

## 2021-2022 University Mentors for New Faculty

### Faculty



**Martin A. Abraham, Ph.D.,** Dr. Abraham joined Western Illinois University as Provost and Academic Vice President in July 2019 and was immediately elevated to serve as acting and then Interim President, a role he held through December 2020. In July 2021, Dr. Abraham returned to his faculty role as Professor of Engineering & Technology, within which he will also promote the development of the Quad Cities Manufacturing Laboratory. He promoted a diversity agenda that increased enrollment of diverse students, closed the retention gap, and expanded diversity hiring for faculty and administration, leading to recognition as the 2021 Cathy O'Neill Couza Leadership in Diversity recipient. Dr. Abraham received his BS in chemical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, and his PhD from the University of Delaware. He has had an active research program in sustainable technologies, focusing on issues of sustainable energy and carbon capture. He is the author of over 75 refereed publications, has given more than 200 presentations, and

generated over \$15 million in externally funded grants, and serves as editor of the Encyclopedia of Sustainable Technologies and Environmental Progress & Sustainable Energy. He is a Fellow of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Dr. Abraham and his wife Nancy were born and raised on Long Island. They have two adult children, Elizabeth, an avian biologist with a BS from the University of Delaware and currently working in central Florida, and Joshua, a mechanical engineer who earned his BS from SUNY-Buffalo and currently working in Cambridge, Mass.



**Matt Beck,** Dr. Matthew J. Beck (he/his/him) is a proud Western Illinois University graduate (M.S. Ed in School Counseling, 2008). He practiced as a teacher and school counselor for 12 years in the Quad Cities area before earning his Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Iowa (2017). Matthew recently completed his sixth year as a faculty member in the Department of Counselor Education and College Personnel on Western's Quad Cities campus.

Matthew's research and service interests are informed by his practitioner experience, which encompass how school counselors, administrators, and schools can provide an optimal school climate that fosters academic, career, and social/emotional success for LGBTQ+ students. In the classroom, a few of his interest areas include advocacy identity development, social justice in education, and the connection

between professional counseling identity and practice in K-12 education settings. Matthew's commitment to social justice issues and educational equity is evident through his publications and presentations at the national, state, regional and local levels.



**Mark Bernards**, is a Professor in the School of Agriculture at Western Illinois University (WIU). He earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State University, and M.S. and B.S. at Brigham Young University. Prior to joining WIU in 2011, he worked as an Extension Weed Specialist for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mark teaches Principles of Crop Science, Integrated Pest Management, Weed Science, No-tillage farming, and Crop Ecology and Management (AGRN 377). He advises the Agronomy Club and coaches the WIU Weed Science and Crop Science Teams. Mark directs agronomy operations at WIU's Agricultural Field Laboratory where he conducts research on weed management in corn and soybean. He has filled many leadership roles on university, college and department committees, and enjoyed working closely with new faculty in Agriculture.



**Maureen Bezold**, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S., My Ph.D. is from Virginia Tech, the rest are from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and -La Crosse. I have been teaching since 1997 and with WIU since fall 2010. The Department of Health Sciences and Social Work is home and I teach mostly graduate level courses in public health. My research interests include emergency preparedness and rural health with particular emphasis on underserved populations. Brothers in Charge: Black Male Leadership in Public Health, a book I edited with Dr. Sterling Saddler, is my proudest publication. Services activities that have been particularly gratifying include

serving as a Governing Councilor representing the Health Administration Section of the American Public Health Association and volunteering for the Good Food Collaborative here in Macomb.



**Anita Hardeman**, Dr. Hardeman joined the faculty at Western Illinois University in 2012, having earned her doctorate in Musicology at the University of Western Ontario in 2010. As Associate Professor of Musicology she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in music appreciation, music history, and music research, and received the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 201. Her research focuses on the performative intersections of text, music, dance, and staging in French opera of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a particular focus on works utilizing the goddess Venus as a character. During her time at WIU she has served as chair of the Council on Curriculum, Programs, and

Instruction as well as co-chair of the Council on Campus Planning and Usage. She has worked as a mentor both with the CITR mentorship program and with the School of Music faculty mentorship program.



