Charles Baker, Mathematics

After a career spent teaching in Ohio (Ohio State [Ph.D. 2015], Ohio Northern), Charles Baker is coming to CSB/SJU to teach this academic year, in Mathematical Explorations, Calculus, and Introductory Statistics. His work is in the branch of functional analysis known as spectral theory, studying the characteristic values (or more briefly, eigenvalues) of certain linear operators coming from physics. Charles enjoys cycling, reading, and playing video games.

Majel Baker, Psychology

Majel Baker completed her PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Minnesota Department of Psychology and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Research on Women & Gender at the University of Michigan. As an Assistant Professor of Psychology, she will be teaching Psychology of Gender and Abnormal Psychology, in addition to service courses. Her research focuses on issues disproportionately impacting women in college, including sexism in STEM fields and sexual assault. She is originally from Northern California, and in her free time, likes to read, listen to podcasts, and pilot single-engine airplanes.

Erica Baken, Biology

Erica Baken is coming from a post-doc fellow position at Chatham University in Pittsburgh where she began her research on the macroevolution of beetle shape. Erica will be teaching Anatomy & Physiology lecture and lab as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology. She received her BA in biology from Pomona College and PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University. Fun fact: before graduate school, Erica spent a winter working as a biologist onboard Alaskan fishing boats (like in the show, Deadliest Catch).

Mark Batell, Mathematics

Mark Batell joins the Mathematics Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor and will be teaching calculus and statistics courses. He received his Ph.D. from North Dakota State University, and his research interests are in commutative algebra and factorization theory. He believes all students can be successful in mathematics regardless of their prior levels of mathematical achievement or preparedness. Mark is originally from the La Crosse/Winona area.
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<th><strong>Eric Belt, Exercise Science &amp; Sport Studies</strong></th>
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<td>Eric Belt is coming to us from Springfield College in Massachusetts where has been finishing his doctorate in Sport and Exercise Psychology. His research focuses on professional development in sport psychology practitioners. At CSB/SJU he will be teaching Sport Ethics, Sports in a Diverse Society, Sport Psychology, and Research Methods. Eric's fun fact is that he is a former division one athlete.</td>
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<th><strong>Kat Cardwell, Exercise Science &amp; Sport Studies</strong></th>
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<td>Kathryn Cardwell is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Exercise Science and Sport Studies Department and will be teaching Introduction to Exercise Science, Biomechanics, and Research Methods. She has recently completed her Ph.D. in Sport Science from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia. Her research focuses on neuromuscular fatigue in diamond-sport athletes. She and her partner split their down-time with their two cats and their new puppy and their hobbyist woodworking business.</td>
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<th><strong>Emily Colton, Education</strong></th>
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<td>Emily Colton will be teaching Ethics in Human Relations and Human Development in the Education Department. Emily went to Middlebury College in Vermont for her undergraduate degree and the University of Minnesota for her master’s degree in Educational Psychology. Her research interests include ethics, career readiness, and issues related to school counseling. Emily lives in Saint Paul and has been working in public schools for the past six years. A fun fact is that she is a huge movie buff and watches all (or almost all) the Oscar nominees every year. Emily is excited to be joining the CSB/SJU community!</td>
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<th><strong>Kate Droske, Languages &amp; Cultures</strong></th>
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<td>Kate Droske is joining the Department of Languages and Cultures as a Visiting Assistant Professor of French. She has her doctorate from the University of Minnesota where her research focused on Quebecois literature and contemporary epistolary writings including personal correspondence, letter fiction, and still emerging forms of digital exchange. Kate has made west central Minnesota her home for close to a decade now. When she's not teaching, you can often find her working on her family's farm near Sauk Centre.</td>
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Lei Fan, Global Business Leadership

Lei Fan is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Global Business Leadership. This summer, he obtained his Doctorate major in Management Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology. His research focuses on the evolving cryptocurrency market behavior and the interdependencies between cryptocurrencies and equity markets. Starting this Fall, he will teach GBUS 203 – Decision Making Analytics. Lei is a huge Lego fan and enjoys spending time playing Lego with his children.

Zhenhu Jin, Accounting

Zhenhu Jin is very excited to join the faculty of CSB/SJU as an Associate Professor of Accounting and Finance. He received his PhD in finance from the University of Houston in 1994 and has been teaching since then. Prior to joining the university, Zhenhu was a tenured professor at College of Business, Valparaiso University. He has taught many different finance classes at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and has published about 40 papers in peer reviewed academic journals. Zhenhu really likes books on tape, sometimes he does not get out of his car after reaching the destination simply to finish the segment.

