

## From the Provost

I hope that the new academic year is off to a great start for everyone. It's an exciting time at West Chester University as 48 new tenure-track faculty members join us to share their knowledge with our students and contribute their talents to this institution.

In this newsletter, I would like to introduce you to these newest members of our division, as well as staff, including those who have joined us over the past year. I'll also be sharing information about the new roles that other colleagues have assumed.

WCU is one of the top regional universities in the north, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, and one of the 100 best value public universities in the country, according to *Kiplinger* magazine. Our current standings are 77th in value for in-state students and 62nd best value for out-of-state students.

Currently, almost 16,000 students are enjoying the benefits of a West Chester education. We had 14,927 applications for the fall 2014 first-year class of almost 2,300. WCU's enrollment growth continues to outstrip all other State System universities combined, with all but one of our colleague institutions experiencing declines. We are the premier state institution in such key measures as retention and graduation rates.

It's thanks to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff that West Chester University is the preeminent institution that it is today.



**Dr. Linda Lamwers**

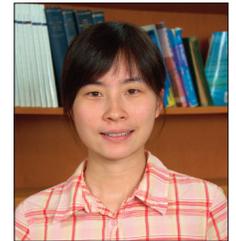
## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Amy Anderson** is an assistant professor in the department of English. Anderson recently completed her doctoral work at the University of Kentucky under the supervision of the department of writing, rhetoric, and digital studies. Her research focuses on multimodal communication and visual rhetoric. She has written on Byzantine icons, medieval memory, dissociation, and YouTube videos and has presented at conferences including the Rhetoric Society of America, CCCC, and the International Congress on Medieval Studies. Her article "Digitizing Heaven: Byzantine Icons in the Age of Digital Reproduction" will be published in the upcoming collection *Emerging Genres in New Media Environments*. In her free time, Anderson enjoys cooking, gardening, traveling, and exploring the great outdoors with her golden retriever, Zoe.

**Jason A. Bartles** is an assistant professor of Spanish in the department of languages and cultures. He received his undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College and his Ph.D. in Latin American literatures and cultures from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he was a Flagship Fellow. His research, informed by gender and sexuality studies, explores the ways in which political, ethical, and aesthetic discourses are inscribed in the fiction and essays of non-canonical Latin American and U.S. Latina/o writers. In particular, he focuses on texts that circulated in the cultural markets of the 1960s and 1970s to offer a more nuanced understanding of cultural production in the era beyond the discourses surrounding the Boom, magical realism, and the politically committed intellectual. Currently, he is revising his dissertation, *ARTELETRA: The Politics of Going Unnoticed in the Latin American Sixties*, into a book manuscript.



**Tianran Chen** is an assistant professor in the department of physics. She obtained her Ph.D. in physics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, in 2014. Her research is focused on theoretical condensed matter physics. Specifically, Chen studies electronic transport in different types of disordered systems such as nanocrystal assemblies and topological insulators. The former are promising candidates for new opto-electronic and photovoltaic devices, while the latter have potential applications in spintronics and quantum computing. Chen is interested in teaching a variety of undergraduate physics courses, including introductory physics and upper-level courses. She also is interested in promoting women's groups in the sciences and engineering and will try to bring service to the community.



**Megan Corbin** is an assistant professor in the department of languages and cultures. She earned her Ph.D in Hispanic and Lusophone literatures, cultures, and linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She also holds a graduate minor in feminist and critical sexuality studies. Corbin's research centers on the relationship between narratives, human rights, and the creation of historical memory. Her current project brings together a number of subfields: theoretical interpretation of testimonial narratives, trauma theory, memory studies, spectral theory, and object-oriented philosophy, in order to "think with things" in her analysis of narratives (novels, *testimonio*, film, museum exhibitions, and interactive websites) emerging in the southern cone post-dictatorship period. Her recent work focuses on how narratives use things (the personal belongings of the disappeared, prison craftwork, the genetic legacy of the children of the disappeared) to create a "truth" about the past.

**Martha Donkor** is an assistant professor in the women's and gender studies program. Born and raised in Ghana, Donkor moved to Canada in 1993, where she received a Ph.D. in history from the University of Toronto. From 2002 to May 2014 she taught at Edinboro University, where she also served as director of the women's studies program. She coordinated the National History Day competition for Northwest Pennsylvania for five years. Donkor published *Sudanese Refugees in the United States: The Collateral Damage of Sudan's Civil War* and is currently working on a manuscript tentatively titled *Whose Double Day: Immigrant Housewives in Live-in Care Giving*.



