



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROOKSTON
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MEET THE RESEARCHERS

Karl Anderson



Karl Anderson is a teaching specialist at the University of Minnesota Crookston who is currently working as a research fellow focusing on freshwater sponges and is co-PI on the wetland bacteria drug discovery project. Anderson earned his master of science degree in environmental studies from Bemidji State University and is currently waiting to defend his Ph.D. in environmental conservation/science from North Dakota State University. Both his M.S. and Ph.D. research focused on environmental microbiology, where he has worked on bioremediation of wastewater and antibiotic resistance with the United States Department of Agriculture. He is the American Society for Microbiology's (ASM) former ambassador of science to North Dakota, and recently served on ASM's Young Leaders advisory board. Anderson currently mentors students supported by ASM's Future Leaders Fellowship program, and his research and teaching collaborations stretch from Australia to West Africa. He currently serves on the board of directors for RAB-Togo which promotes the biological sciences and related entrepreneurship for women in Togolese communities.

Eric Castle



Eric Castle is an associate professor for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. He teaches undergraduate landscape, natural resource, and art courses using hands-on learning experiences. In 2009, his teaching efforts were recognized through the awarding of the Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award from UMN Crookston. In 2010, he was selected by the UMN Crookston Chancellor to be the recipient of the Minnesota Campus Compact's President's Civic Engagement Service Award for his

role in guiding students in various community design efforts. Castle's research focuses on the application of ecological principles into human environments. Recent work has centered on community-engaged planning in recreation spaces for both adults and children. His research also extends to stormwater master planning and using ecosystem services to mitigate urban stormwater. Castle was one of the first recipients of the Dangermond Fellowship, awarded by ESRI and the Landscape Architecture Foundation to adapt real-time stormwater models for use in watershed build-out development scenarios. Professionally, Castle has consulted with communities, corporations, and the Kansas Air National Guard on sustainability issues. He has worked on projects in various states including Kansas, Florida, Utah, and Minnesota.

Anas Al-Fattal, Ph.D.



Anas Al-Fattal, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of marketing in the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. He received his Ph.D. and master's degrees from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. The focus of his study and research has been educational management, marketing, applied psychology, training, and consumer behavior (student choice.) Fattal has lectured in several higher education institutions in Syria, Oman, and the United States. He has been a marketing manager and director to some leading EFL providers in Syria.

James Foss



James Foss is an assistant professor for the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. As an educator and curriculum writer, he has worked in elementary education both nationally and internationally for 20 years. Concern for the rights of children is the inspiration for research on teacher personal epistemology, teacher guided inquiry, and constructivist principles for learning. Foss now resides in Grand Forks, N.D. with his wife, and three wonderful children. A golden retriever is the newest addition to the family. Her name, after much debate, is Lulu, and long-form name is Marigold Cocoa Unicorn Rose Flower.

Anita M. Gust



Anita M. Gust is an assistant professor of exercise science and wellness for the Math, Science, and Technology Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. She has an extensive background in teaching in the areas of exercise physiology, health and wellness, fitness, and sports medicine. Her research interests center around the emotional, mental, and social benefits of exercise and community programs designed for special populations. Gust gained valuable experience in athletic injury prevention and management during her time as an athletic trainer in community college, high school, and clinical settings prior to pursuing her Ph.D. in human development and wellness. She has a desire for life-long learning and enjoys

sharing that passion with her students. Personally, Gust enjoys being physically active, being a fan of athletics at all levels, reading, golfing, and country music. Gust is a native of Minnesota and currently resides in Crookston, Minn.

Mohammad Hossain, Ph.D.



Mohammad Hossain is an assistant professor of software engineering and information technology management for the Math, Science, and Technology Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston, where he teaches various software engineering courses. He earned his Ph.D. from North Dakota State University in 2016 and his Ph.D. dissertation title was “Foundational Algorithms Underlying Horizontal Processing of Vertically Structured Big Data Using pTrees.” Hossain’s research interests include data mining, machine learning, software engineering, cybersecurity, algorithm, etc. He is a

member of the International Society for Computers and their Applications (ISCA). Hossain serves as program chair for different conferences such as the International Conference on Computers and Their Applications (CATA), International Conference on Information System and Data Mining (ICISDM) and others.