**Dr. Sharon Hunter**, Instructor, Dr. Sharon Hunter (she/her) is originally from Brooklyn, New York and a graduate of Shaw University (B.A. in English), Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (M. Div. and D. Min), and Western Illinois University (MLAS). She is the Instructor in the College of Arts and Sciences in the area of African American Studies. Her specialized areas are African American Religion, Black Women in the Diaspora, Womanist/Feminist Theology, and Religious Socialization and Culture. Dr. Hunter is the Admissions Counselor- Transfer (Southern) and serves as faculty/staff advisor for student organizations. She has reached her 11th year at WIU where she has been able to connect with and support students through an academic lens, transfer admission, student support, and mentorship.



**Sue Hum**, Sue Hum, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences. Degrees: Ph.D. in Plant Sciences - University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR; M.S. in Biology - Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO; B.A. in Computer Science and Mathematics - Park University, Parkville, MO. Started at Western in 2004; Teaching area: Introductory biology, cellular and molecular biology; Research area: Molecular biology of plant-insect-microbe-environment interactions



**Andrea Hyde**, (13 years, WIU-QC) has a PhD in Social and Comparative Education from the University of Pittsburgh. As a Professor of Educational Studies in the School of Education, she teaches graduate level courses in social theory, philosophy of education and educational research. She also teaches social and multicultural foundations of education and education policy and law for Western's teacher education program and Mindfulness Fundamentals for the Honors College. Her service, research and scholarship focuses on school-based yoga and mindfulness programs and democratic education and she relates both streams to critical pedagogy and social justice/healing-centered education. She is a board member of the Quad Cities Yoga Foundation and co-editor/author of *Stories of School Yoga: Narrative from the Field*. I want to remind my new colleagues of the centrality of self care and joy to their teaching and all other aspects of their lives. I also want to make myself available to help folks navigate the publication and tenure process.



**Hadley Kamminga-Peck**, Currently the Theatre Historian and Head of Directing at WIU, Hadley Kamminga-Peck completed her PhD in theatre history and criticism at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2015. She received her BA in drama and Italian from Colorado College and her master's degree in acting from the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Born and raised in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, she worked in the Education Department for the Guthrie Theater before moving to Colorado. Hadley taught at CU Boulder and the University of Northern Colorado, while also working for the Chancellor at CU. Artistically, she directed for the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Obscene/Courageous Theatre Company, and dramaturged for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival from 2011-2018. Her productions focus on a continuously deepening understanding of the text, using a hybrid period and contemporary aesthetic to find new meaning in old texts. Hadley has also house managed for CSF, the Department of Theatre & Dance at CU Boulder, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and served as a teaching artist for CSF. She is a professor, Shakespeare nerd, director, dramaturg, and performer (from Elizabethan verse to transnational fusion).



**Aparna Kapale**, Mrs. Kapale is currently serving as the instructor and laboratory manager for the Department of Physics. She joined Western in 2010 in this dual role and has also taught for the School of Computer Sciences. She holds BS in Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science and two MS degrees in Computer Applications one from India and another from Azusa Pacific University. Her teaching interests currently lie in entry-level physics classes and laboratory courses. She is keenly interested in improving laboratory experience for all of our students and has developed a couple of useful instrumental designs. She also mentors local award-winning robotics teams for the K-12 students.



**Kishore Kapale**, Dr. Kapale is currently serving as the Chair of the Department of Physics. He has been at Western since 2007 and was the 2019 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. He received his BS and MS degrees in Physics from University of Bombay and Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay respectively. He received his PhD from Texas A&M University and has held postdoctoral appointments at Princeton University and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech. His research interests are in the area of quantum optics (laser-matter interactions at the quantum level) and its applications to quantum information science. He closely follows the research in and tries to accommodate novel teaching techniques in his courses.



**Jessica Lin**, Ph.D. Economics, Binghamton University (SUNY), 2010, *Conspicuous Consumption & Inequality: Theory and Evidence* M.A. Economics, Western Illinois University; B.B. Economics, Western Illinois University. Dr. Lin joined the department in Fall 2009 after earning her Ph.D. in Economics from Binghamton University (SUNY) with specializations in Environmental Economics, Public Economics, and Econometrics. Her research lies in applied micro-economics problems with a special interest in the role of peer-group influence. She teaches a variety of courses ranging from introductory principles to graduate level mathematical economics and microeconomic theory. Dr. Lin has also pioneered the department's online learning programs and teaches many of the online course offerings. She

previously served as the Department's Graduate Coordinator (MS Quantitative Economics, MS Applied Statistics & Decision Analytics, and Certificate in Business Analytics) and graduate advisor for the Economics program. She currently serves as the Interim Director for the newly merged School of Accounting, Finance, Economics, & Decision Sciences.



