Faculty Showcase
and Welcome for New Faculty Members

August 26, 2016
Schmidt Art Gallery (PA 102), 4–6 P.M.
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Faculty Showcase

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM  Welcome and introduction of new faculty members by Dean Heather Coltman; recognition of faculty promotions.

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM  Faculty presentations of research and creative accomplishments from 2015–16. Attendees are encouraged to mingle and visit the various stations throughout the Schmidt Center Galleries to discuss faculty accomplishments while enjoying the delicious refreshments being served. The following faculty will be available at these times:

Group 1 (4:15 – 5:00 PM)

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Rebecca LeMoine: “The Benefits of Bullies: Sophists as Unknowing Teachers of Moderation in Plato’s Euthydemus.” Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought, 32.1 (Summer 2015): pp. 30-52.


Associate Professor of Music, Mr. Alejandro Sánchez-Samper—Latin Grammy Nomination for the Hoot Wisdom produced album, “Bogotá-Buenos Aires” in the category of Best Tango Album of the Year: FAU Scholar of the Year.


Group 2 (5:00-5:45)


Assistant Professor of History Dr. Adrian Finucane: The Temptations of Trade: Britain, Spain, and the Struggle for Empire. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016.


Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance, Mr. Clarence Brooks: “Butoh, the Dance of Death: Connectivity and Improvisation” (research based on his Japanese Foundation travel grant to Japan, Summer 2016).
NEW FACULTY

Department of Anthropology

Dr. Meredith Ellis received her doctorate in anthropology from Syracuse University in 2014. She holds, as well, M.A. degrees in both Anthropology and English. Her research focuses on social bioarchaeology, inequality in the archaeological record, the evolution of health and disease, and the anthropology of childhood. Her doctoral research was carried out on the bioarchaeology of the New York City historic (19th century) cemetery associated with the Spring Street Presbyterian Church. In her research, she investigates the osteological evidence for childhood disease and correlations to an emerging, modern understanding of childhood.

School of Communication and Multimedia Studies

Sungjoo (Rosa) Park is a new instructor of Communication, New Media and Digital Culture. She will be based on the Davie campus. Rosa completed an MFA in Digital + Media from the Rhode Island School of Design earlier this summer. This supplements her 2014 MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of British Columbia Okanagan (Canada) and her 2008 MFA in Graphics/Multimedia Design from Seoul National University (Korea). Rosa’s research and creative productions have focused on sound in mediated spaces as well as transmedia life performance, although she also brings a wealth of professional experience in multimedia design. She will teach classes in video production and editing, media criticism, interactive culture, and related courses in both the Film, Video, and New Media BA degree and the MFA in Media, Technology, and Entertainment.

Department of History

Dr. Adrian Finucane joins the department as an assistant professor, coming from the University of Kansas, where she served at the same rank for five years. She received her PhD from Harvard University in 2011 and then spent two years at the Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute as a Postdoctoral Fellow. This year she published a monograph with the University of Pennsylvania Press entitled Temptations of Trade: British Agents in Eighteenth-Century Spanish America as part of their Early American Studies Series. Her current research centers on the early history of the Georgia colony. She is an expert in Atlantic World and early American history, and she will be teaching courses in those areas, as well as potentially in U.S. legal history and Native American History.

Dr. Jason Sharples also joins our faculty as an assistant professor after having been at the Catholic University of America since 2010 where he was an assistant professor of Early American history. He received his PhD in 2010 from Princeton University and from 2012-13 held an NEH Long-Term Fellowship at the Huntington Library. He has published several articles including most recently, “Discovering Slave Conspiracies: New Fears of Rebellion and Old Paradigms of Plotting in Seventeenth-Century Barbados,” in the prestigious American Historical Review (2015). His book manuscript on transnational slave conspiracies is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. He serves as an Advisory Council Member at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. He will be teaching courses in early American history and slavery.

