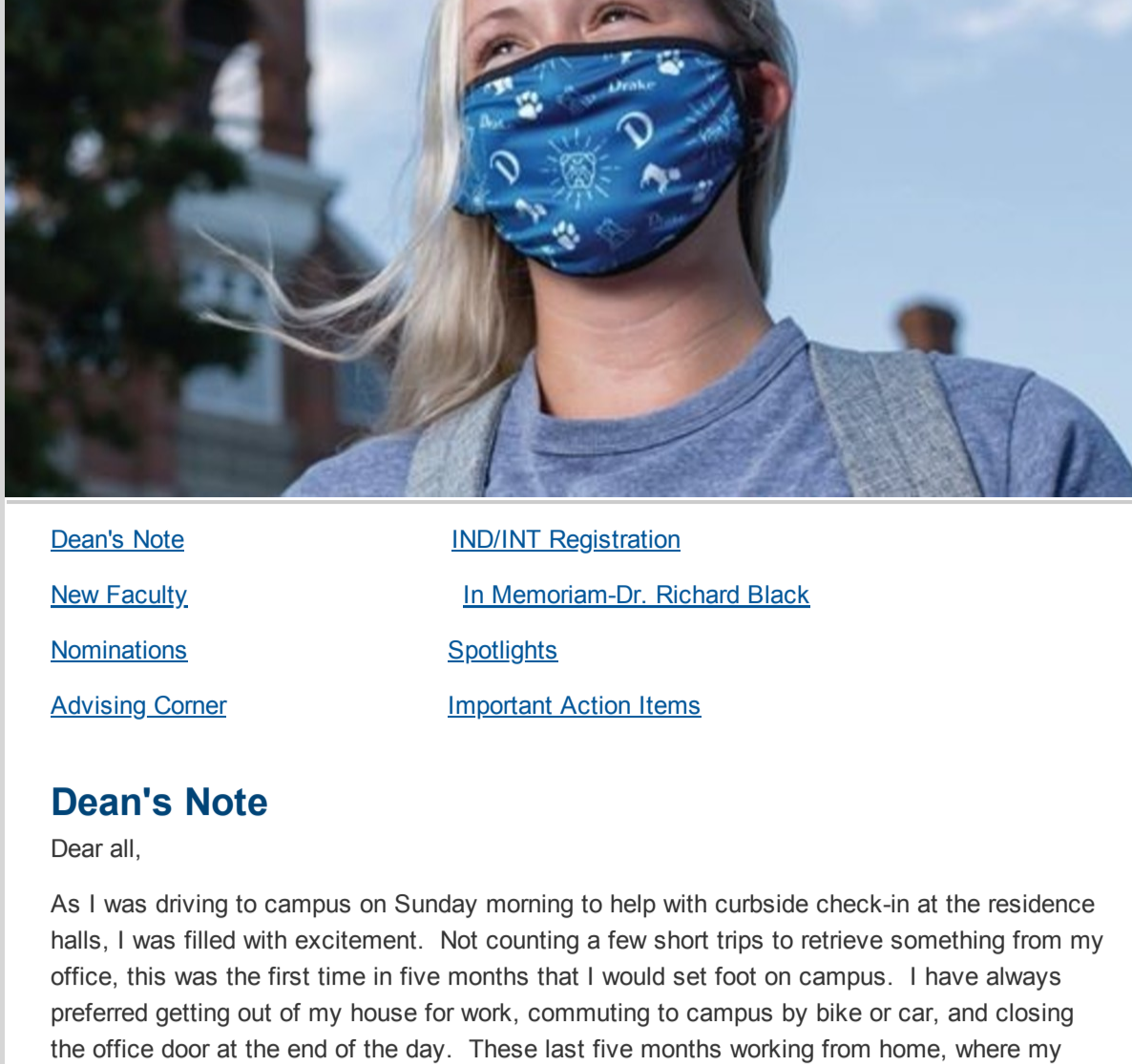


A&S Newsletter

August 17, 2020

[Dean's Note](#)[IND/INT Registration](#)[New Faculty](#)[In Memoriam-Dr. Richard Black](#)[Nominations](#)[Spotlights](#)[Advising Corner](#)[Important Action Items](#)

Dean's Note

Dear all,

As I was driving to campus on Sunday morning to help with curbside check-in at the residence halls, I was filled with excitement. Not counting a few short trips to retrieve something from my office, this was the first time in five months that I would set foot on campus. I have always preferred getting out of my house for work, commuting to campus by bike or car, and closing the office door at the end of the day. These last five months working from home, where my commute covered about 10 feet from my bed to my desk, in a house filled with five people who also had no place to go, have been challenging in many ways. So just leaving the house yesterday and driving to campus was a thrill! I was also anxious to see what it would look like: students moving into their residence halls, starting college amidst a pandemic that has changed so many things. What was the mood going to be? What would parents feel dropping their student off, with only three hours to check out their son or daughter's room? Would students feel the long-anticipated rush of starting a new chapter in their life?

