

Meet the Teacher Scholars



CORY COLBY
Lone Star College

Cory Colby is a first-gen college student, husband, and father, who presently serves as Professor of Political Science and Student Government Association Faculty Advisor for Lone Star College–Tomball, part of one of the nation’s largest community college systems, located north of Houston, Texas. He also serves as a political science lecturer for the University of Houston. For the better part of two decades, Colby has served in various leadership roles in public education, as both an educator of middle and high school students, a professor, and as the state president of Texas’s largest educator association. In addition to being a proud member of the Teacher Scholars Program, he serves on the Teacher Advisory Board for the National Constitution Center, and the Advisory Board for SXSW EDU. A political theorist and ethicist by training, Colby is interested in the impacts of electoral districts on the representation of marginalized voter groups in local governments and incorporating technology into effective pedagogy.



SONALINI SAPRA
Guilford College

Sonalini Sapra works as an Associate Director in the Center for Principled Problem Solving and Excellence in Teaching and serves as collegiate faculty in Political Science and Justice and Policy Studies at Guilford College. Her research and teaching interests are in Civic Engagement, Environmental Justice, Forced Migration, Refugee Resettlement, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She has also worked with several community organizations in India and the United States and currently serves as an advisory board member and research fellow at the Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC). In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, exploring Greensboro, and spending time with her partner and wonderfully stubborn seven-year-old daughter.



MEGAN VANGORDER
Governors State University

Megan VanGorder is Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator of the Secondary Social Studies Educator Program at Governors State University. Her research centers on the Civil War era and focuses on women’s participation in the development of medical institutions during and after the war. As a former middle school teacher and teacher educator in Illinois, she is on a mission to illuminate local histories as a key factor to student investment in U.S. history and teaching methods courses.



JORDAN RAGUSA
College of Charleston

Jordan Ragusa’s research and teaching focus on American and South Carolina politics, the Congress, political parties, elections, political economy, and statistical methods for the social sciences. He is the author of two books: "Congress in Reverse: Repeals from Reconstruction to the Present" (University of Chicago Press with Nate Birkhead) and "First in the South: Why the South Carolina Presidential Primary Matters" (The University of South Carolina Press with Gibbs Knotts). Ragusa earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 2011.



KENDALL DEAS
University of South Carolina

Kendall Deas is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Race, Freedom, and Democratic Citizenship with the Department of African American Studies, College of Education, and the Institute for African American Research at the University of South Carolina. He received his Ph.D in education policy and law from the The University of Georgia's Mary Frances Early College of Education. A Fulbright Association Scholar, his current research involves improving public education in rural areas of South Carolina and assessing the value of using culturally relevant teaching pedagogies such as The Algebra Project in mathematics education.



CHRISTOPHER GARRIS
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Christopher Garris is a professor of psychology in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He earned his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Kentucky. His most recent research has focused on the role of culture in political thinking/decision making and national identity. Beyond research, he is passionate about topics of diversity, pedagogy, and civic engagement.



JENNY PRESGRAVES
Clemson University

Jenny Presgraves is an interdisciplinary scholar with expertise in public policy issues related to technological innovation and regulation, as well as, animal health and reproduction. At Clemson University, she teaches American National Government to Clemson freshmen and Public Data Analysis to MPA students and works with the Policy Studies PhD program. As a part of the Teacher Scholar's program, she is interested in creating active learning materials that can be used to include civic engagement in a wide range of disciplines.



SARAH HAMBLIN
University of Massachusetts Boston

Sarah Hamblin is Associate Professor of cinema studies and English at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research and teaching focus on global art cinema and graphic literatures, emphasizing the connections between aesthetics, affect, and radical politics. As a member of the Teacher Scholars program, she's developing educational materials that examine the function of political cartoons and activist comics in debates about voting rights issues. She's also invested in creating assignments and activities grounded in deliberative pedagogy



DANEEN BERGLAND
Portland State University

Daneen Bergland is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the University Studies program at Portland State University, where she teaches interdisciplinary general education courses. Her scholarship interests include media literacy, civic engagement, and political polarization. She is also a poet, and currently an editor for Airlie Press, a non-profit collective press publishing poetry from the Pacific Northwest



RUSS WOOD
Southwest Virginia Community College

Russ Wood—poet, orchidist—is an Assistant Professor of English at Southwest Virginia Community College. He teaches co-requisite English, American Literature, and Children’s Literature. His current research focuses on democracy, voting, and political uses of ChatGPT.



HANNAH NABI
Mercer University

Hannah Nabi is a lecturer in the Department of Technical Communication in Mercer University’s School of Engineering. She teaches courses on professional and technical communication, instructional design, and management communication. A learning experience designer by training, Nabi is interested in developing instructional resources that are both useful and usable in the authentic integration of civic engagement into writing and communication instruction for STEM majors.



ANDREA WOODWARD
Berea College

Andrea Woodward is a sociologist and associate professor of social sciences at Berea College in Berea, KY, where she is also a faculty advisor for the College’s minor in Community and Civic Engagement. Her teaching and research focus on structural factors that enable and constrain access to opportunity and policy solutions to persistent social problems. Recent community-based research projects have focused on gender inequality and empowerment in Appalachia and the college experiences of Pell-eligible students.



BERNADETTE LUDWIG
Wagner College

Bernadette Ludwig is an Associate Professor of Sociology, the Faculty Director of Civic Engagement, and the founding Director of the Civic Engagement Minor at Wagner College. Most of her scholarship and teaching has focused on the intersections of race, gender, and immigration/refugee resettlement policies, specifically as they relate to the experiences of Black refugees in the United States. Another strand of her research investigates the significance and meaning of community engagement for students, in particular those from historically underrepresented groups. Her commitment to civic engagement is informed by her own experience as a first gen college student, as an immigrant as well as her prior work experience in nongovernmental organizations. Ludwig has spearheaded voter engagement efforts at Wagner College for the past five years.



PATRICIA RUTENBURG
University of Tennessee

Patricia Rutenburg is a Distinguished Lecturer in the History Department at the University of Tennessee. Currently, she teaches The City as History: Introduction to Public History, and Development of Western Civilization, including the Honors course. Prior to teaching at UT, Rutenburg served as Executive Director of the Blount Mansion Association, and she was commissioned by the Court Historical Society to research and write a book, Justice in the Valley: A Bicentennial Perspective of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee.



WINNIE TAM HUNG
Cosumnes River College

Winnie Tam Hung (she/her) is proud to be the inaugural Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento, CA and is now part of the inaugural cohort of the Teacher Scholars Program at Clemson University. She has a PhD in Cultural Studies from UC Davis. Her research interests include Asian American intersectional feminism, transformative justice, and liberatory education. She values the ability to build systems of support, play, and abundance for community college students and is actively developing inclusive curricula that focuses on democratic engagement and civic participation of BIPOC communities.



MICHAEL LANDIS
South Carolina State University

Michael Landis is an Assistant Professor of History at South Carolina State University specializing in the intersection of politics and slavery in the United States. He is the author of Northern Men with Southern Loyalties: The Democratic Party and the Sectional Crisis (Cornell, 2014), and is currently working on Georgia in the Civil War era. He has published broadly on US partisanship, public history, and Disney. He serves on the board of the Saratoga County History Center (Ballston Spa, NY), works with the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force (Charleston, SC), and is passionate about social justice and mental health. Before academia, he was a professional musician and music instructor. When not in the classroom, you can find him cooking, traveling, and spoiling his two rescue dogs.