From the Provost

Welcome to the 2015-16 academic year. It’s an exciting time at West Chester University as more than 50 new tenure-track faculty members join us to share their knowledge with our students and contribute their talents to this institution.

This newsletter will 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.

As you may know, WCU is one of the most sought-after universities in the mid-Atlantic region -- we received 14,164 applications for this fall’s first-year class of 2,350. Currently, more than 16,500 students are enjoying the benefits of a West Chester education.

We continue to experience strong growth across the institution, including such areas as International Programs, which saw student participation in study abroad increase by 28 percent, primarily in faculty and staff-led study abroad programming.

Distance education -- both fully online and hybrid programs involving limited campus time – is flourishing and helping us to meet enrollment demands. The number of seats in distance education courses increased by 38 percent this past year. Graduate education is another growth area. This semester, WCU launched its second doctoral program, the Doctor of Public Administration (DPA). Our third doctoral program, the Doctor of Education in Education Policy, Planning, and Administration, will begin in summer 2016.

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. Best wishes for a productive and successful academic year!

NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Jim Capolupo, College of Education

Capolupo is the new associate dean for partnerships and faculty development. Most recently, he was the superintendent of the Springfield School District in Springfield, Delaware County. He was named the 2014 National Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents. Prior to becoming superintendent, Capolupo was the director of teaching and learning for the Springfield School District. He began his career as an elementary, middle school and high school band director. His first administrative post was a coordinator of fine arts. He also was an assistant principal, principal and director of elementary education.
Capolupo holds a B.S. in music education from WCU and also holds an M.A. in education, D.M.A. in Music and has done post-doctoral work in educational leadership. He is on the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. He also is on the Professional Development Committee and the Resolutions Committee. Capolupo has taught at Cabrini College, Neumann University, Arcadia University, Chestnut Hill College, Lincoln University and Princeton University.

**John Carr, College of Education**

Carr is the new associate director of clinical experiences. He received his B.S. in secondary education, majoring in French, from West Chester State College; his M.A. from WCU in teaching English as a second language; an M.A. in school leadership from Villanova University; and his doctorate from Drexel University.

He began his teaching career in a private school and then moved to the Kennett Consolidated School District where he worked for 38 years. He spent 10 years as an ESL teacher and 28 years as an elementary and middle school principal. As an educator and administrator, Carr’s area of interest is the continuous and creative improvement of instruction for all students. He is looking forward to developing the instructional skills of the field experience students and student teacher candidates in the College of Education.

**Jon Esser, College of Visual and Performing Arts**

Esser is the new associate dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. He holds a B.F.A. in art from Purchase College, SUNY and an M.F.A. in art from Brooklyn College, CUNY. Esser also studied art at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Bern, Switzerland. He has nearly 30 years of teaching and administrative experience in the arts. At Purchase College, Esser was a founding member of the faculty in new media and the founding chair of the arts management major. Along with his other accomplishments for these majors, he created international study programs in Spain and Mexico.

Since 2005, Esser has been a National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) visiting evaluator and consultant, conducting evaluations of programs in art at more than two dozen colleges and universities around the country. Over the years, his artwork has evolved from more traditional sculpture into his most recent new media industrial landscapes.

**Vishal Shah, College of Arts and Sciences**

Shah is the new associate dean of sciences and mathematics in the College of Arts & Sciences. Previously he was an associate professor and chair of the department of biology at Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y. Shah received his doctorate in microbiology from Sardar Patel University in Gujarat, India. He was a UNESCO-ROSTE fellow at the Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic, and worked as a post-doctoral research at NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering.

Shah’s research involves developing microorganism-based technologies that directly influence current human needs, while reducing our impact on the environment. He is working on developing mathematical models to understand the impact of metal nanoparticles on soil microbial community. He also is doing research to understand and mitigate the impact of nuclear radiation on soil microbial community. Shah has served as an evaluator for Middle States, and as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency. He currently serves as an academic editor for PLOS ONE and Environmental Monitoring and Assessment journals.
Andreas Aristotelous, Department of Mathematics
Aristotelous received his Ph.D. in mathematics with a minor in computational science in 2011 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. From 2011 to 2013 he held joint positions as a postdoctoral fellow at the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute and as a visiting assistant professor in the department of mathematics at Duke University. He continued at Duke through 2014. From 2014 to 2015 Aristotelous served as a research assistant professor in the department of mathematics at Temple University. His research interests are in the development, analysis and implementation of high-order and efficient numerical schemes in view of their applications to problems of practical interest, such as tumor growth and biofilms.

Michelle Caler, Department of Physics
Caler did her undergraduate work at Colgate University, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009. She spent a few months teaching at local community colleges then came to WCU as an adjunct professor in 2010. She has taught general education classes as well as an upper division course. Caler’s research interests include QSO absorption line systems, galaxy luminosity function estimates, statistical methods in astrophysics, and variable star monitoring. In her spare time, she enjoys running, knitting, and reading.

