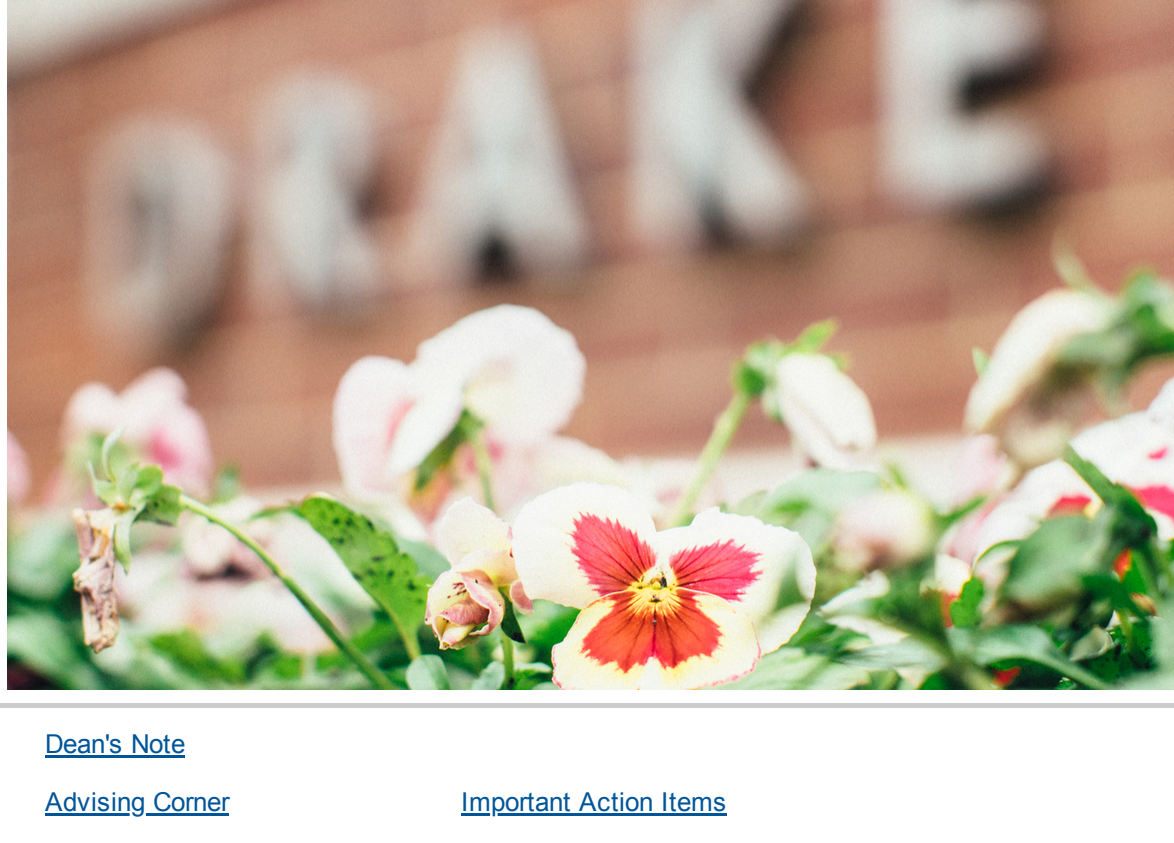




A&S Newsletter

February 24, 2022

[Dean's Note](#)[Advising Corner](#)[Important Action Items](#)

Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

It was a great shock to read about the resurfacing of messages of racism on our campus. We have a long way to go to make our campus more diverse, inclusive and a truly welcoming place. A place where differences of opinions can be shared in a respectful way, where the needs of students who are underrepresented are front and center, and where there is zero tolerance for any form of racism. I am sharing below a message I sent to all students in A&S. Students (and colleagues!) will need to hear from all of us about our commitment, and be reassured that they are being heard. Thank you for your commitment, for your courage, and for your work on this!

As I am making my way through the annual evaluations of all faculty, I am amazed and encouraged by how you all dealt with the challenges of 2021! The whipsaw of teaching remote, f2f and everything in between, coupled with worries about the health of loved ones, the mental stress on our students, all of that while cooped up in quarantine, isolation or social distancing... and then to read about all the things you did nevertheless, all the students you reached, the research you conducted in labs and in the field, the virtual conferencing, the writing and publishing, the grant-seeking and prize-winning, the performing on stage and in studios, and the community engagement. Wow! 2021 was a good year after all!

