2019

New Faculty Reception and Dinner
Welcome to Towson University

We are excited to have you join our community of scholars and look forward to helping you succeed throughout your academic career. You join the ranks of over 1,700 respected faculty members who have shaped the educational landscape of our campus.

TU is a strong, vibrant institution, and is the second largest university in the state of Maryland. Our faculty are committed scholars with a well-earned reputation for outstanding research and creative activity. At the same time, we emphasize excellence in teaching and engaging students in research, creative activity, and experiential learning.

Our reputation is also known statewide, and has led Towson University to consistently receive University System of Maryland Board of Regents Faculty Awards. These awards publicly recognize distinguished performance in teaching; scholarship, research, or creative activity; public service; mentoring; and innovation.

I am certain the impact of your scholarship will build upon the foundation of faculty excellence established by your colleagues, and create exceptional learning opportunities for TU students. Go Tigers!

Sincerely,
Melanie Perreault, Ph.D.
New Faculty Reception and Dinner

Honoring our Newest Faculty at Towson University

Thursday, September 26, 2019

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

South Campus Pavilion

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Agenda

5:00 PM
Reception

6:00 PM
Dinner & Formal Program

Welcome
Provost & Executive VP for Academic Affairs,
Melanie Perreault, Ph.D.

Remarks
President
Kim Schatzel, Ph.D.

Greetings by Emcee
Vice Provost
Maggie Reitz, Ph.D.

Faculty Introductions
Deans

Closing Remarks
Vice Provost
Maggie Reitz, Ph.D.
Menu

Salad
Grilled Pear, Red Onion, Baby Lettuces & Bleu Cheese

Entrée
Chicken Oscar – Chicken breast topped with Asparagus & Lump Crab Meat with Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes

Vegetarian & Special Meal Requests

Dessert
Dulce de Leche Vanilla Bean Cake

Beverages
Ice Water, Tea, Coffee
Beer and Wine Bar*

*Last call for beer and wine will be at 7:30 p.m.
Brittni Ballard, Research & Instruction

Brittni Ballard, learning technologies librarian, is a critical, feminist teaching librarian who actively pursues open pedagogy as a student advocate. Game-based learning—specifically gamification and serious games grounded in constructivism and self-determination theory—guide her practice. Ballard received her Master of Library and Information Science from University of Maryland, College Park, (UMD) and her Bachelor of Arts in secondary English education from Purdue University. As a UMD Libraries Research & Teaching Fellow, she collaborated with the architecture librarian to introduce feminist assessment of information literacy instruction in a large, lecture-style classroom with more than 100 students. The results were shared as a poster presentation at LOEX 2019. Ballard’s professional interests are intertwined with her oldest sibling identity, board and video games passion and rural Midwestern experiences. Specifically, her work strives to promote curiosity by play, celebrate failure through design thinking, center students in participatory design and foster inclusivity with cultural humility.

Clare Kuntz Balcer, Library Advancement and Assessment

Clare Kuntz Balcer, librarian for outreach and marketing, received her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Maryland, College Park, and her Bachelor of Arts in history from Goucher College. She is originally from Chicago but has lived in Maryland for the past eight years and considers herself both a Midwesterner and a Marylander. In her role at TU, she will be coordinating library programming in partnership with units across campus and working to make the library’s resources and services visible to faculty, staff and students. Her research interests include exploring how librarians and disciplinary faculty can communicate and collaborate more effectively for student success and understanding how libraries and librarians can support information access and literacy for incarcerated and previously incarcerated people.

Bria Sinnott, Research and Instruction

Bria Sinnott, research and instruction librarian, supports the Art + Design, Art History, Art Education and the Communication Studies departments. She graduated from TU in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and received her Master in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University in 2019, where her focus included participatory design and student engagement. Prior to joining TU, she worked at the E. Kirkbride Miller Art Research Library at the Baltimore Museum of Art as a project archivist and served as an instruction & outreach librarian at Stevenson University. She is interested in the ways that curiosity can fuel innovation and research and enjoys taking a design thinking approach to her instruction and service. Sinnott is a 2019 participant of the Maryland Library Leadership Institute and serves on the planning committee for the Towson Conference for Academic Librarians.
Tanja R. Darden, Management
Tanja R. Darden, assistant professor, studies employer–employee relationships, including how psychological contracts—particularly from the employer perspective—and emotions, gender and abusive supervision affect these relationships. She received her doctorate from Georgia State University and has frequently presented at academic conferences, including Academy of Management (AOM), Southern Management Association (SMA) and Society of Industrial Psychologists (SIOP). She has previously taught courses on managing people and managerial decision-making. In the fall, she will also teach a class on effective leadership. With bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering, she brings nearly 20 years of information technology consulting experience to the classroom and her research. Her teaching philosophy is grounded in three principles: expectations, theory–application alignment and effective communications. Before embarking on her doctoral journey, Tanja made her home in Prince George’s County, Maryland, for 20 years.

