
2022-2023

**NMSU College of
Arts and Sciences
New Faculty**





The College of Arts and Sciences is excited to welcome several new distinguished faculty members for the 2022- 2023 academic year.

We look forward to witnessing the promising careers each of these individuals has at New Mexico State University.

Enrico Pontelli
Dean

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Sarah Archuleta

College Assistant Professor

Department of Mathematical Sciences



Sarah earned her M.S. in Mathematical Sciences from NMSU in 2021. Sarah states that earning her M.S. in Mathematics is one of her proudest accomplishments, and she loves that she gets to use it in the realm of teaching in higher education.

While teaching in Denver, she learned many best practices in teaching mathematics, particularly with students from underprivileged and diverse backgrounds. Sarah states "it is very important to me as a professor to show students that math is not beyond their capabilities, but it is in math that their capabilities can solidify and grow, regardless of where their goals lie. Having had continuous growth from the idea that being "smart" means understanding material right away, I try to encourage students to have more of a growth mindset when it comes to math; that if they practice well, they can find the success that once seemed impossible."

Nicholas Beltran

College Assistant Professor

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry



Nicholas incorporates interdisciplinary and real-world perspectives to enhance the understanding of chemical concepts, promote learning and problem solving through inquiry and team-based learning, and strives to promote positive attitudes toward STEM education with a primary focus on first-time and first-generation college students.

Jovani Catalan-Dibene

College Assistant Professor

Department of Biology



Dr. Jovani-Catalan studied biology at the Autonomous University of Baja California where he did research in microbiology and mycology, focusing on cellular biology and molecular ecology.

He received his Ph.D. in immunology from the University of California Irvine where he worked on characterizing a new B cell-associated cytokine, interleukin 40. More recently he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, where he studied how the microbiome, food, and the mucosal immune system in the gut interact to cause inflammation in patients with Chron's disease.

Andrew Conway

Academic Department Head

Department of Psychology



Andrew Conway is the new Academic Department Head and Professor in the Department of Psychology. Conway's research is aimed at understanding individual differences in cognitive ability. People differ in their cognitive abilities, and these differences matter in life, with respect to academic achievement, job performance, income, and health.

Conway's research is concerned with how cognitive abilities are measured and what role they play in various real-world cognitive behaviors such as learning new information, reading comprehension, and decision making. His overall program of research integrates experimental psychology, psychometrics, and neuroscience. Conway received a B.S. in Computer Science and Psychology from Union College in Schenectady, New York. He then received both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina. Upon receiving his doctorate, he began teaching at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where he served as both assistant and associate professor. From there, he worked as a lecturer, and later as a senior lecturer, at Princeton University. He then joined the faculty at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California where he also served as Associate Provost for Research. Conway has won numerous teaching awards throughout his career. In 2001 he was the UIC nominee for USA Professor of the Year, and in 2000 he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award from UIC. He is currently Editor in Chief at the Journal of Intelligence.

Ida D'Antonio-Hangen

College Assistant Professor

Department of Criminal Justice



Ida D'Antonio-Hangen joins the faculty at NMSU after being either an Adjunct or a Visiting Professor since Spring 2019. Born in El Paso, Texas, Ida received her Criminal Justice undergrad degree at the University of Texas at El Paso. After graduating, she moved to Dallas, Texas, to begin her law enforcement career. She was later employed and retired from the FBI after 22 years of service. Before her retirement, she enrolled at NMSU and received her Masters in Criminal Justice.

Ida spent her entire FBI career in Las Cruces, NM. During her time with the FBI, she investigated different types of criminal cases, specializing in Indian country crimes and Human Trafficking. In 2009, she started the Human Trafficking (HT) working group in Las Cruces and her passion has only grown to bring HT awareness to our community. By educating the community, others will be trained on the indicators of HT and possibly be able to rescue a victim. Other passions, besides family, are helping students achieve success in the pursuit of their law enforcement careers. Ida will continue to use her knowledge and experience in the classroom to prepare students for a career in law enforcement, social work, or entering law school.

