

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

Message from the Provost

Dear Faculty and Staff colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you back to fall semester 2022. I hope that our September Academic Affairs newsletter anchors us all back to our core mission of teaching and learning, scholarship, and service after a summer of uncertainty at NJCU. I admit that this summer has been among the most stressful I've experienced in academia, but the presence of students on campus this week has been a balm for the soul. NJCU is in a period of crisis, and despite much misinformation in the media regarding the fiscal reality, we are working ourselves out of a deficit, steadily but surely. It may be a cliché to repeat that NJCU will emerge stronger after this painful period of realignment, but I firmly believe it to be so. Through the work of multiple crisis teams during our emergency period, avenues to create cost savings are being found, both short- and long-term, to help the institution meet sustainability goals. While no one wants a crisis of this nature, we now have an opportunity for what has perhaps been a long overdue soul searching of NJCU's identity, its strengths, and mission. It will be painful for months ahead and this we all acknowledge. Ships take time to turn course. One thing I am certain of and that is that faculty and staff at NJCU are committed, dedicated individuals. Your work accomplished in Academic Affairs is the cornerstone of our mission. I am heartened always, as I was through Covid, on the focus on educating our students. I ask that we continue with that focus, first and foremost, in these difficult months.

There is much to highlight in our September news. I'm excited to note that we are moving forward with a new Center for Teaching and Learning to support faculty development, which will be an important component to help with retention. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Yufeng Wei to the role of faculty director of the Center. In addition, we welcome Dr. Esther Nir as our new leader of the Honors program at NJCU. She has hit the ground running in bringing in this year's new class of Honors students. I want to publicly thank our former colleague, Dr. Tim White, for his stellar work in the Honors program. We wish him well in his new endeavor.

There are so many people working behind the scenes that I can't acknowledge them all here, but we hope to acknowledge them in future Newsletters. I appreciate all of you!

Please plan to come together as an academic community at our annual Convocation on the afternoon of September 14.

Tamara

[Tamara Jhashi, Ph.D.](#)

Provost and Senior Vice President

SEPTEMBER EVENTS



Convocation 2022

Wednesday, September 14, 2022
 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 Margaret Williams Theatre

Keynote Speaker:
 Dr. Simone Hyater-Adams

This year’s keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Simone Hyater-Adams. Dr. Hyater-Adams is a physicist, artist, educator, and researcher from Pennsauken NJ. With a passion for performance art, physics, and equity, she has dedicated her career to creating more opportunities for Black STEM students. After receiving her B.S. in Physics from Hampton University, she pursued graduate studies at the ATLAS Institute at the University of Colorado Boulder where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. In her graduate research, she used her personal experiences from pursuing physics to guide her interdisciplinary research that examined the connections between performance art and identity for Black Physicists. This work was awarded the Harry Lustig Award from the American Physical Society’s Four Corners Section. Currently, she is working to build out the alumni programs at STEM From Dance, an organization that aims to expose young girls of color to STEM fields using the confidence-building aspects of dance. In addition to her work with STEM From Dance, Dr. Hyater-Adams consults on various projects of interest at the intersection of equity, STEM, and education. Dr. Hyater-Adams is also a performance artist who pursues many art forms such as dance, spoken word, and music.

Hispanic Heritage Month Events (September 15 - October 15, 2022)

For more information visit the [Council of Hispanic Affairs \(CHA\)](#) website for Hispanic Heritage Month events

- Thursdays [September 15 to October 15, 2022] 12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. GSUB

Career Success Lab Events:

The College Diversity Network Virtual Career Fair

- September 28, 2022 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

STEM Career Fair

- October 19, 2022 2:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. GSUB

Social & Behavioral Sciences Career Fair

- November 2, 2022 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. GSUB

FACULTY AND STAFF APPOINTMENTS/UPDATES

Center for Teaching & Learning:

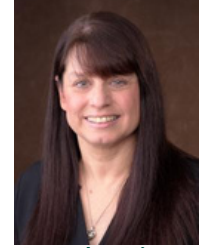
Dr. Yufeng Wei, Associate Professor of Chemistry, will serve as the inaugural director of the Center for Teaching & Learning. Be on the lookout for resources and professional development opportunities. A dedicated website is coming soon.



Dr. Yufeng Wei

Honors Program:

Dr. Esther Nir, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, has been appointed Director of the Honors Program. Dr. Nir has been part of the Honors Program since 2016. One area of interest she will pursue is the Honors Program connection with Community Engaged Learning.



