

Millersville University New Faculty – Fall 2019

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Services



Mr. Adam Boyer
Assistant Professor
Communication & Theatre

Mr. Boyer, a Lancaster native, earned his B.A. in Theatre from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his M.F.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Iowa. He concentrated in theatrical design and technology, specializing in theatrical lighting design. Mr. Boyer moved back to Lancaster in 2015, and until joining Millersville University in 2017 was the House Lighting Designer & Electrician at the then Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center in York PA. He also freelanced in the area as a Lighting Designer, Production Manager, and Entertainment Technician. Before relocating, Mr. Boyer travelled extensively as a Head Electrician with large touring theatrical productions in North America and internationally. Since fall 2017 Mr. Boyer has been a full-time temporary faculty member at Millersville University supporting and developing the Entertainment Technology and Theatre programs at Millersville. He is also the Technical Director for Millersville University Theatre and has served as Lighting Designer for several University Theatre productions, including the recent production of Jesus Christ Superstar. He begins his tenure-track position alongside the new BA in Entertainment Technology he helped to create.



Ms. Sarah D'Stair
Assistant Professor (One-Year, Full-time)
English

Dr. D'Stair earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her M.A. and B.A. in English from San Jose State University. Her teaching interests include twentieth-century American and British literature, environmental studies, and gender and sexuality studies. She has been part of Millersville University's part-time faculty for two years, teaching courses in literary theory, journalism, the literature of social justice, and composition. She has also been involved in diversity and inclusion initiatives across multiple college and secondary school campuses, including Millersville. Her research focuses on

cross-species environmental politics in works by queer-identified writers, with specific interest in how these writers engage with trends in scientific classification. She is also a published novelist, and her short stories and poetry have appeared in numerous literary journals.



Mr. Jonathan Strayer
Assistant Professor (One-Year, Full-time)
Communication & Theatre

Mr. Strayer earned his M.F.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Idaho, a M.Ed. in Organizational Leadership from Clarks Summit University, and an M.A. in Theatre from Bowling Green State University. Prior to joining Millersville, he served as Assistant Professor and Director of Theatre at Clarks Summit University, as well as teaching communications and theatre courses at Penn State Scranton, Keystone College, and Marywood University. A practicing artist-educator, Mr. Strayer has worked

on over 85 theatre productions. He co-founded Ghostlight Productions, was a member of the Scranton Shakespeare Festival's Acting Company, and is a member of Art of Combat NYC. As his contemporary practice of physical theatre has grown, Mr. Strayer developed movement-based performances and recently taught an Educational and Devised Theatre course in Cape Town, South Africa.

College of Business



Dr. Abere Kassa
Assistant Professor
Management & Marketing

Dr. Kassa, received his Ph.D. in Management (Organizational Behavior Track) from Wayne State University, and his MBA and BA in Management from Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr. Kassa also attended a Faculty Development Program at the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIMA) where he focused on case-based teaching methods and a Research Methods Program at Tilburg University (The Netherlands). His teaching specialization include Human resource Management,

Organizational Behavior and Leadership. Dr. Kassa has written and presented several research papers in national academic conferences. His area of research interest is in organizational trust, teams and team processes, organizational citizenship behavior (OCB), and leadership. Dr. Kassa

comes from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Potsdam where he taught such courses as Human Resource Management, Organizational Development, Business Ethics, and Principles of Leadership in both graduate and undergraduate programs. Dr. Kassa has conducted training and consultancy works in the areas of Good Governance, Leadership, Human Resource Management, Records Management, Risk Management, etc. for businesses as well as government and non-government organizations. Dr. Kassa received his certification in Human Resource Management (SHRM-SCP) in July 2019.



Dr. Brian Trout
Assistant Professor (One-Year, Full-time)
Accounting & Finance

Dr. Trout earned a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Wilmington University, M. A. in Accounting from Stetson University and a B.S. in Business Administration from Millersville University. He teaches accounting and finance courses at Millersville University and is faculty advisor for the Accounting and Finance Club and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He is Campus Advocate for the Institute of Management Accountants and serves on the board of United Campus Ministries. Dr. Trout has 16 years of professional experience in various leadership roles and industries. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, Chartered Global Management Accountant and member of numerous professional organizations. Dr. Trout's teaching practices have been highlighted by Millersville's Center for Academic Excellence and his research, which concentrates on accounting pedagogy and business students' career aspirations, has been published in the *Journal of Education for Business*.

