

## 2018 New FT Faculty Introductions

### Introduced by Dr. Vincent van Joolen – Dean of Instruction – STEM:

#### Eric Lake

- Our new Math Learning Center Coordinator
- Hails from Bozeman Montana
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Physics from Montana State in 2012
- Followed up with a Masters in Mathematics, 2014.
- Has served as a Math Learning Center Supervisor at Montana State since 2014.
- As MLC Coordinator at MPC, Eric will promote the success for potentially hundreds of students as they seek to complete transfer level math courses including Statistics, Pre-Calculus, and Finite Mathematics.

#### Dr. Jessica Thomas

- Comes to us from Valparaiso, Indiana where she served as Assoc. Prof of Chemistry at Perdue University Northwest.
- Earned a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the Univ. of Pittsburgh and a BS Ed in Chemistry and General Science Education, Summa Cum Laude
- This semester Jessica will teach CHEM 30A or Chemistry for Health Sciences.
- With Jessica onboard, we are able to add a 5<sup>th</sup> section eliminating waiting lists for the course.
- The high demand for this course, indicates strong interests in MPC's Health Science programs.

#### Dr. Anna Garcia-Garcia or AG-Squared

- Comes to us all the way from Spain, but has worked in the Monterey Bay Area as a researcher and college/university instructor since 2002.
- She has a Ph.D and MS in Marine Geosciences from the Univ. of Vigo, Spain, as well as a BS in Marine Geology from the same.
- Since 2012 she has served as a part-time instructor at MPC teaching in the Earth Sciences, Biology, and Chemistry Departments.
- In biology, we might metaphorically call this type of multi-functionality “ambidextrous”. In baseball, Anna would be our “switch-hitter”, or in theater she is our “swing”.
- Anna will continue in this roll this semester as she teaches: Environmental Science, Fundamental Chemistry, and Earth Catastrophes and Disasters.
- Anna has a following and her classes are popular and always full. If I might suggest another line from baseball: “If Anna builds it, they will come”

**Elisabeth Thomas is MPC's new Access Services and Outreach Librarian.**

### Introduced by Dr. Jon Knolle – Dean of Instruction – Library, Learning Resources, & Online Ed

#### Elisabeth Thomas

- Elisabeth received her **Master of Library and Information Science** degree from **San Jose State** University. She has prior experience working as a **reference and instruction Librarian at Ohlone College** and spent the past 10 years as the **Outreach Librarian at San Jose State**.

- Elisabeth says that she **wanted to get back to the Community College environment** where she can have more direct contact and make a bigger impact with students and that Monterey has always been one of her favorite places.

**Introduced by Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson – Dean of Instruction – Liberal Arts:**

**Jeannie Kim-McPherson**

- We celebrate the home-coming of Prof. Kim-McPherson and welcome her back to the MPC English program. Ms. Kim-McPherson earned her B.A. in English from Mills College and an M.F.A in Writing and Literature from Bennington College in Vermont.
- Previously she worked as an instructional specialist and an adjunct instructor in English at MPC. From 2004 through 2008 she served as the Director of MPC’s English and Study Skills Center.
- During that time, she was awarded the MPC Difference Maker of the Year. She has also worked as an English instructor at Napa Valley College and as Events Manager for the annual Napa Valley Writers’ Conference. Most recently, Ms. Kim-McPherson served as the Director of Student Academic Support at Hartnell College.

**Dr. Christina Nicolaides**

- Dr. Christina Nicolaides is joining the Psychology faculty at MPC as a newly-minted Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California, Riverside. Congratulations!
- In her doctoral research, she studied the impact of emotions on children’s helping and sharing behaviors.
- As a graduate instructor she assisted with a wide range of college psychology courses. Dr. Nicolaides likes to incorporate active-learning activities in the classroom:
  - For example, she shared that students learn about sensory superpowers through activities such as crawling in the grass to sniff like a dog--all while wearing a blindfold, earmuffs, and hand mitts.
- Dr. Nicolaides has mentored and helped secure scholarships for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, many who were first generation. She looks forward to getting involved in the community and helping with programs that serve at-risk children.

**Dr. Alan Durst**

- Dr. Alan Durst, our new instructor in Music, has enjoyed a rich career that explores many facets of the music industry.
- As a saxophonist, he has performed professionally throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe in noteworthy venues such as the John F. Kennedy Center and Walt Disney Concert Hall. He has performed with orchestras including the New West Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, the Benny Goodman Orchestra, Johnny Mathis and our own Monterey Symphony,.
- He holds a doctoral degree in music from UCLA, and music degrees from the University of Miami, and Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music in Cleveland.
- In his recent position at California State University, Fresno, Dr. Durst was responsible for directing the award-winning Jazz Band “A” and coordinating the instrumental jazz performance degree.
- At CSUF, he recruited successfully, infused courses with an innovative use of music technology, and increased online course offerings in music.
- On the side, Dr. Durst enjoys long distance running and he has completed five (Count ‘em!) marathons. We have a marathon for you .... Next spring in Big Sur!

## **Introduced by Dr. Vincent van Joolen – Dean of Instruction – STEM:**

### **Diane Lee**

- Diane Lee joins MPC this fall as a fulltime, tenure track faculty teaching in the Early Childhood Education program.
- Diane is originally from the East Coast, where her parents emigrated to from South Korea. She and her brother were the first in her family to get a college degree in the U.S.
- After spending a year in South Korea teaching at a public school, Diane moved to California to complete her doctoral studies in child development at Stanford University.
- Before coming to MPC, she worked 4 years as child development faculty at CSU, Sacramento where she grew her passion for teaching and for working with community college students.

### **Vanessa Lord**

- Vanessa Lord joins MPC this fall as a full-time, tenure-track faculty teaching in the Nutrition program.
- She is the programs first full-time faculty.
- Vanessa was born and raised in Southern California, but she has spent extensive time traveling and volunteering in East Asia learning about the way other cultures live, eat, and cook.
- Through a combination of home stay experiences and volunteer work she has traveled to 22 different countries (and counting,) and has been shaped personally and professionally by her experiences.
- Vanessa is a Registered Dietitian and earned her Master's Degree in Nutritional Science from Cal State Long Beach and her Bachelors from UC Berkeley.
- She has been an adjunct at MPC since last spring and comes to us from the private sector.
- Her areas of expertise and experience include work in clinical nutrition, kidney disease, and eating disorders.
- Vanessa is looking forward to bringing these experiences to the community college setting to help grow and develop the Nutrition program. Vanessa is looking forward to providing Nutrition students a rich learning environment by bringing these experiences to the community college setting.

### **John Olsen**

- John Olsen joins MPC this fall as a full-time, tenure track Computer Science and Information Systems faculty teaching in the Networking and Cybersecurity program.
- John is an MPC graduate having earned an AS in Computer Networking. In addition, he has a BS in IT Security and a Master's of Science in Information Security and Assurance from Western Governor's University.
- Prior to coming to MPC John worked locally in the security industry for a decade. John moved to the Peninsula from New York when he was 13.
- He attended Pacific Grove schools. Now John teaches a dual enrollment course at Pacific Grove High School. He has a 14 year old son who attends Marina High School and is the world's biggest Super Mario fan. In his spare time, John enjoys swimming in the ocean.