

A&S Newsletter

April 21, 2021



This year's Beautiful Bulldog Winner, Myrtle Mae.

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Dean's Note

Dear all,

This is the Wednesday edition of our A&S Newsletter. What a week it has been already! Yesterday, Derek Chauvin was found guilty of the murder of George Floyd. A police officer was held accountable for the killing of a Black man. The anxiously awaited verdict was welcomed with a big sigh of relief, even joy, but it was also a moment of deep reflection and contemplation. As so many have cautioned, the one verdict does not mean that justice will be served, and our work has only begun. I am glad that our students have you as their faculty and mentors during this momentous time. The events of this year have impacted their experiences like nothing else, and the year has been painful, disorienting, lonely, and encouraging all at the same time. We need open conversations and support for each other more than ever before. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion must encompass hiring decisions, curriculum revisions, and program designs, and it will bring about real changes for the long haul. Our commitment to ethical decision-making and social justice as learning outcomes will prepare our students as future leaders ready to expose and eliminate systemic racism and inequity. Thank you for all you are doing to make progress toward this goal.

This week has seen the return of the Drake Relays, April snow, and Myrtle Mae as the most beautiful bulldog for the year. We are in the home stretch of the spring semester, end-of-the-semester events are on, most importantly the A&S Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30 pm, and our all-faculty and staff meeting on Friday, April 30 at 2pm. I hope you can all join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff and engage in planning for the next year. Both events will be held virtually, but with the speed of vaccinations taking place at Drake and everywhere else, the possibility of in-person events is in reach!

We are also sprinting to the finish line in our recruitment cycle. The numbers for Drake overall, but especially for A&S, look very good! Last Friday's admission report showed us 34 students ahead of last year-to-date, and 71 ahead of two years' count. Wow! Our number of committed A&S first-year students is at 321, so we have some 70 to go to make our 390 goal. But we take more, of course! The university stands at 606, with a target of 800. We can say with confidence that the virtual admission events have been successful, but it has taken a lot of time to create engagement and excitement for prospective students. We might keep some of these events in the future. It's heartening to see increasing numbers of students visiting the campus in recent weeks, and for many students, it will take an actual visit to campus to make the final decision to come to Drake. Thank you for all your work recruiting students!

Next year we will focus on retention activities, for first-year but also for upper-class students. Our second-to-third-year retention rate is lower than we want it to be, and it will take our collective expertise and care to make a dent in those. As we plan for in-person classes next fall, we will continue the discussion about the role of virtual and remote teaching and learning at Drake.

Take good care of yourselves and those around you!

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Dean's Office Hours

My next open office hours are scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 3-4pm. I'll be in the Library Café and on [Zoom](#).

A&S Honor's Convocation

The Annual A&S Honor's Convocation will take place on April 29th at 6:30 pm. This is a pre-recorded event that will premiere live at this time! You can tune in using [this link](#) and watch it live or anytime thereafter.

All Faculty and Staff Meeting this Friday

[Please join us on Friday, 2-4pm](#), to celebrate the end of the semester, recognize colleagues, reflect on this year as we plan our future. It's on Zoom, BYUB, wear your best tie-dye shirt, and keep your camera on. No masks required!

Commencement

Commencement ceremonies will take place in-person in the Drake Stadium. Please notice the back-up date in case of bad weather.

[Saturday, May 15, 2021*](#)

9:00 am: Undergraduate commencement, Drake Stadium

2:00 pm: Master's and Education Doctorate degree students, Drake Stadium

*In the event of inclement weather, the May 15 ceremonies will move to Sunday, May 16 at their respective times.

As participating faculty, [please RSVP to Kayla by Monday, May 3](#). Please indicate in your RSVP whether you plan to attend the ceremony on our back-up date of Sunday, May 16th, should the ceremony need to be moved due to inclement weather on May 15. The RSVP is important for determining how many chairs will be set up for faculty.

For ceremonies on Saturday, undergraduate commencement will begin at 9 am in the Drake Stadium. Faculty should plan to arrive no later than 8:30 am to prepare for the ceremony. If you are attending the Saturday afternoon ceremony, please arrive no later than 1:20 p.m. Information regarding check-in location, parking, procession, and COVID-19 procedures will be shared after Monday, May 3 with those planning to attend.

