



## Academic Affairs

# Acmes & Accolades

## GENESEO | October 2018

The Division of Academic Affairs at SUNY Geneseo is organized into 2 schools and 18 academic departments which provide a variety of majors, minors, and concentrations for our students. The division also includes several support units that complement our academic programs, enhance programmatic study, and ensure the development and completion of degree programs.

### Smith Named Director of the CIL

Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing Dr. Lytton Smith has been named director of the Center for Integrative Learning (CIL) effective August 2. The CIL, a strategic reimagining of the Center for Inquiry, Discovery and Development, is housed in Doty 303.

The CIL will continue to coordinate and supervise the Geneseo Student Ambassadorships, but will also play an expanded role in developing and promoting academic experiences that are interdisciplinary, connect learning opportunities to real world problems and issues, and encourage students to explore and articulate connections across their different experiences.

Dr. Smith holds a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature and an MFA in Creative Writing (poetry) from Columbia University. He has been teaching in the English department and the Black Studies program at SUNY Geneseo since 2014.



Lytton Smith

### Geneseo Tops U.S. News' 'Best Undergrad Teaching' for 8th Time

Eight is great! SUNY Geneseo again topped the U.S. News & World Report's "Best Undergraduate Teaching" rankings among regional universities in the North in its *Best Colleges 2019* guidebook. Geneseo, which has ranked No. 1 for eight of the nine years that the category has existed, is the only SUNY school to make the 2019 list.

U.S. News selects the "Best Undergraduate Teaching" colleges through data collected from college presidents, provosts and admissions deans at peer institutions within their region who identified schools where the faculty demonstrated an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching.

The College also ranked second in the "Top Public Schools" category for regional universities in the North and is 14th in

the overall regional category, which comprises 187 public and private institutions. Geneseo is one of only two public colleges in the top 15 schools in the category.

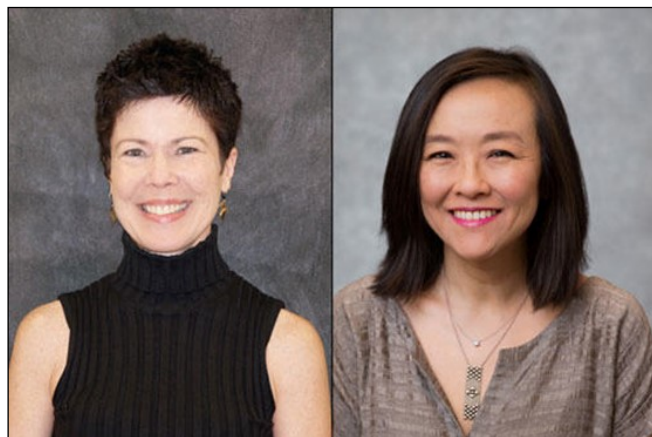
U.S. News defines a regional university as one that offers a full range of majors and master's programs but few, if any, doctoral programs.

### Professors Win Fulbright Grants

Dr. Denise Scott, professor of sociology, and Dr. Jun Okada, associate professor of English, have been awarded highly competitive Fulbright grants in 2019.

Dr. Scott, who also received a teaching Fulbright to India in 2010, will return and conduct research from February to May at the H.N.B. Garhwal University in Srinagar, India. Her research project is titled "Student Aspirations and the Construction of Gender, Class and Nation in Northern India."

Dr. Okada will teach and conduct research at the Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, in Lisbon, Portugal from March to May. She will teach a course on American contemporary cinema and also conduct archival research in the Cinemateca Portuguesa-Museu do Cinema in Lisbon on the history of the exhibition of American films, their censorship and their reception by the Portuguese public during various periods of the cinema's history since the 1890s.



Faculty members Denise Scott (left) and Jun Okada

# Acmes & Accolades

## Upcoming Performances

**Geneseo Symphony Orchestra** — Leah McGray, conductor  
3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14: Wadsworth Auditorium (free)

**Geneseo Wind Ensemble** — Leah McGray, conductor  
8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 19: Wadsworth Auditorium (free)

**Geneseo Chamber Singers** — Gerard Floriano, conductor  
**Spectrum Women's Ensemble** — Amy Cochrane, director  
3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21: Doty Recital Hall (free)

**Musical Theatre** — *Page to Stage: Babes in Arms*  
Melanie Blood, director; Don Kot, music director  
Music by Richard Rodgers; lyrics by Lorenz Hart; book by Rodgers & Hart; adapted by John Guare  
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31 – Saturday, Nov. 3: Doty Recital Hall  
2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4: Doty Recital Hall  
General Admission, \$10; Geneseo students, \$5  
Note: tickets can be purchased online at [bbo.geneseo.edu](http://bbo.geneseo.edu) (a service fee applies to all credit card purchases) or at the Doty Box Office one hour before each show — cash only

**Antigone** — Randy Kaplan, director  
Translated by Kelly Cherry  
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 7 – Saturday, Nov. 10: Alice Austin Theatre  
2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11: Alice Austin Theatre  
Admission, \$10

**Geneseo String Band Square Dance** — Jim Kimball, caller  
7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10: MacVittie College Union Ballroom  
General Admission, \$3; students & spectators, \$1; 12 & under, free  
Note: cash only at door  
*All are welcome, no experience required!*

