



A&S Newsletter

March 8th, 2022



Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. The weekend saw weather emergencies that led to destruction and the loss of lives, and yesterday the news reported more tragedies caused by young human hands. The drive-by shooting of students at East High School is too horrendous to fully comprehend, and it happened right here in our city, in our community. It happened to our students, some of whom graduated from East High or had friends there. Our hearts go out to everybody affected by this senseless violence.

Last week Drake dropped its mask mandate inside campus buildings, and this transition again is not an easy one. In cases where students and/or faculty have requested and received an accommodation, masks must still be worn by all people in the classroom. Faculty has been/will be informed by Michelle Laughlin if such an accommodation is needed. I have included more information below on the process.

Check out some of the other deadlines and noteworthy news items included here. Teacher of the Year nominations are now accepted until March 14. Please save the date for our A&S Student Honors Convocation on April 21 where we celebrate our outstanding students. If you are in need of music to get your mind off other things, go to the Drake Symphonic Band [Concert](#) in Sheslow Auditorium at 7:30pm tonight, or check out the Drake Symphony Orchestra Concert on Thursday at 7:30pm. The program includes a composition by Iowa composer and Drake alumna Linda Coleman. The one silver lining of the pandemic: all of our music and theatre productions are now available via livestream on our [YouTube channel](#) and can be enjoyed from anywhere!

The calendar tells me that it is spring break next week, so it must be true, snow and all! I hope you find time to relax!

Have a great week,
Gesine

Dean's Open Office Hours

Gesine will hold open office hours on Tuesday, March 22, 4-5 pm, in the Olmsted Café or on [Zoom](#). No appointment needed.

A&S Teacher of the Year Award:

The College of Arts & Sciences solicits your help in selecting a faculty member of the college to receive the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" award. You can use this [online form](#) to nominate your colleague by the extended date [March 14th](#).

Eligibility for the Award: Nominees must be full-time, continuing faculty in the college of the Arts and Sciences. Nominees must have completed at least three years of service at Drake.

Jan Fleming Award

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. The recipient will be chosen by the chairs of the fine arts programs and will receive a monetary award. Senior Fine Arts students should submit the Jan Fleming Award Application by March 13.

Faculty Spotlight

We want to congratulate [Maria Valdovinos](#) for been appointed by Governor Reynolds to serve on the Board of Behavioral Science. She will start serving May 1st, 2022 and will end April 30th, 2025. We wish you the best!

Student Spotlight

[Connor Peterson](#) (Math and Physics), [Wenyu "Summer" Liu](#) (Chemistry) and [Avasar Sheth](#) (Chemistry and Math) have been accepted to the dual-degree Engineering program at Washington University in St. Louis. Help us celebrate their achievements!

Avasar will pursue BS in Chemical Engineering and Master of Engineering in Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering. Summer will pursue BS in Chemical Engineering and Master of Engineering in Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering. Connor will pursue BS in Mechanical Engineering and MS in Aerospace Engineering.

"Help Your Shelf" Initiative

The College of Arts and Sciences invites you to help students who do not have the resources to purchase personal items and/or school supplies. There are two bookshelves in Meredith Hall 104 for you to deposit items. You can use this [Amazon Wish List](#) for references of the items in need.

The Leyendas / Legends Exhibition

Rich Latin American oral traditions inspired an interdisciplinary exchange between students in Legends and Mythology, taught by Professor Inbal Mazar, and students in the Painting classes of Professor Angela Battle. Des Moines community members shared legends from the Latin American regions they grew up in with Mazar's students, who then transcribed and translated them for artists to interpret into paintings. Both forms of expression are exhibited side by side, along with information about the participants.

Come join the weeks gallery exhibition from March 9 to April 6, 2022 at the Harmon Fine Arts Center (south entrance) and open to the public Monday - Sunday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Save the date for the Closing Reception on Sunday, April 3, 1-3pm. There will be light refreshments and a musical performance by Drake University students. All are invited!

Ukraine Panel

A&S Professors DeLaet, Skidmore, Williams, and Collis and alumni Amir Busnov gave a panel presentation on the war in Ukraine and its historical context. Check out the [KCCI news](#) segment. Click [here](#) to watch the full video.

Theatre Department Production

Check out these photos from recent Drake [Theatre productions](#). The next show opens on March 31 with the musical *It Shoulda Been you*.

Meredith Renovation Updates

If you "live" and work in Meredith Hall and have any questions about the timeline of renovation project, please refer to the [Meredith Move Guide](#). You can find packing and moving resources as well as other relevant information.

Mask Requirement Accomodation Requests

As of last Wednesday, the University's indoor mask mandate is no longer in effect except for those following isolation or quarantine protocols.

Employees and students may request an accomodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Employees should contact Human Resources by emailing drakehr@drake.edu and students should contact Student Disability Services by emailing sds@drake.edu or scheduling an appointment through Starfish with Michelle Laughlin or Brooke Sanders.

A&S Student Honors Convocation

A&S Student Honors Convocation is on April 21 and it is in person! Save the date and plan to attend to celebrate some of our outstanding students! All department award nominations are due to Karla on April 1 by noon.

Advising Corner

Responding to Students of Concern

We hear that stress, burnout, and fatigue are increasingly taking toll on students, affecting their attendance, response to outreach, and submission of work. If you are concerned about a student in your course, please raise a flag in Starfish. Depending on the type of the flag, students will either be able to see your comments or receive a follow-up from the appropriate office. Another option is to complete an 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.

Midterm Grades are due before **10 a.m. on Wed, Mar 23**. The entry of midterm grades helps students make informed decisions on whether or not to remain in a spring course(s). Students who wish to drop a course with a W have through 4:30 p.m. on Wed, Mar 30 to take action by submitting the [add/drop form to ask.as@drake.edu](#). **If a student is enrolled in 12 credits, dropping a course with a W, will not take them to part-time standing.**

If you have an advisee(s) with two or more low midterm grades, you will receive an email from either Alina Grimm or Mary Beth Holtey. As you have conversations with advisees during registration appointments, please consider discussing low midterm grades as relevant. Research has clearly demonstrated that adviser feedback regarding academic performance is a critical piece of student retention and improved and academic performance.

Registration for Summer and Fall 2022 and J-term 2023 begins on Monday, Apr 11. A great reference page for all-things registration, including the registration time tables,

is www.drake.edu/registrar/registration/.

Updated QPR Training Time: The suicide prevention training led by Greg Lengel is now scheduled in SCB 101 at 1pm. on Friday, March 25th. The training session is based on the QPR gatekeeper training, which stands for the Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. If you plan to attend, RSVP natalie.bayer@drake.edu.

A&S Important Dates

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

- March 8 at 7:30 pm Drake Symphonic Band - Sheslow Auditorium conducted by Vince Kenney.
- March 9 - April 6 The Legends Exhibition week gallery
- March 10 at 7:30 pm Drake Orchestra - Sheslow Auditorium conducted by Hector Aguero.
- March 11 Midpoint of semester
- March 14-18 Spring Break
- March 23 Midterm grades due by 10am
- March 27 Faculty Development Grant applications for Fall 2022 due to the Dean

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