Gyehyun Jung, Music

Gyehyun Jung is joining the Department of Music as a Visiting Assistant Professor. She will be teaching applied voice lessons, opera workshop, and other related courses. She taught at Grinnell College prior to this position. Gyehyun received her DMA in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy and MA in Organ from the University of Iowa, MM in Voice Performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Gyehyun originally came from South Korea and earned her master’s and bachelor’s degree in Vocal Music from Seoul National University. One of her main research areas is a French composer Louis Beydts and his mélodie. Gyehyun is an active performer so you might see her on stages.

Fardowsa Mahdi, Education

Fardowsa Mahdi, Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Mathematics Education, has previously taught at the University of North Texas and Dallas College. Fardowsa will teach Elementary and Middle-Level Mathematics Methods at the Department of Education at the CSB/SJU. Her primary research interests include Equity and Social Justice, Mathematics Education, and Teacher Education. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and yoga.
Rachel Mazzara, Languages & Cultures

Rachel Mazzara is joining the CSB/SJU Department of Languages and Cultures from Toronto, Ontario, where she completed her Ph.D. in classics at the University of Toronto. Her research focus is ancient Roman theater and performance, especially the comedies of Plautus and Terence. As a Visiting Assistant Professor, she will be teaching Latin language and literature as well as classical mythology. A fun fact about Rachel is she likes to cook and bake, and once won a second-prize ribbon for brownies in the North Carolina State Fair.

Ana Karen Negrete, Economics

Ana Karen Negrete, Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, is an International Development Economist researching topics related to poverty and inequality. Ana Karen will be teaching Introduction to Economics and Introduction to Econometrics, with her favorite course to teach being Innovation Economics. Ana Karen was born in Mexico and pursued her Master’s and Doctorate in Germany. Ana Karen recently hiked the PCT for two weeks and is in love with nature.

Trista Olson, Exercise Science and Sport Studies

Trista Olson graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a PhD in Sport and Exercise Science and a minor in Statistics and Research Methods. Her academic research activity has been interdisciplinary, focusing on physical activity and exercise in special populations. Trista was most recently faculty at St. Cloud State and will be teaching Exercise Physiology/Lab, Exercise Science Lab Skills, and the Research Methods sequence as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Along with her passion for exercise science, Trista also enjoys playing a variety of musical instruments.

Shawn Osell, Economics

Shawn Osell joins us as a Visiting Assistant Professor after working at Hiram College near Cleveland Ohio. This semester he will be teaching introduction to economics and Money, Banking, & Financial Markets. His research interests are Monetary Policy, Time Series analysis, and Macroeconomic modelling. Shawn’s education is the following: BA from U of Minnesota - Duluth in economics, MA from Minnesota State in Economics, MS in Statistics and PhD in Economics from Northern Illinois University. His hobbies are riding bike, skiing, travelling, playing piano, guitar, and violin. Fun fact: he likes trains and model trains.
Mary Pesch, Nursing

Mary Pesch brings her broad nursing background and 5 years of faculty experience in Oregon and Minnesota to the undergraduate and graduate nursing program. Her masters’ degrees in nursing and public health are from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Doctor of Nursing Practice is from the University of Minnesota. Her interests include social determinants of health and their impact on individual and population well-being. She has lived in multiple states in US and in two countries and appreciates the rich experiences they afforded her.

Frank Plachecki, Global Business Leadership

Frank Plachecki was previously employed at Concordia University, St. Paul as a professor in the MBA program conducting graduate level courses in human resources and organizational development topics. He will be joining the Global Business Leadership department at CSB/SJU as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Frank earned his B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Brian Rademacher, Accounting

Brian Rademacher is excited to join CSB/SJU this fall after a nearly 30-year career with The Schwan Food Company having served in multiple accounting and finance roles. He received his MBA from the Carlson School of Management and is a 1991 graduate of CSB/SJU. Accounting Principles I and II are the courses he will be teaching. Brian enjoys spending time with family doing outdoor activities.

Jack Tan, Computer Science

Jack Tan will be teaching computer security, computer architecture, and computer networks. He received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and has taught in Texas and Wisconsin. Jack’s research is in the area of cybersecurity and computer networks. A fun fact: a long time ago, when Jack first moved to the Midwest, a friend told him that he would take him to experience a favorite Midwestern pastime: go snipe hunting and cow tipping. He enjoyed it more than Jack.