Spunk; Visiting Coleman Artist Production

Thursday – Saturday, April 29 – May 1, at 7:30PM; Sunday, May 2 at 2PM

As this year's William S. E. Coleman Guest Artist, Ken-Matt Martin has been brought back to campus to direct the Department of Theatre Arts' final production of the academic year: Spunk. Ken-Matt is a graduate of Drake, holding majors in Musical Theatre and Journalism.

Ken-Matt's work in the national theatre scene has been outstanding and the department felt it important to bring him to campus to connect with the current students.

The production of Spunk has developed through three weeks of remote conversations and rehearsals, then three weeks of rehearsals on campus. This all leads to four performances that will be held in the William S. E. Coleman Studio Theatre. The publishing rights for Spunk do not allow virtual performances, so we will be holding live audiences in the Performing Arts Hall. These audiences will experience the show in real-time while it is performed in the Coleman Studio Theatre.

Ken-Matt brings incredible knowledge, experience, drive, and passion to his craft and is applying all of that to his work with the students involved in Spunk. Students are taking advantage of his wisdom by simply chatting with Ken-Matt, asking good questions, sharing their goals and experiences, and seeking his advice. All of this is exactly the intent behind the William S. E. Coleman Visiting Guest Artist Series.

Advising Corner

Registration is Over, but Course Overrides Are Not

To assist students needing an override(s) to add course(s), keep in mind the steps for setting a registration override – MyDrake > MyDUSIS > Faculty & Advisors Tab > Registration Overrides. From here, remember you may need to set more than one override to allow a student's registration.

Course Waitlists:

Tomorrow, Wednesday, Apr 21, waitlist automation begins. Automation means that should a student drop from a course, the first student on the waitlist will receive an email and have 48 hours to act on the seat offer. If no action is taken, the student will be dropped from the waitlist and the seat offered to the next student. Waitlist notifications are sent over weekends and holidays. See [Registration Waitlists](#) for more information and to help advisees navigate the process.

Resolving Incomplete (I) Marks:

If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) and the student has now earned a letter grade, please update the grade in MyDUSIS. Within MyDUSIS > Faculty & Advisor tab > Update an Incomplete, In Progress, or Not Reported.

If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work in a class currently marked as incomplete, please email Mary Beth Holtey or Alina Grimm so they can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.

If working with a student who will not successfully complete your course this spring, it may seem "friendly," to offer the student an incomplete and urge them to re-register for the course in the fall, but please do not pursue this path. Why? The student's first attempt will later be updated to a failing grade (XX on the transcript) and the second attempt at the course included in the GPA. It's in the student's better interest to resolve the incomplete and not re-register for the course.

If you are considering granting an Incomplete this semester, please refer to the [Academic Regulations in the General Catalog](#) for the procedures and [note the differences between an Incomplete \(I\) and In Progress \(IP\)](#).

A Caution on Iowa Nice:

If a student has not attended your course for several weeks or submitted any work during the term, it may seem friendly to extend an incomplete, but experience has shown that these students rarely successfully complete the work or earn a high grade. Furthermore, the presence of several incompletes gives the student a false sense of hope (don't most of us have the best of intentions to complete work, only to find we take on too much?). And, students who take several incompletes may be in a type of financial aid "limbo," without resolved credits and a clear sense of hours earned.

Faculty Spotlights

Mary McCarthy, associate professor of Political Science, co-authored an [analysis](#) on the hosting of the Japanese prime minister for the Washington Post and the [Diplomat](#). She was also interviewed for Bloomberg Daybreak Asia's [April 16th program](#).

The Organization of American Historians awarded a book prize to Drake Professor **Nate Holdren** for his book *Injury Impoverished: Workplace Accidents, Capitalism, and Law in the Progressive Era*. The book won the honorable mention for the Merle Curti Intellectual History Award for books published in 2020. The book, published in the Cambridge University Press series Historical Studies in American Law and Society, examines the creation and early operation of workers' compensation laws in the early twentieth century United States.

Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunities

Sarah Grady, faculty member in CPHS, will facilitate several Mental Health First Aid training sessions over the next few months. There are still a few open spots for the training scheduled for June 1 – 8:30- 4:00.

Please respond to melissa.sturm-smith@drake.edu as soon as possible if you would like to participate in the session.

Meeting Free Days

Upcoming meeting-free dates:

- Tuesday 27 May
- Wednesday 23 June

Important Action Items:

Budget Requests

To request funds for presenting at 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 funding for registration to virtual conferences for which they are presenters. 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](#)

A&S Important Dates

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

- April 29
A&S Honors Convocation
- April 30
A&S All-Faculty Meeting

[Submit News](#)