

## A&S Newsletter

February 15, 2021


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### Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are all in a warm place today. As I am looking at ice crystals on the inside of my window and wrapping the blanket tightly around my legs, I can't stop but wonder what else will happen. As if COVID wasn't enough to upend our classes! This was to be the first day of in-person classes! I hope at this point the sudden switch feels a little less disruptive than previous ones. That's easier said than done for some classes—I know! Please continue to let me know what you need to make teaching virtually easier for you and for your students.

On the bright side: Drake continues to partner with Hy-Vee to conduct vaccinations on campus for those eligible. As vaccination rates across the state increase and infection rates go down, there is hope that life will begin to look more like "normal." But in the meantime we have to remain vigilant and follow all guidelines to stay safe on campus and beyond. Please check out the COVID-19 Drake Updates that are sent every Friday with the most up-to-date information.

I mentioned in my email on Friday the strong admission numbers we are seeing in the college. Thank you all for your participation in the many recruitment activities! All of the events are held virtually, including two weekends of NAS programming. The number of students who participated in the National Alumni Scholarship competition was higher than ever (+700), and even if only a small number of them will receive the scholarship, this is definitely a great recruitment event. There will be lots of follow-up with the many great students who participated, thank you in advance for your help with this.

Check out the other announcements in this newsletter. And yes, there is live theatre going on at Drake! Next up is the musical *Songs for a New World*. It will open on February 25 when it can be enjoyed as a video on demand. See below! Finally, please continue to share your own accomplishments with us so that we can publicize and celebrate you.

Have a good week!

Gesine

### Dean's Open Office Hours

The Dean will be available [via Zoom](#) for open office hours on Thursday, February 25 from 2:30-4pm.

### Advising Corner

#### Drop Period

The drop period ended on Friday, Feb 12. If a student's name remains on your roster and he/she/they has not attended your class regularly, please email [alina.grimm@drake.edu](mailto:alina.grimm@drake.edu) (science courses) or [marybeth.holtey@drake.edu](mailto:marybeth.holtey@drake.edu) (non-science courses) so follow-up can be completed. Our office also will be sending an email to A&S students on Wed., Feb. 17, asking them to ensure the accuracy of their spring schedule.

#### Missed Enrollment Validation

No judgment here, but don't make a bad situation worse by not reporting science courses to [alina.grimm@drake.edu](mailto:alina.grimm@drake.edu) or non-science courses to [marybeth.holtey@drake.edu](mailto:marybeth.holtey@drake.edu). If a student didn't truly validate, he/she/they should be dropped now and not at the end of the term when grades are due.

#### Change of Grade Requests

Only the Registrar's Office can update grades on student transcripts. If a student brings to your attention a grading error or if the date by which to update an Incomplete, In Progress or Not Reported Mark has passed, please submit a Change of Grade Request: MyDrake > Faculty & Advisors Tab > Change of Grade Request (last option on the page).

### Celebrate Global Diversity and Support the Catalyst Fund: Blues with Kevin Burt

The Catalyst Fund at Drake University invites you to close out the 2021 Global Citizen Forum with an evening of blues by Kevin Burt at a virtual concert via Facebook Live on Friday, March 5 at 7 p.m. Kevin is the 2018 International Blues Challenge winner in three categories and a 2019 Blues Foundation nominee. The Catalyst Fund was created by a group of faculty committed to advancing the goals of equity and inclusion at Drake University. The fund awards scholarships and emergency grants to students with demonstrated financial need who are part of an historically and/or currently underrepresented group, including domestic students of color, undocumented immigrants, refugees, and first generation college students. The event will feature the musical performance of Kevin Burt, a self-taught musician whose smooth, warm vocal presentation sets a mood of relaxed exhilaration, with a welcome mixture of serious music and infectious humor audiences of all ages seem to enjoy. For those in Des Moines, you will have the option of picking up a Latin-inspired boxed meal from Delicias by Lorena prior to the concert to enhance your evening and support a local caterer.

Time/ event schedule: Friday March 5 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. CST.

