A warm welcome to all new faculty who joined FAHSS this fall

Welcome to FAHSS

Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in welcoming a group of very talented and accomplished faculty members to our college. They join a vibrant community of scholars, artists, and teachers within the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at a very exciting time for the University. We look forward to their contributions toward enhancing the experiences of our students and to their successful careers at UML.

Luis M. Falción
Dean

Visit Our Website

Art & Design

Misha Rabinovich is an Assistant Professor of Interactive Media at the Department of Art and Design. Misha is an artist, developer, and educator investigating the idea of waste as a cultural construct and is interested in making ecology legible through multi-player gaming. As co-founder of the DS Institute he collaborated to build a mobile sauna and took it on a tour that culminated at the New Museum’s Ideas City Festival. He holds a BS in Electronic Art from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an MFA from Syracuse University. His work has been exhibited in North America and Europe and he held residencies at such places as the Flux Factory in New York and McGill University’s Centre for Intelligent Machines in Montreal.

Pavel Romaniko is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Art & Design Department. Pavel
Romaniko was born in Pereslavl-Zalessky, a small town outside of Moscow, Russia, in 1980. He has lived and worked in the United States since 1997. Romaniko completed a BA in Studio Arts from Northwestern College in Saint Paul, Minnesota (2002), and an MFA in Imaging Arts from the Rochester Institute of Technology (2009). Recent exhibitions include Rovinj Photo Days Festival, Croatia, Mimi Ferzt Gallery, New York, Tyler Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College; Art Center, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA, and Gallery Kunstler, Booksmart Studio, Rochester, NY. His work has been featured as part of the Museum of Contemporary Photography Midwest Photographers project.

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**Criminal Justice & Criminology**

**Joel Day** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Joel received his PhD from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where he was also research fellow at the Sie Center for International Security and Diplomacy. His research on ISIS and religious terrorism recently received a grant from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). Joel focuses on the nexus of identity and security and his articles have been published in the Journal of Peace Research and Journal of Strategic Security.

**Neil Shortland** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology. He is Project Manager at the UMass Lowell Center for Terrorism and Security Studies and a PhD Student at the University of Liverpool's Center for Critical and Major Incident Psychology. He conducts research on all aspects of national security including terrorist behavior, military operations and adaptation and high-stakes decision-making. His most recent work involved collecting and analyzing data on the number of civilians killed and injured by coalition and insurgent forces in Afghanistan. This work was published as part of a special feature in the journal Science. As part of a collaboration with the HEROES lab at the University of Massachusetts Lowell (Harnessing Emerging Research Opportunities to Empower Soldiers) his research analyzes least-worst decisions at the organizational, small team and individual level using research methods from cognitive and neuro-psychology.

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**English**

**Ann Dean** is an Associate Professor in the Department of English and Director of the First-Year Writing Program. She teaches composition, rhetoric, and eighteenth-century literature.
Her research interests include literacy, public sphere theory, and genre. Ann is the author of *The Talk of the Town: Figurative Publics in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (Bucknell, 2007). She has also published articles in eighteenth-century and composition journals. In her current work, she uses qualitative research to investigate the academic strategies of students who struggle in first-year writing.

Michael Black is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. Before joining UMass Lowell, Black served as the Associate Director for the Institute for Computing in Humanities, Art, and Social Science at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications in Champaign, IL. While there, he collaborated with faculty in African American Studies, Agriculture, English, History, Law, Library Science, and Sociology, on a variety of text analysis and big data projects involving XSEDE, HathiTrust, JSTOR's Data for Research program, PACER, and Scopus. His own research focuses on the cultural histories of personal computing and programming languages. His work has appeared in *Games and Culture* and *Digital Humanities Quarterly* (forthcoming). Michael received his PhD in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2014.

Natalie M. Houston is an Associate Professor in the Department of English. She is currently writing a book entitled *Digital Reading: Poetry and the New Nineteenth-Century Archive*, which employs computational methods to explore the cultural function of poetry within Victorian print culture. She recently directed an NEH-funded project to develop *VisualPage*, a software application to identify and analyze visual features in digitized printed books. She is also a Co-Director and Technical Director for the *Periodical Poetry Index*, a research database of citations to English-language poems published in nineteenth-century periodicals. Her research on Victorian poetry and print culture has appeared in journals such as *Games and Culture* and *Digital Humanities Quarterly* (forthcoming). Michael received his PhD in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2014.

Andrew Drenas is a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of History. Andrew is a Lowell native, and a proud alumus of UMass Lowell who graduated in 2005 with his BA in history. He became adjunct faculty in 2008, after earning his MA in church history. In 2010, he was accepted into the doctoral program in History at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. There, he did his dissertation on the missionary endeavors of the Capuchin Order early in the seventeenth century, after the Protestant Reformation. He graduated from Oxford in July this year, and is now preparing his dissertation for publication. He also has plans to do research on Franciscan missionary and polemical activities during the Middle Ages as well as Capuchin evangelistic work among early modern Italy’s Jews.

Elizabeth Herbin-Triant is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Elizabeth is a graduate of Harvard and Columbia Universities. 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.
Music

Christopher Lee is a Lecturer in the Music Department. Christopher is a composer and percussionist with degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College, Indiana University, and Rice University, where he held a doctoral fellowship. He is a winner of the ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Award, the Kuttner String Quartet Competition, and the Lee Goldstein Memorial Prize in Composition from Baldwin-Wallace College. His music has been performed by the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the California E.A.R. Unit, Speculum Musicae, the Woodlands Symphony Orchestra, the Rapides Symphony Orchestra, the Rice University Shepherd School of Music Symphony Orchestra and many others. His electroacoustic music has been featured at the IDEAS Festival of Digital Arts and the LaTex Electroacoustic Music Festival. One of these works, "Bounce", has been choreographed by Houston dance artist Nancy Ku. "Skywriting" for alto flute has been recorded by international soloist Linda Wetherill for the anthology New Music for Solo Alto or Solo Bass Flute, published by Southeast Missouri State University.

