Excellence Through
Dear Colleague,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you to St. John’s University. You have been invited to join our faculty in recognition of your outstanding scholarly achievements, commitment to the University’s mission, and dedication to your students. St. John’s is a vibrant academic community built on a strong foundation of Vincentian values. We look forward to working with you as you provide your students with an outstanding education and conduct important scholarly activities. Together we seek to make the world a better place.

We invite you to take advantage of the many programs that are available to faculty for professional development, as well as the numerous other educational and social events that take place on campus each academic year. Your presence at these events will enrich them greatly and provide a wonderful opportunity for student engagement.

Once again, welcome to St. John’s University and best wishes for great success as you begin your career as a member of our distinguished faculty.

Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., R.Ph.

Provost
Neilesh Bose, Ph.D., comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor in the Department of History. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Tufts University; an M.A. in social sciences from the University of Chicago; and a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh. As a historian of modern South Asia, he researches 19th- and 20th-century nationalism, religion, and culture, and the decolonization process in the mid-20th century. Other research interests include diasporas and migrations, popular culture, and the philosophy of history.

Jeremy V. Cruz, M.Div., comes to St. John’s as an instructor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. He has a B.A. in history from the University of California Riverside; an M.Div. from Boston College; and is a Ph.D. candidate in theological ethics (ABD) at Boston College. Cruz’s research interests are at the intersection of Christian ethics, egalitarian moral theory, and labor studies. His research focuses on the relationships between labor conditions, race, and state citizenship, as is reflected in his current research on the ethical dimensions of farm labor systems in Florida and New York. He has worked previously as a lay ecclesial minister and a faith-based community organizer.

Charles Fortmann, Ph.D., comes to St. John’s University as an associate professor in the Department of Physics. He received a Ph.D. and an M.S. in material science from Stanford University and a B.S. in physics. He has sought to better the world through: teaching and research aimed at improved solar photovoltaic energy generation and a deeper understanding and application of natural processes such as protein folding and photosynthesis. The research has led to a large number of collaborations, breakthroughs, industrial and academic experiences, and wonderful associations and experience with researchers from the US, Europe, and Japan.
Raeann Kyriakou, Ph.D.,
comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Her degrees include a Ph.D. in mathematics education from Teachers College, Columbia University; an M.A. in music education from Teachers College, Columbia University; an M.A. in mathematics from St. John’s University; and a B.A. in mathematics from St. John’s University. She taught mathematics at Xaverian High School for six years and served as the math curriculum specialist and faculty advisor (math chairperson) for two years. During this time, she was an adjunct instructor for the math department of St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she taught courses in precalculus, calculus I and II, and calculus with business applications. Her research interests are mathematics teacher education and certification, the Common Core State Standards in mathematics, the use of technology in educational instruction, and the construction of mathematical knowledge.

Erin Kidd, M.T.S.,
comes to St. John’s as an instructor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. She has a B.A. in philosophy from Gordon College and an M.T.S. in the history of Christianity from the University of Notre Dame. She is currently completing a Ph.D. in theology and society from Marquette University. Her scholarship focuses on philosophical and theological accounts of the human person, particularly gender identity. Her other research and teaching interests include the possibility of God-talk, the work of Karl Rahner, and theological perspectives on suffering and trauma.

Alioune Khoule, Ph.D.,
comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. For the past seven years, he has taught undergraduate mathematics courses at the City University of New York. His research interests are in mathematics modeling and mathematics education.

Gen Long, Ph.D.,
assistant professor, comes to St. John’s University in the Department of Physics. Dr. Long obtained his Ph.D. in physics from SUNY at Buffalo. His research areas include novel nanomaterial synthesis and characterizations, functional nanomaterial and energy-related device applications. He worked on next-generation FINFET technology development in Global Foundries before joining St. John’s.
Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

— Malcolm X

Gary Martin, Ph.D., comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He has a Ph.D. in speech and hearing sciences from the University of North Carolina; an M.A. in speech-language pathology; and a B.A. in communication sciences and disorders from the University of Pittsburgh. Until recently, Martin was a scientist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and an assistant professor of speech and hearing sciences at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests involve the speech and language development of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (with a particular emphasis on the phenotypic overlap of fragile X syndrome and autism).

