TO THE LOYOLA MARYMOUNT COMMUNITY:

This summer I learned what makes LMU special—each of you!

Since my first day on the bluff, I have been warmly welcomed by the LMU community. Your kindness, devoted work ethic, and commitment to our mission inspire me. In this spirit, please join me and extend the same vigor in welcoming our new 2017-2018 faculty colleagues. Our 20 new tenure-line faculty and 36 visiting and clinical faculty bring a breadth of expertise and life experience further extending the intellectualism and creativity of our highly-esteemed and world-class faculty community.

Reflecting back to your first year as faculty and staff members, you may recall the excitement of meeting new people, the thrill of navigating a new campus and culture, and the optimism for accomplishing the goals you set for yourselves. Our new colleagues will experience similar sentiments. Let’s embrace them by inviting them into our offices, welcoming their ideas, hearing their voices, and lending a helping hand. This way, we not only embolden our faculty, we enliven the LMU Community as we encourage learning, educate the whole person, and lead lives in the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

I look forward to working with all of you. May your 2017-2018 year be filled with new friendships, fresh ideas, and exciting opportunities for growth and renewal.

Sincerely,

Thomas Poon, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost
ZAHRA ALAVI
Visiting Assistant Professor
Physics
Professor Zahra Alavi earned her B.S. in Physics from Sharif University of Technology, in her hometown of Tehran, Iran. In 2011, she emigrated from Iran to the United States and moved to California to pursue graduate school. In 2017, she will receive her Ph.D. in experimental biophysics from University of California Los Angeles. During her recent graduate studies, her main focus was studying mechanical properties of biomolecules.

ROBERT ALLISON
Instructor
Philosophy
Professor Robert Allison received his B.A. in Sociology and Religious Studies from Vanguard University, an M.A. from CSU, Fullerton in Political Philosophy and a second M.A. in Philosophy from Loyola Marymount University. His Ph.D. will be awarded from the University of the West inComparative Religion/Philosophy. He has been Adjunct Assistant Professor for the past thirteen years at Loyola Marymount University, and has also taught at Cypress College, CSU Fullerton, the University of the West, and Chapman University. Professor Allison’s primary focus is on the philosophic concept of nihilism and its relation to metaphysics, ethics, religion and law.

MARIANO BERTUCCI
Visiting Assistant Professor
Political Science
Professor Mariano Bertucci earned his B.A. in International Relations from the Universidad de San Andres in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and his M.A. in International Studies from the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Southern California. Drawing on Political Psychology and Political Sociology, Professor Bertucci’s research helps better understand the domestic determinants of foreign policymaking processes. A second strand of his research focuses on how to bridge effectively the theory-policy gap in international affairs. His work has been published in International Studies Perspectives, PS: Political Science & Politics, Latin American Politics and Society, and featured in mass media outlets, including The Huffington Post and Inside Higher Ed. He has lived, worked and researched in places such as Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Brasilia, Santiago, New Orleans and Washington, D.C., and volunteered in non-profit organizations in Los Angeles helping veterans overcome the traumas of war, collecting and distributing in Denver medical supplies to developing countries, and facilitating aid work with indigenous people in the region of the Triple Frontier in South America.

STEVEN BUTLER
Visiting Assistant Professor
Theological Studies
Professor Philip Butler is an interdisciplinary scholar of neuroscience, technology, race, and spirituality. He earned his B.A. in religion from Morehouse College, and his M.Div. from Candler School of Theology with a dual concentration in Ethics and Church history. He is a recent graduate of the Claremont School of Theology, where he received his M.A. and Ph.D. His dissertation was entitled, “Black Transhuman Liberation
Theology.” Professor Butler’s passion for social justice, technological advancement and embodiment fuels his interdisciplinary approach. He is the author of “Technocratic Automation & Contemplative Overlays in Artificially Intelligent Criminal Sentencing,” which will appear in part one of Transdisciplinary Foundations for the Social and Economic Transformation of the Present.

