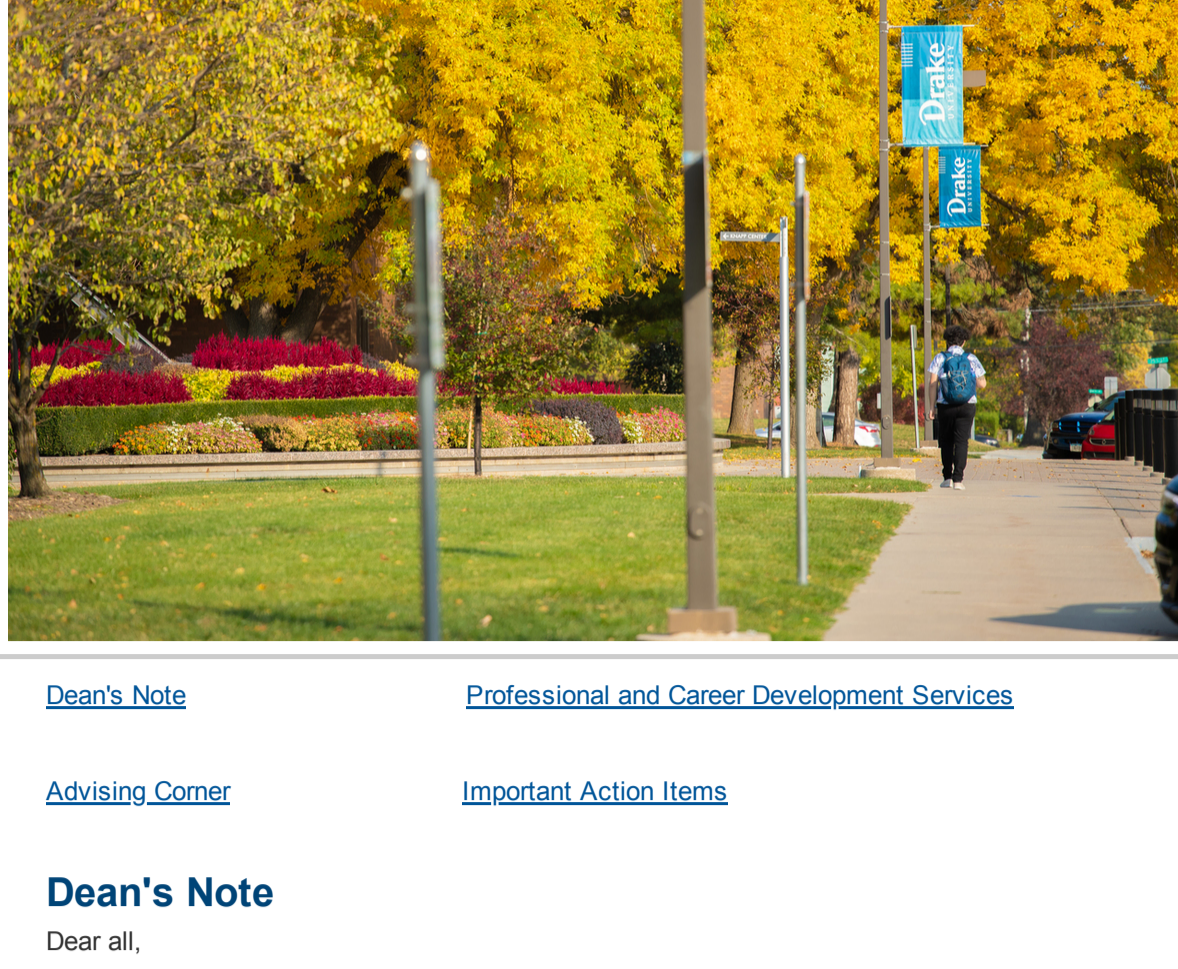


A&S Newsletter

November 10, 2020


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Dean's Note

Dear all,

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching now. And it looks like we are going to make it without an outbreak of COVID cases on our campus, without a campus shutdown. I don't want to jinx it, but I feel like we did it! Drake must be one of the safest places in Iowa right now, with positivity rates across the state that have spiked and school districts that went from online or hybrid to all in-person, only to reverse back to online in a matter of weeks. Bravo Drake! And while the semester was hard for many of our students, I have also heard that by and large they are happy to be able to be on campus and take their classes in a variety of formats. Well done, everybody! It is a testimony to our resilience, to your creativity and commitment, and it is the result of all the work that went into this experiment. Let me thank you also for sending in photos, links and video clips of the things you are doing in your classes amidst the pandemic, adjusting to different modalities, class sizes and learning opportunities that engage our students. The examples I see are outstanding! I continue to use these snapshots of your teaching in conversations and presentations with donors and NAC Council members, with colleagues across campus and across the country. Everyone is impressed by how we continue to deliver exceptional teaching and learning opportunities. Please keep those photos, videos and links coming!