Shanté Paradigm Smalls, Ph.D., joins the Department of English as an assistant professor. She has a Ph.D. and an M.A. from New York University and a B.A. from Smith College. Her previous experience includes positions as an Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellow at Davidson College (2011–13); and as an assistant professor of American studies at The University of New Mexico (2013–14). Her research and teaching interests are in African American studies, critical race theory, queer theory, hip-hop culture, pop culture, psychoanalysis, and genre fiction.

Julia Robinson-Surry, Ph.D., joins St. John’s University as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. She earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from MIT and an M.A. in chemistry from Reed College. During her graduate work at MIT, she carried out research on pericyclic reactions in organic synthesis. For the past three years, Robinson-Surry has taught at Bard High School Early College Queens in Long Island City, NY.
Salika A. Lawrence, Ph.D.,
is an associate professor in the Department of Human Services and Counseling. Her educational background includes a Ph.D. in education with a concentration in language, literacy, and learning; an M.A. in sociology; and an M.A. in social science education. Lawrence’s previous experience includes her work as program director and associate professor of literacy at William Paterson University of New Jersey. She is a former middle school social studies teacher and high school history teacher and has worked as a literacy coach with the New York City Department of Education. Her research interests include adolescent literacy, literacy instruction, the contexts and sociology of education, and teacher education and professional development.

A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.

— Brad Henry
Abigail M. Jewkes, Ph.D.,
comes to St. John’s University as an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Jewkes received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, an Ed.M. from Harvard School of Graduate Education, and a B.S. from Boston University. Jewkes has worked with young children and their families in Head Start, church-based, after-school, literacy promotion, and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) follow-up programs around the country. Her research examines the use of video and reflective practice in teacher preparation, the obesity epidemic in preschoolers, and the historical context of early childhood policies.
Yun Zhu, Ph.D., comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor in the Department of Economics and Finance. He received his Ph.D. in finance from the Lally School of Business at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Prior to joining St. John’s, he served as an instructor in the Graduate School of Business at Fordham University. He has taught corporate finance, financial econometrics, financial management, and data analysis at undergraduate, M.B.A., and doctoral levels. Zhu’s research interests are corporate governance, political economy, and financial institutions. The two main issues he examines are 1) the relationship between politics and firms’ investment and financing decisions and 2) the heterogeneity of managerial characteristics and their impact on managerial decision-making and the outcomes of these decisions. His recent paper about the political impact of institutions’ investments has been presented at a number of national and international conferences.

Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of man.

— Horace Mann
Excellence Through Inspiration
Angie Eaton, M.Ed., comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor/industry professional of radiologic sciences in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice. She earned her M.Ed. in instructional leadership, a B.S.O.E. in occupational education from Wayland Baptist University, and an A.A.S. in radiologic technology from Merced College. Her career began in radiography in 1991 and she worked for many years as a technologist, specializing in vascular interventional radiography. In 2000, she joined St. Philip’s College in San Antonio, TX, as a radiography technology clinical instructor before becoming an assistant professor in radiography technology. Her research interests include radiation protection and interventional radiography.

Rivka Hecht-Katz, Pharm.D., is an assistant clinical professor/industry professional in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice. She earned her Pharm.D. degree from Touro College of Pharmacy and a B.S. in biology from Touro College. She completed both her postgraduate year one and year two pharmacy residencies at the Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, with a specialization in ambulatory care, while concurrently teaching at the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her research interests include anticoagulation, geriatrics, and gastroenterology. She also has an interest in community outreach and enjoys patient counseling.