Dr. Byron McCane, who received his PhD in Religion from Duke University in 1992, joins the department at the professor rank after serving twelve years as chair of the Religion Department at Wofford College in South Carolina. An expert in ancient history and archaeology, he has published extensively on related topics, including the book Roll Back the Stone: Death and Burial in the World of Jesus (2003). He will be primarily located on the Jupiter campus and will be teaching Latin and courses in early Roman history and religion, and
the history of world religions. As co-director of the project, each summer Dr. McCane conducts archaeological fieldwork at the Horvat Kur excavation site in Kinneret, and gives scholarly presentations of his findings there.

Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature

Dr. Michael Hamilton received his doctorate in Linguistics from McGill University (Montréal, Québec) in 2015; his prior degrees (Carleton University; Ottawa, Ontario) include two BAs (Linguistics and Sociology) and the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language. Dr. Hamilton spent the past academic year at Cornell University, as Lecturer in Linguistics and Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. His research focuses on Mi’gmaq, an understudied and endangered First Nations language from the Algonquian language family. This research has done more than inform theoretical linguistics—it has also provided strong support for language and cultural revitalization within the Mi’gmaq community itself. Dr. Hamilton’s interest in Linguistics as an academic field is closely tied to his own experience with other languages and cultures; he spent six years living and teaching English in Japan, he is raising a bilingual family, and he is fascinated by the role of bilingualism in general cognition.

Rosemary Rahill joins us as Instructor of Online French with Professional Certification. She first pursued her undergraduate studies at New York University, until study abroad brought her in contact with the people and culture of France, and into a highly successful international business career. Once back in the United States, she earned the BA and MAT in French at FAU with high honors, and was inducted into Pi Delta Phi (the National Collegiate French Honor Society). Rosemary’s classroom expertise includes French language and culture, phonetics, and composition. She is also certified by the Chambre de Commerce et d’Industrie de Paris (CCIP) to test candidates for the internationally recognized CCIP Language Certificate.

Lina Henao, Instructor of Spanish, earned her BA in her home country of Colombia, and her MA in Spanish from FAU. While a graduate student, she taught beginning Spanish language courses and received high accolades from her students. In Spring 2015, she was honored with a Volunteer Award by FAU’s Student Accessibility Services Division for her generous support of FAU’s SAS student population. Lina is a member of Sigma Delta Pi (the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society).

Department of Music

Robert Rimmington, Instructor, Commercial Music. His primary teaching responsibilities include the music technology courses in the Commercial Music Technology degree. Robert holds his Bachelor of Music in Studio Music and Jazz and his Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami. Robert has been teaching music privately since 1988 and has been teaching at the University level since 1995. His awards include the University of Miami Graduate Award of Academic Merit, International Association of Jazz Educators Outstanding Musicianship Award, and winner at the IBC in 2009. He has been a member of Phi Kappa Phi since 1991 and enjoys an active teaching and performance career. Robert joined the department in 1995 as an adjunct professor.

Department of Political Science

Dr. Steven D. Roper is the Executive Director of the Peace, Justice and Human Rights Initiative and Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University. His research explores the design and the implementation of transitional justice with a focus on conflict resolution mechanisms. His research examines transitional justice and human rights issues in diverse regions including East Europe and the former Soviet Union, Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. He has held grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the International Research & Exchanges Board, the Social Science Research Council and was a Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Senior Specialist. Dr. Roper has served as a consultant to the US Agency for
International Development, US Department of State and the World Bank. In addition to his work in the area of human rights, Dr. Roper has an extensive experience in international education and has served as a consultant on the Bologna process and models of national accreditation. He is the author of four books and over fifty articles and book chapters. Dr. Roper is Editor-in-Chief of Human Rights Review.

Dr. Annette LaRocco comes to us from the University of Cambridge, with previous degrees from Columbia University and the University of Oxford. Annette’s research interests include comparative politics, environmental politics and African politics. While working on her dissertation, Annette spent ten months conducting field work and interviews in Botswana. Her dissertation is titled, “The Politics of Land, Conservation and the State in Postcolonial Botswana.”

Department of Sociology

Dr. Lotus Seeley earned her PhD from the University of Michigan in 2016. Lotus’s research foci are gender, work, and organizations, with an emphasis on the interactional processes through which categorical identities and status structures are (re)produced on a daily basis. She has examined the gendered experiences of both administrative professionals and IT support workers. Her scholarship is grounded in an understanding of gender as socially-constructed and performative and motivated by a desire to understand the influence of organizational structures on both individual ways of doing gender and general social inequality.

