

## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: August 24, 2017

TO: University Faculty and Staff

FROM: Vilas A. Prabhu  
Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: **WELCOME NEW FACULTY 2017-18**

I am pleased to share with you the link below to introduce to you the thirteen tenure-track, two regular part-time and three one-year full-time faculty who will be joining the Millersville community in fall 2017.

<http://www.millersville.edu/assocprovost/files/2017NewFacultyCampusAnnouncement.pdf>

Their photographs and introductions are also included below.

Please join me in welcoming this outstanding group of eighteen new faculty members to our campus.

# *Millersville University New Faculty – Fall 2017*

## **College of Arts, Humanities and Social Services**



**Dr. Gregory Bowen**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**English**

Dr. Gregory Bowen received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Linguistics from Purdue University, and his B.A. in History from Westminster College. His teaching interests are in historical linguistics, historical English literature, and the history of the English language, with a focus on making linguistics accessible to new learners. He spent five years as an award-winning introductory linguistics instructor at Purdue. His research interests are in historical sociolinguistics, especially involving forms of address and religious language.



**Prof. Adam Boyer**  
**Instructor (One-Year, Full-time)**  
**Communication & Theatre**

Prof. Boyer, a Lancaster native, earned his M.F.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Iowa and his B.A. in Theatre from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He concentrated in theatrical design and technology, specializing in theatrical lighting design. Prof. Boyer moved back to Lancaster in 2015. Prior to joining Millersville University, he was the House Lighting Designer & Electrician at the Appell Center for the Performing Arts, formerly the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center. He also freelanced in the area as a Lighting Designer, Production Manager, and Entertainment Technician. Before relocating, Prof. Boyer travelled extensively as a Head Electrician with large touring theatrical productions in North America and internationally. His work focuses on the intersection of entertainment technology and theatrical design.



**Dr. Dain Estes**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Music**

Dr. Estes received a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas. Dr. Estes has been a full-time faculty member at Augsburg College's music business program since 2014, has spoken at various music industry events, been a business consultant on intellectual property issues, and has worked with a number of professional musicians, including Somali artists in Minneapolis. Dr. Estes has a diverse background as a songwriter, musician, recording artist, and music industry professional. Born in Kansas City, he signed his first record deal at the age of nineteen and went on to release several nationally distributed recordings on various regional and nationally distributed record labels. Estes' songs have been licensed to numerous television shows, films, and commercials. As a touring musician, he has supported a diverse group of artists including the legendary rock act Journey, the Gin Blossoms, and Grammy nominee Abra Moore. In 2011, he co-founded the Vinefield Agency, an artist management and booking agency based in Denver, CO.



**Prof. Heidi Leitzke**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Art & Design**

Prof. Leitzke graduated with an M.F.A. in Painting from Western Carolina University. She also studied at the Chautauqua Institute School of Art and American University's Art in Italy program. She earned a B.A. in Fine Arts from Anderson University. Prof. Leitzke has taught at the Chautauqua Institute School of Art, Drexel University, and Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, where she was also Gallery Director. Most recently, she served as the Public Art Manager for the City of Lancaster, PA where she led a strategic planning process and researched Public Art and Creative Placemaking within the urban context. Her teaching background includes a variety of Studio Art courses, Professional Practices for Artists and Curatorial Projects in Contemporary Art. In her personal studio work Leitzke creates paintings with thread on linen. Her work has been exhibited nationally, most recently in *Stitch, Beyond Function* at the Zarrow Center for Art & Education, part of the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



**Prof. James Machado**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Communication & Theatre**

Prof. Machado received his M.F.A. in Media Arts Production from The City College of New York in 2004. Prior to joining Millersville, he served as an Assistant Professor of Communication at Western Carolina University where he taught undergraduate courses in video and documentary production. Prof. Machado has worked in television production for over 15 years, with credits in reality tv, documentary, hard news, and corporate communication. His research interests include editing theory, non-linear content distribution channels, documentary ethics, wildlife conservation, and sectarian politics in Northern Ireland.