Chung-Shien Lee, Pharm.D., is an assistant clinical professor/industry professional in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice. Lee, a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS), earned his Pharm.D. from St. John’s University and completed his PGY-1 pharmacy residency at North Shore University Hospital (NSUH). After his PGY-1 residency, he worked as an internal medicine pharmacy clinical coordinator at NSUH and then completed a PGY-2 oncology pharmacy residency at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. His areas of interest include oncology, supportive care, and pharmacy education.

“Excellence Through Inspiration”

“The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth.”

— John F. Kennedy
Celia Lu, Pharm.D.,
comes to St. John’s as an assistant clinical professor/industry professional in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice. She received her Pharm.D. from St. John’s University and completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the School of Pharmacy at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Abilene, TX. Afterwards, she completed a PGY-2 pharmacy residency specializing in ambulatory care at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse, NY. Lu recently received board certification in ambulatory care pharmacy. Her areas of interest include diabetes and medication adherence.

Christan M. Thomas, Pharm.D.,
joins St. John’s as an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice. She has a Pharm.D. from East Tennessee State University and a B.A. in communications from Milligan College in Tennessee. She completed both a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency and a PGY-2 residency in hematology/oncology at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Her research interests include drug interactions with chemotherapy and antiretroviral therapy for the treatment of HIV. Prior to becoming a pharmacist, she spent five years as a writer/editor for several publications across Tennessee and Texas.

Sabesan Yoganathan, Ph.D.,
comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Alberta and his postdoctoral training at Yale University. He served as a preceptor and mentored undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Alberta and at Yale. His past research focused on developing natural products as potential anti-infectious agents to target emerging drug-resistant pathogens. His areas of interest in teaching and research include medicinal chemistry, biological chemistry, and natural products drug discovery.
Joseph Gulinello, M.P.A.,
industry assistant professor, Division of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies and Homeland Security, has an M.P.A., and a B.A. in criminal social psychology, an A.A. Liberal Arts, and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He has held top security positions with Integrated Security Solutions, Securitas, Health and Hospitals Corporation, Interfaith Healthcare, and Loews Corporation. He is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve. His final assignment was Regional Faculty Director, U.S. Army Command, and General Staff College. As a retired NYPD detective, he served in Emergency Service and Crime Scene Units. He was an industry adjunct professor at St. John’s, John Jay, New York Tech, Adelphi, Fairleigh Dickinson, LaGuardia Community, and Interboro Institute. Gulinello chairs an academic committee for ASIS International and is a board member for the Metropolitan Security Directors Association. His research focus is in homeland and corporate security.

The one exclusive sign of thorough knowledge is the power of teaching.

— Aristotle

Michael Rizzo, M.B.A.,
comes to St. John’s University as an industry assistant professor in the Division of Mass Communications. His M.B.A. is in marketing management from St. John’s University and he has a B.A. in communications from Fordham University. Rizzo is a broadcast journalist teaching as an adjunct professor at St. John’s since 2006 and as an adjunct instructor at Montclair State University since 2013, all with a focus on trends in print, broadcast and multimedia writing, and journalism. Rizzo managed news and sports coverage at ABC-TV News and continues to consult there. He is a former executive director at ABC News Radio, and managing editor at Fios1 News, and News 12.
Mark Tannian, Ph.D.,
comes to St. John’s as an assistant professor, Division of Computer Science, Mathematics and Science. He has a Ph.D. in computer engineering from Iowa State University, an M.S. in electrical engineering from George Washington University; and a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Delaware. Prior to returning to school in order to earn a Ph.D. from Iowa State University, he worked in various information security professional roles for 12 years, such as a technical support engineer, systems engineer, consultant, security operations analyst, and as a pre and post sales technical representative. His research interests are in visualization, information security measurement, and systems security.
This printed brochure may not contain the entire new faculty due to timeline restrictions. Note that the web version which can be found at stjohns.edu/academics/provost will make every effort to include all newly hired faculty.