

Faculty Hosts

Patrick J. Drew is an Assistant Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics and an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Penn State. He is a faculty member of the Huck Institutes' Center for Neural Engineering and graduate programs in cell and developmental biology, neuroscience, and physiology. Dr. Drew won the McKnight scholar award for neuroscience in 2012.



Loida Escote-Carlson is an Assistant Professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology as well as the director of the master of biotechnology degree program. She got her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign after which she worked for a small biotech company for two years before getting back into academics, working first at the University of British Columbia for nine years before coming to Penn State.



Charles Gaston is an Assistant Professor in Engineering at Penn State – York Campus. He earned his undergraduate degree from Penn State and then went on to earn a Masters from Stanford and a PhD from Purdue University, all in Engineering Science. He worked as an engineer for 28 years at IBM before coming back to Penn State in 1993. He has six patents in diverse fields.



Lisa German is the chair of the Commission for Women as well as the associate dean for Collections, Information and Access Services. She has a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She worked for Wright State University for four years and University of Illinois for nine years before coming to Penn State. She has received the Esther J. Piercy Award for her work in librarianship.



Diane Henderson is a Professor of Mathematics at Penn State. She earned a PhD in Physical Oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography/University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on the propagation of ocean waves using both analytical and experimental methods. She received the Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering, the Sloan Fellowship, and an NSF-young investigator award.



Thomas Mallouk is Evan Pugh Professor of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Physics, Associate Head of the Chemistry Department, Associate Director of Penn State MRSEC, and Director of the Center for Solar Nanomaterials. Dr. Mallouk won the Priestley teaching award in 2006 and the Schreyer Honors College Teaching Award in 2007.



Irina Mocioiu is an Associate Professor in Physics at Penn State. Her research is on theoretical particle physics especially related to neutrinos. Dr. Mocioiu holds a Master's degree from the University of Quebec at Montreal and a PhD from the C.N.Yang Institute at Stony Brook. Prior to joining Penn State in the 2005, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Argonne National Laboratory and the Enrico Fermi Institute at the University of Chicago.



Jacqueline O'Connor is an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering and holds a Dorothy Quiggle Career Development Professorship. Her work focuses on combustion and fluid mechanics. She received her Bachelors from MIT and subsequently went to Georgia Tech for a Masters and a PhD in aerospace engineering. She worked as postdoctoral researcher at Sandia National Labs before joining Penn State in 2013.



Sarah Shandera is an Assistant Professor of Physics. Dr. Shandera has a Doctorate from Cornell University and specializes in cosmology and theoretical particle physics. She held postdoctoral positions at the Institute for Strings, Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics at Columbia University and at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics before joining Penn State faculty in 2011.



Karen A. Thole is the Department Head of Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering at Penn State. She holds a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, and spent two years as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Thermal Turbomachinery at the University of Karlsruhe in Germany. Dr. Thole has been recognized by the U.S. White House Champion of Change for recruitment efforts in STEM and by Penn State's Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award.

