Welcome Bates
New Faculty
2019-2020
Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to welcome 27 new colleagues to the Bates faculty this year. These teacher-scholars bring exciting new perspectives to the Bates community. Their talent and creativity will offer opportunities to grow in dialogue, and will provide exciting energy as we think about how we can continue to make Bates the most distinctive undergraduate education in the nation.

After my first year navigating a Bates community that was new to me, I continue to be struck by the ways that this college creates dynamic, warm, and welcoming spaces for intellectuals who support our vision of the liberal arts in the world. Please join me in welcoming these scholars and teachers, and use this pamphlet as a prompt to reach out to meet the colleagues joining us in 2019.

Best wishes for an inspired academic year!

Malcolm Hill, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty
Andee Alford

Andee Alford, the assistant director of the Mathematics and Statistics Workshop, joins the faculty as a Lecturer in the Humanities. Andee earned an A.B. in mathematics from Princeton a master’s degree in math from S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook. After graduate school, she spent a year in Israel at the University of Tel Aviv teaching multivariable calculus for the University of New Haven. In 1993 she began teaching at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine, where she spent twenty-five years teaching AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics, and Introduction to Proof.

Abraham Asfaw

Abraham Asfaw joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics. Abraham was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Economics and Murphy Institute at Tulane University. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Northern Illinois University in 2017. He is an applied microeconomist with a special interest in topics at the intersection of health economics and labor economics. His most recent work focuses on the health behavior, health outcome, and healthcare spending effect of Medicare Part D and other drug policies. One of his current research projects examines the effect of patient cost-sharing on opioid drug use. He has published in four journals including Health Economics and World Development. At Bates, he teaches Principles of Microeconomics, Health Economics, and the Economics of Pharmaceutical Industry. Abraham was born and raised in Addis Ababa. He is also a father of two boys, Asher and Nehemiah.
Lori Banks joins Bates as an Assistant Professor of Biology. Lori hails from Seattle, Washington, but did her training in microbiology and biochemistry in Texas. She is interested in providing novel research experiences in the undergraduate classroom, and sharing her love of the “how” of science. Her science teaching idols include Ms. Frizzle of The Magic School Bus and Bill Nye.

Lori Banks
lbanks@bates.edu | 207 786-6108 | Carnegie Science Hall

Madeline Bedecarré joins Bates as a Lecturer in French and Francophone Studies. Madeline was the Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Francophone Studies at Bowdoin College in 2018-2019. A Bowdoin alumna, she earned a Ph.D. from the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris and an M.A. from Columbia. She is a specialist in Francophone African literature and the sociology of culture.

Madeline Bedecarré
mbedecar@bates.edu | 207 786-6281 | Roger Williams Hall
Carl C. Bettendorf joins Bates as a Lecturer in Music. Carl is a New York-based composer/conductor. He studied composition in his native Germany before receiving his doctorate from Columbia under Tristan Murail. As a conductor, Carl has worked with ensembles in New York and abroad and was director of the Manhattanville College Community Orchestra (Purchase, NY). He recently conducted opera productions at Bard College and the Opéra national de Montpellier (France). At Bates he will direct the College Orchestra and teach courses in composition and music theory.

Leila Ben-Nasr joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of English. Leila recently completed her Ph.D. in English at The Ohio State University. She currently is working on a book project based on her dissertation, The Narrative Space of Childhood in 21st Century Anglophone Arab Literature in the Diaspora. Her research interests include U.S. ethnic literature, postcolonial and diaspora literature, 20th/21st century American literature, Arab American studies, Asian American studies, and folklore studies.
Sam Boss, the assistant director of Community-Engaged Learning at the Harward Center for Community Partnerships, joins the faculty as a Lecturer in the Humanities. He received his Ph.D. in history from Brown in 2015, where he focused on medieval and early modern history. He is interested in the ways that communities across history have defined belonging and difference, and he continues to explore these themes through work through his work in community engagement in Lewiston-Auburn. Sam grew up in rural central Maine.

Gwendolyn Calhoun joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Neuroscience. Gwen’s research focuses on how neurons interact in small- and large-scale circuits to drive motivation and emotion. She is also particularly interested in how these circuits are influenced by hunger and feeding. At Bates, Gwen is looking forward to teaching courses in neuroscience, physiological psychology, psychopharmacology, and motivation and emotion.
Sara Chari joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Sara primarily studies number theory and algebra. In particular, her focus has been on algebraic objects called quaternion orders, and their various properties such as factorization and integrality. She received her Ph.D. in mathematics at Dartmouth where she also taught courses in calculus and linear algebra. In her free time, Sara enjoys running, biking, hiking, and singing.