Donkor's research has focused mainly on African immigrant and refugee populations in North America with emphasis on the experiences of immigrant women. Her teaching emphasis has been on women's and U.S. history, the latter covering the period from early contact to Reconstruction. Donkor reports that she is an avid sports fan but has learned that in this neighborhood it's not cool to say "Go Steelers!"

**Timothy R. Dougherty** is an assistant professor in the department of English. Dougherty is excited to return to his southeastern Pennsylvania roots by joining the faculty at WCU. He received his Ph.D. in composition and cultural rhetoric from Syracuse University in August 2014 and his M.A. in rhetoric, scientific and technical communication from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 2010. He has taught lower- and upper-division writing courses at Syracuse and University of Minnesota, and looks forward to teaching courses in composition, the history of rhetoric, cultural rhetorical theory, social movement rhetoric, and composition pedagogy at WCU. He studies rhetorical history with a focus on the intersectional practices of social justice movements, particularly as they interact with white supremacy and settler colonialism. His dissertation focused on these dynamics in the constitutive rhetorical practices of Fenianism, a mid-19th century transatlantic revolutionary Irish nationalist movement.

**Stacy Esch** is an assistant professor of English. Since receiving her M.A. in English in 1987, Esch has taught composition, literature and creative writing at several colleges in the Philadelphia area and in St. Louis. She has published poems in small press publications like *wordriver*, *Turkshead Review*, and *Ibbetson Street*, as well as an essay in the series, *A Generation Defining Itself*. Although she plans to continue to publish her own creative writing, her scholarly interests and continuing graduate study are in the field of rhetoric and composition. During her 27 years in the classroom, Esch says she has grown increasingly passionate about the value of the arts to our culture—about the importance of a liberal arts education that advances the humanities. When she isn't working, she says she is a dedicated artist, wife, mother, and all-around nature lover. After a serious health scare in 2010, Esch says she has learned to live in the moment.



**Megan Heckert** is an assistant professor in the department of geography and planning. An urban geographer, she focuses on the use of geographic information systems and spatial analysis to explore urban social issues. She is interested in urban sustainability and neighborhood revitalization, with a particular focus on how sustainability initiatives contribute to urban revitalization efforts. Her research has been published in such journals as *Environment and Planning* and *Transactions in GIS*. Heckert served as a Peace Corps volunteer, worked for a national environmental nonprofit helping teachers facilitate service learning projects, and has worked as business development manager and GIS analyst for Azavea, a geospatial software development company. She holds a bachelor of science in aquatic biology from Brown University and a master's in geography and doctorate in urban studies from Temple University.



**Jingqiu Hu** is an assistant professor in the department of chemistry. She received her Ph.D. in chemistry from Boston University. She worked as an assistant professor of analytical chemistry at Wartburg College for five years. In 2012, she moved to Pennsylvania with her family. Prior to joining WCU, she worked as an instructor of chemistry at York College. Her research interest includes the design of fluorescent sensors for pathogen detection and the photo-induced electron transfer process that is essential for solar energy conversion. She also is interested in designing and implementing student-centered activities such as Process-Oriented Guided-Inquiry Learning (POGIL) in her classroom.



**Farzin Irani** is an assistant professor in the department of psychology. Irani is a clinical neuropsychologist who graduated from Drexel University, completed a pre-doctoral internship at Brown University and a three-year post-doctoral research and clinical fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining WCU, she taught doctoral students in clinical psychology at Immaculata University.



Her research has focused on understanding brain-behavior relationships across the lifespan in diverse individuals. She believes that new treatments for brain disorders need to be empirically supported, informed by their neurobiological underpinnings and understood in a cultural context. Irani's research has integrated traditional and computerized neuropsychological assessment with modern neuroimaging methods in diverse populations. She likes to get students interested and engaged in research involving clinical neuropsychology, diversity, psychosis, aging and cognitive neuroscience. Outside of teaching, research and clinical work, Irani most enjoys spending time with her family and children.

**Steven James** is an assistant professor in the department of philosophy. James comes to WCU fresh from completing his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation, "A Generative Theory of Remembering," combined philosophical and psychological work to develop a novel epistemic theory of remembering.



James will be teaching courses in analytic epistemology and philosophy of the mind. He grew up in Trinidad, Colorado; then moved to Boulder, where he earned a B.A. in philosophy and psychology at the University of Colorado. In his down time, James enjoys hiking, making things, music, and hanging out with his cat.