Standing outside of Herriott put all my worries at ease. I chatted with parents, for whom this was just as big and exciting of a day as any year. Students logged their fridges up the stairs, dropped pillows in the parking lot, and happily inspected their rooms. Sure, there was a new strict protocol in place, everyone was wearing a mask, and no crowds could be seen. But still, it felt normal, it felt like...the beginning of a new academic year! It felt like a big day.

I can't wait to get this semester started. All the preparation over the summer will finally come to fruition. The many questions we've had, the guidelines that seemed to change by the week, the stressful anticipation will come to an end. New questions will arise, but we will deal with them then and there. We will meet our new students, see familiar faces return, and get our classes going. No matter what modality, we can start doing what we do best—engage our students in exciting class material, mentor, discuss and experiment with them, and watch them grow. We have worked so hard to get ready for classes, we have come to terms with the COVID capacity of our rooms, figured out how to translate class content into the language of virtual land, adjusted our syllabi, devised detailed plans on how to do band, discussion sections, theatre ensemble, science labs, art studios and community learning. We know how to accommodate remote learners, teach students divided into smaller groups, manage f2f interactions, and any combination thereof. We have come up with ideas of how to create community in times of social distancing. It's about time we try it out. Let's get the semester started!

Reading about your plans for fall classes (thank you all for filling out the Qualtrics form! Here is the [link](#) if you haven't done it yet), reassures me that students will get what made them choose Drake in the first place: exceptional learning opportunities, individualized attention, committed professors, knowledge mentors. We will let prospective students, parents, donors and about everybody else who asks know about that. Many of our faculty have chosen to teach classes virtually, while the majority of our students decided to be on campus. We will have to work extra hard to include personalized and synchronous interactions. Even if your classes are online, you might choose to hold office hours face-to-face with one student at a time, meet with small groups outside or at a socially safe distance. Thank you for your creativity addressing the challenges, your great flexibility, your patience. Thank you for all the hard work you've put in over the summer. Here is to a great fall semester!!!

Gesine

Dean's Office Hours

The Dean host office hours from 2:30-3:30pm on Zoom on Wednesday, August 19. Please use [this link](#) to join in a conversation with the Dean!

New Faculty!

Please help us welcome the following new faculty to the College of Arts & Sciences. We hope you will have a chance to meet them soon, in person or on a zoom call! More in-depth bios on each faculty member will be shared in future newsletters!

Tenure-Track Faculty

- Adam Yankow, Assistant Professor of Theatre
- Arturo Marquez, Jr, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- Erin Wegleitner, Assistant Professor of Theatre Design
- Felicia Jamison, Assistant Professor of History
- Kieran Williams, Assistant Professor of Politics
- Meredith Moore, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Ryan Sturms, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Visiting Professors

- Marcella Hagan, Visiting Assistant Professor of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Alexia Angton, Visiting Assistant Professor of Culture & Society
- Elizabeth Talbert, Visiting Assistant Professor of Culture & Society
- Ali Malik, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Politics, and Society
- Andrew Becklin, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Sara Chari, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Herb Folsom, Visiting Assistant Professor of Astronomy
- Victor Medina, Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish

Nominations for Stalnaker Lecture 2021 and the Distinguished Engagement Award

Nominations for the Stalnaker Lecturer 2021 and the Distinguished Engagement Award 2020 are due on September 1st. These awards will be announced at the 2020 Stalnaker Lecture (date TBA, in October). Please submit nomination letters to [Kayla Jenkins](#) for each award. Please find the descriptions of the awards below and past recipients [here](#):

Stalnaker Lecturer:

The Stalnaker Lecture Award is presented to a distinguished faculty member who is invited to present a lecture to the University community on a topic in his or her discipline. The lecturer must be a faculty member holding the rank of professor or associate professor (in at least her/his fourth academic year at that rank). Previous recipients are not eligible.

