

**Eastern Connecticut State University
University Meeting, August 23, 2016**

NEW FACULTY

Art and Art History

Lora Lee is an Assistant Professor of digital art & design in the Visual Arts Department at Eastern Connecticut State University. She earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Animation at Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degree in Illustration at University of Hartford. Lora specializes in illustration, digital imaging, graphic design and animation. She has taught a variety of courses including digital illustration, graphic design and 2D&3D animation at Eastern Connecticut State University and University of Hartford. Lora is the owner of Lora Lee Art & Design studio and has been providing professional service for over 7 years. Lora continues to work on a variety of projects including advertising/editorial illustration, children's illustration, concept art, game assets and design. Her clients include Barbie Entertainment, Random House Publishing, Scholastic Books, Albert Whitman & Company, etc. Lora's work has been featured in many publications, apps, books, websites and galleries, and she has been the recipient of several illustration and animation awards.

Robert Greene, a Connecticut native, is an alumnus of Eastern Connecticut State University where he received his MA in 2006. He received his MFA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in 2013. Robert is an Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Eastern Connecticut State University where he teaches in the area of Sculpture and 3D Design. He is an active exhibiting artist and his work has been mentioned in The New York Times, Huffington Post, Boston Globe, Architectural Digest and many more. Robert's sculpture is inspired by the condition of the human mind and body, exploring the activity of neuro connections and electrical impulses within all people. This frenetic energy can be seen in the forms he creates. He is also interested in concept of impermanence as he creates installations in nature inspired by the human form. Robert has been making art from an early age and is driven by the need to "create". He believes the creative potential lies within all people, and strives to instill this notion within his students.

Samantha Pinckney earned her MA in Art History from Johns Hopkins University, and her MA in French Literature from New York University. After completing her Master's degrees, she studied 18th and 19th century French Art as a Doctoral candidate. She was nominated for a teaching excellence award by her Eastern colleagues in 2014. In addition to her passion for teaching, Pinckney has curated Contemporary Art exhibitions for galleries and museums and written scholarly essays to accompany them. Her most recent show "Sea and Stone: The Thimble Islands, Paintings by Arthur Yanoff" was on view at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT., from June 3 - July 24, 2016 and moves to Reynolds Fine Art in New Haven, CT., in September 2017.

Biology

Vijaykumar Veerappan - B.Sc. (Agri.) and M.Sc. (Agri.) Annamalai University, India; M.Phil. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong; Ph.D. Texas Tech University. During his Ph.D. and first post-doctoral fellowship in Oklahoma State University, Vijay discovered a novel epigenetic mechanism underlying the repression of seed developmental program in a model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. In his second post-doctoral fellowship at the University of North Texas, Vijay identified several plant genes essential for symbiotic nitrogen fixation using a model legume plant *Medicago truncatula*. He will be teaching Genetics, and Genetics and Society Lab in Fall 2016. Vijay is looking forward to continuing plant molecular genetics research involving students and also incorporating his laboratory research into courses here in Eastern.

Business

John C. Kriscenski, B.S., State University of New York at Stony Brook; M.S., University of Hartford. John is a certified public accountant in both Connecticut and New York. He brings with him professional experience from a regional public accounting firm where he served a broad client base that included high-net-worth individuals, start-up businesses and large, publicly traded companies. John primarily specialized in research on complex tax and accounting issues for his clients as well as the review of federal and multi-state tax return filings. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants. John looks forward to teaching Principles of Accounting and Principles of Managerial Accounting this fall at Eastern.

Economics

Brendan M. Cunningham, B.A., Oberlin College; Ph.D., Columbia University. As a Professor of Economics at the United States Naval Academy, Brendan served as his department's Chair, Faculty Senator, and Co-Chair of a re-accrediting committee. He contributed to case work and reports on consumer protection issues while serving as a Visiting Scholar at the Federal Trade Commission. His scholarship has appeared in *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Environmental and Resource Economics*, and *Information Economics and Policy*, and Brendan brings to Eastern research experience regarding the economics of media, copyright industries, and higher education.