**Prema Junius** is an assistant professor in the department of mathematics. Previously, she was an associate professor of mathematics at Mansfield University. In May, she was retrenched because she was one of the least senior members of the department. She is now employed as an assistant professor of mathematics at West Chester University, PA. Junius has taught a wide range of mathematics courses; her areas of interest being geometry and differential geometry. She does her best to make mathematics intellectually challenging by providing students with interesting problems, projects and assignments, and defining the classroom environment by setting expectations as to what it means to do mathematics. As chair of the PASSHE mathematical association for the past two terms she has enjoyed working with faculty and students.



**Kathleen (Taffy) McAneny** is an assistant professor in the department of mathematics. She taught for more than 30 years in Delaware, primarily high school mathematics. She has her National Board Certification (1999 and 2009) and won the Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2002. She earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from WCU. After retiring from the classroom, she enrolled in a Ph.D. program for mathematics education at the University of Delaware and graduated in 2013. McAneny's dissertation research chronicled the experiences of teachers in a professional development which centered on classroom discourse in secondary classrooms. The inaugural issue of *Annual Perspectives in Mathematics Education* contains a chapter that McAneny co-authored about this professional development. She presented her dissertation research at the annual conference of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators in February 2014. Currently, she is working with other researchers on a project concentrating on proportional reasoning.

**Vipanchi Mishra** is an assistant professor in the department of psychology. She received her Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology at University at Albany, State University of New York. Her primary areas of research interest include performance appraisal, influence of cultural values on workplace behaviors, effects of occupational stressors on health outcomes, and factors influencing participant reactions to selection tests and assessment center practices. Her methodological interests cover topics such as meta-analysis, item-response theory, and structural equation modeling.

Mishra's research has been published in such journals as *Work and Stress*, *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*, and *Journal of Management Education*. She has worked as a consultant for the Professional Development Program at the Research Foundation of University at Albany and the Leadership Research Institute on projects related to training evaluation, multisource feedback and assessment of leadership effectiveness.

**Karen Mitchell** is an assistant professor in the department of psychology. She received her Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Kent State University, where her research focused on eyewitness suggestibility and other memory errors. She did a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in the psychology department at Princeton University, where she received training in cognitive aging and functional magnetic resonance imaging. In 2000, she took a position as an associate research scientist at Yale University, rising to the rank of senior research scientist. There she developed a research program examining age-related changes in cognition, especially the processes involved in human attention and episodic memory, and associated brain changes. Other research interests include understanding how we judge the veracity of others' memories, cognitive disruptions in psychopathology, and the impact of emotion on cognition. Mitchell has published 44 papers and chapters. She looks forward to pursuing her broad teaching and research interests in cognitive psychology/cognitive neuroscience with the students and faculty at West Chester University.



**Joseph W. Moser** is an assistant professor in the department of languages and cultures. A native of Vienna, Austria, he earned his Ph.D. in German literature from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. in German literature from the Ohio State University and a B.A., majoring in French and German, from Hiram College. He joins WCU following a visiting appointment at Randolph-Macon College. Currently, he is writing a book on the propagandistic use of German film comedies under the Nazi regime. He has published several articles on Austrian literature and film in both English and German, and currently serves as the book review editor for the *Journal of Austrian Studies*. He loves teaching German and Austrian literature and film, and also is very interested in teaching literary and film representations of the Holocaust. He lives in West Chester with his wife Laura, who is a historian, and their two children, Veronica and Walter.



**Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum** is an assistant professor in the department of languages and culture. She specializes in contemporary Latin American film and literature, cinema studies, cultural studies, and foreign language pedagogy in Spanish and Portuguese. She has a BA from the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. She was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Most recently, she taught at Virginia Tech as a visiting assistant professor. Her research focuses on cultural representations of violence and ethical concepts of citizenship. She studies how Latin American cultural texts create empathy and make inequality visible. She is interested in the use of instructional technology to promote creative thinking. Her courses often engage in digital storytelling projects, podcasting, e-Portfolios, blogging, and micro-blogging in connection to her educational Twitter feed Tuit de la Profesora (@ilianapagan). Other interests include tai chi and filmmaking.



**Justin King Rademaekers** is an assistant professor of English, specializing in writing across the curriculum, writing program development, rhetoric and composition, and environmental communication. He earned his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 2014, and his master's from Saint Joseph's University in 2008. Rademaekers' coauthored article on rhetorical framing in climate science was published in the *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication* earlier this year. He will be presenting on the role of writing in interdisciplinary collaboration at the National Council of Teachers of English conference this November.



