sabbaticals for the study, research, and teaching of classical liberal ideas. IHS welcomes applications for the Sabbatical Research Fellowship from permanent, full-time faculty at four-year degree-granting institutions in the humanities and social sciences, but preference will be given to scholars in the early stages of their career. For more information, [visit this website](#).

## Teaching During COVID 2.0

- Drake's highest priority is the health and safety of all faculty, staff and students. All COVID protocols are subject to constant review and change.
- Masks are required indoors.
- As of Friday, August 13, 78% of Drake employees and 64% of students (72% of residential students) have submitted their vaccination record.
- As students return to campus, efforts, and incentives to increase vaccination rates are in place and ongoing.
- Please be prepared to offer asynchronous assignments for students who come in contact with COVID-19 and need to switch temporarily to remote learning. The assignments must provide opportunities for students to acquire the same learning outcomes as face-to-face students. Please note, this does not mean remote students need the same experience to achieve outcomes.
- Please consider attendance policies that allow students to make the best decisions when they are feeling ill, including grading and make-up policies.
- At this time, no changes in course delivery methodology (face-to-face vs. online) will be considered unless a request for ADA accommodation has been filed and approved by HR.
- Faculty may not ask students in their classes if they are vaccinated.
- Faculty may not offer incentives to students to get vaccinated.
- When you post photos on your social media platforms, make sure every person inside a Drake facility is wearing a mask (yep, we got in trouble for that last year!).
- If you have any questions or concerns that come up, please direct those to me. I will provide answers where I can and will reach out to Sue and Chris if needed.
- Please remember that any policies are in flux and might change. I will inform you of any decisions that are being made asap.

## Vaccinations

If you are not yet vaccinated, you are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Students have received communication with various incentives to get vaccinated asap (including twenty \$2,500 scholarships if we receive an 80% vaccination rate by mid-September). Vaccinations will be available on a walk-in basis at the following times in the lower level of Hubbell Dining Hall, next to the C-Store:

- August 23: 10-2
- August 24: 10-2
- August 27: 10-1
- August 30-Sept 3: 12-1

## Reading Corner

- ["Let's Not Return to Normal When the 'New Normal' Arrives"](#)

## A&amp;S Important Dates

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

- [August 20: Learning Symposium 9-3pm](#)
- August 24: A&S Department Chairs' Retreat, 12:30-4pm
- August 23 and 24th: New Student Move-In
- August 25-28: Welcome Week
- August 25: A&S New Faculty Orientation
- August 30: Fall Term begins
- September 1: Stalnaker Lecturer and Distinguished Engagement Nominations are due.
- September 3: Last day to add a class
- September 6: Labor Day: University Closed
- September 13: Last day to drop a class without a "W"

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