



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

NEW FACULTY

2025



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 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 University Strategic Plan—a plan that also belongs to you. It represents a living document with forward-thinking goals that align with and consider the rapidly evolving higher education landscape. You will find that as a community we 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



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



Teresa Delgado, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor

St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“Through its distinctive faculty and curriculum, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is committed to academic excellence as an expression of our Catholic, Vincentian, metropolitan, and global mission. Our renowned faculty of first-rate teachers/scholars engage the foundational knowledge, critical thinking skills, and creative possibilities to elevate student potential. We are thrilled to begin another academic year with a focus on the academic excellence we embody and cultivate in everything we do.”



Laura K. Cyran, '22Psy.D.

Laura Cyran joined St. John's University in the Spring of 2025 as an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department in St John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Cyran holds a Psy.D in School Psychology from St. John's University and completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology and Philosophy at Barnard College of Columbia University.

Dr. Cyran is a Licensed Psychologist with training from a range of clinical placements, including hospital-based outpatient, community mental health, residential treatment, elementary and high schools, and private group practice settings. Dr. Cyran's research focuses on adolescent peer relationships and social withdrawal, and she maintains involvement in various metascience initiatives. She currently

treats adolescents and young adults in Westchester County, NY.



Wai-Ting Lam, Ph.D.

Dr. Wai-Ting Lam joins the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at St. John's University as an Assistant Professor. She recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship through the prestigious National Science Foundation ASCEND program, in affiliation with Florida Atlantic University. Her research lies at the intersection of celestial mechanics, dynamical systems, and computational mathematics, with a focus on the orbital dynamics of irregularly shaped asteroids and comets.

Dr. Lam earned her Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences from Yeshiva University. Her passion for mathematics began during her undergraduate years and has since evolved into a research career dedicated to celestial mechanics and space mission design. She previously interned at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, an experience that deepened her interest in the intersection of mathematics and space mission design. Over the years, she has established an international network of collaborators in Italy, Mexico, and the United States.

As she begins her role at St. John's, Dr. Lam looks forward to building a strong, independent research program, advancing as an educator, and contributing actively to the broader mathematical sciences community.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



James D. Wolfinger, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor

The School of Education

“In The School of Education, we believe that no endeavor elevates humanity more than education. Every day, our first-rate faculty strives to provide an excellent education that translates into our graduates becoming the best teachers, leaders, and counselors in the New York City metropolitan area.”



Eric Akuoko, Ph.D.

Dr. Akuoko joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Akuoko was a postdoctoral researcher at Middle Tennessee State University where he led an NSF-funded project, exploring levers and barriers to Graduate Students Teaching Professional Development. He has both quantitative and qualitative methodological expertise.

Dr. Akuoko earned his Ph.D. in Science Education and an M.A. in Psychological and Quantitative Foundations (Educational Measurement & Statistics), both from the University of Iowa.

Additionally, Dr. Akuoko holds a second Master of Philosophy degree in Science Education, from the University of Education—Ghana, and a Bachelor of Education in Science from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. He also holds a 3-year Post Secondary Teachers' Certificate "A" from the University of Cape Coast. Eric is passionate about Teacher Education and utilizes generative learning frameworks to center his instruction and engagements with his students, wielding more than 20 years teaching experience at all levels of education in the U.S. and Ghana.

Finally, Dr. Akuoko's research interests center on the mediating role and use of epistemic tools (language, argumentation, and dialogue) for inquiry-based science learning, assessment in science education, multilevel modeling of clustered data in education, relationship between teacher epistemic beliefs and classroom learning environments. Other research interests include Graduate Students Teaching Professional Development and Teacher Professional Development. Among other courses (Ph.D. and undergraduate) instructed by Dr. Akuoko since joining St. John's University in January 2025 include EDU 8004: Visions for Research II—Quantitative Methods for Collecting & Analyzing Data, EDU 8009: Critical & Historical Perspectives within Education & Educational Research, and EDU 1007: Methods of Teaching Science.



Maria Haji-Georgi, Ph.D.

Maria Haji-Georgi joined St. John's University in Spring 2025 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Education Specialties.