**Kyle Mayborn**, I came to Western as an Assistant Professor in 2000 after earning my Ph.D. in geology from the University of California - Davis. I'm currently a Professor of Geology in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Geographic Information Sciences. My teaching specialties include Mineralogy, Igneous & Metamorphic Petrology and Structural Geology. I love teaching our students and have kept teaching a priority even during my four years serving as an Associate Dean. My areas of research include magma evolution and early earth

magmatic processes. In addition to my service as an Associate Dean, I have many years of experience with curriculum and other committees. In my personal time I enjoy trail running, mountain biking, and local history.



**Anthony McBride**, Associate Professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. He has over 20 years of experience working in the juvenile justice field. During his juvenile justice career, he was charged with managing a probation department, designing and implementing a first-time offender program and overseeing an educational specialist program. He has a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership with a Certificate in Conflict Resolution from Duquesne University, a MA degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a BA degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University and AA degree in Liberal Arts from Hilbert College. His research interest is Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, Community Corrections, Community Policing, Corrections, Mentoring, Leadership styles, and Diversifying the

Criminal Justice System. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. In his spare time, he loves writing children's books and spending time with his family.



**Jim McQuillan**, I am a Professor in the School of Computer Sciences within the College of Business and Technology. I have over 25 years of teaching experience and I have been at WIU since 2003. I have taught a variety of courses including courses in algorithms and operating systems. My research areas include algorithms and combinatorics. I have been on many committees, such as the Graduate Council, the Honors Council, the College of Business and Technology Curriculum Committee, and a variety of departmental committees. Western Illinois University is a wonderful university that values teaching, research and service. The new Faculty Mentor program will be a nice way for new faculty to expand their circle of friends at WIU.



**Amy Patrick Mossman**, Dr. Mossman received her Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Scientific, and Technical Communication from the University of Minnesota and is currently director of the University Writing Center and a professor in the English Department. Previously, she directed the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program. For 15 years she has taught environmental humanities, rhetoric, and writing courses at Western. Her research and service interests are informed by her work with students and faculty across campus, in the areas of writing studies, sustainability, and higher education. She has served on the University Graduate Council, Sustainability Committee, Writing in the Disciplines Committee, and the University's HLC Reaffirmation of Accreditation Executive Writing Team, in addition to various other department, university, and professional

organization committees. As a mentor, she looks forward to working with faculty across campus and sharing ideas for collaborating to improve the student and faculty experience in our community. As a mom, she is also happy to share and learn strategies for work-life balance!



**Jim Rabchuk**, BS with double major of Physics and Russian from Grinnell College in 1984; HS Teaching Certificate. Taught Physics and Russian from 1985-1988 at Mt. Prospect High School in Illinois. Ph.D. in Physics from University of Illinois at Chicago in 1995. Professor of Physics at WIU 1996-present. Assistant Dean of CAS at QC, 2014- present; Honors Coordinator for the QC, 2018-present; Interim Director of Secondary Science Education program 2020- present; I have taught courses in Physics, Secondary Science Education, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. I have overseen the introduction of Undergraduate Learning Assistants in Physics, Math, and Biology courses here at WIU. My research interests involve Fluid Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic field simulations, Trapped Ion Quantum Information research, and Ion trapping technologies. I have

worked as a consultant for Argonne National Laboratory on Environmental assessment, a research associate at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and as a consultant for a company exploring sites for development of race tracks. I am the Community Needs Chair for Moline Rotary, Co-President of the Academic Booster Club at Pleasant Valley High School, and Board member of

Humility Homes and Services, Inc. I am committed to the ideal of continuous improvement as an educator. I take pride in the lives of our students that I've impacted, and I enjoy sharing that passion with other university professionals at WIU.



**Jeremy Robinett**, Dr. Jeremy Robinett, an Associate Professor in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration started at WIU in 2014. He uses a social justice lens and critical theories to interrogate expectations and inequities in leisure practices to facilitate inclusion. Jeremy's recent research and service have included serving as a panelist on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association, hosting focus groups on tourism development for the Macomb CVB, presenting best practices for supporting military service members and their families to recreation agencies, and conducting research exploring transportation challenges negotiated by families of individuals with disabilities in Chicago. On campus he serves on the Faculty Senate, the University Retention Team, Military Advisory Committee, as a VRC Liaison, and advisor of the Veteran's Club and a social fraternity. In the community, he serves on the board of the Macomb CVB, Center for Youth and Family Solutions, and Centennial Morning Rotary Club.



