

New Faculty at Metcalf

Marcus Alouan – Technology/Circus

Marcus will be joining us as a grad/teaching assistant this year. He is a certified teacher whose experiences include teaching at Lincoln Middle School and Woodrow Wilson Elementary school in Peoria. He is a familiar face to many of us as he assisted Dr. Romance with Junior Gamma Phi Circus. He will be teaching two middle school technology classes for us this year and will be our expert-in-residence as he works with our circus program.

Yvette Evans – Speech

Yvette comes to us from Heartland Community College where she instructed classes on Developmental Milestones and Atypical Development. She has also been working as a Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist Consultant. She has a M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology from Illinois State University.

Alex Kashner – 5th/6th Science

Alex taught science to our 4th grade students last spring and now joins us as a full-time faculty member. Alex attended ISU and completed his student teaching at Fairview Elementary School. He coaches football at U-High and will pick up some coaching duties at Metcalf as well. He chose to spend part of his summer enhancing his science knowledge by taking additional coursework at Illinois State.

David Sulzberger – Music

David's music education experience includes stops at the University of Northern Iowa, DePaul University, Vandercook College of Music, the University of Iowa and Berklee College of Music. He's been teaching music in Iowa since 1992 and will be teaching chorus and band at Metcalf. He enjoys the middle school level and has wonderful examples of integration projects in his portfolio.

Lisa Tabaka – Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Lisa comes to us from Charlotte, NC where she was employed by Metrolina Association working with blind adults. Prior to living in North Carolina, she taught in Champaign, Illinois. She received her B.S. Ed at Illinois State University and her M.S. in Rehabilitation Teaching at Western Michigan University. Lisa will be teaching students with visual Impairments.

Brenda Thompson – Media Specialis (Librarian)

Brenda comes to us from the Olympia School District with over 19 years of experience as an information specialist and will be our new librarian. She possesses strong leadership skills as a result of her experience leading school and district teams. Her job responsibilities have included managing the library website and collaborating with teachers to help match resources to curriculum. Brenda's technology expertise will be of great value as Metcalf incorporates a new middle school technology elective this year. She will also be a valuable resource for teachers.

Kim Walker-Smith – Physical Education

Kim joins us from the school of Kinesiology and Recreation here at ISU. In addition to teaching physical education, Kim will be coordinating the Junior Gamma Phi Circus. Her face may seem familiar to many of you as she taught yoga to our middle school students last year. Her teaching experience ranges from pre-school to adults and she has taught in Illinois, Texas, and Great Britain. She holds a B.S. in Physical Education and a Masters in Physical Education with an emphasis in Motor Development, both from the University of Texas.

Christine M. Woywod - Art

Christine comes from the DeKalb area and enjoys working with undergraduate students. She received a B.A., B.S., and a M.S. in art education from Northern Illinois University and is working on her Ed.D. in Curriculum Leadership. She's taught art at the elementary level and been involved in community education. She will be teaching art to all 1-8 grade students. Christine has had several publications including "Dangerous Thoughts about Teaching Art" and enjoys presenting at conferences. She has also written successful grant proposals.

Jodi Nibbelin – Assistive Technology Coordinator

Jodi is the new assistive technology coordinator. She has an associate's degree from Illinois Central College and bachelors from the University of Illinois in Springfield. She's a certified Occupational Therapy Assistant and holds specific endorsements in the area of assistive technology. Although she is new to this position, her face is known around Metcalf community as a parent and former employee (OTA)

Kristi Sanders – Special Education Coordinator

Kristi is joining us from the Rantoul School district where she was the assistant superintendent responsible for all special education programming. She was previously a vision facilitator for HILIA from 1996-2000. Her undergraduate work in special education and family studies are from Eastern and Illinois State University and her graduate work in special education and administration are from Illinois State and Eastern Illinois University.

New Faculty at U-High

Michelle Brucker – Mathematics

Michelle comes to us after a year of teaching experience at Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada. She completed her clinical experience at University High School and her student teaching experience at Normal Community West High School. Michelle completed two years at Eastern Illinois University before transferring to Illinois State University, where she graduated *cum laude* in May 2006, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Mathematics Education. Michelle is dedicated, enthusiastic, and very excited about joining the U-High community. According to those who have worked with her, Michelle "...finds the best way for students to understand their content, and really cares." She has been described by former students as a very caring individual, one who is dependable, considerate, and very professional.

Courtney Adkins – Guidance Counselor

Courtney comes to us after completing a yearlong internship at Dunlap High School. After completing her undergraduate coursework at Eastern Illinois University, she graduated *cum laude* in December 2002 with a B. A. in Psychology. Courtney received her Master of Arts degree in Human Development Counseling from Bradley University in May 2007. She brings to U-High a strong desire to assist students in their search for the right class, the right college, and ultimately the right career path. Courtney has been described as "...a student advocate who has excellent rapport with parents, faculty, and students", one who possesses "...compassion and dedication to her students." She will be working with all students whose last names begin with the letters M – Z.

Karen Valouche – Guidance Counselor

Karen is from Delevan, IL, by way of Palo Duro High School in Amarillo, TX. She completed both her undergraduate and graduate coursework at West Texas A & M University in Canyon, TX, earning her Masters of Education degree in Counseling in 1994. While at Palo Duro, Karen served as the Lead Counselor of a team of five counselors, as well as the lead member of her school district's Crisis Intervention Team. Those who have worked with Karen describe her as a "sensitive, caring person with a tremendous passion for kids", one who possesses a "...what's-best-for-kids mentality" Karen will be working with all students whose last names begin with the letters A – L.

Eric Lyons – Physical Education/Drivers Education

After graduating in Fall 2002 from Eureka College, where he earned Bachelors of Science degrees in both Accounting and Business Administration, Eric returned to his alma mater in 2005 to earn even yet another Bachelors of Science degree in Secondary Education. He also completed the Driver's Education program at Millikin University during the summer of 2007. He completed his student teaching at Washington High School after working two years in the business world. His passion for teaching physical fitness, as well as his love for athletics, will be appreciated by all. According to his former colleagues, Eric has "demonstrated a high level of knowledge and comprehension of cardiovascular fitness and sports strategies" to instruct and motivate students to higher levels of fitness. He is always willing to "...go the extra mile" for his students.

Maria Pessman – Physical Education

Maria arrives at U-High from Urbana High School with three years of teaching experience in Physical Education. In May 2004, Maria graduated *cum laude* from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Physical Education and Health Teaching. She has a minor in Exercise Science and Coaching and has coached both softball and volleyball. Maria has been described as an "...outstanding physical educator who motivates students to improve their health." According to her former colleagues, Maria is a true professional, one who truly cares about others and is willing to drop what she is doing to help someone in need.