

Connecting U

Employee Newsletter | August 2020

Faculty and staff back together at last!

Some normalcy is returning to campus. Safety protocols are visible everywhere. Faculty and staff are back in offices and settling in for the semester. Our students have returned and are in residence halls, learning in both indoor and outdoor classrooms, eating in the dining hall and sunbathing on the quad. Life is evident everywhere you go on campus. We are so excited to be back on this beautiful campus, doing what we do best--building the next generation of leaders!



New to the NeighborHOOD



William Allen, Sophia M. Libman NEH Assistant Professor of Humanities

Department: Philosophy and Religion

"I am a vinyl enthusiast with a collection of over a thousand records."

We look forward to hearing some of your favorite records!

Judith Anglin, Visiting Associate Professor and Nutrition Program Director

Department: Nutrition

Judith is a history buff and an avid traveler who enjoys experiencing different cultures.

We can see that there is a very strong liberal arts linkage between your favorite things!





Catherine Breneman, Assistant Professor of Social Work

Department: Sociology and Social Work

"I enjoy reading, hiking, doing crossword puzzles and traveling. During COVID, I joined an online trivia league and that has been great fun. I am very excited to join the faculty at Hood College!"

We should contact Cathy when we get stuck doing Friday's New York Times Crossword Puzzle!

Kyle Bugarelli, Admission Counselor

Department: Admission

"I have been volunteering with the National Aquarium in Baltimore working with their Animal Rescue Department. We rescue, rehabilitate and release stranded sea turtles and seals found in states all along the Mid-Atlantic. "

Our Coastal Studies Program might be the first place where Kyle takes prospective students!



Suzanne Hiller, Assistant Professor of Education

Department: Education

"Something interesting about me is that I worked at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History as a Teacher Naturalist."

We look forward to you sharing your wealth of knowledge about how our complex world has evolved.

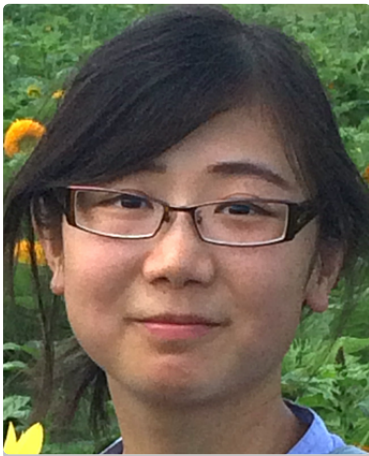
Simone Kolysh, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Department: Sociology

Simone Kolysh is thrilled to be joining Hood College. They are moving from Brooklyn, New York with their wife, four children and a rescue pup named Katerina. Look for their 'RESIST' wreath on the door someplace in Ijamsville.



We know that your whole family will love Frederick County.



Cherry Liu, Assistant Professor of Biology

Department: Biology

"I grew up in Toronto, Canada, and I like to ice skate. "

We are thinking about starting a women's ice hockey team and it looks like we might have someone who might be able to help with skating skill development.

Kichelle Marrast, Accounts Payable Coordinator and Accountant

Department: Accounting

"I recently relocated from NYC with my husband. I have a fun and bubbly personality. I love Italian food and enjoy long walks with my dog, Ella Bean. I am excited about joining the accounting department at Hood and starting my new life in Frederick!"

You are going to enjoy Baker Park and downtown Frederick's Italian eateries.





Chaz Martinsen, Visiting Assistant Professor of Ceramics Arts

Department: Art and Archaeology

"There are a million ways to be creative, as long as you are smiling, you're doing it right."

We like the way you are recruiting faculty and staff to try their hand at Ceramics.

Nicola Meade, Visiting Assistant Professor of Counseling

Department: Political Science

"I lived nearly 10 years in County Limerick, Ireland, one semester in Queretaro, Mexico, and one semester in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. One day I hope to spend some time in the mountains of India."



It looks like you are going to work well with our Institutional Advancement Division on their Alumnae trips to exciting places.



Nicholas Owad, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Department: Math

Nick lived in Okinawa, Japan for two years during a postdoctoral research position where he would walk to the beach to go snorkeling everyday he could. He is also still learning Japanese, which he began while there.

It looks like we can much from your experience living in Japan!

