

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Faculty and Staff

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

DATE: August 27, 2018

SUBJECT: WELCOME NEW FACULTY 2018-2019

I am pleased to introduce you to the sixteen tenure-track and three new one-year full-time faculty members who are joining the Millersville University community in fall 2018.

Their photographs and introductions are included below, and will also be posted on the [Provost's webpage](#).

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

Millersville University New Faculty – Fall 2018

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



Dr. Emily Baldys
Assistant Professor
English

Dr. Baldys received her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from The Pennsylvania State University, and her B.A. in English from Bryn Mawr College. Her teaching specializations include eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature and disability studies. Her research, which has been published in *Philological Quarterly* and the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, explores the ways in which literary texts engage with scientific, medical, and popular discourse to shape cultural conceptions of the abnormal body and mind. She comes to Millersville University from Zane State College in Zanesville, Ohio, where she taught modern British literature, composition, the literature of sustainability and the literature of crime. During her time at Zane State, Dr. Baldys earned the Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award, and while at Penn State she earned the Raymond Lombra Award for Excellence in Research in the Humanities.



Dr. Joseph Cernuto
Assistant Professor
Music

Dr. Cernuto directs the Marching Marauders, conducts the Concert Band and teaches courses in music and music education at Millersville University. Prior to joining Millersville University, he was a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Iowa, where he worked with the 250-member Hawkeye Marching Band, the 90-member Iowa Pep Band, and conducted Iowa's concert bands. He was also a middle school and high school band director in Oklahoma and North Carolina and was Director of Bands at Rogers State University in Claremore, Oklahoma. Dr. Cernuto earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Iowa and his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. His research interests are in core collegiate wind repertoire and the music of composer John Mackey. Dr. Cernuto and his wife Megan have three daughters, Quinn, Nora and Avery.



Prof. Dorothy Frey
Assistant Professor
Art & Design

Professor Frey received her MFA in Painting from American University in Washington, DC and Italy, and her BFA from Millersville University. She has taught at American University, Northern Virginia Community College, and Moore College of Art. Most recently, she was assistant professor of art at Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, where she taught all levels of drawing and painting. At PCA&D, Professor Frey chaired the Fine Art Department, assessed and restructured the fine art curriculum, and served on the Board of Trustees.

Professor Frey is represented by the Bowery Gallery in New York, and also exhibits locally at Lancaster Galleries. Her oil paintings depict the landscapes and interiors of her family farm in Lancaster County. This imagery provides opportunities for her to explore metaphors and to express personal narratives.



Dr. Jessica Hughes
Assistant Professor
Communication & Theatre

Dr. Hughes earned a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Colorado Boulder, an M.A. in Language Studies from Lancaster University (U.K.), and a B.A. in German Language and Literature from Boston University. Prior to joining Millersville University, she was an assistant professor of speech and media studies at Reading Area Community College and taught classes in speech, communication theory and discourse studies at CU Boulder. Her teaching and research focus on the interconnection between discourse and society, social justice communication and disability rights.

College of Education and Human Services



Dr. Jason Davis
Assistant Professor
Early, Middle & Exceptional Education

Dr. Davis received his Ed.D. in Special Education from the University of San Francisco, a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from George Mason University, his M.S. in Special Education from Old Dominion University and a B.S. in History from Radford University. A professional educator for over eighteen years, Dr. Davis focused much of his career working with at-risk students and those identified with special needs. As a teacher and school principal, he devoted his time to finding ways to support the needs of diverse populations. In this pursuit, his work at the university level has emphasized the power of highly qualified teachers using evidence-based practices to support student growth. His research interests include using technology to enhance teacher reflection, overcoming the transition shock from university to the K-12 classroom, and encouraging teachers to embed evidence-based practices into their classrooms.



Dr. Bertha Saldana De Jesus
Assistant Professor
Social Work

Dr. Saldana De Jesus earned her Doctor of Social Work (DSW) with a Human Service Management certificate at Kutztown University and Millersville University's joint program, a Master of Social Work at Widener University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. She has practiced in the areas of child welfare, behavioral health, and hospice. Dr. Saldana De Jesus has also served as a field coordinator/field liaison/field instructor in the BSW and MSW programs at Millersville University. Her areas of teaching include human behavior in the social environment, social work practice and field education. Dr. Saldana De Jesus' areas of interest for research and presentation include field education, child welfare, hospice, and issues affecting the Latino and African American population in the United States. She holds a membership in the National Association of Social Work. Locally, she serves as a board member of H.E.A.R. Inc./Gatehouse Inc.



