

Visiting Faculty Bios SP-26

Bennett, Michael

AD1016 World Percussion

Mike Bennett has a long and established career as a jazz and world percussion artist in Maine. From the early 1980s Mike's list of musical collaborations reads like a who's who of jazz in the East, including the likes of Anita O'Day, Sheila Jordan, Greg Abate, Clark Terry, Larry Coryell, Phil Wilson, Bob Newhart, Johnny Johnston, Buddy DeFranco, Miles Evans, Jeanie Bryson, and Ray Alexander.

Latin percussion is another specialty in which Mike is immersed. This is important because today, it is no longer a niche genre, but rather can be considered mainstream in both popular and classical music.

In addition to drum set and jazz and Latin percussion, Mike pursued an intense interest in West African music, making frequent trips to The Gambia over more than a 10 year period to study Balafon and Wolof Sabar. He brings back the fruits of those studies to his students both at the University of Maine and College of the Atlantic.

Breslow, Peter

HS3120 Audio Journalism: Reporting, Producing, Storytelling

Peter recently retired as the long time senior producer for NPR's Weekend Edition. He also served as a producer for All Things Considered prior to that.

Brothers , Tionna

ES3112 Organic Chemistry II

Tionna Brothers pioneered, and is currently completing a doctoral degree in a collaborative program between the Neuroscience department of Tufts University college of Medicine, and the Genetics department of The Jackson Laboratory. Her educational background includes years in Chemical and Biological Engineering, before switching paths and graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry, and a minor in Neuroscience. Post graduation, Tionna worked at the Jackson Laboratory on genetic models of glaucoma; focusing on both early detection methods and late-stage treatments that have now resulted in clinical trials. Scientific and educational interests include:

Neuroscience: with a special focus on glial mechanisms

Biochemistry: including applications for engineered molecules, and

Computational methods of analysis, including systems modeling.

While she is a true Mainer; raised in the north woods, educated in central Maine, and rooted on the coast for over a decade now; Tionna also brings with her personal and professional experiences from travels across the US/Canada/Mexico and countries including Portugal, Spain, Italy, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. On weekends with good weather she can be found adventuring around the mountains of Acadia National park, in her kayak floating along a stream, or riding a motorcycle down the coastal route. In less desirable temperatures (and most of the winter) Tionna fancies herself an amateur seamstress and enjoys making quilts or creating garments from recycled fabrics.

Buchanan, Rebecca

ED3107 Culturally Sustaining and Revitalizing Education

Rebecca Buchanan, PhD, is an Associate Professor of curriculum, assessment and instruction at the University of Maine. Her scholarship and teaching both emphasize the preparation and development of social justice-oriented educators. She is currently interested in exploring the relationship between creativity and learning, particularly how it can support a space of community and healing for educators. This interest is born of her collaborative art-making experiences. She is a yoga practitioner and (sometimes) instructor, a runner, and an avid hiker and paddler.

Coiner, Tom**AD2023 Actor Training I**

Tom Coiner is an actor, writer, and teacher from Massachusetts. He's appeared in over two dozen Actors Equity productions, and for SAGAftra on HBO, Netflix, and network television. Tom has developed new plays all over the United States. He's taught acting at Umass Lowell, CU Boulder, and the Denver Center Academy for the Performing Arts. He received his BA in Drama & Math from Kenyon College and his MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver. He studied at the O'Neill through NTI and was an apprentice at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. He has recently self-published a book of poetry and a novella. www.tomcoiner.com

Gagnon da Silva, Pamela**HS1091 Introduction to Feminist Therapy: Practices and Principles**

Pamela is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Survivor Advocate for people who encounter Intimate Partner Abuse. She practices at Resilient Women where she offers individual and group clinical counseling services and interdependence building opportunities for people who identify as female. Pamela provides education and consultation to mental health professionals and community groups. She entered the helping field in 1987 and has focused on institutional change, equality, and resiliency.

Hilliard, Richard**ES1096 Chemistry II**

Dr. Richard Hilliard grew up in Bar Harbor, ME attending MDI High School and College of the Atlantic. He completed his MS and PhD in Environmental Engineering at Oregon State University, studying nitrogen-cycling bacteria for the treatment of wastewater and phytoremediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and heavy metals using native Oregon plants. He is passionate about developing and discovering ways that plants and microorganisms can sustainably treat pollution and waste. He has significant experience with a variety of aqueous chemical analytic techniques, the fate and transport of chemical species, and remediation of water contamination. Outside of work, he enjoys soccer, cycling, house & techno music, literature, and writing.

Jacoby, Franklin R**HS2095 Philosophy of Science: Reason, Truth, and Reality**

Franklin Jacoby graduated from COA in 2012 before further pursuing philosophical study at the University of Edinburgh where he is a PhD candidate in philosophy. In addition to human ecology, his interests include mountaineering, paddling, literature, and birding.

