

## 2008-2009 Faculty Bios

### **Amahl Bishara, Assistant Professor, Anthropology**

Amahl Bishara comes to Tufts from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago where she has been a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the past two years. She received her Ph.D. in 2006 from New York University, and her dissertation was entitled, *Local Hands, International News: The Labors of News Making and the Production of International Authority Through Palestinian Media Work Under Occupation*. Her research continues to focus on journalism in the Middle East, and she has published several articles on this topic. The Department of Anthropology welcomes her as Assistant Professor.

### **Christina Maranci, Associate Professor, Art and Art History**

Christina Maranci received her M.A. with distinction and Ph.D. from the Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University. She comes to Tufts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she was an Associate Professor. Her research interests include the art and architecture of the medieval Transcaucasus, the historiography of art history, and cross-cultural interaction. She has published two books, including *Medieval Armenian Architecture in Historiography: Josef Strzygowski and his Legacy*. Christina has taught a number of courses on Byzantine, Gothic, Romanesque, and Medieval Art and Architecture. The Department of Art and Art History welcomes her as Associate Professor of Armenian Art and Architecture.

### **Michael Levin, Professor, Biology**

Michael Levin comes to Tufts from The Forsythe Institute where he was Department Head of the Center for Regenerative and Developmental Biology. He received his Ph.D. in genetics from Harvard Medical School and his B.S. in Computer Science and Biology from Tufts. His research focuses on the biophysics of morphogenesis, and his work is expected to produce new modalities for manipulating tissue growth for biomedical applications. Michael has taught classes at a number of local institutions, and was previously appointed to an adjunct position at Tufts in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. He has served as PI on a number of grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the American Cancer Society, in addition to other notable funding agencies. Michael serves on several editorial boards and recently received the Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. The Department of Biology welcomes him as Professor.

### **David Vinson, Professor of the Practice, Chemical and Biological Engineering**

David Vinson comes to Tufts from Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. where he has served in various positions over the past 34 years. Currently, he is the Principal Engineering Associate for Global Engineering, and prior to that, he was the Manager of Advanced Control for Global Engineering. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University. His dissertation was entitled *The Design of Operable Processes Using Plant-Wide, Steady-State Measures*. David is a senior member of several professional organizations and has published many articles and papers. The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering welcomes him as Professor of the Practice.

### **Clay Bennett, Assistant Professor, Chemistry**

Clay Bennett received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 2005. Following graduation, he worked as an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at The Scripps Research Institute. His research interests include carbohydrate chemistry, carbohydrate chemical biology and synthetic methodology development. Clay was a recipient of the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award. He has published several articles over the last few years with more in preparation. The Department of Chemistry welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Babak Moaveni, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering**

Babak Moaveni received his Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from the University of California, San Diego, and his thesis topic was *System and Damage Identification of Civil Structures*. He received his M.S. in Earthquake Engineering in 2001 from Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, Iran. His research interests include structural health monitoring, system and damage identification of civil structures, experimental modal analysis, signal processing, finite element analysis and finite element model updating, structural dynamics, earthquake engineering, structural reliability and risk analysis, uncertainty quantification, and verification and validation of computational models. Babak comes to Tufts from MaXentric Technologies LLC where he was a Research Engineer. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Kevin Irwin, Lecturer, Community Health**

Kevin Irwin received his M.A. and will receive his Ph.D. in Sociology from Yale University in December 2008. His research interests include structural determinants of health, qualitative and community-based research, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and public health ethics. He has conducted research throughout the US, Russia and India, funded from a variety of sources, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Mercer Foundation, and the National Institutes of Mental Health and Drug Abuse. Kevin has taught a variety of courses over the last four years, most recently at Connecticut College, which included Health and Illness, AIDS and Society, Social Research Methods, and Drugs and Society. He has published papers in both domestic and international journals and has several more in progress. The Community Health Program welcomes him as Lecturer.

