



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

2023 Addendum to the New Faculty Brochure



This is the Addendum to the 2023 New Faculty Brochure with the latest additions to our distinguished faculty at St. John's University. Within these pages you will find the profiles, achievements, and interests of our faculty who represent diverse fields, backgrounds and cultures. St. John's University is happy to welcome these new additions and introduce them to you.



Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure 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.

As faculty, you are an integral part of a vibrant academic community built upon a strong foundation of Catholic and Vincentian values, where the success of our students is our main priority. Students come from across America and from around the globe to our great University to be taught and mentored by you and your innovative faculty colleagues who are dedicated to advancing the potential of every student. Together, faculty and students create an engaging and inspiring learning environment, work in partnership on research and scholarly projects, engage in service to the University as well as the community, and so much more.

I am confident that you will excel at St. John's, and we are excited to follow your journey alongside your students. I encourage you to immerse yourself in what St. John's has to offer and to take advantage of the many professional development programs available, as well as the numerous educational and social events on campus.

As you embark on your career at St. John's University, I wish you a great success. We, as faculty, have a great responsibility because what we do every day changes the lives of our students.

Sincerely,



Simon G. Møller. Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

University Distinguished Professor

Provost Endowed Chair

St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Dr. Malek A. Abunaemeh, M.S., Ph. D.

Dr. Malek Abunaemeh joins the Physics Department in St John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Abunaemeh holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics in Minor from the University of Alabama (UA), M.S. in Physics from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and a Ph.D. in Applied Physics with a concentration in Material Science from Alabama A&M University (AAMU).

Dr. Abunaemeh devoted his academic career to teaching and working with graduate and undergraduate students to develop new educational materials and techniques that the students will benefit from in the areas of Mathematics, Physics and Science in both introductory and advanced levels. One of his goals is to show and teach students that science is interesting, relevant, and fun.

Dr. Abunaemeh expertise also includes working with U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) funded projects using accelerators that included the ability to work with electron microscopy focus ion beam and material characterization related to the barrier in nuclear fuel research and different characterization techniques such as Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), absorption, Rutherford Backscattering Spectroscopy, (RBS), Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), Raman Spectroscopy, X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) and Particle Induced X-ray Emission. Dr. Abunaemeh is also a 3-time Alabama EPSCoR Graduate Research (GRSP) Award recipient.



Prof. Rami Alsaber

Prof. Rami Alsaber joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor for Scientific Inquiry in the Department for Core Studies at St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He earned his M.Phil. in Molecular Biology and Advanced Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Informatics from Fordham University.

Prof. Alsaber joined the department in the fall 2013 semester as an adjunct and has moved to his new role this semester. He taught courses in General Biology, Microbiology, Physiology, Molecular Biology, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, and Biomaterial Sciences at BMCC, Long Island University, and NYU Tandon. His role as a lecturer focused on advancing science literacy and empowering multidisciplinary education in classroom environments. His current research focuses on utilizing biomedical informatic tools to analyze cognitive science research and healthcare data. His other research interests include NGS sequencing and analysis of quorum sensing in marine microbial environments and the bioinformatic analysis of factors influencing the trafficking and modulations of Kainate Receptors.



Dr. Harrison Fluss, Ph.D.

Dr. Harrison Fluss joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy in St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He earned his Ph. D. from Stony Brook University and has taught philosophy courses for over a decade.

With a particular concentration on Spinoza and German idealism, his work focuses on how metaphysics and political philosophy intersect. His dissertation explores issues of Hegel's philosophy, and its relationship to Christian theology and rationalism. With Ronald Beiner, he is the co-author of *Moses and Political Philosophy*, forthcoming with University of Toronto Press.

St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (cont.)



Dr. Steven Hall, M.S., Ph. D.

Dr. Steven Hall joins the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry. He earned his doctoral degree in Chemistry at Stony Brook University.

Beginning his career as a research assistant, he earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Chemistry at Hunter College while assisting with bioorganic research including extracting immunomodulatory molecules from herbal samples as well as attending various conferences. At Stony Brook University, he assisted in the structural characterization of a novel heme binding gas sensor. Dr. Hall's research interests include protein chemistry, characterizing proteins, and chemical biology (specifically proteomics and biomolecule discovery).



