



A&S Newsletter

January 23, 2023



Drake students inside the White House during Professor Paine Caufield's J-term Seminar.

Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

Here we go...first day of the spring semester! It's great to see the campus come back alive with all the buzz. January is just not the same around here! I hope you got to do fabulous things during the winter break, be that curled up with a book and a cup of tea, in the company of family and friends, or traveling to places new and old. Most importantly, I hope you feel recharged and ready for the semester!

The spring semester always starts with a bang and just never stops until the short reprieve in March. Deadlines are coming up right away, annual evaluations (PARs) are due, and students will need all of your attention starting on day one. We've included the most important due dates, upcoming events, and outstanding accomplishments in this newsletter for your convenience. Please read on!

We are also entering the critical phase of our recruitment cycle. We have a long way to go to reach our goal of 400 EFR in the Arts & Sciences. Audition days in music and theatre, admitted student days, academic overviews, group and individual meetings with students...the many upcoming events aim to turn admitted students into confirmed students (aka tuition deposit submitted). We know that the conversations students and their families have with you is what makes them finally decide on Drake, so please continue the good work. Thank you!

I wish you a great start of classes this week. Let me know how I can support you. Here is to a great semester!

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Dean's Office Hours

Dean Gerhard will hold open office hours on Tuesday, January 24, from 3-4pm in the Olin Hall entrance lounge and on [Zoom](#). Just stop by --- no appointment needed.

Faculty Spotlight

Assistant Professors Elizabeth Talbert (SCS) and Matthew Record (POLS)'s work on homelessness in Polk County was featured in the Des Moines Register last week. Check out the article and interesting findings of their study [here](#).

Alumni News

Drake Music graduate Fred McLaughlin, class of 1968, passed away on December 22, 2022. Fred received his Bachelor of Music Education in 1968, and Master of Music Education from Drake in 1978.

Fred McLaughlin was a major part of the development of the Iowa jazz scene of the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s. As an educator, he taught music in the Des Moines Public Schools for thirty years.

The full obituary may be found [here](#).

Carrie The Musical Selected for Regional Theatre Festival

Drake's latest theatre production "Carrie The Musical" was chosen to perform at the KCACTF theatre festival in Des Moines on January 25th. This is a great recognition of our theatre program and the amazing theatre faculty and students. Congratulations!

New Major in the Arts and Sciences!

In their January meeting, the Board of Trustees approved our new major Zoo and Conservation Science in the department of Environmental Science and Sustainability.

Faculty Writers Workshop

Faculty members are invited to participate in the **Faculty Writers Workshop** (FWW), a writing group focused on working effectively for individual's scholarship. Meetings will take place from 10:30-11:30am monthly on Fridays. The goal is to help make progress on our scholarship over the semester. Participants who attend all five sessions will receive a stipend of \$150, pre-tax.

If you are interested in participating, please go to [this link](#) and fill out by the end of the day on Friday, January 27th. If you have any questions, you can email [Gabriel Ford](#) (ENG), [Nate Noldren](#) (LPS), or [En Li](#) (HIST).

Teacher of the Year Nomination

Nominations for the A&S Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award are open and due by February 15, 2023. The honoree receives a plaque, a cash award, and delivers an address at the following year's A&S Honors Convocation. Letters of nomination should address the nominee's (1) use of innovative teaching practices, (2) enthusiasm for teaching and/or the subject matter (3) personal commitment to students, and/or (4) overall effectiveness in facilitating student learning. Please submit nominations using this [form](#).

Please direct questions to the selection committee chair [Dr. Mark Vitha](#), A&S Council president [Dr. Dina Smith](#), or to the Dean's Office, [Karla Rincon](#).

E.A. Sheslow Prize for Distinguished Leadership

Nominations are due to recognize students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in on and off campus capacities. Please nominate students for this prize (\$1,750). [Nominations](#) should be sent to ask.as@drake.edu by February 17.

Jan Fleming Award Applications

The [Jan Fleming Award](#) recognizes a senior fine arts student who while at Drake University has demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of fine arts in the community. Senior Fine Arts students should submit the [Jan Fleming Award Application](#) by March 10.

Advising Corner

J-TERM 2023 GRADES: J-term 2023 grades are due by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb 1. Please remember to enter grades for any students completing an internship or independent study.

ADD/DROP DEADLINES: Students have through 11:59 p.m. Friday, Jan 27 to add a course and through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Feb 3, by which to drop a course (without a W). If a student adds your course to their schedule, you will receive an automated confirmation email. Likewise, if a student drops your course, you will receive an automated confirmation email.

If you are allowing a student to add your course after Feb 3, the student must use the [add/drop form](#) to add your course. Once completed, the form should be directed to ask.as@drake.edu.

REGISTRATION OVERRIDES: You can do registration overrides for students seeking a seat in your course. Please see [instructions](#) on setting overrides. In some instances, a student may need more than one override, i.e., a pre-requisite is not met and the course is closed; both overrides need to be set to allow the student's registration. Setting registration overrides helps students to add coursework over weekends and afterhours, so as to have more immediate access to Blackboard materials. Setting the override does not register the student. The student must still take action to register by entering the course CRN.

WAITLISTS: A limited waitlist function will continue through noon on Friday, Feb 3, allowing the student(s) on an existing waitlist to register for an open seat. Students will not be able to waitlist for new sections during the first week. If you have a course(s) with a waitlist, please be mindful in allowing other students into that course as a seat offer(s) may have been extended. You do not wish to exceed the seating capacity in your classroom.

RESPONDING TO STUDENTS OF CONCERN: If you are concerned about a student in your course, please raise a flag in Starfish which will prompt the appropriate office to follow-up. Another option is to complete the [early alert form](#). The form feeds directly to the dean's office and facilitates our proactive outreach to students who need assistance and connections to key college and university resources.

NEW STUDENTS: If you were assigned to an incoming first year or transfer student with a spring start, you would have received an email. While we encourage new students to reach out to their advisor(s) in the first weeks of the term, an outreach from you, welcoming them to campus and sharing your office hours and location, would also be a great way to welcome these new students. Please also consider welcoming back returning advisees with updated information on office hours and other relevant information.

Enrollment Validation: Don't forget to validate enrollment in your classes during the first week of classes!

Don't Cancel Class!

Do you plan to present at a conference or attend a national meeting, or aren't feeling well? Instead of canceling a class, please consider meaningful alternatives with campus resources [here](#).

Reading Corner

If you have been following the discussion (panic!) about AI writing our students' essays and take home exams, check out this different take on the topic published in the Chronicle: [Why I am not scared of ChatGPT](#).

A&S Important Dates

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

January 23:

- Spring 2023 term begins
- PARs due to Department Chairs
- Public lecture [Paris: History of a Modern Capital](#), with French instructor Natalie Benson, Des Moines Public Library 6:30-7:45pm

January 27:

- Last day to add a class

February 3:

- Last day to drop a class without a "W"

February 15:

- Faculty annual evaluations are due to the Dean (except 2nd year faculty)
- Applications for May 2023 graduation due
- Teacher of the Year nominations due

February 17:

- Class Schedules for Summer and Fall 2023 semesters due to the Dean's office
- E.A. Sheslow Prize for Distinguished Leadership nominations due

February 18:

- [Iowa Prairie Network Annual Winter Seminar](#), Parents Hall, 10am - 5pm. No registration fee! Register [here](#).

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