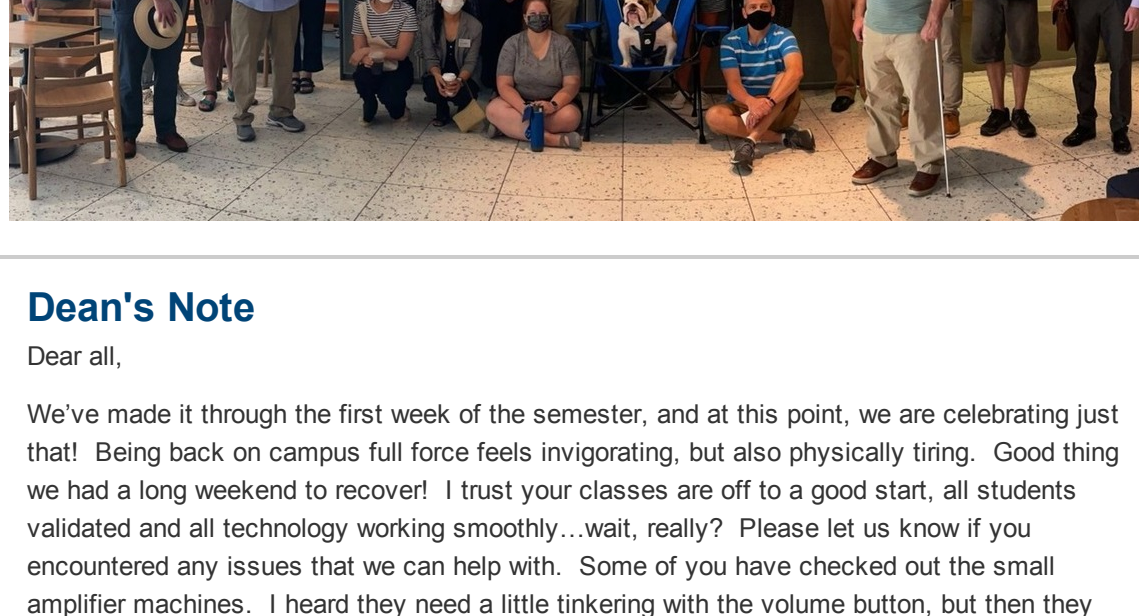


## Welcome to our New Faculty!

September 7, 2021



### Dean's Note

Dear all,

We've made it through the first week of the semester, and at this point, we are celebrating just that! Being back on campus full force feels invigorating, but also physically tiring. Good thing we had a long weekend to recover! I trust your classes are off to a good start, all students validated and all technology working smoothly...well, really? Please let us know if you encountered any issues that we can help with. Some of you have checked out the small amplifier machines. I heard they need a little tinkering with the volume button, but then they seem to help carry a mask-muffled voice to the students in the last row. Let us know if we need to order more.

As an FYI, the rate of students in A&S who have reported their vaccination as of Friday is at 79%. While we can't ask students about their vaccination status, it certainly helps to remind them of the incentives and the impact vaccination rates have on how we can interact on campus. Masks are enforced in all indoor facilities, except when eating or when we are in our own office.

As we kick off the new academic year, we have already begun recruiting the next class of Bulldogs. The target for A&S is set at an ambitious 425 first-year students for fall 2022, out of 825 for the university overall. We will need all hands on deck, so to speak, and together I am confident we can reach that goal. Many of you have already participated in the first recruitment events, staffed Bulldog Days of Summer tables, and signed up on Maria B.'s master spreadsheet for this fall. We'll do both, in-person and virtual events—that way we are ready for whatever may come! Thank you for your great participation in recruitment work!

Other initiatives are on their way. We have identified some AOI classes that would be suitable and desirable as online course offerings in the future, and we have begun brainstorming about a first online BA at Drake. Course schedules are due, as always, in mid-September. The deadline to submit summer 2022 and fall 2022 course schedules, however, is due much earlier than in previous years, because of the impending closure and renovation of Meredith Hall in May 2022. Schedules are due to the dean's office by October 8. Please check in with your chair about your department's internal deadline. The Registrar will then create a draft schedule to see how we can fit all our classes into campus spaces. Consider teaching at less popular and crowded teaching times to optimize classroom space, if feasible. And finally, a new faculty hiring cycle has started with six tenure track searches (last year we completed 11 tenure track searches successfully!)

Speaking of new faculty... This newsletter contains a few announcements and reminders, but its most important message is welcoming our new tenure track faculty. Please check out their short biographical notes below. What a great cohort! We are so thrilled to have these new colleagues among us.