**Geneseo Wind Quintet**  
3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11: Doty Recital Hall (free)  
Andrew Brown, clarinet; Megan Kyle, oboe; Maura McCune Corvington, horn; Martha Sholl, bassoon; Kathryn Scarbrough, flute

**Geneseo Symphony Orchestra** — Leah McGray, conductor  
**Geneseo Festival Chorus** — Gerard Floriano, conductor  
3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18: Wadsworth Auditorium  
General Admission, \$10; faculty & staff, \$5; students, free  
Note: cash only at door

**Chamber Music**  
8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28: Doty Recital Hall (free)

**New Music Concert**  
7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30: Doty Recital Hall (free)

**Ken Luk, guitar**  
7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1: Doty Recital Hall (free)

**Geneseo Piano Trio**  
3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2: Doty Recital Hall (free)  
Andrew Bergevin, violin; Jonathan Gonder, piano; James Kirkwood, cello

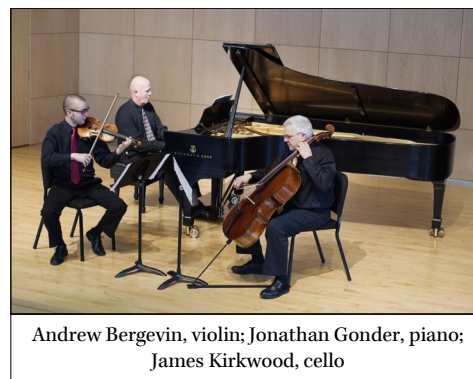
**Jazz Ensemble** — Bill Tiberio, director  
8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4: Wadsworth Auditorium (free)

**Geneseo Symphony Orchestra Stage and Screen** — Leah McGray, conductor  
8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5: Wadsworth Auditorium (free)

**Geneseo Wind Ensemble** — Leah McGray, conductor  
8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7: Wadsworth Auditorium (free)

**Geneseo Dance Ensemble Embodies the Liberal Arts: Bodies in Motion**  
Featuring new choreography by student artists: Nicole Acierno, Jennifer Conflitti, Katherine Estep, Abbie Guisbond, Sydney Klein, Jennifer Looks, Kaylan Ruiz, Leah Russo, Samantha Schmeer, Jessica Sidoti  
Jonette Lancos, artistic director, curator and producer  
Mark Broomfield '94, 2013 SUNY Faculty Diversity Appointment, associate director  
Jennifer Conflitti, Sydney Klein, and Samantha Schmeer, student assistants  
Produced by Geneseo Dance Ensemble  
7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6 – Saturday, Dec. 8: Alice Austin Theatre (William A. Brodie Hall)  
2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9: Alice Austin Theatre (William A. Brodie Hall)  
Admission, \$10  
Reservations: Student Association Ticket Office — 585-245-5873 or [bbo.geneseo.edu](http://bbo.geneseo.edu)

**Geneseo Chamber Singers** — Gerard Floriano, conductor  
**Spectrum Women's Ensemble** — Amy Cochrane, director  
3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9: St. Michael's Church, Geneseo (free)



Andrew Bergevin, violin; Jonathan Gonder, piano;  
James Kirkwood, cello

**Percussion Ensemble** — Jim Tiller, director  
8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10: Wadsworth Auditorium (free)

## Geiser-Getz Named Vice Provost

Following a national search, Glenn Geiser-Getz was named vice provost for academic affairs at SUNY Geneseo effective June 28. This position replaced the role held by Ken Kallio, interim associate provost for personnel and diversity, who retired in June.



“Glenn’s background is ideally suited to help our students and faculty achieve success in their academic studies, scholarly research, and ongoing career development activities,” said Provost Stacey Robertson. “He brings both the knowledge and passion that will support Geneseo as we aspire to fulfill our vision.”

Geiser-Getz previously served as associate provost at Keene State College in New Hampshire, with responsibilities including budget management, academic program oversight and development, and faculty mentoring and supervision. He also provided support and supervision to staff in the Office of the Registrar and the Global Education Office and was involved in Keene State’s accreditation process with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Prior to his position at Keene, Geiser-Getz served as director of The Harrisburg Internship Semester for the Office of the Chancellor in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PSSHE). Before that, he was the chairperson of Communication Studies at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, where he taught for 21 years — most recently as Professor of Communication Studies — and provided leadership through his service to multiple committees, boards, and campus initiatives.

While at East Stroudsburg, Geiser-Getz accepted two appointments as a visiting professor of Intercultural Communication at Oxford University and as a Fulbright Scholar of International Journalism in St. Petersburg, Russia. Earlier in his career, he held teaching positions at Stanford University, the University of Iowa, Kirkwood Community College, and the University of Arkansas.

Actively involved in scholarly research in rhetorical studies, professional pursuits, and family activities, Geiser-Getz also is drawn to the stage. A professional actor, he holds a number of credits in community theater.

Geiser-Getz earned a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Iowa, a master’s in Communications from the University of Arkansas, and a bachelor’s degree in Communication and Theater Arts from the University of Puget Sound.