Dr. Erin Lynn, M.F.A., M.A., Ph. D.

Dr. Erin Lynn joins St. John's University in the Department for Core Studies as an Assistant Professor of First Year Writing. She holds a Ph.D. in Poetry from The University of Connecticut, an M.F.A. in Poetry from Columbia University, an M.A. in Irish Literature from Queen's University, Belfast, and a B.A. in English and Spanish from Manhattan College. Her poetry has appeared in publications such as Narrative, The Nashville Review, and Lunch Ticket. She won the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize for her chapbook, *Forgive Our Kind*, 2023 from Cordella Press. She co-curates Poor Mouth Poetry in the Bronx. Her research centers on revisionist myth-making in poetry from historically underrepresented writers.



Rev. Dr. Michael Mburu, M.A., Ph.D.

Rev. Dr. Mburu Kamau Michael joins St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy and an M.A. in Theology from Urbaniana University in Rome. He earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

His research interests focus on African Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy, Metaphysics and Ethics. In 2022, Rev. Dr. Mburu published a book, *Odera Oruka and the Right to a Human Minimum: An African Philosopher's Defense of Human Dignity and Environment*, which critically advances Oruka's practical philosophy. It situates Odera Oruka (1944-1995) within philosophical discourses on issues of justice, human rights, duty, ecology, politics, and ubuntu or humanness. Dr. Mburu is also a Catholic Priest, currently serving as Associate Pastor at Holy Family, Blessed Sacrament and St. John Vianney Parish in Bronx, NY.

St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (cont.)



Prof. Stephen S. Mills, M.F.A.

Prof. Stephen S. Mills joins the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at St. John's University as an Assistant Professor of First Year Writing in the Department for Core Studies. He earned his M.F.A in Creative Writing from Florida State University.

Prof. Mills comes to St. John's with fifteen years of teaching experiences in both composition and creative writing. He is the author of the Lambda Award-winning book *He Do the Gay Man in Different Voices* (2012) as well as *A History of the Unmarried* (2014) and *Not Everything Thrown Starts a Revolution* (2018) all from Sibling Rivalry Press. His work has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Fourteen Poems*, *The Rumpus*, and others. Two of his books were placed on the Over the Rainbow List compiled yearly by the American Library Association. His most recent manuscript was named a finalist for the 2023 Laura Boss Narrative Poetry Award. He is also the author of the plays *Waiting for Manilow* and *Is That All There Is?*

His work challenges gender and sexual norms through a queer lens while also examining our connection to history, other works of art, and pop culture.



Dr. Bouchra Zerhouni-Layachi, M.S., Ph. D.

From 2015-2022, Dr. Bouchra Zerhouni-Layachi served St. John's University as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. In Spring of 2023, she joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Zerhouni-Layachi received her M.S. in Immunology and Genetics and a Ph.D. in Immunology from Claude Bernard University in Lyon, France.

Her area of research is Immunology and Virology, with a focus on HIV infection. Following her doctoral studies, she had her first postdoctoral training position at Edward Herriot Hospital in Lyon, France. In 1999, she joined Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio for a second postdoctoral position. In 2003, she joined Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City as a Research Assistant Professor where she developed her own project in Infectious Diseases. While doing research there on HIV pathogenesis, she mentored and supervised students.

The School of Education



Dr. Joan I. Birringer-Haig, '14Ed.D.

Dr. Joan I. Birringer-Haig joins The School of Education at St. John's University as a tenure-track Associate Professor after completing three semesters as contract faculty in the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership. She is also the Coordinator for the School Building Leadership program. Dr. Birringer-Haig is an alumna of St. John's having earned her Ed.D. in 2014 in Instructional Leadership.

Prior to joining St. John's, Dr. Birringer-Haig served as a Principal in a Long Island elementary school, where she was trained in Peter Senge's systems thinking, and received certification in Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People programs. She also has prior experience supervising first and second year teachers in the New York City public schools for the Teacher Fellows program and working for St. John's University in the DAIL department as an adjunct instructor and full-time clinical professor. As a former special education teacher and supervisor in the NYC Department of Education, Dr. Birringer-Haig enjoys teaching courses using engaging techniques and scaffolding her instruction to meet all students' learning needs. She relishes teaching courses in data analysis, statistics, doctoral research methods, and instructional supervision. Dr. Birringer-Haig mentors students on their doctoral dissertations and advises students who are studying in the School Building and School District Leadership and doctoral programs. Her research interests focus on principal preparation programs, administrative coaching, school equity and access, and higher education instructional practices.