**Alexandre François, Visiting Assistant Professor, Computer Science**

Alexandre François comes to Tufts while he is on leave from the University of Southern California, where he holds an appointment as a Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science in the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. François received the Diplôme d'Ingénieur from the Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon (France) in 1993, the Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (M.S.) from the University Paris IX - Dauphine (France) in 1994, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from USC in 1997 and 2000 respectively. From 2001 to 2004 he was a Research Associate with the Integrated Media Systems Center and with the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Systems, both at USC. His research focuses on the modeling and design of complex dynamic (software) systems, as an enabling step towards the understanding of perception, cognition and interaction. He is creator of Software Architecture for Immersipresence (SAI), a general formalism for the design, analysis and implementation of complex software systems. He was a 2007-2008 Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. The Department of Computer Science welcomes him as Visiting Assistant Professor.

**Norman Ramsey, Associate Professor, Computer Science**

Norman Ramsey comes to Tufts from Harvard University, where he taught for 8 years in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He received his MA and PhD in computer science from Princeton University. He also holds a master's degree in physics from Cornell University. Professor Ramsey's scholarly work focuses on programming languages and systems; he regularly presents his research at or in highly respected conferences, workshops, and journals. He has served as Program Chair for the International Conference on Functional Programming and as member-at-large of the ACM SIGPLAN Executive Committee; he currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Functional Programming. Professor Ramsey's honors and awards include an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award, and a Fannie and John Hertz Fellowship. The Department of Computer Science welcomes him as Associate Professor.

**Adam Stahl, Lecturer and Interim Technical Director, Drama and Dance**

Adam Stahl comes to Tufts from the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. He started there as an Assistant Technical Director where he served as Technical Director for two mainstage productions and two outdoor stage productions. Over a year later, he became Technical Director and Site Superintendent where he oversaw construction for seven mainstage productions and one outdoor production per year. His skills include CAD Drafting, furniture building, and scenic painting. Adam received his B.S. from the School of Engineering at Tufts. The Department of Drama and Dance welcomes him as Lecturer and Interim Technical Director.

**Stelios Michalopoulos, Assistant Professor, Economics**

Stelios Michalopoulos received his Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University in May 2008, with a thesis on the *Historical Determinants of Comparative Economic Development*. He also holds an M.A. in Economics from Brown and an M.A. in Economic Theory from Athens University of Economics and Business. His areas of research include macroeconomics, economic growth and development. In particular, he has been working on the origins and implications of ethnic diversity, the relationship between development and climate-induced technological progress, the evolution of entrepreneurial spirit and the process of development, and the implications of financial innovation for economic growth. The Department of Economics welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Silas Pinto, Lecturer, Education**

Silas Pinto received his B.A. and M.A. in Psychology and his Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Rhode Island (URI). He is a licensed School Psychologist in Rhode Island, has taught courses on Abnormal Psychology and Introduction to Psychology at URI, and provides counseling services at the Center of Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University for teens who have been experimenting with alcohol and other substances. He is extremely involved in serving the Cape Verdean American Community through advising, lecturing, participating in research opportunities, and grant writing. The Department of Education welcomes him as Lecturer.

**Cynthia Robinson, Lecturer, Education**

Cynthia Robinson received her M.S. in Museum Education from Bank Street College of Education and has held professional positions including Director of Education and Public Programs at the National Heritage Museum, Vice President for Programs and Collections at the Bay State Historical League, and Executive Director of The Bostonian Society. For the last three years, she has served as the Director and Internship Supervisor of the Tufts Museum Studies Program, where she has taught courses on museum education. Cynthia published the book, *Going Public: Community Program and Project Ideas for Historical Organizations* (1999, co-authored with Gretchen Sorin), has created many exhibitions and curricula, and served as a grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Department of Education welcomes her as Lecturer.