## Zuckerman Named Dean of the School of Business

Mary Ellen Zuckerman was named dean of the SUNY Geneseo School of Business, effective June 28 — the second time that she has served as its dean, having held the position from 1999-2008. Since then, she has held administrative positions at Ithaca College, where she was dean of the School of Business for four years, and most recently at SUNY College at Brockport, where she was a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Marketing and served as provost and vice president for academic affairs for two years. In 2016, she returned to the classroom at Brockport to pursue her passion for teaching.



“I am thrilled to welcome Mary Ellen back to the campus for this key position,” said Stacey Robertson, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Geneseo. “Her wisdom, experience, and passion will enrich the School of Business and the College as a whole!”

As Brockport’s chief academic officer and a member of its leadership team, Zuckerman was responsible for designing and implementing the academic goals of the College, overseeing six deans and the directors of Libraries and Information Technology, Research and Analysis Planning, Diversity, and Assessment. She also led the Academic Affairs leadership team and served on multiple college-wide committees. At Ithaca College, Zuckerman led a team of 32 full-time faculty and 10 staff, directing the school in areas that included strategic planning, budgeting, fundraising, curriculum, student enrollment, faculty recruitment, external relations, and communication activities.

During her previous tenure as dean and professor at Geneseo’s School of Business, Zuckerman was named a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. She achieved a number of administrative accomplishments, including leading the school to initial AACSB-International accreditation, establishing the master’s in accounting program, overseeing two successful economics program reviews, updating curriculum to add more quantitative and computer skills, and helping to expand international education opportunities.

Zuckerman has written three books and a wide range of academic papers centered on her research in women’s magazines and marketing, and has presented at numerous academic and industry conferences. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Simmons College, and a doctorate in history and a master’s in business administration from Columbia University.



## Introducing Academic Affairs New Full-time Faculty and Staff



**Sasha Allgayer** joins Geneseo as an assistant professor of communication. Previously, Allgayer taught a variety of communication courses at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and Indiana University-Purdue University, located in Fort Wayne. He taught courses on public speaking, interactive television and video production, media content production systems, and the social history of media. Allgayer is completing his dissertation for a doctorate degree in media and communication at Bowling Green. He earned a master's degree in professional communication and bachelor's degrees in media and public communication and interpersonal and organizational communication. Allgayer's bachelors and master's degrees were earned at Purdue University.

Allgayer's research interests include critical and cultural studies, global media, Latin American development, social media and social justice, and intercultural/international communication. He is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. In his spare time, Allgayer likes to travel, explore nature, play tennis, ski, and discover music from around the world.

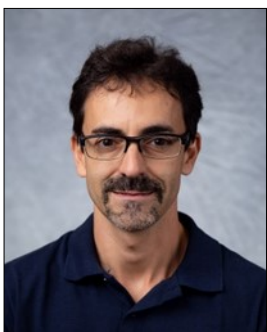
**Brian Andrew** joins Geneseo as Learning Spaces Technician in the Department of Computing and Information Technology. He previously served as coordinator of audiovisual services at West Irondequoit Central School District, counselor and videographer at Rochester Rotary Sunshine Campus, and student audiovisual technician at the Rochester Institute of Technology where he earned his BFA in film, video and animation. Brian is also an active member of the Rochester queer community, serving on the 2015 and 2016 Rochester Pride Committees with a focused on event promotion and graphic design. In his spare time he continues to support events in his work with local queer music and dance event organizers.



**Jovana Babović** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of history. Previously, she taught at the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota — Twin Cities, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Tennessee — Knoxville. Babović holds a Ph.D. in modern European history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; two master's degrees in history from Central European University and in European studies from New York University; and a bachelor's in French studies from Smith College.

She is the author of *Metropolitan Brigade: Class and Culture in Interwar Yugoslavia* (2018, University of Pittsburgh Press) and Sleater-Kinney's *Dig Me Out* (2016, Bloomsbury Academic Press). Her research interests focus on Eastern Europe, the Balkans, urban history, popular culture, and animal studies. Babović is fluent in Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian and proficient in French and German, as well as some Russian. In her spare time, she likes to read and hunt for vintage vinyl.

**Allison Bechard** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of psychology. Previously, she taught at the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College. Bechard earned a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from the University of Florida, a master of science in animal behavior from the University of Guelph, and a Bachelor of Science in zoology and psychology from the University of Toronto. Her research centers on experience-dependent development of maladaptive behaviors. In her spare time, Bechard enjoys hiking flat trails with her dog and listening to podcasts.



**Wesley Costa de Moraes** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of Spanish. Previously, Costa de Moraes taught at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He holds a Ph.D. in contemporary Latin American literature from UNC Chapel Hill, a master's in contemporary Latin American literature and film from Virginia Tech, and a bachelor's in pedagogy, school management, and vocational orientation from Centro Unisal-Americana in São Paulo, Brazil.

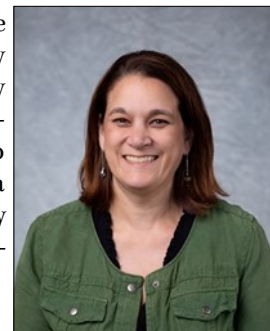
Costa de Moraes' research interests include 20th- and 21st-century Latin American literature and culture; Southern Cone, Andean, and Brazilian literature; and ecocriticism. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, and in his spare time enjoys playing sports and going to the movies.



