

# new faculty & librarians

2022 – 2023



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Fitchburg State University is pleased to welcome seven new faculty members this fall. Over the course of the last academic year, faculty members devoted time and resources to recruit these new members of the academic community, and we are happy to welcome them to our Fitchburg family. I have the privilege to work with a phenomenal group of faculty and staff who are inspiring students to defy expectations through high-quality academic programs. It is clear that when a student becomes part of Fitchburg State, they become part of a fellowship intensely committed to academic excellence and learning. These new members join a group of talented teacher-scholars who serve as the anchor of this thriving institution. We are confident that these new faculty members will find a home here at Fitchburg and we are proud that they will be joining our distinctive faculty. On their behalf, I welcome you as new colleagues.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Patricia A. Marshall**

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



## SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

### Behavioral Sciences Department



**DR. MIN LI** joins the Department of Behavioral Sciences as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, China and her Ph.D. in Sociology with a minor in Statistics from the University of Florida—Gainesville. She has previously taught Principles of Sociology, Human Society, Social Inequity, and Medical Sociology at Western Carolina University and the University of Florida. Her research area focuses on racial inequality and unequal opportunities for population health, and revolves around three major themes: racial inequality in food access, socio-environmental determinants of the cognitive health of the aging population, and social vulnerabilities in disasters. Her most recent work seeks to understand racial residential segregation and health inequality in COVID-19. Dr. Lee strives to create problem-based learning environments in her courses and is especially passionate about teaching students research methods.



**DR. EILEEN KIRK** joins the Department of Behavioral Sciences as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. She earned her B.A. from Smith College, a Master's in Public Administration from Suffolk University and a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Northeastern University. She has previously taught Introduction to Criminal Justice; Race, Class, Crime, and Justice; the Juvenile Justice System; and Communities and Crime at Bridgewater State and Northeastern Universities. Her additional experiences working as a non-profit professional influences her research and drive her to connect her research and teaching. Her research area examines the intersection of public policy, social inequalities, community processes, and neighborhood crime. Her most recent publication specifically reports on the relationship between eviction and neighborhood crime in Boston, finding that eviction is so intertwined with race and disadvantage that eviction partially explains why violent crime is concentrated in poor communities of color. Dr. Kirk is motivated to provide experiential learning opportunities for students to exchange, observe, and employ the concepts explored in their coursework.

## English Studies Department



**DR. JENNIE SNOW** joins the Department of English Studies as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Multi-Ethnic American Literature. She earned her B.A. from Boston University, her Ph.D. in English Literature from Brown University, and is currently teaching a range of writing and literature courses at Rutgers University. She brings additional experience in ESOL tutoring and teaching as well as in adult education. Her

research focuses on Asian American and African American experiences of war and citizenship through a post-colonial lens. Her recent work examines forms of memory and address in U.S. prison camps since World War II, and she plans to focus this work on analysis of the politics of citizenship surrounding the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands during the Civil War as well as Chinese labor camps and Native American boarding schools during the same period. Dr. Snow seeks to promote imagination and self-reflexivity among students, and to embolden them in their own expressive practices and educational trajectories.

