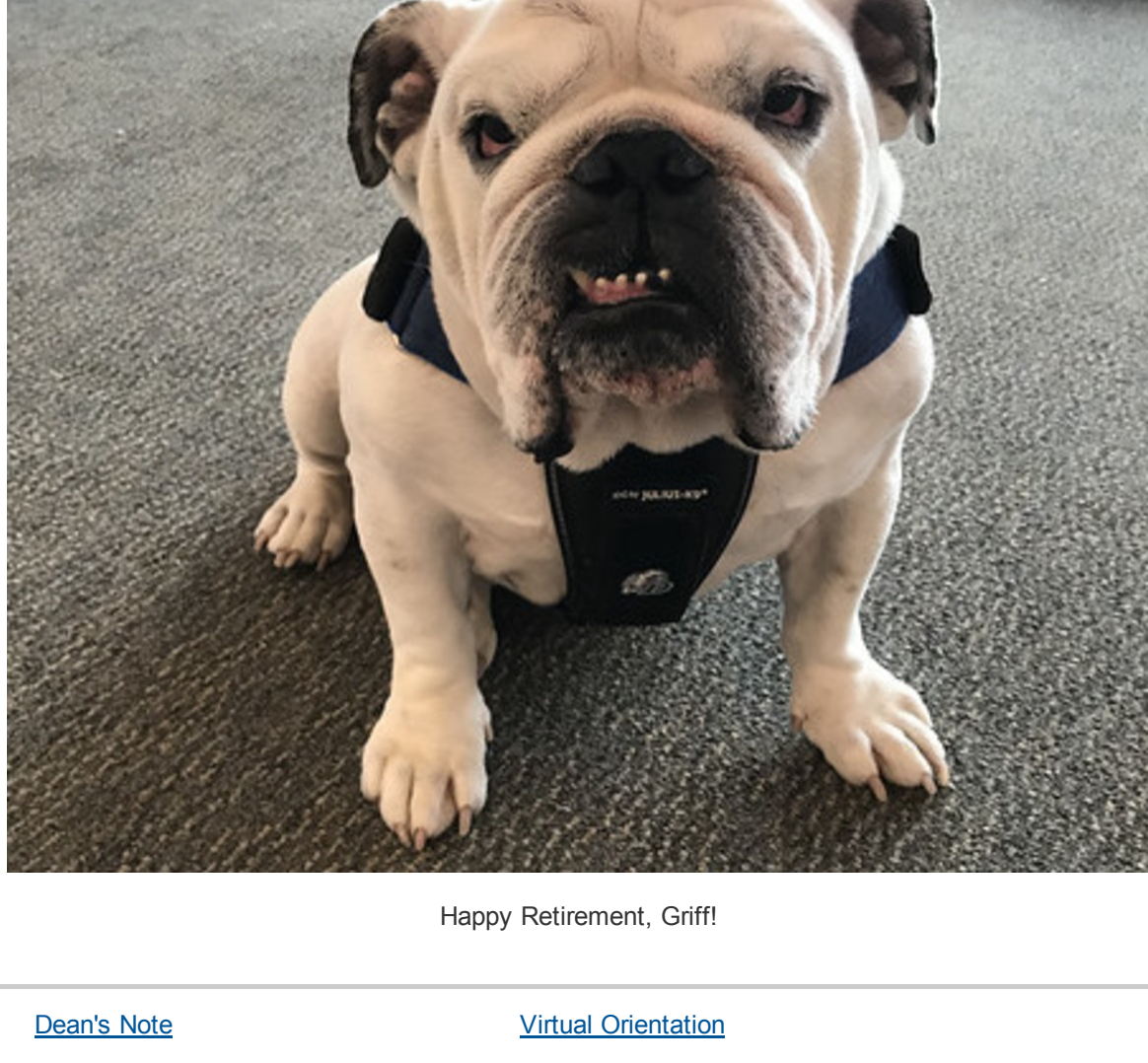




A&S Newsletter

June 29, 2020



Happy Retirement, Griff!