PHILIPPE DUHART
Visiting Assistant Professor
Sociology
Professor Philippe Duhart earned his B.A. in Sociology and Religious Studies from CSU, Bakersfield, and his M.A. in Sociology from UCLA, where he is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology. His dissertation investigates conflict resolution in the low-level “terrorist” conflicts in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country of Spain, focusing on the critical yet overlooked role played in peacemaking efforts by the nonviolent movement allies of clandestine armed groups. His work has been published in European Journal of Sociology, Social Movement Studies, and Perspectives on Europe. His current line of research examines the use of joy as a tactic in contentious political struggles in contemporary Spain.

ANJA PAULINE EBERT
Instructor
Modern Languages & Literature
Professor Anja Pauline Ebert earned her Magister Artium in German Literature from the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, and her M.A. in Modern Languages from the University of Alabama. She received her Ph.D. in German Studies from Wayne State University. Her research interests are in the areas of German collective memory of the Holocaust and the Third Reich, and the literature of the Holocaust. She is trained in the teaching of German as a second language and has a strong interest in language acquisition, current methodologies and media. She also received special training in Holocaust pedagogy.

COREY ECCLES
Clinical Assistant Professor
Recording Arts
Professor Corey Eccles has served as Lecturer at LMU in the School of Film and Television for several years; as an alumni of LMU, Professor Eccles has taken M.A.-level business courses, worked on web and online series for film and television, and produced video games as well as serving as a sound mixer. Professor Eccles has been nominated for Golden Reel Awards for sound editing.

ANDREW FORNEY
Assistant Professor
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Professor Andrew Forney is a third-generation Lion who completed his B.S. in Computer Science and Psychology at Loyola Marymount University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science at UCLA. His research bridges the disciplines of cognitive psychology, artificial intelligence, and experimental design, with an emphasis in causal analysis. He is interested in the mechanics of counterfactual reasoning and its applications to human and machine learning, decision-making, and memory. His work in the UCLA Cognitive Systems Laboratory has been published and presented in the flagship AI conferences (NIPS and ICML), with a recent article nominated for the "Most Visionary Paper Award" at TiRL-AAMAS. Professor Forney’s other interests include pedagogical methods for the sciences (which he studied after being appointed the UCLA CS Teaching Assistant Coordinator) and the entanglement of increasingly advanced AI in society. He has taught part-time in the Department of Computer Science at LMU over the past several years and will return in the fall to launch an inter-disciplinary approach for designing artificial agents inspired by aspects of human cognition.

HOVIK GASPARYAN
Visiting Assistant Professor
Biology
Professor Hovik Gasparyan earned his B.S. in 2006 in Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics from UCLA and his Ph.D. in 2013 in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology from U.C., Riverside. He was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at USC, in the laboratory of Dr. Matthew Michael. Professor Gasparyan’s research interests include the DNA damage response and checkpoint signaling, and their relationship to cell cycle control and genome stability. His work has been published in numerous journals, including Genetics and PNAS.
NEW FACULTY 2017-18

YAMLA L SIRA GET A C H E W  
Assistant Professor  
Management

Professor Yamlaksira Getachew will receive his Ph.D. in Business Administration from Ivey Business School, Canada. He has over eight years of experience teaching management courses in business schools in Ethiopia and Canada. His research examines issues at the intersection of international business, institutions, and social welfare. One major strand seeks to advance a better understanding of multinational business in such locations as Africa. His articles and essays have appeared in Global Strategy Journal, Journal of International Business Education, and Academy of International Business Newsletter. Professor Getachew has been actively involved since 2012 in the 39 Country Initiative—an initiative with a major goal of contributing toward poverty reduction by helping improve business education in the world’s thirty-nine least developed countries, of which thirty-two are in Africa.

NEG IN G HA V AMI  
Assistant Professor  
Psychology

Professor Negin Ghavami earned her B.A. in Psychology with a minor in English and her Ph.D. in Social Psychology with minors in Measurement and Statistics as well as in Health Psychology from UCLA. Funded through the National Institutes of Health, Professor Ghavami recently completed postdoctoral work in the Department of Education at UCLA focusing on the experiences of urban, ethnically-diverse middle school students. Her work centers on race/ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation to examine how together they shape youth’s academic achievement and health. She has co-authored a recent article appearing in Child Development, “Urban Middle School Students’ Stereotypes at the Intersection of Sexual Orientation, Ethnicity, and Gender,” another appearing in Advances in Child Development and Behavior, and is working with local school districts to examine how school disciplinary practices are shaped by individual, social and structural factors in urban schools.