College of Education and Human Services



Dr. Richard Behun
Assistant Professor
Psychology

Dr. Behun has earned a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision (CACREP accredited) as well as an M.S.Ed. in School Counseling and an M.S.Ed. in School Administration from Duquesne University. In addition, he holds an M.S.L. in Law from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Dr. Behun is licensed as a professional counselor (LPC) in Pennsylvania and holds credentials as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS). He also holds a Level II

certificate as a PK-12 school counselor in Pennsylvania. Before entering higher education, Dr. Behun has been employed as the principal of an International Baccalaureate high school as well as a high school counselor in the private sector and a middle school counselor in the public school system. Dr. Behun has taught over 75 courses in both graduate and undergraduate counseling and psychology and has earned the rank of associate professor with tenure. Notably, Dr. Behun has just completed his term as the 50th president of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association. His scholarly activities focus on the personal and professional characteristics that influence mandated reporters' failure to report suspected child abuse. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and is currently completing of a book which is aimed at educating helping professionals on the potential impacts of Internet pornography on children and adolescents.



Mr. Abdulsalami Ibrahim
Assistant Professor
Educational Foundations

Dr. Ibrahim earned a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a M.Ed. in Educational Foundations (Sociology of Education), and a BSc. Science Education (Biology Education) from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Nigeria. Dr. Ibrahim's diverse teaching assignments throughout his decade-long career have given him the ability to work closely with a diverse group of students, families, and administrators. He was a secondary school science teacher and a teacher educator in Nigeria. He served as a teaching associate for two years in the department of professional studies in education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ibrahim's

background in teacher education stirred his research interest in technology integration, multicultural instructional methods, culturally relevant and sustainable strategies, and mixed method research.



Dr. Brett Swords
Assistant Professor
Psychology

Dr. Swords earned a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University at Albany and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from York College of Pennsylvania. He was previously an Assistant Teaching Professor of Psychology at Penn State Behrend, where he taught both undergraduate and graduate courses. He enjoys teaching a wide range of courses, including

those related to clinical work, as well as introductory-level psychology courses. Prior to entering academia full time, Dr. Swords spent several years working as a clinician. He is currently a licensed psychologist in both Florida and Pennsylvania. His research interests have primarily focused on clinical supervision and work-related burnout among the student population.

College of Science and Technology



Dr. Issac Ligocki
Assistant Professor
Biology

Dr. Ligocki received his Ph.D. from the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University with a focus on Behavioral Ecology and a Specialization in College Teaching. He received his B.A. from Wittenberg University in Biology along with a minor in Education. Most recently, Dr. Ligocki was a postdoctoral researcher at The Ohio State University, prior to that position he was an NSF postdoctoral research fellow (PRFB) at University of California, Davis. Dr. Ligocki's research focuses primarily on social and reproductive behaviors, specifically how physiology and environment (including human-induced environmental change) influence these behaviors. While he maintains an interest in all animal taxa, most of his work has focused on fish. Throughout his career, Dr. Ligocki has remained passionate about education, first as a high school teacher in Pinellas County, FL before he began graduate school, and subsequently as instructor of record for a number of courses offered at The Ohio State University, University of Florida, and University of California, Davis.



Dr. Susan Moyer
Assistant Professor
Nursing

Dr. Moyer received her Ph.D. in Nursing Science and a M.S. in Nursing Education from Villanova University, and a B.S. in Nursing from Bloomsburg University. Dr. Moyer is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar alumni and a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credentialed through the National League for Nursing. She served as an assistant professor of nursing in the associate degree nursing program at Reading Area Community College where she taught nursing courses across the curriculum and supervised students in long-term and acute care clinical settings. As a Registered Nurse, she has managed the care of adult clients on medical-surgical, cardiac, and critical care units in various institutions including at the

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Shadyside, the Tower Health Reading Hospital, and the Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center. She is a member of the National League for Nursing, American Public Health Association, Eastern Nursing Research Society, Berks Regional Nursing Research Alliance, Phi Kappa Phi honor society, and Sigma Theta Tau International nursing honor society. Her research interests include active learning, specifically related to the use and effectiveness of active learning strategies in nursing education; and the health promotion, lifestyle practices, and wellness behaviors of vulnerable populations.



Dr. Laura Ramos-Sepulveda
Assistant Professor
Biology

Dr. Ramos-Sepulveda earned her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from The Pennsylvania State University and received her B.A. in Horticulture from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Her teaching specializations include General Microbiology, Mycology, and Virology. Her research focuses on bacterial diseases of edible mushrooms. Dr. Ramos's goal is to develop reliable control methods against the bacterial diseases to protect the crop and therefore ensure the food safety and security of not only the Pennsylvania tax payers

that support our university but also the people that consume mushrooms around the United States. Pennsylvania is the main producer of mushroom in the USA, therefore her research supports one of the most important crops in the state.



