We want to introduce to you the new faculty members that joined the College of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UMass Lowell this academic year. This is a highly talented group of faculty across a number of disciplines that bring expertise in areas that we highly value in our college-interdisciplinary research, applied professional experience, strong teaching portfolios, and service-learning. Their contributions will enhance the University’s mission.

**Pouya Afshar (Assistant Professor - Art)**

Pouya Afshar joins UMass Lowell as an Assistant Professor in the Art department. He is an alumnus from the California Institute of Arts Character Animation department, and a graduate of University of California Los Angeles Graduate Department of Film and Television, focusing in Animation and Digital Media. He has exhibited his work as an animator and visual artist throughout Los Angeles and United States at renowned locations such as Harold M. Williams Auditorium at the Getty Center, Bovard Auditorium at University of Southern California, Royce Hall at University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Santa Monica Art studios, 18th street Art Center, Art Miami/Context, and Shulamit Gallery. Pouya is the creator, character designer and producer of the animated series "Rostam in Wonderland."

**Christopher Allen (Visiting Assistant Professor - Psychology)**

Christopher Allen joins the Psychology Department at UMass Lowell as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Christopher received his Ph.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies. He received his M.A. in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a B.A. in Psychological & Brain Sciences, and Sociology at Dartmouth College. Prior to coming to UMass Lowell, he conducted research at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at Rutgers University and in the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His research is primarily focused on how gender socialization of men and boys has contributed to their underrepresentation in efforts to prevent violence against women.

**Brian Brown (Visiting Lecturer - Cultural Studies)**

Brian Brown's joins UMass Lowell as a visiting Lecturer within the department of World Languages and Cultures. Continuing a teaching career that began at the high school level in 1994, Brown uses immersion methods and
communicative strategies to maximize student comprehension and acquisition. His research interests begin with questions of freedom in Cervantes’ works and expand into Golden Age Spanish literature, culture and history; the rhetoric of empire and literary and cultural expressions of freedom in the Spanish-speaking world.

**Heidi Furey (Lecturer - Philosophy)**

Heidi Furey joins the Philosophy department at UMass Lowell as a new Lecturer. Heidi recently received her PhD in Philosophy from UMass Amherst. She is originally from Colorado, where she received BA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her graduate work was at the intersection of philosophy of language, aesthetics, and metaethics. Furey’s thesis was on the semantics of aesthetics predicates; however, have been fortunate enough to have quite a bit of experience teaching applied ethics (in particular Bioethics). She is teaching Engineering Ethics here at UMass Lowell and working as an Advisor in our Advising Center.

**Betsy Herbin-Triant (Visiting Assistant Professor - History)**

Elizabeth Herbin-Triant joins UMass Lowell as a Visiting Assistant Professor within this History department. Elizabeth received her AB from Harvard and her PhD from Columbia University. She was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale, and an assistant professor of History at St. John’s University in New York. Her research interests include agrarianism in the American South, African-American migration within the U.S. and emigration to Liberia, the Harlem Renaissance, and segregationist ideas in the U.S. and South Africa.

**Ingrid Hess (Assistant Professor - Art)**

Ingrid Hess comes to UMass Lowell as an Assistant Professor of Art. Ingrid is an illustrator, graphic designer and educator. Ingrid holds an MFA in Graphic Design with an emphasis in the book arts and has worked in the publishing industry since 1996. Her dual passions of design and illustration work well together and help her tell stories through pictures. The simplicity in her work is heavily influenced by her Amish/Mennonite heritage; the bright colors and patterns areinspired by art from Costa Rica (her childhood home for four years). Her research focuses on economic justice as a way to bring peace to the world and empowers kids to understand that they can make a difference.
Kareem Jordan (Associate Professor - Criminology and Justice Studies)
Kareem Jordan joins UMass Lowell as an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies. Kareem has held faculty appointments at the University of Central Florida as well as the University of North Florida. At both institutions, he was also the Director for each department’s respective criminal justice graduate program. Prior to earning his doctorate degree, Jordan was a mobile therapist/behavior specialist consultant for at-risk youth. Jordan is active in publishing research on issues of juvenile justice and race/crime in a wide range of peer-reviewed journals. Currently he is merging these topics by writing a book on race and juvenile justice for Carolina Academic Press. In recognizing his strong record of scholarship, Jordan was appointed co-editor of Race and Justice: An International Journal, which is currently published by Sage.

Paul Keen (Assistant Professor - History)
Paul Keen joins UMass Lowell as an Assistant Professor in History and Director of the Hellenic Studies Program. Paul earned a PhD in Classics from the University of Chicago and was teaching at Valparaiso University before moving here from Chicago. He is an ancient historian focusing on Greek history with interests in cultural contact, imperialism, economic history, and the Greek city more broadly from about 1200 BC through the fourth century AD. Keen’s research focuses most specifically on aspects of Hellenistic models of imperial domination in the ancient Near East after the death of Alexander the Great.

Rebecca Markovits (Lecturer - Psychology)
Rebecca Markovits comes to UMass Lowell as a Lecturer within the department of Psychology. After graduating from SUNY Binghamton, Rebecca completed her Master’s degree in Behavior Analysis at Western Michigan University, where her work allowed her to gain the Board Certified Behavior Analyst certification. Rebecca moved to Massachusetts in order to pursue her doctoral degree from Simmons College. She has worked as a behavior specialist and then Assistant Clinical Director in a private school, serving students with developmental disabilities, intellectual and cognitive impairments, mental health diagnoses, and severe behavior disorders, while also serving as an adjunct in several colleges around the state.