DIANNE HACKETT  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Specialized Programs in Urban Education

Professor Dianne Hackett received her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from Loyola Marymount University. Her dissertation investigated the resilience of novice early childhood education professionals. She earned an M.A. in Early Childhood Education at LMU, a Multiple Subjects teaching credential from CSU, Dominguez Hills, and a B.A. in Philosophy from the USC. After being accepted to the “Teach for America” (TFA) program, Dr. Hackett taught in both public district and charter schools for fourteen years. During that time, she served as Multicultural Education Coordinator and a Master Teacher, supervising early career teaching candidates from USC and Cal State L.A. Later, she coached early career pre-K and elementary teachers as a TFA staff member. Prior to joining LMU, Professor Hackett was Managing Director of Design for TFA’s Human Assets Team. Professor Hackett is a conference lecturer, co-founder of an anti-racist parenting organization, an elected member of her local neighborhood council, and a diversity training consultant specializing in race equity work within educational settings.

PRACHI JAIN  
Assistant Professor  
Economics

Professor Prachi Jain earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan, and her B.A. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Princeton University. Professor Jain’s research spans the fields of development economics, behavioral economics and experimental economics. She recently returned from Kenya, where she collaborated on an NIH grant to study how stress affects economic decision-making. In other projects, she examines the informal transfers that poor households use to cope with risk.
NEW FACULTY 2017-18

ROBERT “B.J.” JOHNSON
Clinical Visiting Professor
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Professor Robert “B.J.” Johnson earned his B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science from LMU in 2002 and 2005, respectively. Beginning in fall, 2005, he has been a part-time instructor at LMU. Professor Johnson has worked in the aerospace industry for over thirty six years as a programmer, analyst, and software engineer/architect, at Boeing Satellite Systems, Raytheon Company, and Hughes Aircraft Company. In that career he has primarily focused on satellite control and telemetry systems, and on computer-automated spacecraft testing systems. He co-authored “Applying the Rapid Application Development Process to Satellite Payload Test Software” with Albert Lin, and is currently working on his Ph.D. in Information Systems from Claremont Graduate University. Professor Johnson is a member of the Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Alpha Nu honor societies, and served as former Chair and Vice-chair of the Los Angeles chapter of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM).

JENNIFER JONES
Visiting Assistant Professor
Political Science

Professor Jennifer Jones earned her B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park and her Ph.D. in Political Science—Political Psychology from the University of California, Irvine. Professor Jones spent the 2015-16 academic year completing her dissertation, “Talk ‘Like a Man’: Feminine Style in the Pursuit of Political Power,” as well as teaching an active and dynamic course in Congressional Politics at LMU and two introductory courses in American politics. She lectured 400 students at UC, Irvine and taught a more intimate thirty-person class at LMU. A chapter of her dissertation, “Talk ‘Like a Man.’ The Linguistic Style of Hillary Clinton, 1992-2013,” was published in the September 2016 edition of Perspectives on Politics. Professor Jones is currently revising and resubmitting a co-authored manuscript to American Politics Research, which investigates how gender and emotional language affects the success of attorneys arguing before the Supreme Court.

JINA KANG
Visiting Assistant Professor
Theological Studies

Professor Jina Kang earned her B.A. in Development Studies from the UC Berkeley. She received her Master of Divinity with a concentration in Youth, Family, and Culture and Ph.D. in Theology with a major concentration in Old Testament from Fuller Theological Seminary. Professor Kang has taught courses on the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and theology at LMU. Her research interests are in the areas of intersections between migration and theology, forced migrations in the Hebrew Bible, post-Shoah theology, and feminist hermeneutics.

