



## A&S Newsletter

December 2, 2019



Drake University Theatre's presentation of "Pippin" on November 21-24

### Dean's Note

Dear all,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and came back with enough energy to make it through the end of the semester! Please take a break from the busy week and join our all faculty and staff meeting this Friday, December 6th from 2-4pm in Levitt Hall. The theme of the meeting will be "A Conversation about Institutional Change and the Threshold of Pain" where we can share what motivates us to enact curricular, programmatic or institutional changes. We'd like to hear about specific initiatives (past or future ones), what it takes to implement them, and what roadblocks you encounter. The conversation will be framed by Renee Cramer and the lessons she took from a workshop held by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) on institutional transformation. This will be a great conversation starter—so please come prepared with your stories to share!

There are some updates on personnel in the college. We completed the search for a new budget manager who will start on January 6th (the offer has not been signed yet so I will not disclose any more information at this point—can't jinx it!). I just wanted to say thank you to the search committee and their stellar work! Thank you also to Karen MacKinnon, Ann Guddall, Joni Kinnan and everybody else on the team who has helped to keep things moving while we are short staffed. There were many others who stepped up and continue to lend their support—thank you!

The 2020 admission cycle is in full swing. We had identified some new initiatives to boost enrollment, accelerated existing ones and made adjustments where the energy did not pay off. Our numbers so far are holding up—but we have a long way to go! I regularly share with your department chairs updates on the admission funnel report, feel free to check in with them for more details. Please know that every personal interaction you have with prospective students and their parents makes a huge difference. Thank you for all the time you spend recruiting students!

Good luck to all of you with your last class meetings this week. Then comes all the grading... but the end is in sight!

See you on Friday at the all faculty and staff meeting. We will have time to chat and celebrate the end of the semester with good food, drinks, and the company of our colleagues and friends. I am looking forward to it!

Gesine

### Don't forget!

**A&S All Faculty & Staff Meeting and Holiday Reception:** Friday, December 6, 2:00-4:00pm in Levitt Hall. Come celebrate with us! If you haven't already, please RSVP to Karen via the sent Outlook Calendar invite. We want to make sure there's enough food and drinks for everybody!

### Commencement on December 14

The Fall 2019 Commencement will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 in the Knapp Center, starting at 10:00am. If you would like to participate in this celebratory event, please RSVP to [Karen MacKinnon](#) by Wednesday, December 11.

For questions about academic regalia (cap and gown, etc.), please contact the Drake University Book Store (515) 274-3401. For questions about the upcoming commencement event, please contact [Jenny Tran-Johnson](#), x3094.

### Advising Corner

- As the end of the semester approaches, please provide your students with an opportunity to complete student evaluations. According to the A&S Handbook, "the College of Arts and Sciences affirms the importance of student course evaluations to both the development of teaching excellence and of evaluation of faculty performance in relation to tenure, promotion and merit reviews." It mandates that "all faculty must provide for student evaluation of each course taught" (section 4.7 of the [Handbook](#)).
- Grades are due before 10:00am on Wednesday, December 18.
- Submit grades for everyone on your roster(s). If a student appearing on your roster did not validate his/her attendance at the beginning of the semester, or stopped attending, please email [marybeth.holtey@drake.edu](mailto:marybeth.holtey@drake.edu), so follow-up can be completed. If a student has a non-reported grade on his/her transcript, he/she cannot be listed on the Dean's List or President's List or earn a degree, as applicable.
- If you enter a grade incorrectly, i.e. you enter a grade of B, but the student earned an A, please email [marybeth.holtey@drake.edu](mailto:marybeth.holtey@drake.edu), with the student's name, ID, and course name. She will work with the registrar's office to update the grade.
- If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) or in-progress grade (IP) and the student has now earned a letter grade please enter that grade through MyDUSIS. If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work in a class currently marked as incomplete or in-progress, please email me so I can work with the Office of Student Records to create the extension.
- If you oversaw an independent study or internship, please remember to enter a grade.
- When determining testing accommodations, please refer to this procedure:
  - If the student's accommodation requires a reader, scribe, or assistive technology (e.g., screen-reader software), please contact Student Disability Services (515-271-1835)
  - If needed, clarify specific student needs/accommodations with Student Disability Services.
  - If the accommodations require extra time, reduced/low distraction testing space, and/or private testing space, provide them through personal/self or departmental resources, when available.
  - If individual/faculty or departmental resources are not available, please review, complete, and submit [this form](#) to [natalie.bayer@drake.edu](mailto:natalie.bayer@drake.edu).

### Spotlights!

**Joan Faber McAlister**, Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Media, and Social Change, is a 2019 recipient of the national Faculty Mentoring Award from the Rhetoric and Communication Theory division of the National Communication Association. She is the only/first winner of this award from an undergraduate department and institution. She was presented the award by Professor Daniel Brouwer, Arizona State University, whose speech included appreciative notes from former students and colleagues, discussing how she "empowers students not only to pursue their desired careers after graduation, but to identify and respond to the needs of their communities creatively and effectively." Congratulations!