Dr. Haji-Georgi's research focuses on preventing teacher burnout, enhancing teachers' social-emotional competencies, and improving teacher-student relationships, especially in regard to teachers of students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Dr. Haji-Georgi studies how mindfulness-based practices and skills, such as compassion, contribute to classroom, teacher, and student outcomes. Dr. Haji-Georgi also researches special education teacher preparation with the aim of better understanding and enhancing program coherence.

Through her course and practicum instruction, Dr. Haji-Georgi prepares special education teachers to deliver high-quality instruction and form compassionate relationships with students with disabilities. Her aim is to prepare St. John's students for effective and resilient teaching careers and to facilitate their development of enhanced social-emotional competencies.

Dr. Haji-Georgi holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University at Albany, SUNY, where she received funding through a fellowship for Special Education Personnel Preparation,

through her advisor's grant from the United States Office of Special Education Programs. Prior to joining St. John's faculty, Dr. Haji-Georgi held full-time, professional appointments at University at Albany, SUNY and Hudson Valley Community College. Previously, Maria had worked as a teacher in inclusive K-12 classroom settings serving bilingual students and students with disabilities domestically and internationally in public and private school settings.



Jacqueline (Jackie) Winsch, Ph.D.

Jackie Winsch is an Assistant Professor of Childhood Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at St. John's University. A graduate of the Literacy Studies department at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Jackie's research interests include elementary literacies, drama integration, arts integration teacher education, and practitioner research. After earning her Master of Education from the University of Notre Dame, Jackie taught grades 4-8 in Philadelphia and New York City. She is passionate about increasing access to arts education, specifically drama education, for all students.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE PETER J. TOBIN
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



Maciek Nowak, Ph.D.

Dean

Joseph H. and Maria C. Schwartz

Distinguished Chair

Professor of Decision Sciences

The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

“Whether as a management trainee or a chief executive officer, the graduates of The Peter J. Tobin College of Business bring an entirely different dimension to today’s workplace. This is because our faculty elevate our students to bring to the corporate world a much-needed ethos centered around doing business for the betterment of others, pursuing profit and purpose.”

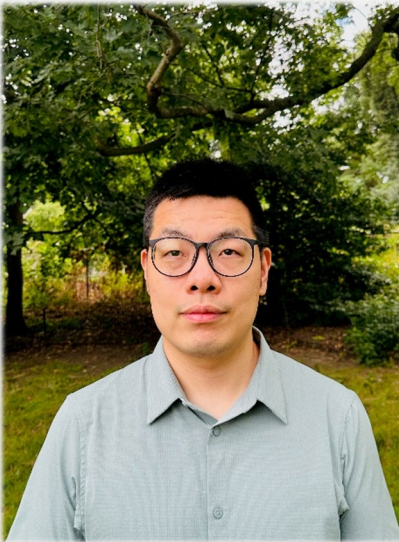


Alejandro Hernández De la Lanza, Ph.D.

Alejandro Hernández De la Lanza joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Analytics and Information Systems in The Peter J. Tobin College of Business. He earned his Ph.D. in Operations Management from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Dr. Hernández De la Lanza's research focuses on operations management, information systems, and business analytics, with a particular focus on the mobile application ecosystem. He studies how developers' decisions around software updates and advertising systems affect user engagement, retention, and monetization. His work draws on large-scale clickstream data and natural experiments to gain clearer insight into how users respond to changes in technology and how those responses shape app performance and platform policies. By linking software development practices to user behavior, his research guides developers, platforms, and companies working in the fast-changing digital economy.

Before pursuing his doctorate, Dr. Hernández De la Lanza worked in higher education, consumer goods, and chemical manufacturing, building experience in finance and operations that continues to shape his academic perspective on technology and business.



Weilong Wang, Ph.D.

Weilong Wang is joining St. John's University in the Fall of 2025 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Analytics & Information Systems in The Peter J. Tobin College of Business.

Dr. Wang's research focuses on technology innovation, with special attention to technology adoption disparities across neighborhoods and how this shapes entrepreneurship.