Cheon Lee

Assistant Professor

Department of Government



Dr. Cheon Lee received his Ph.D. in Public Administration from Rutgers University in May 2022. Dr. Lee received his Bachelor's in Business Administration and his BA in Public Administration in 2009 from Yonsei University, in Seoul, South Korea, and his MA in Public Administration in 2011, from Seoul National University.

His main teaching and research interests include public administration, philanthropic organizations, non-profit management and finance, equity and social justice, and civil society and political participation. Dr. Lee has taught at Rutgers University and has professional experience as support staff for the Korean National Opera and as an Intelligence Officer for the Republic of Korea/United State Combined Forces Command.

Duli Shi

Assistant Professor

Department of Communication Studies



Dr. Duli Shi obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in Communication. In her research, she takes a cross-disciplinary research approach to examining the roles of strategic communication and public relations in a wide range of for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Much of her research investigates corporate social responsibility (CSR) and corporate social advocacy (CSA) in social media to examine companies' strategic communication of their involvement in issues of public concern. Dr. Shi's scholarly work has been published in prestigious peer-reviewed journals such as *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Corporate Communication: An International Journal*, and *International Journal of Strategic Communication*.

Cory Sukala

Assistant Professor

Department of Government



Dr. Cory Sukala received his Ph.D. in Political Science in 2017 from Louisiana State University, with a focus on Political Theory, American Government and Religion & Politics. Dr. Sukala received his BA in Political Science from St. Vincent University and his MA in Political Theory from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Sukala's main teaching and research interests include political theory, religion and politics, American national politics, and Buddhist political thought. Prior to coming to NMSU, Dr. Sukala taught at Louisiana State University, where he also worked as a Managing Supervisor and Research Associate at the LSU Public Policy Research Lab. Dr. Sukala also brings applied political experience as Director of Elections and Chief Registrar in the County of Beaver, Pennsylvania, between January and July 2021.

Jake Taylor

Assistant Professor

Department of Music



Dr. Jake Taylor is an Assistant Professor and Director of Choral Studies at New Mexico State University. He serves as conductor of the University Singers, Concert Choir, and Masterworks Chorus. In addition to his conducting responsibilities, he teaches courses in conducting, choral methods, and graduate music education.

Previously, Dr. Taylor was an instructor at Texas Tech University. There he served as conductor of the Matador Singers, director of the Opera Chorus, associate conductor of the Women's Chorale, and co-conductor of the University Choir—TTU's premier choral ensemble. Alongside these positions, he taught courses in vocal pedagogy, choral conducting, and mentored graduate students and pre-service teachers. Dr. Taylor earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts in choral conducting from Texas Tech University, a master's degree in choral conducting, and a bachelor's degree in music education from Stephen F. Austin State University. His recent research focuses on metrical dissonance and other temporal elements in the vocal quartets of Johannes Brahms. He maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician and has given numerous presentations on score study, conducting gesture, and rehearsal technique.

Prasit Bhattacharya

Assistant Professor

Department of Mathematical Sciences



Dr. Prasit Bhattacharya earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Indiana University. Dr. Bhattacharta's research interests lie in algebraic topology, in particular stable homotopy theory. Specifically, his research uses algebraic tools in the form of cohomology theories to answer questions in classical geometry, algebraic geometry, and number theory.

Paulette Vincent-Ruiz

Assistant Professor

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry



Dr. Paulette Vincent-Ruz (she/ella) obtained her Ph.D. in Learning Sciences and Policy from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education. After her Ph.D. she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Discipline Based Education Research at the University of Michigan.

Her research perspective is informed by her background. Her research seeks to build an understanding of the systemic disadvantages that hinder the success of marginalized students and their effect on students' chemistry attitudes, opportunities, and learning by using equity-centered theories and methodologies. Her unique combination of Chemistry disciplinary knowledge and educational theory earned her the American Chemical Society's recognition as a Future Leader in Chemistry in 2019, the first time this was awarded to a chemistry education researcher.

Kendra Yapyakan

Assistant Professor

Creative Media Institute



Kendra Yapyapan is an illustrator and graphic designer from New York. She received a BFA in illustration at Parsons School of Design in New York City and an MFA in Visual Development at the Academy of Art in San Francisco. She has taught design and drawing at the high school and undergraduate level and continues to pursue her love for drawing through her illustrations and her teaching.

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