Liu Cui, Department of Computer Science
Cui received her Ph.D. from the telecommunications and networking program at University of Pittsburgh in 2015. She received her BS in information management & information systems from Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi’an, China, in 2007 and a master’s of information and telecommunications system from Ohio University in 2009. Her research interest includes dynamic spectrum access and related policies. In her recent research she has studied spectrum right, spectrum trading, decision and risks analysis in spectrum sharing, and security issues in spectrum sensing. She received the scholarship for outstanding contributions to the graduate program in telecommunications in 2012.

Julia Crouse Waddell, Department of Communication Studies
Crouse Waddell most recently worked at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She teaches mass communication, media effects, and theory courses. Crouse Waddell’s research encompasses social psychology, media communication and technology. Her dissertation examined the impacts of social identification and deindividuation within a bimodal multiplayer social communication technology [video games]. Waddell received her Ph.D. in media and information studies from Michigan State University, a master’s degree in mass communication from the University of North Carolina, and bachelor’s degrees in English and journalism from the University of Florida. Earlier in her career, she worked as an education beat reporter for The Ledger in Lakeland, Fla. She also has worked for the Durham Herald-Sun and as a journalism volunteer for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. She has two children under three, two enormous black cats, a hyperactive dog and a husband.
David C. Dehm, Department of Chemistry

Dehm begins a tenure-track position after 14 years as an adjunct professor of chemistry at WCU. Earlier in his career, he taught high school chemistry and physics. After obtaining a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry, he worked for five years at Union Carbide and 22 years at Atlantic Richfield (ARCO Chemical) where he was involved in exploratory and basic research and new product development. He has numerous patents and publications in the area of specialty chemicals. His current research interests are in the area of “green chemistry.” He and his wife of nearly 49 years have three grown children and six grandchildren. He enjoys fishing and reading and says he calls Winston Churchill his hero.

Teresa Donze-Reiner, Department of Biology

Donze-Reiner graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Ph.D. in molecular biology and microbiology. Her research focused on understanding the plant-pathogen interactions between the model plant Arabidopsis and turnip crinkle virus. After graduating, she taught genetics at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and continued to pursue research in plant defense mechanisms against pests and pathogens. She is currently working on understanding how to develop switchgrass as a more viable biofuel and what genes and environmental factors influence gender determination in buffalograss. Donze-Reiner will continue this research at WCU, using both switchgrass and buffalograss to understand how plants defend themselves against both abiotic and biotic stresses.

Peter Duval, Department of English

Duval’s story collection, *Rear View* (Houghton Mifflin), won the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference Bakeless Prize for Fiction, the Connecticut Book Award for fiction (nominees for which included Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America*), and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction. His fiction and non-fiction have appeared in a variety of national and international journals, most recently *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Witness*, and *Appalachian Heritage*. His novella “Strange Mercies” will be published by the *Massachusetts Review* as an e-book later this year. Twice honored with Connecticut Artist Grants and thrice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Duval lives in Philadelphia.

Roger Gatchet, Department of Communication Studies

Gatchet completed his graduate work at the University of Texas at Austin and was an assistant professor of communication at Eastern New Mexico University prior to coming to WCU. His research interests focus on the rhetoric of popular culture and music, public memory, and social movements. A trained oral historian, he also incorporates oral history methods in his work, and he recently completed a grant-funded project with the Institute for Oral History at Baylor University that recorded oral history interviews with blues musicians in Austin, Texas. His current project investigates how authenticity has become a principle category around which people organize and make sense of their lives and identities. His research has appeared in edited collections as well as the journal *Oral History Review*. In his spare time he enjoys playing music, gardening, and cooking.
Daniela Johannes Salvo, Department of Languages and Cultures

Johannes Salvo earned her Ph.D. in border studies and M.A. in Hispanic studies, both from the University of Arizona, and a B.A in literature and linguistics from Universidad Católica de Chile. Her current research involves representations of the U.S.-Mexico border, sovereign technologies for securitization and its contestations. Her work relates to theories of affect, actor-network, nature-cultures, biopolitics and necropolitics. Her most recent paper, "Border Architectures: Nature, Technology and Humanness in the Sonoran Desert" was published in *International Political Sociology Journal*. Johannes Salvo speaks Spanish, Portuguese and English. She volunteers for non-profit organizations that support migrants and other minority populations.

Lisa Konigsberg, Department of English

Konigsberg has taught at the college level, including here at WCU, for more than 15 years. Her current research interests include student-directed learning and assessment, as well as teaching for transfer. She has taught a variety of courses at WCU, including Business and Organizational Writing, and Film. She is currently a student teaching supervisor for secondary education English majors. Konigsberg has published poems, and a chapbook of her poetry, *Invisible Histories*, was published by Spruce Alley Press in 2015.

Benjamin Kuebrich, Department of English

Kuebrich, the co-founder and co-executive producer of This Rhetorical Life, a podcast created by graduate students in Syracuse University’s composition and cultural rhetoric program, focusing on rhetorical analyses of contemporary public events and academic trends in the field of writing studies. His article “‘White Guys Who Send My Uncle to Prison’: Going Public within Asymmetrical Power” recently appeared in *College Composition and Communication*. Kuebrich is working on a book critical of current modes of community engagement in higher education. He is interested in critical pedagogy, popular education, and intersectional analysis. He says he is especially happy to be teaching and working in the hometown of Bayard Rustin.