Dr. Wang holds a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from Purdue University.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Anne Y. F. Lin '84P, '86Pharm.D., FNAP
Dean and Professor
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

“The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences provides cutting-edge health science education that elevates students and communities. With our outstanding faculty and use of student-centered learning strategies that promote student success and academic excellence, our clinical laboratory science, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, and radiological sciences graduates are prepared to provide quality health care that positively impact the health of communities. Undergraduate and graduate students in the pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy administration engage in biomedical and health outcomes research that advances the prevention, management, and cure of diseases. We are committed to empowering our students to reach their full potential to be in service to our communities.”



Cameil Becco, MSN, RN

Cameil Becco is one of the newest Assistant Professor/Industrial Professional's to join the Nursing department here at St. John's University. January marked the beginning of her journey as a Johnnie, teaching Adult Elder II and Pediatrics. As a pediatric nurse for eight years, Professor Becco obtained her Master of Science in Nursing Education in 2022, intent on teaching future generations of nurses. Her career as a registered nurse has taken her through adult and pediatric populations, with the latter being her specialty for seven years. Her practice incorporates care of medically complex children with transplants, orthopedic conditions, and neurologic disorders. For over a year in her role as a travel nurse, Professor Becco has provided exemplary care in both inpatient and outpatient settings, consistently upholding the highest standards of nursing practice at magnet-designated healthcare institutions across several states. As an educator, she has served as a clinical instructor and health assessment lab instructor for nursing programs within the greater New York city region.

Currently, her focus is to empower students to approach their budding nursing careers with innovation, compassion, and a spirit of inquiry. In the classroom, she utilizes her diverse clinical experience to bridge the gap between course content and the clinical environment. Her future research will investigate the most effective teaching modalities for Generation Z, with a particular focus on innovations such as gamification and the integration of artificial intelligence.

Professor Becco remains active within clinical practice, working per diem as an inpatient R.N. and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing and the American Nurses Association.



Jason Chladek, Pharm.D., Ph.D.

Jason Chladek joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

As a health services researcher, Dr. Chladek's work focuses on the intersection of population health, medication use, and law. His mission is to improve medication services and subsequent health outcomes for patients with complex needs, including those impacted by substance use disorders and the criminal legal system. Specifically, he is interested in leveraging interdisciplinary and community-engaged approaches, implementation science, and legal epidemiology to identify medication-related gaps and solutions. Across all areas of his work, Dr. Chladek is passionate about advocating for patients and driving meaningful, sustainable change.

Prior to joining St. John's, Dr. Chladek earned a Ph.D. in Health Services Research in Pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Pharm.D. from Concordia University Wisconsin, and an MPH from Concordia University Nebraska. He also completed a T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Population Health Science Scholars Program at New York University Grossman School of Medicine.



Melinda A. Liu, M.A.Ed., MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, '14P

Professor Melinda Amy Liu joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor/Industry Professional and Clinical Coordinator of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science with a focus in Criminalistics from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences from St. John's University. She went on to complete a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Learning Design and Technology and Global Education from Arizona State University.

Professor Liu is a licensed, board-certified Clinical Laboratory Scientist with more than ten years of professional experience specializing in Clinical Hematology, having worked at major hospital systems including New York-Presbyterian and NYU Langone.

Prior to her faculty appointment, she served as an adjunct lecturer for the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program at St. John's University for five years. Her academic interests include the application of learning design and technology in science laboratory courses, curriculum innovation, and strategies that enhance student engagement and global perspectives in clinical education.



Sara D. McNamara, MSN, RN

Sara D. McNamara, MSN, R.N., is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor and Industry Professional in the Department of Nursing within the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at St. John's University. She brings more than 20 years of comprehensive clinical nursing experience to her academic role. Professor McNamara's clinical background includes extensive work in medical and surgical units, telemetry, frontline intensive care during the pandemic, and post-anesthesia patient care. Her experience spans a wide range of patient needs in high-acuity environments.

In addition to her new role at St. John's University, Professor McNamara serves as an adjunct professor at a college on Long Island, contributing to the development of future nurses through her commitment to nursing education.

