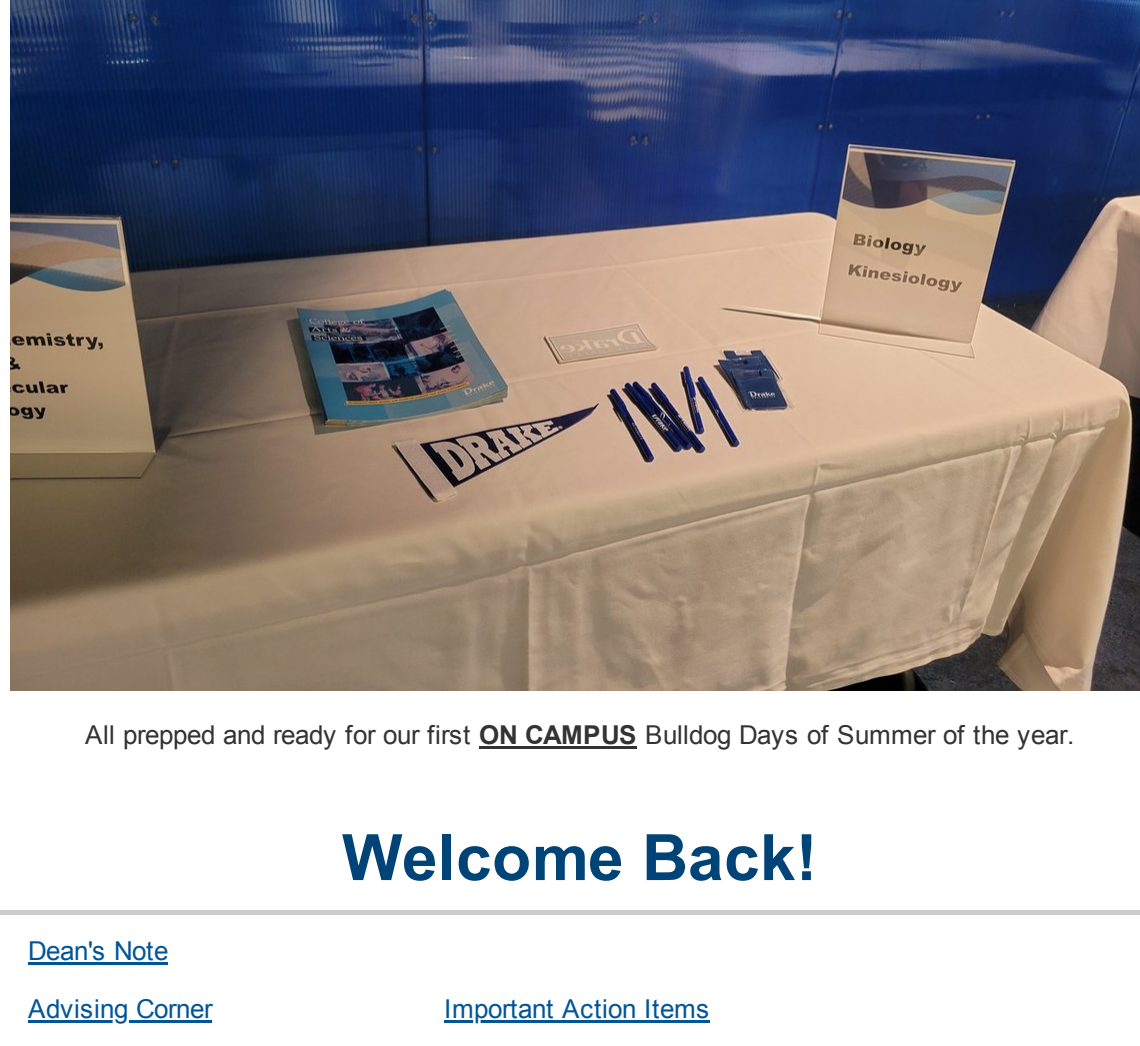


A&S Newsletter

August 2, 2021



All prepped and ready for our first **ON CAMPUS** Bulldog Days of Summer of the year.

Welcome Back!

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Dean's Note

Dear all,

The summer has flown by, and there is no way to deny it: the beginning of the semester is almost here. The feeling of mild panic is offset by excitement: I can't wait for the campus to be busy with students, mingling outside or rushing to classrooms, for office doors that are wide open, for hallways filled with chatter—and in FAC with music seeping out of the practice rooms. And finally, there will be coffee again on campus—something impossible to find during the dog days of summer. And I have tried! I also look forward to seeing you all again, on campus, in person, not just on Zoom and from my home office (well, it's my bedroom). So, lots of good things about August, especially this year!

I hope your summer has been relaxing and filled with things you wanted to do—and that you feel recharged for the start of the new academic year. As you know, several things are going back to the pre-pandemic normal (at least as of today!). Classroom capacities are restored, no social distancing is required, and university travel is allowed again. Check out the information below for A&S travel grant applications. The first deadline to submit applications is coming up soon—please send those to Kayla. We will also launch the first round of faculty development grant applications after a one-year hiatus. The deadline for those applications is at the end of October.