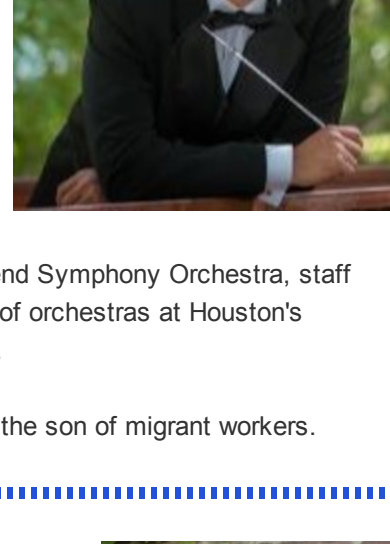
As always, please reach out to the dean's office if you have any questions.

That's all for now!  
Gesine

### Héctor Agüero, Associate

#### Professor of Orchestral Studies

Héctor earned degrees in conducting and music education from the Texas Tech University School of Music in Lubbock where he was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, and the University of Houston's Moores School of Music where he received the Schissler Conducting Fellowship. His research centers around his passion for music education and his work with student orchestras. Héctor's previous positions include director of orchestras and bands at Willamette University, artistic director of the Willamette Valley Symphony, music director of the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra, staff conductor with the Houston Youth Symphony, and director of orchestras at Houston's prestigious High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

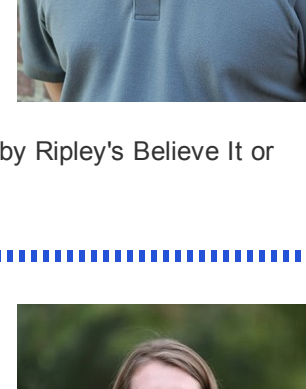


Fun Fact: Héctor is a first-generation college graduate and the son of migrant workers.

### Josh Carlson, Assistant Professor of

#### Mathematics

Josh received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 2019. He just finished a visiting position at Williams College. His research is in Graph Theory and Combinatorics. Specifically, Josh studies combinatorial games on graphs that model searching algorithms and the spread of information. This fall Josh is teaching Math 070: Calculus II. He likes to use various collaborative learning strategies to engage as many students as possible.

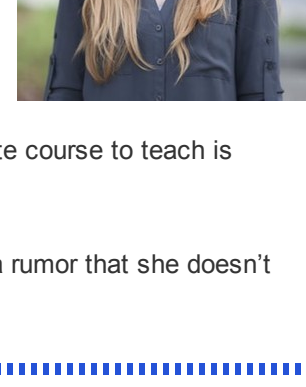


Fun Fact: Josh grew up in Burlington, IA near a street called "Snake Alley" that was called the "crookedest street in the world" by Ripley's Believe It or Not! with 1100 degrees of turns.

### Deborah Cronin, Assistant Professor of

#### Psychology

Deb received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She conducted her postdoctoral work at the University of California, Davis. Her research focuses on how we use eye movements to extract visual information from our surroundings, how we use that information to understand the world around us, and how eye movements themselves influence visual processing. Deb has received several awards for teaching from the University of Illinois' Psychology Department. Her favorite course to teach is Sensation and Perception.

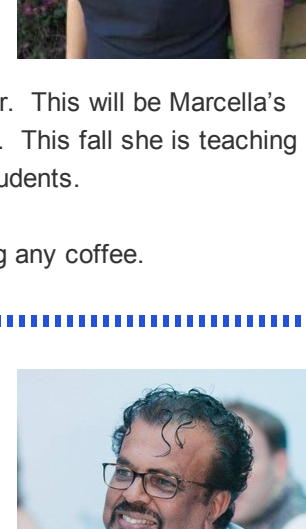


Fun fact: In her spare time Deb loves to bake pies. And there is a rumor that she doesn't actually like to eat pie. Good person to be friends with, I'd say!

### Marcella Hangen, Assistant Professor

#### of Applied Behavior Analysis

Marcella received her M.A. in behavior analysis from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). At UMBC, she worked at an inpatient hospital assessing and treating severe problem behavior exhibited by children. After she graduated with her Master's, she pursued her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. While at KU, she had various positions focusing on providing services to children with disabilities. Her research focuses on identifying effective treatments to decrease problem behavior for individuals with disabilities who engage in severe problem behavior. This will be Marcella's second year teaching at Drake, after serving as a VAP in 2020-21. This fall she is teaching a research methods course and a principles course to graduate students.