Dr. Lauren Kaiser
Assistant Professor
Psychology

Dr. Kaiser is a nationally certified school psychologist who received her undergraduate and graduate training from the University of Maryland, College Park, a Ph.D. and an M.A., Advanced Graduate Specialist in School Psychology, and a B.S. in Elementary Education. Dr. Kaiser has worked in a variety of professional capacities within urban, suburban and rural schools over the past 20 years, across eight states. She has served as an elementary school teacher; school psychologist; approved trainer and consultant of instructional consultation teams; district-level coordinated early interventions specialist; school coach within the Double Check and Bullying Classroom Check-Up programs; and Coping Power - Early Adolescent Program clinician. Dr. Kaiser has taught graduate-level courses in academic and behavioral assessment and intervention at the University of Maryland, College Park, and undergraduate courses in introduction to psychology, human development, and behavioral approaches to change at Stevenson University. Her teaching and research interests are school consultation, teacher coaching, academic and behavioral assessment, evidenced-based interventions, and implementation science to help promote safe, supportive, equitable, and instructionally matched school environments for all students.



Dr. Miriam Witmer
Assistant Professor
Educational Foundations

Dr. Witmer earned her Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis on Educational Psychology from Temple University. She earned her B.S. in English/Communications Secondary Education and her M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University. Her most recent published research is titled “Ethnically diverse education students’ perceptions of mentoring: implications for college success and career aspirations.” No stranger to Millersville University, Dr. Witmer has taught undergraduate and graduate courses and mentored student teachers in the Educational Foundations Department. She is also the coordinator of the Color of Teaching Mentoring Program at Millersville University. She has served on the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion at Millersville University for three years and provided mentoring training for faculty and students in the Research Mentoring Initiative. She enjoys traveling, motorcycling and playing competitive tennis.

College of Science and Technology



Dr. Tina Crone
Assistant Professor (One-Year, Full-time)
Biology

Dr. Crone received her doctorate in Cellular and Molecular Biology from The Pennsylvania State University. Her research at the Milton Hershey Medical Center focused on mutagenesis studies of the DNA repair protein, O⁶-alkylguanine-DNA alkyltransferase, and how these mutants reacted with inhibitors to increase the efficacy of chemotherapeutic drugs. She is currently interested in post-transcriptional regulation of protein expression. Dr. Crone has previously taught at Penn State Harrisburg, Harrisburg Community

College, Lebanon Valley College and Elizabethtown College.



Prof. Cindy English
Instructor
Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology

Professor English holds an M.F.A. in Art Direction and Design from Marywood University and a B.S. in Technical Illustration / Graphic Design from Bemidji State University, Minnesota. Prior to joining Millersville, she served as a clinical assistant professor of technology at the University of North Dakota, where she taught computer-aided drafting and design (CADD), packaging, graphic design and

photography. While functioning as Gallery Director for the Pennsylvania College of Technology, she also served as an adjunct faculty member in the graphic design/advertising art and printing and publishing curricula. Professor English has over 26 years of industry experience in manufacturing and architecture, including machine design, product design, reverse engineering of customer products and industrial buildings. Although she has exhibited artwork in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, with one sculpture featured in several published journals, her current scholarly interests focus on integrating packaging and graphic design applications in the manufacturing setting.



Dr. Chad Hogg
Assistant Professor
Computer Science

Dr. Hogg, a native of Lancaster County, earned his Ph.D. from Lehigh University in 2011 and his B.S. from Ursinus College in 2004, both in Computer Science. Prior to joining Millersville University, he was an instructor at Mansfield University, a visiting assistant professor at Ursinus College, and an associate professor at King's College. He has also worked as a software engineer for Eagle Solutions. His research interests center around the use of explanation-based machine learning to discover knowledge for advanced automated planning systems and the application of artificial intelligence algorithms to local, real-world problems.