**Robert Craig**, Professor of Art, installed his sculpture Holdfast (12' 6" tall, fabricated out of aluminum with a kinetic top element that turns in the wind) at the Blanden Art Museum on November 6. This project began nearly two years ago when he was commissioned by the Blanden Charitable Foundation to create an outdoor sculpture for the Blanden Art Museum's grounds in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The Blanden is the oldest art museum in Iowa and it is located in the historic Oak Hill District: a neighborhood founded by the early industrialists of Fort Dodge.



**Nate Holdren**, Assistant Professor of Law, Politics, and Society, co-organized a pre-conference workshop on November 21 at the conference of the American Society for Legal History (ASLH), held in Boston. The workshop was co-facilitated with Professor Alison Lefkowitz from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University Federated Department of History. At the event eight legal historians discussed precirculated drafts of book proposals, as well as logistical issues about how to organize the work of research and writing amid the other obligations on faculty time. The event built on Holdren and Lefkowitz's experience in work-in-progress workshoping via the ASLH's prestigious Hurst Institute in Legal History. The event also drew on the experience of Drake's Faculty Writing Group, co-coordinated by Nate Holdren and En Li, Assistant Professor of History. Contact either of them if you would like to learn more about the Faculty Writing Group.



**The Arabic Evening**, organized by adjunct Ibrahim Khalayli of the World Languages and Cultures department on November 20, featured Arabic language students singing in Arabic; other Arabic videos, trivia, and sweets; and prizes including WLC's new department t-shirts. A [video of the singing](#) and a [video of the entire presentation](#) are available for viewing.

**Tim Knepper, Brad Crowell, and Leah Kalmanson** of the Department of Philosophy and Religion helped lead a workshop at the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, focusing on collaborative relationships between universities and local non-profit organizations like the Interfaith Youth Leadership Camp collaboration between The Comparison Project and the Des Moines Area Religious Council. The three faculty members led the workshop along with Sarah Trone Garriott and Luke Eizinga of DMARC and former Drake student Taylor Donaldson, now a graduate student at Harvard Divinity School. This group also presented at a panel discussion during the conference focusing on the Interfaith Youth Leadership Camp that takes place at Drake every July. Three current Drake students - Sara Feldman, Nicole Margheim, and Amina Talic - also presented during the panel discussion.

### Mental Health First Aid Training

Do you know how to help your students when they are having a crisis? Have you ever wondered how you can help them further? Sign up for [Mental Health First Aid in Higher Education](#) training lead by Dr. Christine Urish, Occupational Therapy faculty, taking place on Tuesday, January 21st, 8:30-4:30 in the Occupational Therapy Building. Mental Health First Aid is designed to give people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a crisis. The workshop is supported by the Provost office, as well as the College of Arts and Sciences. **To register for the workshop, please email [natalie.bayer@drake.edu](mailto:natalie.bayer@drake.edu) by December 18th.**

### From OnCampus:

- Final reminder that the Open Enrollment Period for Benefits ends December 2, today! The Benefits Portal is available through MyDrake.
- A Budget Town Hall will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 3:30pm in Shivers Hospitality Suite. President Martin will share an update on the budget, followed by the Provost's Drake Social.
- Submit a nomination for the [Newman Civic Fellowship](#) to recognize and support a community-committed student who is a changemaker and public problem-solver. More information about the fellowship can be found [here](#).

### Reading Corner

"How to Give Your Students Better Feedback With Technology" by Holly Fiosic and Heather Garcia, 2019: [https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/20191108-Advice-Feedback?cid=wsinglestory\\_hp\\_3](https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/20191108-Advice-Feedback?cid=wsinglestory_hp_3).

### Upcoming Events

All of these events are on the University Calendar at [calendar.drake.edu](#). You can submit an event to this calendar yourself—please do so to spread the news about all the things we do in A&S!

- December 2: [Keys to Excellence Recital featuring Nicholas Roth](#), Sheslow Auditorium, 7:30pm
- December 3: [Drake Orchestra's Winter Concert](#), Sheslow Auditorium, 7:30pm
- December 4: [Drake Jazz 2 Winter Concert](#), Turner Jazz Center, 7:30pm
- December 6: [Drake Honor Band Concert featuring the Drake University Bands](#), Performing Arts Hall, 7:30pm
- December 7: [Drake Honor Band Concert featuring the High School Honor Bands](#), Performing Arts Hall, 5:30pm
- December 8: [SNATS Opera Recital](#), Turner Jazz Recital, 2:30pm
- December 9: [Musical Theatre Cabaret](#), Noce, 7:00pm
- Until December 10: [UNICEF Children of the World Plate Collection](#) on display in Cowles Library Atrium
- December 14: [Guitars Under the Stars](#), Drake Observatory, 7:00pm
- December 22: First Concert of Umeri (Drake's new alumni choir), St. Ambrose Cathedral, 3:00pm

### A&S Important Dates

All of these dates are located [here](#).

- December 6: Dead day
- December 9-13: Finals week
- December 14: Commencement (RSVP by Wednesday, December 11)
- December 18: Final fall semester grades due by 10:00am
- December 20: University closed for holiday break after 4:30pm
- January 2: University reopens
- January 6: J-term begins

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