**Aliza D. Richman** is an assistant professor in the department of anthropology and sociology. She received a Ph.D. in sociology and demography from the Pennsylvania State University and a master's in public health from Northwestern University. Her primary teaching and research interests lie at the nexus of sociology, demography, and public health, including: population health, demography of health and mortality, biodemography, sociology of health, social epidemiology, and social stratification. Richman has a diverse history of research experience ranging from sociological fieldwork in Ghana to community-based participatory research in Chicago. Her work has been presented in numerous forums, including the Population Association of America and the American Sociological Association. In her free time, Richman cycles, hikes and enjoys recreational sports.

**Ilknur Sancak-Marusa** is an assistant professor in the department of English. She received her B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College and her M.A. from Millersville University. For the first part of her career, Sancak-Marusa worked as a public relations and media professional. She also taught as an adjunct at such institutions as Lebanon Valley College, Immaculata University and Delaware County Community College before teaching as an adjunct at WCU. Today, she is wholly dedicated to the field of composition and rhetoric and has presented at a CCCC pre-conference workshop for the Council of Basic Writing, EAPSU, and ALP conferences. She is currently working on multiple research projects regarding self-regulated strategies for the basic writer and effective assessment tactics for composition, as well as co-writing a grant proposal to create a cohort program (through high school and college admission) for underrepresented youths in the Philadelphia area.

**Jordan T. Schugar** previously worked as an instructor at WCU where he mainly taught courses in the English department. His research interests include mobile pedagogies, eReading comprehension, wearable technologies, and figurative language. He has published articles in *The Reading Teacher*, *The California Reader*, and *The Journal of Technology*, and *Teaching, and Learning* and edited the book, *Mobile Pedagogy and Perspectives on Teaching and Learning*. Additionally, Schugar has presented his work widely at local, state, and national conferences and his research has been featured in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Real Simple Magazine*, and *Education Week*. An Apple Distinguished Educator, Schugar earned his doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Maryland, College Park, and studied English at the University of Colorado, Boulder and Humboldt State University. He is married to Heather Schugar, an associate professor of literacy at WCU, and they have three young boys.



**Jessica Sullivan-Brown** is an assistant professor in the department of biology. She earned her Ph.D. in molecular biology from Princeton University and her B.S. in biology from James Madison University. Her research interests include studying cellular processes during embryonic development and how defects in these processes result in disease. Her current research uses tractable model systems to understand the genetic components involved in neural tube defects, a common and severe type of human birth defect. She is excited about teaching at West Chester University and working with students to develop independent research projects. In addition to her interests in research and teaching, she enjoys communicating science to a broad audience through science outreach activities. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her husband and two children



**Elizabeth Urban** is assistant professor of Islamic world history in the history department. She received her Ph.D. in 2012 from the University of Chicago, department of near Eastern languages and civilizations. Before joining WCU, she held positions at Brandeis University and Williams College. Urban is excited to teach courses on modern and pre-modern Islamic history, women and gender in the Islamic world, and Islamic political thought. Her research focuses on the early Islamic period (600-800 CE); she investigates how Muslims of slave origin articulated their identities and values within the nascent Islamic community. She recently presented a



paper on slave mothers in early Islamic history at the 2014 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. As a native Texan, Urban has occasionally been heard to use the word “y’all” and to express strong opinions about how to make salsa.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Casey Bohrman** is an assistant professor in the department of social work. She received her Ph.D. in social welfare from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the intersection between the mental health and criminal justice systems as well as recovery-oriented mental health interventions. She has more than 10 years of clinical experience in the mental health and homeless service systems. She has taught a range of social work classes including social work practice; history of American racism and social work; history of social welfare and social work; and modern social policy. Outside of her academic work, she is a coach and professional muay thai fighter.



**Christina M. Chiarelli-Helminiak** is an assistant professor in the graduate social work department. She recently completed a Ph.D. in social work at the University of Connecticut, where she was recognized as an Outstanding Woman Scholar. Her dissertation focused on organizational factors affecting job satisfaction and burnout among forensic interviewers. She plans to expand her dissertation research on a national level and also conducts research on human rights. Chiarelli-Helminiak has extensive practical experience with survivors of interpersonal trauma. Her greatest professional achievement was leading the development of a children's advocacy center providing community-based services in rural north Georgia. Chiarelli-Helminiak received a B.A. in social work from Shippensburg University and an MSW from Marywood University, where she was the first social work student awarded the Sister M. Eva Connors Peace Medal.



