

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
College of Arts & Sciences
New Faculty 2015-16



**THE INTELLECTUAL
HEART AND SOUL OF
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

“We must enhance both undergraduate education and the undergraduate experience at Syracuse by building an unrivaled College of Arts and Sciences that affords a distinctive, broad, and deep education in the liberal arts and sciences to all of our students.”

~ Kent Syverud
Chancellor, Syracuse University

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

It's with great excitement that I introduce to you our 18 newest faculty members. This year's cohort of tenured and tenure-track professors is remarkable. All of them bring a wealth of expertise to campus, fostering an environment of innovation and creativity.



Their presence reminds me that A&S is more than a liberal arts college; we are the heart and soul of a major research institution. More than one-third of all University students and faculty pass through our doors. And with more than two dozen academic departments and three dozen interdisciplinary programs, we offer myriad opportunities for learning in the sciences/mathematics, humanities, and social sciences via the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

A&S is also the oldest and largest college on campus. As such, everything that we do—teaching, research, service, and enterprise—is a reflection of institutional priorities, particularly Chancellor Kent Syverud's mandate to build an “unrivaled” liberal arts college. It is a responsibility I don't take lightly.

Our faculty are among the most passionate and imaginative teacher-scholars you'll find. Many of them are proven leaders in their respective fields; others are rising stars. All of them are committed to the success of our students—at Syracuse and beyond. I invite you to join me in welcoming our newest professors, whose contributions will surely impact our success for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karin Ruhlandt".

Sincerely,

Karin Ruhlandt

Dean and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry
College of Arts & Sciences

NEW FACULTY

College of Arts & Sciences

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Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

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Political Science

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs



LAMIS ABDELAATY

Assistant Professor, Political Science
Ph.D., Princeton University

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Egypt and grew up in Kuwait.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My broad research interests lie in the international relations of human rights and humanitarianism. My current book project asks why countries open their borders to some refugees while blocking others and why a number of countries have given the United Nations control of asylum procedures and refugee camps on their territory. In it, I examine the impact of foreign policy and ethnic identity on countries' responses to refugees, using global statistical data combined with case studies on asylum policy in Egypt, Kenya, and Turkey.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

My teaching interests include international relations, human rights and humanitarian action, asylum and migration, international organizations, and research design. The opportunities I have had to connect my research and teaching have enriched both.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I enjoy thinking hard about topics that are both poorly understood and matter for real people in the real world. I value being part of an intellectual community. And I cherish the opportunity to learn from and with diverse, dynamic, creative, and engaged people.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I would have probably remained in international development [the field I entered immediately after graduating from college].

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

When I was a graduate student, I attended the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research at Syracuse University. I remember being impressed by the Maxwell School's emphasis on interdisciplinary scholarship and methodological pluralism.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

Hiking, spending quality time with my husband, or both!

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

My dissertation (on which my current book project is based) received a grant from the National Science Foundation.

SALLY CORNELISON G'89

Professor, Art and Music Histories
Ph.D., The Courtauld Institute of Art (U.K.)



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My main area of research expertise is Italian Renaissance religious art, with a special focus on painting, sculpture, and the cult of saints and relics.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I teach the history of Italian art and architecture from c. 1300 to 1600. In addition to a survey of the art of the period, I teach mid- and upper-level classes that delve into issues such as the history of domestic art and women as artists, patrons, and viewers. I also teach a class on Michelangelo.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I love turning students on to a period and/or works of art about which they may know very little. In turn, they often help me to see works I have long taught with fresh eyes and/or to make connections that inform my other classes and research.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

If I had not become a professor, I probably would be teaching in some other capacity or working in publishing.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

I am an alumna of Syracuse University's Florence Graduate Program in Renaissance Art, for which I will serve as director. This is a program that has changed lives [mine included] and led to successful careers in academia, museum work, and a variety of other professions for many of its talented alumni.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I'm a bit of a fitness addict and this spring completed my fourth half-marathon in two years. Like any self-respecting Italianist, I also love to cook, eat, and drink nice wines. They all balance each other out!