[Dean's Note](#)[Virtual Orientation](#)[Fall Planning](#)[Spotlights](#)[Advising Corner](#)[Important Action Items](#)[Noyce Scholars](#)[Stop Summer Melt](#)

Dean's Note

Dear all,

This is the summer edition of our A&S Newsletter. I hope you are in a good place reading this, even though most travel plans have been nixed or are on hold. It is painful not to be able to visit friends and family in places far away or closer to home, and I keep thinking I have to buy airplane tickets. But that is not happening this summer! July will be a quiet month at Drake. With many staff on furlough for the next one to four weeks, service will be minimal. We have several summer courses continuing or starting in July, and we are all busy planning for different fall scenarios. I have tried to summarize some of the most important parameters below, so please read on. As things are still changing every day, our commitment to provide the best educational experience to our students remains the same. 421 Arts and Sciences majors have said they will start attending Drake in the fall, and by the time you read this most of them have gone through virtual orientation. That's a record number of EFR in A&S! It's up 31 students from last year, and it is the largest number we have seen in the last ten years. Bravo! We did it in the midst of a pandemic that has threatened institutions of higher ed at their core. We will get through this and come out strongly.

The reassurance does not change the fact that this is going to be a tough year. We have already seen a reduction of our retirement compensation for AY20/21, have furloughed staff, and are bracing for further salary cuts. As President Martin has laid out in his email, the cost of COVID has taken its toll and will continue to do so. No final budget for FY21 was approved by BOT last week, since there are still too many unknowns. Our strong enrollment numbers are certainly helping so that we are not facing the worst-case scenario. We are all asked to do more with less. I feel the pain and I am very sorry. I am also grateful. For being surrounded by colleagues who don't give up, who step up and are making it work. For good humor during endless virtual meetings, for creative solutions shared cheerfully. For words of support and solidarity. The pandemic is creating havoc in our communities across the world, but it has brought out so many good things in people. Let's focus on the most important things, let's try to stay healthy and enjoy these long summer days. I look forward to hearing from you anytime this summer, and to hopefully seeing you closer to the start of the fall semester. On Zoom, Teams or in person!

Gesine

Planning for Fall

- Students in residence halls will move in August 15/16
- All students will be tested for COVID19 when they arrive on campus and again mid-semester.
- Academic calendar: **Fall semester will begin on August 24**, there will be **no fall break. No classes during Thanksgiving week**
- **1st week of classes will be online only** for all classes
- **The last week of classes and finals week will be delivered remote only**
- Fall classes will **follow scheduled time slots**, and will run for the regular class time
- Most classes will be a **blend of remote and f2f teaching** (if allowed, following social distancing guidelines)
- Students will be required to maintain the following **distances** in classes:
 - 3 feet apart in labs where students have appropriate personal protective equipment
 - 6 feet apart in regular classrooms (this is the spacing upon which room assignments are being made)
 - 9+ feet for fine arts classes and performances (vocal and instrumental music, theater)
- Classroom **"COVID capacity"** will be available in mid-July. Most classroom space will allow for only **30-50% of normal capacity**
- Each class will have regular **synchronous components**
- A small number of classes will be **taught online only**, to accommodate faculty and students with health concerns
- **Blackboard** is the Learning Management System used for all classes
- **Zoom** will be available and will be integrated with Blackboard
- We will know by mid-August if there are students in your class who will be remote only. These students will be accommodated as needed
- A **face shield** will be provided for faculty who are teaching f2f
- Students will be required to wear **face masks** when indoors and in all classroom. Faculty can make the decision to allow removal of masks in certain situations
- The CTE has put together a Planning Guide for virtual and blended courses. Resources and guidance on remote teaching can be found [here on the CTE website](#)

Stop Summer Melt

During the months of June, July and August, departments in the College of A&S are organizing events for incoming students. These events are aimed at fostering important connections with incoming students as well as engaging current students and alumni. Some examples are briefly described below:

Computer Science: will discuss the creation of a video game "Legend of Zelda". There is a group of Drake CS majors that are already developing a "Legend of Drake" video game.

Music: studio teachers will be reaching out to their incoming students several times over the summer. For example, this week Leanne Freeman-Miller offered a master class with Michael Heaston, AS' 02, the incoming Artistic Director of the Metropolitan Opera.

Biology: In June, recent alumni and current students will meet with incoming students and talk about their time at Drake. In July, incoming students will be break into groups and play a version of Family Feud.

Study of Culture and Society: will discuss "Roger & Me" which is a documentary by Michael Moore that turns a critical lens at the social impact of neoliberal restructuring in his hometown of Flint Michigan at a crucial moment in U.S. history. They will examine the broader context of these political economic transformation by asking how the many lives forever changed in this film reflect ongoing trends that impact people throughout the U.S. and around the world today.

History: In July, faculty will organize a book discussion, incoming students will be invited to discuss the latest winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History: Greg Grandin, *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America* (2019). In August, the History honors society Phi Alpha Theta will host a Historical Trivia for incoming students.

