MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

This fall we once again welcome new faculty joining the almost 800 instructional faculty (part-time, full-time, tenure track, non-tenure track) working together to help make UND an excellent place to learn. Many new faculty on campus get to know one another through programs and activities such as the Alice T. Clark/UND Foundation Scholars Mentoring Program and the New Faculty Bus Tour of North Dakota. And chances are good that those of us who have been here longer have connected with more recent colleagues, too—in hallways, parking lots, the Union or through community contacts. Still, none of us gets to meet as many new faculty as we would like. So following a long standing tradition, On Teaching offers these profiles of our newest colleagues.

In compiling these profiles we start with a list of faculty identified by the Provost’s office as either newly tenure-track or newly full-time benefited at the rank of assistant professor or above. As in the past, a few are not entirely new to campus but rather newly appointed to their current positions. We ask those faculty members to provide a photo and a brief biography that will help us get to know them. We’ve done all we can to get as accurate a listing as possible and regret if someone has been missed. If you know of a person who is not included here that should be, please let us know, and we’ll include them in the next issue of On Teaching. Meanwhile, you’ll find everyone we have managed to locate here. When you see them on campus, please say hello and welcome them to UND.

Yi-hsiang Chang (Technology). Dr. Chang received his PhD in Technology and MS in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University. He earned his MS in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Ta-tung Institute of Technology, Taiwan. Dr. Chang’s expertise is in the area of Product Innovation and Lifecycle Management; his current research is on sustainability and cognitive learning issues of product design for various industries. Dr. Chang is currently responsible for a set of project-based courses designed to prepare students for a career in product innovation, technology entrepreneurship, and lean six sigma.

Brian Darby (Biology). Brian joins the Biology department this fall as an Assistant Professor with a specialty in Ecology Genomics. He grew up in rural southeastern Iowa, received his MS from the University of Toledo, Ohio, and his PhD from the Plant and Soil Science Department at the University of Vermont, studying the ecology of soil organisms at both locations. He recently finished post-doctoral research at the Ecological Genomics Institute at Kansas State University. Soils are filled with an incredible diversity of life; many of the animals are too small to be seen with the naked eye but are important for ecosystem functioning nonetheless. Brian’s research seeks to understand the ecology of these soil organisms, how they influence soil processes, and what genes and genome aspects are important for their life UNDerground!
Travis Desell (Computer Science). Travis Desell received his PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2009. He has been the main developer and community liaison of the MilkyWay@Home volunteer computing project since the time of its creation four years ago. MilkyWay@Home uses volunteered computers to determine the origin and structure of the Milky Way Galaxy and has grown to over 25,000 active volunteers from over 150 countries. He has also recently started the DNA@Home project with collaborators at Rensselaer to put this same volunteer computing power to work towards finding protein binding sites in the tuberculosis and bubonic plague genomes. He is currently working on developing a volunteer computing project for faculty and students here at UND, to give them access to this type of powerful computing environment and spread the recognition of their research. Travis also has research interests in programming languages, evolutionary algorithms, and machine learning and has worked on various supercomputing and high performance scientific computing projects. Personally, he enjoys playing classical piano, skiing and snowboarding.

Kyle De Young (Psychology). Kyle grew up in the Chicago area and attended the University of Iowa for his undergraduate education where he received a BS in psychology and a BA in philosophy in 2004. After working in eating disorders research for two more years, he began graduate school at SUNY Albany in 2006. He received a MA in 2008 and PhD in 2011 in clinical psychology. The final portion of his graduate training was a clinical internship, which he completed at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He has a wife of almost a year and a dog who is nearly 4 years old, and he recently began running road races to stay in shape.

Sarah R. Edwards (Counseling Psychology). Sarah received her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Iowa State University and did her clinical internship at the University of Iowa. Her research interests are threefold and include interpersonal violence, particularly aggression in dating relationships, help-seeking behaviors and barriers to help seeking for under-served populations, and variables impacting therapist-client match and positive therapy outcomes. In her free time Sarah enjoys playing the violin and spending time with her husband, daughter, and various four legged companions on her hobby farm.

Julia L. Ernst (Law). Julia is an Assistant Professor at the UND School of Law, where she teaches Constitutional Law, Legislation, Health Law, and Gender and the Law. She completed her LLM with a Certificate in International Human Rights at Georgetown Law, her JD and MA in political science at the University of Michigan, and her BA in political science at Yale University. Julia has taught as a Visiting Associate Professor of Law and as an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law, as well as a lecturer for the Women and Gender Studies Program at the Georgetown University main campus. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP) and of the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellowship Program, as Legislative Counsel for U.S. Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, as Legislative Counsel for a public interest legal organization in Washington, DC, and as an environmental lawyer with a law firm in Detroit, Michigan. Julia’s legal research explores the intersections between religious and cultural rights with women’s human rights under the international human rights system. She is married to Richard Clement and they have a seven year old daughter, Co-sette.