ANUPAMA KAPSE
Associate Professor
Film, Television, and Media Studies

Professor Anupama Kapse specializes in South Asian film theory and history, with a particular emphasis on the cultural history of modern India. She is currently completing a book on affect, embodiment and moving image melodrama in early cinema in India. Her work has appeared in Indian Films Stars (2017), The 1960s Revisited: Fashion, Film, Modernities (2017), Figurations in Indian Film (2013), Framework and South Asian Popular Culture. She is co-editor of the award-winning, Silent Cinema and the Politics of Space (Indiana University Press, 2014). Before joining LMU, Professor Kapse was Associate Professor of Film Studies at CUNY Queens College, where she was also Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee. Her courses focus on world cinema, global film history and film genre. She is a member of The Melodrama Consortium and on the program committee for India Kaleidoscope at the Museum of the Moving Image, New York.

DONALD KENDALL
Clinical Professor
Civil Engineering

Professor Donald Kendall has taught water engineering courses as well as mathematics courses at UCLA and Moorpark College respectively. He has been both an adjunct faculty member and an assistant professor in LMU’s Department of Civil Engineering as well as in Mechanical Engineering. He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from UCLA and his B.S. degree from LMU.
SUNAI KIM  
**Assistant Professor**  
Civil Engineering

Professor Sunai Kim earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and both her M.S. and Ph.D. in Structural and Earthquake Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research interests involve improving the resilience of structures in metropolitan cities; she plans to expand her dissertation, "Reliability of Shear Design for Tall Reinforced-Concrete Core Wall Buildings," to examine a more diverse group of structures on a community level. Professor Kim is also a licensed structural engineer with seven years of industry experience working with firms such as AECOM in Chicago, John A. Martin & Associates in Los Angeles, and Thornton Tomasetti in New York.

HIROMI KINJO  
**Instructor**  
Modern Languages and Literature

Professor Hiromi Kinjo received her B.A. degrees in English and Japanese, two master’s degrees in TESL and Comparative Literature, and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, all from UCLA. She has taught a variety of classes from beginning to advanced, and conversational-to-business Japanese at Santa Monica College, Loyola Marymount University (since 1999), UCLA Extension (1990-2016), and LMU Extension (since 2012). She was the recipient of the UCLA Extension Distinguished Instructors Awards in 2011. She believes that learning a target language is ultimately a tool to develop more effective and smooth relationships with people from different countries. Her teaching style originates from her firm belief that it is not that without teachers, students can’t learn, but without students, instructors can’t teach.

AMY LAUER  
**Visiting Assistant Professor**  
Psychology

Professor Amy Lauer earned her B.A. in Biology at DePauw University (IN) and her Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Indiana University. Her dissertation focused on the neurobiology of alcohol and nicotine use, particularly the impact of these substances during adolescence. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Indiana University - Purdue University - Indianapolis (IUPUI), she joined the Psychology Department at Franklin College (IN) as an Assistant Professor in 2011. Over the next six years, she gained extensive experience in teaching and pedagogy research, mentored over 25 undergraduate research projects, and served the college through various assessment and curriculum committees. She was awarded tenure at Franklin College in 2017, shortly before relocating to the Los Angeles area.

PRISCILLA LEIVA  
**Assistant Professor**  
Chicana/o Studies

Professor Priscilla Leiva received her Ph.D. in 2014 in American Studies and Ethnicity from the USC and holds a B.A. in American Studies from Yale University. Her research interests include relational ethnic studies, urban history and sports history, particularly as it relates to place making and community formation. She is currently working on a book manuscript that examines how stadiums have produced and sustained racial meanings that shape ideas about the city and belonging. She is also the lead researcher for *Chávez Ravine: An Unfinished Story*, an oral history and archival collaboration that documents a long history of displacement and its aftermath in Los Angeles. Her published work appears in *Kalfou: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies* and the edited volume, *Black and Brown in Los Angeles: Beyond Conflict and Coalition*. Her research has been funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, Social Science Research Council Mellon Mays Foundation, Smithsonian Institution, and University of Texas at Austin Center for Mexican American Studies. Her public humanities work includes collaborations with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, Imagining America, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

MISCHA LIVINGSTONE  
**Clinical Assistant Professor**  
Film and Television Production

Professor Mischa Livingstone earned both a B.A. in Film & Television Production and an M.F.A in Screenwriting from the UCLA. He is an award-winning writer, director, and editor whose work has been added to the Smithsonian Museum’s permanent collection. Festival screenings include the Berlinale, Sundance, Montreal World Film Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Seattle Intl. Film
Festival, and Cinequest. He has directed live theatre and several music videos, most recently for the much lauded track “1000 Tears of a Tarantula” by the cult band Dengue Fever. It was voted the second most important song of the decade by Kirk Hammett for Rolling Stone magazine.