Kim, June**AD4049 Advanced Photography**

Rob Benson has lived and worked on MDI since 2002, first as community minister serving 5 offshore islands via the Maine Seacoast Mission's Sunbeam, and more recently as pastor with Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, a protestant Christian denomination known for its long history of inclusivity. Prior to moving to MDI, Rob worked as a hospital and hospice chaplain in urban and suburban Washington, DC, after an early career as an English teacher and swim coach. Rob received his BA in philosophy from Williams College with a concentration in the history of religious thought, and his Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. Rob is firmly committed to fostering inclusive, engaging dialogue, and welcoming diverse perspectives and experiences.

McLean, Adam**ED2013 Teaching and Learning Music in Human Ecology**

Adam McLean, M.M.Ed., has fourteen years of experience teaching music at all levels, from pre-K through graduate school. Adam holds degrees from The Boston Conservatory and Skidmore College, and he has earned graduate certificates from the Kodály Music Institute and the University of Maine. A sought-after leader in professional development, Adam presents regularly at local, state, and national education symposia and has been published in several print and online journals. In addition to his current position as an Instructional Designer for JAX Genomic Education, Adam is a virtual instructional coach for K-12 teachers and is also the editor of the Musician of the Month Project listening curriculum. A percussionist and composer, Adam lives in Somesville with his wife and two children.

Rand, Kendra**HS1094 Public Speaking Workshop**

Kendra began studying and teaching communication as an undergraduate student at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA and subsequently as a graduate student at the University of Maine. Her academic

interests and teaching areas include public speaking, civil dialogue, interpersonal communication, media studies and criticism, and communication theory. Kendra has taught communication studies and media writing at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY; MSU Billings, MT; and Walters State Community College in east Tennessee. Kendra currently teaches at the University of Maine and is a member of the University's Diversity Leadership Institute.

Robbins, Dani

AD2052 Queer Dance Histories

Dani Robbins (they/them) is a Maine-based choreographer, educator, and organizer. They grew up training as a dancer and actor in central Massachusetts before receiving a Bachelors in dance performance from Bennington College in Vermont. Dani has shown solo and collaborative work throughout New England and Europe. Their most recent performance work, "PLAYFIGHT: unprofessional wrestling theater" premiered at the Reykjavik Fringe Festival in June of 2023. Dani teaches as adjunct faculty at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor where they offer courses in dance composition, improvisation, anti-technique, and disability-related body politics. Dani is currently enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Disability Studies Graduate Program at UMaine. They are also a 2023 National Arts Strategies New England Creative Community Fellow and the co-founder of the Maine Dancemakers Collaborative, an organization that supports Maine-based dance artists in developing social praxis.

Schultz, Eloise

ED5010 Curriculum Design and Assessment

Eloise Schultz (she/her) is a writer, educator, and musician based in Bar Harbor. Over the last decade, she has taught in a variety of classrooms, most recently as the lead middle school teacher at The Community School for Place-Based Education. Eloise currently directs the education program at Bagaduce Music in Blue Hill and coordinates programs at the Jesup Library in Bar Harbor. She has received grants from the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Humanities Council for collaborative theatre projects with students from 4th to 8th grade. Eloise holds a BA from College of the Atlantic and an MFA from Oregon State University, and is a former wilderness trip leader for the Chewonki Foundation. Eloise serves on the editorial staff of Chebacco, the magazine of the MDI Historical Society, as well as the board of directors of WERU Community Radio, where she is a regular weekend host.

Sullivan , Leeann

HS4119 Mutual Aid, Past, and Future

I am a political scientist who has spent over 10 years studying and teaching about the politics of environmental governance, particular in the area of wildlife conservation. My work explores how science, culture, and politics become entangled in how we define our relationships with the natural world, and considers the role of creative democracy in advancing alternative futures. I have taught courses at Colorado State University, Colby College, and Boston College, and currently serve as the Director of Research for Maine's Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations.

Summers, Kristy

AD1085 Metal Arts

Kristy Summers, a working sculptor living between Bernard, Maine and King Salmon, Alaska was born and raised in the mid west. She graduated with her BFA from the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas) in 2002, and her MFA from Alfred University (Alfred, New York) in 2006. Following her studies at Alfred University, Kristy was awarded a Fine Art Fellowship position at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she continued to work as a visiting assistant professor of sculpture and 3D foundations until 2014. She found her way to Alaska in 2014 and worked as an Assistant Professor of Art (sculpture) as area head coordinator at the University of Alaska Anchorage until the fall of 2021. Kristy received a Rasmuson Artist Fellowship in 2020 as well as receiving such awards as Jurors Choice in the All-Alaska Biennial. She has exhibited her work across the country including a number of sculpture parks, city outdoor sculpture programs, universities, gallery settings, as well as completed commission based work.