Susan Felege (Biology). Susan joined the Biology Department as Wildlife Ecology faculty in fall 2011. She received her PhD from the University of Georgia in 2010, after which she taught for one year at UGA. Susan primarily studies game bird ecology and management. She is looking forward to collaboration in studying wildlife ecology and management in conjunction with the many land uses, including energy development, in the region. Susan and her husband, Chris, enjoy spending their free time hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping.
Daba Gedafa (Civil Engineering). Daba S. Gedafa is an Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering. He received his PhD in Civil Engineering from Kansas State University in December 2008. He was Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Kansas State University before he joined the University of Connecticut as Assistant Professor in Residence in August 2009. He taught several civil engineering courses at the University of Connecticut. His areas of research are mechanistic-empirical pavement design method, materials engineering, infrastructure management system, non-destructive testing, performance-related specifications, and traffic safety. He has published many journal articles and international conference proceedings in these areas. He was selected as Marquis Who’s Who in America in 2011 for his contribution in research, teaching, and service. He looks forward to collaborating with fellow UND faculty members and others. He is a proud father of a daughter, Helina Daba (15 months).

Cheryl Hunter (Educational Foundations and Research). Cheryl Hunter received her PhD in History, Philosophy and Policy Studies at Indiana University with a concentration in International and Comparative Education and Qualitative Methodology and a minor in Sociology. Her intersecting interests in sociology, issues of diversity in education, and critical methodology coalesced in a co-edited book, Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice in Educational Research: Methods at the Margins. As a Spencer Foundation Graduate Fellow, she worked closely with Sociologists of Education researching public school vouchers and the use of multicultural storytelling in the elementary classroom. After graduation she received a one-year research fellowship with the Cleveland Clinic College of Medicine using qualitative research to explore questions of teaching, assessment, and effective practice within the framework of a medical school. She completed three very different projects: one project involved exploring the feasibility of using Second Life technologies with medical students for practicing communication skills; she collaborated with an obstetric fellow to explore the critical decision making process during surgery and what makes a medical “expert;” and finally a descriptive study of how faculty used learning plans and portfolios in medical education. Currently her research focuses on what teachers learn during cultural and linguistically diverse immersive experiences and how those experiences impact their perspectives of culturally diverse students and communities.

Heather Jarrell (Anthropology). Heather Jarrell received her PhD in Anthropology (Biological) with a Graduate Minor in Anatomy from The Ohio State University in 2011. Her research interests lie in the areas of human osteology, palaeopathology, and primatology. Her professional background includes working as an archaeologist at archaeological sites throughout Louisiana, Alabama, and Ohio. More recently, she has been involved in laboratory analysis of human and nonhuman primate skeletal assemblages. For her doctoral research, she examined the impact of major locomotor and positional behaviors on fracture patterns in nonhuman primates. A native of Louisiana, she is looking forward to her first North Dakota winter.

Thyra E. Knapp (Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures). Thyra earned her PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008. Her research focuses on the interrelation of image and text in German literature of the twentieth century; more specifically, the ways in which visual art is perceived and interpreted in both prose and poetry. Before becoming an Assistant Professor at UND, Thyra taught German language, literature, and culture at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Gautham Krishnamoorthy (Chemical Engineering). Gautham Krishnamoorthy received his PhD from the University of Utah in 2005. He joined UND in November 2009 originally as a non-tenure track assistant professor in chemical engineering and is currently the Ann and Norman Hoffman Assistant Professor of National Defense/Energetics. Prior to moving to Grand Forks he was a consulting engineer at ANSYS Inc. in New Hampshire. His research interests are in the areas of computational fluid dynamics, radiative transport and combustion modeling. He is married to Shanta and they have a daughter Gayatri (4). Personally, he enjoys long distance running and spending time with family.
Yen Lee Loh (Physics and Astrophysics). Yen Lee is originally from Malaysia. He read Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, obtaining a BA and MSci and graduating with a PhD in theoretical condensed matter physics in 2005. After a few years of postdoctoral research at Purdue and at The Ohio State University, he is now a new assistant professor at UND. He does research in condensed matter theory, which attempts to explain and predict the behavior of materials, devices, and trapped ultracold atomic gases (the coldest objects in the universe). In his spare time he plays the piano, guitar, violin, and viola and writes string quartets.

Alison Looby (Psychology ). Alison received her PhD in Clinical Psychology in 2011 from the University at Albany, SUNY. She completed a predoctoral clinical internship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center prior to coming to UND. Her research has examined how cognitive factors, such as expectancy and placebo effects, contribute to substance use among college students and young adults. In her spare time, Alison enjoys reading, watching baseball, traveling, and playing with her dog, Cooper.

Michael Niedzielski (Geography). Michael received his PhD from The Ohio State University in 2009 and spent two years teaching at the University of South Florida. He is a transportation geographer working at the intersection of urban, economic and transportation geography using Geographic Information Systems, spatial optimization and other quantitative techniques. Specifically, he is interested in the role of public mass transit in urban economic development from the perspective of economic efficiency, quality of life and image. Before coming to Grand Forks, he lived in Tampa, Columbus (Ohio), Chicago, London (UK) and Warsaw, Poland. In his spare time, he travels the world getting to know cities using mass transit.