Chuan Li, Department of Mathematics

Li received his Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Tennessee in 2011 and worked as a post-doctoral researcher at Clemson University and the University of Alabama. His research focuses on developing numerical and scientific (parallel) computing methods for solving large complex models of real physical processes arising in physics, biology, materials, engineering, and environment applications. Li has published 17 research papers in peer-review journals. He says he is very interested in collaborating with researchers from other areas for research proposals and seeking funding supports from NIH and NSF.

Robert Main, Department of Philosophy

Main received his B.A. from the University of Washington in 2004 and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Temple University in 2010. He has taught at a variety of institutions, including research universities, liberal arts colleges and fine-art schools. Main teaches classes on existentialism, the philosophy of language and the history of philosophy. His research focuses on the work of the American pragmatists, semiotics and the philosophy of culture.
Joshua Mason, Department of Philosophy
Mason specializes in Chinese philosophy and ethics, and he has professional interests in hermeneutics and political philosophy. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy in 2014 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and spent the past year working at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. His dissertation, "Justice and Harmony as Complementary Ideals," covers ground from ancient Greek metaphysics to contemporary social policy in Asia. Building on this foundation, his upcoming projects develop a hermeneutic ethics incorporating traditional Chinese concepts. Mason was born and raised in Petaluma, Calif. In his spare time, he practices martial arts and writes silly poems.

Maureen McVeigh Trainor, Department of English
McVeigh Trainor joins the English department after several years teaching composition and creative writing as an adjunct here and at other colleges and universities in the Philadelphia area. She earned an M.A. in English at WCU and an MFA in creative writing at Rosemont College. Her work has been published in Calyx and Philadelphia City Paper. Her research interests include applying creative writing techniques in the composition classroom. She has presented at conferences including the International James Joyce Conference, Great Writing Conference in London, Modern Language Association, and CCCC. She just returned from teaching advanced fiction writing in a study abroad program in Cork, Ireland.

Matthew R. Meier, Department of Communication Studies
Meier holds a Ph.D. in media & communication from Bowling Green State University. His research is situated at the intersection/s of rhetoric, comedy and democratic theory. His dissertation, “Laughing at American Democracy: Citizenship and the Rhetoric of Stand-up Satire,” addresses the evolution of contemporary stand-up comedy in the United States and its role in providing equipment for democratic citizenship. Meier has written essays on comedians such as Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and Mel Brooks as well as popular culture texts including the Blue Collar Comedy Tour and Shaun of the Dead. Meier lives with his spouse, their daughter, and their Westie. He enjoys playing the guitar, golfing, close-up magic and cooking. He also is an avid sports fan who keeps rooting for the Chicago Cubs against his better judgment.

Shannon Mrkich, Department of English
Mrkich has been an adjunct faculty member at WCU since 2000, teaching first-year composition and Introduction to Literature. She received a B.A. in medieval and renaissance literature from University of Pittsburgh and a master’s in medieval and renaissance literature from Arizona State University. She earned her Ph.D. in communication science from Temple University. Mrkich’s primary research focuses on writing assessment and self-regulated strategy instruction, which is an experimental curriculum for developmental writing. Her emerging research interest is incorporating distance education pedagogy into F2F classrooms. In her free time, she is an avid speculative fiction fan who reads and watches dystopian, post-apocalyptic, alternative history, and parallel-universe fiction.
Margaret Niiler, Department of Language and Cultures
Niiler has taught Spanish at WCU for the past six years. For the last two years, she also has taught the intricacies of interacting with multilingual populations to pre-service teachers, speech pathologists, and audiologists. Her research interests include second language acquisition, multilingualism, dual-language immersion education and second language composition. Her hobbies include reading in Spanish at a local daycare, traveling and hiking. She has hiked across Spain on the Camino de Santiago.

Jea Sophia Oh, Department of Philosophy
Oh holds her Ph.D. from Drew University. She also earned a master of divinity from Yale University Divinity School, and an M.Phil. from Drew University. She previously taught courses in religion and philosophy at Montclair State University, Drew University and Union Theological Seminary. Her research and teaching interests include Asian philosophy, comparative ethics, religion and ecology, and postcolonial studies. Her interests also extend to ecofeminism, postcolonial theories and postmodern thought. Her book, A Postcolonial Theology of Life: Planetarity East and West is the first approach to bridge postcolonialism and ecological ethics with the use of Asian spirituality as the philosophical underpinning for the argument that all forms of life are sacred.