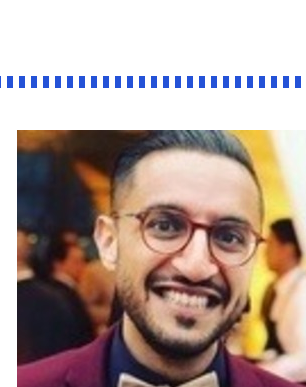


Fun Fact: Marcella went her entire graduate career without drinking any coffee.

### Rajin Koonjiberry, Professor of

#### Practice: Cybersecurity

Rajin received his training in Cybersecurity and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School University. His research is on Identity Management on Public Networks, Building the Digital Divide with CBRs (Citizen Broadband Radio Service). His professional experience includes teaching at Southern Methodist University, Fort Hays University and Gainesville College (University of North Georgia), and most recently he was the Executive Director for Information Security for the Dallas Independent School District.

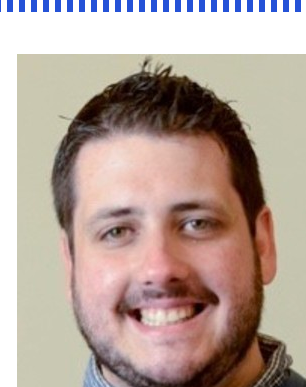


Fun Fact: Rajin is originally from Mauritius - the land of the DoDo bird (most people have never heard of Mauritius).

### Ali Malik, Assistant Professor of Law,

#### Politics and Society

Ali is a first-gen Pakistani-American and Texan, he is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Socio-legal Studies program at York University (Toronto). After completing his BA in Political Science at Texas State University, he attended the American University in Cairo to earn his MA in International Human Rights Law. Ali's doctoral dissertation explores the developmental and legal intersections of agriculture, technology, and agrarian subjectivities in India. He is looking at three distinct historical periods beginning with the Green Revolution and moving into the recent introduction of big data technology into Indian agriculture. Ali will be teaching Intro to Law, Politics and Society and two original courses: Law and Society from the Global South and Intellectual Property: Owning Intangibles in the Global Knowledge Economy.

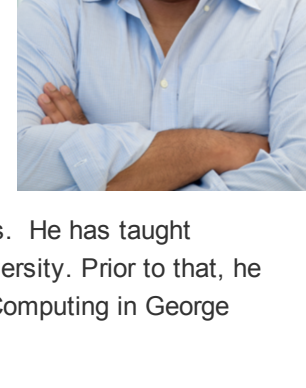


Fun fact: Ali's time in Cairo spanned a portion of the Arab Spring - he had to walk through Tahrir Square to get to his classes! Outside of work, he loves basketball, art, and sneakers!

### Matthew Record, Assistant Professor of

#### Political Science

Matthew is originally from Long Island, NY. He got his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in Public Policy and Management. Prior to his Ph.D., he was a real estate appraiser which sparked his interest in housing policy specifically. Matthew has always been a bit of a political junkie and has always gotten excited on election days since he was a child. Matthew is a drummer. For much of his early 20s, he was trying to pursue music as a career, but in the end his day job as an appraiser had a much bigger impact on the trajectory of his life.

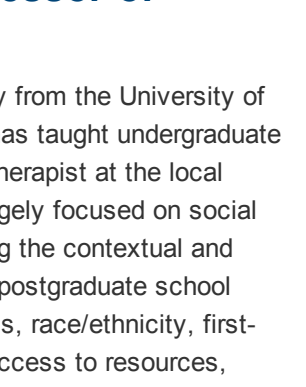


Fun Fact: Matthew is an avid boardgamer.

### Md Alimoor Reza, Assistant Professor

#### of Computer Science

Reza was a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Computer Science at Indiana University Bloomington. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from George Mason University in 2018 and M.S. in Computer Science from Drexel University in 2011. He worked at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) in 2017 where he was a recipient of the Summer Journeyman Fellowship. He also worked as a research intern at 3M Company in summer 2015. Reza's research interest lies in the intersection of computer vision, machine learning, and robotics. He has taught Computer Vision and Artificial Intelligence courses at Indiana University. Prior to that, he was a lead graduate teaching assistant (GTA) for Introduction to Computing in George Mason University.



Fun fact: Reza loves to draw and paint as a hobby. He is a sports enthusiast. He follows international cricket, soccer, mixed martial arts matches.

### Meaghan Rowe-Johnson, Assistant Professor of

#### Psychology

Meaghan completed her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Iowa and her doctoral internship at Northwestern University. She has taught undergraduate and graduate students at Aurora North and has worked as a therapist at the local domestic violence shelter. Meaghan's research interests have largely focused on social justice issues and vocational psychology. She's currently exploring the contextual and systemic factors impacting marginalized undergraduate students' postgraduate school application self-efficacy. She hopes to understand how social class, race/ethnicity, first-generation status, and other contextual factors impact students' access to resources, beliefs in their ability to succeed at different tasks within the postgraduate application process, and their application behaviors.