Distinguished Engagement Award:

The College of Arts & Sciences established the Distinguished Engagement Award to recognize outstanding contributions of Drake faculty and staff to the college community.

Eligibility: The nominee must be a current faculty or staff member with at least five years of employment at Drake.

Advising Corner

Advising Workshops:

The **advisor training session** for new advisors in A&S is on Monday, August 17th, 11:00-12:00 (just before the Learning Symposium). I am extending an open invitation to all A&S faculty to join us in having a "refresher" on general University policies and procedures as related to advising. We will meet on [Zoom](#); meeting ID: 822 2429 5146.

On Friday, August 21st, 10:00-11:00, please join Danielle Green from the Counseling Center and Michelle Laughlin and Brooke Sanders from Student Disability Services for an informal conversation. We will talk about how the Counseling Center and SDS will deliver their services in the Fall, ADA accommodations, issues of accessibility, resources, and in general about supporting students and helping them continue learning in the times of uncertainty. We would welcome your questions - please submit them beforehand by responding to this email. Meeting on [Zoom](#); meeting ID: 840 7808 7438.

Messages to your 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 preferred meeting mode (campus or virtual) 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, emphasize relevant academic deadlines (all of which can be found on the [Registrar's academic calendar](#)).

Early alert and validation: 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.

As outlined in the faculty manual, instructors must validate the enrollment of students on the first day of each class. Attached are instructions on how to submit your validation. The enrollment validation link is only active for the first seven calendar days from the start date of your class, and the submission process takes only a few seconds. Please note, failure to validate enrollment may lead to incorrect billing, potential financial aid miscalculations, and inaccurate student records. To access the enrollment validation link, log into myDrake ([my.drake.edu](#)), click on "Faculty Registration Tools" (under the Faculty & Advising section), and click on the "Enrollment Validation Submittal" link at the bottom of the page.

Add/Drop Email Notifications: Once the semester begins, primary course instructors will receive an email notification each time a student adds or drops your course. These notifications follow the official add and drop periods. Students have through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Aug 28 to add a course and through 11:59 p.m. Friday, Sept 4 to drop a course.

Useful student-support resources: Just like there is a page for [faculty and staff](#) for resources on policies, procedures, and protocols regarding COVID-19, and is a page for [students](#) outlining student services, support, and resources. Please keep checking in frequently to familiarize yourself with the most recent Drake-wide information.

Whenever applicable, please direct students to apply for **CARES Act Emergency Funds** for Students, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided for a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to assist students. Per the direction of the U.S. Department of Education, these grants can only be used for student "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses." The Department of Education has explicitly prohibited using the grant dollars to compensate a student for lost income due to their or another's loss of employment. For more on eligibility and application process, see [CARES Act Emergency Grant Update](#) and [FAQ](#).

Independent Study/Internship Registration and Compensation

Faculty members of record for independent studies and internships will be compensated with a system that banks faculty workload hours. Once a faculty member banks 24 workload hours, according to the guidelines below, that faculty member receives a reassignment for 1 course.

For a 3-credit independent study, a faculty member would bank 3 workload hours. Banked faculty work hours for internships be 50% of the registered student credit hours. So, for a 3-credit internship, a faculty member would bank 1.5 workload hours. 24 banked workload hours = 1 course reassignment.

The maximum number of independent study credits any faculty member can accrue toward the banking model is 12 credits per academic year. There will be no expiration of the banking period.

To register for an independent study or an internship, students will work with their faculty to [fill out the form](#) and obtain the required signatures. Students and advisors will make every effort to be sure that students enroll in courses (especially those required for degree completion) when they are regularly offered. Individuating or extenuating circumstances that prevent students from taking courses when regularly offered will be taken into consideration.

Drake IRL (Immersive/Independent Remote Learning)

Drake IRL (Immersive/Independent Remote Learning): Drake IRL is a new program developed by Renee Cramer that allows Drake students to stay enrolled, working towards progress on their degree, and taking a full course load; without feeling like they are on-line all the time. Students will be working in small cohorts, following personalized learning opportunities. If you have students who might benefit from staying connected to Drake (and not taking that gap semester or year), or if you are interested in leading a cohort, please contact [Renee Cramer](#).

Bulldog Days of Summer

Two hundred seventy-one high school students attended the first virtual Bulldog Days of Summer (BDOS). This year, the program included a student panel, student-led virtual tours, and interactive academic sessions. Thank you to all the faculty and students who contributed to making Bulldog Days of Summer a great success!