Elisabeth White, Research and Instruction
Elisabeth White, science, technology and mathematics librarian, assists students and faculty with their research in STEM fields, teaches instruction sessions to improve students’ research skills and helps manage the library’s science, math and technology collections. She graduated from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her Master of Library and Information Science in May 2018. She also has a Bachelor of Science in biological chemistry from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. She has prior experience as a lab technician for the University of Minnesota’s biomedical engineering department, a K–12 math tutor and a library assistant at a public library.

New Faculty | College of Business & Economics

Myiesha Speight, Resident Librarian
Myiesha Speight is the Resident Librarian at Towson University. Myiesha holds a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in English with a minor in History from Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In 2019, she received her MLiS with a specialization in Diversity and Inclusion from the University of Maryland College Park’s iSchool located in College Park, Maryland. Her interests include diversifying young adult and children’s collection and bolstering accessible and inclusive library spaces and websites.
Gabrielle “Gabby” Swab, assistant professor, received her doctorate in business administration from the University of Mississippi. Her research centers on competition and its multilevel influence in entrepreneurial teams and family firms, particularly in the gaming industry. She runs a website, The Board Game Fempire, focusing on her research on entrepreneurs and consumers in the tabletop game industry. She teaches general management and entrepreneurship courses.
Qijie (Vicky) Cai, Educational Technology and Literacy
Vicky Cai, assistant professor, has a doctorate in educational administration and supervision from the University of Virginia and a master’s degree in educational technology. Upon completion of her degree, she worked as an instructional designer at the College of Continuing Studies at University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, then the information technology division at Minnesota State University. Before joining Towson University, Cai was an assistant professor and graduate coordinator for the educational technology program at Minnesota State University. She has teaching and research experience in instructional design, online collaborative learning and feedback design.

Chantal Francois, Instructional Leadership and Professional Development
Chantal Francois, assistant professor, researches sociocultural perspectives on literacy and urban schooling. She was a teacher and school leader in New York City. Francois earned her doctorate in educational leadership, instructional practice and policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has also worked at Teachers College, Columbia University, as well as Rutgers University. Her work has been featured in Voices From the Middle, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy and the Teachers College Record. She is co-author, with Elisa Zonana, of Catching Up on Conventions: Grammar Lessons for Middle School Writers and is co-editor of Humanizing Education: Critical Alternatives to Reform.

Rachel Hammer Billman, Special Education
Rachel Hammer Billman, assistant professor, studies using technology to teach students with high-incidence disabilities, primarily focusing on interventions for learners with specific learning disabilities and mathematics interventions. Her research interests also include special education teacher education. Billman received her doctorate in special education from George Mason University. Prior to joining the faculty at TU, she worked as a research assistant and instructor at George Mason University and as a secondary special education and mathematics teacher.
Ruben Del Valle, Jr., Theatre Arts
Ruben Del Valle, Jr., assistant professor, enjoys studying how an actor’s movement affects the performance. Through the use of various philosophies such as Grotowski, Laban and Feldenkrais, he helps actors find the most effective use of their instrument to fulfill the needs of their character and the show. Del Valle, Jr., holds a bachelor’s degree in musical theater from AMDA/The New School and a master’s degree in acting from The Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University in New York City. He has appeared on Broadway in The Lion King as Young Simba, was featured in a Musical Theater Works benefit concert and originated the role of Jack Scott in Disney’s stage version of High School Musical. He has also performed in numerous workshops and staged readings in New York City. He’s taught at Minnesota State University, Mankato; Nebraska Wesleyan; The Lied Center; Chase Dance Studio in Lincoln, Nebraska; and The Jenny Wiley Theater in Pikeville, Kentucky.