English: will meet for Coffee and (Nerdy) Conversation. Students will share the best book or article they have read this summer.

ENSS: will continue offering "virtual pot-lucks".

Art: Recent alumni and current students will be invited to participate and share some of their artwork and experiences with incoming students.

Kinesiology: will organize two events in the month of July. At the first event, recent alumni and current students will meet with incoming students to discuss their experiences at Drake. During the second event, faculty will organize an exercise and sports myth-busting session. Students will be given a product (piece of exercise equipment, sports supplement, etc.) and be asked whether it's legit or not, which will then spur them to ask questions about products they've used or encountered.

Chemistry: are holding a "CHEM-MEET" zoom meeting where all instructors in attendance will introduce themselves and answer questions, followed by a "CHEM -FEUD" session.

Open-enrolled students will meet twice in the month of July. The first meeting would be on "hot drinks and good books" to foster introductions. The second meeting would be structured around a fun Drake-themed trivia with a (small) prize for a winner.

Virtual Orientation

Over the month of June, Arts & Sciences welcomed nearly 400 primary majors in five virtual orientation sessions. Thank you to all of our faculty who have first participated as EFRs! This was the first real college experience for most of the entering first-year students (EFRs), and your expertise, welcoming spirit, and sincere interest in having students succeed at Drake and beyond were absolutely invaluable!

Throughout the summer, the Dean's office will continue working with EFRs who tuition-deposit late, and with transfer students. On July 21, we might have an "alternate" orientation session to accommodate students who haven't attended an orientation session in June.

If you are advising an EFR who would like to request a change to their schedule for the fall semester, encourage them to [fill out this form](#). We will be in touch with the student to answer questions and discuss possible changes.

Faculty/Student Spotlights!

David Skidmore, professor of international relations, has a decision game that is part of Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy's best seller list. "[Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics](#)" allows students to participate in foreign policy decision-making of a fictitious country.

A NASA/Iowa Space Consortium grant professor authored by **Athan Petridis, professor of physics**, and **Meredith Luttrell, assistant professor of kinesiology**, and a group of 27 students was approved for \$69k direct and \$86k indirect funds. The grant: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AND STUDY OF A MANGETO-IONIZATION RADIATION SHIELD AND ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY SYSTEM FOR INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL (The MISSFIT Collaboration), hopes to study and reduce the effects of radiation and weightlessness on astronauts. The MISSFIT Collaboration has received 2 ISGC Fellowships and 1 ISGC Scholarship, has presented results at 5 conferences with support from the American Physical Society and has become known internationally due to articles written about them in popular science journals.

Advising Corner

On your radar for the Fall semester:

- If you are an advisor to incoming first-year student(s), keep your calendar open for the welcome weekend as the university continues to develop plans. A meeting with an advisor during welcome weekend is a new requirement for all EFR students.

- In early September (date TBD) there will be an advisor training for all tenure-track faculty who are in their second year of service, which is the first year that advising duties tend to be general. The training is open to all A&S faculty as a "refresher" on general University policies and procedures as related to advising.

Important Items:

All-In Campaign: Thank you to everyone who helped with sharing All-In and promoting the work that we do! The campaign raised: \$437,225 with 1,029 gifts!

Reduced services in July: During the month of July, some University services will operate on a limited and reduced basis. Individual offices have developed service and communication protocols for the month of July. Plans for Facilities, Student Services, Conferences and Events, Public Safety, and Information Technology are provided [here](#).

Ashlyn Hardin, chemistry and physics administrative assistant, is leaving us for a new job in Nebraska, where she will be living with her husband. Her last day at Drake is July 6. We will miss her very much! Wishing Ashlyn the best on her new adventure!

Reading Corner

A book titled "Teaching Online: A Guide to Theory, Research, and Practice" written by Claire Howell Major is freely available at this [link](#).

Noyce Scholars

Noyce@Drake, officially titled Improving Secondary Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Computer Science Teacher Preparation through a sequence of Active Teaching Experiences, will support the development of four cohorts of secondary STEM teachers starting in the fall of 2020.

The program will provide scholarships, stipends, and enhanced learning opportunities to high achieving students interested in teaching, secondary physics, mathematics, chemistry, or computer science.

For more information, [visit the website!](#)

Virtual Public Nights-Drake Observatory!

During the summer months, the Drake Observatory will be hosting their public nights virtually! These lectures/viewing of the skies through the telescope are held each Friday. Each Monday, the link to that week's lecture will be posted on the [Observatory's website!](#)

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