Constantinos Pistos, Department of Chemistry
Pistos received his B.Sc. in pharmacy from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece in 1995. In 1998 and 2001, he obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees, respectively, in the specialty of pharmaceutical analysis and quality control of drugs, from the University of Athens in Greece. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the College of Pharmacy of the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. U.S. before serving for several years as director of ILS SA, a private pharmaceutical company in Greece. From 2006 to 2012, he was a lecturer and assistant professor in forensic toxicology at the School of Medicine of the University of Athens in Greece. Pistos has published 48 articles in peer scientific journals and presented 34 research works in scientific congresses, in the field of forensic toxicology and pharmaceutical analysis.

Mark E. Shuman, Department of Chemistry
Shuman received his B.S. in chemistry from Georgetown University in 1968 and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. He worked for Hewlett-Packard for 19 years, leaving to start his own company in 1995. The company, based on supercritical fluid chromatography technology, was sold in 2000 to a Swiss company, Mettler-Toledo. Shuman managed the company for Mettler-Toledo for about four years. Shuman came to WCU as an adjunct in 2006 and has been teaching in the chemistry department ever since. His research interest is in supercritical fluid chromatography and its use as both an analytical and a preparative tool. Mark lives in West Chester with his wife, Cindy. He has three sons, five grandchildren, two dogs, two cats and an African grey parrot.

Rajvee Subramanian, Department of Communication Studies
Subramanian recently graduated from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, with a doctoral degree in mass communication and media arts. He has more than 15 years of combined experience working in India and the U.S. as a television journalist. His area of interest is media, technology and health. He says he has a blueprint of what he intends to do at WCU over the next three years in the areas of teaching, research, administration and community activities. Learn more about Subramanian at bit.ly/1eHpHyU or follow him at @tweetotwitt.
Ekeoma Uzogara, Department of Psychology
Uzogara graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in psychology, a master’s in public health, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship. She has taught research methods and a variety of psychology and service-learning classes that she looks forward to continuing to teach at WCU. Her research interests include understanding perceived discrimination, gender roles, and social influences on stress and well-being particularly among ethnic minorities and other oppressed groups. In her free time, she enjoys drinking organic teas and eating incredibly spicy foods from around the world. She has travelled to six continents…primarily for the delicious food!

Dominik Wolff, Department of Languages and Cultures
A native of Germany, Wolff obtained valuable life and teaching experience in Japan and Spain before coming to the U.S. for graduate school. He received his M.A. in linguistics from Syracuse University in 2009 and his Ph.D. in second language studies from Michigan State University in 2015. His current research focuses on the role emotions play in teacher identity development of native and non-native speaking English teachers. With a colleague, he is investigating the effectiveness of college classes that prepare PK-12 teachers for culturally diverse classrooms. In his free time, he practices yoga and is working on becoming an adequate cook. Wolff says that he is excited to be joining the WCU community and exploring everything eastern Pennsylvania has to offer.

College of Business and Public Affairs

Ginneh Akbar, Department of Graduate Social Work
Akbar’s extensive practice experience has reflected her commitment to child welfare social work in metropolitan areas. Her work has primarily focused on children and families, providing clinical services in the areas of community mental health, early intervention/infant mental health and at child welfare agencies. Her direct practice work has included child welfare investigations at the Philadelphia Department of Human Services; evidence-based, trauma-focused interventions therapy; and assessment and advocacy to children on the autism spectrum. Akbar received her B.S. in social work from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, her MSW from Temple University and her doctorate in clinical social work from the University of Pennsylvania, where she has taught as an adjunct lecturer. Her research interests include organizational trauma in helping professions, and social work ethics in child welfare social work.

Jenna Becker Kane, Department of Political Science
Becker Kane earned her Ph.D. in political science from Temple University in 2015. Her areas of research and teaching interests include judicial politics, American political institutions, and constitutional law. Her dissertation, which is currently under review in the form of several article-length manuscripts, explores the influence of interest groups filing amicus curiae in state courts of last resort. Her current research also included a reexamination of judicial activism and restraint on the U.S. Supreme Court using data spanning the court’s history. Previously, Becker Kane taught American government and public administration at East Stroudsburg University.
Michael Guiry, Department of Marketing
Guiry earned his Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Florida, an MBA from Duke University, and a B.S. in agricultural business management & marketing from Cornell University. He has more than 20 years of teaching experience at the undergraduate and MBA levels, primarily in the New York metropolitan area. His most recent position was at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. He also has taught courses in Azerbaijan, Austria, China and Turkey. His research interests include medical tourism brand positioning and service quality, international retirement migration, and cross-cultural consumer behavior. His research has been published in journals such as the Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research, Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science, Journal of International Consumer Marketing, and International Journal of Behavioral and Healthcare Research.

Barbara Kauffman, Department of Criminal Justice
Kauffman received her B.S. in education from Pennsylvania State University, her M.S. in education from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Temple University School of Law. She worked for Legal Services in Kentucky’s Appalachia region, for the Philadelphia Public Defender Association and for the Federal Public Defender’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. For the past 28 years she has been an adjunct faculty member at WCU, teaching courses in criminal law. In addition to her primary teaching responsibility of criminal law, Kauffman has developed courses in gender, crime and justice, and interpersonal relations.

