

A&S Newsletter

July 15, 2022



Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

I hope this summer edition of our A&S Newsletter finds you in a good place, near water to escape the heat or simply doing what you enjoy the most. By mid-July the pace of academic life finally slows down for most of us, and provides space for thinking about larger projects, strategies and priorities for the coming year.

In June I received the results of the Great Colleges to Work for Survey, and let me just say, it was no light read!! It forced me to pause and revisit some of my priorities for the coming year. The message in the survey responses was loud and clear. Many feel like their voice is not being heard, that they are not involved enough in decision making, and that communication can be improved. I want to do better on that front! I have reached out to chairs and am meeting with chairs 1:1 to learn about your department priorities, and how I can support those. I would also like to join one of your department meetings in early fall to hear directly from you, what has been on your mind, what your biggest needs and concerns are. Listening to you will inform my agenda for the coming year, and I will share those priorities with you. We have scheduled two all-faculty and staff meetings each semester, to be in a room together and to feel the pulse, allow time for check-in and to discuss strategic initiatives small and large. I understand my job as being your biggest advocate, to support you in what you do best, and in representing the strengths of the College of Arts & Sciences across the university and beyond.

2021-22 was a challenging year. Having read all of your PAEs left me with a great sense of awe and pride. Your commitment to our students is endless. You made adjustments where needed, you provided support where students struggled, you taught new courses or tried innovative pedagogies. You planned to attend academic conferences, and didn't fret when last minute emergencies made traveling (again) a challenge. You embarked on new or continued existing lines of research that had been interrupted by the pandemic. You published, presented your work, and collaborated. And you supported your colleagues, your department and the college with service at all levels. Bravo! I hope that the merit raise (the first one in my four years as your dean!) felt a bit like a recognition, beyond just words and the expressions of gratitude. Market adjustments have addressed some of the biggest shortcomings, and I will lobby for further adjustments in the coming year.

We had to say goodbye to a number of colleagues last year, and will be joined by a cohort of new faculty and staff this summer. We will also enter a new round of searches, and though fewer than we had hoped for. Only about one third of our submitted case statements for tenure track positions were approved, as resources in the next fiscal year are tight. Provost Mattison has committed to support VAP positions where programs can simply not function without additional faculty to teach the classes we need. I will continue to advocate for essential and visionary positions in the coming year.

I look forward to the start of the new academic year. It is always exciting, filled with anticipation and good energy. Together we have recruited a strong class of new Bulldogs, and I know they will be in very good hands with you in the coming four years.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Gesine

Welcome to our newest staff members:

We are excited to introduce our six new administrative assistants. They will join our Arts & Sciences team on July 15! Please stop by their office or send a note of welcome to:

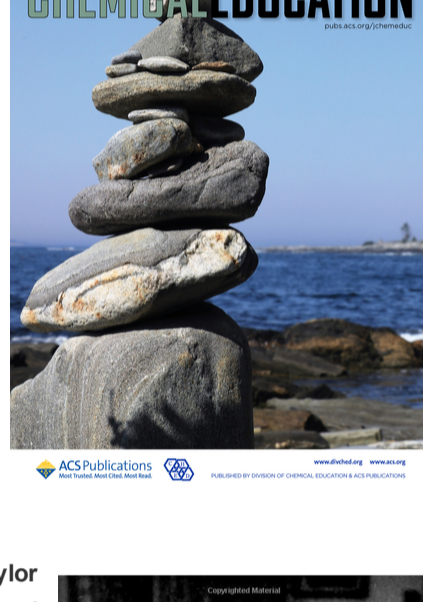
- **Aaron Haack:** CHEM and PHY, CLINE 208
- **Cati Davis:** POLS, HIST and WLC, HOW 223
- **Emily Hartman:** A&S Budgetary Support Specialist, FAC 268A (started in May)
- **Jennifer Cooper:** LPS, PHIL & REL and College Student Support, MED 206
- **Jorge Romero-Castro:** MUSIC, FAC 266
- **Naima Nicholson-Lovejoy:** ENG, SCS, WGS & Humanities Center, HOW 325

Welcome to our new Associate Dean:

Dr. Heidi Sleister has begun in her role as Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and has already made a difference! She will oversee recruitment for the college, continuous improvement, faculty development, curriculum management and assessment, among other things. We are so thrilled that Heidi has stepped up!