**Dr. Xun Pan**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Music**

Dr. Pan received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Prior to joining Millersville, he taught and served as the Chairman of the Piano Department at Pennsylvania Academy of Music for 15 years. Dr. Pan has won many international piano competitions and awards. He has performed concerts worldwide from Carnegie Weill Hall to the Beijing National Center for Performing Arts, and given master classes in over 15 countries. Dr. Pan is one of the founding members and the Artistic Director of the Lancaster International Piano Festival in Pennsylvania, USA.

## College of Education and Human Services



**Prof. Susannah Boyle**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Early, Middle & Exceptional Education**

Prof. Boyle received her M.Ed. in Special Education at the University of New Orleans and is currently a doctoral candidate at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research and teaching interests center on early childhood special education (with a focus on literacy), children with severe disabilities, and assistive technology. As a P-12 teacher, Prof. Boyle taught inclusive prekindergarten and elementary

classes in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



**Dr. Aileen Hower**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Early, Middle & Exceptional Education**

Dr. Hower holds an Ed.D. in Reading and Language Arts, with a concentration in Leadership from Widener University, a specialist degree in Reading from Cabrini University, a M.A. in Teaching English from The College of New Jersey, a M.A. in American Studies from the University of Wyoming, and B.A. in English with an American history minor from Bloomsburg University. Dr. Hower recently served as the K-12 Literacy and ESL Supervisor with South Western School District in Hanover, PA. In PK-12 education, she holds

certifications in teaching English, mid-level citizenship education, ESL, and reading specialist, has supervisory certificates in curriculum and instruction and reading, and holds an endorsement as a literacy coach. Dr. Hower has taught graduate level courses in reading and writing at Penn State University - York and Cabrini University. Her academic interests focus on exceptional learners and literacy.



**Dr. Wanja Ogongi**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Social Work**

Dr. Ogongi earned her Ph.D. in Social Work at Widener University, a Master's of Social Work at West Chester University of PA, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Nairobi. She has practiced in the areas of International Human Rights (focus on women and children), Child Welfare, Refugees and Unaccompanied Minors, and Medical Social Work. In addition, she co-founded the Ahadi Zetu Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides educational scholarships to destitute children in Kenya. Her areas of teaching include Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Social Work Practice, and Social Science Research. Her areas of interest for research and presentation include child welfare in the US and globally, effects of social welfare policy, and issues affecting the African Diaspora in the United States.

### **College of Science and Technology**



**Prof. Leslie Dean**  
**Instructor (Regular, Part-Time)**  
**Nursing**

Prof. Dean earned her Master's in Nursing (MSN) from Millersville University and her Bachelor's in Nursing (BSN) from SUNY Binghamton. Early in her career, she worked in Pediatrics, Maternal-Child Health, Medical-Surgical, and Community Health Nursing. Her teaching background includes employment as a nurse educator at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, PA, and as a nursing instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Harrisburg Campus. She taught as an adjunct in the RN-BSN program at Penn State Harrisburg and at Millersville University. Prof. Dean presented at the national AWHONN (Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses) conference and received Holy Spirit Hospital's "Going Beyond Expectations" Spirit award. Her professional interests include teaching ethics and diversity in nursing practice. She currently teaches physical assessment in the ADN program at HACC, and for Millersville University in both the satellite RN-BSN program at the Dixon University Center and in the online RN-BSN program.



**Prof. William Killian**  
**Assistant Professor (One-year, Full-time)**  
**Computer Science**

Prof. Killian is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Delaware finalizing his degree in computer science. He earned his B.S. from Millersville University ('11) and M.S. from the University of Delaware ('13). Prof. Killian's research areas include predictive modeling, programming models, and program optimization. Prior to joining Millersville, he worked at Intel and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) where he focused on application fitness, optimization and performance modeling. He continues to collaborate with LLNL on abstraction layers which make it easier for users to create scientific applications which run on upcoming supercomputing systems. Prof. Killian taught while a graduate student and received a university-wide "Excellence in Teaching" award in 2016. He expects to complete his Ph.D. later this fall.



**Dr. Maja Klosinska**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Biology**

Dr. Klosinska began her education in the field of Biology at the University of Lodz, Poland, where she studied botany and genetics. She earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University, where she worked on stress response and quiescence in yeast *S. cerevisiae*. She completed her postdoctoral research in the lab of Dr. Mary Gehring at Whitehead Institute, where she worked on identifying imprinted genes and studied the mechanisms of gene imprinting in the perennial plant *Arabidopsis lyrata*. She plans to continue research in the field of plant gene imprinting and epigenetics. She was a teaching assistant for two courses at Princeton University, taught courses on Epigenetics and Lab Techniques at MIT, and taught a class on Genetics at Tufts University.