Elissa Johnson-Green is an Assistant Professor of Music and Music Education in the Department of Music. She received her Doctor of Education in Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Elissa has led a musical life, first as a professional, classically trained performer on the flute and then as a music teacher, children's choral director, researcher, writer, and composer with children. Some of her main creative projects include writing and producing original operas with children, directing concerts with children performing their original music, and teaching children to compose music from a science/technology/engineering/mathematical (STEM) perspective. Her main research areas include: Music as it acts in family structures, as a biological imperative, in child development and child rearing as parenting strategy; Music as a human strategy to aid in life transitions; Music as it acts in schools - as a cohering, core academic subject across the school community; How children become divergent thinkers through building music compositions using architectural techniques based in STEM processes.

Garrett Michaelsen is a music theorist and trumpeter joining the Music faculty as an Assistant Professor. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, he earned undergraduate degrees in jazz performance from Eastman School of Music and English literature from University of Rochester in 2002. After graduating, he helped launch a public arts magnet school, Marin School of the Arts, in Novato, California. After teaching there for four years, Garrett began graduate studies in music theory at Indiana University, earning a Masters in 2008 and Ph.D in 2013. His research focuses on improvisation as both a musical practice and pedagogical tool. In his dissertation, he presents a theory for understanding the ways performers interactively shape each other's utterances in various recorded jazz improvisations of the 1960s.
Philosophy

José Jorge Mendoza is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy and co-editor of Radical Philosophy Review. José received his BA from the University of California at San Diego (2002), MA from San Francisco State University (2006), and PhD from the University of Oregon (2012). José's areas of specialization are in Moral and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, and Latin American Philosophy. His research focuses on global justice, especially issues that expose the tension between democratic autonomy (i.e., a peoples' right to self-determination) and universal human rights. Recently, his attention has been focused primarily on the issue of immigration with the stated aim of providing a philosophical defense of immigrant rights.

Political Science

John Cluverius is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, where he focuses on American politics and political methodology. His research focuses on subnational politics, organized interests, and political communication. Specifically, he pursues questions regarding how political actors generate, process, and respond to information, especially in the digital age. His work has appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including State Politics and Policy Quarterly, American Politics Research, and the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media. He holds a B.A. in Political Communication from the George Washington University, along with a MA and a PHD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mona Kleinberg is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. She received her PhD in 2014 from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Her research focuses on how the new media environment (the Internet) affects democratic politics. She also examines the role of race and gender in American politics and has a significant interest in survey and experimental research. Mona is the recipient of several grants and fellowships, including a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation. She is currently working on a large project related to Internet use and political knowledge among young Americans.

Noel Twagiramungu is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science. He previously taught at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Smith College, and was a fellow scholar at Harvard University and the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. His research focuses on the emerging field of Human Security whose scope cuts across several contending issues in world politics: Peace and conflict, human rights and state power, economic growth and poverty, technological development and environmental degradation, globalization and transnational barriers. Alongside his PhD (Tufts) and LLM (Utrecht), Noel brings to classroom real-world experience of working with, consulting to and advising numerous international organizations, governments, think tanks and NGOs.
Psychology

Christopher T. Allen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. Christopher earned his PhD in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina. Prior to coming to UMass Lowell, he worked as a postdoctoral associate at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at Rutgers University and then as a research fellow in the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His research focuses on gender, violence, and violence prevention.

Matthew Murphy is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at UMass Lowell. He specializes in comparative animal cognition and experimental psychology. He earned his BS in Interdisciplinary Psychology/Biology in 2005 from Southampton College of Long Island University, and his MS in 2008 and his PhD in 2014, both in Psychology and both from Tufts University. He is teaching Research Methods and Statistics this fall.

Mike Bar-Johnson is a Visiting Lecturer in Psychology. Previously, he served as Chair of the Psychology Department from 2008 to 2014 at the University of New York in Prague, a partner of SUNY Empire State College international programs, where he received two awards for teaching excellence and an award for service to the university. He received his MSc in Experimental Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and his PhD at the Sexology Institute of the 1st Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague in the area of Medical Psychology and Psychopathology. He has also attended advanced training in Sexual Medicine at the University of Oxford on scholarship from the European Society of Sexual Medicine. He completed his clinical training at the Sex Offender Unit of the Prague Psychiatric Center and also led group counseling sessions for pre-operation transsexuals in the Czech Republic.

Sociology

Cheryl Llewellyn is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology. Her research and teaching interests include gender, sexualities, migration, and law. She received her PhD in Sociology from Stony Brook University in 2015. Her dissertation, "Deciding What Counts as Persecution: An Analysis of Gender and Sexual Orientation Asylum Cases in the United States," addresses barriers for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender asylum applicants.

Kacey Beddoes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology. She is also affiliated with the Center for Women and Work. Her interdisciplinary research interests include gender, sociology of engineering, engineering education, and research methods. Before joining UML, Kacey was a Research Associate in the College of Engineering at Oregon State University, and prior to that she worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher in Purdue University's School of Engineering Education. She received her PhD in Science and Technology Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2013.
Technology Studies (STS) from Virginia Tech, along with certificates in Women's and Gender Studies and Engineering Education.