This newsletter describes some other highlights from the last couple of weeks: there is a link to Sandi's Stalnaker lecture, the announcement of the next highly distinguished Stalnaker lecturer, a list of outstanding students in vocal music and the mentioning of upcoming events. Please also find below the application form for a course release to compensate for extra work put in during this challenging year, information on the new phone system, and other budget and professional development updates. We are trying to use this newsletter to cut down on extra emails landing in your inboxes, and to collect the information in one place. Please continue to share with us highlights in your own research, student accomplishments, or any other announcements. This bi-weekly A&S Newsletter is the place for them! Kayla will always collect your stories and we will include them in the next edition.

Registration for spring semester is in full swing. Please continue to reach out and check in with your students as they navigate this year, challenging for all, overwhelming for some. An email, a meeting, or a message of encouragement can make all the difference.

I would be amiss not to mention my appreciation of the respectful and civil political conversations that occurred on campus over the last few weeks. While the election has galvanized and divided this country, at Drake I have seen nothing but fruitful debates, thoughtful expert analysis and compassionate student activism. I am so proud to be part of this community.

Have a good week!

Gesine

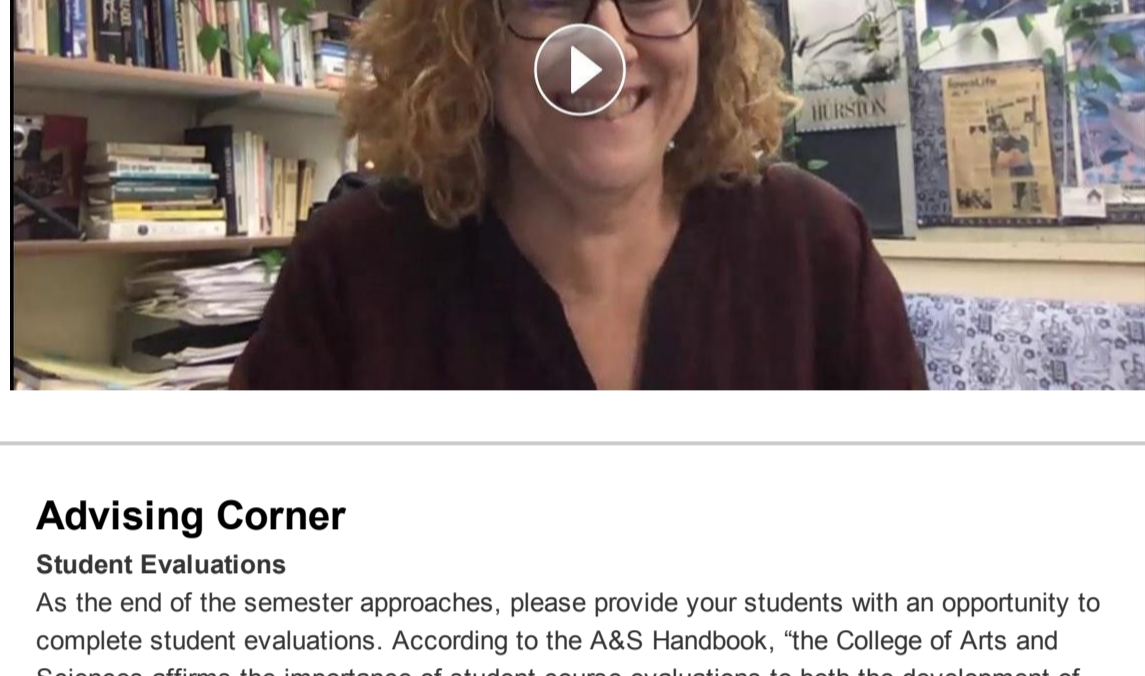
Dean's Open Office Hour

The Dean's Open Office Hour will take place on Tuesday, November 17 from 3:00-4:00 in the Cowles Library Café and/or Zoom. Please stop by or use [this link](#) to join!