Fun fact: One of her ancestors is Robert Burns, the poet who wrote Auld Lang Syne (our New Year's Eve song)!

### Abigail Stepnitz, Assistant Professor of Law, Politics

#### and Society

Abigail earned a BA in Politics from the University of San Francisco, MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics, and her Ph.D. in Jurisprudence & Social Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on immigration and asylum, with a particular focus on asylum eligibility and legal processing. She has a particular passion for law and cultural studies, including law and the humanities. During her first semester at Drake, she is teaching a course on Migration & Membership and a course on Law & Popular Culture.

Fun fact: Abigail was stung by a jellyfish in the Mediterranean in 2008 and plans to hold it against the entire species as long as she lives.

### Stefanie Wang, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Stefanie earned her BA in a Great Books program at Saint Mary's College of California. After that, she completed a one-year post-baccalaureate program in mathematics at Smith College. She earned her Ph.D. from Iowa State in mathematics in 2017. Since then, she has taught at Trinity College and Smith College in New England. For her research, Stefanie studies quasigroups and their representations. She's interested in solving questions with pure routes using theoretical and computational methods.

Fun fact: Stefanie brews her own kombucha and loves making fermented foods!

### Alumni Awards Nominations

Please consider nominating one of your awesome alumni for the prestigious Alumni Awards. Nominations are open until September 24th. Please submit any applications for worthy alumni here: [Alumni Awards Nomination Form](#).

### Advising Corner

#### New Advisor Training:

The advisor training session for new advisors in A&S is on **Friday, September 17th, 3-4pm in CS 309**. All A&S faculty are welcome to join in having a refresher on general University policies and procedures as related to advising.

#### Process for ADA-based testing accommodations:

- 1) If the student's accommodation requires a reader, scribe, or assistive technology (e.g., screen-reader software), please contact [Access and Success](#) (formerly Student Disability Services) (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.
- 2) If needed, clarify specific student needs/accommodations with Access and Success. They will continue determining eligibility for accommodations and helping students and faculty understand what an accommodation requires.
- 3) Provide ADA-based exam accommodations through personal/self or departmental resources, when available.
- 4) If individual/faculty or departmental resources are not available, please review, complete, and follow the process outlined in the [attached document](#) to seek college-level assistance (also linked [here](#), under "Other Faculty Forms," as a downloadable and fillable pdf form)
- 5) Dean's Office staff and administrative assistants should not be engaged as exam proctors.

**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 the support with advisors and other student support staff on campus. Allowing for timely intervention, this has proven benefits for retention and graduation rates.

#### Undergraduate Research Registration

To register for an undergraduate research, students will work with their faculty to [fill out this form](#) and obtain the required signatures. The student will need to submit a course title, number of credit hours to be completed, and a course description and syllabus that details the focus of the course and how it will be graded.

#### A&S Dean's Emergency Fund for students

If you are working with a student in need of one-time emergency aid to support their educational expenses, please direct them to [fill out this form](#) to apply for the A&S Dean's Emergency Fund. The fund was created with the generous support of the National Alumni Council to help students with financial assistance in a serious time of need. This fund is intended to be a supplemental financial resource when students are unable to meet immediate and essential expenses directly related to their education. Examples of qualifying needs include, but are not limited to textbooks, supplies, instruments, or equipment required for Drake courses.

#### Proactive Advising

It's hard to believe that in just one month, you'll start to be approached by advisees to discuss spring 2022 courses. To best work with those advisees who may have ended the spring semester on academic probation, you will hear from Alina Grimm or Mary Beth Holley, who will share with you a list of your advisees on academic probation. Please work with these students to identify coursework that may be retaken, or to create strategies for better study skills.

#### 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](#).

### Reading Corner

[10 Course Policies to Rethink on Your Fall Syllabus](#)

### A&S Important Dates

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

- September 13: Last day to drop a class without a "W"
- September 17 Spring 2022 schedule entry completed to be reviewed by the A&S Dean's Office
- September 23: Stalnaker Lecture by Dr. Maura Lyons, 6:30pm, Sheslow Auditorium
- October 1
  - P&T Candidate 2020 recommendations due to the Dean
  - Intent to apply for promotion to professor in Fall 2022 due to Dean/Chair
  - Friends of Drake Arts grant applications due (Fine Arts Faculty only)

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