**FLORIDALMA BOJ LOPEZ**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*  
*Chicana/o Studies*

Professor Floridalma Boj Lopez will receive her doctorate in American Studies and Ethnicity from USC. Her research examines cultural production among the Guatemalan Maya diaspora with a particular emphasis on intergenerational imaginaries, gender and the production of an Indigenous migrant community in Los Angeles. Professor Boj Lopez’s work takes a hemispheric approach by bringing together Native American Studies, Latino Studies and Latin American Studies in an effort to analyze the experiences of Maya migrants as they encounter settler colonialism in the United States while also facing intra-Latino racism from their non-indigenous counterparts. In addition to her research, she is committed to building partnerships that lead to community collaborative research, including strengthening social justice movements in low-income communities of color. Her work has been published in the *Latino Studies Journal* and in an anthology on U.S. Central Americans.

**KUO-SHENG MA**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*  
*Electrical Engineering & Computer Science*

Professor Kuo-Sheng Ma earned his Ph.D. in 2005 in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Irvine. In 2006-2009, he researched synthetic biology as a research associate in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Duke University. From 2012 to 2016, he was an assistant professor in the department of electrical engineering at the Kennesaw State University, Georgia. Professor Ma has more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and two invited book chapters. His current research focuses on bioMEMS, IOT and Engineering Education.

**MONIQUE MANSOUR**  
*Instructor*  
*Communication Studies*

Professor Monique Mansour earned her B.A. in screenwriting and sociology from Loyola Marymount University. She studied for her M.F.A in creative writing and writing for the performing arts at the University of California, Riverside. Professor Mansour recently returned from Malta, where she served as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) for the 2016-2017 academic year and as a recipient of a Fulbright fellowship. Her article, *My Take: A Maltese Melting Pot*, was featured in the summer 2017 issue of LMU Magazine.

**WILLIAM McCLAIN**  
*Instructor*  
*Communication Studies*

Professor William McClain received his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from USC, two M.A. degrees, one from USC and another from UCLA (Critical Media Studies), and a B.A. degree in Theater and Film from University of Kansas, Lawrence. Professor McClain has held a position at Woodbury University and served as lecturer at USC. His journal articles have appeared in *Film Studies, Journal of Film and Video*, and in the *New Review of Film and Television Studies*.

**RICHARD A. MINOT**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
*Accounting*

Professor Richard A. Minot received his B.S. in Accounting from the University of Rhode Island and an M.S. degree in 2009 in Accounting from the University of Connecticut. He has been a CPA in California since 1980, has taught at UC, Irvine for over fifteen years, as well as at CSU, San Marcos. He presents his work on accounting issues in continuing education seminars including at various state accounting associations.

**MOJGAN “MOOSH” TAHERI MORELLI**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*  
*Philosophy*

Professor Mojgan “Moosh” Taheri Morelli received her M.A. in Philosophy from Loyola Marymount University in 2003. She had a career in Finance and established and managed the Institutional Sales Division at
Crowell, Weedon & Co., the largest regional retail stock brokerage in Southern California. She has been an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Philosophy at LMU for fourteen years. She has also taught Logic, Critical Reasoning, Business Ethics, Ancient Philosophy and other Philosophy courses at Mt. St. Mary’s University and CSU, Northridge. For several years, she has attended a Symposium on Plato at the University of Sorbonne, Paris, the World Congress, “Aristotle 2400 years” at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece and the 14th International Conference on Persons at the University of Calabria, Italy. Professor Moosh is fluent in Farsi, French, Spanish and Italian.

