



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

2024 Addendum to the New Faculty Brochure



This is the Addendum to the 2024 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 their potential. 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.

At St. John's we are guided by our five-year University Strategic Plan -- a plan that also belongs to you. It represents a living document with forward-thinking goals that aligns with and considers the rapidly evolving higher education landscape. You will find that we as a community do not shy away from challenges but rather turn them into new opportunities as we propel our great University into the future.

I am confident that you will excel at St. John's, and we look forward to following 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 and educational and social events on campus.

As you embark on your career at St. John's University, I wish you 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 Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs,
University Distinguished Professor,
and Provost Endowed Chair*

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Mee Kyung Lee, Ph. D., R.N.

Mee Kyung Lee joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor/Industry Professional (Pediatrics) in the Department of Nursing in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Washington, an M.S. in Pediatric Nursing from Columbia University, and an M.S. in Nursing from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea.

Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Lee worked as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA.

Dr. Lee's research interests include child development, self-management behaviors, care for transitions in children and adolescents with chronic diseases especially diabetes, school nursing, and school health. Dr. Lee has extensive experience working with youth and their families in hospitals, schools, and community settings. She aspires to develop a nursing intervention program for youth with chronic diseases that can be used in the US and Korea.



Sidney A. Obas, DMSc, M.B.A., PA-C, RRT, RPsgT

Sidney Obas joins the faculty of St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Health Professions (Physician Assistant program) in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Dr. Obas earned a Doctor of Medical Science degree from the University of Lynchburg, an MBA from Louisiana State University Shreveport, and is a graduate of the Physician Assistant program at Touro College. He specializes in pulmonary and critical care and is a registered Respiratory Therapist and certified Sleep Technologist.

Dr. Obas has diverse and extensive experience as a practicing Physician Assistant. As the Chief PA in critical care at Mount Sinai South Nassau Communities Hospital he created a training program for new graduate physician assistants. He has many interests in medicine and has published works on venous thromboembolism.

Dr. Obas has worked in academia for over 25 years, beginning as an adjunct professor in various colleges and universities, later transitioning to a full-time professor. He has taught a myriad of courses in clinical medicine and basic sciences. Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Obas served as an academic coordinator, and clinical coordinator at Wagner College.

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



David S. Byrne, Ph. D., '97MLS

David S. Byrne joins the faculty of St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Division of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security in The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in Information Studies (with a specialization in Criminal Justice Technology) and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from LIU Post, NY, and a Master of Science in Library Science from St. John's University, NY.

Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Byrne's career spanned nearly a decade and a half in Law Enforcement Intelligence focusing on transnational organized crime and homeland security investigations. Dr. Byrne was also an adjunct professor at Farmingdale State College where he taught Intelligence Operations, Computer Forensics, and Criminalistics, and was the recipient of the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching (2023-2024). He also taught research methods at St. Joseph's University, NY.

Dr. Byrne is the author of two books on Intelligence Analysis and Criminal Investigations and his research interests include enhancing criminal justice education via technology simulations, applied/experiential learning, homeland security, intelligence studies, and organized crime.



Kutub Thakur, Ph. D., CISM, CEH, CFHI

Kutub Thakur joins St. John's University's Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies as a tenure-track Associate Professor in the Division of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science. He has held key leadership roles in prestigious private and public entities, including New York University, Lehman Brothers, Barclays Capital, Con Edison, the United Nations, the City University of New York, New Jersey City University, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

In addition to his leadership and academic roles, Dr. Thakur is a prolific author, contributing to numerous academic textbooks that are widely adopted in university programs worldwide. His expertise also includes reviewing prestigious journals and publishing impactful papers in reputable journals and conferences. His research areas encompass artificial intelligence, network security, machine learning, IoT security, privacy, and user behavior.

Dr. Thakur earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science with a specialization in cybersecurity from Pace University, and an M.S. in Engineering, Electrical, and Computer Control Systems from the University of Wisconsin.

The School of Education



Zoya McCants, Ed.D., LMHC, LPC-ACS

Zoya McCants joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Counselor Education in The School of Education. She holds an Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology and Counselor Supervision from Argosy University and is a licensed mental health counselor specializing in trauma, postpartum mood disorders, traumatic birthing experiences, and social justice policy development. As a certified trauma informed specialist and trainer, she utilizes therapeutic modalities such as MBCT, CBT, TF-CBT, Narrative Therapy, restorative breathwork, and trauma conscious yoga approaches.

Prior to joining St. John's, she was an Assistant Professor and the Program Director of Mental Health Counseling & Marriage & Family Therapy Programs at Long Island University - Brooklyn campus. She is the author of the *Soul In Bloom Wellness Workbook*, developed in practice with her client population to aid in self-awareness, building self-esteem and confidence.

Dr. McCants is an advocate for underserved populations, the LGBTQIA population, women's birthing and health equity rights. Dr. McCants' research areas include understating trauma and how it impacts the brain and body with use of the polyvagal theory, as well as, understanding maternal mental health and perinatal post-traumatic stress disorder which impacts an alarming number of women who have experienced increased stress, anxiety, and medical issues during their pregnancies.