new faculty 2016-2017
Fitchburg State University is pleased to welcome sixteen new faculty this fall. We congratulate them on their appointment and are delighted to have them join the Fitchburg family. Like these faculty, I am also new to Fitchburg State, but in my short time here I have come to realize that we are joining a group of faculty and staff that are inspiring students to make a difference through high-quality academic programs. It is clear that when a student becomes part of Fitchburg State University, he or she becomes part of a community of learners fueled by cooperation and commitment where faculty create a stimulating learning environment. These faculty join a group of educators driven by inquisitiveness, passion, and knowledge and that serve as the anchor of this thriving community. We are confident that these faculty will find a home here at Fitchburg and look forward to working together to further advance the mission of the institution.

Sincerely,

**Alberto J.F. Cardelle**, Ph.D., MPH

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Dr. Özge Özay joins the Department of Economics, History, and Political Science as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Utah. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State, Dr. Özay was a Visiting Assistant Professor at American University and Dickinson College. She served as an Assistant Professor at Istanbul Aydin University. Her research focuses on International Economics, Feminist Economics, and Development Economics with her most recent work published in *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*. Dr. Özay organized the Gender Seminar Series at American University focusing on Gender Analysis in Economics.

Mr. Britton R. Snyder joins the Department of Communications Media, Game Design, as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. He earned his MFA at Lesley University, College of Art and Design, in the area of Fine Arts. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State, Professor Snyder was a Professor of Practice at Worcester Polytechnical Institute. He has worked as an artist in the field of video game development for the past 15 years, contributing to a number of titles with concept art, illustrations, 3D models, storyboards and cinematics. Britt has credits for titles released by SONY, Atari, Blizzard Entertainment, Disney/Pixar, Harmonix and many others. In addition to his work in video game development, Britton’s paintings have been featured in *Spectrum Illustration Annual*, *ImagineFX* magazine, *High Fructose* and *American Art Collector*. Britt is represented as a painter through Meyer Gallery in Park City, UT.
Dr. Sarah L. Stein joins the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Criminal Justice, as a one-year Assistant Professor. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State, Dr. Stein was an Assistant Professor at Western New England University and Clayton State University. Her areas of specialization include criminal investigation, behavioral analysis, cold case investigation, missing person investigations, and interviews and interrogation, as well as crime scene investigation and forensic science. She consults regularly with families and law enforcement on cold case and missing person investigations. She is a consultant for the MetroLEC Child Abduction Response Team for New England and a court-appointed Special Advocate for Hampden County.

Dr. Diego I. Ubiera joins the Department of English Studies as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, San Diego, in Latin American Literature. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State, Dr. Ubiera was an Assistant Professor at Fort Lewis College. His research focuses on literature of the Caribbean as well as race, slavery, and nationhood in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. His most recent work is under review by Latin American Research Review and he is a frequent contributor to the Caribbean Studies Association. He was the recipient of the Summer Library Research Fellowship, Dominican Studies Institute, CUNY.
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Ruth M. Joseph, Ed.D.
EDUCATION

Dr. Ruth M. Joseph joins the Department of Education as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the area of reading/language arts and as the Chair of the Special Education Graduate Reading Specialist Program. She earned her doctorate in language arts and literacy at UMASS/Lowell and has currently been serving as a one-year temporary faculty at Fitchburg State University. Dr. Joseph is no stranger to FSU, having served as the Interim Associate Dean and the principal of the McKay school from 2009 to 2011, and as an Assistant Professor in Education, in fixed terms, three times throughout her career. Dr. Joseph also served as the Chair of Education and as an Associate Professor at Lasell College in Newton, MA from 2000 to 2004. Along with her university experience, Dr. Joseph brings a wealth of experience to our programs from her experiences as a K-8 principal and Director of Curriculum at several Massachusetts public schools.

Betty C. Mulrey, M.Ed.
EDUCATION

Ms. Betty C. Mulrey joins the Department of Education in a one-year position in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Mulrey is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at New England College, in K-12 leadership, and serves as Director of the Holy Cross Early Childhood Center in Manchester, NH. She earned her M.Ed. in Education at Rivier College and is currently an Instructor at Granite State College and Merrimack College, where she teaches courses for their education departments. Ms. Mulrey served as the Early Childhood Coordinator for Mason Elementary School, Mason NH, from 2011 to 2013 and as their teaching principal from 2009 to 2011. She has published two articles through the National Council of Social Studies and has presented workshops to school districts in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts on various educational topics.
Dr. Jessica C. Alsup joins the Department of Exercise and Sports Science as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. She earned her Ph.D. and M.S. at Springfield College in exercise physiology. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State she was an Assistant Professor at Fairmont State University in Fairmont WV. Her interest in applied exercise physiology began as an undergraduate at Plymouth State University. Her most recent scholarly activity studies the relationship between music and physiological responses in preschoolers and cyclists.

