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NEWS & UPDATES: WEEKLY COLLEGE EMAIL

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JULY 25, 2018

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

NEWS & UPDATES

2018 Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professors

The Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship honors full professor colleagues who have excelled in teaching, service and research/creative activity, and whose work has demonstrated significant impact on their fields, students, college and university, and/or the public. This honorific title is reserved for our most distinguished faculty; no more than ten percent of the total number of full professors in the College of Arts and Sciences may hold this title at any one time.

This year, five professors were appointed from a slate of impressive nominees:

- **John Bruno**, psychology
- **Claudia Buchmann**, sociology
- **Frank Coulson**, classics

- **Jane Hathaway**, history
- **Thaliyil RajanBabu**, chemistry and biochemistry

NEWS & RESEARCH

Getting to know the microbes that drive climate change



A new understanding of the microbes and viruses in the thawing permafrost in Sweden may help scientists better predict the pace of climate change. Microbes have significant influence over global warming, primarily through the production of – or consumption of – methane, and new details about these microscopic beings' genetics is now available, thanks to a trio of studies from a project co-led by researchers at The Ohio State University. "Because of global climate change, huge amounts of permafrost are rapidly warming. To microbes, they're like freezers full of juicy chicken dinners that are thawing out," said **Virginia Rich**, assistant professor of microbiology and study author. The research appears in *Nature*, *Nature Microbiology* and *ISME Journal*.

Lisa Downing named chair of philosophy



Lisa Downing, professor in the Department of Philosophy, has been named chair of the department, effective July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2022. Downing joined Ohio State's faculty in 2006. She has an MA and a PhD in philosophy, both from Princeton University. She was also a fellow of the Dibner Institute for the History of Science.

Simone Drake named chair of African American and African Studies



Simone Drake, Hazel C. Youngberg Trustees Distinguished Professor, has been named chair of the Department of African American and African Studies (AAAS), effective June 1, 2018, to June 30, 2022. Drake is the principal investigator for the Discovery Theme pilot project Transnational Black Citizenship and a team member on a second Discovery Theme project, Human Rights in Transit.

RajanBabu and Pagar Published in *Science*

T.V. (Babu) RajanBabu, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor, and postdoctoral fellow **Vinayak Pagar**, both of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, recently published an article in *Science* describing the uses of ethylene, one of the largest volume industrial chemicals for the synthesis of value-added materials like drugs, agrochemicals and polymers.

Departments of Theatre and Dance Welcome Dr. Nadine George-Graves



The Departments of Theatre and Dance are pleased to announce that **Nadine George-Graves** (B.A., Yale; PhD, Northwestern) is joining Ohio State this August. She will hold a joint appointment in the two departments. George-Graves' work is situated at the intersections of African American studies, critical gender studies, performance studies, theatre history and dance history.

Theatre alum to perform in new Broadway musical



Bonnie Milligan, a 2006 graduate of the Department of Theatre, is set to make her Broadway debut as Pamela in "Head Over Heels." The show, which sets the action of a poem from the 1580s to the music of The Go-Go's, opens this week at Hudson Theatre.

AWARDS

English professor wins 2018 Eisner Award at Comic-Con

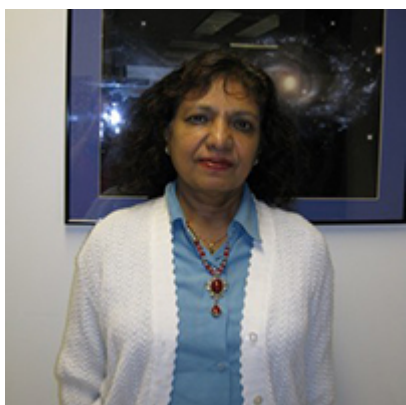


The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards, presented annually at the San Diego Comic-Con International convention, are often referred to as the “Oscars of the comics industry.” This year, Distinguished Professor of Arts and Humanities and director of the Latinx Space for Enrichment and Research (LASER) **Frederick Luis Aldama** received the Eisner Award for Best Academic/Scholarly Work for his book “Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics” (University of Arizona Press, 2017). English Professor **Jared Gardner** received a nomination in the same category for his book “The Comics of Charles Schulz: The Good Grief of Modern Life” (University Press of Mississippi, 2017).

Political science paper receives 2018 Editors’ Choice Award by Political Analysis

Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost **Janet Box-Steffensmeier**, visiting scholar of political science **Jason Morgan** and political science alumnus **Dino Christenson** received the 2018 Editors’ Choice Award by *Political Analysis* for their article, “Modeling Unobserved Heterogeneity in Social Networks with the Frailty Exponential Random Graph Model.” Research for the project was supported by seed funding from Ohio State’s Institute for Population Research.

Nahar recognized by Cairo University



Sultana Nahar, research professor and APS Fellow in the Department of Astronomy, has been appointed as an Adjoint Professor of Physics at Cairo University. The appointment is an honorary position of the University given to well-known foreign scientists or professors of Egyptian origin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Theatre announces 2018-2019 productions

The Department of Theatre recently announced nine productions for the 2018-2019 season. The full schedule is available on the department's website.

IN THE NEWS

Laura Justice, adjunct professor, speech & hearing, "Paying parents to read to their children boosts literacy skills," *Ohio State News*, July 23

Paul Beck, faculty emeritus, political science, "Group in Ohio raises \$1 million to help elect more women," *ABC 6*, July 23

Amy Brunell, assistant professor, psychology, "10 myths about narcissism," *U.S. News and World Report*, July 23

Teresa Lynch, assistant professor, communication, "The newest toy-video game sensation is a parent's worst nightmare: How Five Nights at Freddy's became a hit," *The Globe and Mail*, July 23

Steve Rissing, professor, EEOB, "Coral becoming more vulnerable," *The Columbus Dispatch*, July 22

Vladimir Kogan, associate professor, political science, "Libertarian ballot access could affect Ohio governor race,"

EVENTS

July 26

Earth Sciences Undergraduate
Research Poster Forum
291 Mendenhall Laboratory

Watchdog.org, July 19

Marymegan Daly, professor, EEOB, Earth sciences, “Without batting an eye,” *The Current*, July 19

Thomas Wood, assistant professor, political science, “What do we know about false news?” *Harvard Business Review*, July 19

Virginia Rich, assistant professor, microbiology, “Melting permafrost has revealed thousands of hidden microbial populations,” *IFLScience*, July 18

If you have information or announcements for *News & Updates*, please submit online, or call 614-292-8686. *News & Updates* is published every Wednesday; deadline for content is Monday at noon. [Publication Guidelines](#).



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