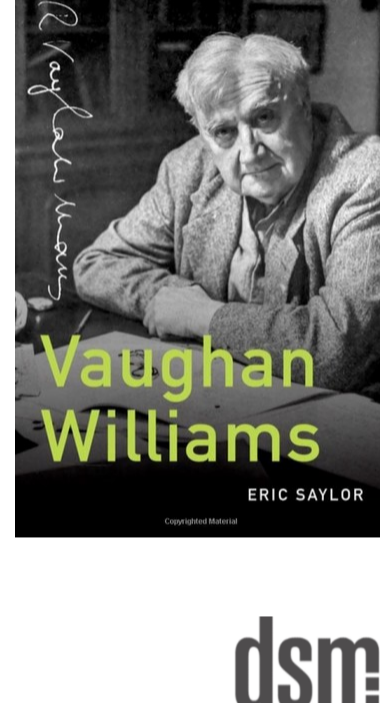
A&S Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Mark Vitha's work was featured on the cover of a recent issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education*. The cover is a photograph Dr. Vitha took, and it is accompanied by a commentary about a mindfulness exercise he did in his general chemistry classes. Congratulations, Mark!



Congratulations to Drake Musicology Professor Dr. Eric Saylor on the publication of his biography of Ralph Vaughan Williams!

Oxford University Press released the book in the United Kingdom last spring and it is now available in the US. You can order your copy on [Amazon](#), or stop by Beaverdale Books on September 7, 2022 6:30-8:00pm to get a signed copy. You can find more information [here](#).



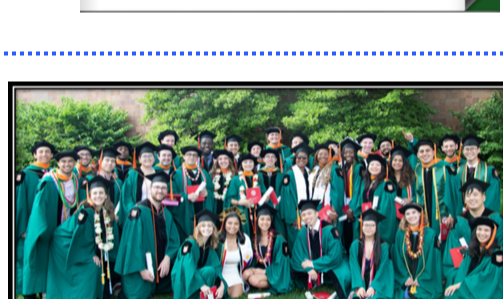
Congratulations to Professor Neil Ward for being named as one of the judges for the DSM Magazine design contest!

The Des Moines Home Design Awards are an annual feature of DSM Magazine, which has long covered Greater Des Moines' most luxurious, creative and intriguing homes and gardens.



A&S Alumni Spotlight

Congratulations to **Cydne Ratliff** and **Noah Smith** for their recent accomplishments at Washington University in St. Louis. In May 2022, Cydne Ratliff graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and Noah Smith graduated with a Master of Engineering in Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering.



Cydne and Noah participated in the Engineering Dual Degree program where they were able to complete a bachelor's degree at Drake and a bachelor's and/ or master's degree at Washington University on an accelerated timeline (3+2 or 4+2). If you have any students interested in engineering and the dual degree process, please refer them to Dr. [Adina Kilpatrick](#), Physics Department or [Will Hatchet](#), Assistant Dean.

Proud Bulldogs! We hope they continue growing in their careers!



A&S Student Spotlight

Congratulations to International Relations major **Jazmine Guzman**, as she has been named recipient of the nationally competitive Bridging Scholarship for Study in Japan for Fall 2022.

This prestigious award includes a financial stipend, programs, activities, and a network of mentorship and support. This program is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese.

Jazmine is currently an International Relations major 2 minors: Politics and Environmental Sustainability & Resilience.

Advising Corner

Summer Course Grades

Grades for summer courses are due by 10 a.m. on Friday, August 26. Timely grading is tied to a variety of end-of-term processes such as degree posting and financial aid reviews.

Forecasting the Move to 120 Credits

In May, Faculty Senate approved the motion requiring 120 total credits for those students beginning at Drake in the fall 2022. Students entering prior to the fall 2022, may move to the fall 2022 catalog if pursuing 120 credits is of interest, but also should consider whether this move would substantially alter requirements for a major(s) or minor(s).