Andria Fraser, B.S., University of Maine; M.S., University of New Hampshire, Andria returns to Eastern, having successfully served as an economics instructor from 2008-2011. Since that time, she has served as an economics instructor and adjunct faculty member at Mitchell College, the University of Connecticut, and Central Connecticut State University. Andria also wrote college and high school science course material while working for the Institute for Sustainable Energy, and she analyzed national survey data and wrote academic and industry papers for publication and presentation as a research and teaching assistant at the University of New Hampshire.

Steve M. Muchiri, B.A. and M.B.A., Eastern Kentucky University; M.S. and Ph.D., University of Kentucky. Steve was awarded a doctoral fellowship at the University of Kentucky, where he served as a teaching assistant for several years. He brings to Eastern his research interest in health and environmental economics, as well as in the impact of cash transfers on labor supply and household consumption in developing countries.

Education

Heather Bassett - B.A., Eastern Connecticut University; M.S., Southern Connecticut State University. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in Special Education at the University of Connecticut, Heather served as an adjunct professor at Eastern during the 2015-2016 academic year. She also served for two years as an adjunct professor at Three Rivers Community College, taught grades K-2 in the New London Public Schools, and worked as a research assistant during her undergraduate studies at Eastern. Heather brings her research interest in teacher preparation programs in early childhood special education programs.

English

Matthew J. Gallagher - B.F.A., New York University; M.A., English Literature, Western Connecticut State University; M.F.A., Ohio University. Matthew completed his M.F.A. in Playwriting at Ohio University and has been teaching Playwriting at Eastern since 2010. His students' plays have been produced through the Theatre Department's Phoenix New Play Series and he has assisted students in Independent Studies in Playwriting through the English Department. He has been a lecturer at Eastern since 2009 in both the English and Theatre Departments, where he also teaches Acting. He has also been a lecturer in English at the University of Connecticut and the University of Hartford. His original comedy pilot script was a finalist in the 2016 Nantucket Film Festival, sponsored by the Showtime Network, and another play received an Honorable Mention at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Conference. Matthew looks forward to teaching College Writing Plus, Literature, and Playwriting courses this coming academic year.

History

Stefan Kamola - Ph.D. University of Washington is a historian of the Middle East and Central Asia, with a particular interest in relations between nomadic and sedentary societies from antiquity to the early modern period. His dissertation research focused on Persian-language histories written in the wake of the Mongol conquests of the thirteenth century. More recently, he has been examining manuscripts from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries to understand how ideas of kingship were developed and circulated during that time. At Eastern, he will offer courses on world history before the sixteenth century, Islamic history, and the history of Inner Asia, Persia, and the Near and Middle East.

Scott Moore - Ph. D. University of Maryland, College Park finished his Ph.D. in 2015, specializing in the history of the Habsburg Monarchy and its successor states. His research explores the complexity of identity in Central Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and how institutions, historical memory, and public commemoration shape those identities. He will be teaching a variety of modern European history courses at Eastern, including Twentieth-Century Europe, an Introduction to the History of East-Central Europe, and The Holocaust.

Performing Arts

Anya Sokolovskaya, M.S., Moscow Institute of Railroad Transportation; M.F.A., University of Connecticut, is both an educator and a designer. As an artist, she costumed more than 50 shows, including ballet productions, modern dance, musicals, drama, comedies, children theater, social events, etc. Her work has been selected for the international exhibit in Moscow, Russia, "Costume Design at the Turn of the Century", 1990-2015, and will be exhibited in Beijing. She is collaborating with Hartbeat Ensemble, Hartford, and Playwriting Program in Brown University. Anya's design motto is "Expressive and not excessive," and it reflects her attention to detail and accent on holistic and thorough approach costuming. As an educator, Anya radiates passion for her profession and has a talent to encourage everyone to strive for the best. Her students have been accepted to the leading programs of the nation and won prestigious awards, including at Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival. Anya will bring her expertise to teach classes in the area of costume design and history, and costume technology.