Please read on. Important deadlines are coming up. Nominate your colleagues for one of the awards—it will mean the world to them. And it is so well-deserved! Check out the concerts and performances scheduled in the next few weeks, the exhibit in the library on universal suffrage, the panel discussion on augmented reality in the Anderson Gallery (tonight!). To me, it has meant the world to go out again, to attend live performances and presentations, with other people in the same room.

Speaking of chatting with people—stop by in the Olmsted Starbucks for my open office hours next Tuesday if you have time. I look forward to connecting with you over coffee.

It's a busy time of the semester for everybody, so I'll keep this note short. Good thing that spring break is in sight!

I will end with my favorite Iowa greeting: Stay warm!!!

Gesine

Dean's Open Office Hours

Gesine will hold open office hours on Tuesday, February 28, 4:15-5:15pm, in the Olmsted Café or on [Zoom](#). No appointment needed.

Advising Corner

Complete the Starfish Progress Survey(s) by Friday, Mar 4: Over the last two years, Progress Surveys on Starfish have proven to be an efficient and effective way to gather valuable faculty input and coordinate early intervention. The Spring Progress survey is now open until Friday, Mar 4.

Follow these steps either on your computer or your phone to access the progress survey:

1. Login to Starfish, the link is on the MyDrake portal under Faculty and Advising Resources.
2. A link to your Outstanding Surveys will be displayed at the top of your Starfish homepage.
3. Once you reach the survey grid, simply check the box next to the particular student's name for whom you would like to provide encouragement through a kudos, refer to a resource or raise a concern. You will have options to add comments.
4. **What if I want to add more details?** When you check off a box to raise a flag on a student you will see a small note icon appear next to the student's name. Click that icon to add a comment.
5. Click Submit. If you don't have any progress to report, it is important that you click Submit, so we know you reviewed the survey.
6. Items you raise will be addressed by the appropriate Drake staff.

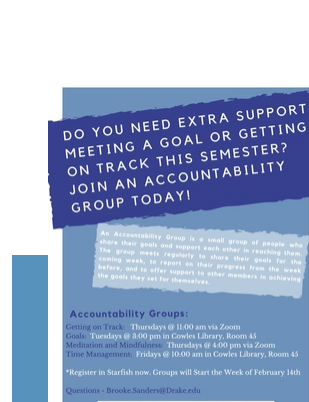
Documenting Pre-Professional Interests: Help advisees indicate their pre-professional interests (Pre-Dental, Pre-Law, Pre-Med or Pre-Vet) by completing the survey

at https://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3vLbdadKZFdfkJO. Responses help the College to better track and support student plans. The survey can be completed in under ten minutes. If you have questions about the survey, please email Assistant Dean Will Hatchet, william.hatchet@drake.edu.

Preparing for Midterm Exams: please follow this process in determining appropriate levels of ADA accommodations for students:

- If the student's accommodation requires a reader, scribe, or assistive technology (e.g., screen-reader software), please get in touch with Michelle Laughlin or Brooke Sanders in [Access and Success](#) (SDS@Drake.edu, 515-271-1835 or 515-271-2917). The process detailed here refers only to proctored exam accommodations requiring extra time, reduced/low distraction testing space, and/or private testing space.
- If needed, clarify specific student needs/accommodations with Access and Success. They will continue to determine eligibility for accommodations, and help students and faculty understand what an accommodation requires.
- Provide ADA-based exam accommodations through personal/self or departmental resources, when available. *Administrative assistants should not be engaged as exam proctors.*
- If individual/faculty or departmental resources are not available, please review, complete, and send a testing accommodations assistance form for college-level support to natalie.bayer@drake.edu (the form is linked [here](#), under "Other Faculty Forms," as a downloadable and fillable pdf format).

Forecasting Midterm Grade Entry: Midterm grades are due before 10 a.m. on Wed, Mar 23. The entry of midterm grades helps students to make informed decisions on whether or not to remain in a spring course(s). If working with advisees enrolled in 12 credits, please note that dropping a course(s) with a W will not take a student to part-time standing. Students who wish to drop a course with a W have through 4:30 p.m. on Wed, Mar 30 to take action by submitting the [add/drop form](#) to ask.as@drake.edu.