Pp. Rutherford Johnson, Ph.D., ALM



Pp. Rutherford Johnson, Ph.D., ALM is a senior lecturer for the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston focused on empowering others to build transformational collaborations while improving the quality of lives. He regularly builds, mentors, and leads teams that provide invited expert policy advice to the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council regarding some of the most pressing humanitarian, economic, sustainability, and social issues the world faces today. Characteristically versatile, and prioritizing authentic diversity, equity, and inclusion, Johnson is experienced in government, diplomatic, and academic settings, turning challenges into opportunities. Johnson's approach adapts to the circumstances and needs of the organization and others to achieve maximum team effectiveness and optimal benefit to stakeholders. His leadership has brought several organizations to global prominence. As an educator, Johnson works to bring the best out of his students, preparing them for success beyond the classroom. His diverse training and education includes degrees from Harvard University Extension School, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture. Having lived and worked around the world, Johnson maintains a global outlook and a human focus. A popular international speaker, consultant, and author, Johnson's academic research includes environmental and social sustainability, behavioral economics, and the economics of culture and religion. He is a retired high-altitude alpine mountaineer and is a qualified mariner with additional certifications in navigation and maritime search and rescue.

Rachel Lundbohm, D.B.A.



Rachel Lundbohm is an assistant professor of management for the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. She holds a bachelor of science degree in marketing from St. Cloud State University, an M.B.A. from the University of North Dakota, and a D.B.A. from Metropolitan State University. Lundbohm has taught a variety of courses in management, marketing, and entrepreneurship. She has also worked with multiple entrepreneurs and economic development entities through applied research projects, course embedded experiential learning projects, and consulting activities. Her research interests include trends in digital and virtual marketing and management, hybrid learning, learning through simulation, and community engaged scholarship.

Craig Miller, D.B.A.



Craig Miller is a senior lecturer for the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston and holds a doctor of business administration from Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, and an M.B.A. as well as a bachelor of science in business from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. His formal education focused on business logistics, accounting, and predictive analytics. He also has significant experience with instructional design and integrating technology into teaching, including simulation models. Miller has been teaching at the college level since 1988. In 2015, he transferred from the Twin Cities to UMN Crookston and has enjoyed being close to family and the rural life.

Miller has published seven academic works with McGraw Hill and developed many custom business simulations for industry. These products have been used for executive and professional development, forecasting, and decision support applications throughout the world. Miller has facilitated hundreds of corporate development sessions for professional and technical

employees that enable them to better understand the financial impact of business decisions and strategy for companies such as 3M, Imation, Advance IT, Land O' Lakes, and Team Industries. Miller recently published a case book with colleague and friend, Rachel Lundbohm, with an accompanying website hosting five simulations associated with each case titled: *Applying Business Concepts: A Gamification Approach*.

Venugopal (Venu) Mukku, Ph.D.



Venugopal (Venu) Mukku, Ph.D. is an associate professor of chemistry and research labs director in the Math, Science, and Technology Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. He was a recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt fellowship (Germany) and the Award for Global Engagement (University of Minnesota Twin Cities.) Mukku is an elected member of the Council on Undergraduate Research. His curricular interests include maximizing undergraduate research opportunities for students as well as internationalization of undergraduate research. In the past, Mukku hosted Fulbright scholars from Cameroon, Mali, and the Republic of Macedonia, and visited Cameroon and Scotland for sabbatical research. Currently, he is working with scholars from Morocco and together with the International Programs Office in exploring student exchanges with Moroccan University. At UMN Crookston, he primarily teaches Organic Chemistry and leads the research laboratories.

Ken Myers



Ken Myers is an associate professor of management for the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston and previously served as a department chair and registrar. His area of expertise lies in the management of hotels, restaurants, resorts, hospitals, and culinary production. Myers has written multiple peer reviewed journal publications, textbook chapters and has presented at regional, national, and international conferences, and held a joint appointment with the University of Minnesota Tourism Center. Myers' hospitality industry experience is varied

including management of a French restaurant and management of Radisson hotels, plus he was a partner in the ownership of a full-service hotel. Myers has also served as an expert witness in over 24 legal cases. His consulting company, Sweet Harmony, has provided feasibility studies, breakeven analysis, marketing, menu analysis, training, recipe development, layout and design, and catering of special gourmet events. Myers has been the recipient of the University of Minnesota Technology Enhanced Learning Innovation Award, Best Implementer of Technology Award, UMC Distinguished Teaching Award, UMC Outstanding Services to Students with Disabilities, and the Collegians Outstanding Educator Award. He was recognized by the governor of South Dakota and the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs for 15 years of dedicated instruction to the South Dakota Summer Food Service Certification School.

Morgan Pyles, Ph.D.