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

The university-wide award I received in 2013 from my previous employer, the University of Kansas, for my book *Art and the Relic Cult of St. Antoninus in Renaissance Florence* [Ashgate Publishing, 2012], the exhibition I curated for the Spencer Museum of Art titled "Giorgio Vasari and Court Culture in Late Renaissance Italy" [2012–13], and the three articles I wrote for that exhibition.

JONATHAN DEE

Assistant Professor, English
B.A., Yale University



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Manhattan and raised in northwestern Connecticut.

What are your areas of research expertise?

I don't know if this counts as "research expertise," but I am the author of six novels, most recently *A Thousand Pardons* [Random House, 2013]. I've also written regularly for *Harper's* and *The New York Times Magazine*.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I've taught in various MFA programs in my previous home, New York City, for the last 20 years.

What do you like most about being a professor?

This is my first full-time position. Having taught at Syracuse University last spring as a Visiting Writer, I look forward to making that visit permanent and to joining colleagues I came to like and admire.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I've wanted to be a writer since childhood; I've wanted to be a teacher since college, when I studied writing under the late John Hersey. Plan B was probably to work in book publishing.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

Well, yes. My happy relationship with the University is echoed by my happy relationship with someone who teaches there.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

When I am not teaching, I am writing or reading.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

Being named a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize.

College of Arts & Sciences

JOSHUA FELVER

Assistant Professor, Psychology
Ph.D., University of Oregon



Where were you born and raised?

I am from Central New York—I was born in Cortland, and I grew up in the greater Syracuse area.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My research focuses on interventions to promote self-regulation, specifically mindfulness interventions. I'm particularly interested in how mindfulness interventions can be implemented in public school settings with students and teachers to support academic functioning and classroom behavior, and in families to improve parent-child communication and parent emotional regulation.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I am very interested in teaching my students to apply the scientific knowledge they gain "in the classroom" to their experiences "in the real world," and, conversely, to let their life experiences guide their academic interests and future educational goals. I believe that this approach to teaching yields students who understand course material at a deep level and who think critically about their learning experiences. I am also interested in teaching courses related to youth development and child-family interventions.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I am most looking forward to advising my graduate and undergraduate students as they study psychological science. I am excited to form a research team and laboratory that is focused on studying how applied psychological interventions that incorporate mindfulness can improve people's lives, and I intend to foster this passion for applied community-based research in my students.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

A career path that involved spending a lot of time outdoors to preserve the environment, probably as a forest ranger or environmental scientist.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

I was very interested in joining a collegial and collaborative psychology department and institution that would allow me to work with fellow scientists on new research projects and would give me the opportunity to advise future doctoral-level psychologists in applied psychology.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

Outside of work I can be found outside! I enjoy spending time with my family, exploring and hiking local parks, lakes, beaches, and woods. I also greatly enjoy playing sports—I am an avid disc golfer and am always looking for good pickup basketball. As a huge SU basketball fan, you can find me in the Dome or shouting at my television from November through March Madness.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I edited a special issue for the journal *Mindfulness* titled "Applications of Mindfulness-Based Interventions in School Settings."

College of Arts & Sciences

CASARAE L. GIBSON

Assistant Professor, African American Studies
Ph.D., Purdue University



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in San Francisco, California. I was raised in the Bay Area and Sacramento.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My areas of research expertise include 20th- and 21st-century African American literature, race, riots, and urbanity studies.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

This fall, I will teach protest movements and African American artists. In the past, I have taught courses on the black athlete, African American popular culture, black power ideology, and Pan-Africanism.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I am looking forward to teaching students about African and African American literatures through a digital humanities perspective, which will illustrate the richness of African Diasporic history and culture in the 21st century.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I'd either be a trained lyrical dancer or a WNBA player.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

The Community Folk Art Center is a wonderful gallery and center for art that celebrates the legacy of the African Diaspora. As an artist, that's why I want to join the Syracuse University faculty.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I play golf, perform my spoken-word poetry, play basketball, and travel abroad. I particularly like traveling to areas where the African Diaspora is well represented.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

My greatest achievement to date is being the co-recipient of the 2015 Robert G. McCall Service Award from the Black Cultural Center at Purdue University.

HUGO JALES

Assistant Professor, Economics
Ph.D., University of British Columbia (Canada)



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in the southeastern part of Brazil, a place called Minas Gerais.