Katherine Robiadek, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Department: Political Science

"I enjoy opera and dance and can't wait to get back to the theater after having participated in the performing arts much of my life."

Hopefully, soon we will all get to enjoy the many venues in our area that have some wonderful theatre shows.



Carley Shannon, Head Field Hockey Coach and Title IX Resource for Athletics

Department: Athletics

"I love hiking, biking, kayaking... really any outdoor adventure that you can think of. I am very excited to join the Hood community! "

We know that you will enjoy the local area for all your favorite activities!

Employee News

New parent - Amy Warren





Sabine Elizabeth Warren arrives early!

Sabine Elizabeth Warren born August 6, 2020, at 33 weeks, 3 days. Mom and baby are doing well!



Student Success Center

Greetings! That's right, we have a new name: CAAR (the Center for Academic Achievement and Retention) is now the Student Success Center. We believe this more positive, updated name better reflects the broad work we do to support students. As we all continue to adapt to COVID-19 this year, we've been busy planning to ensure our services meet the needs of students, wherever they may be. Here's a few highlights as we approach the start of fall:

- This spring, we began offering online, professional 24/7 tutoring through ThinkingStorm and have received excellent feedback to date. Students will continue to be able to schedule tutoring with Hood peer tutors as well as ThinkingStorm tutors directly from the link in any course on Blackboard.

- We've recently launched Beacon, a tool within CampusLabs software for student notifications including alerts, notes, and encouragements (kudos). This is a great improvement over our prior alert system in that notifications can be entered by all staff and faculty; advisors and others will have access to view notifications and follow-up across terms over time; and faculty/staff can enter notes on students for the "success team" to view (advisor, instructors, students of concern committee members, and others).
- Lisa Copenhaver, director of student success, and Gretchen Nonemaker, success coach, continue to teach and meet with students who may be struggling, on probation, or would benefit from additional support. This fall, we're launching a pilot peer mentoring program within GNST 101-- Seminar for Academic Success. Student leaders will enroll for credit in GNST 335, attend class alongside the students, and engage with them to provide peer support, personal experience, and connections beyond the traditional TA Teacher Assistantship model.
- As we welcome new students to Hood, we educate them on the importance of maintaining academic integrity and upholding the Academic Honor Code. Violations remain low overall, but we're increasingly reminding remote students to check with professors whether collaboration with peers is permitted on assignments and which materials may be used during tests and quizzes. Students should become familiar with the Code of Conduct, and specifically the Academic Honor Code in Appendix B of the [Student Handbook](#), while faculty are reminded to report violations in their courses to me as Chair of Academic Judicial Council (AJC).
- We understand that students may feel stress and anxiety as they adapt to demands to complete coursework in online and hybrid formats. In response, campus developed the [Online Success Toolkit](#). The site includes general tips for success as well as "tech basics" guides for using Blackboard and Collaborate Ultra, Office 365, OneDrive, Zoom and Microsoft Teams. We particularly encourage students with disabilities who are new to Hood College to seek accommodations early by working with Kate Gmuer, Director of the Office of [Accessibility Services](#), and to contact me if they are having challenges obtaining necessary technology such as wifi or laptop.

We're eagerly anticipating our relocation to the newly renovated library Learning Commons at the end of the fall term and can't wait for you to visit us in a brighter, centralized, more accessible Student Success Center in 2021. Despite challenging times, we remain committed and ready to support student learning. Best wishes for a successful term and let us know how we can assist you and our students!

Jennifer Schum, Ph.D.
Dean of Student Success

Jennifer Schum, Dean of Student Success

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

Years of experience at Hood College: 1 ½

What made you decide to work at Hood? I wanted to work in student services, advising & retention at a small, liberal arts college in the D.C. area. Faculty and staff I met when interviewing and here in the Student Success Center sealed the deal!

What is your favorite way to pass the time? When I'm not working, I'm probably playing barbies or outside with my 6-year old, Allie.

What is your favorite sport/team? the "Washington Football Team"

What is your favorite food? Very hard to pick one, but I'll say sushi.

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? Sitting



future.



Ronnie Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Hometown: Mount Rainier, Maryland

Years of experience at Hood College: 2 years in my department. I was previously employed by Campus Safety for a few months.

