Millersville University New Faculty – Fall 2020

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Services

Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell
Assistant Professor
Tell School of Music

Dr. Gemmell earned his D.M.A. in the Literature and Performance of Choral Music from University of Colorado Boulder, his Artist's Diploma in Voice and M.M. in Music Education from Northwestern University, and his B.S. in Music Education from Towson University. As a member of Millersville University's part-time faculty since 2013, he has conducted three choirs, taught Class Voice and Art of Choral Techniques, and co-coordinated the Tell School's highly successful scholarship concert, *Glorious Sounds of the Season*. Prior to his previous position at University of Colorado Boulder, Dr. Gemmell served as Director of Choral Activities at Millersville University from 2006-2009. He has held similar posts at California State University (Chico), Ithaca College, Cornell University, and Metropolitan University of Denver. Published research and guest appearances as a conductor, clinician, and lecturer focus on his areas of interest: vocal-choral pedagogy, kinesthetic rehearsal techniques, historic performance practice, music editing, and early American music. Dr. Gemmell is the Organist/Choir Director at the Lititz Moravian Congregation in Lititz, PA, and recently founded Lancaster County's newest professional chamber orchestra: the Lititz Moravian Collegium Musicum, for which he serves as Artistic Director and Conductor.

Dr. Jennifer Jester
Assistant Professor
Tell School of Music

Dr. Jester is a musician, educator, songwriter, entrepreneur, and board-certified music therapist. She holds a DMA in Euphonium performance with a research emphasis in interdisciplinary education, performance, and entrepreneurship from UCLA, MFA from the California Institute of the Arts, a B.S. in Music Performance from Arizona State University, a Music Therapy degree from Drury University and holds National Board-Certification as a Music Therapist with Neurologic Music Therapy and NICU-MT certifications. Dr. Jester also has a background as a School of Rock franchisee and owned and operated the Springfield, Missouri location between 2013-2020 and

produced 7 years of concerts for student and adult performances, events, and festivals. Dr. Jester also recently served as instructor of euphonium and tuba at Missouri State University from 2016-2020. Her background includes performing around the world in low brass (trombone, euphonium, tuba), and as a vocalist and percussionist. Musical performance includes work with the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's River City Brass Band, Balkan Brass Ensemble, the CalArts Liberation Music Orchestra, Chicano Power Revival, Orchestra Latin Jazz Ensemble, off-Broadway productions, and many other projects. As a professional musician, Dr. Jester traveled around the United States performing with the River City Brass Band, various solo performances, and to China with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. Past projects have included compositions for euphonium, trombone, bass trumpet, and includes her one woman show called "The Last Tango." She is a proud lifetime member of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and The Recording Academy.

Dr. Kaitlin Mondello
Assistant Professor
English

Dr. Mondello received her Ph.D. in English from The Graduate Center, CUNY (City University of New York) in 2018 with a focus on the Environmental Humanities and Romanticism. Her scholarship and teaching examine concepts of nature and the environment in relation to race, gender, climate change, science, animals and food. Her dissertation, *Toward a Posthuman Ecology: Evolutionary Aesthetics in Transatlantic Romanticism*, explores intersections between literary and scientific work on species and ecology. Her scholarship has appeared in *Essays in Romanticism, Romantic Ecocriticism, European Romantic Review, Journal of Literature and Science* (forthcoming) and *Romantic Circles* (forthcoming). She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Teaching and Learning Center at The Graduate Center, CUNY. She has over ten years of teaching experience in New York City and Florida. She has blogged about teaching for *Visible Pedagogy*, *The Center for the Humanities*, *Teaching Climate Change.org* and *HASTAC*.

Mr. David Pierce
Assistant Professor
Art & Design

Mr. Pierce earned his B.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his M.F.A. from Pratt Institute. He previously served as an adjunct professor at NYU Center for Publishing, Humanities, Arts, and Writing Division and a Professor of Graphic Design at SCAD Hong Kong. His work has been exhibited in venues in New York, Shanghai, Thessaloniki, London, and Chicago. David Pierce researches interactive design and the intersection of editorial outlets and other sources of information. He also stresses the use of traditional foundational art in the discipline of design. His work has been published in publications such as Wired.com and Surface Design Journal.

