

The six Faculty Fellows and their project descriptions are listed below.



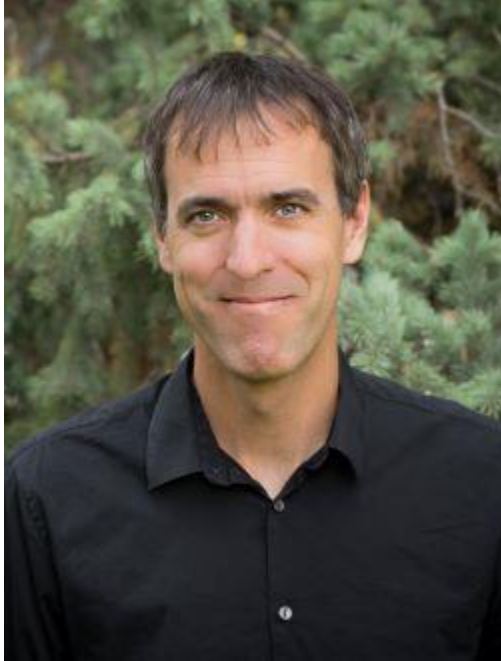
Valerie Thompson-Ebanks, MSW, PhD, is an Associate Professor and the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program Director in the Division of Social Work at the University of Wyoming. Her scholarship focuses on illuminating barriers and supports for various identity groups among university/college students, with an emphasis on students with disabilities, military students and veterans to advance equitable access to educational opportunities and enhance their academic success. Using data gathered through empirical methods, Dr. Thompson-Ebanks' initiative will include designing and implementing a new faculty seminar to deepen faculty's knowledge and understanding of these diverse groups of students and provide meaningful inclusive pedagogical approaches to promote social justice, equity, and inclusion in the learning environment.



Andrew Parsekian is an Assistant Professor in the departments of Geology & Geophysics and Civil & Architectural Engineering with research focus on environmental geophysics and shallow-earth environmental processes. He has coordinated and led a variety of geoscience outreach efforts and currently leads a federally funded effort to develop inclusive course materials to inspire early-career undergraduates about geophysics. As a faculty fellow, Dr. Parsekian will focus on examining how UW can enhance recruitment of a diverse student body, and new strategies to support underrepresented students in need of assistance through the course of their studies. The purpose of this project is to enhance UW's ability to be responsive to the needs of students from the broadest range of backgrounds.



Amy Spiker is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Education with expertise in foundational and literacy education. She has experience teaching online, face to face, and hybrid courses in Education. Dr. Spiker has received several teaching awards to include the College of Education faculty teaching award, Top Prof, and most recently the Ellbogen Meritorious Teaching Award. In 2019 she achieved National Board Certification as a Reading/Language Arts teacher for early and middle childhood. She wants to focus her work on examining and strengthening relationships between UW and the state's community colleges as online programs and distance degree options grow and evolve.



Dan McCoy is the Degree Coordinator and Associate Lecturer in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and has been at UW since 1999 serving in a variety of roles. As Degree Coordinator, Dan manages the new B.S. in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management. In 2019, Dan completed his PhD in Education at UW, with a concentration in Higher Education Administration. His dissertation focused on students who start but do not complete a college degree. As a Faculty Fellow, Dan will be working on two initiatives related to the Career's Everywhere Draft Report produced by the Careers Everywhere Taskforce. Specifically, Dan will work to identify and train a network of staff, faculty, and alumni career influencers. In addition, he will work to embed career preparedness in the academic curriculum, particularly the soft skills/essential skills critical in the modern economy.



Dario Grana is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and in the School of Energy Resources. He received a MSc in Applied Mathematics from the University of Milano in 2006, and a Ph.D. in Geophysics from Stanford University in 2013. He is co-author of the book 'Seismic Reflections of Rock Properties', published by Cambridge University Press in 2014. He is the recipient of the 2017 EAGE Van Weelden Award, the 2016 SEG Karcher Award, and the 2015 Best Paper Award in Mathematical Geosciences. His main research interests are rock physics, geostatistics, and inverse problems for subsurface modeling. As a Faculty Fellow, Dr. Grana is

committed to work on projects on institutional data focusing on academic parameters for excellence in research. Dr. Grana aims to collect, estimate, and analyze statistical estimators that are representative of the research productivity. The results will be compared to the data from other institutions with similar national ranking of University of Wyoming.



Rachel Sailor is an Associate Professor of Art History and the Interim Director of the American Studies Program for 2020-2021. She researches and publishes on photography of the American West. Her project as an Academic Affairs Faculty Fellow relates to the university's mission to promote faculty excellence. Specifically, she will be investigating and developing resources to encourage academic resiliency—in these times of Covid-19 and beyond.

Please help us welcome our Faculty Fellows for academic year 2020-21!