

New professors bring eclectic class options to Drew

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Staff Writer

Drew has been lucky enough to welcome some amazing new faculty members this past semester in various departments.

They are each working hard to bring something new to The Forest. Hailing from Silver Spring, MD., Edmond Chang teaches Technoculture, Gender and Sexuality and 20th and 21st-century American literature in the English department.

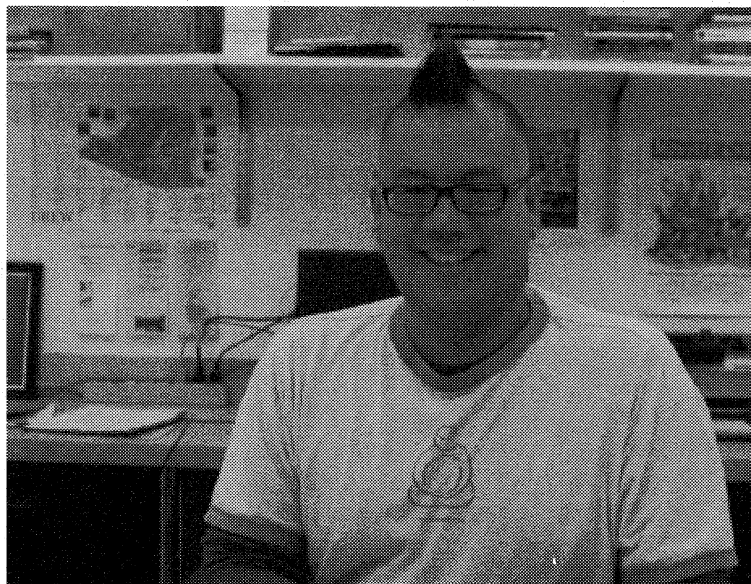
Before Drew, he taught at the University of Maryland in Seattle, where Chang also completed his Ph.D. in English.

While at UW, Chang taught 20th and 21st century American literature, video game studies, gender and sexuality studies and even classes on “Harry Potter,” “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and live-action role-playing games.

Chang said, “Now that I am at Drew, I hope to bring a range of diverse classes in literature, media studies, and cultural studies.”

Next semester Chang will be teaching courses like Introduction to Media Studies, a class on posthuman and cyberpunk narratives, an Introduction to the Digital Humanities, and a 20th century American survey. Those who know Chang know him as the friendly sci-fi fanatic, but those who don’t, know Chang as “the professor with the mohawk.”

About that, Chang said, “It’s also nice being known as the professor with the mohawk. My first semester here at Drew has been a wonderful, eye-opening experience. I have never attended or worked at a small institution nor lived in a small town like Madison. It has been a little bit



JUSTIN CAMEJO/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Professors Edmond Chang (left) and Summer Harrison (right) are two of Drew’s newest hires and have already, in their short time at Drew, been making a name for themselves.

of culture shock, but I am finding the small classes, the lively discussions and the many communities of Drew to be rich and rewarding.”

The Biology department has also gained new faculty, one of which is Lawrence Kramer, who specializes in anatomy and physiology. Before coming to Drew, Kramer worked in the information technology area for a Fortune 500 insurance company in New Jersey.

“I left there, desiring to pursue a career in the sciences, and completed my Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology at Rutgers,” Kramer said. At Rutgers, he worked as a Teaching Assistant, where he fell in love with teaching.

“Rutgers and Raritan Valley Community College are both great places to learn and teach, but I have found I really enjoy the sense of community that I find here at Drew. I find my students generally to be smart, engaged and a lot of fun to teach and work

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with.”

Kramer is from Manalapan, N.J., where he enjoys bicycle touring, hiking and time with his wife Linda and their three daughters.

In the English and Environmental Studies departments, Summer Gioia Harrison, specializes in 20th century American literature with an emphasis on environmental justice. Originally from Texas, Harrison went to graduate school in Madison, Wis.

Before coming to Drew, she taught in an interdisciplinary program at Case Western Reserve University and a literature and writing at the University of Tulsa

and Oklahoma State University.

About coming to Drew, Harrison said, “Drew is unlike any school I’ve seen—the varied students, the collegiality, the forest—all amazing.

The thing I’ve loved the most so far has been teaching my two favorite classes: Ecocriticism/ Environmental Writing and Environmental Justice Literature. The students have been engaged, interesting and ready to learn.”

Her classes are hybrid English/ ESS courses, where students talk about everything from environmental rhetoric to genetically modified corn, from cultural ideas of wilderness to the exposure of

farm workers to pesticides.

Harrison added, “I had a moment earlier this semester when I was teaching one of my classes outside and we were having this intense debate about justice, and I looked around at the students and the wildflowers and the clock tower and thought, yes, this is it! the dream!”

Next semester Harrison will be teaching an English course called U.S. Multiethnic Literature.

“In that one, we’re going to be reading a huge range of U.S. authors of color while thinking about issues like what it means to be ‘American’ and how art is connected to politics,” Harrison said.

She will also be teaching the ESS capstone, which is going to be focused on food justice—topics like farmworker’s rights, green imperialism, GMOs and food culture.

“We will also be doing the Real Food Calculator which measures the “realness” of food served on Drew’s campus. It should be great!” Harrison revealed.