**Albert I. DiGiacomo** is an assistant professor in the department of criminal justice. He has been an adjunct faculty member in that department since 2009. Previously, he served 29 years in the Philadelphia Police Department before retiring at the rank of captain. His command and executive level assignments included patrol, detective, internal affairs, quality assurance, and administration. In 1999 he was appointed as chief of county detectives for Chester County, where he established a computer forensic unit. After 9/11, he became the Chester County representative to the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

As a consultant to the National Institute of Justice, DiGiacomo reviews Department of Justice grant applications related to forensic science projects. He also provides services as a court-qualified subject matter expert in areas of police management and practices. He is a graduate of the 186th Session of the FBI National Academy and received an M.S. from St. Joseph's University. At WCU, he currently teaches courses in organized crime, criminal investigation, violent crime, white collar crime, policing, terrorism, environmental crime, police technology, and contemporary issues in law enforcement.

**Kelly L. Fisher** is an assistant professor in the department of management. She completed her Ph.D. in management at Monash University in 2010, where she conducted a case study on combat leadership in a cross-cultural context. Her first teaching position was delivering a cultural competency course online to deployed airmen for the Air Force Cultural and Language Center. She has published in leading journals such as *Military Psychology* and *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, and presented at conferences sponsored by the Academy of Management, International Leadership Association, Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management, and Inter-University on Armed Forces and Society, among others. Her research interests are in leadership, culture, and contextual studies. Two current studies are exploring the role of gender in a cross-cultural and/or dangerous context. Prior to academe, she served in the United States Navy.

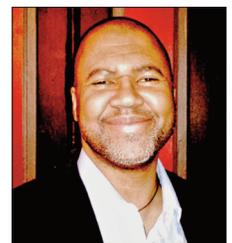
**Shannon Grugan** is an assistant professor in the department of criminal justice. From 2004 through earlier this year, Grugan served as a senior environmental policy and enforcement consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton and worked on investigative and enforcement related issues with the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army and the Department of Health and Human Services. She also taught courses in cybercrime and crime and the physical environment at Rutgers University. She has authored several government reports, articles, and book chapters, with her work featured in *The Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, *Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding*, and *Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice System*. Her forthcoming dissertation examines undergraduate student perceptions of risk and safety, as well as their experiences with, and perceptions of, police in different university campus environments. Her other research interests include animal cruelty, environmental crime and cybercrime.

**Taek-yul (Ted) Kim** is an assistant professor of finance in the department of economics and finance. He holds a bachelor in business administration from Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea and a M.S in finance and M.S in statistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He earned his Ph.D. in finance from Drexel University in 2014. His research interests include corporate governance, political influence, corruption and executive compensation.

**Arun Kumaraswamy** is an assistant professor in the department of management. He received his Ph.D. from NYU's Leonard N. Stern School of Business in 1996 and has taught at Rutgers University (Camden), Singapore Management University and Temple University. Kumaraswamy studies the management of innovation and growth, and catch-up strategies of firms in emerging economies such as India. He has published in top-tier management journals, co-edited the book *Managing in the Modular Age: Architectures, Networks and Organizations* and serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of International Management*. He has taught a variety of courses in strategic management, international business, organization theory and the management of technology and innovation.



**Terence Lewis** is an assistant professor in the department of graduate social work. He earned a bachelor of arts in social work at the Catholic University of America, a master's of social work in clinical practice at the University of Kentucky and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in sociology and social work at Boston University. Lewis has more than 12 years of clinical practice experience, and nine years of research and teaching experience. As a community-based researcher, Lewis has focused on the relationships between churches and marginalized populations, including LGBT communities and ethnic minority communities. His dissertation research was on the phenomenon of LGBT-affirming black churches and their responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis in black America. On a personal note, Lewis says he is looking forward to exploring his new community of West Chester with his spouse, Benjamin.



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Melissa Adams-Budde** is an assistant professor in the department of literacy. She earned her bachelor's from University of Maryland, majoring in elementary education, and taught elementary school for six years in Montgomery County, Maryland. She earned a master's in reading education from Johns Hopkins University. She taught elementary school for three years in Guilford County, North Carolina, and earned a Ph.D. in teacher education from University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Adams-Budde is married with two boys, Klete (age 7) and Brody (age 5).

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**Supraja Anand** is an assistant professor in the department of communication sciences and disorders. She earned a B.S. in speech and hearing from All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, India in 2005 and an M.S in speech-language pathology from the same institution in 2007. She earned a doctorate from the department of speech, language, and hearing sciences at the University of Florida in 2013. She briefly worked as a postdoctoral research scholar in the Sensorimotor Rehabilitation Engineering Lab at Boston University.