What are your areas of research expertise?

I study labor economics. My research is focused on understanding how economic policies, such as the minimum wage, affect outcomes like employment, wage inequality, and the government budget.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I teach labor economics and an introductory course in econometrics.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I think one of the biggest features of this profession is the freedom to pursue your own path and to choose the topics on which you will work.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I would probably be in the banking industry.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

Syracuse University's Department of Economics shares my research interests. This was the defining factor on my decision to come here.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I like to play soccer and the guitar.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

My research on the effects of the minimum wage won the best paper by a Ph.D. student at the International Applied Econometrics Association's annual conference in London last year. This year, it won the Bank of Canada Graduate Student Paper Award at the Canadian Economic Association Conference in Toronto.

CHRISTA KELLEHER

Assistant Professor, Earth Sciences
Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon.

What are your areas of research expertise?

I'm a hydrologist, trained in a civil engineering department, but with a background in physical processes and computational modeling.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I plan to build a curriculum that will give students a strong understanding of physical and surface water hydrology. I also have broad interests in the fields of computational modeling and scientific visualization and hope to connect with others at Syracuse with similar research or teaching interests.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to engage with students at all levels, from undergrads to Ph.D. students. I especially look forward to engaging the Syracuse faculty community and interacting with other departments across the University.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I likely would have ended up in environmental consulting or in the data sciences.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

The Earth sciences faculty [their strengths in young faculty, their diversity, and their complementary backgrounds] and the University-wide development of a water program, first and foremost attracted me to Syracuse. Both the Earth sciences and civil engineering faculty were particularly welcoming and made a huge impression on me during my interview—I'm especially looking forward to joining this group of supportive and innovative researchers.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I enjoy running, occasionally playing ultimate Frisbee [which is, unfortunately getting harder and harder!], bar trivia, and brewing beer.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

One of the achievements I'm most proud of was co-advising my first master's student this past year at Duke.

College of Arts & Sciences

EUNJUNG KIM

Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Sokcho and raised in Seoul, South Korea.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My areas of research expertise include feminist disability studies; disability and the media; sexuality studies; and Korean cultural history of disability, gender, and sexuality [20th century].

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I'm most interested in teaching gender, sexuality, and disability in film; international human rights; humanitarian communications; Asian feminisms and women's movements; and theories of sexualities.

What do you like most about being a professor?

By being a professor, I can participate in knowledge production and dissemination through teaching, especially for social change. I am also looking forward to learning from Syracuse students, as well as being a part of the community of diverse faculty members with whom I will be working.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I would have worked in an NGO for disabled women.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

Syracuse University has a rich history of disability studies. My undergraduate advisor, Seung-hee Park G'81, a professor at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, earned a Ph.D. from Syracuse, and her teaching influenced my interest in disability studies. I am also honored to become a member of the Department of Women's & Gender Studies, teaching alongside prestigious faculty members.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I am a potter, and I hope to find a good pottery studio in Syracuse, where I can spend lots of time.

College of Arts & Sciences

JESSICA MacDONALD

Assistant Professor, Biology
Ph.D., University of British Columbia (Canada)



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My research focuses on understanding how the brain, the neocortex in particular, develops. I use modeling to study how different genetic disruptions and environmental factors modify neocortical development and function, with a goal of understanding disruptions that lead to cognitive disorders.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

As a biologist, I have had a lifelong interest in learning and a natural curiosity about the world around me. As a teacher, I hope to convey this enthusiasm and to impart in my students a desire to question and to think critically.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I am looking forward to the opportunity to mentor and train a new generation of scientists, as I develop my research program and pursue new avenues of investigation that I am passionate about.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

My goal, when I was 5, was to become a hockey player. I developed a love of science soon after, however, and that set me on this career path. If I wasn't a professor, I likely would have pursued another area of scientific research, such as forensic science.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

I was very impressed by the collaborative and supportive environment. I felt that it was somewhere that I would enjoy going to work each day and where I would have the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of my colleagues.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I enjoy cooking for friends and family and exploring new cuisine. I am particularly known for my baking. And when I get a chance to get a little further away from the lab, I love to travel and explore new corners of the world.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I have been fortunate enough to enjoy a number of opportunities and successes, both big and small. I would have to say that being given this opportunity to join the faculty at Syracuse University and to establish my own research lab would definitely count among my greatest professional achievements.