Dr. Keishla Rivera-Lopez
Assistant Professor
English

Dr. Keishla (Kay-shla) Rivera-Lopez received a PhD in American Studies at the Graduate School-Newark at Rutgers University where she was a 2019-2020 Dean's Dissertation Fellow to finish her dissertation project titled "Writing Freedom: Puerto Rican Women's Literary Conceptualizations of Motherhood and Memory Beyond Archives." She received her B.A. in Latino Hispanic Caribbean Studies and American Studies in 2015 from Rutgers University-New Brunswick where she was a Ronald E. McNair scholar. She was born and raised in Newark, NJ to Puerto Rican migrants and reflects on what it means to be a child of diaspora in her scholarship and writing. Currently, Dr. Rivera-Lopez is an Assistant Professor of English and Latinx Literatures and Cultures at Millersville University. Her research interests include contemporary U.S. Latinx Studies and literature, Puerto Rican Studies, and Caribbean Diaspora Studies with a focus on gender, race, configurations of the body, the (maternal) body, Afro-Latinidad, communal trauma, and identity. During the 2017-2018 academic year she was a teaching fellow for the Honors Living-Learning Community, a unique college-access program that is redefining what it means to be an honors student and honors college program. She was a 2019 Summer Dissertation Fellow at The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College where she completed a writing and research residency. During her final semester at The Graduate School-Newark, Dr. Rivera-Lopez was a graduate student mentor in the Mellon-Price Humanities Scholars Program that aimed to assist HLLC undergraduate scholars navigate college. In her free time Keishla enjoys writing poetry, short-stories, and essays from her travel and everyday experiences as a Puerto Rican woman. She also enjoys experimenting with different sazons and sofritos in the kitchen, hiking, dancing, and traveling"
Twitter: @Ohh_Kei
Website: keishlariveralopez.com

Mr. Jonathan Strayer
Assistant Professor
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 communication 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, is a member of Art of Combat NYC, and an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. 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. He just completed his first year at Millersville as a one-year Assistant Professor and Director of Dramatics.

Lombardo College of Business

Dr. Brian Trout
Assistant Professor
Accounting & Finance

Dr. Trout earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Millersville University, Master's in Accounting from Stetson University and Doctor of Business Administration from Wilmington University. He teaches accounting and finance courses at Millersville University. Dr. Trout leads the Microsoft Office Certification program and serves as 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. Sarah Jackson
Assistant Professor
Early, Middle and Exceptional Education

Dr. Jackson received her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning from Ohio State University with an emphasis on Literature for Children and Young Adults. She also has an M.A. in Children's Literature from Hollins University and an M.F.A. in Illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She received her B.A. from the University of Puget Sound in Creative Writing with minors in French and Studio Art. Dr. Jackson has worked in a wide range of early childhood settings, including as a preschool teacher in Washington State. These experiences have led to her research focus on early childhood students' interactions with diverse and multicultural literature.

Dr. Ann Marie Licata
Assistant Professor
Educational Foundations

Dr. Licata earned a Ph.D. from Marywood University in Human Development with a focus on Instructional Leadership, a Master's Degree in Administration, Supervision, and Curriculum from St. Bonaventure University and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She holds Pennsylvania certification as a teacher and administrator having served in both capacities in public as well as private schools within the Commonwealth. Dr. Licata served as full-time faculty at Alvernia University and had a previously demonstrated track record of statewide leadership in her position as Assistant State Director for Communities in Schools when she chose to accept Millersville University's offer to direct the largest federally funded competitive grant received by Millersville at the time, the Transition and Postsecondary programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID) grant in 2016. Since this time, Dr. Licata has served as the Director of the Pennsylvania Inclusive Higher Education Consortium funded by the TPSID grant. With her leadership, the large-scale collaborative efforts have resulted in the development of a statewide consortium of 29 colleges and universities who align with full inclusive college experiences for students with intellectual disability. Having presented at state, national, and international conferences, Dr. Licata's research interests include leadership, disability studies, and teaching. She is passionate about systems change, advocating for full inclusion for all.

College of Science and Technology

Dr. Christopher Cain
Assistant Professor
Computer Science

Dr. Cain earned his Ph.D. from Washington State University and B.A. from Lewis and Clark College. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor of computer science at Rocky Mountain College. His research interests involve gamification via harnessing machine learning to intelligently select individual-specific games and game mechanics to determine how student motivation to make progress in games played outside of class can lead to potential in-class benefits. He has also been a lead content developer and instructor for a Boeing-sponsored programming camp for middle schoolers for three years and plans to develop a similar program at Millersville. His favorite courses to teach include artificial intelligence, machine learning, ethical implications of computer science, game design, and introductory computer science and statistics.

Dr. Behrooz Etesamipour
Assistant Professor
Computer Science

Dr. Etesamipour earned his Doctor of Science degree in Information Technology and Master of Science degree in Applied Information Technology from Towson University. He obtained his B.S. degree in Information Systems from University of Maryland Baltimore County. He was previously teaching as a Lecturer in Towson University at the Department of Computer and Information Sciences for 4 years. He has taught 65 classes at Towson University since Fall 2012 in wide ranges of undergraduate classes in Computer Science and Information Technology such as: Networking, Programming, Operating Systems, Metropolitan IT Infrastructure, System Administration & Maintenance, Linux Scripting, and IT Capstone. Additionally, he has broad range of experiences in academic services and student advising. Dr. Etesamipour has vast working experiences as Information Technology specialist and consultant in many companies ranging from small business to enterprise level corporate such as working for an aerospace services company supporting NASA. His area of research is in probabilistic and preferential aggregation models, Bayesian reasoning model, Fuzzy Logic systems, and Decision Support Systems to analyze data by aggregating comprehensive information to solve problems in decision-making for military and businesses. His doctoral research topic is “Investigation of Rank Aggregation Methods Applied to Military Value of Information Decision Support”.