Anand's primary research interest includes development of complex and dual tasks for assessment of speech production in individuals with neurodegenerative diseases (specifically Parkinson's disease). She has presented her scholarly work at state, national and international conferences and also published in peer-reviewed journals. She likes to teach speech acoustics, research methods, voice disorders, introduction to communication sciences and disorders.

**Jeanette Benigas** is an assistant professor in the department of communication sciences and disorders. She received her B.A. in speech-language pathology from the University of Toledo, her M.A. in speech-language pathology from Eastern Michigan University and recently completed a specialization certificate in aging and a Ph.D. in speech and hearing science from Ohio State University. She has extensive experience working as a speech-language pathologist, initially with pediatrics in private practice and school settings. Her most recent clinical experience includes serving as a speech-language pathologist in nursing home and home health settings.



Work in these settings contribute to her research interests involving improving quality of life for persons with dementia, specifically for those with eating and swallowing impairments. Her research has focused on evaluating reading comprehension abilities in people with dementia for use of visual aids and teaching swallowing strategies to people with dementia to avoid unwanted dietary modifications used in medical settings.

**Barbara Harrison** is an assistant professor in the department of nursing, where she teaches in the RN to BSN program. Most recently, she taught at the University of Delaware. Harrison earned her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Michigan. Her dissertation research focused on the memory and cognitive features of dementia behaviors and was funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research.



Her research interests include care of community-based older adults, including fall prevention, dementia care, caregiver burden and depression. Her current research focuses on an interdisciplinary fall prevention program among community-based older adults. She maintains a clinical practice as a nurse practitioner with Christiana Health Care. Harrison serves as the national chair (2012-2014) of the education committee for the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association and led the development of a toolkit of resources for advanced practice nurses. She went to high school in West Chester, moved back to the area in 2011 after 25 years, and lives in Kennett Square.

**Rachel Joseph** is an assistant professor in the department of nursing. She completed her BSN and MA in sociology in India, after which she served in various roles in the Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman. Joseph obtained her MSN from Wilmington University and, in 2012, her Ph.D. from Duquesne University. Previously, she worked at the University of Delaware, Immaculata University and Wilmington University, in clinical, classroom and online adjunct faculty capacities. Joseph completed a Summer Genetics Institute at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD. She is a neonatal certified nurse. The focus of her research is family and caregiver roles; health literacy; spirituality and complementary and alternative medicine; and epigenetics. She has published several manuscripts including two from her dissertation. Her family includes her husband and two children. Her recent travels include India, Malaysia, Singapore; Virginia and Colorado. She enjoys volunteering for professional organizations.



**Jacquelyn Owens** is an assistant professor in the department of nursing. She recently earned a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Thomas Jefferson University. She also holds a M.S. in nursing from Syracuse University and a B.S. in nursing from the University of Delaware. She has worked as a nurse for 20-plus years; currently working part time as a family nurse practitioner at South Jersey Medicine in Delran, N.J. Previously, she worked in dermatology, occupational health and in a military outpatient clinic treating active duty military members and their families. Owens' past research has included investigating the effectiveness of patient-centered medical homes in military clinics and empowering diabetics in the indigent-care setting. Her teaching goals include equipping doctoral nursing students to serve as key players in our ever-changing healthcare system as well as the practice of high-quality, evidenced-based nursing care.

**Regina (Jeanie) Subach** is an assistant professor in the department of nutrition. A registered and board certified sports specialist dietitian, she has taught at WCU since 2005. She is the advisor to the Student Dietetic Association and nutrition director for Campabilites, a camp for visually impaired students. Subach is the sports nutritionist for the Philadelphia 76ers, starting with the team in 1989. She held the role of team nutritionist for the Philadelphia Eagles under coach Andy Reid from 1999-2013, and for the Philadelphia Flyers from 1989 to 1997.

Subach earned a B.S in home economics and a master's in nutrition education from Immaculata University. She is working towards her doctorate in educational leadership and management at Capella University. She recently completed her dissertation research on the impact of nutrition intervention on young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Neha Sunger** joins WCU as an assistant professor in the department of health. Previously, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at Dow Chemical Co. in Michigan. She received her B.S. in civil engineering from MBM Engg. College, India, her M.S. in environmental engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Kanpur, India and her Ph.D. in environmental engineering from Drexel University.

