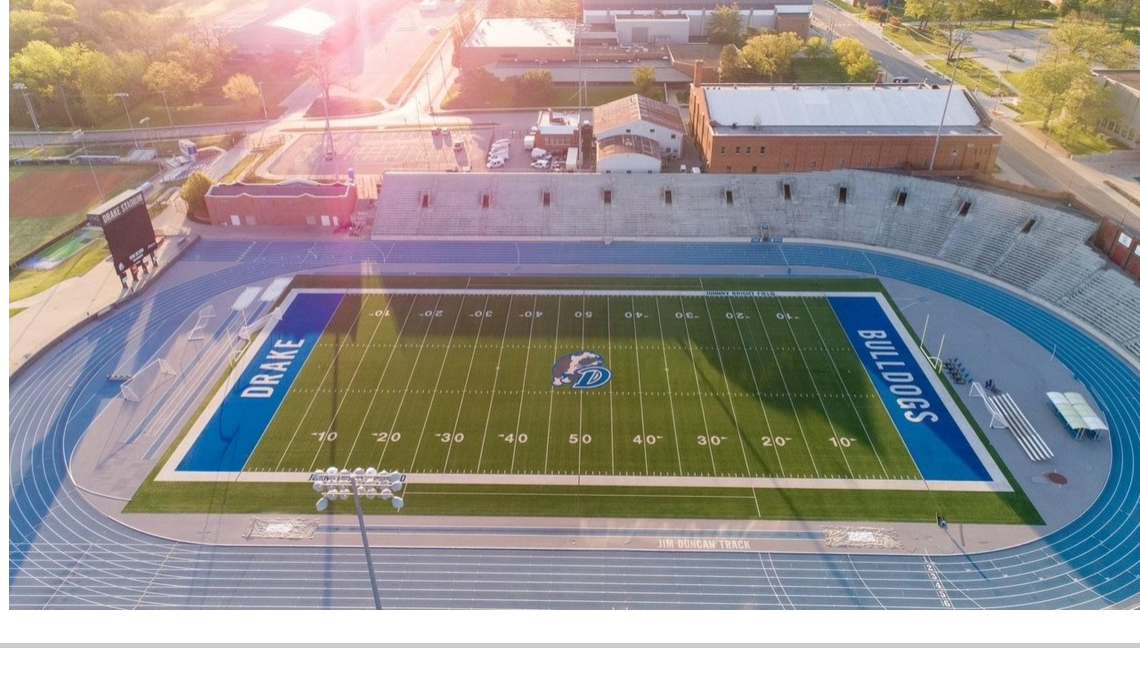




A&S Newsletter

May 11, 2022



Dean's Note

Dear colleagues,

As we are putting together the last newsletter of the spring 2022 semester, I wish I could simply say "we made it!" The COVID surge on our campus just after Relays upended the last two weeks of the semester, just when we thought we were at the finish line. The quick response and shut down of in-person finals, meetings, events and many classes seemed to have worked: by Thursday the number of new COVID cases had crossed its peak and was significantly lower. The goal is to celebrate in-person commencement—we simply can't cancel that for our graduating seniors and their families this year! Thank you for being ready to give your finals online, and for your great flexibility—again!

Recruitment: We ended this year's admission cycle on May 2nd with a record number of 414 EFR in the Arts & Sciences!! That is an incredibly strong number, the second highest number of EFR we have had in A&S over the last 10 years. Bravo! A real team effort—thank you, everybody! The overall number of new first year students for Drake is at 748, and behind our enrollment target. There is still some work to do, but the main focus is now shifting to melt prevention over the summer. We want to make sure that 414+ students will show up to summer orientation in June/July, and attend their classes in August. Please reach out to the students you met during admission events, and stay engaged with the new majors in your programs. At the same time we have already started the recruitment of the 2023 cohort, as emerging seniors are beginning to look at their college choices.

New faculty hires: This has been a busy year for new faculty hires. We have hired five new tenure track faculty, and signed nine VAP contracts. This week we are hoping to wrap up the remaining five searches. Fingers crossed! Next year will not be any less busy. I have received 14 case statements for tenure track positions!

It's the time of the year where we celebrate major milestones and achievements. The Board of Trustees approved recommendations for promotion and/or tenure for nine faculty in Arts and Sciences. Check out our faculty below and make sure to congratulate them! Congratulations also to Professors Elizabeth Robertson and Jody Swilky, who are retiring after a combined 34 and 35 years at Drake. It is hard to imagine the English department and Drake without them. It is amazing to know that thousands of students are out there who have become better writers, critical thinkers and communicators because of having taken classes with Elizabeth and Jody! We wish Elizabeth and Jody the best on their new adventures that lay ahead!

Hang in there this week and good luck grading. What a challenging year this has been! Coming back from the pandemic turned out to be more difficult than anything we did before! I am amazed of how you adapted, persisted, and succeeded, and couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students in the Arts & Sciences. You did it, after all!

Take care,
Gesine

Promotion and Tenure Announcements

Congratulations on promotion to full professor:

Martin Roth, Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Will Garriott, Professor of Law, Politics, and Society

Congratulations on promotion and tenure:

Jill Allen, Associate Professor of Psychology

Eric Barnum, Associate Professor of Music

Gregory Lengel, Associate Professor of Psychology

Meredith Luttrell, Associate Professor of Biology

Emily Newman, Associate Professor of Art

Terrance Pendleton, Associate Professor of Math

Daria Trentini, Associate Professor of Sociology

Dean and Sue Wright A&S Teacher of the Year 2022

Congratulations to Inbal Mazar, Associate Professor of Spanish, A&S Teacher of the Year for 2022!