Starting this fall, we will have a new policy in place to compensate faculty for undergraduate research supervision (see below). The model follows closely our well-received practice for Independent Studies, introduced last year. On the recruitment front we have begun a new cycle, it just never ends! You might recall that we ended our recruitment year in May with a record-breaking 448 students, some 21 percent above our target number. Well done everyone! As we finished orienting these students in July, placed them in their classes, and assigned faculty advisors, we have already begun welcoming to campus the next group of prospective students during our first Bulldog Days of Summer. Some 100 students visited campus last Friday to get a first sniff of Drake. They had a chance to attend academic overviews in their area of interest, or stroll among the various program tables to talk to faculty during the academic fair in Olmsted. Thank you to those who participated in meeting the next generation of bulldogs! This work is critically important, and we have learned during the pandemic that we can reach students and their families in many ways. We are keeping virtual overview and information sessions, as well as in-person programs and visits this year. I trust that with our concerted efforts we will reach our target number again!

A new hiring cycle has begun as well. We will launch six tenure track searches in the fall, and we will also be hiring a third assistant dean, who will work alongside Mary Beth and Alina to advise and support our students. A special focus for the new position will be the support of open enrolled and pre-professional students, and the coordination of academic success and retention programming. We are aiming to attract a diverse pool of applicants for this staff position, something we have successfully done with faculty positions in the last two years. Please join us in welcoming our fabulous new faculty this fall. We landed eleven tenure track hires and seven visiting professors!

Read on, there is a lot of information in this newsletter to help everyone get ready for the fall semester. I have been urged to remind you all that the Blackboard Ultra LMS looks very different from the old version, so you might want to familiarize yourself with the new layout and functionalities before classes start, if you haven't done so already. I will plan on bi-weekly office hours, and as we learned in the last 20 months, the convenience of doing those virtually increases accessibility. I will be available to chat over a cup of coffee in the Library Café and on Zoom. On your calendar, you will also find save-the-date invites for all-faculty meetings, as we want to use this year to brainstorm together about our mission, about new related initiatives, and to simply celebrate the accomplishment and the community of faculty and staff in the college. Happy August, everyone!

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Advising Corner

Grades

Summer 2021 grades are due by **10 a.m. on Wed, Aug 27**. Please remember to update grades for those students for whom you issued an **incomplete**, if they have since the end of the spring term, submitted work to resolve the incomplete. The entry of grades is tied to a variety of processes, namely the awarding of financial aid based on earned credit hours. To update an incomplete grade, please follow these steps: *MyDrake* > Faculty & Advisors Tab > Update an Incomplete, In Progress or Not Reported.

"Question, Persuade and Refer" Gatekeeper Training:

On **Friday, August 27th**, please consider attending the QPR gatekeeper training session led by Dr. [Greg Lengel](#). QPR stands for **Question, Persuade, and Refer** — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

QPR can be learned in the QPR gatekeeper training course. This course is taught in a clear, concise format using the latest in educational technology and practices and takes approximately one hour to complete.

KEY COMPONENTS COVERED IN TRAINING:

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E3uEJBQmeQ>

More information about QPR: <https://qprinstitute.com/about-qpr>

We will meet in **SCB 101 at 10am on Friday, August 27th**. If you plan to attend, RSVP natalie.bayer@drake.edu so that we have enough training materials prepared.

New Faculty

Please join us in welcoming our new faculty!! Watch out for individual introductions in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Hector Agüero, Associate Professor of Orchestral Studies
 Joshua Carlson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
 Deborah Cronin, Assistant Professor of Psychology
 Marcella Hangen, Assistant Professor of Applied Behavior Analysis
 Rajin Koonjearny, Professor of Practice, Cybersecurity
 Ali Malik, Assistant Professor of Law, Politics, and Society
 Matthew Record, Assistant Professor of Political Science
 Alimoor Reza, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
 Meaghan Rowe-Johnson, Assistant Professor of Psychology
 Abigail Stepnitz, Assistant Professor of Law, Politics, and Society
 Stefanie Wang, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

New this fall as Visiting Professors

Jordan Christensen, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology
 Cody Dolinsek, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
 Gabriel Ford, Visiting Assistant Professor of English
 Susan Gameau, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
 Leanne Purdum, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Politics, and Society
 Melissa Spencer, Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics
 Max Thornton, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

Getting Started with Blackboard Learn Ultra!

The following videos provide you easy step-by-step instructions on how to organize content, create assignments, discussion boards, announcements, upload course content, etc. These videos are available from [Drake Online Design Dialogues](#).

1. Building and organizing content in Blackboard Learn Ultra from scratch: [video](#)
2. Assignments and Rubrics: [video](#)
3. Communications tools: [video](#)
4. Working with Groups: [video](#)
5. Creating Tests: [video](#)
6. Using the Gradebook: [video](#)

Visit the following page for additional resources on how to use the new Blackboard Ultra, rolling out Fall 2021.

STEM Summer Camp

The summer STEM Camp hosted by Drake made the [news!](#) The camp is a free STEM summer camp for incoming 7th and 8th graders. It will run August 2-6 and is geared toward students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Students will get to do hands-on activities with biology, robotics, statistics, and more. What a great opportunity for young Bulldogs!

