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Pomona Welcomes Ten New Faculty to the College Community

Part One of Two: Welcoming New Professors of 2007

by Sarah Higley

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Joti Rockwell, Music

Joti Rockwell turned a lifelong interest and career in music into a teaching position when he became an assistant professor of music at Pomona College.

Rockwell began to teach music while in high school in Bethesda, MD. A double-major in physics and music at Haverford College, Rockwell said that [his] “experience as a physics major got me interested in the theoretical side of [music theory].”

His experience with music is not purely academic. For about two years after college, Rockwell was a full-time performing musician in a “folk-rock type band.”

“We did gigs all over the country,” he said. During this time he performed twice at Scripps.

Rockwell plays violin, piano, guitar, and mandolin. In his spare time he enjoys playing music with other people, cooking, and spending time with his wife and eight month-old baby.

About Pomona, he said, “the students are great, and there’s a genuine interest in learning.” At the moment, he is teaching “Music Theory” and “Transitions in American Pop Music.”

Justin Crowe, Politics

Just out of graduate school at Princeton, Justin Crowe said of his new position in the Politics Department at Pomona College: “This is the job I was really excited about.”

“I’ve always been a political junkie,” Crowe said, adding that he was hooked after taking a class in Constitutional Law as a freshman at Williams College. The Bush-Gore presidential election in 2000 and ensuing conflicts during his sophomore year fueled his interest, and he went on to get a doctorate in politics at Princeton.

Crowe chose to teach at Pomona because he liked the atmosphere of a small, intimate liberal arts college. “I want to be a part of Pomona and get to know students and all that,” he said. This semester he is

teaching American Political Development and American Political Constitutionalism.

Outside of teaching, Crowe is a huge sports fan, and plays tennis, golf, squash and basketball. He has also been invited to participate as a contestant on Jeopardy.

Anne Dwyer, German and Russian

Born and raised in Austria to American parents, Anne Dwyer's interest in German began early. After attending high school in Austria, Dwyer got a B.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures at Carleton College and taught both Russian and German during graduate school at UC Berkeley.

Dwyer became interested in Russian accidentally, when a Spanish class in her high school was cancelled and replaced by one in Russian. "I decided I would continue studying Russian, and became hooked after spending a semester in Moscow in 1995," she said.

After graduating, Dwyer spent time studying in Lithuania on a Fulbright scholarship and working in Russia, translating a news digest from Russian to English for diplomats. She also spent a summer teaching Russian at Middlebury.

Dwyer plays the piano, especially chamber music, and plans to audit music classes at Pomona. She recently got involved in another form of teaching: dog training, and says she has "found similarities between that and her job as a professor."

This semester Dwyer is teaching the ID class Literary Journeys, and a course entitled Moscow-Berlin.

Ludwig Chincarini, Economics

Ludwig Chincarini came to Pomona to be a professor of economics after working on Wall Street at the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland; at FOLIOfn a financial Internet brokerage; and at Rydex Global Advisors, a mutual fund company. He also consulted at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

After going to both public and private high schools across Europe, Chincarini majored in economics at UC Berkeley, and received a doctorate from the economics department at MIT.

Chincarini said that his choice to study economics was influenced by the work of John Keynes, who came close to predicting World War II by studying the German economy.

Chincarini chose to come to Pomona because "it has a reputation for good students."

"It's one of the few places I would actually like to live," he said. While here, he would like to work with students to help them create their own "start-ups," or new companies.

Eric Hurley, Psychology and Black Studies

Teaching Psychology and Black Studies at Pomona is a big and welcome change from the large universities of Massachusetts and Florida, according to Eric Hurley. "Pomona is interested in creating the conditions to be productive as both a teacher and a scholar," he said. "UMass puts more pressure on research."

Hurley entered the University of Florida expecting to study advertising, which he considered a practical choice, but became interested in psychology after participating in a study on prejudice in education. He continued on and got a B.S. and doctorate in psychology at Howard University, after which he did a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University's Teacher's College. "Howard made me realize that I can make a good life for myself and also help my community," he said.

Among Hurley's other interests is traveling, although not the resort and five-star hotel type. "When I travel, I want to live as if I were a native of Brazil, or South Africa, or the Caribbean," he said. He has been to Brazil, Holland, Spain, South Africa and various Caribbean islands. He has also driven across the United States.

So far Hurley has nothing but praise for Pomona. "My colleagues have really reached out to me," he said, also praising the weather and intelligence of the students. He is looking forward to whale watching, hiking, and watching Doctor Who with other faculty members.