**Samuel Fallon** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of English. Previously, he served as a visiting assistant professor at Wesleyan University and SUNY New Paltz. Before that, he was a writing instructor, teaching fellow, and acting instructor at Yale University, where he earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in English language and literature.

Fallon also holds a master's (M.St. in English, 1150-1780) from the University of Oxford. He earned his bachelor's degree in English from Princeton University. In his spare time, Fallon enjoys watching soccer.

**Jeanne Galbraith** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor in the Ella Cline Shear School of Education. Previously, she was an assistant professor of early childhood education at SUNY Cortland, and an adjunct professor at the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education. Galbraith also held several administrative and teaching positions in early childhood education, at the University of Maryland, Ohio University Lancaster, The Ohio State University (OSU) in Columbus, and the Eastern Maine Community College. She began her career as a special education teacher. She earned a Ph.D. in early childhood education from OSU, a master's in early childhood special education from Teachers College at Columbia University, and a bachelor's in interdisciplinary social sciences and early childhood education from the University at Buffalo.



Galbraith also serves as president of the New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators and as an appointed New York State workgroup member to the National Academy of Medicine. Away from work, she enjoys spending time with her family including husband, Steve, daughters, Audrey and Madeline, and rescue dog Mary. She also enjoys listening to music, cooking, and reading.



**Jennifer Haines** joins us as a coordinator of field placements in the Ella Cline Shear School of Education, and pre-health advisor in Academic Planning and Advisement. Before joining the Geneseo community, Haines was an education specialist: curriculum and instruction at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

Haines earned a bachelor of science degree in childhood education with a concentration in social studies from SUNY Oneonta, and a master of science in human resource development and educational leadership from Towson University. She also holds a specialist degree in education from Liberty University. Before Geneseo, Haines was an English teacher in Harford County, Maryland. Outside of the office, she is kept busy as a mom to two girls, aged 10 and 6, and also finds time to read, exercise, cook and try new experiences.

**Monica Hershberger** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of musicology. Previously, she taught at Central Connecticut State University and Boston College. Hershberger holds a Ph.D. in historical musicology from Harvard University; a Master of Arts in historical musicology and a Master of Music in piano performance from Michigan State University; and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Bowling Green State University. Her research interests include 20th-century music of the United States, opera and musical theater, and American popular music and protest.

Hershberger is currently working on a book manuscript tentatively entitled *'Life is Strife': Women in and of American Opera during the 1950s*. In her spare time, Hershberger enjoys reading memoirs and historical fiction and watching basketball.



**Leah Houk** joins Geneseo as an academic advisor in the Office of Academic Planning and Advising, assisting students with success strategies, major exploration, and academic planning. Previously, she served at Alfred University as the assistant director of the Center for Academic Success, coaching students (many with disabilities) to learn to study better, manage their time, and advocate for themselves. She also supervised the tutoring and Supplemental Instruction programs.

Houk attended Alfred University for both undergraduate, studying Spanish and psychology, and graduate school, earning her masters in school psychology. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, painting, making jewelry, and playing with her 11 pet birds. She is also working toward certification as a doula, or childbirth coach.

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## New Full-time Faculty and Staff continued



**Woosang Hwang** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor of psychology. Previously, he taught at Syracuse University where he also served as a research assistant in the Aging Studies Institute.

Hwang earned a Ph.D. in human development and family science from Syracuse, and also a certificate of advanced study in public management and policy. He holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in child and family studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication — all from Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. His research interests include family relations during the transition from adolescence to adulthood and child/family policy for employed families' well-being. In his spare time, Hwang enjoys spending time with his friends.

**Sara Irizarry '08**, the coordinator of assessment and accreditation for the School of Education, uses data-driven findings for programmatic improvement and support re-accreditation efforts. Prior experience includes serving as a senior statistician in the quality laboratory operations at Bausch and Lomb. Before that, Irizarry was a first-grade teacher in the Fairfax County public schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in childhood with special education from SUNY Geneseo and a master's in applied statistics from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Irizarry is a baseball enthusiast — supporting the Mets —and plays fantasy baseball. She collects and plays board games, currently owning just over 100 games. Irizarry also loves playing with her 3-year-old daughter.



**Varuni Jamburuthugoda** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor of biology. Previously, she taught at Fordham University, the University of Rochester, and the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. She also served as a postdoctoral research associate with the University of Rochester's Department of Biology. Jamburuthugoda earned a Ph.D. and a Master of Science in biochemistry from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Colombo. Her research interests include transposable elements and infectious diseases. In her spare time, Jamburuthugoda enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

**Katelynn Kochalski** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of mathematics. Kochalski earned a Ph.D. and master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Canisius College.

Previously, Kochalski taught at SUNY Cortland and the University of Virginia. Her research centers on probability theory, specifically, queueing theory and fluid limits of measure-valued stochastic processes. Outside of math, she enjoys music — singing and playing the clarinet and piano — and also reading, Euclyre and watching a good Bills game.

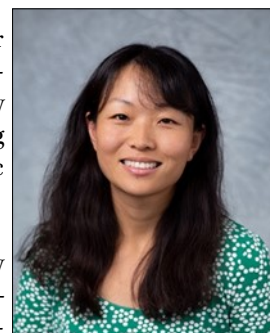


**Ravi Lamontagne**, web developer in Computing and Information Technology, will design, develop, administer and support the Drupal 8-based College websites and develop custom web services for the campus community. He will also provide daily administration for campus websites including monitoring and resolving problems and providing customization where applicable. Lamontagne earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the Universidad Central de Las Villas, Cuba.

