

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Faculty & Staff

ROBERT ASLANIAN, PhD

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Aslanian received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and the PhD from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Before joining NJCU in 2012, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry for Schering-Plough and Merck where he held positions of increasing responsibility including Senior Director and Site Scientific Operations Lead. Dr. Aslanian is co-inventor on 55 U.S. patents and co-author on 88 scientific articles and reviews. He is also co-editor of the book *Case Studies in Modern Drug Discovery and Development*. Dr. Aslanian's research interests include medicinal chemistry, in particular the preparation of compounds to treat African sleeping sickness, organic methodology, and the development of new organic laboratory experiments for undergraduate organic chemistry labs.

ANTHONY AVILLO, MS

*Assistant Professor and Chair
of Fire Science*

Mr. Avillo has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science and a Master's Degree in National Security Studies from New Jersey City University. Retired in 2015 after a 30 year career in the fire service, Avillo was a deputy chief in North Hudson, New Jersey Regional Fire & Rescue, assigned as 1st Platoon regional tour commander. He is also an instructor at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. He has lectured at conferences across the United States and is a member of the executive editorial advisory board of *Fire Engineering* magazine. He is the author of *Fireground Strategies, 3rd edition* (Pennwell, 2015) and *Fireground Strategies Workbook Volumes I, II, and III* (Pennwell, 2002, 2010, 2016). He was a contributing author to *Fire Engineering's Handbook for Firefighter I and Firefighter II* (Pennwell, 2009) and is co-author of its Study Guide (Pennwell, 2010). Avillo was a collaborator in the *Tactical Perspectives* DVD series (Pennwell, 2011) and the DVD *Forging a Culture of Safety* (Pennwell, 2013). An additional textbook, *Full Contact Leadership*, is under contract (Pennwell) and awaiting publication. Avillo was recipient of the 2012 Fire Engineering/ISFSI George D. Post Fire Instructor of the Year Award.

35

MERIEM BENDAOU, PhD

Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Bendaoud earned her PhD in biomedical sciences from Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and a BS degree in biology and mathematics from New Jersey City University. Her teaching experience includes a wide variety of biology courses at several institutions, ranging from Hudson County Community College to Rutgers University. Dr. Bendaoud's research interests include *in vitro* studies of bacterial competitive interactions as well as identification and characterization of natural compounds which inhibit biofilm formation of pathogenic bacteria. The main focus of her laboratory is the development of new biofilm-specific pharmacologic strategies against biofilm forming bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

BARBARA BLOZEN
EdD, RN, MA, BC, CNL
Associate Professor of Nursing

Dr. Blozen earned her EdD in Higher Education from Seton Hall University and Master's degree in Nursing from NYU. In Sept. 2014 she was appointed to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing by Governor Chris Christie. Her published work has appeared in many issues of *The American Nurse Today* and has been a presenter at conferences throughout the world, including, the International Nursing Research Congresses of Sigma Theta Tau International in Prague and Brisbane. Dr. Blozen was recently awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant and has been the recipient of numerous nursing awards including the GEM (Giving Excellence Meaning) Award where she progressed to become a national finalist, she was also honored by the Institute for Nursing with the Diva award. The chair of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Review Team III since 2010 and vice president of The Institute for Nursing region 6 through 2016, Dr. Blozen was appointed to the organization's Committee on Continuing Education and was also competitively selected as a reviewer for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Khan Academy NCLEX-RN Competition. She has served as an accreditation appraiser for the American Nurses Association since 2013 and as a manuscript reviewer for Nurse Education in Practice since 2011. Barbara is a volunteer for Ocean of Love, a charitable organization dedicated to helping children with cancer and their families. She leads a monthly bereavement group for parents who have lost children. She holds certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

REED CARROLL, PhD
Associate Professor of Biology

Dr. Carroll received a BA in cell biology from Cornell University and a PhD in biochemistry from Harvard University. Following postdoctoral studies at UCSF and Stanford, Dr. Carroll joined the Neuroscience Department faculty at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. At Einstein he served as an Assistant then Associate Professor teaching neuroscience and leading a research laboratory for twelve years. Dr. Carroll's area of research interest is in the cellular mechanisms that are responsible for learning and memory. In particular his published investigations have examined how activity in the brain affects the expression and subcellular targeting of molecules that regulate the communication between neurons.

DEBANANDA CHAKRABORTY, PhD
Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Chakraborty earned her PhD in applied mathematics from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prior to joining NJCU, she was an assistant professor at Virginia Intermont College. Her research interests include: applied mathematics, partial differential equations, computational mathematics, stochastic methods, nonlinear optics, financial mathematics, and high performance computing. She has worked on problems in a broad range of fields including nonlinear dynamics, linear and nonlinear waves, pattern formation, population dynamics models, and waves in random media. Fields of applications include optical communication systems (in optical fibers and in the atmosphere), optical wave guide devices, and materials science.