Kyle Kelly, Department of Economics and Finance
Kelly received his Ph.D. in economics in 2014 from Binghamton University. For the past four years, he has taught economics at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. His teaching interests include macroeconomics, monetary economics, statistics, and econometrics. His current research focuses on regional employment changes in the U.S. before and after the Great Recession. He recently coauthored a paper that will appear in the Regional and Sectoral Economic Studies journal this fall.

Angela Lavery, Department of Graduate Social Work
Lavery graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in human development and family studies, completed her master’s degree in social work from the University of Wyoming, and in 2015 earned a Ph.D. from the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work. She is a fellow in thanatology through the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Lavery has worked as a licensed clinical social worker in a variety of settings, including hospice, senior centers and correctional facilities. She also has worked with survivors of crime. Prior to pursuing her doctorate she was the assistant director of the Wyoming Geriatric Education Center at the University of Wyoming. Her academic and research interests include clinical social work practice, gerontology, housing and aging in place as it pertains to older adults with low income; end-of-life care, grief and bereavement, elder abuse and animal-assisted interventions.
Amanda Olejarski, Department of Public Policy and Administration

Olejarski earned her graduate degrees from Virginia Tech and Rutgers University. She is certified to utilize the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment tool and is working to become a master practitioner through the Myers-Briggs Foundation. She is on the board of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and a member of the National Council for Pi Alpha Alpha, public administration’s national honor society. Olejarski’s research has been published in peer-reviewed journals, and her first book was recently printed in paperback. Her research expertise includes eminent domain policy implementation, public-sector employee motivation, organizational learning in public agencies, administrative communication and public-service ethics.

Shih-Ching (Trista) Wang, Department of Marketing

Prior to joining WCU, Wang was an assistant professor of marketing at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. She has taught courses in the principles of marketing, marketing management, international marketing, digital marketing, internet marketing, marketing research, and entrepreneurship. Her teaching interests also include consumer behavior, advertising and personal selling. Her current research interests include decision making, luxury branding, sensory branding, product categorization and transformative consumer research. She has published in Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services, Journal of International Consumer Marketing, Advances in International Marketing, and Advances in Consumer Research.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Jade Burris, Department of Early and Middle Grades Education

Burris teaches courses in early childhood education, specifically pre-kindergarten methods. Previously, she taught in the instructional design and technology program at Delaware Technical Community College, in the early childhood program at the University of Delaware, and in the educational technology program at the University of Florida. Prior to her career in academia, she spent five years teaching children ranging in age from infant to four. Her research focuses on leveraging technology to improve educational outcomes, pre-service and in-service teacher professional development, online education and learning environments, and child care quality improvement systems. She has presented research locally and nationally.

Dawn Fraser, Department of Special Education

Fraser received her doctorate in the areas of special education and applied behavior analysis from Johns Hopkins University, where she also served as an adjunct faculty member and project coordinator for the autism hybrid and applied behavior analysis programs. She has conducted 21 presentations at the international, national, and state levels and has published in Teaching Exceptional Children. She is a certified special educator in Maryland and has worked in the field of special education since 1999. Fraser has extensive experience working with children with a variety of disabilities and their families in hospitals, homes, and schools. She has developed regional autism programs at the elementary and middle school levels. She specializes in autism, evidence-based practices, teacher preparation, and applied behavior analysis. In her spare time she enjoys making beaded and chainmaille jewelry, boxing, and bike riding.
Dawn Robin Patterson, Department of Special Education

Patterson received her doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research interests have focused on teaching literacy skills to students with severe disabilities, primarily students with autism. She is finalizing details for her upcoming publications which include “Scale-Up of a Literacy Curriculum for Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities” and “Using Direct Instruction to Teach Prepositions to Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities.” She taught undergraduate and graduate courses in special education at Edinboro University this past academic year. Her teaching interests are centered on preparing special education teachers to provide a rigorous, academically rich education to students with severe disabilities and autism in today’s diverse classrooms. She has 14 years of K-12 classroom teaching experience as well as a comprehensive education including licensure in preschool, elementary, and special education.

Mathias Akuoko, Master of Public Health Program

Akuoko joined WCU in January as an assistant professor. Previously, he was on the faculty at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, University of Texas at Dallas, and at Tarrant County College, where he taught a number of courses in public health. He received his undergraduate degree in social sciences from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; a master’s in public administration from Southern Illinois University; and a master’s in public health from University of North Texas Health Science Center, where he also received his Ph.D. in public health sciences. His research focuses on health and social justice, including child health policy, both domestic and global, health issues of racial and ethnic minorities, and evaluation of health policies and programs.

