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.

Loretta DeLong (Educational Leadership). Loretta DeLong earned her EdD in Educational Administration at UND in 1986. Her research interests lie in the areas of women in leadership, historical and cultural factors impacting leadership in PreK-12 public schools, and change or the resistance to change in the American public school system. Her professional background covers more than twenty-five years serving in the public school system in various capacities, but primarily as a principal and superintendent. Her professional experience also includes several years teaching in higher education as an adjunct, assistant, associate and now again as an Assistant Professor for Educational Leadership. Loretta is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, ND. She and her husband Carty Monette reside in Grand Forks with their granddaughter SaNoah, a student at Central High School.

Julie Grabanski (Occupational Therapy). Julie joins the occupational therapy department this fall as an Assistant Professor. She is completing her doctoral degree from North Dakota State University with her dissertation topic on active learning in occupational therapy education. She received her MS in Health Administration from Central Michigan University and a BS from UND. Her professional background includes 12 years of teaching in higher education in a variety of learning environments and 10 years of professional experience in pediatric and rehabilitation settings in occupational therapy. She has served as an adjunct faculty member for UND in the transitional Master’s Degree in Occupational Therapy program through distance education, and has collaborated with the UND occupational therapy department in a number of educational and community venues over her 12 years as occupational therapy assistant instructor and academic fieldwork coordinator at Northland Community & Technical College. In her free time, Julie enjoys spending time with her family, biking, skiing, gardening, and music.
Surojit Gupta (Mechanical Engineering). Surojit is an Assistant Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He received his PhD from Drexel University. Thereafter, he worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining this position, he was a Faculty Researcher in Rutgers University. He has also collaborated extensively with different companies, namely, Corning Inc., Honeywell International, and Solidia Technologies. His research areas are: Nanomaterials, Structural and High Temperature Materials, Environmental and Green Materials, Tribology, Oxidation, and Surface Studies.

Tanis J. Hastmann (Physical Education, Exercise Science and Wellness). Tanis is an Assistant Professor in the PXW department and is the coordinator of the new Public Health Education major, set to start Fall 2013. She completed her BS in exercise science from the University of Nebraska - Omaha, and her MPH and PhD in Public Health Nutrition and Physical Activity from Kansas State University. Prior to joining UND, Tanis was an Assistant Professor in the School of Health Sciences at Oakland University and a research associate at Kansas State University, funded by the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and the USDA. Her research projects are focused on understanding the media, environmental, behavioral, and psychosocial influences on physical activity, sedentary behavior, and healthful eating in children. She uses that information to develop and evaluate community based interventions to impact parents and children to prevent obesity. Tanis is originally from Winnipeg, and in her free time, she enjoys curling, golfing, riding her bike, and cooking.

Todd Hebert (Art and Design). Todd joins the Department of Art and Design as an Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing. He earned his BFA from UND in 1996 and his MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1998. He has been a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA and the Core Residency Program, Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally. A survey of his work will be mounted at the North Dakota Museum of Art in October of 2012.

Uttam Kokil (Technology). Uttam Kokil, originally from Mauritius, came to the US on a Fulbright scholarship in 2002 to pursue his MFA in Computer Graphic Design at Rochester Institute of Technology, NY. He completed his BFA (Graphic Design) from Sir J.J Institute of Applied Art, University of Mumbai, India, on a Government of India Scholarship. He plans to complete his PhD. Uttam started his career as a graphic designer, assumed a full time academic position at the University of Mauritius for several years. He came back to the US to assume the role of Assistant Professor in Multimedia Design at UW Stout before joining the Department of Technology at UND in Fall 2012. His research interests include components of Human Computer Interaction Design (HCI) such as user interface design, web usability and aesthetics, visual rhetorics, interactive media design and user experience design.