JOHN DONNELLEN, DPS, MBA

Assistant Professor of Business

Dr. Donnellan earned his doctorate in international business from Pace University Lubin School of Business. His research focuses on financial and economic trends as well as critical thinking in business. His recent publications include “How expert judgment reacts to a major financial crisis: An analysis of the 1925-1933 bond ratings of John Moody” and “The Technology of Ratings Then and Now; Hiding in Plain Sight.” Dr. Donnellan also has a long history of working on Wall Street having spent over 20 years at J.P. Morgan within the treasury research space and Prudential Financial within the investments public relations space. He continues to provide economic views on the global market to Wall Street and is a contributor to *The Street* publication. Dr. Donnellan is currently part of The Presidents Faculty Fellows Program researching critical thinking at NJCU and Changzhou University, Changzhou, China.

ALLISON M. FITZGERALD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Fitzgerald earned her PhD in Biology (Ecology) from the Graduate Center, City University of New York, M.Sc. from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, and B.Sc. from the University of Maryland. Her research has focused on local estuarine invertebrates, especially molluscs, and the interactions between these organisms and the environment. Dr. Fitzgerald and her lab currently investigate oyster restoration and physiology within the Hudson Raritan Estuary, the effects of various pollutants on invertebrate physiology, and the diversity of invertebrates found in our local waters. Her previous work with local non-profits in the area has provided many research opportunities for undergraduates.

VENESSA GARCIA, PhD

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Dr. Garcia earned her PhD in sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Before joining NJCU, she worked as a research associate with the National Center for State Courts. For the last 13 years, Dr. Garcia taught criminal justice as a tenured faculty member at Kean University where she also served as coordinator of the MPA/CJ graduate program. Dr. Garcia's research interests are in the areas of women and crime justice, and crime and media. She has published in *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal* and the *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*. She also has authored several book chapters and encyclopedia entries. Dr. Garcia's most recent book was, *Gendered Justice: Intimate Partner Violence and the Criminal Justice System* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011). Dr. Garcia is currently working on three book contracts where she examines women and policing, female offenders, and crime in the media.

JEAN GIORGIU, EdD

*Assistant Professor
of Counselor Education*

Dr. Georgiou earned her doctorate degree in counseling education and supervision from Argosy University, an MA in psychological counseling from Monmouth University, and a BA in psychology from Thomas Edison University. Dr. Georgiou is a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice where she works with children, teens, adults, couples, and families. She also supervises LACs and LPCs and has been an active clini-

cian in this setting for almost 15 years. She is also an Approved Clinical Supervisor, a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, certified in Disaster Mental Health by the American Red Cross, and serves as the vice president of the New Jersey Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling. Her research interests include graduate group work, multicultural issues, the development of a codependency scale (adult and children), and various areas of trauma work. Dr. Georgiou has presented at the state, national, and international levels and is currently working on several writing projects.

JOY A. J. HOWARD, PhD
Assistant Professor of English

Dr. Howard's PhD is in literary studies from Purdue University. She specializes in early American literature, women's narratives, and Native studies. Before coming to NJCU, Dr. Howard held appointments in the English departments at the United States Military Academy at West Point and at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Her work has appeared in *Religion in the Age of Enlightenment*, the *Journal of Prose Studies*, and *Legacy*, as well as in several edited collections. She presents her work nationally and internationally. Her current manuscript project, *Hearing Silenced Voices: Reimagining Authorship and a Captive's life in the Iroquois Heartlands*, has been supported by fellowships at the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Kislak Center for Colonial Research, Pennsylvania State University Center for American Studies, and the William L. Clements Library in The University of Michigan. Since 2013 she has served as the liaison between the Society of Early Americanists and the national organization of American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.

38

HUN BOK JUNG, PhD
*Assistant Professor
of Geoscience and Geography*

Dr. Jung earned his PhD from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He is an environmental scientist specializing in environmental geochemistry and hydrology. He has conducted research for various environmental projects funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Department of Energy. His research topics include groundwater contamination, geologic carbon sequestration, hydraulic fracturing, and environmental remediation. Dr. Jung joined New Jersey City University in 2014 and has carried out environmental research projects with undergraduate students. He has published over 20 peer-reviewed research articles.

NING LIAO, PhD
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Dr. Liao joined the NJCU faculty in 2014 following the completion of his PhD in international studies at Old Dominion University. Dr. Liao has offered a wide array of introductory and advanced courses in international relations. He is currently the faculty advisor of the NJCU's delegation to the National Model United Nations. His scholarship largely falls into the thematic fields of the international relations of East Asia, particularly Chinese foreign relations and U.S.-China relations. His research has appeared in refereed journals such as *Asian Politics & Policy*, *East Asia: An International Quarterly*, and *Asian Profile*, as well as an edited volume published by the University of Michigan Press. He is a frequent presenter at national and regional conferences in political science, international studies, Asian studies, and China studies.

TERRY L. KAMPS, PhD

Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Kamps earned a PhD specializing in plant genetics from the University of Florida. Her MS degree in plant breeding and genetics and BS degree in horticultural sciences were earned at Michigan State University. Prior to arriving at NJCU, Dr. Kamps had an extensive career as a research scientist working at several major research universities and with the US Department of Agriculture. Her work has been published and frequently cited in some of the most important scientific journals in her field. Her research program at NJCU focuses on implementing transmission and advanced molecular genetic tools to investigate plant reproductive biology and cellular processes.