Student Accountability Groups: If you are working with a student who might benefit from participating in a small group of students who support each other in reaching academic goals they set for themselves, please share this information with them:

Getting on Track: Thursdays @ 11:00 am via Zoom

Goals: Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm in Cowles Library, Room 45

Meditation and Mindfulness: Thursdays @ 4:00 pm via Zoom

Time Management: Fridays @ 10:00 am in Cowles Library

Important Action Items:

Travel Grants

If your professional conferences are happening, please submit your travel grant application to [Ashley Rasmussen](#) using [this electronic form](#). Faculty presenting research at a conference are eligible for a travel grant of up to \$1300/\$1,500.

At this point in the year, we accept applications for second conference travel. Please submit your application for the dean's review. Chris Nickell will have to give final approval for all travel. Please note that all air travel must be booked through the university travel provider, Direct Travel.

Register for the QPR Gatekeeper Workshop

Arts & Sciences will be offering a suicide prevention training led by Greg Lengel on Friday, Feb 25, at 1 p.m. in SCB 101. The training session is based on the QPR gatekeeper system, which stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.

In the workshop, we will cover the following topics:

- 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.

If you plan to attend, RSVP natalie.bayer@drake.edu so that we have enough training materials prepared.

A&S Teacher of the Year Award:

The College of Arts & Sciences solicits your help in selecting a faculty member of the College to receive the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" award. You can use this [online form](#) to nominate your colleague by **March 1st**.

Eligibility for the Award: Nominees must be full-time, continuing faculty in the college of the Arts and Sciences. Nominees must have completed at least three years of service at Drake.

Save the Date

The A&S Honors Convocation will be held in Sheslow Auditorium at 6:00pm on **April 21st** this year. Please come and support your students as they receive their awards! Information on award submission/nominations is forthcoming.

A&S Teacher of the Year Nominations

It's time to nominate your colleague for the A&S Teacher of the Year award! You can use this [online form](#) to nominate your colleague by **March 1st**.

Eligibility for the Award: Nominees must be full-time, continuing faculty in the college of the Arts and Sciences. Nominees must have completed at least three years of service at Drake.

Dean's Message to A&S Students (Email sent on 02/22)

Dear students,

This week began with news of racist acts that took place on our campus. The week began with pain, fear, anger and frustration that yet again messages of hatred and exclusion surfaced in campus buildings. Your faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences are united in condemning any form of racism and bigotry, and we want you to know that we hear you, that we share your frustration, and that we are committed to creating a more safe, respectful and equitable environment on campus where Black students and all students of color feel included and welcome. We will not tolerate racist acts, we will try to bring justice to those who have been hurt, and we will be proactive in preventing racism and any kind of microaggression. Please help us and help each other to be vigilant, to be antiracist, to be compassionate and to continue to learn and grow.

Thank you for all you do and bring to Drake.

Dean Gerhard

What Do We Do With Student Evaluations?

Please join Deputy Provost Renée Cramer in a Center for Teaching Excellence conversation: [What Do We Do With Student Evaluations?](#) Our conversation on **Friday, February 25th, from 11-12** (lunch provided) in Howard Hall will explore how faculty can read, understand, and integrate what we learn from student evaluations of our teaching. We will also discuss the problems of relying on these kinds of evaluation, and talk about how we can, perhaps, better understand if we are meeting our goals and objectives in the courses we teach, than through sole reliance on a potentially problematic instrument.

Reading Corner

Check out this interesting article in the Chronicle Of Higher Education "[When to Step Away from the Revision](#)".

A&S Important Dates

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

- March 6th at 5:00 PM Drake Choir Sheslow Auditorium conducted by Eric Bamum and Ted Brimeyer
- March 8th at 7:30 PM Drake Symphonic Band at the Sheslow Auditorium conducted by Vince Kenney.
- March 10th at 7:30 PM Drake Orchestra at the Sheslow Auditorium conducted by Hector Agüero.
- March 11 Midpoint of semester
- March 14-18 Spring Break
- March 23 Midterm grades due by 10am
- March 27 Faculty Development Grant applications for Fall 2022 due to the Dean

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