Same Course Number, New Course Title

As you work with incoming first year students, you may notice their schedules include INTD 025, Blueprint for Success. Blueprint for Success is the course formerly known as Bulldog Foundations. Blueprint for Success is a required one-credit hour course that helps students explore concepts and develop skills that are crucial for the development of meaning personal lives, professional accomplishments and responsible global citizenship.

J-term 2023 Charges

Beginning with J-term 2023, students will be assessed a \$50 per credit hour fee, in addition to costs associated with travel, or housing and meals (for on-campus J-term courses). A communication alerting students to the new fee will be sent to students this fall, with charges being placed on accounts in December.

Summer Camps

Summer Voice Intensive for Young Singers

Drake University Community School of Music (DUCSOM) invited students ages 14 and older to participate in a Summer Voice Intensive for Young Singers, June 20-24, 2022. This week-long daytime camp provided the 48 students with voice lessons, coachings, theory, dictation and pedagogy classes, along with masterclasses to develop their voices, build confidence in their performances, and prepare for future auditions. Students got the opportunity to work one-on-one with Drake Voice Faculty as well as other Drake Music Faculty throughout the week. The camp culminated with solo performances and a group finale of 'Into the Woods' for friends and family to hear on Friday afternoon.

Summer Interfaith Camp

Drake University's The Comparison Project, in collaboration with the Des Moines Area Religious Council, will host its sixth annual interfaith youth leadership camp this summer from July 20-24. Over twenty different first-year student campers will learn about religious literacy and interfaith leadership, visit different religious communities in the greater Des Moines area, and create and share digital stories about personally meaningful experiences of faith and lack thereof.

Thank You...

THANK YOU to A&S faculty for partnering with Drake Admissions to share information about our programs during academic fairs and academic overviews this summer: Chinatsu Bachmann, Marc Busch, Adam Case, Rachel Caufield, David Courard-Hauri, Deborah Cronin, Deb Christensen, John Fender, John Gitua, John Graham, Erin Horst, Adina Kilpatrick, Chris Kliethermes, Amahia Mallea, Leslie Marrs, Glenn McKnight, Emily Newman, Josie Poppen, Chris Porter, Martin Roth, Heidi Sleister, Keith Summerville, Tim Urness, Lisa West, Kieran Williams, Adam Yankow, and Matt Zwier.

THANK YOU to A&S faculty and staff who welcomed our incoming first-year students to campus this summer for orientation: Natalie Bayer, Alina Grimm, Mary Beth Holtey, Will Hatchet, Alice Fynaardt, Jacob Lemons, Karla Rincon, John Fender, Marc Busch, Beth Younger, David Courard-Hauri, Glenn McKnight, Kieran Williams, Meredith Luttrell, Will Garriott, Leslie Marrs, Greg Lengel, Martin Roth, Marc Pinheiro-Cadd, Josie Poppen, Shauna Kaplan, John Gitua, Athanasios Petridis, Heidi Sleister, Chris Kliethermes, Dian Nostikasari, Maryann Huey, Chris Porter, Sandra Patton-Imani, Abigail Stepnitz, Gholam Mirafzal, Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg and Cynthia Giunta.

Reading Corner

We accomplish more when we work together...check out this interesting article about Students and Faculty standing up for [LGBTQ policy](#).

Tech Corner

As you prepare for fall semester courses, you'll find many new features in Blackboard Ultra. In case you missed it, [Karly Good](#) outlined many of the new features in the July "Teaching with Technology Tips and Tricks" announcement. Blackboard is continually updated, you are encouraged to wait until after August 4th to work on your fall semester course question banks and overall grade settings because this is when all of the new features will be available. Watch for an upcoming A&S announcement about an opportunity to participate in a mid-August virtual group training on creating Blackboard assignments/assessments and the gradebook.

A&S Events

- July 20-24 - Interfaith Camp
- Aug 18 - Learning Symposium Olmsted Center Upper Level at 8:30 am
- Aug 21 - Summer term ends
- Aug 22 - New Faculty Luncheon
- Aug 23-24 - New First Year & Transfer Student Move-In
- Aug 24-27 - Welcome Week
- Aug 24 - All Chairs Retreat
- Aug 26-28 - Returning Student Move-In
- Aug 26 - A&S New Faculty Welcome & Orientation
- Aug 29 - Fall term begins

Submit News