JENNIFER MONTEZ

Assistant Professor, Sociology
Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Greenwood, Indiana, a suburb of Indianapolis.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My research examines why certain groups of people [e.g., college-educated adults], as well as people in certain geographic areas [e.g., the Dakotas] within the United States, live longer and healthier lives than others and why these inequalities have grown in recent decades.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I really enjoy teaching courses in social demography and statistics. The best part is witnessing that “Aha!” moment, when students discover that statistics really is fun.

What do you like most about being a professor?

One of the best aspects of being a professor is interacting with students and colleagues who constantly challenge me to think about social phenomena in different ways.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I worked in the private sector as a statistician for over a decade before pursuing my Ph.D. and long-standing dream of being a professor. I hope this concludes my career paths!

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

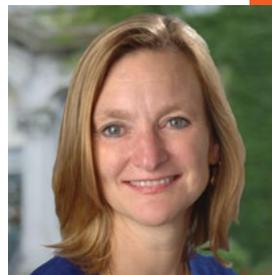
Syracuse University is the full package: terrific colleagues, students, and place to live.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I can be found sweating at the gym, the yoga studio, or on a hiking trail.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

An achievement that I will always remember is seeing my first undergraduate mentee go off to graduate school.



CYNTHIA MORROW

Professor of Practice, Public Administration and International Affairs
M.D., Tufts University School of Medicine

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, but moved to Uganda when I was an infant. I was raised there and in Ghana, Switzerland, and Boston.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My research is centered on public health.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I'm most interested in teaching bioethics and public health, particularly as it relates to practice, administration, and policy.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I enjoy the dialogue with the faculty, staff, and students. I also love learning about and from other perspectives.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I would be in public health practice or perhaps a leadership role in a health-related not-for-profit organization.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

Dr. Thomas Dennison [professor of practice in public administration and international affairs] influenced my decision to join the Maxwell faculty.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I also teach at SUNY Upstate Medical University, so my free time is limited. However, if I am not at work, I am likely to be watching my son's soccer games, working in the garden, or cooking dinner.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I'm most proud of the time I spent serving our community as commissioner of health for the Onondaga County Health Department.

JOSEPH PAULSEN

Assistant Professor, Physics
Ph.D., University of Chicago



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Albert Lea, Minnesota, and was raised in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

What are your areas of research expertise?

I am interested in the wrinkling, crumpling, and folding of thin elastic sheets, the arrangements of solid particles in a sludge, and the rapid motions of liquids, to the surface tension that holds droplets together. These scenarios all feature soft, easily deformed materials that are common in nature and industry. The goal is to uncover the fundamental principles that govern their behavior when they are pushed far away from the low-energy or spatially uniform states that they prefer.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I look forward to developing my teaching in lecture settings and laboratory courses, as well as mentoring students in my research lab. I'm excited to be teaching thermodynamics and statistical mechanics this fall.

What do you like most about being a professor?

The most recent stages of my career have been devoted to experimental physics research in university labs. Starting my own lab presents the exciting new aspect of steering the course of a research program, while working closely with students and other colleagues. In addition, I am excited to start teaching physics in the classroom, as a complement to research.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I love learning and working with my hands, so I would likely be doing research in another setting, maybe in an industrial lab.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

I was most impressed by the strong group in soft condensed matter physics at Syracuse University. As a bonus, I am looking forward to the piles of snow that grace the city in the winter.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

My wife and I enjoy spending time outdoors doing various low-risk activities [biking, canoeing, day hiking, car camping]. We also love to go out for coffee to read, work, or chat. We have left some wonderful coffee shops in Chicago and in Northampton, Massachusetts, but we are heartened by the excellent coffee we've already sampled in Syracuse.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

Two years ago, several colleagues and I started to tackle the problem of how a thin solid film wraps itself around a liquid drop. Encapsulating parcels of liquid inside elastic sheets should be useful for practical applications, and we want to establish the fundamental principles for such wrappers. What excites me most about our findings is that we can now understand the overall shape of a sheet on a liquid surface, without worrying about the microscopic details of how it wrinkles or crumples.