Dr. Dennis Awasabisah joins the Department of Biology and Chemistry as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in the area of synthesis and redox behavior of group 8 metalloporphyrins and related compounds. Prior to coming to Fitchburg, he was a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer at the University of Oklahoma, as well as a teaching assistant at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. While at Oklahoma he was accorded numerous competitive awards based on his scholarship and research. He continues to be active in research and has numerous first-author publications.
Mr. Akwasi A. Duah joins the Department of Nursing as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. He first joined the Fitchburg adjunct faculty in 2014 as a psychiatric nursing clinical instructor. He is currently enrolled as a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Nursing at UMASS Medical School and will complete his Ph.D. in December 2016. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Quinnipiac University in 2008. Prior to coming to Fitchburg, he worked as a Registered Nurse with specialties in Adult Substance Abuse/Psychiatric medicine.

Dr. Lena F. Ficco joins the Department of Psychological Science as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. She earned her Ph.D. at UMASS/Amherst in the area of developmental psychology. Prior to coming to Fitchburg she held the role of lecturer at Greenfield Community College and UMASS/Amherst. Her research interests pertain to the cognitive neurodevelopment of learning and memory. Her most recent publication *Ethinyl Estradiol and Levonorgestrel Use Should Impair, But May Enhance, Spatial Learning* is currently under review.
Dr. Benjamin A. Levy joins the Department of Mathematics as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in mathematical ecology. His mathematical interests reflect a strong interdisciplinary approach as his thesis research entailed the modeling of feral hogs in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. While in graduate school, he participated in the National Institute for Mathematical & Biological Synthesis where he initiated and mentored undergraduate research projects. He also received the Dorothea & Edgar D. Eaves Teaching Award while a graduate student.

Ms. Tara M. Mariolis joins the Department of Nursing as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Tara began her career as an adjunct instructor in the Nursing program in 1992 and was promoted to an eleven-credit clinical faculty member in 2011. She is currently enrolled in a Nursing Ph.D. program at UMASS/Amherst. As a practicing nurse she has specialized in individual, adolescent, and family psychotherapy. Ms. Mariolis has been the recipient of numerous awards, scholarships, and grants over the span of her career including the National Board of Directors Graduate Student Scholar Award from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.
Dr. David M. Pober joins the Department of Exercise and Sports Science as a full-time temporary Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. from UMASS/Amherst in kinesiology. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State, he was an Assistant Professor at Lyndon State College and more recently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Harvard Medical School. He has held positions as a faculty fellow at the Joslin Diabetes Center and as a biostatistician at the Center for Clinical and Translation Science at Harvard University. He currently acts as principal biostatistician or co-investigator on three NIH grants, each of which focuses on various aspects of diabetes.

Dr. Sarah E. Wright joins the Department of Mathematics as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. She earned her Ph.D. at Dartmouth College in the area of analysis, functional analysis, and operator algebras. Prior to coming to Fitchburg State, Dr. Wright was an Assistant Professor at Adelphi University and a visiting Assistant Professor at the College of the Holy Cross. Among her many awards are two graduate teaching awards earned during her time at Dartmouth. She is an active member of the mathematics community with participation in numerous workshops, presentations, and service activities. Her most recent publication *Linear Algebra and the Experiences of a “Flipper”* appeared in *PRIMUS*. 
Ms. Renée R. Fratantonio joins the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library as a tenure-track Assistant Librarian. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Worcester State University and her MLIS from the University of Rhode Island. She has served as a reference and instruction librarian at Quinsigamond Community College and an access services supervisor at Assumption College. Her research interests lie in information literacy for distance learners and open educational resources (OER). At Fitchburg State she will be a member of the instruction and reference teams.

Ms. Sherry M. Packard joins the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library as a tenure-track Assistant Librarian. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, with an emphasis in creative writing, from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and an MLIS from Drexel University. She has worked as a part-time professional librarian and staff member in the library at Fitchburg State University and a reference and instruction librarian at Becker College and Keene State College. At Fitchburg State, she will serve as the coordinator of research and reference services.