Laura Hicken, Music
Laura K. Hicken, assistant professor, researches music teacher attention and cognition. She uses eye-tracking technology to determine music teachers’ allocation of attention as a window into their thought processes and decision-making during teaching tasks. Hicken received her doctorate in music and human learning from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to completing her doctorate and joining the TU faculty, Hicken taught middle and high school band in South Carolina and Florida.
Diane Kuthy, Art + Design, Art History, Art Education
Diane Kuthy, assistant professor, has organized curricular, social and artistic provocations for educators in museum, virtual, community and school contexts. Her arts-based research focuses on preparing preservice art teachers and their students to view through a critical lens the historic role of visual and material culture in creating, maintaining and resisting white supremacy. Kuthy’s research and teaching center on pedagogy and applied resources for teachers and students to understand their artistic power to shape a more equitable society. She received her doctorate from the language, literacy and culture program at UMBC and her master’s from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). For the past 11 years, Kuthy has worked as a fulltime lecturer of art education at Towson University and, in August, she was promoted to her current role.

Efe Sevin, Mass Communication
Efe Sevin, assistant professor, studies the role of digital and social media on political communication processes. His current research focuses on identifying and measuring the impact of social networks on place branding and public diplomacy campaigns. Prior to joining Towson University, he worked at Reinhardt University (Georgia, U.S.), University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and Kadir Has University (Istanbul, Turkey). His works have been published in several academic journals and books, including American Behavioral Scientist, Public Relations Review and Cities. His most recent book, Public Diplomacy and the Implementation of Foreign Policy in the US, Sweden and Turkey, was published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2017. Sevin received his doctorate from American University’s School of International Service in Washington, D.C. He completed his graduate studies at Emerson College as a Foreign Fulbright scholar and his undergraduate studies at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

Jinyoung Koh, Art + Design, Art History, Art Education
Jinyoung Koh, assistant professor, received his doctorate in art and art education at Columbia University in May. He taught and managed art and art education for students in preK–12, college and the graduate level for 10 years. He has internationally exhibited professional works of art, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, films and digital media, in museums and galleries for 15 years. These projects have received substantial professional recognition—including the Philadelphia Museum of Art Award—as well as a number of other competitive awards, fellowships, grants and exhibitions at venues around the world.
Teresa Spencer, Theatre Arts
Teresa Spencer, assistant professor, is an actor, writer, dialect coach and theatrical movement coach based in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. She has performed or coached in over 75 regional and international productions, with companies including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Folger Shakespeare Library, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Teatro delle Due, Constellation Theatre Company and Taffety Punk Theatre Company. Her focus is on ensemble creation and heightened form, from the performance of classical verse forms to the devising of physical theatre. She is a three-time Helen Hayes Award nominee for her devising and ensemble work and was an originating devisor and performer in Theater Alliance’s Still Life with Rocket, which received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Production. She is a company member with Walterhoope, a Cincinnati-based multimedia arts organization, where she is currently developing her solo film and live performance piece Too Like the Lightning, as well as contributing writing, accent design and vocal performance to the forthcoming podcast series Wellspring. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University, is a teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework, a certified yoga instructor and a Society of American Fight Directors Advanced Actor Combatant.

Kalima Young, Electronic Media and Film
Kalima Young, assistant professor, received her doctorate in American studies from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her scholarship explores the impact of race and gender-based trauma on Black identity, media and Black cultural production. A videographer and writer, Young has written, produced and directed two feature films, Grace Haven (2006), Lessons Learned (2009) as well as several political campaign videos. Some of her publications include We Will Survive: Race and Gender-Based Trauma as Cultural Truth-Telling and Feminist Perspectives on Orange Is the New Black: Thirteen Critical Essays. Her new manuscript, Mediated Misogynoir: The Erasure of Black Women and Girls’ Pain the Public Imagination, is scheduled to be released by Rowman and Littlefield’s Lexington Books in spring 2020.
Randyl Cochran, Health Sciences
Randyl Cochran, assistant professor, is currently studying the exchange of behavioral health information via health information exchange (HIE) systems and the potential impact of this information exchange on re-admission rates, specifically for patients with a chronic illness and a behavioral health comorbidity. She is interested in gaining a thorough understanding of the factors that affect the sharing of behavioral health information, with the hope that reducing the barriers to behavioral health information exchange will enable the delivery of coordinated care. Additionally, she is assisting with a study that examines implicit bias in healthcare and its impact on medication adherence among African Americans with hypertension. Cochran will receive her doctorate in health services administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in December. Prior to joining the faculty at Towson, she worked as a graduate trainee at UAB. In this role, she served as both a teaching and research assistant.