In Memoriam

Professor Emerti of Art, Richard Black, passed away on July 28, 2020. [Find a more detailed biography here](#). From Robert Craig:

"Richard and Drake have a long and productive history that began when he received his Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the Art Department in 1957. He returned to teach Printmaking in 1960 and remained at Drake until his retirement in 1994. During his tenure as a Professor of Art, Richard founded the Biennial National Print Symposium and from 1975-1991 he organized these symposia, bringing artists from the U.S. and abroad to exhibit and demonstrate print media."

Student Spotlights!

Josie Pechous, senior BCMB major, secured an internship at the Kennedy Space Center where she will be working on Space Crop Production research. She will be analyzing past spaceflight experiments to find trends that will be useful in developing future crops for NASA exploration missions.

All the undergraduate students of the Bartschat group completed BEUs this summer. **Gavin Menning** and **Keegan Finger** carried out research in experimental particle physics and computational condensed matter physics at University of Minnesota, while **David Atri-Schuller** joined a quasi-crystal research group at the University of Chicago.

Faculty Spotlights!

Nate Holdren, assistant professor of Law, Politics, and Society, recently published his first book, [Injury Impoverished](#). He wrote a series of blog posts about the book and the process of writing it for the [Legal History Blog](#) and the Labor and Working Class History Association held a [roundtable](#) to discuss it.

As of August 14 2020, **Nanci Ross**, associate professor of biology, will be stepping into the role of President of the Society for Economic Botany (SEB). The SEB is an international society of academic, non-profit, and industry researchers dedicated to fostering research and education on the past, present, and future uses of plants by people.

Alumni Spotlights!

Michael Heaston ('02) returned to The Metropolitan Opera in New York as its newly-appointed Artistic Administrator. In this role he oversees all artistic planning and casting for the largest arts organization in the United States and one of the most revered opera houses in the world.

Elihana Huffman ('19) completed a Masters in Biomedical Sciences at Iowa State University in May 2020. This summer she participated in the Strong Children's Research Program at the University of Rochester in NY. Elihana recently moved to Washington, DC to begin a Post-baccalaureate Program at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

Important Action Items:

COVID-19 Prevention Training

All faculty/staff members must complete a 15 minute COVID-19 training on Blackboard by Monday, August 31. To complete the training, please access your "Courses" via the left hand menu of Blackboard and following the instructions for the course.

Current Plans for Fall 2020 Classes

Please submit [this Qualtrics Form](#) to describe how you will conduct your fall classes including any innovative ideas. We will use this information to answer your questions from current and prospective students, parents, donors and anybody who asks!

Budget Requests

To request funds for attending 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 funds for registration to virtual conferences. Requests for teaching materials will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The dean's office will submit all requests to the provost's office for final approval.

[COVID-19: University Updates Page](#)

Updates from Information Technology Services (ITS):

Blackboard Learn LMS Update: As we begin to the process to upgrade to the latest version of the Blackboard Learn LMS, the courses landing page has a new look. Learn more about the navigation changes at [Getting Started with Ultra Base Navigation in Learn Ultra \(How-to\)](#).

Not sure what Drake ITS offers? Visit [drake.edu/its/facstaff](#) to learn about all of the tech resources and tools available to you.

Need tech help? Due to campus social distancing requirements the support center in Carnegie Hall is not open for walk-in assistance. Visit our IT service portal at [service.drake.edu/its](#) (or via the ITS Support button in myDrake) or call 271-3001 to get answers or report any tech issues. Our new distance support options launched last year allow ITS staff to resolve many problems remotely.

Reading Corner

As we start the new semester, advising has become crucial to help students with their differing situations. The Chronicle of Higher Education posted a thought-provoking article entitled "[A Crusade Against Terrible Advising](#)." Reminder that all advisors must reach out to their advisees in some way during the first week of classes!

A&S Important Dates

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

- August 17: Welcome Week begins
- August 24: Fall Term begins (remote for week one)
- August 28: Last day to add a class
- September 1: Stalnaker Lecturer and Distinguished Engagement Nominations are due.
- September 4: Last day to drop a class without a "W"
- September 7: Labor Day; University Closed

[Submit News](#)

Drake University College of Arts & Sciences 2507 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311
 T 515-271-3939 F 515-271-2558 W [www.drake.edu/arts/](#)

[unsubscribe](#)
[Subscribe](#) to our email list.