Daniel Baer, Department of Sports Medicine

Baer spent several years as a temporary faculty member before beginning his current tenure-track position. In addition to teaching responsibilities, Baer will continue as an athletic trainer with the football team and women’s rugby team, as a clinical preceptor in the undergraduate athletic training education program, and in a supervisory role to sports medicine graduate assistants. Bear earned a B.S. in athletic training from West Chester and an M.S. in health and rehabilitation sciences from the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently working towards a Ph.D. in administration and leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he will be studying the social and cultural factors that affect patients’ motivation to seek care for sport-related concussions. He lives in Havertown, with his wife, 3-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son.
Kenneth Clark, Department of Kinesiology
Clark completed his BA in psychology at Swarthmore College, an MS in kinesiology at West Chester University, and a Ph.D. in applied physiology & biomechanics at Southern Methodist University. His doctoral research on running mechanics and locomotion with added loads was funded by the U.S. Army Department of Defense. He has been published in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, and the *Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, and has presented at conferences including the World Congress of Biomechanics, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the National Strength & Conditioning Association. Clark has taught undergraduate courses in biomechanics and exercise physiology. He also worked as a performance coach at Summit Sports Training Center in West Chester from 2005-2010, where he was responsible for the speed, strength and conditioning training of high school, collegiate, and professional athletes.

Amir Golmohamadi, Department of Nutrition
Golmohamadi was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. He holds a Ph.D. in food science from the University of Idaho and has 10 years combined professional, research, and teaching experience in food science and nutrition. Prior to his Ph.D. studies, he worked as a food quality assurance scientist at an international company in Iran. Golmohamadi’s teaching experiences has been with diverse socio-economic populations. His research goal is to apply fundamentals of food engineering and food chemistry to improve food safety and children’s health. His ultimate goal is to develop foods with customized texture for children by combining tribology, sensory, and nutrition education.

Harry Holt, Department of Health
Holt began his career in the health care industry at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, where he was responsible for the operations of five satellite centers that delivered primary and specialty care. Later, while working for Ernst and Young and Cap Gemini Ernst and Young, he helped hospitals nationwide improve operations and efficiency. Holt received his Ph.D. in health policy and administration in the management and organizational behavior track from Penn State University. His teaching goals are to provide students with practical skills they can apply in managing health care organizations that improve the health status of the patients served. His research focuses on financial and operational performance of hospitals, health system, and physician groups. He is a co-author of a textbook: “Fundamentals of US Healthcare: Principles and Perspectives, 1st edition,” and has been published in a peer-reviewed journal, *Advances in Health Care Management*.

Kimberly-Elizabeth Johnson, Department of Nutrition
Johnson earned a B.S. in nutrition science from Cornell University. At Syracuse University, she received her M.S. in child and family studies and her Ph.D. in social sciences. She has clinical nutrition and food management experience and more than a decade of teaching experience at universities. Johnson uses ecological approaches to research public engagement in the science and policy of food (especially dietary fat), nutrition, and food landscapes, and their influence on health and citizenship. Her teaching interests include lifecycle and community nutrition, cultural and social theory of nutrition, food and nutrition policy, and ethics and history in food and nutrition. Because of her effective use of service learning, Johnson received Syracuse’s Chancellor’s Inspiration Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship. She is committed to community projects in local and sustainable food. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, travel, art, and gardening.
Whitney Katirai, Department of Health
Katirai earned an Ed.D. in health promotion and M.P.H. in health behavior from the University of Kentucky. She received a B.A. in anthropology and Spanish from the University of Louisville. Katirai’s teaching and research interests include community health, maternal/child health, health of minority populations, service learning, cancer control/prevention, and rural health. She resides in Wilmington, Del., with her husband, Matin, (also a WCU faculty member) and their three children.

Hyunsoo Kim, Department of Kinesiology
Kim received a doctoral degree in exercise sciences with an emphasis in physical medicine & rehabilitation at Brigham Young University. He obtained his bachelor and master’s degrees at Yonsei University, majoring in PE and biomechanics. He also earned master’s degree in athletic training at UNC Greensboro so as to obtain clinical experience and to better understand sport-related injuries. His doctoral research focused on ankle instability. Over the last several years, his research has focused on neuromuscular fatigue on movement strategies in patients with ankle instability. Kim is planning to conduct intervention studies assessing the effect of neuromuscular training on the prevention/rehabilitation of lower-extremity injury.

Lindsey McGuire, Department of Sports Medicine
McGuire graduated from Temple University with a Ph.D. in kinesiology and a concentration in exercise and sport psychology. Prior to earning her doctorate, Lindsey was a faculty instructor in the athletic training education program at East Stroudsburg University. She also earned two master’s degrees at East Stroudsburg, in athletic training and sport management. She received a B.S. in health science/athletic training from Lock Haven University.

Most recently, McGuire was an assistant professor in the health science department at California University of Pennsylvania, where she also served as an athletic trainer with the men’s basketball team. She has presented at state, regional, and national conferences in athletic training and sport psychology, and earned research grants from the National Collegiate Athletic Association and Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers’ Society for her research on depression and concussion.