VIRGINIA OCHOA-
WINEMILLER, PhD*Assistant Professor
of Latin American, Caribbean
and Latino Studies*

Dr. Ochoa-Winemiller received her B.A. in anthropological sciences from Mexico's Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan and both her MA and PhD from Louisiana State University with a combined degree in geography and anthropology. As a Maya archaeologist and cultural geographer, she has conducted research in the Yucatan Peninsula, Belize, and Honduras. Her research interests include production and distribution of clay artifacts with 3D scanning technology, pottery and landscape archaeology, Geographic Information Systems, ethnic and health geography, urbanism, and globalization in Latin America. She is a current member of the Society for American Archaeology and Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. She has presented at international conferences and published articles in Mexico, Guatemala, Germany, and the United States.

EUNSU LEE, PhD

Assistant Professor of Management

Dr. Lee earned his PhD in transportation and logistics and an MS in industrial engineering and management from North Dakota State University, an MBA in production and service management from Hanyang University in Korea, and a BSE in computer science from Kwandong University in Korea. He holds professional credentials of Certification of Production & Inventory Management (CPIM), Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP), and Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP). He has published more than 20 refereed papers and nine technical papers. He delivered over 45 contributed and invited talks at international and national meetings. His interests are in data modeling and analytics and supply chain, logistics, and transportation management. He is an active member of standing committees in visualization in transportation and agricultural transportation at Transportation Research Board, a division of National Academy.

39

JANET PIHLBLAD, MFA

Assistant Professor of Art

Janet Pihlblad earned her MFA from Rutgers University with a major in sculpture and subsequently studied design at Parsons and at Pratt Institute. She has had a dual career as a graphic designer and as an exhibiting artist for 20 years. Her work has been exhibited at the New Museum, PS1/MoMA, the Drawing Center, the Rockford Museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, P.P.O.W. Gallery, and the Carrie Secrist Gallery. Her

design practice includes work for *Vanity Fair*, *Art Forum*, Rolex Watch Company, and Penguin Putnam, Inc. She has taught art and design at Roger Williams University, George Washington University, the Corcoran College of Art and Design, and the Maryland Institute College of Art and Design. Her art practice focuses on themes of the human relationship to the natural world using diverse materials and technologies. Currently, her design practice engages typography and interactive media. Last year she exhibited at NJCU's Lemmerman Gallery in a group show entitled *Allegory of Leaves*.

AMY MELTZER RADY, EdD

*Associate Professor of Fitness,
Exercise and Sports*

Dr. Rady is the chair of the Department of Fitness, Exercise and Sports. Prior to coming to NJCU, she served as director of the Physical Education Teacher Preparation Program at Saint Joseph's College of Maine. She has taught at William Paterson University, Barnard College, and SUNY at Stony Brook. Dr. Rady co-authored the book, *Urban Physical Education Instructional Practices and Cultural Activities* in January 2012. She has presented at the National Association of Kinesiology in Higher Education, the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She has published in *The Chronicle of Kinesiology in Higher Education*, the *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance* and *The Journal of Teaching in Physical Education*.

KATHLEEN DONOHUE RENNIE, PhD

*Joint Associate Professor
in Professional Security Studies
and the School of Business*

Dr. Rennie teaches crisis, strategic, and leadership communication for Professional Security Studies, where she serves as director of the doctoral program and department co-chair. Dr. Rennie also teaches marketing communications and public relations in the School of Business. She has more than 20 years of experience successfully researching, developing, and implementing strategic communications campaigns for a broad range of organizations. Dr. Rennie holds a PhD in Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University. She earned an undergraduate degree in communication and English from Rutgers University as well as a Master of Arts in Corporate and Public Communication from Seton Hall University. She is an accredited public relations counselor and PRSA Fellow.

MICHELLE ROSEN, EdD

*Assistant Professor
of Literacy Education*

Dr. Rosen earned her EdD with a concentration in teacher leadership, a master's degree in reading, and Reading Specialist Certification from Rutgers University. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Rider University. At NJCU, she serves as assistant professor in the Department of Literacy Education where she also directs the America Reads Tutoring Program and co-Directs the Common Core Academy, a professional development initiative for in-service teachers. Dr. Rosen's research interests include developing teacher leaders to be effective professional development providers as well as engaging students in a constructivist learning approach in an effort to increase comprehension for learners. She has presented at the Association for Literacy Educators and Researchers, the Northeast Research

Association, and the New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Her work has been published in the *NJEA Review*, *Elementary School Journal*, *Highlights for Children* and *The Ed.D and Scholarly Practitioners: the CPED Way* (in press).

YUFENG WEI, PhD

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Wei earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Columbia University and has taught at Hunter College and Seton Hall University. His research focuses on the understanding of the molecular regulations of key biological pathways that determine the death or survival of tumor cells to inform novel therapeutic interventions of cancers. He is a recipient of the National Institutes of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award (2013-2016), and authored numerous publications on high impact journals, including *Nature Structural and Molecular Biology* and *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA)*.