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

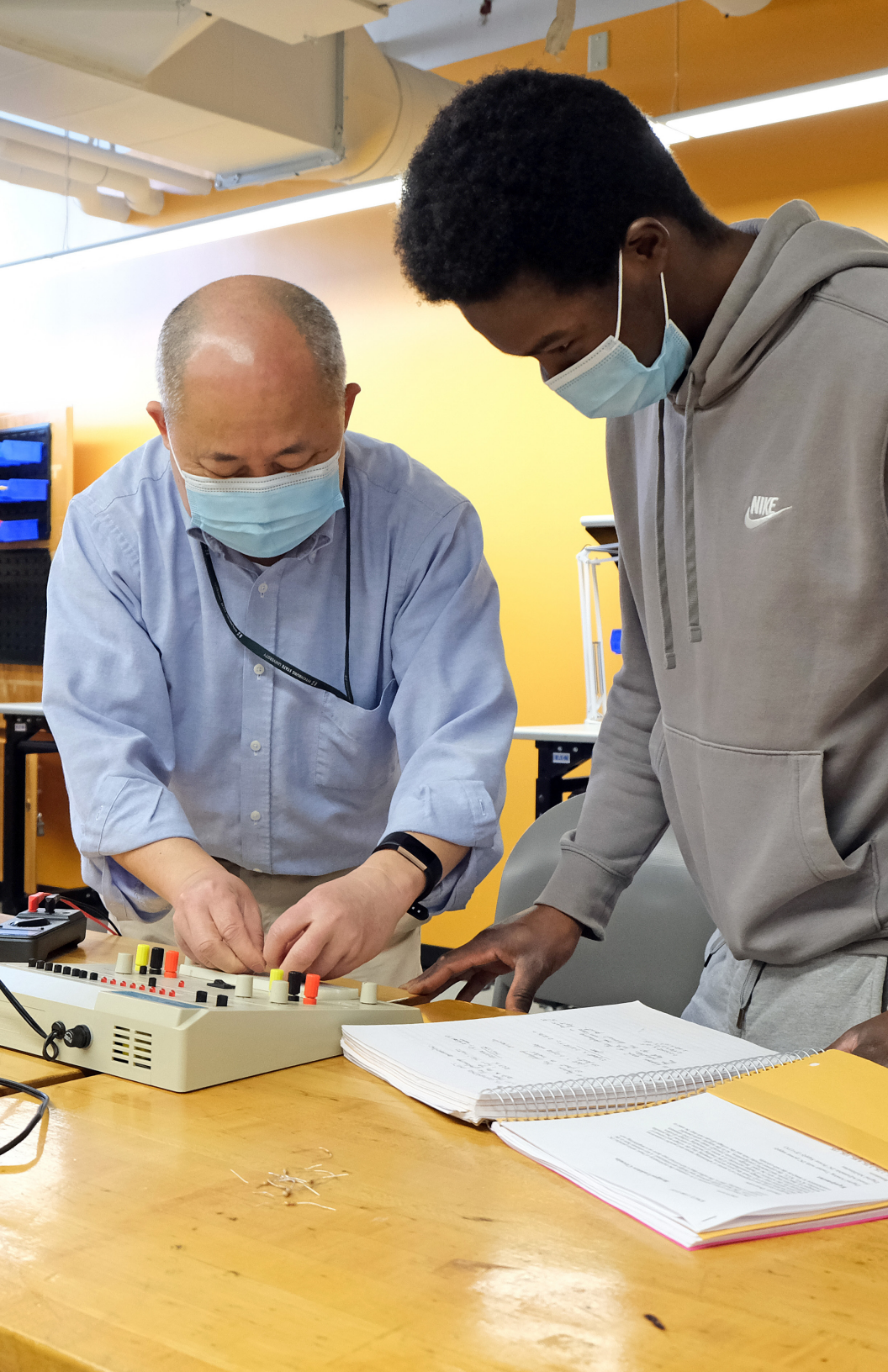
### Education Department



**DR. JILL RAMEY** joins the Department of Education as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Education. With a certificate of advanced study in reading and special education from Fitchburg State University and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Notre Dame College, Dr. Ramey also holds a Ph.D. in Educational Research and Program Evaluation from the University of Massachusetts. She earned her doctorate having

defended a dissertation that examines the intersecting cultures in educational settings and the attitudes and perceptions of key stakeholders, such as teachers and their administrators, surrounding program evaluation and its purpose in school improvement. Dr. Ramey has over twenty years of experience in public school settings as a classroom teacher, reading specialist and literacy coach. Having served as an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts and American International College, Dr. Ramey has taught courses in program evaluation, reading, and language arts.





**MS. LYNN D'AGOSTINO** joins the Department of Education as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Lynn received her undergraduate degree in Child Development from Connecticut College and her Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Framingham State University. She is currently finishing her doctorate at the University of New England. Her dissertation looks at elementary teacher experiences around the referral of English learners to special education. Lynn has been a full-time instructor for the Education department for the past 3 years and also teaches for our graduate programs and for the Center for Professional Studies. Lynn brings a wealth of experience around licensure programs, PK-12 community partnerships, and SEI through her previous roles as the field placement coordinator and as the project manager for the federal grant Transforming Education and Schools for English Learners. She also has a strong background in ESL from her experience teaching in Kosovo and in Fitchburg Public schools. Lynn lives in Troy, NH with her husband and two children.

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND NATURAL SCIENCES

### Engineering Technology Department



**DR. PATRICIA KIO** joins the Engineering Technology Department as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. She earned her Bachelor of Technology degree in Architecture from Rivers State University, Nigeria, as well as a Master of Technology degree in Architecture. As a registered architect, she worked in various architectural firms on a variety of residential and commercial projects. She achieved her doctoral degree of philosophy in architecture at Texas A&M University in 2021. Her research focused on fostering a more circular economy through industrial symbiosis between automotive and building construction industries by architectural reuse. Her dissertation was awarded the King Student Medal Award (named in honor of the late Professor Jonathan King, who is best known for his work in building systems). Dr. Kio joins us from Texas A&M University's School of Architecture where she worked as a postdoctoral research associate. She will be teaching architectural design, building design and building construction systems. In her spare time she enjoys playing scrabble, reading novels and spending time with her husband and two daughters.

## Nursing Department



**DR. KIERNAN RILEY** will be joining the Nursing Department as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University Scranton with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2018 and from Penn State University Park with her Ph.D. in Nursing in 2021. She has worked as a home health, hospice, and pediatric nurse since graduating in 2018; however, her passions lie in hospice and community death care. She received training as a death doula in 2022 and hopes to continue to bring death awareness to Central Massachusetts. Dr. Riley remains active in her clinical practice serving as a hospice registered nurse through Faith and Family hospice in Marlborough, MA. Her research focus is on persons with severe and persistent mental illness and their end-of-life experiences. Outside of work, Dr. Riley can be found with her cats and crocheting, hopefully outdoors!