Brian Cwiek joins Bates as a Lecturer in History. Brian is completing his doctoral studies at Indiana University Bloomington in the departments of History and Central Eurasian Studies. Brian’s research and teaching interests revolve around the intersections of ethnicity, agriculture, and the state on the frontier between China and Central Asia, especially in the region now commonly known as East Turkestan or Xinjiang. He is deeply committed to improving the efficacy of teaching and learning in interdisciplinary area studies programs, and currently coordinates the Area Studies Advancement Project for the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center.
Ian Khara Ellasante joins Bates as an Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Ian is a cultural studies theorist whose recent study engages the peoplehood matrix—a core theoretical construct developed by Indigenous scholars—to examine the persistence of Indigenous and Black cultural identities within the milieu of settler colonialism. As a community-based participatory researcher, Ian has worked alongside and on behalf of LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit youth communities to increase access to stable housing and affirming learning environments. At Bates, Ian looks forward to collaborating with the Harward Center for Community Partnerships and teaching new courses on queer Indigenous studies, transgender narratives and histories, and gender in Indigenous literatures.

Jeanne Essame joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History. She is an international scholar whose research and teaching focus on the Caribbean and the African diaspora in 20th century North America. Her current project explores the migration of Haitian middle-class exiles to Africa, Canada, and the U.S. during the Duvalier dictatorship. Jeanne completed her M.A. in Afro-American studies and her Ph.D. in history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Elena Gambino joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics. Her current work examines the lives and writings of lesbian feminists during the 1980s, and argues that they forged a coalitional and deeply intersectional political sensibility that is seldom appreciated today. More broadly, she teaches in the areas of contemporary political theory and the history of political thought, focusing in particular on how everyday political actors deploy these traditions to build coalitions, how they seek to contest and repair the inequalities that underpin modern political communities, and how they imagine radical futures premised on racial and sexual accountability. Her work has been published in Political Theory.

Grace Gillies joins Bates as a Lecturer in Classical and Medieval Studies. Grace is arriving from Tucson, Arizona, after a year of leading students on a study-abroad program based in Orvieto, Italy, and teaching at the University of Arizona. Their research focuses on the landscape, culture, and literature of the Roman city. In addition, they have worked on ancient concepts of gender and sexuality.
Alyssa Grahame joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics. Alyssa’s research and teaching interests include the political economy of finance and the politics of crisis and emergency. Her geographical focus is on Western and Northern Europe. She currently is working on a book project about the political power of global finance following the 2008 financial crisis, which is based on field research conducted in Iceland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

Regina Kazyulina joins Bates as a Lecturer in History. Her research focuses on the gendered lived experiences of women during the German occupation of Soviet Ukraine in World War II. Kazyulina received her Ph.D. in world history with concentrations in modern Russian and Eastern European history from Northeastern in 2018. Previously, she held a fellowship at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her research has been supported by grants from the American Councils for International Education and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.
Sam Krerowicz joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Sam received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry in 2018 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, developing methodologies for using large DNA molecules as building material for microscale objects. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and biology in 2012 from Northland College. In addition to his love of learning, doing, and teaching chemistry, Sam enjoys being in nature and is an avid birder, having seen 472 species of bird in his life and led multiple bird walks for the Audubon Society. Much of his time after graduating was spent on a father-son road trip to the best birding sites in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, where he and his father had a great time, seeing 216 species of birds. Sam looks forward to returning to a small, liberal arts college environment and getting to know his students and colleagues in the intimate and welcoming community such an environment provides.
Martin Lichtman joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics. Martin uses the tools of atomic physics in researching quantum computing. His Ph.D. (U. Wisconsin-Madison) focused on the creation of a neutral cesium atom qubit array with Rydberg blockade interactions, and his postdoc at the Joint Quantum Institute (NIST/U. Maryland) focused on quantum networking with trapped barium and ytterbium ions. He has a deep interest in the fundamentals of quantum mechanics, and in the role of information in our physical world. In addition to cooling atoms with lasers, Martin also enjoys cold weather and is a competitive short track speed skater.