Eric Ross (Languages). Eric Ross received his PhD from the University of Washington, Seattle in 2007. His research interests include Greek historiography, ancient philosophy, and Greek tragedy. Ross taught at Truman State University before coming to UND and has led student trips to Rome and Greece. In his free time he enjoys sports and playing with his year-old daughter.

Melanie Sage (Social Work). Melanie Sage received her PhD in Social Work & Social Research from Portland State University, and is originally from southern California. She is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. She is passionate about work in child welfare practice, training, and research, and has also worked in other clinical roles as a therapist, crisis counselor, Veterans Administration Social Worker, and psychiatric social worker. Her research interests include child welfare issues, organizational development, program evaluation, clinical skill building, and the use of technology in social work. She adores her husband Todd (who is also a social worker) and their 18 year old son. In her spare time she enjoys arts and crafts, photography, watching movies, technology, Skyping with her 10-year-old niece, and visiting museums and galleries.
Nariaki Sugiura (Music). Born in Hakodate, Japan in 1975, Nariaki began piano study with his mother at age five, later studying at Tokyo College of Music High School. Under the tutelage of Michel Block and Shigeo Neriki, he received Masters and Doctor of Music in Piano Performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Nariaki frequently gives solo, lecture, and chamber recitals and master classes throughout the US, Europe and Asia. During his 2010 Asian Concert Tour, he presented 18 concerts, 3 lectures, and 9 piano master classes in China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan in 4 weeks. Many of the concerts featured his new arrangements of Piazzolzas, Brahms and Asian Traditional Music for chamber ensemble. In summer 2011, he returned to China for more concerts, lectures and master classes. As a collaborator, his performances with cellist Emilio Colón have won great acclaims on their recital tours in Hungary, Italy, Malta, Japan, South Korea, Puerto Rico, and the US. He has performed with top-level musicians throughout the world. Nariaki is an artist on several CD recordings, including Klavier Records, Eroica Classical Recordings, and T. K. Music Productions. His performance has been featured on TV and radio broadcasts nationally and internationally. His editions of chamber music scores are available from Ludwig Masters Music Publications. Currently Nariaki is a faculty member in UND’s Music Department, Lamont Summer Pre-College Music Academy in Denver, and Shenzhen Yichao Music Education Center in China.

Clement C. Tang (Mechanical Engineering). Clement Tang received his PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 2011. His research interests are in the areas of thermal fluid sciences, more specifically in multiphase flow heat transfer and microfluidics. His lifelong research goals are to improve the understanding in thermal fluid sciences and their applications in renewable energy technology, improving energy efficiency, and biomedical devices. In his leisure time, Clement enjoys photography and reading biographies and history. More recently, he has developed an interest in golf.

Xiao Wang (Economics). Xiao Wang is an assistant professor in the department of economics at the University of North Dakota. She received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011. Professor Wang’s primary research interests are international economics, macroeconomics, and applied econometrics.

Faculty Can Receive Feedback on Teaching

It's not too late to make plans to use the SGID (Small Group Instructional Diagnosis) method for receiving midterm feedback from students in your classes. The SGID process, facilitated by a trained faculty colleague, is a method of soliciting student perceptions about the progress of their learning. Since it is conducted by an outsider to your class, students are free to be direct, but since it is normally done around mid-semester, you receive the feedback at a time when there is still ample opportunity for you to consider any changes that might improve student learning. The SGID process is flexible enough to be used with both large and small classes, and yields information likely to be useful to both beginning and experienced faculty.

To learn more or to request an SGID, contact Jana Lagro at jana.lagro@email.und.edu or 777-4998

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE OCTOBER 14

We need your help in recognizing those faculty who have extended their knowledge, time and talents on behalf of our students, departments and disciplines. If you know someone you genuinely think should be nominated, please nominate them.

The deadline for nomination is Friday, October 14 at 4 pm. Nomination requires a brief one-page form available online on the OID website (under the “awards” tab). The following individual and departmental awards are given each year at Founder’s Day:

- Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching
- Outstanding Graduate/Professional Teaching
- Excellence in Teaching, Research/Creative Activity and Service
- Outstanding Faculty Development or Service
- Departmental Excellence in Teaching
- Departmental Excellence in Service

If you have any questions about the awards process, please contact Jana Lagro (7-3600).
REGISTRATION FOR THE CLA ACADEMY IS CLOSING SOON

You have probably seen a flood of information on the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) Academy (and if not, it is available online at www.oid.und.edu). OID will cover registration, transportation, and meals for UND faculty who wish to attend the two day workshop (Thursday from 8-5 and Friday from 8-3). This is just a quick reminder that registration closes October 15. To register or get further details, contact Anne Kelsch (anne.kelsch@email.und.edu or 7-4233) or Joan Hawthorne (joan.hawthorne@email.und.edu or 7-4684).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
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<td>Oct. 15</td>
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On Teaching is published six times a year as a service to UND faculty.
OID Director: Anne Kelsch. WAC Coordinator and newsletter editor: Kathleen Vacek.
OID/WAC Staff: Jeanne Boppre & Jana Lagro.