MICHAEL RIEPPEL

Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Switzerland, close to Zürich [though my family is from Basel], and we moved to the Chicago area when I was 10 years old.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My research centers on the philosophy of language and philosophical logic. Philosophy of language investigates questions like: What is linguistic meaning? What are thoughts, and how do we communicate them through language? What meaning do particular words contribute to the sentences in which they occur?

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I frequently taught logic as a graduate student, and I'm looking forward to teaching courses in logic at Syracuse, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, in addition to courses in the philosophy of language and theory of meaning. I've also long been interested in the work of philosophers in the early analytic tradition, especially Frege, Russell, and Wittgenstein, so it would be fun to put together a class on this topic at some point, down the road, too.

What do you like most about being a professor?

One thing I've always liked about being a teacher is that I continue to learn things from my students—I'll think that some philosophical argument or distinction is perfectly clear and obvious, and then a student asks a question that makes me reconsider what I thought.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

My background in logic and language would probably suit me reasonably well to computer programming or law. But at different times in my life, I also thought about becoming a photographer, a forest ranger, or a baker.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

The snow, naturally. Also, the philosophers here seemed like a very philosophically active and collegial group of people.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

You'd probably find me outdoors, cycling or hiking or something like that, or cooking and listening to music with my partner, Anna, and our cat, Simon.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

Getting a job as a philosophy professor.



MATTHEW RUDOLPH

Assistant Professor, Physics
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

What are your areas of research expertise?

I am a particle physicist, specializing in precision measurements at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, otherwise known as CERN.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I hope to be successful teaching physics classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I am looking forward to working with undergraduate and graduate students on research projects.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

I love research and would have hoped to go into research and development in industry!

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

What most influenced my decision to join the Syracuse University faculty is the opportunity to work with the group at Syracuse on the Large Hadron Collider beauty [LHCb] experiment.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I like to spend time with my wife and two daughters; we enjoy creating Lego worlds!

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I am most proud of organizing the world's first measurement of top-quark polarization, as part of the ATLAS collaboration at CERN.



WILL SCHEIBEL

Assistant Professor, English
Ph.D., Indiana University

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up primarily in Peoria, Illinois. I lived in Maryland for about 10 years, before my family moved to the Midwest.

What are your areas of research expertise?

As a film and media scholar, I specialize in Hollywood cinema of the studio and postwar eras. My research focuses on the relationship between classical cinema and modernist cultures, often turning to film directors and stars as case studies.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

In the classroom, my goal is to foster, among students, methods to analyze, interpret, and critique the aesthetics of film and screen media, promoting a literacy for visual texts. I will be teaching classes and supervising projects on American narrative film, popular culture, and their histories.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I love being able to study a subject about which I'm passionate, share my interests with students and colleagues, and learn more from them.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

Honestly, I don't know! Even before I became aware of film and media studies as an academic field, I wanted to be involved in some kind of film criticism/scholarship and pedagogy. If a career in the professoriate wasn't an option, I probably would have pursued archiving, programming, or popular writing.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

When I visited the campus for my interview, I was immediately impressed by the faculty and graduate students I met, the film and screen studies curriculum, and the textual studies approach to film within the disciplinary traditions of English. I have also long admired the work of Steven Cohan [Professor Emeritus of English], a marvelous film scholar.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

Movies have always been a central part of my life [watching and reading about them, even when I'm not doing "homework"]. My research and teaching are very much informed by my "cinophilia." I spend a lot of my free time with my wife, Andrea, and we're looking forward to exploring more of New York.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I recently completed a book on American film director Nicholas Ray, based on my dissertation, which was accepted for publication at SUNY Press. Ray is most famous for the James Dean film *Rebel Without a Cause* [1955], but, toward the end of his career, he taught film at Binghamton University, not far from Syracuse.

JACOB SHRECKENGOST

Assistant Professor, Neuroscience
Ph.D., Emory University



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, about an hour north of Pittsburgh.

What are your areas of research expertise?