Michelle O’Connor Kensey, Department of Nursing
O’Connor Kensey graduated from Marquette University with a B.S.N., and University of Pennsylvania with a M.S.N. as a perinatal clinical nurse specialist. Currently, she is in WCU’s D.N.P. program. She has more than 30 years’ experience in labor and delivery, NICU and maternity. Publications and interests include psychosocial determinants of maternal and infant health, the use of simulation in the classroom, as well as improving breastfeeding rates among underserved populations. She currently works per diem at Hahnemann University Hospital in NICU, and, as a volunteer, teaches childbirth education and parenting classes at a crisis pregnancy center.
Norine “Nina” Smith Pulliam, Department of Nursing

Smith Pulliam earned her B.S.N. from WCU in 2005 and her M.S.N. with a clinical nurse specialist track from WCU in 2008. She earned her post-masters certificate in e-learning in 2013 from Northcentral University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in education/e-learning at Northcentral University. Her clinical background includes critical care, hemodialysis and perioperative nursing. Her research interest and dissertation topic is students’ perspective of the flipped classroom in nursing education; other research includes MRSA in the community and hospital settings, perioperative RN education and, preventing operating room sentinel events.

Veronica Wilbur, Department of Nursing

Wilbur has a Ph.D. in nursing science and is additionally prepared as a family nurse practitioner. She is a certified nurse educator and fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Over the course of her 35-year career, Wilbur has practiced in the hospital within adult intensive care and emergency departments. As a family nurse practitioner, she currently provides healthcare within primary/walk-in settings. Wilbur has 24 years of experience as nursing faculty in key leadership roles. Her areas of teaching expertise include advanced pathophysiology, pharmacology, adult assessment and teaching theory. She has a special interest in the incorporation of cultural competency into healthcare, and adult concussion care. She has made numerous national presentations and is the editor of Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice.

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Charles DelMarcelle, Department of Theatre and Dance

DelMarcelle received his M.A. in theatre studies from Villanova University and his M.F.A. in acting from Temple University. He has been a professional actor, director, and theatre educator for more than 17 years. He serves as an educational outreach specialist for the Lantern Theatre Company, Delaware Theatre Company, White Box Theatre, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He has performed at the Walnut Street Theatre, the Arden Theatre Company, Theater Horizon, Delaware Theatre Company, Inis Nua The Lantern Theatre, Azuka Theatre Collective, EgoPo Classic Theatre, Commonwealth Classic Theatre, White Box Theatre, and Amaryllis. DelMarcelle has been an adjunct faculty member at WCU and Albright College. He has held guest artist positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Millersville University, Moravian College, and Delta State University.

Marci Major, Department of Music Education

Major earned degrees from West Chester University, Michigan State University, and The Ohio State University. Formerly, she was assistant professor of music education and assistant director of choral activities at the University of Missouri. She also co-directed the Choristers ensemble of the St. Louis Children’s Chorus. Previously, she taught middle and high school choir in Michigan. Major has had her research published in the Journal of Research in Music Education, Research Studies in Music Education, the Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education, the Missouri School Music Magazine and the Maryland Music Educator’s Journal. She balances her research interests with the roles of clinician and conductor by giving teacher preparation workshops, guest conducting, and clinicing choirs, locally and across the country.
Molly Alberts, Office of the Registrar
Alberts is the academic records specialist in the Office of the Registrar. She graduated from Ursinus College with a BS in psychology in 2005. Previously, she worked at the YMCA of the Upper Main Line (now YMCA of Greater Brandywine) for nine years. Her last position with the YMCA was membership director of the Upper Main Line branch. Alberts enjoys reading, mountain biking and spending time with her friends and husband. She lives in West Chester.

Lindsay Gaughan, Office of Distance Education
Gaughan is an instructional designer in the Office of Distance Education. She holds a master’s of education in instructional technology from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, with a certification in educational technology as well as an additional certification in faculty development.

Gaughan has three years’ experience as an instructional designer and prior education and experience as a graphic/web designer. In addition to designing and developing online and blended courses, she has experience in assisting faculty with the transition from traditional face-to-face courses to an online environment. She can assist faculty with their online teaching strategies and help integrate technology tools into the curriculum.

Nora Maurer, Center for International Programs
Maurer is the new assistant director of education abroad. Previously, she was coordinator of education abroad for Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She has a B.A. in Spanish and ethnic studies from Bowling Green and a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Toledo. She has worked in international higher education for 10 years and brings with her experience in new faculty-led program development and student recruitment/advising. In her free time, Maurer volunteers for dog rescue organizations and is enjoying settling into her new home as a newlywed.

Mary McCann, Department of Graduate Social Work
McCann is the department secretary for the department of graduate social work. She received a bachelor of fine arts with a concentration in ceramics and painting from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master's of fine arts from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. She lives in Downingtown, where she creates art and spends time with her fiancé and Great Dane.
Megan Mullertz, Department of Physics
Mullertz is an administrative assistant in the department of physics. She has a background in sales and marketing as well as customer service. Mullertz lives in the Borough of West Chester with her husband and two children. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, running, golf, and spending time with her family.

Kyle Murray, Department of Graduate Social Work
Murray is a recruiter for the Master of Social Work program. Before joining WCU, he worked in the nonprofit sector, focusing on career development for low-income individuals. In 2011 he received his M.B.A. from Saint Joseph’s University. While completing his MBA, Murray organized a nonprofit bicycle ride across the U.S. to raise funds for cancer research.