**SKINNER MYERS**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
*Film and Television Production*

Professor Skinner Myers is an award-winning filmmaker. Professor Skinner made his feature film debut as the writer and director of the documentary, *Drinking From The Well*, which has screened in film festivals domestically and internationally. He has written and directed four short films: *Chimera, The Last Supper, Obscured*, and *Nigger*, while studying film at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. A sixth film, *La Tierra Del Exodo*, has played in over 85 festivals worldwide and has already garnered awards and nominations including some for Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Short Film. He is currently in development on a handful of projects with his production company, “One Hand Clapping Pictures.”

**AIDIN NAMIN**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Marketing and Business Law*

Professor Aidin Namin is a modeler by training and passion. He received his Ph.D. in Management Science (Marketing) from the University of Texas at Dallas. He received his bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering and an MBA both from Sharif University of Technology. Applying quantitative and econometrics techniques, his research interests are pricing, seasonal goods, and the search for automobiles. Professor Namin has received both research and teaching awards, including the Junior Faculty Award, the Fellowship Award for Established Record of Excellence in Research, and a Teaching Award as the Ph.D. Student Teacher of the Year. His research has been published in academic journals including the *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*. He has presented his work in such conferences as Marketing Science and the American Marketing Association (AMA) and has served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Business Research* and the AMA conferences. Prior to joining LMU, Professor Namin served as an Assistant Professor of Marketing at the University of Idaho. He also worked in industry as a Data Analyst and Market Researcher before beginning his Ph.D. program.

**CATHERINE R. OSBORNE**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*  
*Theological Studies*

Professor Catherine R. Osborne holds a B.A. in Art History from Swarthmore College and a Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University. Her research focuses on 20th century American Catholicism; religious art and architecture; religion and the city; and space and place theory. Recent articles have appeared in *Religion & American Culture* and *American Catholic Studies*. She has taught American religious history, theology, and religious studies at Fordham University, Franklin & Marshall College, and the University of Notre Dame, where she recently also completed a postdoctoral fellowship. Her book, *American Catholics and the Church of Tomorrow, 1925-1975*, is currently in production with the University of Chicago Press.

**DONALD PERRY**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*  
*Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Professor Donald Perry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a Ph.D. in Analytical/Physical Chemistry from the University of California, Irvine. After completing a postdoctoral position at the University of Texas, Austin, he was Professor of Chemistry at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) from 2002-2016. In 2016, he served in a position at Orange Coast College. While at UCA, he was a Coordinator of the Environmental Science Program and a Co-Director of a $25 million National Science Foundation (NSF) funded Center for Advanced Surface Engineering (CASE). Professor Perry has mentored students in research involving nanotechnology resulting in over 100 publications, posters, and oral presentations from his group. His research focuses on...
developing new types of nanostructures and nanoparticles and characterizing the influence of metal/semiconductor nanostructures on the growth of thin films of various organic, biological, medicinal, and environmental compounds.

**Thomas Plate**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
*Asian and Asian American Studies*

Professor Thomas Plate is LMU’s Distinguished Scholar of Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the author of *The Fine Art of the Political Interview* (Marshall Cavendish).

**Scott Roniger**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Philosophy*

Professor Scott Roniger studied Philosophy and Theology in Rome, Italy, where he earned a Baccalau-reate in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) with a minor in Philosophy in 2009 and an M.A. in Sacred Theology in 2010, both from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. He then pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago, earning an M.A. in Philosophy in 2012. He returned to Rome, where he earned a Licentiate in Philosophy (Ph.L.) at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. In August, he will complete his doctoral dissertation in the School of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America. He has published articles on Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, and he has a forthcoming article on the relationship between law and virtue.

**Jenevieve Roper**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Health and Human Sciences*

Professor Jenevieve Roper served recently as Assistant Professor of Kinesiology at CSU, San Bernardino. She earned a Ph.D. in Physical Education, Sports and Exercise Science from the University of New Mexico and an M.S. degree in Kinesiology from UNLV. Her undergraduate degree is also from the University of New Mexico. Her publications appear in *Lower Extremity Review, Clinical Biomechanics*, and the *International Journal of Sports Sciences*.