Sunger's teaching interests include public health, decision analysis, quantitative dose-response assessment, quantitative uncertainty analysis, risk assessment, statistics, biostatistics, exposure science and modeling, and water and wastewater treatment. Her primary research interests are in the field of environmental and human health risk assessment for chemical and microbial stressors. Specifically, she is interested in environmental statistics, human health and exposure modeling. She resides with her family in Norristown and in her free time practices yoga.

**John Taylor** is an assistant professor in the nursing department and a registered nurse specializing in pediatrics and safety of the hospitalized client. Taylor's initial training was completed at West Virginia University's BSN program. Following this, he practiced as a clinical nurse and most recently as a nursing professional development educator at a large pediatric hospital in western Pennsylvania. He holds a MSN with an emphasis in nursing education and a doctorate of nursing practice from Chatham University. His scholarly accomplishments have focused on patient safety related to vascular access, patient handoff, and patient-family centered care. Recently, he traveled to Saudi Arabia to present a four-day pediatric nursing seminar to nurses working in Saudi government-sponsored hospitals.



## COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

**John Bellomo** is an assistant professor in the department of theatre and dance. He has worked as a theatre professional for more than 20 years, both in the U.S and abroad. He has taught at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, Teatro in Polvere in Milan, Accademia Internazionale dello Spettacolo in Calabria, Italy, as well as Arcadia University, Rowan University, Temple University and West Chester University. Bellomo is the former artistic director of the Maryland Shakespeare Festival and current co-artistic director of Ombelico Mask Ensemble. He was a founding member of Teatro Ronda, an international commedia dell'arte company that has performed in Poland, Switzerland and Italy. He received an

M.F.A. in directing from Temple University, a B.F.A. in acting from the University of the Arts, and is a graduate of The International School for the Comic Actor in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Bellomo is a 2010 Barrymore Award winner in outstanding choreography/movement and currently serves as a Barrymore judge.

**Kristopher Benedict** is an assistant professor in the art department. Previously he taught painting at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Originally from New York State, Benedict lived in New York City for many years as a practicing artist and adjunct professor. He holds a BFA from The Cooper Union and an MFA from Columbia University. Benedict's artwork has been exhibited in solo shows in New York, Miami and Minneapolis and in group exhibitions across the country. He also has work in the public collections of the RISD Museum, Flint Institute of Arts, and The Orlando Museum of Art.



**Daniel E. Cherry** is an assistant professor of trombone. From 2002 until 2014, Cherry held a similar position at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. He received his bachelor of music degree in trombone and voice performance from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and his master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees in trombone from University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Before he began his teaching career, Cherry was the principal trombonist of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra in West Virginia. He is an active chamber musician, performing regularly with the Balaton Chamber Brass (a trumpet/trombone duo with his wife, Amy) and he has performed on several international tours with the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. Cherry is originally from Drexel Hill, so this new position at WCU is a homecoming for him.

**Jacob Cooper** is joining the department of music theory, history and composition. He recently received his doctorate of musical arts from the Yale School of Music and previously served on the faculty at Amherst College. Recognized as "richly talented" (*The New York Times*) and "a maverick electronic song composer" (*New Yorker*), Cooper earned a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Morton Gould award from ASCAP, and was the winner of the 2011 Carlsbad Music Festival competition. His works have appeared at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the MATA Festival, and the Wordless Music concert series at the Miller Theater; recent performers of his music include the JACK Quartet, the Calder Quartet, Ensemble ACJW, and the Minnesota Orchestra. Earlier this year, Nonesuch Records released his song cycle *Silver Threads*. Outside of music, Jacob enjoys running and yoga, as well as rooting for sports teams that, unfortunately, have always been rivals of the Philadelphia teams.



**Martin Alan Dallago** is an assistant professor in the department of theatre and dance. He has worked in theater since receiving his BS from Dickinson College in 1987. He stage managed for over a year and then went back to school to get his MFA in theater (design). He has worked as a technical director and designer in several markets. Dallago taught for several years in Temple University's theater department where he was head of the design /production program. He is returning to WCU after working in the commercial sector creating theatrical scenery for many years.