Dr. Laura Backstrom joins us after completing a PhD at Indiana University in 2014. As a microsociologist, her research examines the cultural meanings of bodies in social interaction, and she uses the body as a site to investigate the interplay of gender, sexuality, and deviance. Backstrom’s current research uses cultural, social psychological, and body theories to examine the processes through which people construct and interpret cultural meanings regarding childhood obesity. Using a combination of content analysis of Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move campaign and ethnographic and interview data from a children’s weight loss camp, she examines processes of embodied resocialization and analyzes how anti-obesity discourse creates embodied inequality and problematizes childhood.

Department of Theatre and Dance

April Soroko comes to Florida Atlantic University after eight years at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida where she was Associate Professor of Scenic Design. Ms. Soroko has been resident designer at Triad Stage in Greensboro, North Carolina, resident costume and scenic designer at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in High Point, North Carolina and has designed both scenery and costumes professionally at regional theaters in the Southeastern US. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatrical design from University of Texas at Austin and a Masters of Fine Arts in scenic and costume design from Yale University. Ms. Soroko is a member of United Scenic Artists local 829 in both scenery and costumes.

Dawn Shamburger, Assistant Professor of Costume Design, comes to us after 12 years teaching at Mass College of Liberal Arts in New England. She earned an MFA in Theatre Design with an emphasis in Costume Design from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a BA in Theatre Design and Production from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. Professionally, Dawn has worked in various capacities from Design, Technology and Costume Management with many companies and universities along the East Coast. Dawn feels fortunate to have the opportunity to continue sharing her passion in design, teaching and history with the students at FAU.
Corey Lamb, painter, is originally from Houston, and received his MFA from Indiana University—Bloomington. He has exhibited numerous times both nationally and internationally, most recently with The Painting Center in New York City and with Galerie Wolfsen in Aalborg, Denmark. His recent work focuses on themes of separation and death juxtaposed with recurrence and the eternal. Drawing from the visual language of video games, he also interrogates cultural culpability, emotional tourism, and violence in contemporary culture.

Thomas Stollar, ceramicist, holds a PhD in Studio Art, and is interested the haptic ability of clay to retain memory. His work often investigates ideas surrounding the everyday and the interplay between individuals and their cultural settings, working to defamiliarize the mundane in order to reveal how the seemingly most uneventful and insignificant happenings of everyday life contain obscure meanings and indications of broader cultural and historical significance. His research uses ceramic art practice to create contemporary artifacts that question the value of personal, everyday objects and experiences and how in turn that practice can become insightful of both individual and culture.

Joseph Velasquez, our Assistant Professor in Printmaking, is a Chicano artist and the co-founder of Drive By Press, a mobile print studio and print exhibition that has served more than 200 Universities over the last eight years. His work draws upon the graphic influence he experienced growing up in the West and Southwest, including murals, graffiti tags, placasos and tinta, lucha and loteria. His work also engages popular culture and its icons, from Beyoncé to Ice Cube.
Congratulations to our newly promoted and tenured faculty!

**PROMOTIONS**

**Department of Anthropology**
Clifford Brown – Professor

**Department of English**
Eric Berlatsky – Professor
Jennifer Low – Professor
Wendy Hinshaw – Associate Professor
Warren Kelly – Senior Instructor
Kathleen Moorhead – Senior Instructor
Russ Redman – Senior Instructor
Scarlett Rooney – Senior Instructor
Melissa Criscuolio – Senior Instructor

**Department of History**
Barbara Ganson – Professor

**Department of Political Science**
Eric Prier – Professor

**Department of Sociology**
Ann Branaman – Professor
Gregory Lukasik – Senior Instructor

**Department of Visual Arts and Art History**
Karen Leader – Associate Professor

**School of Communication and Multimedia Studies**
Brad Lewter – Associate Professor

A selection of books and creative works by faculty members will be on display in the hallway of the PA building.