Before coming to Geneseo, Lamontagne was the information technology manager at the St Helen University School of Medicine, St. Lucia. Previous experience includes serving as digital media teacher at Vieux-Fort Comprehensive Secondary School A-Level Division, St. Lucia. In his spare time, Lamontagne enjoys watching sports, playing games and taking online courses. He also enjoys listening to music

and loves to dance.

**Ling Ma** is a visiting assistant professor of history. Previously, she taught at Washington State University and the University at Buffalo. She earned a Ph.D. from the University at Buffalo, and master's and bachelor's degrees in history from Peking University in Beijing. Ma specializes in modern China and transnation-



al Asia, and her research interests include modern China; women, gender, and reproduction; and law, medicine, and crime. In her spare time, she enjoys swimming in the lake, playing tennis, walking in the snow, and reading stories to her three-year-old.



**Tara Pepis** joins Geneseo as director of field experiences in the School of Education. Pepis received her Ph.D. in Educational Policy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst; her Master of Arts in English from Agnes Scott College; and her Bachelor of Arts from Smith College in Theatre and English. Her research interests include implicit bias in pre-service teachers and the use of virtual reality simulations to reduce bias levels in educators. In her spare time, she enjoys reading fiction, camping, and photography.

**Francisco Puerto Ureña** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor of Spanish. Previously, he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Madison College. He will defend his Ph.D. in modern peninsular Spanish literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in November. Puerto Ureña holds a master's in Spanish literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a bachelor's in Spanish language and literature from the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain. His research interests include humor and satire, visual culture, and detective fiction. In his spare time, he enjoys playing board games and taking his dog for long walks.



**Michael Rozalski** is a tenured associate professor in the Ella Cline Shear School of Education. Previously, he served as associate professor of special education at SUNY Binghamton and before that, an assistant and associate professor at SUNY Geneseo. He also served as education director, consultant, and special education teacher at the Southbridge Center, Justice Resource Institute in Columbia, SC. He earned a Ph.D. in special education and two Master of Education degrees in educational research and special education (emotional behavioral disorders) from the University of South Carolina, and a bachelor's in psychology from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

While at Geneseo, Rozalski was the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2007-08). He also received the Fred and Joan Brown Award, presented in recognition of his service to the development of new teachers and to the Ella Cline Shear School of Education. Rozalski's research focuses on alternatives to aversive procedures like seclusion and timeout and legal issues related to students with disabilities. Away from work, he enjoys spending time with his family and walking his dog.

**Peter Samuels** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor of history. Previously, he taught at Kenyon College. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. at Stanford University and his B.A. from the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Fluent in Hindi, Samuels specializes in the history of modern South Asia. His research and teaching interests include legal, environmental, economic, and intellectual history. In his spare time, Samuels enjoys cricket, live music, historical dramas and documentaries, and cooking. designing and creating various craft projects.



**Bradley Taber-Thomas** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor of psychology. Previously, he taught at the University of Buffalo. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the Pennsylvania State University, working in the Cognition, Affect, and Temperament Lab in the Department of Psychology Child Study Center.

Taber-Thomas earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Iowa, a master's in philosophy from Georgia State University, and a bachelor's in modern languages from Northeastern University. His research interests include cognitive, affective and developmental neuroscience, developmental psychology, neuroimaging, and scientific computing and programming. In his spare time, he enjoys civic engagement and organizing, hockey, playing music, hiking, camping, and traveling.

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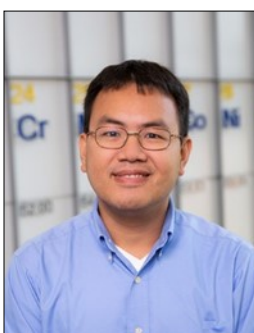


## New Full-time Faculty and Staff continued



**Salvador Tarun Jr.** joins Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor of biology. Previously, he taught at St. Bonaventure University, Alfred State College, and the University of Pittsburgh, where he also served first as a post-doctoral associate, and then as an assistant professor and principal investigator in the Gene Expression Control of the African Sleeping Sickness parasite *Trypanosoma brucei*. Tarun earned a Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Science in biology (biochemistry) from the University of South Carolina, and a Bachelor of Science in biology (genetics) from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Laguna. He also was a post-doctoral fellow at the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute in Washington State. Tarun's research interests include post-transcriptional control of gene expression and drug target discovery in tropical disease parasites. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening and tending his orchid collection, hiking, fishing, and reading.

**Brandon Tate** is a visiting assistant professor of chemistry. Previously, he taught at Ohio Wesleyan University. He earned a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology and holds a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and a Bachelor of Arts in German language and literature from Auburn University. Tate also conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests include catalysis, renewable fuels, and chemical sustainability. In his spare time, Tate enjoys hiking, birdwatching, and nature photography.



**Robert Torregrosa** is a visiting assistant professor of chemistry. Previously, he taught at Georgia College and State University and North Carolina Wesleyan College. He also served as a visiting research scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Torregrosa earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines.