Student Spotlights

Merit Scholarship and Research Scholarship Programs 2021-2022 Awardees

The Iowa Space Grant Consortium awards competitive Merit and Research Scholarships to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in STEM disciplines that support NASA's mission. The following students are the 2021-2022 recipients of these scholarships. More information about these programs can be found [here!](#)

Brian Orellana will be a second-year student pursuing a BS in Mathematics for Secondary Education and a BS in Secondary Education. Brian is pursuing an Urban Education endorsement and is a Crew Scholar. As a first-generation student and son of immigrants, Brian is especially passionate about providing opportunities and information to under-served populations of students. In 2020-2021, Brian served as an AmeriCorps member in Des Moines and facilitated educational programs in the community that bring awareness to issues of poverty and social needs. In the future, Brian's goals are to become an urban high school so that he can help students pursue STEM careers and eventually teach a superintendent. Congratulations Brian Orellana for being awarded a \$3,400 STEM Education Merit Scholarship from NASA!

Keegan Finger is working with the MISSFIT collaboration, especially on the computational aspects and is the senior researcher on the particle trajectory and energy-loss code. His research group will produce a data-base of thousands of particles of various species and energy spectra that correspond to the solar and cosmic radiation data available. Keegan is also involved in the biological subgroup who are now working on numerical solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations for viscous blood flow in artificial gravity and, in the future, with elastic vessel walls. In the fall of 2021, Keegan Finger will be a fourth-year student pursuing a BS in Physics in A&S. Congratulations Keegan Finger for being awarded a \$5,000 STEM Undergraduate Research Fellowship from NASA!

Victoria Chaparro will be a third-year student pursuing a BS in Astronomy in A&S. Victoria is Investigating the Movement of Mass and Energy in the Solar Chromospheric Environment. She uses Ultraviolet Ray Bursts to probe the Chromosphere by first keeping track of ions such as Si IV, Ni II, and Fe II to locate the Bursts using IRIS (Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph) data. The research on the effect of the burst may provide integral information on how mass and energy move in the solar atmosphere. She works as an astrophysicist under Dr. Chad Madsen for the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory with the Solar and Stellar X-Ray Group (SSXG). Congratulations Victoria Chaparro for being awarded a \$5,000 STEM Undergraduate Research Fellowship from NASA!

Meredith Renovation

Meredith will be off-limits from mid-May to December 2022. All offices need to be emptied as ceilings are pulled out and there will be dust everywhere!

The university will provide alternative office spaces and common areas that can be used for office hours etc. Please start planning for the temporary move. Let us know if you need any assistance.

In order to accommodate all classroom needs, all departments need to submit their Fall 2022 schedules in September, at the same time as spring and summer schedules are due.

Communication from the provost to university faculty is forthcoming as the renovation will impact all faculty and all classes across campus. Meredith Hall is one of our most used facilities on campus, with more than 5,000 trekking through the hallways and classrooms per year. Thank you all for your cooperation!

Important Action Items:

Travel Grants

Starting in August, travel is allowed again using university funding. All faculty presenting research at a conference are eligible for a travel grant of up to \$1300/\$1,500. The first deadline to submit a travel request is September 1. As in the past, there will be multiple deadlines to submit your travel application. If you plan to travel before September 1, please submit your request as soon as possible. Travel grant applications need to be submitted to Kayla in [electronic form](#) for the Dean's review and are subject to Sue's approval. Please note that all air travel must be booked through the university travel provider, Direct Travel.

New Undergraduate Research Compensation Policy

- Faculty supervising students registered for credit-bearing Undergraduate Research will be compensated with banked time (credit hours) towards a course reassignment. 24 student credit hours (SCR) of Undergraduate Research will equal one (3 credit hour) course release.
- The maximum number of Undergraduate Research credit hours a faculty member can bank is 12 credit hours per academic year (summer, fall, winter, and spring semester). There is no expiration of the banking period.
- This compensation policy only applies to activities conducted during the academic year
- The compensation policy will be piloted for two years. After the first year and during annual schedule planning meetings (December), chairs will provide feedback on its effectiveness. After two years, we will evaluate if this policy is workable and sustainable.
- [The full policy information can be found in this document.](#)

University COVID-19 Protocol Updates

- The University will return to normal campus operations in August. We will be fully staffed and open for operation.
- Social distancing is no longer required on campus in both offices and classrooms as of August 1st.
- Faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors to Drake University are required to wear a face-covering while in campus buildings.

Reading Corner

- [A Pandemic Silver Lining? More People are Talking about Teaching](#)

A&S Important Dates

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

- August 20: Learning Symposium 9-3pm
- August 24: A&S Department Chairs' Retreat, 12-4pm
- August 23 and 24th: New Student Move-In
- August 25-28: Welcome Week
- August 25: A&S New Faculty Orientation
- August 30: Fall Term begins
- September 1: Stalnaker Lecturer and Distinguished Engagement Nominations are due.
- September 3: Last day to add a class
- September 6: Labor Day: University Closed
- September 13: Last day to drop a class without a "W"

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