Rebecca Leber-Gottberg (Humanities and Integrated Studies). Rebecca received her DA degree in History from UND in 2006 and has been teaching for Women’s Studies, Honors, and Humanities and Integrated Studies as adjunct faculty since completing her degree. Rebecca earned her BA in International Relations and MA in International Agricultural Development from the University of Wyoming. She is currently teaching in the Humanities and Integrated Studies department and has taught two terms (Spring 2011 and Summer 2012) at the American College of Norway in Moss Norway. Her primary focus is on teaching and instructional design, particularly utilizing problem-based active learning in both online and onground classes.
Elizabeth Legerski (Sociology). Liz received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Kansas in 2010, but was born and raised in Minnesota. Her research interests include gender, social inequality, and health and social policy. She is particularly interested in the way family characteristics, employment opportunities, and social policies shape the lives of low-income and working-class families. Her previous research has examined low-income women’s access to health insurance over time. She is currently collecting data on variations in US state policy contexts in order to understand how state-level characteristics shape inequalities in well-being and support for the Affordable Care Act. Liz is married to John-Paul Legerski, an Assistant Professor in Psychology at UND. They have a 5 and 2-year-old who keep them busy in their spare time.

Aaron Ley (Political Science and Public Administration). Aaron Ley joins the Department of Political Science and Public Administration after finishing his PhD work at Washington State University. He is from Alexandria, MN and completed his undergraduate work at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Prior to joining UND, Aaron has teaching experience at Washington State University, Gonzaga University, and University of Arizona’s School of Government and Public Policy where he taught students studying abroad in Nanjing, China. His research interests surround the intersection of law and public policy, where he focuses on the strategic choices groups make as they are pursuing their policy goals in the multiple institutional venues available in the American system. He has a small dog named Newman, who is a rabid Minnesota Twins and Vikings fan.

Paula Morin-Carter (Center for Rural Health). Paula Morin-Carter, PhD, is a psychologist and research assistant professor with the National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA) and is the research director of the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI), both housed at the Center for Rural Health at UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is involved with health disparities research impacting American Indian and other Indigenous populations. She is the advisor for the first student chapter of the Society of Indian Psychologists here at UND. Previously, Carter has worked as a mental health provider with the Indian Health Service in Pine Ridge and Eagle Butte, South Dakota and a mental health researcher with the Black Hills Health Care System in Fort Meade, South Dakota. Carter is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and is originally from Beelourt, North Dakota. Carter earned an MA in counseling from UND in 1997 and a PhD in counseling psychology in 2011.

Sarah Nielsen (Occupational Therapy). Sarah Nielsen, PhD, OTR/L joined the Occupational Therapy Department in December 2011 and is currently teaching Introduction to Occupational Therapy, Psychosocial Aspects of Occupational Therapy, Leadership, and Management. Prior to coming to UND as a full-time faculty member, Dr. Nielsen worked at the Trinity Child Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program in Minot, ND, where she was responsible for program development, occupational therapy evaluation, intervention, and school transition planning. She is widely credited for establishing a strong role for occupational therapy in the Program. Dr. Nielsen is hardly a stranger to the OT Department. Despite the distance between Minot and Grand Forks, she has been teaching OT classes for the past three years—a section of OT 430 via videoconference technology and OT 200 (online version)—and serving as a fieldwork educator for both Level I and II placements for UND occupational therapy students. Dr. Nielsen earned a bachelor’s in occupational therapy from UND, a master’s in health care management from the University of Mary, and most recently, her doctorate in education from North Dakota State University. Dr. Nielsen’s dissertation work focused on understanding psychosocial strategies used by school-based occupational therapists. Sarah is an active member of the American Occupational Therapy Association, currently serves on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, and is active in the North Dakota Occupational Therapy Association where she serves as the Vice President of Legislation and Practice.
Samuel Rocha (Educational Foundations and Research). Samuel Rocha works as assistant professor in the department of Educational Foundations and Research at UND. He received a PhD in philosophy of education from the Ohio State University in 2010. For the past two years he taught philosophy and teacher education at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. His teaching and research are in the humanistic foundations of education, specializing in philosophy of education. More specifically, his interests are in phenomenology, the life and thought of William James, and aesthetics, as they intersect with education and schooling. Much of his work is inspired by his lifelong craft as a guitarist and singer/songwriter. He and his wife, Anne, have two young boys, Tomas and Gabriel.