Wilson Palacios (Associate Professor - Criminal Justice)
Wilson R Palacios joins UMass Lowell as an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology & Justice Studies. Wilson received his Ph.D. from the University of Miami (Department of Sociology) and, since 1996, was at the University of South Florida, Department of Criminology before joining UMass
Lowell. His research focuses on the intersection of social class, race, ethnicity, and gender and its structuring effects on "everyday" decision-making processes and behaviors related to drug use, abuse, and addiction. Specifically, Dr. Palacios utilizes qualitative research methods to investigate how social-cultural context and social structure shape 'risk' & legal environments for people who inject drugs (PWIDs).

Jelena Runić (Lecturer - English)
Jelena Runić joins the UMass Lowell English Department as a new Lecturer. Jelena obtained her Ph.D. in theoretical linguistics from the University of Connecticut this summer. She has worked with non-native speakers of English for nearly twenty years, in Serbia and the United States. In addition to ESL, Jelena has taught general linguistics, Romanian, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian languages at the University of Belgrade, Indiana University, and University of Connecticut. Jelena will be joining the English Department (including its newly opened Writing Center) in order to provide support to the growing population of English as a second language (ESL) students at UMass Lowell. She will be teaching College Writing ESL and tutor undergraduate and graduate student writers in various disciplines across the campus.

Jason Rydberg (Assistant Professor - Criminal Justice)
Jason Rydberg is a new Assistant Professor within the Criminology and Justice Studies department at UMass Lowell. Jason received his Ph.D. in criminal justice from the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. His dissertation research concerned the prisoner reentry process for paroled sex offenders, examining how parolees navigate their supervision and reentry challenges as they return to the community. Jason has served as the project manager for several grant-funded evaluations of criminal justice-oriented programs, including a multisite evaluation of sex offender residency restrictions, and a hot-spots policing initiative in partnership with the Michigan State Police.

Rohan Sikri (Visiting Lecturer - Philosophy)
Rohan Sikri is a Visiting Lecturer in the Philosophy Department with teaching interests in Asian, Continental, and Ancient Philosophy. He holds an MA from DePaul University and will be defending his PhD this spring from that institution. He has studied in China and Singapore. He is teaching World Religion and Ancient Philosophy at UMass Lowell.

Rebecca Stone (Lecturer - Criminal Justice)
Rebecca Stone joins the Criminology and Justice Studies department as a new
Lecturer. Her teaching interests include topics such as gender, race, and crime, violence against women, crime mapping and GIS software, and qualitative research methods. She is interested in the nexus between criminal justice, public health, and the intersections of race, class, and gender. Her research focuses on a public health approach to criminal justice topics, with an emphasis on issues of gender, race and class disparities in health and justice. This includes issues of maternal, child and infant health, violence against women, substance abuse and addiction, and desistance from offending. Rebecca's most recent research examined the process of desistance from substance use during pregnancy and the transition to motherhood.

Mike Testa (Lecturer - Music)

Michael Testa, an alumnus from UMass Lowell for both his undergraduate and graduate studies, now joins the University as a lecturer within the department of Music. With a Bachelors of Music: Sound Recording and Technology (SRT) concentration received in 2004, and his Masters of Music: SRT in 2009, he is currently pursuing an Ed.D. After receiving his bachelor's he went on to work at NESN for 8 years, where he became Chief Audio Mixer in 2005. Responsible for Red Sox and Bruins production, he then moved to broadcast engineering in 2008. After 2011 he returned to UMass Lowell, taking an appointment as a visiting professor in SRT. This year Michael became a lecturer in SRT and Digital Media Studies. His specialties are production, music technology and broadcast engineering.

Brandon Vaccaro (Lecturer - Music)

Brandon Vaccaro joins the Music Department at UMass Lowell as a new Lecturer. Brandon holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition from the University of Colorado-Boulder and Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of Denver. As a composer, performer, and producer, he has studied composition as well as recording arts. As a composer, Vaccaro has received commendations, awards, and commissions from The Playground, ASCAP/SCI, Iowa State University Carillon Festival, New York Youth Symphony’s First Music program, the University of Denver, and the University of Colorado. His film work has been recognized by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (2012 Heartland Emmy winner, 2014 Heartland Emmy nominee). He has previously taught at Kent State University at Stark, at the College of Music at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and at the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver.
Daniel Walzer (Assistant Professor - Music)

Daniel Walzer is a new Assistant Professor of Composition and New Media in the Music department. Walzer received his BM in Jazz Studies from Bowling Green State University, MM in Jazz Studies from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and an MFA in Music for Visual Media from Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of the Cumberlands. Originally trained as a percussionist, Walzer's creative work focuses on music composition and technology, jazz performance, and MIDI production with virtual instruments. Walzer comes to UMass Lowell from Lamar State College-Port Arthur and previously, the Art Institute of TN-Nashville and Art Institutes International of Minnesota. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Walzer is collaboratively developing curriculum for a new interdisciplinary degree in music composition and new media.

Miko M. Wilford (Assistant Professor - Psychology)

Miko Wilford joins the department of Psychology at UMass Lowell as an Assistant Professor. Miko received her Ph.D. in Psychology at Iowa State University with the support of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Prior to graduate school, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Applied (Research) Statistics, graduating Magna Cum Laude with Honors. Her research examines the application of cognitive psychology to the real-world, particularly in educational and legal arenas.