**Ronald “Ron” Rozar**  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*  
*Biology*

Professor Ronald “Ron” Rozar earned his B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Florida. Professor Rozar received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Miami, Florida, where he studied the effects of habitat disturbance on tree snakes in Kenya. More recently, he has worked as an invasive species biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Developing tools for the early detection of nonnative reptiles and understanding the population dynamics of these introduced species have been the primary goals of his current work. His research has taken him from Florida to Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Island Region.

**Brendan Smith**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Mechanical Engineering*

Professor Brendan Smith earned his B.S. in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. He studies human motor control and the development of devices that facilitate rehabilitation from neurological injuries. He is the inventor of a patented lever drive wheelchair that provides upper extremity exercise to stroke survivors while augmenting their mobility. Professor Smith has spent this past summer in Blantyre, Malawi where he worked with physical therapists to introduce a similar arm exercise device into patients’ therapy. His teaching interests involve students seeking innovative, developmental engineering solutions to meet human needs globally; he is interested in cross-cultural collaborations to facilitate the goal of accessibility in rehabilitation.

**Masura “Macha” Suzuki**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
*Art and Art History*

Professor Masura “Macha” Suzuki received his B.A. from Studio Art at Azusa Pacific University and an MFA in Sculpture from Claremont Graduate University. Before teaching at LMU, he taught art and design at Azusa Pacific University, Cypress College, Norco College and LACHSA. Professor Suzuki recently returned from Tokyo where he exhibited his latest body of work in his second solo exhibition in Japan. His work, often autobiographical, deals
with the notion of failure and the exploration, acceptance, and celebration of growth that results from failure. Professor Suzuki has exhibited his work for over a decade in solo exhibitions throughout the United States in galleries and museums including Laguna Art Museum and Vincent Price Art Museum.

**Anna Terzyan**

*Visiting Assistant Professor*

**Economics**

Professor Anna Terzyan is a Ph.D. student in Economics at the Claremont Graduate University; she holds an M.A. degree from CSULA and a B.A. degree in Economics from CSUN. She has served as Adjunct Professor at CSULA as well as at Santa Monica College and at LMU. Her work examines the relationship between capital, credit booms, asset bubbles, and the likelihood of a banking crisis.

**Eugenio Volpe**

*Instructor*

**English**

Eugenio Volpe is a PEN Discovery Award-winning author. His eBook, *The Message*, was published by Solstice Books. His stories have appeared in *Salamander, New York Tyrant, Post Road, Thought Catalog, The Nervous Breakdown, The Good Men Project*, and *BULL*, among others. His B.A. degree in English literature was from U.Mass., Dartmouth and his MFA in Creative Writing is from the University of Southern Maine. He has been teaching in Rhetorical Arts at LMU since 2014 and has also taught at Santa Barbara City College and Arizona State University.

**Rachel Waterstradt**

*Instructor*

**Philosophy**

Professor Rachel Waterstradt received her B.A. degree from LMU and her M.A. and forthcoming Ph.D. from Fordham University. Her work examines the poetics of genocide using the work of Paul Ricouer. She has presented conference papers in the Netherlands, in Nicosia, Cyprus, and in Budapest.

**Joseph Weber**

*Assistant Professor*

**Civil Engineering**

Professor Joseph Weber earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering in 2007 from Loyola Marymount University. He received both his M.S. degree in 2008 from the University of California, Berkeley, and his Ph.D. in 2015 in Civil and Environmental Engineering with an emphasis in GeoEngineering. Professor Weber’s research and dissertation focused in the field of geotechnical earthquake engineering, evaluating the post-liquefaction residual strength of soil. His research resulted in the development of new semi-empirical correlations for the evaluation of post-liquefied strength for use in engineering practice. Professor Weber began his professional career in 2013 working at HDR in Folsom, California, where he primarily was involved with geotechnical engineering evaluations of dam facilities across the country and existing levees within the Sacramento Delta. He is also a licensed professional civil engineer in the state of California.

