NEW FACULTY
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Fall 2008-2009

Bryn Benford
Visiting Instructor in Geology (Term 1)

Education: Ph.D. candidate, University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Teaching Experience: Teaching and Research Assistant, University of Wisconsin (Madison).

Peter Brandon
Broom Professor of Social Demography (Tenure Track)

Education: Ph.D., The University of Chicago
Teaching Experience: Professor of Demography and Sociology and Australian Professorial Fellow, The Australian National University, Canberra; Professor of Research in Population Studies (Adjunct), Brown University, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts.

Héctor Calderón
Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics (Year)

Education: Ph.D., Montana State University (Bozeman)
Teaching Experience: Postdoctoral Research Scholar and Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant, Montana State University (Bozeman).

Anita Chikkatur
Scholar-in-Residence Fellow (Year)

Teaching Experience: Instructor and Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania; Assistant Language Teacher in JET Program, Japan.
Liz Coville
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Term 1)

Education: Ph.D., The University of Chicago
Teaching Experience: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hamline University; Visiting Assistant Professor, Reed College; Instructor, Deep Springs College; Assistant Professor and Instructor, Carleton College.

Peter Gittins
Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry (Year)

Education: Ph.D., University of Sheffield, UK
Teaching Experience: Assistant Professor, St Mary’s University (Winona); Adjunct Faculty, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis); Instructor and Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Sheffield, UK.

Bruce Gleason
Visiting Associate Professor of Music (Year)

Education: Ph.D., The University of Iowa
Teaching Experience: Assistant Professor of Graduate Music Education, University of St. Thomas; Assistant Professor of Music Education and Music History, Gordon College, Wenham, MA; Graduate Teaching Assistant, The University of Iowa; Instructor, Mount Mercy College and Cornell College.

Rob Hardy
Visiting Assistant Professor of Classical Languages (Terms 1, 2)

Education: Ph.D., Brown University
Teaching Experience: Writing and History Teacher, Planet Homeschool, Edina, MN; Latin teacher, Valley View Middle School, Edina, MN; Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, Gustavus Adolphus and Carleton Colleges; Teaching Assistant, Brown University.
Nidanie Henderson
Assistant Professor of Biology (Tenure Track)

Education: Ph.D., The Rockefeller University
Teaching Experience: Lecturer, University of California (Berkeley); Teacher’s Assistant, Ventura College.

Max Holmes
Chesley Distinguished Visiting Associate Professor of Biology (Year)

Education: Ph.D., Arizona State University
Professional Experience: Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center; Staff Scientist, Ecosystem Center, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.
Current Professional Activities: Chair, NSF SEARCH Education and Public Outreach Working Group (Study of Environmental Arctic Change); Member, NSF SEARCH Science Steering Committee.

Beth Kissileff
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion (Year)

Education: Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Teaching Experience: Lecturer, University of Minnesota and Smith College; Visiting Adjunct Lecturer, University of Hartford; Visiting Assistant Professor, Mount Holyoke College; Assistant Professor, Shaw University; Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania.

Doug McGill
Visiting Instructor in English (Term 1)

Education: B.A., Reed College
Professional Experience: Adjunct Professor of Journalism, University of St. Thomas; Adjunct Professor of Media and Public Affairs, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Editor and Freelance Writer, The McGill Report; London and Hong Kong Bureau Chief, Bloomberg News; Reporter, The New York Times (New York).
Catherine Michaud
Visiting Associate Professor of Religion (Term 1)

Education: Ph.D., Toronto School of Theology, University of St. Michael’s College; Sacred Licentiate in Theology, Toronto School of Theology, Regis College.
Teaching Experience: Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Arts Program in Theology, College of St. Catherine.

Ruth Millikan
Cowling Visiting Professor of Philosophy (Term 1)

Education: Ph.D., Yale University
Teaching Experience: Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, and The Alumni Association’s Distinguished Professor, University of Connecticut; Research Professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden.

Raka Mitra
Assistant Professor of Biology (Tenure Track)

Education: Ph.D., Stanford University
Teaching Experience: Instructor, University of Minnesota; Teaching Assistant, Stanford University.

Cathy Tower Oehmke
Visiting Instructor in Educational Studies (Terms 2, 3)

Education: Ph.D., Michigan State University
Teaching Experience: Teacher, Prairie Creek Community School (MN); Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Toledo; Instructor, Michigan State University.

Tim Sipka
Visiting Associate Professor of Mathematics (Term 1)

Education: M.S., Central Michigan University and Cornell University
Teaching Experience: Associate Professor, Alma College. Visiting Instructor, Duke University; Visiting Assistant/Associate Professor, Cornell University; Associate Professor, Anderson University; Graduate Teaching Assistant, Western Michigan University.
Aaron Swoboda  
Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Economics (Two Years)

**Education:** Ph.D., University of California (Berkeley)  
**Teaching Experience:** Instructor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh; Graduate Student Instructor, University of California (Berkeley).  

David Tompkins  
Assistant Professor of History (Tenure Track)

**Education:** Ph.D., Columbia University  
**Teaching Experience:** Assistant Professor, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Visiting Assistant Professor, The College of Wooster; Adjunct Lecturer, Rutgers University and Brooklyn College; Adjunct Preceptor, New York University; Lecturer, Lexia International (Berlin and Krakow); Teaching Assistant, Columbia University.  
**Current book project:** Composing the Party Line: Music and Politics in Poland and East Germany during the Early Cold War.

Eric Tretbar  
Visiting Instructor in Cinema and Media Studies (Term 1)

**Education:** B.A., Carleton College; New York University Graduate Film School  
**Teaching Experience:** Edgerton School Film Project (MN); New York Film Academy (CA); UC Video, University of Minnesota.  
**Recent Work:** Wrote and directed five feature films which won the Berlin Film Fest Audience Award, an Independent Spirit Award nomination, and a Sundance Channel Debut. Tretbar's latest work replaces the Spanish Inquisition with The Bush Administration in "INQ409", an adaptation of Dostoyevsky's "THE GRAND INQUISITOR" (videos: www.youtube.com/historysactors info/essays: www.myspace.com/inq409).

Shawn VanCour  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Cinema and Media Studies (Two Years)

**Education:** Ph.D., University of Wisconsin (Madison)  
**Teaching Experience:** Senior Teaching Assistant and Lecturer, University of Wisconsin (Madison).  
Carlos Vargas-Salgado  
**Visiting Lecturer in Spanish (Year)**  

**Education:** Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota  
**Teaching Experience:** Primary Instructor, University of Minnesota; Assistant Professor, Catholic University San Pablo, Peru.  
**Recent Publication:** "Quieres una moraleja? Political Violence in two Peruvian Dramas" will be published in 2008 in *Sasachakuy, Political Violence and Culture in Peru 1980-2000*, edited by Mark Cox (Presbyterian College) and San Marcos Editorial, USA-Peru.

Ted Vessey  
**Visiting Professor of Mathematics (Term 1)**  

**Education:** Ph.D., University of Minnesota  
**Teaching Experience:** Professor, St. Olaf College  