



# MINERVA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Minerva Schools at KGI Announce Eight Additions to Faculty

**San Francisco, Calif. – August 11, 2015 –** [The Minerva Schools at KGI](#), offering a reinvented university experience for the brightest and most motivated students from around the world, today made several faculty and leadership announcements, including the appointment of eight accomplished faculty previously at institutions including Harvard, Stanford, and MIT. Each new faculty member comes with deep expertise in their field as well as a passion for teaching and student outcomes.

“As we prepare to welcome a larger class of students this fall, we are thrilled to have recruited a remarkably talented group of scholars who will teach the freshman cornerstone courses this year,” said Dr. Stephen M. Kosslyn, Founding Dean. “We were fortunate to have a very large pool of candidates to draw from which allowed us to be as selective in our staff recruitment as we are with our student admissions.”

New faculty members include:

#### College of Computational Sciences

**Alexis Diamond**, who will teach Formal Analyses. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University and is a two-time winner of the American Political Science Association’s Gosnell Prize for best paper in political methodology. Most recently he taught at Central European University in Budapest and led evaluation strategy at IFC, the private sector development arm of the World Bank Group.

**Michelle Greene**, who will teach Formal Analyses. She holds a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science from MIT and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. Most recently she worked as a research fellow in the Department of Computer Science at Stanford, in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

#### College of Natural Sciences

**Abha Ahuja**, who will teach Empirical Analyses. She holds a Ph.D. in Genetics from McMaster University in Canada and completed postdoctoral research at Harvard University. Most recently she served as a lecturer and curriculum fellow at Harvard Medical School.

**Andy Dosmann**, who will teach Empirical Analyses. He holds a Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from The University of Chicago and has authored articles on animal behavior and science education. Most recently he served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Thinking Matters Program at Stanford, where he was an award-winning teacher.

#### College of Social Sciences

**Randi Doyle**, who will teach Complex Systems. She is in the final stages of completing her Ph.D. in Experimental and Applied Psychology from the University of New Brunswick in Canada. Most recently she taught at the University of New Brunswick where her teaching has been recognized at local and national levels, including by the Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology.

**Mark Kukis**, who will teach Complex Systems. He is in the final phase of completing a Ph.D. in U.S. History and International Relations at Boston University. A journalist for more than a decade, he has covered the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan writing for *Time*, the *New Republic* and *Salon*. Most recently he authored the book *Voices from Iraq*, published by Columbia University Press.

### **College of Arts and Humanities**

**Marcia Dawkins**, who will teach Multimodal Communications. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Southern California and is an award-winning author, speaker and educator. Most recently she served as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Southern California.

**Rod Taylor**, who will teach Multimodal Communications. He holds a Ph.D. in English Literature from Indiana University and has served as a lecturer in Stanford's Program in Writing and Rhetoric and as a Resident Fellow in its Residential Education Program. An accomplished author and professional musician, most recently he served as an Assistant Professor at Tennessee State University.

Candidates applied through an open application process initially providing a CV and letters of recommendation. From that group, a small percent were granted interviews with the academic hiring committee. Unique to Minerva, a select number of candidates were then shortlisted and asked to teach a Minerva class on the Minerva Active Learning Forum to students from Minerva's Founding Class. Feedback from the students contributed to the hiring decisions.

Minerva also announced today the appointment of [Dr. Judith C. Brown as Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities](#), the movement of Dr. Dan Levitin to Dean of the College of Social Sciences and the retirement of Dr. Diane Halpern, who is now Dean Emeritus of the College of Social Sciences.

Applications are now open for matriculation in the Fall of 2016. Students interested in Minerva may apply at <https://minerva.kgi.edu/application/start/>.

### **About Minerva Schools at KGI**

The Minerva Schools at KGI offer a reinvented university experience for the brightest, most motivated students from around the world. Combining an interdisciplinary curriculum and rigorous academic standards, an accomplished faculty versed in the science of learning, an advanced interactive learning platform leveraging cutting-edge technology, and four years of immersive global experience, Minerva delivers an exceptional liberal arts and sciences education for future leaders and innovators in every discipline. The Minerva Schools at KGI were established in 2013 by KGI -- Keck Graduate Institute -- a WASC (WASC Senior College and University Commission) accredited institution-- in alliance with Minerva Project. [www.minerva.kgi.edu](http://www.minerva.kgi.edu)

###