A native of Queens, NY, Professor McNamara attended St. Agnes Academic High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Molloy University and went on to complete her Master's in Nursing with an emphasis in Nursing Education at Grand Canyon University. She is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing and the American Nurses Association.

Professor McNamara believes that nursing is both a science and an art—an approach that centers on providing equitable, patient-focused care.



Alona D. Nathan, MSN, RN, C-EFM

Alona D. Nathan joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor/Industry Professional (Maternity) in the Department of Nursing within the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Professor Nathan has been a Registered Professional Nurse for over a decade with expertise in Maternal and Newborn Health. Her nursing career began with the successful completion of a Labor and Delivery Fellowship Program and certification in NCC Electronic Fetal Monitoring, to support safe and effective birthing practices. Her competence in caring for high-risk obstetrics patients was cultivated through education and practice in two top-rated hospital systems in Queens, New York. She received cross-training throughout the perinatal continuum.

Professor Nathan holds a Master's degree in administration and management from Western Governors University and is enthusiastic about bringing her insight into academia to help shape the next generation of nurses.

Her research interests are diverse and interdisciplinary. They include the diagnosis, management, and treatment of endometriosis. She is also passionate about the use of supplements, herbal remedies, and off-label treatment modalities for various health conditions. Additionally, she explores the correlation between differing diets and their effects on the human body, as well as methods to optimize physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

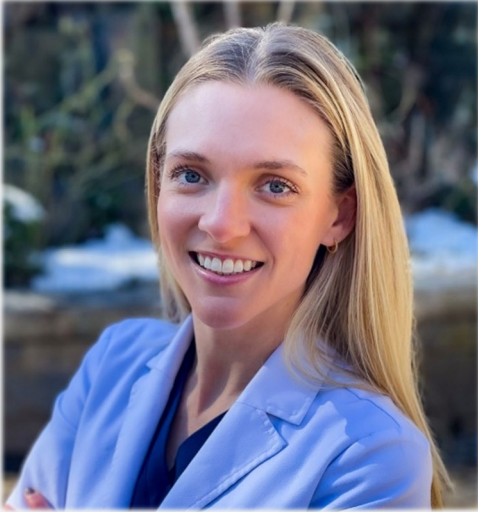


Changwe Park, Ph.D.

Dr. Changwe Park earned her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky. She also holds a Bachelor in Pharmacy degree from Sungkyunkwan University in South Korea, along with two Master of Science degrees and a Master's of Public Policy.

She joins the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Park's multidisciplinary research focuses on the evaluation of pharmaceutical and health policies and pharmacoepidemiology using real-world data. She applies causal inference techniques from epidemiology and quasi-experimental designs to examine the impacts of interventions on health outcomes, access to care, and health disparities. Her recent work centers on pharmaceutical interventions addressing the opioid crisis and digital inclusion among people experiencing homelessness. She is passionate about advancing evidence-based solutions to improve population health and promote health disparities.



Caitlin Roberts, MSN, BSN, RN

Caitlin Roberts joins St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor Industry Professional in the Department of Nursing in the College of Pharmacy and Health and Sciences. As a Masters Prepared Nurse, she has worked in various settings as both a Bedside Clinician and Nurse Educator including, but not limited to Adult and Pediatric Med-Surg and Intensive Care Units in the span of a decade. She has worked with New Graduate Nurses, Experienced Nurses, and Nursing Students earning their BSN/MSN with success.

After Earning her Master's in Nursing Education from Sacred Heart University in early 2023, Caitlin decided to continue her passion for Education in the Nursing field and is continuing to pursue her Ph.D. in Nursing this fall at Seton Hall University to

continue to foster her research and interest of Simulation Education in Nursing and lifelong learning. It is her goal to bring the highest level of education to the future nurses of our profession.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE LESLEY H. AND WILLIAM L. COLLINS COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Luca Iandoli, Ph.D.