Alan G. Shackelford (Indian Studies). Having spent the last seven years in history departments at Hendrix College, Denison University, and Presbyterian College, Alan Shackelford is enthusiastic to join the Indian Studies Department at UND where he will focus on the cultural history of Native North America. He received his PhD in American History from Indiana University in 2004 and prior to that an MA in the same field from the University of Wyoming. He is particularly interested in how inter-ethnic relationships and environmental variability have historically promoted cultural pluralism in American Indian communities.

Meredith Wagner (Nutrition and Dietetics). Meredith grew up in Dickinson, ND. She attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where she received a BA in Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics. Meredith then completed a dietetic internship and earned a MS in Nutrition from Kent State University in Kent, OH. Following graduation, Meredith moved back to North Dakota and successfully passed the national registration examination to become a Registered Dietitian. After working as a clinical dietitian for a few years, Meredith returned to school to pursue a PhD through the Department of Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences at North Dakota State University. She graduated in May 2012. Meredith’s research interests include nutrition, chronic disease prevention, and health and wellness-related education.

Rhonda Wallace (Physician Assistant Program). Rhonda has been working as full time assistant professor for the UND PA Program since February 2012. Prior to becoming a full time faculty member, she worked as adjunct faculty for the PA Program while clinically practicing for Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Minnesota. She graduated from the master’s program at UND in 2006 and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Jamestown College, ND. She is responsible for assisting students with Primary Care Courses, instructing students in their pre-clinical and clinical phases of the program. Rhonda’s previous clinical experiences are in the areas of general surgery, emergency medicine, urgent care and family medicine. Rhonda continues to maintain her clinical practice on a part time basis.

Xiao Wang (Economics). Xiao is an Assistant Professor at College of Business and Public Administration, where she teaches Principles of Microeconomics, International Money and Finance, and International economics. She has taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor at UND during 2011-2012. Xiao received her doctoral degree in Economics from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011. Her research interests lie in the areas of international finance, international trade, open macroeconomics, and applied econometrics. Her current work includes how financial constraints affect firm exportation, why trade intensity increases output correlation between countries, and how export activities impact initial public offering firms’ performance. Xiao is married to Bing Wang and they have a son, Alex, who was born in January 2012 in Grand Forks.
Brandon Wild (Aviation). After graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Prescott, AZ with a BS in Aerospace Studies, Brandon began working for United Airlines in Chicago, IL. Brandon worked as a Flight Safety Analyst for United from 1997 – 2000, at which time he took a position with United Parcel Service (UPS) Airlines in Louisville, KY as a Flight Operational Quality Assurance Analyst in the Airline Safety Department. While employed by UPS from 2000 – 2002, he also earned a Master of Business Administration in Aviation degree from ERAU. From 2002 through 2004, Brandon worked as an Aviation Underwriter for the United States Aircraft Insurance Group in Chicago. Most recently, before coming to UND, he was the Manager - Flight Operational Quality Assurance for Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines, based in Minneapolis, MN for six years before the merger of the two companies, and working in Atlanta, GA for the past two years.

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 instructor 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. And while we’ve tried to get as accurate a listing as possible, we apologize if we have inadvertently missed someone. If you know of a person we should have included, please let us know, and we’ll include them in the next issue. When you see these colleagues on campus, please say hello and welcome them to UND.

**Outstanding Faculty Award Nominations are due October 12**

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 12 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).

**Get Midterm Student Feedback on Your Teaching**

The SGID (Small Group Instructional Diagnosis) process, facilitated by a trained faculty colleague, is a method of soliciting student perceptions about the progress of their learning. Learn more about SGIDs at oid.und.edu

To request an SGID, contact Jana Lagro at 777-4998 or jana.lagro@und.edu
ON TEACHING
Office of Instructional Development
O’Kelly Hall, Room 300
221 Centennial Drive Stop 7104
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7104

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

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