Dr. Nouna Jalilzadeh, Ph. D., LMHC, NCC

Dr. Nouna Jalilzadeh has joined St. John's University and the Department of Counselor Education at the School of Education as a tenure-track Assistant Professor after serving as an adjunct faculty member. She holds a B.S. in Psychology with Counseling skills from Middlesex University, an M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Molloy University, and a Ph.D. in Mental Health Counseling from Pace University.

Dr. Jalilzadeh is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Board Certified Counselor, EMDR Certified Therapist, and Clinical Supervisor in the state of New York. Dr. Jalilzadeh provides services to a diverse clientele, specializing in reproductive mental health and complex traumas. Her research interests include diversity, multicultural competence, and social justice, with an emphasis on trauma, marginalized identities, and intersectionality within the fields of counseling, counselor education, and supervision.

The Peter J. Tobin College of Business



Prof. Marjan Fadavi Ardekani, M.A.

Prof. Marjan Fadavi Ardekani has recently joined the faculty at St. John's University as an Instructor in the Department of Economics and Finance at the Tobin College of Business. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the New School for Social Research.

Prof. Fadavi Ardekani is a microeconomist with research interests in law and political economy, big tech regulation, the digital economy, and antitrust. Her work centers on the relationship between power and economics, exemplified by her current project—a case study of Google's power and the use and abuse of economics in antitrust cases. Her academic background also includes research in development and complexity economics.



Prof. James Kinsley, M.A., M.B.A.

Prof. James Kinsley joins Tobin as Instructor in the Department of Management, Entrepreneurship, Consulting & Operations in The Peter J. Tobin College of Business. He also has been newly appointed as the Director of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center here at St. John's University.

Prof. Kinsley obtained a master's degree in Geography from the School of Geography and the Environment at Oxford University in the UK. He later received his M.B.A from Cranfield School of Management as well as a Diploma in Marketing (DipM) from the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

James has spent most of his career in management and environmental consulting, working for a range of international organizations including KPMG, ERM, Atkins (now AtkinsRéalis), Merrill Lynch and the British Government's Dept for International Trade. At Atkins he led its strategy and markets consulting business, and whilst working as a Vice Consul at the British Consulate General in NY, he established a new trade and investment operation focused on the infrastructure sector. He also set up his own consulting business, ACG, whilst living and working in Africa. He is passionate about helping students to get experiential learning opportunities, and while at Tobin has helped to establish a management consulting class where students get the chance to undertake an 8-week long consulting project with external clients. He is also an active user of business simulations in his classes.



Prof. Basil Thompson Sr., '87SVC

Prof. Basil Thompson Sr. joins St. John's University as an Instructor in the Maurice R. Greenberg School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science, after serving as an adjunct since 2017. Prof. Thompson is a St. John's alumni with a B.S. in Communications and is continuing his education, pursuing an M.B.A. specializing in Enterprise Risk Management.

Prof. Thompson has enjoyed a successful professional career in the Insurance and Financial Services Industry for 33 years, fulfilling various roles including: Licensed Sales Agent, Marketing Project(s) Team Member, Agent Field Development Training, In-house Employee Training, Project Development, and as a Licensed Life Accident & Health (LAH) & Continuing Education (CE) Instructor for NY State (1993 - Present). He is also President of Thompson Consulting, where he specializes in training, coaching and consulting with Insurance and Financial services firms, to help their newly recruited agents pass the rigorous LAH Pre-Licensing insurance state examinations in multiple states.

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Dr. Regina Cardaci, Ph.D., CNM, OGNP, R.N., FNYAM

Dr. Regina Cardaci joins the College of Pharmacy and Health Professions, as a tenure-track Associate Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Nursing. Dr. Cardaci started her career in nursing in Obstetrical Nursing, but the bulk of her clinical practice has been as a Certified Nurse Midwife and Nurse Practitioner, with specialization in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She received her midwifery educations at The State University of New York, Brooklyn, and a Ph.D., from the City University of New York Graduate Center in Nursing Science. Dr. Cardaci has also been inducted as a Fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine.