Dean and Distinguished Chair

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

“The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies is a launchpad for innovators, entrepreneurs, and explorers—problem solvers who want to improve the world. As they graduate, we prepare students for careers in emerging and specialized professions, poised to excel in industries with diverse opportunities with a multidisciplinary focus on the digital transformation of the economy and society. Our Cyber Security, Design Factory, Film and Radio Center, Health Data, Homeland Security, Media Arts and Design, Television, and Virtual Reality and Game Development labs give the opportunity to learn, apply, and practice real-life scenarios using state-of-the-art technology and instruction.”



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW



Jelani Jefferson Exum, J.D.

Dean

Rose DiMartino and Karen Sue Smith

Professor of Law

School of Law

“The School of Law is committed to the success of our graduates, and that success comes from the strength of our faculty: outstanding scholars, dedicated teachers, and experienced lawyers. The new faculty members we welcome this year bring a range of talents that will contribute to the continued growth of the School and help propel St. John’s Law forward into its next century of excellence, prominence, and impact.”



Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, J.D.

Sandeep Dhaliwal is an Assistant Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Center for Labor and Employment Law. Professor Dhaliwal's interests include labor law, criminal law, race and the law, and law and political economy. His research examines the intersection of labor and state violence, and the history of American legal thought around issues of racial and economic justice. Professor Dhaliwal's scholarship has been published in the *Georgetown Law Journal* and *UC Davis Law Review*. His other writing has appeared in outlets including *Inquest*, the *LPE Blog*, and the *New York Times*.

Professor Dhaliwal teaches Race and the Law, Business Associations, and courses on law and political economy. He is committed to training students to become confident, versatile, and ethical advocates, and to supporting students as they think about law as an instrument of both justice and injustice.

Professor Dhaliwal graduated *cum laude* from Columbia College and received his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Prior to joining St. John's, Professor Dhaliwal held appointments at NYU School of Law as an Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering and, subsequently, as a Research Scholar and Director of the Business Transactions Clinic. Before entering academia, he was an associate in the New York Office of Debevoise & Plimpton, where he had a wide-ranging bank regulatory and transactional practice. He also maintained an active pro bono docket, which included work to erase student debt, defend immigrant clients from removal, and push for sentence reductions on behalf of incarcerated clients.



Darren Rosenblum, J.D.

Darren Rosenblum joins the St. John's law faculty from McGill University Faculty of Law. They previously taught at Pace University School of Law. Their scholarship focuses on corporate governance and on inclusion initiatives and remedies for sex inequality. Prior to teaching, they clerked in the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico, after which they practiced international arbitration at Clifford Chance and at Skadden Arps. They wrote the first queer legal theory article "[Queer Intersectionality](#)" (1994) and the first article on transgender prisoners "[Trapped in Sing Sing](#)" (2000). They have presented work on corporate governance in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



Caroline Fuchs '04MLS

*University Librarian, Dean of Libraries, and
Professor
St. John's University Libraries*

“The University Libraries is committed to upraising our students’ academic success by honoring the diverse voices of scholarship in our communities as a means of empowering our students and faculty to freely discover, create, and share new knowledge.”



Mayra Bonet, Ph.D.

Mayra Bonet earned her doctoral degree at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. She has worked at several institutions of higher education and has conducted research in South America, Canada, and Russia. Over the years, her interdisciplinary background has allowed her to teach courses in romance languages, literature and film, visual culture, and linguistics; to deliver presentations at conferences in the United States and abroad; and to lead workshops on instruction and assessment. Her interest in information science stems from a chapter of her dissertation that explored textual analysis and the

application of digital frameworks. At UNC's School of Information and Library Science (SILS), Dr. Bonet expanded her academic interest by focusing on intercultural competence, critical and feminist pedagogy, and health literacy and minority health. After earning her master's degree in library science, she has expanded her research to include multidisciplinary approaches to text analysis. Her work examines domains such as the intersection of climate change, gender, and health; she has presented these findings at national conferences. Her latest research explores the evolving discourse of artificial intelligence in academic libraries, assessing its adoption and implications on instruction and research.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

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This brochure reflects all new, full-time faculty members at the time of publication.
Please visit **www.stjohns.edu/newfacultybrochure** for additional new faculty profiles.