**Dr. Betty-Jo Legutko**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology**

Dr. Legutko earned a Ph.D. in Leadership in December 2016 from Alvernia University in Reading, Pennsylvania where she was awarded the “Ph.D. in Leadership Award” in April 2017. She earned a master of business administration and a bachelor of science in environmental engineering technology from Penn State University, and a post-baccalaureate certificate in medical studies from Drexel University. Dr. Legutko has over 15 years of industry experience in environmental, health, and safety engineering and management positions at Johnson & Johnson, Cargill, Fairchild Semiconductor, and World Resources Company. She also taught business, leadership, and math courses as an adjunct faculty member at Lycoming College, McCann School of Business and Technology, and Alvernia University. Her research interests include ISO 45001/OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 management systems, construction safety, and leadership styles.



**Prof. Cayleigh Minter**  
**Instructor (Regular, Part-time)**  
**Nursing**

Prof. Minter earned her Master of Nursing Education from Millersville University. Prior to that, she received her B.S.N. from York College of Pennsylvania. Prof. Minter has taught at Millersville University and works at the Harrisburg Hospital in Harrisburg, PA.





**Dr. Laura Ramos-Sepúlveda**  
**Assistant Professor (One-Year, Full-time)**  
**Biology**

Dr. Ramos-Sepúlveda received her bachelor degree at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. She then moved to the mainland in 2010 to earn her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at The Pennsylvania State University. During her Ph.D. she worked with Bacteria-Plants Interactions (molecular biology). To broaden her expertise as a microbiologist, in 2014 she decided to stay at Penn State University and work with Bacteria-Fungi Interactions. She has published her work in respected journals like *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* and *Molecular Plant Pathology*; mentored undergraduate and graduate students with their research and careers; and taught to both non-science and science major students. She taught Introduction to Plant Biology and Plant Stress: It's Not Easy Being Green to non-science major students and Plant-Microbe Interactions to science major students. Her current research interest is to study and stop *Pseudomonas* bacterium, which causes disease to our main agronomic crop in Pennsylvania, the button mushrooms.



**Dr. Christopher Stieha**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Biology**

Dr. Stieha earned a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Kentucky in 2012. Between completing his doctorate and joining the faculty at Millersville University, he was a researcher in the Department of Entomology at Cornell University and the Department of Biology at Case Western Reserve University. His research interests range from competition between male and female plants, to the effects of plant defenses on herbivore populations, to application of these defenses in agricultural settings. Although his topics vary, in all cases he combines empirical work with mathematical models and statistics to understand population dynamics.

## Non-College Faculty



**Prof. Kimberly Auger**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Library**

Prof. Auger earned teaching certificates from the State of New Jersey in both Art and Theater before pursuing her Master's of Library and Information Science from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Prof. Auger has formerly worked as a librarian for West Chester University in West Chester, PA; Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing in Camden, NJ; and South Jersey Healthcare in Bridgeton, NJ.



**Dr. David Henriques**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Academic Advisement and Student Development**

Dr. Henriques earned an Ed. D. in Higher Education Administration and his M.A. in Adult Education from Widener University. He received his M.S. in Clinical Psychology and B.A. in Psychology from Millersville University. His research interests focus on advising, student resiliency, learning communities, and programming for undecided/undeclared students. With over 25 years of higher education experience, Dr. Henriques served a variety of faculty and administrative roles supporting student transition, student success, student persistence retention, and graduation. Philosophically, he believes in empowering students via pedagogy, programming, and advising support. His mantra to students is: "success is a choice." Prior to returning to Millersville, Dr. Henriques was the Associate Dean in the School of Academic Programs and Services at Shippensburg University, where he oversaw their program for undeclared students (40% of entering students), their campus-wide placement testing program and is credited with designing and generating 4-year graduation templates for every major. Prior to Shippensburg, he worked at Indiana State University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a frequent presenter at local, regional and national conferences.