His areas of research include developing novel organic reaction methodologies using transition metal catalysis; green chemistry; and chemical education. In his spare time, Torregrosa enjoys traveling to different places around the country, participating in food and walking tours, and volunteering with community organizations.

**Nisha Varghese** joins Geneseo as a lecturer in chemistry. Previously, she taught at SUNY Plattsburgh, Le Moyne College, and SUNY Cortland. Varghese earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Syracuse University, and a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in organic chemistry and chemistry, respectively, from Mumbai University, India. Her research interests are emulsion, self-assembly; liquid crystals; odd-even effect of self-assembled structures; non-covalent interactions; bioinert surfaces; self-assembled monolayer; and adhesion of microbes. In her spare time, Varghese enjoys cooking and spending time with family; running and watching cricket; reading *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* books; and watching Disney movies, especially *The Lion King*.



**Amanda Wentworth '18**, open educational resources (OER) publishing coordinator, will coordinate with OER leads and faculty across the SUNY system to develop and publish print versions of digital OER textbooks to be used in their courses. As she notes, her basic charge is to turn OER texts into what will resemble traditional textbooks that can then be bought by students at a fraction of the cost.

Wentworth graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a bachelor's in English Literature. As a student, she worked in various spaces to develop educational accessibility, which is a key tenet of the OER movement. This work began with the Livingston County Historical Society, for which she revived and redesigned its "Home and Hearth" exhibit, adding an interactive digital interface and strategically organizing its collection to tell a more cohesive historical narrative. She also undertook the design and assisted with the publication of their Annual Historical Review. This experience led to an interest in digital publishing that Wentworth explored as a participant in the COPLAC Social Life of Books course the following semester. Wentworth served as an intern at Milne Library, where she further developed her digital and technical skills.

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In her spare time, Wentworth enjoys trying to mimic the chefs she sees on Food Network — before ordering takeout! She likes to



hike and travels as often as she can — including a trip to Norway to experience perilous heights while hiking, and plans on eating lots of seafood, and pretending she’s in Middle Earth while taking ferry rides through the fjords.



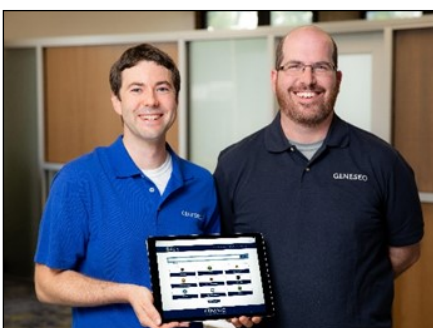
**Lydia Yaitsky Kertz** joins the English Department as a visiting assistant professor, teaching upper-level seminars on early literatures such as the Global Middle Ages and Medieval Romance and Its Afterlives. She also teaches in the Humanities Core Program and serves on the Humanities Core Committee. She earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania and served as a visiting postdoctoral fellow at Fordham University’s Center for Medieval Studies. Previously, she taught in the Writing Department at Montclair State University and in the English and Comparative Literature Department at Columbia University.

Yaitsky Kertz’ research and teaching interests include medieval literature and material culture, romance genre, paleography, codicology, book history, art history, and medieval visual literacy. Her recent essays have been published in *Word & Image: A Journal of Verbal/Visual Enquiry* and *Journal of the Early Book Society*. In her spare time, she volunteers at the food pantry and enjoys spending time with her family.

## Milne Library Colleagues Launch OASIS

In the growing world of open education resources (OER), SUNY Geneseo’s Milne Library recently developed and launched an innovative new search tool that can access 52 different OER sources that contain more than 150,000 items.

Ben Rawlins, director, and Bill Jones ’09, ’11, digital resources and systems librarian, co-developed OASIS (Openly Available Sources Integrated Search), which offers users worldwide the ability to search a range of OER materials, including textbooks, courses and corresponding materials, interactive simulations, public domain books, audiobooks, modules, open access books, videos and podcasts.



OASIS co-developers and SUNY Geneseo Milne Library colleagues Bill Jones, left, and Ben Rawlins

OASIS also is the only tool that allows users to limit searches by creative commons licenses or by faculty review.

“One of the fundamental ideas behind OER is creating better and equal access to course materials for students,” said

Rawlins. “The benefit of OASIS is that faculty can now find different types of OER all in one place using this search tool, with nearly all materials being in the public domain or openly licensed. Before, we would have to point faculty to the individual search tools from each source that are all now listed in OASIS.”

OASIS also offers an embeddable search widget. “We created a freely available search widget that institutions and libraries can use and embed on their web pages to enhance

the discovery of OER locally,” said Jones.

Rawlins and Jones will present on OASIS at the 2018 Access Conference in Hamilton, Ontario, Oct. 10 through 12. Conference attendees include librarians, technicians, developers, programmers, and managers focused on leading-edge library technologies.

## Academic Affairs Works Toward ‘WIG’

Last fall, the Academic Affairs Division began a new initiative – dubbed our Wildly Important Goal (WIG) – to address student retention. Our team, which has since increased to include members from Student and Campus Life and Enrollment Management, aims to increase the percentage of first-year, first-time Geneseo students who return for a second year from 86% to 88% by October 2019.