**Jennifer Williams**

*Assistant Professor*

**African American Studies**

Professor Jennifer Williams earned her B.A in International Studies with an emphasis in African Studies from the University of La Verne in La Verne, California and an M.L.A from Temple University. In 2016, she completed her Ph.D. in African American Studies with a certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies from Temple University. Professor Williams' research and teaching interests include African American Women's history, Black Queer Studies, Africana Nerd Culture, and Afrofuturism. Her current research explores Black women's use of hashtags such as #carefreeblackgirl in various social media formats as a transgressive performance of racial and gender identity.

**Theresa A. Yugar**

*Visiting Assistant Professor*

**Women and Gender Studies**

Professor Theresa A. Yugar earned a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University and a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard University in the field of Women’s Studies in Religion. She has taught at CSULA and California Lutheran University. Her areas of expertise are Ecofeminist
Theory and Praxis and Gender in Colonial Latin American History. She is the recipient of a Fulbright and Hispanic Theological Initiative Fellowship, and was chosen as a Scholar for the Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program. She is author of the book, *Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Feminist Reconstruction of Biography and Text*, a feminist historical reconstruction of Novohispana feminist, De La Cruz. Soon to be published are: “The Enlightened West and the Origins of Climate Change” in the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* and “Virgins: Resources for an Eco-Theological Praxis,” in *Planetary Solidarity: Women’s Voices on Christian Doctrine and Global Climate Justice*. She has co-Chaired the American Academy of Religion Women’s Caucus, National and Western region and is a board member for the Women’s Ordination Conference in Washington, D.C., and the Patricia A. Reif Lectureship Committee. She serves as project manager for a North/South bilingual, ecofeminist initiative entitled *Circulando Juntas* (Circling Together), a virtual platform for feminists in the North to discuss relevant issues with their Sisters in the South. Her upcoming book, *Tenochtitlan & Our Lady of Guadalupe: Navels of the Moon*, describes Tenochtitlan as the first ecological city in the Americas and Our Lady of Guadalupe as an ecclesiastical ecological model of liberation integrating wisdom from Pope Francis’ recent encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

**MENG ZHANG**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**History**  
Professor Meng Zhang earned her Bachelor’s degree in economics and statistics from Peking University in 2010. In 2017, she will receive her Ph.D. in Chinese History from UCLA. Her primary field of research is the economic and social history of early modern and modern China, with a focus on institutional studies and long-distance trade. She has authored “Timber Trade Organizations in Shanghai: Institutions, Enforcement, and Dispute Resolution, 1880-1930” published in the *International Journal of Asian Studies*. Her current book project examines the long-distance timber trade along the Yangzi River and forestry practices in south China during the 18th and 19th centuries from the perspectives of core-periphery integration, environmental transformation, political economy, and business history.

**YAN “JULIAN” ZHANG**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Finance and Computer Information Systems**  
Professor Yan “Julian” Zhang earned his B.A. in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics from Sun Yat-sen University, China and his Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Utah. He studies the financial market’s over-reaction and behavior with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) documents through machine-learning methodology. He is also interested in deep learning and dynamic complex system modeling. He has been working on a structural model on corporate voluntary disclosure and the managerial preference of firm scale.
Professor Natasha Miric received her Ph.D. in 2016 from UC, Irvine and is currently a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow. Her research interests are in globalization, social movements, and the environment. She is interested in global civil society and the effects it has on national and local cultures, especially in regard to such environmental issues as climate change and sustainable development. Her published work and dissertation focus on environmental degradation and policy reform in a comparative cross-national context.

In addition, we welcome these colleagues to LMU:

**Mohammad “Hossein” Asghari**
Assistant Professor
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

**Linh Hua**
Instructor
English

**Liza Taylor**
Visiting Assistant Professor
Political Science

**Michael Datcher**
Assistant Professor
English

**Julia Lee**
Assistant Professor
English

**Cheryl Hertz**
Visiting Assistant Professor
Biology

**Nenad “Neno” Pervan**
Clinical Assistant Professor
Theatre Arts and Dance

*Entry appeared in a previous Biosketches publication*