**Laura Rogers, Lecturer, Education**

Laura Rogers comes to Tufts with an Ed.D. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She is a licensed psychologist and school psychologist who has served as the school psychologist and special education administrator in the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, a school she helped to found. She also helped to develop the Theodore R. Sizer Teachers Center. She has worked as a clinician in a variety of settings in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Kathmandu, Nepal, including in private practice, prisons, a health clinic, and a child guidance clinic. She teaches courses in adolescent development, serving children with special needs, cognitive assessment, social and emotional assessment, and learning disabilities. She is the author, with K. Cushman, of *Fires in the Middle School Bathroom*, just published by The New Press. The Department of Education welcomes her as Lecturer.

**Thomas Vandervelde, John A. and Dorothy M. Adams Faculty Development Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Thomas Vandervelde received his M.A. in Physics in 2001 and a Ph.D. in Physics in 2004 from the University of Virginia. His dissertation topic was *Regulated Self-Assembly of Epitaxial Silicon-germanium Quantum Structures and Their Properties*. Most recently, he was a Research Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico in the Center for High Technology Materials. He has won many awards, honors, and fellowships, including the Intelligence Community Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in 2005. He has many active grants and has one patent. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering welcomes him as Assistant Professor and the first individual to hold the John A. and Dorothy M. Adams Faculty Development Professorship.

**Ichiro Takayoshi, Assistant Professor, English**

Ichiro Takayoshi recently received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. His research interests include American Literature, Political Theory (Democracy, Liberalism, and War), Literature and War, and Asian-American Literature. His dissertation, *Empire on Paper: Interventionist and Isolationist Literature in the United States, 1939-1941*, will be nominated for the Bancroft Prize for the Best Dissertation in U.S. History in 2009. It examines the discourse of patriotism and internationalism on the eve of the U.S. entry into WWII through the works of key fiction writers, cultural critics, and religious leaders. He has published on Henry James and William Burroughs, produced several articles that are under review, and taught at New School University. The Department of English welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Molly McCanta, Assistant Professor, Geology**

Molly McCanta received her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from Brown University. She received a prestigious Urey Fellowship as a Post-Doctoral Scholar at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, and most recently, she has been a Postdoctoral Scholar at the California Institute of Technology. Her research interests include elemental partitioning in terrestrial and extraterrestrial igneous processes, and the behavior and chemistry of magmas in the Earth's crust. She has published in several peer reviewed journals and has been involved in research laboratories at Cal Tech, the Johnson Space Center, and Brown University. Molly also taught for a year at Pomona College, where she developed courses including Geology of the Cascades, Mineralogy and Crystallography, and Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology. The Department of Geology welcomes her as Assistant Professor.

**Fadi Jajji, Lecturer, German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures**

Fadi Jajji has spent several years teaching, translating, and interpreting the Arabic language in a variety of academic and private settings, including serving as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the Fletcher School. He received his B.A. and Higher Diploma in English from the College of Languages at the University of Baghdad. The Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures welcomes him as Lecturer.

**Ning Ma, Assistant Professor, German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures**

Ning Ma received her B.A. in English Language and Literature from Beijing University and her M.A. in Comparative Literature from Rutgers University. She recently received her Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Literature at Princeton University with a concentration on the cultural history of late Imperial China. Her dissertation, *From Material to Romantic Egoism: A Comparative History of Chinese and European Novels, 1550-1850*, studies the parallel between the history of Chinese and Western narrative during this time period. In particular, she examines the shift of focus from heroic subjects to the personal life of non-heroic, everyday individuals in both cultures. The Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures welcomes her as Assistant Professor.

**Doris Pfaffinger, Lecturer, German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures**

Doris Pfaffinger comes to Tufts after completing her M.A. and Ph.D. in the Department of German and Scandinavian at the University of Oregon. Her dissertation, entitled *Pop, Konsum und Identität in der neuen deutschen Pop-Literatur*, examines the emergence of pop literature as a new genre in German cultural studies. She has extensive teaching experience in elementary and intermediate German, as well as implementing course innovations within the department. The Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures welcomes her as Lecturer.