Dr. Eric Ryndock
Assistant Professor
Biology

Dr. Ryndock received his B.S. in Biology from Millersville University and Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Penn State University. During his Ph.D., Dr. Ryndock focused on understanding the structure and stability of human papillomavirus capsids. Following his doctoral studies, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Wistar Institute using viral vectors and CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing to discover vulnerabilities in melanoma. Dr. Ryndock was previously an assistant professor at Lebanon Valley

College where he taught courses in genetics, cell biology, microbiology, and virology. His current research investigates viral genome control and the development of methods to detect pathogens.



Dr. Laura Weise Cross
Assistant Professor
Biology

Dr. Weise Cross earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Pathology from the University of North Carolina. She recently completed her postdoctoral training at the University of New Mexico, where she studied mechanisms of hypoxia-induced pulmonary hypertension. Her current research interests include vascular biology, oxidative stress, RhoA-mediated cytoskeletal rearrangements, and smooth muscle cell proliferation and migration. Dr. Weise Cross taught Introductory Biology at Durham Technical Community College, Anatomy & Physiology and Ecology & Evolution at Central New Mexico Community College, and cardiovascular physiology in the graduate and medical curricula at the University of New Mexico. She is looking forward to engaging undergraduate students in scientific research and promoting a safe, supportive, inclusive environment in the classroom for all students at Millersville University.

Non-College Faculty



Ms. Calida Barboza
Assistant Professor
Library

Ms. Barboza earned her M.S. in library and information science at Drexel University and holds B.A. and M.A. in English from Edinboro University and Youngstown University. She began her academic library career at King's College (PA), serving first as an Instruction & Reference Librarian and then as the Electronic Resources & Systems Librarian. To build her skill set, she accepted the Electronic Resources Librarian position at Ithaca College. In that role she oversaw the digitization of student theses and designed a workflow to facilitate born-digital submissions. Ms. Barboza then moved on to an Electronic Resources Librarian position at Vanderbilt University where she was involved in her second Alma library system implementation. Most recently, she worked at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology as the Assistant Resources Librarian responsible for the institutional repository.



Mr. Ryan McGovern
Assistant Professor
Intercollegiate Athletics

Mr. McGovern graduated from California University of Pennsylvania, with a M.S. in Exercise Science and Health Promotion with a concentration in Sports Psychology. He received his B.S. in Athletic Training from Lock Haven University. Previously, Mr. McGovern was an Assistant Athletic Trainer at Saint Francis University (PA). He also volunteered in the summer of 2017 with the Pittsburgh Steelers during their Organizing Training Activities (OTA's). Mr. McGovern has also volunteered with the Pennsylvania Special Olympics at Saint Francis University and Pennsylvania State University. He is a Board-certified athletic trainer and a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), Eastern Athletic Trainers Society (EATA) and Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS). He also has his AED, CPR and Standard First Aid certifications through the American Red Cross. Most recently he has obtained his National Academy of Sports Medicine-Corrective Exercise Specialist (CES) as well as HawkGrips Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization Level 1 Certification. Mr. McGovern is a licensed Athletic Trainer by the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine and also holds a license by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners.



Dr. Wendy Wheeler Dietrich
Assistant Professor
Intercollegiate Athletics

Dr. Wheeler Dietrich earned her Ph.D. in athletic training from the University of Idaho, a Post Masters Certificate in Sports Psychology from California University of Pennsylvania, a M.S. from West Virginia University and her B.S at the University of Kentucky. She comes to Millersville University from the Stormont Vail Health System as an athletic trainer. Dr. Wheeler Dietrich has also been an associate professor/athletic trainer and clinical preceptor with East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania.



Ms. Heather Wolfe
Assistant Professor
Intercollegiate Athletics

Ms. Wolfe earned her B.S. in athletic training from Penn State University and her M.S. in Athletic Training from the University of Kentucky. An abstract of her master's thesis project was presented as a poster at the 2015 National Athletic Trainers' Association Convention and at the 2016 International Congress of Shoulder and Elbow Therapists. The full study "Volleyball Overhead Swing Volume and Injury Frequency" was published in the International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy in February 2019. Ms. Wolfe has been a clinically practicing board certified athletic trainer for five years. She began her professional practice as a Graduate Assistant Outreach Athletic Trainer at the University of Kentucky where she provided coverage to the University's Club Men's Ice Hockey team as well as Lafayette High School Athletics in Lexington, Kentucky. Upon her master's graduation, Ms. Wolfe was employed by NovaCare Rehabilitation as Lincoln University's Assistant Athletic Trainer; she assisted with the coverage of 13 NCAA Division II programs. After two years in this role, Ms. Wolfe was promoted to Lincoln University's Director of Sports Medicine and Associate Athletic Trainer. In addition to working clinically in this role, she made major updates in Lincoln University's Sports Medicine Policies and Procedures including major revisions to the Concussion and Mental Health Policies. Heather joined the Millersville University athletic training team in February 2019.