**Sterling Saddler**, Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion. Prior to joining WIU, Dr. Saddler served as a professor and vice president of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Nevada. He is also the founder and director of the Center for Workforce Development and Occupational Research. Previously, Dr. Saddler served as interim associate dean in the College of Education from 2007-2010 and as chair of the educational leadership department from 2005-2007. He also served as the department's assistant chair. Prior to joining the UNLV faculty in 1998, he served as the assistant dean and dean of academic affairs at Center City Business Institute in Syracuse, NY (1993-1995); taught in the Syracuse City School District (1991-1993); and was an accountant for the Urban League of Onondaga, Syracuse (1988-1991). Dr. Saddler served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1983-89.



**Lindsay White**, MSN, RN, CNE, SANE , White received her Associates Degree in Nursing in May 2004 and completed her Master's Degree in Nursing Education in 2012 and began teaching at WIU at that time. She has experience working in Emergency Nursing, Forensic Nursing, Obstetrics, and Informatics. She works with Centennial Honors students and enjoys leading study abroad healthcare courses. She has been Board Certified by the International Association of Forensic Nurses as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner - Adult/Adolescent. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Nursing through Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois with a research emphasis in help-seeking behaviors in sexual assault victims.

## Community Resource Network



**Rocio Ayard Ochoa**, serves as Director of the Multicultural Center at Western Illinois University, which includes four centers- Casa Latina Cultural Center, Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, the LGBT\*QA Resource Center and the Women's Center. In her role as Director, she ensures she provides a unique and empowering space for students to experience college life. Ayard Ochoa is passionate about social justice, intersectionality and developing students through education, engagement and leadership. She strives to create brave, intersectional spaces for students to self-express their individual journey and empower them to use their voice to share their unique narrative. Rocio was born in Michoacan, Mexico, grew up in California and then moved to the Midwest. She earned a B. A. in Sociology from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and a M.A in Latin American Studies from the University of Granada in Granada, Spain. She has been at WIU over four years and has over ten years of higher education experience. As an active member of the Macomb community, Ayard Ochoa serves as a big sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She enjoys traveling the world and creating awareness about diversity, equity and inclusion. She is looking forward to being part of the mentoring community resource network to be assist new members navigate the beginning of their wonderful journey at WIU and the surrounding communities.



**Drew Donahoo** ('11), currently serves as an Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, focusing on campus visit operations and prospective student communication. Drew has worked for Undergraduate Admissions since 2015. Drew earned a bachelor's degree in Career and Professional Communication from Emporia State University and a master's degree in College Student Personnel from WIU. Drew has previously worked with residence life, conference services, and new student orientation programs. Drew is a member of the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling and the National Association for College Admission Counseling. In the community, Drew is a 2018 alum of the Macomb Business Academy, is a member of Macomb Arts Center Board and currently serves as a president of the Macomb Lions Club. Drew is looking forward to welcoming new faculty to WIU and Macomb.



**Carl Ervin**, has a B.S. in Political Science from Illinois State University, M.S. in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. My role is Multicultural Center Program Coordinator. I assist students and the MCC in a commitment to growth, development, success and excellence. One of my goals for the year is to make each day a great day for someone. One of my favorite places to travel is Toronto, Canada. That would be in the summer. One of my favorite movies is Black Panther. One of my favorite books is Dune by Frank Herbert. My favorite quote is "I don't know the key to success, but I do know that the key to failure is trying to please everyone." - John Wooden, Hall of Fame basketball coach who led UCLA to ten consecutive Division I Basketball championship titles.



**Niall Hartnett**, My name is Niall Hartnett and I am a Social Sciences Advisor at WIU (Macomb). I was born in Ireland but I came to the United States after receiving a B.A. in Psychology at Trinity College Dublin and later earned an M.S. in Educational Psychology from Indiana University after working in the mental health field for a while. I have been advising university students for about 16 years, 13 of those at WIU! I now advise ANTH and SOC undergraduates as well as my original specialty of Psychology. I am an avid photographer which I do as a hobby but also officially for the Psychology department and have a strong interest in using technology to make our lives as educators easier and make the student experience better. I wanted to be part of this network to foster good advisor-faculty relationships and allow faculty to better understand what advisors do!



**Debbie Kepple-Mamros**, I have a BA in History and Political Science from Washington & Jefferson College, an MA in Later Medieval Studies from Royal Holloway, University of London, and an Ed.D. in Education Leadership from WIU. I have held faculty and administrative positions at five different higher education institutions throughout my career. I have been at Western since 2015 and currently serve as the Director of Assessment, Accreditation & Strategic Planning. I am based at the Quad Cities Campus but am on the Macomb campus frequently. I'm looking forward to working with all the new faculty throughout their first year to help them settle in and be successful at WIU.



working at WIU - QC for 6 years.