Stalnaker Lecture 2020: Sandra Patton-Imani

Thank you for joining us for the 2020 Stalnaker Lecture delivered by Sandra Patton-Imani. Watch the video below on Youtube if you missed it. It was a great evening showcasing the intellectual vibrancy in the College of Arts & Sciences!

And the 2021 Stalnaker Lecturer is...Maura Lyons, Professor of Art & Design. Congratulations, Maura!



Advising Corner

Student Evaluations

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](#)).

Best practices for achieving high response rates suggest the following:

- Give students time (10-15 minutes) to complete evaluation during class. If you are teaching remotely, allocate some time in your [synchronous](#) meeting. Best practice suggests that students be advised to stay connected to the synchronous section but mute their audio and video (as should instructors) during the evaluation interval.
- Encourage students to complete the evaluation by discussing its purpose and importance in the weeks leading up to it, while emphasizing anonymity of student feedback. If students know that you will read their feedback and seriously consider changes based on their feedback, they will be more likely to complete the evaluation.
- If possible, share how you have incorporated past feedback into your courses.

Gut Check Advising Reminders

In this edition of the advising newsletter, we've gathered the questions we're receiving via email that lead in with, "I should know this but..." The top ten list is:

- 1) The spring semester will begin on Monday, Feb 1. The first two weeks of classes will be delivered virtually, instead of just one week as was previously communicated.
- 2) Students who want to **take all of their Spring 2021 semester courses virtually** must complete this form: [Request for Remote Course Delivery form by Friday, Jan 22](#). Students who are attending classes virtually this fall and want to continue to do so **must submit the form again**. If approved, all coursework must be completed remotely.
- 3) If my advisee takes 18 credits in the spring 2021, will he/she/they be assessed an overload fee for taking a j-term 2021 course? **No. Full stop.**
- 4) Can my advisee take a four-credit hour j-term course (CHEM 006/007 or MATH 020) without being charged the overload fee for the fourth credit? **Yes. This is an exception to normal policy.**
- 5) The fall semester unraveled for my advisee and he/she/they needs to take a j-term 2021 course to earn the degree. Does the graduation date remain Dec 2020 with a j-term course? **No. The student will become a May 2021 graduate as January is not a graduation term. Because the next graduation term after j-term is May, these students are graduated in May. And, that student will be assessed tuition at the per credit hour rate (over \$1,100 per credit hour) because he/she/they is not attending as a full-time student with at least 12 credits in the spring 2021...**
- 6) ... But why then do August graduates get to participate in a May ceremony and then take summer courses? **August graduates are given the benefit of the doubt as most are taking coursework to fulfill general education requirements. Additionally, there is not a summer commencement ceremony and because this is a larger group than the above-mentioned group, we want to give them an opportunity to be recognized with their class at a time when they are on campus.**
- 7) Can my advisee retake a course he/she/they failed at another college and transfer the grade to Drake? **No. The only way to replace a grade earned at Drake is to retake that course at Drake.**
- 8) Can a student earn Advanced Placement (AP) credit if he/she completed the course, but did not take the exam? **No. The student must complete the exam and earn at least a four in order for Drake to accept the credit.**
- 9) Is a D- a passing grade? **Yes, though a handful of courses require no less than a C or a C- in order to earn a major.**
- 10) My advisee has delayed a plan to study abroad. Can he/she/they study abroad in a final semester? **Yes. Study abroad is an exception to the rule that the last 30 credits be earned at Drake.**

Important Action Items:

Coursework Application

To apply for a course release per Provost Mattison's announcement on 9/28/20, you must fill out the FY22 Course Release Application ([linked here](#) and on the [faculty resources page](#)).