Morgan Pyles, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of equine science for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Pyles came to Crookston in August 2020 from Kentucky where she completed a bachelor of science degree in equine science and management and a master of science degree and Ph.D. in animal science at the University of Kentucky. Before that, Pyles completed an associate of applied science degree in horse management from Central Wyoming College. Her research has focused on mare and foal nutrition, specifically investigating factors influencing mare milk composition and yield and foal digestive health. Pyles has continued her research efforts in equine nutrition at UMN Crookston and has introduced undergraduate students to the world of equine science research. Some of her research has investigated the suitability of alternative bedding material for horses and the preference of steamed, soaked, or dry hay in horses and the effects on water intake and fecal dry matter.

Md. Saifur Rahman



Md. Saifur Rahman is a lecturer of software engineering for the Math, Science, and Technology Department at University of Minnesota Crookston. Besides education, he is actively involved with scientific research through paper publications, acting as a reviewer, and editorial of journals. Rahman is an editorial board member of American Journal of Neural Networks and Applications (AJNNA.) He received his bachelor of engineering degree in computer science and telecommunication engineering from Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh. Rahman joined afterward and started working as a faculty member at University of Development Alternative and later in Noakhali Science and Technology University for more than six years. Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in University of North Dakota. His research focuses on big data analytics, machine learning, deep neural networks, and renewable energy intelligence.

Ali Saeedi, Ph.D., CPA



Ali Saeedi, Ph.D., is an associate professor of accounting in the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. He received his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Tehran. Saeedi has taught accounting courses at undergraduate and graduate levels in Iran, Malaysia, and in the United States for more than 20 years. He has authored and co-authored four books and more than 40 papers in refereed journals. His research interests include market-based accounting research, financial reporting, auditing, corporate governance, accounting information systems, data analytics in accounting, and capital market efficiency.

Johanna Stelljes



Johanna Stelljes is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota in Crookston. She majored in horticulture, completing emphasis in production horticulture and environmental landscaping. Stelljes has spent the last few summers gaining experience in a variety of green industry settings, including a nursery and landscaping business in her hometown of New Ulm, Minnesota as well as an orchard and vineyard in Nebraska. In October, Stelljes obtained her garden center professional certification through the MNLA. In February, she will begin work as nursery supervisor at Heidi's GrowHaus and Lifestyle

Gardens in Corcoran, Minn.

Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.



Kevin Thompson, Ph.D. is an associate professor of communication and is currently the interim director of advancement and alumni relations for the University and Alumni Relations Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Thompson has been at UMN Crookston since 2005. Prior to his current role, he was a faculty member in the communications program in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education Department for nine years, Business Department head for five years, and division head for the Business, Arts, and Education Division for two years. Before arriving at UMN Crookston, Thompson spent eight years in

training positions in the pharmaceutical and student loan industries. He has received several awards recognizing his excellence in academic teaching as well as training and development while in industry.

Eddie G. Walker, II, Ph.D.



Eddie G. Walker II, Ph.D. is an associate professor of sport and recreation management for the Business Department as well as the honors program coordinator at the University of Minnesota Crookston. He holds a doctor of philosophy degree in educational foundations and research methodologies from the University of North Dakota. In addition, Walker has a master of arts degree in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Alabama-Huntsville and a master of science degree in sport and exercise psychology from Purdue University. His research

interests include leadership, psych-social aspects of sport, and ethics within the sport management context.

Kristie Walker, Ph.D.



Kristie Walker is an associate professor of agronomy and interim division head for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. She is the program lead for the golf and sports turf management program and teaches all courses related to turfgrass management and soil science. In addition, Walker is the advisor for the Turf Bowl Team, Turf Club, and the Soils Judging Team. Walker received her Ph.D. and master of science degree from Purdue University in agronomy specializing in turfgrass management and soil fertility. Her current research interests include

carbon footprint determination of golf courses, irrigation regimes that conserve water, nitrogen fertilization effects on above ground responses and soil nitrogen losses, and cultural management practices that reduce turfgrass wear and soil compaction.

Oxana Wieland, Ph.D.



Assistant Professor, Business Department, UMN Crookston | wiel0057@umn.edu

Subject Areas: Finance and Economics

Fields of Interest

- International financial markets and institutions
- Development Finance
- Impact Investing
- Financial inclusion
- Global Learning

Teaching

- ECON 2101 Microeconomics
- ECON 2102 Macroeconomics
- FIN 3105 Corporate Finance
- FIN 3120 Money, Banking, and Financial Institutions
- FIN 3125 Investments
- IBUS/FIN 3020 International Financial Management

Research

The areas in which Wieland has conducted research are development finance, impact finance, socially responsible investing, and international financial markets and institutions. Part of the research has emphasized teaching strategies, active learning methods, course design, and assessment processes. Recent projects have focused on sustainable investments, developmental finance, and global aspects of learning.