**David P. L. Jones** is an assistant professor of art. He earned his MFA in graphic design in May 2014 from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. Previously, he worked as a designer and art director in Philadelphia and Hoboken, producing work for regional, national and international clients, including Trump Hotels, Virgin Records, SiriusXM Radio, The Yards Brewing Company and Motorola. His work has been recognized in juried shows, annual publication and award shows as both a student and professional. When not producing his own work, Jones enjoys travelling near and far in search of type specimens, turn-of-the-century signage and rare posters which he incorporates into his design process.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Marc Drumm** is an instructional designer in the Office of Distance Education. He graduated with an M.Ed. in educational technology from the University of Delaware and has worked in higher education for 15 years. In addition to instructional design, Drumm also specializes in web design and development, integrating technology into educational environments and utilizing emerging technologies. Previously, he worked at the University of Pennsylvania. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family, reading, playing video games and rooting for the Boston Red Sox.



**Megan Jerabek** is a senior associate registrar in the Office of the Registrar. Previously, she worked at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. There she worked in the Enrollment Services office which manages the registrar and bursar functionalities of the university. She has a bachelor of arts of Indiana University, and a master of arts from the Catholic University of America. She enjoys spending time with her young daughters and competing in triathlons.



**Naveen K. Jha** is a lab coordinator in the department of physics. Before joining WCU, he worked as an ORISE fellow in the department of hematology at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Bethesda, MD. He investigated (non-regulatory research) blood coagulation kinetics and mechanisms of action of protein therapeutics used for hemophilic treatment. He also worked as a post-doc in the gastroenterology division of Johns Hopkins University and the Institute of Human Virology. Jha received a master's in 2002 from Western Illinois University and a Ph.D. in physics in 2008 from Lehigh University. Jha enjoys watching sports and is a big Eagles fan.



**Ann Lieberman Colgan** is a pre-major advisor in Undergraduate Studies and Support Services. She is an anthropology undergraduate from WCU, earned a master of education from Rivier University, and taught secondary education social studies. She spent most of the last 20 years at WCU in Undergraduate Studies and Student Support Services, where she has worked as a tutor coordinator, assistant director, and acting director of the Learning Assistance and Resource Center. The past seven years she has been a faculty advisor to pre-major students. Currently concluding her doctoral work for an EdD in Jewish education from Gratz College, her research interests include Jewish civilization courses in public higher education and the philosophy of advising. She recently presented on the application of Martin Buber's philosophy to the advising relationship and plans to publish on that topic. A Chester County native, she is an avid gardener and a traveler determined to see someplace new every year.



**Robert Marco** is a graduate admissions recruiter in the Office of Graduate Studies. He holds a B.S. in geography from the Pennsylvania State University and a M.A. in theology from Villanova University. Previously, he worked at Neumann University, where was a senior admissions counselor and adjunct instructor of theology. He lives in Wilmington, Del., and enjoys bicycling, gardening, and spending time with his wife and two children.



**Denise Meikle** is the applied music department contact in the School of Music. Previously, she was a graduate program assistant at Villanova University. She also is a WCU student, in her junior year in the bachelor of liberal studies: professional studies program with a minor in health science and computer science-web technology. She has three children, the youngest a first-year student WCU. She enjoys taking short trips with her husband, including to Maryland and the Jersey shore, and spending time with family and friends. Meikle says she is fortunate to have this opportunity to work at WCU and during this past year has learned a lot and met many friendly faces.

**Heidi Mulherin** is an assistant director of admissions, serving as the transfer liaison. Since graduating from Lehigh University in 2009, she has worked at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. and the University of Delaware in college admissions. Mulherin is a West Chester resident and she and her husband celebrated the birth of their first child this past April.



## STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Kristin Shelesky** is an assistant professor and licensed clinical psychologist in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services. She obtained her bachelor's degree in clinical psychology from Marywood University in Scranton and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Alliant International University in Fresno, Calif. She has worked in a variety of clinical and academic settings in Fresno, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Tacoma, Seattle, and the Philadelphia area. She completed post-doctoral research in preventing problematic alcohol use on college campuses. She particularly enjoys counseling and teaching college students. Shelesky practices psychology from an integrative, strength-based approach, focusing on utilizing students' strengths to enable their personal and professional success. Her clinical expertise and research interests include positive psychology, mindfulness, anxiety, relational issues, college substance issues and trauma.



:

### CONGRATULATIONS ON NEW ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Marc Gagne**, Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

**Victoria Tischio**, Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

**Monica Zimmerman**, Interim Associate Dean, College of Business and Public Affairs

### OTHER NEW HIRES IN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Lisa Allen** — Graduate Social Work

**Seth Birch** — Dean's Office, College of Visual and Performing Arts

**Erin Fadden** — Admissions

**Rachel Kehl** — Graduate Studies

**Alexander Miriello** — Access Services, Library

**Theresa Sullivan** — Graduate Social Work

**Autumn Walden** — Office of the Registrar