Dr. Esther Nir

We wish Dr. Tim White, the previous Director, the best of luck in his new endeavor as Director of International Academic Initiatives at Montclair State University.

College of Arts and Sciences:

Drs. Scott Mittman and Jason Martinek will continue to serve as Associate Deans in charge of their respective units in CAS. They will report directly to the Provost and will serve on the Dean's Council.

Dr. Jason Martinek, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Science, and Ms. Sarah Ambrose-Roman will be coordinating the OTC program this academic year.

Career Success Lab:

The newly reimagined Career Success Lab is open for business this semester! The new and improved Lab has some exciting things to offer students this semester.

- FOCUS 2 will assist students with making decisions such as choosing a major and a future career
- Handshake, the most comprehensive career management system will be available to students by October 2022. The system will house all full-time and internship positions, allow students to see and register for events, and digitize the credit-bearing co-op/internship process.
- Workshops will include "Crafting Your Elevator Pitch", "How to Work a Career Fair", and "Negotiating a Salary".
- NJCU has partnered with Grow with Google to better prepare students for their lives after college. The program assists students with enhancing their digital skills, which is crucial in today's workforce. For more information click [here](#).

NJCU@FortMonmouth:

Dr. Wanda Rutledge, Interim Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Business Programs will be directing day-to-day activities at Ft. Monmouth

RECAP/Year in Review

NJCU School of Business- Fulbright Scholar/Specialist Dr. John Donnellan 2022 Fulbright: Lapland University of Applied Sciences

For more information please visit:

<https://www.lapinamk.fi/news/Opiskelijoiden-kiinnostus-vastuullisuuskysymyksiin-teki->

<https://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/arctic-sustainability-lecturing-and-community-involvement>

<https://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/news-releases/read-fulbright-finland-news-magazine-12022-online>



Photo Caption: [Translated] Santa Claus Village was obviously part of the official programme. Antti Nikander, an elf from The Village, snapped the professor's picture under the distance signs.



Photo Caption: [Translated] In addition to clean air, Sweden's open border delights and amazes foreign guests.

NJCU School of Business:

Dr. EunSu Lee presented "Impact of Global Supply Chain Disruption on Small Businesses" webinar at the NJSBDC.

On June 16, 2022, Dr. EunSu Lee, Associate Professor at the School of Business presented "Impact of Global Supply Chain Disruption on Small Businesses" at the NJSBDC State Office.

NJTHRIVES
SMALL BUSINESS WEBINARS

Brought to you by:
AMERICA'S SBDC
NEW JERSEY

Impact of Global Supply Chain Disruption on Small Business

with EunSu Lee, Associate Professor
on June 16, 2022 at 12 pm EDT

Register now
Only 150 webinar seats available*

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration | RUTGERS | NJBAC New Jersey Business Action Center

AMERICA'S SBDC NEW JERSEY (NJSDC) IS FUNDING IN PART THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE NEW JERSEY BUSINESS ACTION CENTER (NJBC) AS WELL AS OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIPS AND PRIVATE PUBLIC CIVITY. ALL OPINIONS, CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE SBA, ALL SBDCS, AND EXTENDED TO THE PUBLIC ON A NON-CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

Photo Caption: Dr. EunSu Lee, Associate Professor at the School of Business

RECAP/Year in Review

STEM:

NJCU 2022 Summer Research Internships (SRI) in STEM Program

On May 23, 2022, NJCU STEM kicked off the 2022 Summer Research Internship Program. The Summer Research Internship Program was a 10-week grant-funded program that provided NJCU students with paid and volunteer summer research internships under the supervision of experienced NJCU research faculty. This experience included instruction in research design, training with experimental procedures, experience with instrumentation and laboratory equipment, faculty mentoring and support, and opportunities to discuss and present research findings. This year, 48 students and 22 research faculty were selected to participate.

NJCU's STEM departments provided more than 400 paid summer research internships over the past 20 years through U.S. Education Department Title III and Title V support. Students are drawn from NJCU's Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Finance, Mathematics, Nursing, Physics and Psychology Departments.



Photo Caption: Student interns, faculty mentors, support staff, and community partners at the 2022 Summer Research Internship Program Final Presentations.



Photo Caption: 2022 Summer Research Internship Program Orientation

RECAP/Year in Review

Caroline L. Guarini Department of Music, Dance & Theatre:

Americas Guitar Trio from NJCU performed at the 1st Annual New Jersey Guitarfest @Kean University

Americas Guitar Trio, comprising three NJCU guitarists – all Music Education majors in the Caroline L. Guarini Department of Music, Dance & Theatre – were featured performers at the 1st Annual New Jersey Guitarfest on June 5, 2022, at Kean University. Erik Proaño, Anthony Tavárez, and Michaelangelo Vélez are students of Dr. Celil Refik Kaya, Director of Guitar Studies at NJCU, and Michael Newman.