In addition to maintaining a clinical practice, Dr. Cardaci has been an educator for almost twenty years having taught in both undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs. Dr. Cardaci's research interests include providing care to vulnerable populations as well as diversity in the nursing workforce.



Dr. Eileen Engelke, Ed.D., R.N., CNE

Dr. Eileen Engelke joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Associate Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Nursing at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned her Ed.D. in the Executive Program for Nurses in the Department of Organization and Leadership and she earned her M.A. in Nursing both at Columbia University.

Her undergraduate specialty areas of teaching are introduction to nursing, medical, surgical and critical care nursing, pediatrics, research and leadership development. She promotes active learning using High Impact Teaching strategies and reflective practices. Her research interests lie in experiential learning, particularly how participation in extracurricular collegiate activities promotes student retention, collegiate success, and transferable skills in nursing practice. Additionally, Dr. Engelke has an interest in qualitative research methodologies, particularly phenomenology, and has been a member in over 10 dissertation committees.



Dr. Kathleen Horan, '20Pharm.D., BCACP, BC-ADM

Dr. Kathleen Horan joins the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as a tenure-track Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Horan earned her Pharm.D. from St. John's University in 2020. She then completed a PGY1 residency at Huntington Hospital in Huntington, NY, and a PGY2 residency in ambulatory care at One Brooklyn Health- Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Horan is a board-certified ambulatory care pharmacist and is board certified in advanced diabetes management. Her practice site is at a New York Presbyterian-Queens affiliated clinic. Her research interests include primary care, diabetes management, and public health.

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (cont.)



Dr. Nancy Spear Owen, Ed.D., R.N., CHSE

Dr. Nancy Spear Owen comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Nursing in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned her doctoral degree in 2022 from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator (CSHE) and Jonas Scholar.

Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Spear Owen worked as a faculty member at Columbia University School of Nursing in the Simulation Center. In addition to lab teaching, she coordinated the Standardized Patient Program for graduate prelicensure and doctoral nurse practitioner students. As a registered nurse, most of her 20 years in clinical practice were in community and public health settings, concentrating on school health, patient safety initiatives, and infection prevention. She has a long service commitment to promoting health and wellness with vulnerable populations. Dr. Spear Owen's research focuses on simulation for patient safety and simulation methodology for nursing education.



Dr. Gerard Quinn, '16Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Dr. Gerard Quinn joins the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as an Assistant Clinical Professor within the Department of Pharmacy Practice for the Doctor of Pharmacy program. He earned his Pharm.D. from St. John's University in 2016 and went on to complete a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency in Pharmacotherapy at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He then completed a PGY-2 pharmacy practice residency specializing in Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill, NC. He is board certified in Pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy (BCPP) as recognized by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. His affiliated clinical site under St. John's is Queens Hospital where he will continue to provide psychiatric pharmacy services.

Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Quinn provided ambulatory pharmacy services and practiced collaborative drug therapy management at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and has experience in both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric practice settings. His research interests include management of metabolic syndrome, smoking cessation, long-acting injectable medications and pharmacy educational research.

The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies



Prof. Yu-Hsuan (Sean) Liu, M.A.

Prof. Yu-Hsuan (Sean) Liu joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security in The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies. He is a doctoral candidate in Criminal Justice at John Jay College/The Graduate Center, City University of New York.

He worked as the Chief of the New Taipei City Police Department in Taiwan after 12 years as a police officer. His dissertation estimated the prevalence of motor vehicle theft in major U.S. cities using big data from Google Trends. He was the recipient of the Study Abroad Scholarship from Ministry of Education in Taiwan, the Early Research Initiative Pre-Dissertation Research Award from The Graduate Center, CUNY, and the James Fyfe Award from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His research interests include terrorism, crime statistics, and the application of data science techniques to the social science research. His works have appeared in *Social Science Research*, *Methodological Innovations*, *Journal of Human Trafficking* and the *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*.