**Kellie Larrabee** My name is Kellie Larrabee and I represent the School of Graduate Studies on the Quad Cities campus. I completed my undergraduate work at Wartburg College (many years ago) and recently completed my MS from WIU in College Student Personnel: Higher Education Leadership. I have had a 30-year career in Human Resources throughout the US in corporate and non-profit organizations. I grew up in rural Illinois and returned "home" to assist in managing my 100-year-old family farm. WIU - QC provided an outstanding educational opportunity that informs my work with traditional and non-traditional students considering graduate education. Fortunately for me, my educational opportunity turned into an employment opportunity and I have been



**Justin Schuch**, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University. Justin currently serves as the executive director of retention initiatives within the Division of Enrollment Management. In this position he provides leadership in coordinating, planning, implementing and evaluating retention and student support initiatives. Justin works closely with academic affairs and student services to ensure processes are in place to support students and to develop and monitor retention metrics. As the executive director, he oversees orientation activities, including registration and fall and spring welcome week activities, and supervises the First Year Advising Center, Center for Career Preparation and Employer Engagement, and Transition and Academic Skill Center.



(Catholic) Church. I remember so clearly what it's like to be new: I couldn't even figure out the best way to get to campus without encountering what seemed like impossible intersections. I was incredibly grateful for people who told me all about the balloon rally and Heritage Days, who helped me find the closest Target, and who advised me what to do when we found a bat in our shower. I'd like to pay that forward! E-mail: [vr-smith@wiu.edu](mailto:vr-smith@wiu.edu) Telephone: (309) 298-1319

**Victoria ("Torrey") Smith**, I have an AB in Classics from Princeton University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and I'm licensed to practice law in the state of Illinois. I am the Student Legal Advocate, a position designed to educate students about the law and help them navigate all aspects of the legal system. We became a Leatherneck family when my husband, Greg Baldi, joined the Political Science Department in 2010. I began teaching Constitutional Law at WIU in 2013 (something I continued until 2020) and moved into my new role as Student Legal Advocate in January 2021. My husband and I have children at St. Paul School, the junior high school, and the senior high school, so we have lots of experience with kids' activities in town (like youth sports and Girl/Boy Scouts). We're also members of St. Paul



**Ian Szechowycz**, My name is Ian Szechowycz I graduated from Western Illinois University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Management. I worked as a Manager at Walgreens for just over two years before I started at WIU in Financial Systems. In 2018 I became the Learning Spaces Manager for University Technology; Essentially I put hands on every classroom and lab environment that has any technology. I have been living in Macomb since 2007 when I first became a student. I met my wife

here in Macomb and now have two beautiful girls (Harper (2) and Hadley (1 Month)). I am a big board game geek and also very much enjoy video games. My wife and I also host an annual 5-day charitable event on our property that is a condensed version of the CBS Show Survivor. I am excited to be a part of the mentoring network and show how great WIU and Macomb can be!



**Kenny Wheeler**, My name is Kenny Wheeler and I've been an Academic Advisor at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities since 2009. After completing my master's degree in Student Development in Post-Secondary Education from The University of Iowa, I worked as an Asst. Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Multicultural Recruitment at Augustana College in Rock Island, before joining WIU in 2009. While I've advised across a wide variety of areas, I currently advise students in our General Studies, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Psychology, and English degree programs. I am

also the advisor for all first-year students at the WIU-Quad Cities campus. I continue to be active both in and outside of WIU. I've been on a variety of committees and groups across WIU that give voice to the concerns and improvements to the advising experience and its relationship to student retention here at the University. Over the past year, I've delved into doing numerous presentations that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, presenting at a variety of organizations and school districts in our community. And a passion of mine is coaching track & field. I am the head coach for a girls track & field team at a local high school and have been there since 2008. I was recently selected as our class' State Coach of the Year for the 2021 season, and was selected as the NFHS (National Federation of High School) Regional Coach of the Year in 2020 which covers the states of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. I think one of the great ways in developing a positive working culture and creating a sense of community is through developing connections that help others feel welcome and allow their voice to be heard. I believe the mentoring community resource network is an avenue to help foster that sense of connection and look forward to being a part of it and using my perspective and experiences to assist others.