Department of Chemistry

**Samrat Thapa, Temporary Lecturer of Chemistry**

Dr. Thapa comes to us from Fayetteville, AR as a temporary lecturer in Chemistry. He successfully defended his research dissertation at the University of Arkansas (U of A) in May, 2013, and his area of specialization is in Biochemistry. Dr. Thapa’s research involves determining the oxidation levels of methionine 388 in thrombomodulin in smokers and non-smokers. Dr. Thapa has taught an array of laboratory classes while at Arkansas, which include biochemistry, organic chemistry, and general chemistry labs. Dr. Thapa also managed an intensive Biochemical Laboratory Techniques class for seniors at U of A which is designed to provide instruction in the common experimental techniques used for preparation, isolation, separation, purification, and identification of biological molecules in a modern biochemistry lab. Dr. Thapa will teach biochemistry along with the co-requisite lab and other introductory courses.

Department of Earth and Space Sciences

**Andrew “Andy” Puckett, Assistant Professor of Physics**

Dr. Puckett earned his Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the University of Chicago under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Kron. Dr. Puckett comes to us from the University of Alaska Anchorage, where he served as the Director of UAA’s Planetarium & Visualization Theater and as Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy. He previously held a post-doctoral position at UAA under Dr. Travis Rector, developing curricula to bring authentic astronomical research projects into the undergraduate classroom. His other research interests include the discovery, tracking, and characterization of small bodies in our Solar System through data-mining and observation.

**Lavi Zamstein, Assistant Professor of Engineering**

Dr. Zamstein earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering with a specialty in Robotics from the University of Florida under the mentorship of Dr. A. Antionio Arroyo. Dr. Zamstein comes to us from Santa Fe College, where he was an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Zamstein has done research in artificial intelligence and robotics, notably in reinforcement learning of mobile robots. Dr. Zamstein's research interests include artificial intelligence, mobile robotics, and reinforcement learning. He has been hired as an Assistant Professor of Engineering to teach electrical engineering and robotics and to develop CSU’s robotics program.

Department of English

**Marlene Allen, Assistant Professor of English**

Dr. Allen joins us as an Assistant Professor of English, specializing in ethnic American literature. She received her B.A. in English from Georgia Southern University and both her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia. Prior to her appointment at CSU, Dr. Allen served as Assistant Professor of English at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Dr. Allen’s research focuses on African American literature, including African American science and fantasy fiction. She is co-editor of a recently published collection of interdisciplinary essays: *Afterimages of Slavery: Essays on Appearances in Recent American Films, Literature, Television, and Other Media.*
Department of History and Geography

Steven Gill, Temporary Lecturer of History
Dr. Gill received his Ph.D. in early modern British history at the State University of New York at Buffalo in the spring of 2013. His dissertation, "Theory, Practice, and Dialogue: Shaping the Early Modern English Politician," focused on how the English gentry, amidst processes of state formation, adapted to their evolving roles in both local and national governance. He is currently working on a project dealing with seventeenth-century royal servants who occupied a peculiar space and negotiated a unique position as English subjects in an era of rapid state formation. As a Temporary Lecturer for the 2013/14 academic year, Dr. Gill will be teaching World History surveys and an advanced course in European history.

Ilaria Scaglia, Assistant Professor of History
Dr. Scaglia joins us as an Assistant Professor specializing in Asian and international history. A native of Italy, she completed her undergraduate studies in Chinese Language and Literature at the University of Venice; she then received her Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2011. Dr. Scaglia is currently working on turning her dissertation (“The Diplomacy of Display: Art and International Cooperation in the 1920s and 1930s”) into a book, which will deal more broadly with the “aesthetics of internationalism,” and the role of art and culture in shaping international cooperation in the 1920s and 1930s. Dr. Scaglia will teach surveys of World History from 1500 to the present, as well as advanced courses in Historical Methods, International Relations, and Asian History.

Department of Mathematics and Philosophy

Guihong Fan, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Fan comes to CSU as an Assistant Professor from the Arizona State University, where she was a Visiting Assistant Professor. She earned her Ph.D. from the McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, and held post-doc positions for several years at York University, also in Ontario. Her research interests are in Dynamical Systems, and Applications in Biology and Epidemiology. She has published more than 13 papers in peer-reviewed international journals and has extensive experience in teaching Math courses such as Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Applied Calculus, Linear Algebra and Differential Equations. She was awarded several fellowships and grants.

Houbin Fang, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Fang is Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He earned a Master of Science in Instructional Technology in 2008 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education in 2011, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. He comes to CSU from Gordon State College in Barnesville, Georgia, where he was an assistant professor. His research interests are in Math Education. He has taught a wide range of courses, including Quantitative Reasoning, College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Mathematics Education courses. In addition, he taught Mathematics at international high schools for a number of years.

Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Bobby Nixon, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Dr. Nixon, assistant professor of Spanish, received his Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of California, Davis and his D.E.A., also in Spanish, from Universidad de Sevilla. He is joining Columbus State from Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Dr. Nixon’s research and pedagogical interests include Medieval and Early Modern literature and cultures of Iberia, oral theory, and critical thinking and composition.
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Thomas Simpson, Temporary Lecturer of Public Administration
Dr. Simpson joins the Department of Political Science and Public Administration as a full time Lecturer in the Public Administration program. He earned his B.A. in Social Science at Chapman College, his M.P.A at the University of Northern Colorado, and his doctorate in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2001. He served as a Professor of Political Science at Missouri Southern State University, where he taught courses in U.S., state, and municipal government, public administration, policy and budgeting, and statistics and research methodology. Dr. Simpson brings a broad background in public management to his teaching and research. He served as a City Manager in Grenada, Mississippi, from 1983-1985, as a public sector consultant, and, most recently, as the Executive Director of the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network. Dr. Simpson’s research interests include public policy creation and execution.

Center for International Education

Dorin Andrica, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Visiting Scholar in European Studies and Visiting Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy
Dr. Andrica comes to CSU from the Universitatea of Babeș Bolyai, Cluj, Romania, where he is a full professor within the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. Dr. Andrica earned all of his degrees from Babeș Bolyai, including his Ph.D. in 1992. He has served as a visiting scholar in a number of universities around the world, including the University of Ancona (Italy), the University of Heidelberg (Germany), the University of Utrecht (Netherlands), and the University of Nebraska. He received a prestigious DAAD fellowship in 1993, which he took at the Techische Universität Munchen. Dr. Andrica has published several dozen books and journal articles over more than twenty years of active scholarship. His primary interests include Critical Point Theory and Applications, Nonlinear Analysis, Approximations Theory, and Elementary Mathematics.

Command College

Tommy Freeman, Lecturer
Mr. Freeman comes to Columbus State with 36 years of law enforcement experience. He started his career at the Newnan Police Department as a patrol officer, and later served as a Georgia State Trooper. He joined the Griffin Police Department in 1980 and rose through the ranks to become a Major in the Criminal Investigation Division. While at Griffin, Mr. Freeman obtained his management level certification and instructor certification. He retired in 2007 and assumed a position as Chief of Police in North Georgia for five years. Mr. Freeman received his B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He earned his master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbus State through the Law Enforcement Command College.