What made you decide to work at Hood? Once my husband (AC LaShawn) accepted the position at Hood I didn't want to commute to my former institution. I contemplated coming out of higher education altogether but once the opportunity presented itself to work at a small, private liberal arts college I applied.

What is your favorite way to pass the time? Painting, reading, crocheting and going on long walks with my fur baby.

What is your favorite sport/team? Washington Football team and the Hoodlum Steppers.

What is your favorite food? Lots of comfort food. Anything fried, smothered and covered.

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? Everything that I assist with on campus has become a favorite, it's hard to name just a few. My absolute favorite is the community in which "Hood is Home!"

Lisa Copenhaver, Director of Student Success

Hometown: Greencastle, PA (originally from Altoona, PA)

Years of experience at Hood College: 3

What made you decide to work at Hood? I saw the PERFECT position advertised and had recently left my former institution after 23 years. I had heard great things about Hood and really enjoyed meeting everyone during the interview process. I knew it was a good fit for me.

What is your favorite way to pass the time? I love the beach, but when I can't be there I enjoy spending time away from the computer relaxing with my dogs and watching cooking shows on TV.

What is your favorite sport/team? Hands down the Baltimore Ravens.

What is your favorite food? A perfectly cooked steak.

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? I absolutely love and admire my co-workers, but I have to say being able to make a difference in our students' lives by helping them create their own success plans and see themselves as creators is the best. It makes me smile.





Kate Gmuer, Director of Accessibility Services

Hometown: DC born and raised, but live in Frederick now.

Years of experience at Hood College: 3 years

What made you decide to work at Hood? I was excited to work with students at the college level, at a small liberal arts college near home.

What is your favorite way to pass the time? Hanging out with husband & my two boys (ages 7,9) and reading the news/books for class.

What is your favorite sport/team? Washington Nationals & Washington Caps

What is your favorite food? Cheesecake

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? My Student Success colleagues/friends.

Donna Harrison, Writing Skills Coordinator

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Years of experience at Hood College: 9

What made you decide to work at Hood? The job of Writing Skills Coordinator sounded like such a great job. (And it is!)

What is your favorite way to pass the time? Reading.

What is your favorite sport/team? Cleveland Indians Baseball team

What is your favorite food? Pizza

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? Getting to know the students.



Gretchen Nonemaker, Student Success Coach

Hometown: San Diego, CA (but was raised in Greece, parents worked for a university there)

Years of experience at Hood College: 7 ½ years

What made you decide to work at Hood? It reminded me of my alma mater, and having conversation with future colleagues ensured a great team to work alongside.

What is your favorite way to pass the time? Yard work and spending time with my dogs!

What is your favorite sport/team? Soccer, because my son plays. And Volleyball, because my wife is a long-time national referee.

What is your favorite food? ohhhh. probably anything Greek!

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? The opportunity to work 1:1 with college students. I learn so much from them every day!

Scott Trexler, Mathematics Skills and Tutoring Coordinator

Hometown: Native of Frederick County

Years of experience at Hood College: I have worked at Hood since December 2018.

What made you decide to work at Hood? I am a proud Hood alum and I received a call from Dr. Ann Stewart to return “home”

What is your favorite way to pass the time? Working on my farm and chilling with my partner Angie, and daughters Colette and Irene.

What is your favorite sport/team? No Sports for me.

What is your favorite food? I love carrots and almost anything i can grow!

What is your favorite part of your job/working at Hood College? My team members are AMAZING and I enjoy working with them. Teaching and working with Hood students is rewarding as well.



Student Success Team



21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge Update

Submitted by Michelle Gricus

Creating an inclusive campus community takes more than intention. It starts with a personal commitment to learn, reflect and act on the complex issues of power, privilege and equity. This month, Hood's faculty and staff were invited to participate in a four-week Racial Equity Challenge that examines these issues through daily readings, videos, and reflection. Participants have described the work as “eye-opening” and “tough, but important.” Because the timing of the challenge has been prohibitive for some interested in participating, it will remain open beyond the formal conclusion of the four weeks, and employees are welcome to get involved at any time.

To participate: go to the Hood College [Blackboard for the Employee Training](#) site. There are opportunities for people to connect via the discussion boards and Zoom weekly check in.



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