Physical Science

David Cox earned his doctorate in physics in 2012 for his investigations of neutron star stability. Before coming to Eastern to teach General Physics, he designed a calculus-based physics course sequence to meet the needs of life science and chemistry majors and a bridging course for students who took algebra-based physics at another university. He was recently named a National Academies Education Fellow in Science and will be using his training to further develop Eastern student critical thinking skills while introducing them to physics relevant to their fields. His focus is physics education research for long-term real-world problem solving and skill development.

Political Science / Philosophy / Geography

Marcello Kilani - B.A., M.A., St. John's College, Santa Fe; M.A. and Doctoral Candidate, The New School for Social Research. Marcello specializes in Ancient Greek philosophy, and is currently completing a doctoral dissertation on the psychology of Aristotelian ethics. Before pursuing a Ph.D., he completed an M.A. in Eastern philosophy. His general research focus is on the intersection of metaphysics and ethics. He brings to Eastern a strong commitment to philosophical pluralism and will be teaching a broad variety of courses in the philosophy department.

Sociology

Isabel Logan, LCSW - B.S.W., Saint Joseph College (Currently, University of Saint Joseph); M.S.W., Fordham University. Mrs. Logan worked at the Division of Public Defender Services for 20 years as a social worker in the New Haven Superior Court and Superior Court for Juvenile Matters at Hartford. She is one of the founding members of the Latino Community Practice Program/Adelante at the University of Saint Joseph. Mrs. Logan is a doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership program at the University of Hartford. Her research interests include cultural, ethnic and linguistic issues that impact the delivery of human services.

Nicolas P. Simon - B.A. and M.A., Université de Caen - Normandy, FRANCE; Ph.D. Candidate, University of Connecticut • Nicolas started working at ECSU in the Fall 2006 and joined a Ph. D. Program at UCONN in September 2010. His dissertation discusses how first-generation college students at ECSU use their social capital to navigate higher education. His pedagogy, based on asset learning encouraged him to work closely with the Center for Community Engagement to promote Service Learning. Nicolas will be teaching Criminological Theory in the new Criminology Major.

Paul Trubey - B.A., University of Massachusetts (Lowell); M.S.W., Boston University. Paul is a clinical social worker with many years of experience in clinical and administrative work in the areas of hospice, end of life, grief and loss. He has taught adjunct courses in social work at Central and human services courses for many years at Tunxis community college. For the past nine years he has focused on farming full time as the owner of a goat dairy producing a variety of goat milk cheeses and teaching goat care and cheese making classes at the farm.

World Languages and Cultures

Luna Najera comes to us from Radboud University in the Netherlands, having received a B.A. degree in Philosophy and Social Theory from Hampshire College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies from Cornell University, with minors in Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, and Comparative Literature. Her research and teaching interests encompass Early Modern Spanish and Spanish American Literature and Culture, Transatlantic Studies, Cultural Studies, Visual Culture, Cinema, and Gender Studies. Luna will be teaching courses in language, film, and civilization, among others.

NON-FACULTY

Edward Adu-Gymfi. Edward, originally from Ghana West Africa, graduated from Eastern in 2012 with a major in Communications and minor in Criminology. As a student at Eastern, Edward served as President of the African Club, Advocacy Captain for Educational Reform, and was an active member of the Entrepreneurial and West Indian Society student organizations. In his spare time, Edward enjoys exercising, participating in outdoor sports, and giving back to his local community.

Paula Goyette. Paula is the new Secretary II in the office of the School of Education and Professional Studies (SEPS). Paula has been employed by the State of Connecticut for 16 years. She started her state career at the Teachers' Retirement Board in Hartford in 2000, moved to the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services in 2007, and joined Eastern Connecticut State University in June 2016.

Maribel Sanchez. Maribel is an Eastern graduate from 2005! Since graduating, she's worked at UCONN as a program advisor for the Educational Talent Search Program. She also has experience as a Secondary Program Coordinator and coordinated a secondary tutorial program for 30+ at-risk students. She joins the Academic Services Center to assist with oversight of student employees and the DREAMer and STEP/CAP programs.