Prof. William Killian
Assistant Professor
Computer Science

Professor 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. Dawn Lambert
Assistant Professor
Nursing

Dr. Lambert received her Ph.D. in Nursing Education from Capella University, a Master of Science in Nursing degree from West Chester University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Millersville University. Prior to joining Millersville University, she served as an assistant professor of nursing at Eastern Mennonite University at Lancaster, where she taught graduate and

undergraduate courses. Dr. Lambert's clinical experience includes acute and long-term care settings, public and community health, and nursing education. She has presented locally and nationally on topics related to school nursing, and published several articles and a book chapter related to school nursing practice. Dr. Lambert is actively involved in volunteering in her community and at her church. She is a member of the National Association of School Nurses, Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners, and Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for nursing. Dr. Lambert's research interests include servant leadership, particularly its influence on teaching practices and student success in higher education; adolescent mental health; and health disparities in adolescent and rural populations.



Dr. Heather Lehman
Assistant Professor
Biology

Dr. Lehman received her B.S. in Biology, Health Sciences from Shippensburg University and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Delaware. As part of her Ph.D. work, Dr. Lehman studied inflammatory breast cancer and its molecular components, and during this time she became passionate about community outreach and education. Following her doctoral studies, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship on esophageal cancer at the Penn State College of Medicine. While at Penn State, Dr. Lehman was awarded the Postdoctoral Scholar of the Year Award in 2016. Dr. Lehman has taught undergraduate courses in general biology at Elizabethtown College and human physiology and genetics at Dickinson College, as well as scientific grant writing at both undergraduate and graduate levels at Dickinson College and the Penn State College of Medicine, respectively. Her current research interests focus on using a broad range of techniques to understand the metastatic nature of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.



Prof. Cayleigh Minter
Instructor
Nursing

Professor Minter obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from York College of Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from Millersville University. Her professional interests include emergency medicine and infectious disease. She will continue her nurse practitioner practice while working with Millersville.



Dr. Fariha Nasir
Assistant Professor (One-Year, Full-Time)
Physics

Dr. Fariha Nasir received her Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics from the University of Delaware in 2014. After completing her Ph.D., she has worked as a full-time lecturer at California Polytechnic State University and as a part-time instructor at various institutes. Her research interests include supersymmetry and grand unified theories.



Dr. Melissa Mullen Davis
Assistant Professor
Chemistry

Dr. Mullen Davis earned her B.A. in Chemistry and Spanish from Colby College before completing her Ph.D. in Chemistry at The Pennsylvania State University in the lab of Phil Bevilacqua, studying nucleic acid biochemistry. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Donal Luse Lab at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, where she studied mechanisms of eukaryotic transcription. Dr. Mullen Davis spent the last four years at the College of Wooster as a visiting assistant professor teaching courses in biochemistry, chemistry, and biology. Her current research interests focus on how bacteria regulate their gene expression in response to low-nutrient conditions and oxidative stress.

Non-College Faculty:



Prof. Megan Donnelly
Instructor (One-Year, Full-time)
Library

Professor Donnelly earned a B.A. in English at Millersville University and an M.S. in Library and Information Science at Drexel University. Before coming to Millersville University, she completed a library internship at the University of Pennsylvania, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center while earning her master's degree. Megan has also worked as a library assistant at the Penn State Great Valley Library and as a library intern at the Francine G. McNairy Library and Learning Forum during her time as an

undergraduate student at Millersville. Prof. Donnelly's research interests include scholarly communication, information literacy, library makerspaces and library community outreach.



Dr. Margaret Mbindyo
Assistant Professor
Academic Advisement and Student Development

Dr. Mbindyo earned her dual title Ph.D. degree in Curriculum Instruction and Comparative and International Education from The Pennsylvania State University. She received her M.A. in Education Research from Vrije University in Brussels, Belgium, her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from The Pennsylvania State University, and a B.Ed. in English Language and Literature from Kenyatta University, Kenya. She began her teaching/advisement career in Kenya, where she rose through the ranks to become a secondary school principal. She has continued her passion for student persistence and academic success in the U.S. A career teacher and academic adviser, she has over 15 years working with students at risk of academic failure, including at Penn State, in the Upward Bound Program at Millersville University and more recently as the K-12 Supervisor for College Career Readiness at Milton Hershey School. In addition, Dr. Mbindyo has seven years serving as a temporary faculty and academic adviser in the Department of Academic Advisement and Student Development at Millersville University and also as an academic adviser at Penn State University-Harrisburg. Dr. Mbindyo's research interests are the academic resilience and academic persistence and success of low-income/first-generation students and teachers as catalysts of academic resilience and success for their students. She is the founder of Every Effort Educational Services, a nonprofit with national and international outreach that helps new immigrants understand and navigate the American education system (K-College).