Dr. John Haughery
Assistant Professor
Applied Engineering, Safety and Technology

Dr. Haughery received his BS in Industrial Technology: Electronic/Control Systems from Millersville University of Pennsylvania (‘06), MS in Engineering and Technology Management from Morehead State University, KY and a PhD in Industrial and Agricultural Technology from Iowa State University, IA. He is a native of Lancaster and most recently held the position of Assistant Professor of Manufacturing Technology and Engineering in the Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. His 15+ years of teaching, researching, and practice experience are focused in the areas of robotics, automation, controls, human-machine interactions, electric power/energy systems, and engineering/technology education. Dr. Haughery is a Certified Senior Controls Engineer (CSCE), Controls Exam Commissioner for the ATMAE Board of Certification, past Vice-President for the ATMAE Electricity, Electronics, Computer Technology & Energy Issues (EECT) Division, and past member of the ATMAE Board of Accreditation, as well as a recipient of the Exemplary Service and Contributions to the Board of Accreditation award from ATMAE, and the Central Keystone Section’s 2006 George Espy Achievement Award (ISA).

Mr. Dominick Manusos
Assistant Professor
Applied Engineering, Safety and Technology

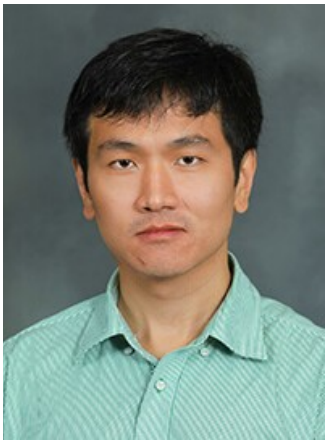
Mr. Manusos received his Masters’ degree from Appalachian State University in Sustainable Technology and his Bachelors’ of Science in Technology, Engineering and Design Education and a Minor in Graphics Communication from North Carolina State University, where he is currently working on his Ed.D. in Technology Education. His dissertation work is on developing modern curricula using input from teachers, researchers, and industry professionals. Prior to his formal education he worked for a general contracting company that specialized in interior home remodeling and outdoor living spaces. He has taught at two High Schools and three Universities and enjoy hands on learning where knowledge and application meet in the classroom and enjoys being in the lab working on developing his skill sets or helping students develop theirs.

Dr. Patrick Stewart
Assistant Professor
Mathematics

Dr. Stewart earned a Ph.D. in Statistics from Bowling Green State University, a Master of Science in Statistics from Virginia Tech, a Master of Arts in Mathematics with a Statistics emphasis and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Marshall University. His research interests focus primarily on nonparametric statistics and inflated data. Having taught several mathematics and statistics courses while a graduate student at Marshall University and Bowling Green State University he also was a statistical collaborator across multiple departments at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Carolyn Weaver
Assistant Professor
Biology

Dr. Weaver received her Ph.D. from the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University, where her dissertation work concentrated on nutrient enrichment effects of salt marsh and mangrove plant species. Dr. Weaver earned her B.S. in Marine Biology, with a vertebrate concentration, from Texas A&M University at Galveston. Prior to receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Weaver was a Staff Biologist at Mote Marine Laboratory, primarily conducting age and growth research within red snapper and black grouper populations. Most recently, Dr. Weaver completed her postdoctoral training at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, where her research aimed to understand freezing impacts to mangrove reproduction and early life stage development. Dr. Weaver's research centers around understanding how environmental fluctuations drive changes in wetland ecosystems, primarily focused on interactions between wetland plants and the biotic and abiotic components of the system. Dr. Weaver believes one-on-one mentoring is a vital component in linking teaching and research and has mentored 29 young scientists thus far in her career. Dr. Weaver also has a passion for engaging students in the classroom and has taught courses in ecology, marine biology, and professional development. Dr. Weaver is excited to join Millersville University, where she will foster a respectful, positive, and safe learning and working environment, by celebrating diversity and encouraging differing perspectives, implementing equitable teaching and mentoring practices, and viewing all students and colleagues as individuals.



Dr. Jingnan Xie
Assistant Professor
Computer Science

Dr. Jingnan Xie received his Ph.D in Computer Science from SUNY Albany, and his BA from Shandong Agricultural University. Dr. Xie has been an Assistant Professor and Researcher at SUNY Albany and Thiel College. His research is focused on computational complexity theory, mathematical logic, pattern matching, Lindenmayer systems and cellular automata. His publications in progress include H. B. Hunt, III and J. Xie, “The Computational Parallels in Complexity Theory” with ACM Press.