**David Ekbladh, Assistant Professor, History**

David Ekbladh comes to Tufts from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, where he has been a Visiting Scholar for the past year. He received his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in History, all from Columbia University. He has been affiliated with the Humanities Center at Harvard and was awarded the John M. Olin Postdoctoral Fellowship in International Security Studies at Yale University. He has published several articles and is currently working on a book project, tentatively titled, *The Great American Mission: Development and the Construction of an American World Order, 1914 to the Present*. David's teaching interests include U.S. foreign relations, the Cold War, history and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific, and international conflict prevention. He has taught courses at Yale University, American University, and Johns Hopkins University. The Department of History welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Kris Manjapra, Assistant Professor, History**

Kris Manjapra received his Ph.D. in History from Harvard University, as well as his A.M. and A.B. His fields of specialization include modern intellectual history, modern South Asia, modern Germany, and world history. He has been awarded numerous fellowships, including a UCLA Mellon Postdoc in the Humanities in 2007. He has a book forthcoming entitled *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: New approaches to South Asian Intellectual History*. His teaching experience includes courses on cosmopolitanism, South Asian intellectual history, and German history. The Department of History welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Dan Margalit, Assistant Professor, Mathematics**

Dan Margalit comes to Tufts from the University of Utah where he was an Assistant Professor. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago. His research interests include geometric group theory and low-dimensional geometry/topology. He was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2004 and received a NSF grant in 2007. A number of his publications focus on mapping class groups and Torelli groups, braid groups and Artin groups, among other areas of his research. He has been an invited speaker at several high profile research conferences in these areas. Dan serves as a mentor and an advisor to students of all ages. His teaching has already been recognized with an Outstanding Instructor award at the University of Utah. The Department of Mathematics welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Luisa Chiesa, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering**

Luisa Chiesa will be receiving her Ph.D. from MIT in the Department of Nuclear Engineering in December of 2008. Luisa's specialty is superconducting materials, which are broadly applicable to power storage and transmission in efficient alternative energy systems. The focus of her graduate dissertation is on technology fusion energy applications, and her thesis topic was *Critical current and mechanical behaviour of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn superconducting cable in conduit conductors subject to mechanical loads*. In addition to her studies at MIT she spent two years as a Scientific Engineer Associate at Lawrence Berkeley Lab as part of the Berkeley Lab Superconducting Magnet Group. The Department of Mechanical Engineering welcomes her in January 2009 as Assistant Professor.

**Marc Hodes, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering**

Marc Hodes received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT in 1998 and his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1994. His research interests include thermal management of electronics, thermoelectric effects and their application, transport in supercritical water, applied heat conduction, heat pipes, and thermal design. Applications of this technology include thermal effects in fiber-optic switches and using supercritical water for remediation of hazardous wastes. He comes to Tufts from Bell Labs Ireland, part of Alcatel-Lucent, where he was a co-manager and scientist in a 10-member research group. Prior to that, he was a member of the technical staff at Core Bell Laboratories, part of Lucent Technologies. He has published many articles and holds three patents with 16 more pending. The Department of Mechanical Engineering welcomes him as Associate Professor.

**Thomas James, Professor of the Practice, Mechanical Engineering**

Thomas James comes to Tufts from Techtronic Industries Co. Ltd. where he was Senior Vice President of Global Engineering, and most recently, Senior Vice President of Professional Power Tools for their Asia Operations. In his most recent assignment, Tom lived in a high-rise in Hong Kong and commuted weekly to the Chinese mainland where he oversaw a major manufacturing activity. Prior to that he spent nine years at Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation where he held a series of positions, including Director of Engineering and New Product Development. He received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 2002 and M.B.A. in 2004 from Marquette University. He holds an M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He holds several utility patents for inventions related to mechanical mechanisms and manufacturing processes, with several more pending. The Department of Mechanical Engineering welcomes him as Professor of the Practice.

