

New Faculty

FALL 2021

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict  Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

Eric Bruger – Biology

Eric is moving to CSB/SJU from a postdoctoral position at the University of Idaho. He received his PhD in a dual degree program (Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior) from Michigan State University. His research specialty is in microbial physiology and evolution. In the fall semester, Eric will be teaching sections of General Genetics (BIOL 316) lecture and lab and a section of Foundations of Biology (BIOL 101) lab. He plays the drums a bit in his spare time.

Vimbayi Chinopfukutwa – Psychology



Vimbayi recently graduated in May in the Developmental Science Doctoral program at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. She grew up in Zimbabwe and completed her undergraduate degree in Social Sciences at Africa University. For research, she is interested in understanding mental health among youth, specifically promoting trauma informed practices in schools. Vimbaya will be teaching Psychology courses at CSB/SJU including Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Community Psychology. She comes from a family of teachers.

Julie Dornbusch - Nursing



Julie grew up and currently lives in central Minnesota. She is coming to education from medical practice. Dornbusch is a first generation, two time graduate of the College of Saint Benedict--biology and nursing. Her graduate studies were at Walden University in Adult and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and will be teaching nursing at CSB/SJU. Julie's favorite seasons are summer to swim and winter to snowmobile.

Shilpi Kumar – Economics



Shilpi graduated with a Postdoc and PhD in Economics from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. She is an economist, and her research specialty is in macroeconomics and climate change. At CSB/SJU, Shilpi will be teaching Intro to Econ, International Trade, Intermediate Macro and International Finance. She loves the outdoors and likes to climb in the summer and ski in the winter. She had never seen snow before moving to Indiana.

Vincent Longo – Mathematics



Vince received his PhD in mathematics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research interests lie in knot theory and low dimensional topology. He will be teaching Calculus I and Calculus III in this fall at CSB/SJU. Cooking, staying active, dogs, and video games (tetris!) are some things he loves to do.

Bradley Miller – Music



Bradley is coming to CSB/SJU after serving as director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota Morris. He earned his BA from Concordia College (Moorhead), MM from the University of Minnesota, DMA from the University of Arizona. He will be conducting the Chamber Choir and Men's Chorus and will teach choral conducting and other related courses. He is the artistic coordinator for the annual Christmas concerts. Bradley loves to play golf and is the director of choirs at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. He lives in Cold Spring with his wife, Ana, and two sons, Nicholas (9) and Lucas (8).

Derek Moore – Nursing



Derek is coming to CSB/SJU from the University of Minnesota and Bayada Pediatric Home Care. He is currently a PhD candidate in nursing at the University of Minnesota graduating Fall 2021. He holds a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, University of Minnesota (1999), and Master of Nursing, University of Minnesota (2012). His research area is hospice and will be teaching medical/surgical nursing. He has recently moved to Sartell, and has a 4 year old and 8 year old.

Michael Rubbelke – Theology



Michael and his family are coming from South Bend, IN where Michael graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology in August 2018. Between then and now, he has worked as a Director of Adult Faith Formation at a large Catholic parish in Granger, IN. His research specialties (and his teaching areas) are in spirituality and monastic studies. He is particularly interested in how Benedictine monastic practices like praying the Divine Office and *lectio divina* shape memory and individual identity. This fall, he will teach two sections of THEO 100; in the spring, another section of THEO 100, an SOT course on the history of Christianity from the 13th-20th centuries, and an SOT course on the history of the reception of the *Rule of Benedict* and the figure of St. Benedict in monastic communities. One of his hobbies is playing jazz saxophone.

Paul Schumacher – Computer Science

Paul is rejoining academia from education and subject matter consulting. He will be the computer lab coordinator for the CSB/SJU Computer Science department. His research specialty is combinatorics. He graduated from Texas A&M's mathematics department in 2009. As a hobby, he designs and prototypes board and card games.

Blaine Tomkins – Psychology



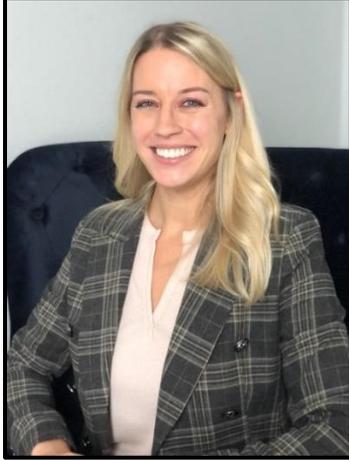
Blaine Tomkins received his PhD in Psychological Sciences from DePaul University in Chicago, IL in 2019. He will be teaching applied behavioral statistics (PSYC 221) and cognitive processes (PSYC 331) at CSB/SJU in the fall semester and physiological psychology (PSYC 340) in the spring. His research interests include lexical processing, ERP (event related potential) analysis, computational modeling of cognitive processes, working memory processing, and reading comprehension. He has studied, lived, taught and/or conducted research in four states, including Michigan, Texas, Illinois, and Minnesota.

Pu Wang – Biology



Pu is coming from China to CSB/SJU to teach microbiology. She earned her master's degree in marine biology from Ocean University of China and earned her PhD from the University of Minnesota in the department of Ecology, evolution, and behavior. Her research area is microbial ecology and evolution.

Emily Wright -Exercise Science & Sport Studies



Emily grew up in Western Pennsylvania and attended Penn State University, where she obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Kinesiology. She pursued her master's degree in Sport Psychology at Miami University (Ohio). She obtained her PhD in Sport Psychology from the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports (ISYS) at Michigan State University. Emily's research interests seek to enhance children's developmental experiences in sport through the study of family interactions and relationships. More specifically, her research focuses on parents and how their attitudes and behaviors shape children's outcomes in sport and how the sport context impacts family dynamics. She will be teaching EXHS 111, 323, 390 and 324. She loves hockey and is a big fan of the Pittsburgh Penguins and enjoys following collegiate hockey.

Oscar Zatarain-Vera – Mathematics



Oscar is moving from Kent, Ohio. He completed his PhD in Mathematics at Kent State University. His research areas are Analysis and Probability and he will be teaching Mathematical Exploration and Probability and Statistical Inference at CSB/SJU this year. He also enjoys cooking.

Mary Zelenak – Nursing



Mary is joining the nursing department full time after teaching with us part time for the last 5 years. She has spent most of her career in public health nursing, most recently at Stearns County as a manager of the disease prevention and control unit. Mary's graduate work was completed at the University of North Dakota in the Advanced Public Health Nursing program where she focused on maternal mental health using a population-based approach. She will teach public health nursing at CSB/SJU. Mary is a CSB/SJU alum and will be taking LuAnn Reif's position who was her favorite professor as a student.