Link(s): [The Catalyst Fund](#)

Additional Information: Suggested donation for the concert is \$20. [Donate Now.](#)

If you would like to order a meal, you can register on [Eventbrite here](#):

### Theatre Production: Songs for a New World

- Available from February 25-March 12 for 48-hour rental from <https://www.showix4u.com/event-details/45340>

The Drake University Theatre Arts Department is excited to produce *Songs for a New World*, a musical by Jason Robert Brown. The show is a song cycle, a collection of songs thematically compiled. The audience is encouraged to think about each song as its own mini One Act play. The show is about the moments in life where we come to the metaphorical fork in the road. Life is going along and then something happens and you have to make a decision that could change your life forever. Each song explores specific moments and how those decisions may or may not change their path forward.



### Global Citizen Forum

Drake University is partnering with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) to host the Global Citizen Forum, a virtual conference on equity and inclusion in higher education **March 3-5, 2021**. The conference will provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and students from around the world to share in their experiences, challenges, and solutions that have shown progress in the area of equity and inclusion.

#### Faculty & Staff

Drake faculty and staff are eligible to attend all three days of the conference free of charge by using the access code DUFACSTAFF at registration. [Register now >>](#)

#### Students

Undergraduate and graduate students from any institution may also attend free of charge by selecting the "Student" ticket type. [Register now >>](#)

### Meeting Free Days

The day off from meetings that was scheduled this past November 3rd was a welcome break, and enhanced the mental and emotional well-being of students, staff, and faculty. This spring, there will be one day each month designated as meeting-free. Note—only three of these days occur during the spring academic semester. Faculty are encouraged to lighten the load for students on these days, and may choose to cancel class as appropriate and at their discretion.

Upcoming meeting-free dates:

- Wednesday 17 February**
- Tuesday 16 March
- Wednesday 14 April
- Tuesday 27 May
- Wednesday 23 June

### A&S Teacher of the Year Nominations

It's time to nominate your colleagues 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.

Among the criteria the committee will consider include (i.e., this list is not exhaustive): (1) use of innovative teaching practices, (2) enthusiasm for teaching and/or the subject matter (3) personal commitment to students, and (4) overall effectiveness in facilitating student learning.

### ITS Update

#### MS Teams Presentations

Below are upcoming courses in Microsoft Teams that will be taught by certified Microsoft trainers.

#### Introduction to Microsoft Teams (live virtual presentation)

Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

About a year ago, ITS launched the use of Microsoft Teams on campus. This collaboration and communication tool combines chat, Outlook, file sharing, and Office 365 to create a single easy to use platform. Haven't started using Teams yet? Not sure where to get started? This introductory course will provide an overview of Microsoft Teams, its general features and basic navigation, channels, and chat.

#### Advanced Microsoft Teams (live virtual presentation)

Thursday, March 11 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

This course will build on the foundation of the Microsoft Teams 100 course offered on Feb. 23. Learn more about the functions of Teams, chats, channels, and other available tools including an in-depth look at document collaboration and SharePoint integration. Additionally, the course will cover best practices for Teams Meetings from planning to follow up.

Register for any of these courses by emailing [linda.feiden@drake.edu](mailto:linda.feiden@drake.edu) and you'll be sent a Teams meeting invite before the class session.

### 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](mailto:Ashley.Rasmussen). Full-time faculty are eligible for up to \$500 in funds 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

### Professional and Career Development Services

Instead of the All-University Career Fair, this spring PCDS is hosting a Career Evening. They pulled together an incredible planning committee from across the university and the line-up of speakers is dynamic and diverse.

The "**Be Unstoppable!**" Virtual Career Conference rivals any professional conference you will attend during your future career. The day is loaded with nationally-recognized speakers who will challenge you to be unstoppable, flexible and fearless in pursuit of your goals. This conference was created for YOU; so, as a Drake student, you are able to attend this conference free of charge! Priority registration runs through February 12. Encourage your students to attend, but faculty/staff are able to register as well!

Join us Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CST)

You may attend the entire day or selected sessions. [Flyer located here.](#)

Learn more at: <https://www.drake.edu/careerconference/>

Space is limited so register today using your Drake email!

### Reading Corner

This week's corner is featuring an article from the Chronicle of Higher Education on [8 Strategies to Prevent Teaching Burnout](#).

### A&S Important Dates

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

- February 19  
Fall & Summer 2021 and J-Term 2022 class schedule entry completed to be reviewed by A&S Dean's Office.
- March 12  
Midpoint of semester

[Submit News](#)

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