Chao Ling joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Studies. Chao’s primarily researches on classical Chinese poetry and art history, with a special focus on the medieval period. He is also interested in literary theory and philosophical investigations of the relationship between text and image. In his spare time, he enjoys practicing traditional Chinese calligraphy, landscape painting, and seal engraving.
Calvin Mako joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Geology. Calvin is a geologist who studies the processes of metamorphism and deformation occurring deep within the Earth during continental collisions. He currently studies the geology of northern Scotland and midcoast Maine, and looks forward to exploring these areas with students at Bates. Calvin obtained a B.S. in earth science from the University of Maine in 2012 and completed graduate studies in geology at the University of Massachusetts (M.S., 2014) and Virginia Tech (Ph.D., 2019).

Allison Moloney joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology. Allison did her doctoral and postdoctoral work at The Johns Hopkins University and Dana Farber Cancer Institute, studying novel therapies for leukemia and lung cancer. She has taught at Colby for the last four years. Outside of science, she enjoys cooking, hiking, and relaxing with her husband and their dog, Monty.
Joëlle Morris joins Bates as a Lecturer in Music. Originally from Evian, France, mezzo-soprano Joëlle is admired for her versatility, from the concert stage to the operatic arena, in intimate jazz settings and French cabaret or simply sharing her gifts as a conductor, voice teacher, and coach. Joëlle will teach applied voice, Introduction to Music, musicianship labs, and she’ll direct the College Choir.

Tom Sapsford joins Bates as a Lecturer in Classical and Medieval Studies. Tom received his Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Southern California and is an early-career associate at the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama at the University of Oxford. His academic interests are ancient Greek and Roman performance cultures, contemporary dance and the classical world, and the history of sexuality. Prior to entering academia, he was a professional dancer and choreographer, working with institutions such as the Royal Ballet, the Royal Opera House, and the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.
Cassandra Shepard joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Africana. Cassandra holds a B.S. from Xavier, an M.A. in social sciences from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in African American studies from Northwestern. She has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Through archival and oral history research, Cassandra analyzes and theorizes on the intersecting relationships among race, ethnicity, gender, class, and place as they pertain to the histories, lives, and futures of African-descended people in the U.S. and beyond.

Michael Sommer joins Bates as a Lecturer in Chemistry and Biochemistry. Michael is native of New York City and a graduate of Queens College. He did his graduate work at Harvard in theoretical physical chemistry in Martin Karplus’ research group. Before coming to Bates, Michael was at the University of Wyoming in Laramie from 2001-2018, and at Bowdoin College from 2018-2019.
Asha Tamirisa joins Bates as an Assistant Professor of Music. Asha is a time-based media artist working with sound and moving image in performance and installation. Asha’s work has been presented at venues such as the ICA Boston, Bitforms Gallery (NYC), Perte de Signal (Montreal), and referenced in the Oxford Handbook of New Audiovisual Aesthetics, the 5th Edition of Electronic and Experimental Music: Technology, Music, and Culture, and the forthcoming edition of Handmade Electronic Music: The Art of Hardware Hacking. Asha holds a B.A. in musical studies from Oberlin, and recently completed a Ph.D. in computer music and multimedia and an M.A. in modern culture and media at Brown.

Beth Woodward joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Visual Culture. A specialist in medieval and renaissance art history. Beth received her Ph.D. art history at the University of Chicago in 2018 and previously taught at Lake Forest College. Her research focuses on the material culture of love and romance in the Middle Ages, particularly Old French illuminated manuscripts and portable luxury objects. She will offer courses in premodern art history, including courses in medieval art, the arts of Islam, Renaissance art, the art of the “global” Middle Ages, and depictions of Hell and damnation in medieval art.
SCHEDULE OF FACULTY MEETINGS
ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

Faculty Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of each month at 4:15 p.m. in Memorial Commons

September 9: (reception for faculty to follow)
October 7
November 4
December 2 (Phillips Dinner & Presentation by Krista Aronson, Psychology to follow)
January 13 (Phillips Dinner & Presentation by Mara Tieken, Education to follow)
February 3
March 2
April 6 (Phillips Dinner & Presentation by Sylvia Federico, English to follow)
May 4 (12:00pm – 1:00pm meeting with reception for faculty retirees to follow at 4:15pm)