**Benjamin Allen, Lecturer, Philosophy**

Benjamin Allen recently received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Rutgers University. His dissertation was entitled, *Zeno, Aristotle, the Racetrack and Achilles: A Historical and Philosophical Investigation*. His area of specialty is ancient Greek philosophy with additional competency in metaphysics and philosophy of the mind, and he has taught courses on philosophy and logic. The Department of Philosophy welcomes him as Lecturer.

**Natalie Masuoka, Assistant Professor, Political Science**

Natalie Masuoka received her M.A. in Social Sciences and her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine. Her thesis was entitled *Rethinking Race and Politics: Mixed Race and the Trajectory of Minority Politics in the United States*. She served as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences at Duke University where she taught Quantitative Political Analysis, Politics of Immigration, and Introduction to Minority Politics. She has published articles in several peer-reviewed journals with several more articles forthcoming. The Department of Political Science welcomes her as Assistant Professor.

**Ariel Goldberg, Instructor, Psychology**

Ariel Goldberg received his master's degree in Cognitive Science from Johns Hopkins University in 2005 and expects to complete his doctorate in Cognitive Science from Johns Hopkins in December of this year. His dissertation, *Morpho-phonological processes in spoken production*, explores how grammatical phonological processes are influenced by the way the components of words are retrieved from the mental lexicon. While at Johns Hopkins, he received a NSF IGERT Graduate Research and Training Fellowship from 2003-2008. His research interests include understanding the mental representations and processes involved in spoken and written production, as well as trying to understand the relation between linguistic competence and performance. He has taught classes on cognitive neuropsychology, written language, and exploring the living brain. The Department of Psychology welcomes him as Instructor.

**Kenneth Garden, Assistant Professor, Religion**

Kenneth Garden comes to Tufts from the Department of Religion at Amherst College. He received his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago in 2005. His research interests include the life and thought of Abu Hamid al-Ghazali; classic and contemporary Islamic revivalist thought; classical Islamic intellectual history; the medieval Maghrib and al-Andulus; Sufism; and secularism. He has several publications forthcoming, and he is currently working on a book project about Abu Hamid al-Ghazali. He has taught at Amherst College, Yale University, and Georgetown University. The Department of Religion welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Zeina Hakim, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages**

Zeina Hakim comes to Tufts from the University of Geneva, where she served as an *Assistante* in the Department of French. She received her Ph.D. in French from Columbia University in 2005. Last year she was on sabbatical funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (*FNRS*) and is expected to receive her *Doctorat-ès-Lettres* from the University of Geneva this Fall. Her research interests include 17th- and 18th-century French literature, cultural history, and historiography; literature and aesthetics in Early Modern France; literary theory, the novel, autobiography, and women's studies. She has published several articles, has received several fellowships, and was most recently awarded the John H. O'Neill Prize by the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The Department of Romance Languages welcomes her as Assistant Professor.

**Ryan Centner, Assistant Professor, Sociology**

Ryan Centner received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a graduate of Tufts University, having received his B.A. in Sociology and International Relations in 1998. His research interests include comparative urban studies, political sociology, globalization, social theory, development, the built environment, Latin America and Southern Europe. His most recent article appears in the journal *City & Community*, and he is currently editing a book manuscript about his dissertation fieldwork in Argentina. He is also teaching one of the core courses in the new Leadership Studies minor. The Department of Sociology welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

**Mary Davis, Assistant Professor, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning**

Mary Davis received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Florida. She comes to Tufts from the University of Maine where she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics. She completed post-doctoral work at the Harvard School of Public Health, with a focus on environmental health and biostatistics, and continues to hold a Visiting Scientist appointment with that university. Her interests span a number of environmental health issues, including the use of statistics and economics to improve understanding of the causal effects of human exposure to pollutants and disease outcomes. Her primary interest is in air pollution, and she is currently working on a project studying the link between lung cancer and exposure to diesel exhaust. She has published in many peer-reviewed journals and currently serves as PI on a grant looking at occupational safety in the commercial fishing industry. The Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning welcomes her as Assistant Professor.