Tom Pantazes, Office of Distance Education
Pantazes is an instructional designer in the Office of Distance Education. He holds a B.A. in government and history and a M.A. in secondary social studies education, both from the College of William and Mary. Previously, he worked for Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools as an instructional technology resource teacher. He also was an adjunct educational technology instructor for the College of William and Mary. He enjoys watching all of Philadelphia’s sports teams, building Legos with his two sons, and enjoying a good meal with his wife.

Kelly Peltier, College of Business and Public Affairs
Peltier is a pre-business counselor. She holds a B.S. in education and B.A. in English from Villanova and expects to start her master’s degree at WCU soon. Previously, she worked at Drexel University as an advisor to graduate students pursuing an M.S. or certification in secondary education and, earlier, at Delaware County Community College as an academic advisor. Peltier’s interests include cooking and baking, reading, hiking, and her dog. She lives in West Chester.

Deidre Childs, Access Services
Childs is the access services manager at the Francis Harvey Green Library. She holds a B.S. in psychology from Temple University and a M.S. in library and information science from Drexel University. Previously, she worked as an access services manager for Drexel University. Childs enjoys volunteering at a local animal shelter, gardening, and arts and crafts. She lives in Elkins Park.
Ronald McColl, Special Collections
McColl is the special collections technician at the Francis Harvey Green Library. He holds a B. A. in English from Ursinus College, an M. A. in English from Villanova University, and a master’s of library science degree from Clarion University. Before coming to WCU, he spent 12 years teaching English at Phoenixville Area High School. McColl enjoys spending time with his wife and son, reading, writing, and serving as a docent at the Wharton Esherick Museum in Paoli. He lives in Schwenksville.

Amanda McCollom, Instructional Media Center
McCollom is a library technician in the Instructional Media Center at the Francis Harvey Green Library. She earned her B.A. from Georgetown University and a M.A. in film and media studies from Emory University. McCollom lives in Wilmington, DE.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lindsay Sauers, Department of Counseling & Psychological Services
Sauers joins WCU following the completion of her postdoctoral training at University of Delaware’s Center for Counseling and Student Development and her pre-doctoral internship at The College of William and Mary’s Counseling Center. She received both her master’s in clinical psychology and doctorate of psychology from La Salle University, and dual B.A. degrees in psychology and French from Dickinson College. Clinical and research areas of interest include the use of mindfulness-based interventions in therapy; self-care development for graduate students of clinical psychology; and identity development in young adults. Previously, Sauers worked as a drug and alcohol therapist in her hometown of Williamsport. In her free time, she enjoys travel -- most recently to Ireland -- with her husband, Eric.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Special Assistants to the Provost
Tim Brown is a professor and chair of the department of communication studies. Since joining WCU in 2002, he has held numerous leadership positions on campus such as chair of the Council of Chairs and co-chair of the Multicultural Faculty Commission. He is the co-author of two communication textbooks and has received many honors including WCU’s Drum Major for Justice Award.

Corinne M. Murphy is an associate professor and department chair of special education, as well as executive director of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Autism Resource Center. Murphy recently was a reviewer for the National Standards Project Phase II, the first comprehensive, systematic evaluation of interventions and corresponding national treatment standards for adults with autism spectrum disorders. Murphy served in numerous capacities on the Curriculum and Policies Council (CAPC) for the past four years and will serve as CAPC chair during the 2015-2016 year.
Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

Scott Heinerichs is a 14-year faculty member in WCU’s department of sports medicine. For the last three years, Heinerichs has served as the faculty associate for teaching, learning, and assessment, responsible for faculty development, oversight of various university wide committees, and institution-wide program-level student learning assessment. In 2012, he led an initiative to better align all academic programs to demonstrate appropriate student learning outcomes. Recently, Heinerichs worked with administration and the Strategic Planning Assessment and Advisory Council to create a reporting structure so that strategic plan outcomes can be reported on and evaluated annually.

Interim Academic Affairs Project Manager

Ryan Woodward is responsible for the direction, coordination and implementation of specific projects in the Office of the Provost to ensure consistency with the University’s strategic plan and goals. He previously served as an assistant in the department of public policy and administration. Woodward earned a BA from Indiana University Southeast and MA from WCU. Outside of work, he is a member of the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, based in Wilmington, Del.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Provost and Assistant Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Management

Dorothy Ives-Dewey is chair of the department of geography and planning. She has been on the faculty since 2005, and served as department chair from 2010 until 2013. From 2013 to 2014 she served as the interim associate dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs. She started a second term as chair in 2014. Her background is in urban and regional planning with primary focus in land use planning, land development regulation and community development planning. For 12 years she was a land use planning consultant, working with communities and development interests on land planning initiatives.

Special Assistant to the Associate Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies

Matin Katirai joined WCU's department of geography and planning in 2009. Since 2013, he has served as the graduate coordinator for the program. Katirai currently serves on the graduate executive committee of the Graduate Council and the Institutional Review Board. Katirai also has worked on graduate policies for the graduate committee of the Curriculum and Academic Policies Council.