Jillian Fry, Health Sciences
Jillian Fry, assistant professor, conducts research at the intersection of public health, the food system and environmental sustainability. Fry utilizes qualitative and quantitative research methods to identify effective strategies for shifting diets to improve human health, and reduce global resource use, and is particularly interested in working with companies on interventions that increase consumer purchasing of plant-based foods. She has led interdisciplinary research on the implications of expanding production of farmed seafood and is currently working on a USDA-funded project that builds on this work. Fry received her doctorate from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and worked as a research scientist at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future before coming to TU.

Ming Li, Health Sciences
Ming Li, assistant professor, focuses her research on public health genomics, a cutting-edge area that links genomics with the multidisciplinary fields of health research. The mission of her research is to integrate genomics into public health application and eliminate health disparities in an ethical and effective way. Her research agenda has four directions: genomics education/communication; genomics’ ethical, legal and social implications; genomics in cancer prevention and control; and genomics and health disparities. She is serving as the co-chair of the membership communication for the American Public Health Association (APHA) Genomics Forum Executive Committee. She is a doctoral candidate from the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Texas A&M University.
Marguerite Lucea, Ph.D., MPH, RN, *Nursing*

Marguerite Lucea, assistant professor, is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of women who have experienced violence or sexual trauma. She has focused her clinical research on the intersecting epidemics of intimate partner and sexual violence and HIV transmission and acquisition among marginalized populations. She seeks to understand the immunological and physiological changes that co-occur in response to these epidemics to develop interventions that prevent violence and promote sexual health. She also has programmatic expertise in nursing workforce and health system strengthening and has worked with nurse executives around the world to address their workforce concerns. Lucea earned her doctorate in public health nursing from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and her Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Just prior to joining the faculty at TU, she worked as a senior consultant and research lead for the Global Centre for Nursing Executives at the Advisory Board Company.

**New Faculty | College of Liberal Arts**

Jeong Joo Ahn, *Political Science*

Jeong Joo Ahn, assistant professor, completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the Department of Public Administration at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. She earned her doctorate in the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University in 2017, where she also worked as an instructor and research associate until she joined the faculty at Towson University this fall. Her research is focused on how to make cities more inclusive, sustainable places for all residents. Her current studies investigate the relationships people build with their surroundings and the ways in which marginalized groups perceive, navigate and use public spaces. She conducts research as a member of Environmental Justice and Policy Initiative at Arizona State University.
Gilbert Z. Chen, History
Gilbert Z. Chen, assistant professor, studies the intersection of multiple identities that individuals may have. He primarily focuses on how a group of 19th-century Buddhist monks and nuns in western China interacted with their lay community members over a wide range of subjects, including monastic–familial relationship, economy and, most controversially, sexuality. He is mainly interested in enhancing our understanding of how individuals experienced and dealt with challenges and opportunities that emerged in their efforts to navigate different normative regimes in their daily life. Chen received his doctorate in history from Washington University in St. Louis.

Carrie Grant, English
Carrie Grant, assistant professor, researches at the intersections of community engagement, professional and technical communication, and feminist digital literacies. Her recent scholarship has investigated building girls’ confidence at summer technology camps, integrating community engagement in entrepreneurship courses and faculty mentoring for technical communication interns. Grant received her doctorate in rhetoric and composition from Purdue University. She is eager to join the faculty at Towson and particularly to begin working with the GIVE community grant-writing program.

Sel J. Hwahng, Women, Gender, Sexuality and Health
Sel Hwahng, assistant professor, has received grants, awards and fellowships from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institutes of Health, the American Public Health Association, the International AIDS Society, the Association for Women in Psychology and the American Heart Association. Hwahng’s publications include 30 sole-, first- and co-authored articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. Hwahng is also the editor of the Global LGBTQ Health book series, published by Springer Nature, and is currently co-editing the first book in this series—with Michelle Kaufman—also entitled Global LGBTQ Health. Hwahng has recently served on the board of directors for the Center for LGBTQ Studies at the City University of New York and as the program chair for the LGBT Caucus of the American Public Health Association. Hwahng is also pursuing a Master’s of Science in cardiovascular epidemiology, at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Juman Kim, Political Science
Juman Kim, assistant professor, is a political theorist with broad interests in democracy, constitutional law, ancient and modern political philosophy, and contemporary and comparative political theory. He is currently at work on his first book project, which examines frustration as an overlooked yet pivotal experience of ordinary democratic citizens. This study highlights that one of the main tasks before democratic citizens is how to attend to and come to terms with their frustration without falling into a passive and cynical acceptance or a utopian escapism, the two most popular extreme strategies for relaxing the tension of frustration. Kim holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Yonsei University in South Korea and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, all in political science. Prior to joining the faculty at Towson, he taught courses in political theory and public law at the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University-Camden and the University of Oregon.