Every Wednesday, team members step away from their daily whirlwind to briefly meet and report on their WIG commitments. Each is expected to accomplish action items identified within one or more of six categories of lead measures relevant to a member’s area of expertise and responsibility, which, when executed, will help “move the needle” to achieve the retention goal. These measures are professional development, awareness/communication, digital solutions, student support services, right-sizing/access, and applied learning.

The WIG initiative began as a team book-reading exercise using the *Wall Street Journal* business bestseller, *The 4 Disciplines of Execution*, by Chris McChesney, Sean Covey, and Jim Huling. Based on extensive research, the authors set forth a methodology and process known as 4DX to help organizations achieve their wildly important goals by identifying, measuring, and scoring lead measures that can be affected by specific actions or behaviors to create change and positive results.

## 2018-19 Sabbatical Leaves

The following faculty members were granted sabbatical leave during the 2018-19 academic year:

Name	Department	Semester Request	Sabbatical Title
George Briggs	Biology	2018-19 Year	Inanimate life: plants and other organisms
Kristen Gentry	English	2018-19 Year	Mama said
Theodore Everett	Philosophy	Fall 2018	A theory of vagueness
Steven Kirsh	Psychology	Fall 2018	Parenting under conditions of extreme duress
Cheryl Kreutter	School of Education	Fall 2018	Using international children's literature to build intercultural understanding
Vincent Markowski	Psychology	Fall 2018	Histological examination of the effects of THC on the developing brain
Lori Bernard	Languages & Literatures	Spring 2019	The nonconformist patrons of the arts
Kurtis Fletcher	Physics and Astronomy	Spring 2019	Rutherford backscattering studies with low energy ions using time-of-flight spectroscopy
Lei Gao	School of Business	Spring 2019	Time, technology, and evolution of fraud: an in-depth analysis of the changes of management fraud schemes over time
Anthony Gu	School of Business	Spring 2019	Bond, house and stock markets' anomalies and sustainability
Rachel Hall	English	Spring 2019	Don't Talk to Dreamers: short stories
James Kernan	Geography	Spring 2019	Mapping and evaluating vernal pools in Letchworth State Park
Michael Lynch	Psychology	Spring 2019	Integrated neural and physiological processes associated with psychopathology
Leonie Stone	School of Business	Spring 2019	Introductory behavioral and experimental economics

### Faculty Receiving Promotion and Continuing Appointment in 2018

#### Promotion to Professor

- ◆ James McLean, Physics and Astronomy
- ◆ David Robertson, Geography

#### Promotion to Associate Professor with Continuing Appointment

- ◆ Lytton Smith, English
- ◆ Karleen West, Political Science and Int'l Relations

#### Promotion to Associate Professor

- ◆ Christine Merrilees, Psychology

#### Promotion to Associate Librarian

- ◆ Michelle Costello
- ◆ Brandon West

#### Continuing Appointment

- ◆ Pamela Kurau, Music

### 2018 Award-Winning Faculty and Staff

#### Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

- ◆ Cristina Geiger, Chemistry
- ◆ Lisa Smith, Mathematics

#### Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

- ◆ Robert Doggett, English

#### Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service

- ◆ Paul Dotterweich, Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreation

#### Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

- ◆ Yvonne Mehlenbacher, Biology

#### Drs. Carol and Michael Harter Endowment for Faculty Mentoring Award

- ◆ Jennifer Apple, Biology
- ◆ Olympia Nicodemi, Mathematics

## 2018-19 Presidential Scholars

Fourteen SUNY Geneseo students are Presidential Scholars for the 2018-19 academic year, representing a variety of academic areas and exemplifying the college's institutional values. A presidential scholar is a top-achieving member of the senior class who also serves as an ambassador for the college.

To receive the honor, a student must hold a minimum grade point average of 3.6 and demonstrate academic achievement across the curriculum, affirming Geneseo's values of excellence and innovation. Examples of such achievement could be an involvement in major directed studies, substantial overseas studies, independent research, conference presentations, significant artistic projects and/or record of creativity. They also must demonstrate an active involvement with the community.

This year's cohort has a 3.87 average GPA and represents 11 majors, 6 minors, 4 Edgar Fellows and numerous disciplines, including biochemistry, biology, early childhood/childhood education, English, French, geography, history, mathematics, music, political science and theatre.

The Presidential Scholars meet regularly with the provost and each year, take on an initiative to support academic excellence at Geneseo. This year's group is still determining what they will focus on but are considering issues such as retention and integrative learning initiatives.

The following students are Geneseo Presidential Scholars for the 2018-19 academic year (all hometowns are New York):

- ◆ Patrick Buckley — biochemistry with a minor in the Edgar Fellows Honors Program (Elmira)
- ◆ Gena Driscoll-Brantley — geography and mathematics (Rochester)
- ◆ Sara Feinland — biochemistry major with minors in psychology and the Edgar Fellows Honors Program (Clifton Park)
- ◆ Jennifer Galvao — English literature with a minor in the Edgar Fellows Honors Program (Yorktown Heights)
- ◆ Erin Kesel — biology with a minor in biomathematics (Canandaigua)
- ◆ Melanie Kirk — biology and mathematics (Wantagh)
- ◆ Lila Klatz — theatre with a minor in musical theatre (Flushing)
- ◆ Ashley Law — history and political science with a minor in the Edgar Fellows Honors Program (Cuba)
- ◆ Trisha Mainim — biology (Jamesville)
- ◆ Jack McKeown — history with a pre-med track (Conesus)
- ◆ Mallory Mrozinski — political science and French (Schenectady)
- ◆ Tayler Nguyen — early childhood/childhood education and violin performance with a music education track (Penfield)
- ◆ Isabel Owen — English and history with a double minor in black studies and Latin American studies (Great Neck)
- ◆ Colleen Steward — biochemistry (Gowanda)

## 2018 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997 to recognize students who have best demonstrated, and have been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, campus involvement, or career achievement. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a student by the State University of New York.

SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson presented the awards to the following students in 2018:

- ◆ Jeffrey Doser, a double-major in biology and mathematics (Penfield)
- ◆ Justen Geddes, a mathematics major with a minor in anthropology (Dryden)
- ◆ Kaitlin Pfundstein, an English major with certification in adolescent education and a minor in psychology (Wantagh)



2018-19 Presidential Scholars with  
President Battles and Provost Robertson

Doser, Geddes, and Pfundstein were among 249 SUNY students from across the state to receive the award. They convened in the Albany Capital Center with their families April 10 for the presentation.



## 2018 Major Fellowships & Scholarships

The following Geneseo students have won major external fellowships and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study and for travel in many parts of the world:

### Barry Goldwater Scholarship

- ◆ Luke Holtzman

### Fulbright US Student Program

- ◆ Sarah Phillips (Colombia)
- ◆ Shauna Ricketts (Bulgaria)
- ◆ Amanda Langan (Argentina)
- ◆ Sarah Simon (Uruguay)
- ◆ Matthew McClure (South Korea)
- ◆ Leandra Griffith (Belgium)

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (Undergraduate)

- ◆ Julianne Sweeney

### Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program

- ◆ Savannah Williams

### IIE Generation Study Abroad

- ◆ Pema Sherpa (Nepal)

### Fund for Education Abroad Scholar

- ◆ Waderlie Mendez (Spain)

### Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

- ◆ Greiny Rodriguez (Ghana)
- ◆ Chika Gayton (Japan)
- ◆ Isabel Owen (Brazil)
- ◆ Thasfia Chowdhury (Brazil)
- ◆ Sara Stawitzky (Spain)



## Provost Issues New Academic Affairs Awards

Provost Stacey Robertson, in collaboration with her leadership team, has developed a new series of awards for faculty and staff in Academic Affairs.

Based on the college's values, the Academic Affairs Awards for Outstanding Commitment to Geneseo's Values will recognize one faculty or staff member for each of the five values—Creativity, Learning, Inclusivity, Civic Responsibility, and Sustainability.

Nominees for the awards will have helped move forward Geneseo's vision of demonstrating the enduring power of liberal arts education through teaching, advising, program development and implementation, student support, scholarship, and service to the campus community.

Awardees will be selected by a diverse group of faculty, professional staff, and classified staff in academic affairs. This year's awardees will make up the selection team for next

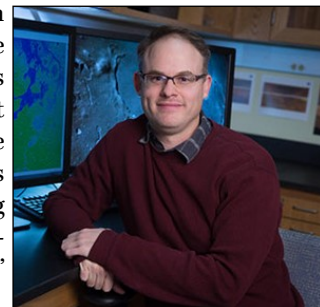
year's awards.

Awardees will receive a grant of \$1000 to use toward a project of their choosing that will further forward their work in the area for which they were recognized.

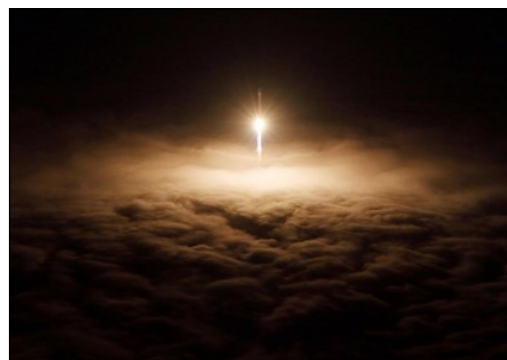
The awards will be presented at the first annual Academic Affairs Fall Festival, planned this year on October 15, 4:30-6:30, in the College Union Ballroom. Both nominees and awardees will be recognized at the event for their efforts and commitment to advancing the college's values.

## Geneseo Goes to Mars

Nick Warner, assistant professor of geological sciences, has been awarded a grant of \$293,523 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mars InSight Participating Scientist Program. InSight is a robotic lander that is expected to land on Mars on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The title of his 4-year project is "Geological Investigations at the InSight Landing Site." The InSight mission's full name is "Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport."



This award formalizes Dr. Warner's appointment as a NASA Participating Scientist, making him the geology theme leader of the InSight mission team with both operational and data analyses responsibilities. His team will investigate the formation and evolution of Mars. The grant will provide summer support for Dr. Warner and undergraduate research assistants, including Geneseo's Alyssa Demott '19 and Megan Kopp '18 (December), travel support for on-site research at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena for 58 days beginning with InSight's landing, travel for team meetings, and conference support for Dr. Warner and his students.



Nick was onsite at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Burbank, CA, when the Atlas V rocket launched the Mars InSight Lander May 5, 2018.