I study how the spinal cord receives and processes information from skin and muscle.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

I am interested in exploring new ways to help students interact with subject matter and their peers in active classroom environments.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I enjoy watching students develop analytical and critical thinking skills, particularly in learning how to ask stimulating questions and effectively critique results and data from real-world examples.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

If I wasn't a professor, I think I'd be a beer brewer!

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

The students were engaged and approachable, and the other faculty affiliated with the Integrated Learning Major in Neuroscience are amazing!

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

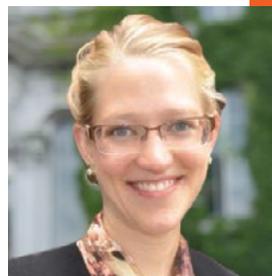
When I'm not working, you can find me running, brewing beer, or gardening.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I think I would say that helping to prepare two case studies, created by students for peer-reviewed publication, is the achievement of which I am most proud.

DANIELLE THOMSEN

Assistant Professor, Political Science
Ph.D., Cornell University



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Huron, South Dakota.

What are your areas of research expertise?

My research interests include American politics, U.S. Congress, political parties, and women and politics. Specifically, I am interested in why partisan polarization persists in Congress, as well as why the percentage of Democratic women in it has increased dramatically since the 1980s, while the number of Republican women has barely grown.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

My teaching interests include American government, campaigns and elections, and women and politics. I am also looking forward to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on Congress, political parties, and partisan polarization.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I am most looking forward to working with students, teaching classes that I greatly enjoy, collaborating with my colleagues, and becoming a part of the department.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

That is a tricky question! Like most political science majors, I had strongly considered going to law school. But I have become increasingly interested in food, and I am not too shabby in the kitchen, so I do think it would have been neat to have gone to culinary school and run a restaurant.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

The Maxwell School is unique in how diverse the faculty interests are, and its interdisciplinary nature creates a lot of excitement and energy. I was also attracted to the broader spirit of the University and its attention to public engagement. Lastly, the faculty and staff have been incredibly warm, welcoming, and helpful, and I am really looking forward to joining in the fall.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I have yet to have an opportunity to garden, but I see that in my near future! It would be a real dream to have a huge garden full of vegetables. I also enjoy being active, and running is a nice way to end the day.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

I am currently working on a book manuscript, which has been challenging and frustrating, but also cool and exciting. I have published a couple of journal articles from my dissertation research that I am proud of, as well.

College of Arts & Sciences

WEIWEI ZHENG

Assistant Professor, Chemistry
Ph.D., Florida State University



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Fuyang, China.

What are your areas of research expertise?

The areas on which I spend the bulk of my research time include inorganic chemistry, solid state chemistry, materials science and nanotechnology, and biophysics.

Tell us about your teaching interests.

Similar to my research areas, my teaching focuses on inorganic nanomaterials, solid state chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and physical methods in materials chemistry.

What do you like most about being a professor?

I am a chemist with great passion for materials chemistry. I love to do research and share my knowledge with students. I am looking forward to applying novel functional inorganic nanomaterials in the mesoscale 3-D assembly and renewable energy harvesting.

If you weren't a college professor, what career path would you have pursued?

Truthfully, I've always wanted to be in academia and never really considered an alternative career path.

Was there anything or anyone in particular that influenced your decision to join the Syracuse University faculty?

The Department of Chemistry at Syracuse University has a very good inorganic program and many faculty members' research in the department interest me very much. I can see the overlap of my research interests with many of my colleagues; there will be a lot of collaboration opportunities at Syracuse.

When you're not in the classroom, conducting research, or grading assignments, where can you be found?

I like playing table tennis and practicing calligraphy. I also have a great family with a 2-year-old son.

What is your greatest professional or academic achievement to date?

My greatest achievement to date is discovering magnetic ZnCr_2Se_4 spinel phase inclusion at the core of a chromium-doped zinc selenide QD crystal, featured in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* [ACS Publications, 2012]. The material represents a new class of dilute magnetic semiconductor QDs.

As the liberal arts college at the center of a major research institution, the College of Arts and Sciences stands as the intellectual heart and soul of Syracuse University, providing a highly personalized academic experience. The College prepares each student for success as a citizen of the world through disciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching and learning, research, scholarship, and service on campus and around the world.



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