Sherita V. Roundtree, English
Sherita V. Roundtree, assistant professor, studies ways for developing diverse representation and equitable access for students, teachers and scholars who write, instruct and theorize in writing classrooms. More specifically, Roundtree’s current work centralizes the teaching efficacy, pedagogical approaches and “noise” of Black women graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) who teach or have taught first- and/or second-level composition courses. Considering Black women GTAs’ feelings of preparedness and approaches to teaching composition, she explores the networks of support they utilize and whether and how they use resources to navigate pedagogical challenges. In this sense, Roundtree’s research lies at the intersections of composition studies, Black feminist theories and pedagogies, community literacy and writing program administration.

Wonjin Sim, Psychology
Wonjin Sim, assistant professor, is a part of the counseling psychology program. Her research interests include multicultural and international counseling, therapy process and outcome, dream work, spirituality and the mental well-being of helping professionals. Sim received her doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Pennsylvania’s Counseling and Psychological Services. Prior to her employment at TU, she was a faculty member in the counseling psychology program at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. She is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania.
Marcio Siwi, History
Marcio Siwi, assistant professor, focuses on urban studies, Latin American studies, race and national identity, Brazilian history and the history of the United States’ foreign policy. His current book manuscript, “Making the Modern and Cultured City: Art, Architecture and Urbanism in Postwar São Paulo,” explores efforts to transform São Paulo into a world-class city after World War II through a transnational analysis of artistic production, architecture and urban planning. Prior to coming to Towson University, Siwi was a Consortium Faculty Diversity (CFD) Fellow in Latin American studies at Bowdoin College and a College Fellow in history at Harvard University. He received his doctorate from New York University in 2017.

New Faculty | Fisher College of Science & Mathematics

Michelle M. Casey, Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences
Michelle M. Casey, assistant professor, uses young fossils to study human impacts on estuaries. In particular, she studies the effects of commercial fishing and pollution on shellfish communities in the Long Island Sound. By using fossils and paleontological methods to evaluate areas in need of conservation and restoration, she aims to uncover the ecological baseline that informs researchers and the public about the state of marine ecosystems before humans began to alter them. Casey received her doctorate in geophysics from Yale University. Prior to joining the TU faculty, she worked as an assistant professor at Murray State University and in postdoctoral research at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute.
Anthony Tierno, Chemistry
Anthony F. Tierno, assistant professor, studies the development of new chemical reactions within the context of natural product total synthesis. He is particularly interested in using electrochemistry as a tool in the synthesis of natural and unnatural amino acids to fuel biological investigations and complexity-to-diversity studies of peptide natural products. He is also interested in the development of new catalysts for the site-selective derivatization of complex molecules. Prior to joining the faculty at Towson University, Tierno worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of Sarah E. Wengryniuk at Temple University developing hypervalent iodine reagents. He received his doctorate in chemistry from Cornell University in 2016 under the guidance of Chad A. Lewis with a focus on the synthesis of macrocyclic peptides.

Na Zhang, Mathematics
Na Zhang graduated from Huaibei Normal University, China, with a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics. She shifted her study area and earned a master’s degree in financial mathematics from Soochow University in 2014. In 2013, she moved to the University of Cincinnati to engage in a doctoral program in probability theory. Na Zhang received her doctorate in mathematics in 2019. Her dissertation was on “Limit theorems for random fields.” At the University of Cincinnati, her research was supported by the National Science Foundation, through her adviser Magda Peligrad; the Taft Research Center; the University Research Council and the Maita Levine Research. In addition, Na Zhang was recognized as an outstanding beginning doctoral student and outstanding international graduate student. Her research interests include probability theory, stochastic processes and their applications.