In the nomination letters, students lauded Professor Mazar for her passion and for teaching them how small actions can impact someone's life. One student wrote "Thank you for being such an inspirational professor and helping me realize why learning another language is so important. Thank you for all the powerful stories you shared and thank you for showing how much you care about others. I don't think you realize how powerful your radiating passion is..." Congratulations, Inbal!

Levitt Distinguished Professorship

Congratulations to Professor Freeman-Miller for being named Distinguished Levitt Professor!

Professor Freeman-Miller's success and her commitment as a voice teacher are highly regarded and well known far beyond Drake. Students start studying with her prior to college, they come to Drake because of her, and they go on to successful careers because of her mentorship and coaching. Leanne's success as a teacher cannot be separated from her gifted artistic creativity—in form of her voice. Leanne's international opera activities (both in performance and instruction), her cumulative recital experience, and her worldwide advocacy for the power and beauty of voice make her well suited for the Levitt Distinguished Professorship.

NEH Summer Stipends Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers summer fellowships for tenure-track and tenured faculty. The program aims to stimulate new research in the humanities and its publication by supporting the work of individual scholars doing research or writing. The award amount is \$6,000. Each institution can nominate two faculty to apply. For more information on the program, please click [here](#). The NEH will also be offering a webinar Wednesday, May 18 from 2:00-3:00 PM (Eastern Time). To join the webinar, click on [this link](#).

Please contact [Karla Rincon](#) if you have any questions in the nomination process.

Advising Corner

[Grades](#) are due before **10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18**. The timely submission of grades is tied to a variety of end-of-term processes, including the posting of degrees and confirmation of those who should be listed on the Dean's and President's Lists. A few reminders:

Submit grades for everyone on your roster(s). If a student appearing on your roster didn't validate their attendance at the beginning of the semester, email [Mary Beth Holley](#). If a student has a non-reported grade on his/her transcript, they cannot be listed on the Dean's List or President's List, or earn a degree, as applicable.

If you enter a grade incorrectly, i.e. you enter a grade of B, but the student earned an A, please follow the steps: MyDrake > Self Service > Teaching and Grading > Grade Changes.

If you encounter a case of plagiarism, please refer to the procedures outlined [here](#).

Granting and Resolving Incomplete (I) Marks:

If in a previous term you issued an incomplete (I) and the student has now earned a letter grade, please update the grade. Within MyDrake > Self Service > Teaching & Grading > I/INR Grade Updates. If you wish to extend the time by which a student has to complete the work in a class currently marked as incomplete, please email Mary Beth Holley or Alina Grimm so they can work with the Registrar's Office to create the extension.

If working with a student who will not successfully complete your course this spring, it may seem "friendly," to offer the student an incomplete and urge them to re-register for the course in the fall, but please do not pursue this path. Why? The student's first attempt will later be updated to a failing grade (XX on the transcript) and the second attempt at the course included in the GPA. It's in the student's better interest to resolve the incomplete and not re-register for the course.

Moreover, if a student has not attended your course for several weeks or submitted any work during the term, it may seem that extending an incomplete might be a good option, but experience has shown that these students rarely successfully complete the work or earn a high grade. The presence of several incompletes gives the student a false sense of hope (don't let me get by with the best of intentions to complete work, only to find we take on too much?). And, students who take several incompletes may be in a type of financial aid "limbo," without resolved credits and a clear sense of hours earned.

If you are considering granting an incomplete this semester, please refer to the please refer to the Academic Regulation in the General Catalog for procedures and [note the differences between an Incomplete \(I\) and In Progress \(IP\)](#).

If a student working on an incomplete over the summer needs access to your Blackboard course, please remember to keep it open for this student. Let the Dean's office know if a graduating student with an incomplete requires an extension for continued library access at Cowles.

Registration is Over, but Course Overrides Are Not

To assist students needing an override(s) to add your course(s), keep in mind the steps for setting a registration override – MyDrake > Self Service > Student Advising > My Advisees > Advisee Search > Registration Overrides. From here, remember you may need to set more than one override to allow a student's registration.

Helping Students in Distress

Drake's Counseling Center is officially booked with appointments for the remainder of the semester. During finals week Drake counselors are opening up their schedules for walk-in appointments so students can utilize resources before break. In addition, please encourage students to use walk-in times if they are in crisis or to contact the Broadlawn's Psych Urgent Care Clinic (contact information below).

If students need referrals in the community, they can call the Drake Counseling Center at 515-271-3864. More information on services can be found at [Counseling & Services | Drake University](#).

At this point, the Student Health Center will not be providing medication referrals unless a student will be enrolled for a summer course(s). Students can utilize their primary care physician's or consult with a counselor about availability for Broadlawn's psychiatry residents/the Psych Urgent Care Clinic if there is an immediate concern.

Congratulations!

Chemistry Department graduate Caroline Plescia (A&S '17) has successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation. She earned her Ph.D. in *Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology* from Purdue University. Her research was exploring the mechanisms of cell infection by ebola and SARS-CoV-2. She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University studying how to use viruses to deliver gene therapy for the treatment of degenerative diseases.

Reading Corner

Here is a piece from *My Chronicle* for this time of the semester: [How to Escape the Grading Jail](#).

A&S Events

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

- May 15 Commencement Ceremony for Undergraduates: Knapp Center 10 a.m.
- May 15 Commencement Ceremony for Graduates: Knapp Center 2 p.m.
- May 16 Spring 2022 term ends
- May 16 Summer 2022 term begins
- May 18 Spring 2022 grades due to Registrar's Office
- May 30 Memorial Day; University Closed

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