Full-time faculty (tenure-track and tenured) may request two course releases over the next seven years. The two-course releases cannot be taken during the same academic year. The application requires a short description of the plan for scholarship during the time of the course release. The application requires approval by the department chair. For dean approval, please submit the signed application form to the Dean's Office (due by December 1, 2020 to [Kayla Jenkins](#)).

Update to Campus Phones (from ITS)

ITS is upgrading the campus phone system and moving faculty and staff to using Microsoft Teams for calling in early 2021. The Microsoft Teams client will **replace traditional handsets** and allow faculty and staff to make and receive telephone calls using their office extension from anywhere they are connected to the Internet.

Reminder to complete the Qualtrics form from ITS regarding the headsets for your campus phones. Each employee received an email with qualtrics link specific to them that must be completed by November 20.

Want to learn more about using Microsoft Teams for calling? See [Using Microsoft Teams for Phone Calls and Voicemail \(How-to\)](#).

Blackboard Ultra Instructor Training

All faculty were enrolled in a Blackboard Learn Ultra instructor orientation course to introduce the new features in a scaffolded approach, and to help you discover engaging and effective courses in this new environment. Module 1-4 has been added, as well as Sandbox options that allow faculty to practice the new features.

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 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](#)

Student Recognitions

Congratulations to the following Drake singers from Professor Leanne Freeman-Miller's Studio:

Placement in the Young Artist Voice Division in the District MTNA Competition:

- Lauren Carroll, Winner
- Molly McDonough, Alternate
- Sarah Rosales, Honorable Mention
- Hailey Gutowski, Honorable Mention
- Halle Fish, Honorable Mention

Placement in the Central Region NATS Competition:

- Sarah Rosales, 1st Place, Upper College Classical Women
- Jordan McCready, 1st Place, Lower College Classical Women
- Molly McDonough, 1st Place, Lower College Classical Women
- Lauren Carroll, 2nd Place, Upper College Classical Women
- Halle Fish, 2nd Place, Upper College Classical Women
- Grace Graham, 2nd Place, Upper College Classical Women
- Ryan Besser, 2nd Place, Upper College Classical Men
- Abby Kate Boeschen, 2nd Place, Lower College Classical Women
- Cole Strelecki, 2nd Place, Lower College Mt Men

[Submit News](#)

Professional and Career Development Services

Career Information for A&S Majors

Virtual Events – Use Links to Register

November 10, 4-5 pm (CST): [Careers in Social Change: Social Entrepreneurship Panel](#)

- Panelists: Ken-Matt Martin, Co-Founder of Pyramid Theatre Company; Dylan DeClerk, Executive Director of Opportunity on Deck; Megan Tensen and Sarah Helleson, Founders of Try Pie.

November 11, Noon (CST) Scholarships: [Finding Free Money for College](#)

- Presented by Sallie Mae
- Scholarships can be a huge help to college students and their families, but many don't know where to find them, or how to apply. During this free webinar students and families will learn key tips on applying for scholarships, how to create a winning scholarship essay, and more.

November 11, 3-4 pm (CST): [Finding Clinical Experience During COVID](#)

- PRESENTED BY KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY
- Join Darrin D'Agostino, DO, MPH, MBA, executive dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Vice Provost for Health Affairs at Kansas City University, and Matthew Johnson, Recruitment and Admissions specialist at Des Moines University, for a session on finding clinical experience to enhance your medical school applications. They will touch on creative ways to get experience during COVID when typical shadowing opportunities may be harder to find.

November 12, 3 -6 pm (CST): [Register now for the Virtual Diversity Career Fair!](#)

- 42 organizations are excited to speak with our diverse students. (Attached list of companies.) Curious about who should attend? Check out our Cultural and Identity Based Resources webpage. <https://www.drake.edu/career/culturalandidentitybasedresources/>

International Education Week

International Education Week will take place fully online, November 16-20! The International Office has many events planned throughout the week to showcase the various ways Drake is global and to engage our partner institutions. Find a list of events on the [flyer located here](#).

Upcoming Events

- November 12: [Diversity Career Fair](#); Virtual
- November 16-20: International Education Week

A&S Important Dates

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

- November 15: 2nd Year faculty reviews due to the Dean
- November 23-27: Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break
- November 30: Classes Resume remotely
- December 1: FY22 Course Release Applications Due