New Jersey Guitarfest was founded by Jayson Martínez, an NJCU alumnus who serves as Director of Guitar Studies at Arts High School in Newark, NJ and New Jersey Music Educators Association Chairman for Guitar Education. The trio performed two Turkish pieces arranged by Dr. Kaya: Acem-Kürdî Sarki (As the Wind Goes to Sleep) by Refik Fersan, and Mehtaplı Bir Gece Tango (Moonlit Night) by Fehmi Ege.

Michael Newman explained, “For over half a century, NJCU’s musical training for guitarists has been internationally renowned, attracting students and guest faculty from across the globe. The current crop of guitar majors and students taking guitar classes represents over a dozen countries on five continents. The truly diverse heritage of the guitar – from Asia and the Middle East, through Northern Africa, Spain and Portugal, and on to the New World – demonstrates the cultural and social significance of its myriad music styles to the amazingly rich community that is served by NJCU.”



Photo Caption: Americas Guitar Trio from NJCU performs at the 1st Annual New Jersey Guitarfest @Kean University

RECAP/Year in Review

Caroline L. Guarini Department of Music, Dance & Theatre: *Hudson County Alliance of Teen Artists, Performance Festival*

- Students and teachers from 14 High Schools came to the NJCU campus for the Teen Arts Festival on May 10-12, 2022.
- Over 500 students worked with our MDT faculty over the 3 days of the festival.



Photo Captions: Hudson County Alliance of Teen Artists, Performance Festival

Honors Program *Archaeology of Mesoamerica*

Dr. Ochoa-Winemiller led students on a one week trip to Mérida, Mexico in spring 2022.



Photo Captions: Honors: Archaeology of Mesoamerica

RECAP/Year in Review

NJCU's Institute for Dispute Resolution (IDR): *Student Entrepreneurs Pitch Ideas, Win Big*

For more information please visit *The Gothic Times* featured article:

<https://gothictimes.net/12357/showcase/student-entrepreneurs-pitch-ideas-win-big/>



Photo Caption: First place winners of the Inaugural Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition: Alan Cruz and Dominic Pepe. Photo by Paul Gargiulo.



Photo Caption: The first-place prize for the competition was \$5000. The winners moved on to a final round against three other colleges from Hudson County. Photo by Paul Gargiulo.



Photo Caption: Second place with a prize of \$1000 went to Viktor Madar-Dank, whose pitch was a food security company. Photo by Paul Gargiulo.



Photo Caption: The competition was sponsored by NJCU's Institute for Dispute Resolution (IDR), Mission 50, Valley Bank, and the LVE Group. Photo by Paul Gargiulo.



Photo Caption: The pitch competition took place on April 26 in the Gothic Lounge at NJCU. Photo by Paul Gargiulo..

RECAP/YEAR IN REVIEW

Honors Program:

On Aug. 31st, the Honors Program held orientation for nearly 100 new honors students.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curriculum:

Barnes & Noble First Day® Complete

The *Barnes & Noble First Day Complete* program is underway. This pilot program is part of our effort to support student success, promote retention and increase graduation numbers. The *First Day Complete* program bundles course materials into student tuition with an average savings of 35% – 50% on the cost of course materials each term. Students have the option to receive their books digitally through Blackboard and/or as physical copies. In addition, students receive access to course materials before the first day of class, allowing them to begin the semester well-prepared.

Contact Dr. Gail Fernandez (gfernandez7@njcu.edu) with questions about the *First Day Complete* program.

Office of the Provost

Dr. Tamara Jhashi, Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Tjhashi@njcu.edu

Dr. Nurdan S Duzgoren-Aydin, Associate Provost, Naydin@njcu.edu

Dr. Gail Fernandez, Associate Provost, Gfernandez7@njcu.edu

Bernadette Schery, Executive Assistant to the Provost and Senior Vice President, Bschery1@njcu.edu

Damaris Castillo, Budget Manager, Dcastillo@njcu.edu

Sherifa Abdalla, Professional Services Specialist III, Sabdalla@njcu.edu

HOW TO SEND NEWS AND SUBMISSIONS

Please send faculty achievements and departmental events to Academic Affairs at academicaffairs@njcu.edu.

Next *Academic Connections* will appear on Friday, October 7th. Submission of news deadline is **Friday, September 23rd**.
