

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

Message from the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to November's edition of *Academic Connections*. As I write this, we are just past Halloween, turning our calendar to a busy time of the year. The weeks of the semester seem to glide by, bleeding into each other as holidays and end-of-semester responsibilities loom. As our newsletter highlights this month, a myriad of events and activities are taking place across academic departments, bringing our students and faculty alike opportunities to learn and engage. It can be overwhelming at times. If you're like me, your inbox is flooded, your daily calendar lacks much space, and the attempt at keeping tasks at bay resembles a game of whac-a-mole.

Each Monday, many of us receive an email from the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity with the provocative moniker, "Monday Motivator." And, if you're like me, you are often too busy to give it much attention. This past Monday, I happened to open the message, read through the contents, and immediately felt guilty for not looking at this resource on a more consistent basis. Scrolling down the page I discovered a listing of resources for faculty that resonated deeply — time management, resisting burn out, preparing for tenure, cultivating a network of mentors, how to challenge race and gender bias in student evaluations... this list goes on. It got me wondering just how many faculty at NJCU know that this is available. In fact, there is a tab on [Gothicnet](#) under the Faculty Homepage (Access to Other Systems) that leads directly to the NCFDD website, which makes it easy to access all the resources archived as well as upcoming webinars and programs. NJCU was fortunate to secure this resource through the Frontier Set grant and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I encourage you to take a few moments and look through what it offers. <https://www.facultydiversity.org/>

Best wishes for a productive November!

Tamara

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies: Day of the Dead Student Competition

The Day of the Dead is a traditional Latin American event celebrated from November 1st to the 2nd. Following in the steps of José Guadalupe Posadas, a Mexican illustrator, printmaker, and political critic of the early 1900s, the Center is looking for students to submit their virtual or in-person artwork such as altars, photographs, or illustrations celebrating the lives of departed family, friends, and pets. The Center also welcomes submissions of songs, music, poetry, and literary *Calaveras*: playful and satirical epitaphs in verse criticizing current events or politicians. On November 2nd there will be a *tertulia* and award ceremony to the best student work.

Earth and Environmental Sciences NJCU GIS(Geographic Information System) Day 2021

November 17 | 10 AM-1 PM

GSUB MPR-A

<https://www.njcu.edu/academics/schools-colleges/william-j-maxwell-college-arts-sciences/departments/earth-environmental-sciences/njcu-gis-day-event>



Music, Dance and Theatre Department Events:

Sweeney Todd-The Demon Barber of Fleet Street-West Side Theater

For dates, times and costs, click on:

<https://www.njcu.edu/community/events/sweeney-todd-demon-barber-fleet-street-4>

- November, Friday 12, 2021 8:00 pm West Side Theater
- November, Saturday 13, 2021 8:00 pm West Side Theater
- November, Sunday 14, 2021 3:00 pm West Side Theater
- November, Friday 19, 2021 8:00 pm West Side Theater
- November, Saturday 20, 2021 8:00 pm West Side Theater
- November, Sunday 21, 2021 3:00 pm West Side Theater

Symphony of Winds and Percussion: REMEMBRANCE

<https://www.njcu.edu/community/events/symphony-winds-and-percussion-remembrance>

- November, Tuesday 23, 2021 7.30 pm Margaret Williams Theatre

An Evening of Opera Scenes

- Friday, December 3rd 7.30 pm Ingalls Recital Hall

NJCU Winter Jazz Festival

- December, Saturday 4, 2021 12pm-9pm Margaret Williams Theatre
- December, Sunday 5, 2021 12pm-9pm Margaret Williams Theatre

NJCU Fall Choral Concert

- December, Sunday 12, 2021 3:00 pm Margaret Williams Theatre

Pop/R&B Ensemble Fall Concert

- December, Thursday 16, 2021 7.30 pm Margaret Williams Theatre

Philosophy & Religion

The Inaugural Ethics Colloquium

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Gilligan Student Union, Room 129

<https://www.njcu.edu/academics/schools-colleges/william-j-maxwell-college-arts-sciences/departments/philosophy-religion/ethics-minor/annual-ethics-colloquium>

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

NJCU MDT Jazz Students Featured in the Jersey City Jazz Festival

<https://www.tapinto.net/owns/jersey-city/sections/arts-and-entertainment/articles/jersey-city-jazz-festival-filled-air-with-smooth-beats-sent-crowd-dancing>

(See paragraph 7 for mention of NJCU.)



Jersey City Jazz Festival Filled Air with Smooth Beats, Sent Crowd Dancing

JERSEY CITY, NJ - Jazz is alive and well in Jersey City.

T TAPinto



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIO3ZEW1ir8>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NS1oQWlqJxs>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Earth & Environmental Sciences

GIS Mapping of Fairview Lake Inflow Streams for Environmental Monitoring of Algal Blooms

Fairview Lake, an eleven-thousand-year-old glacial lake, located in Sussex County NJ, suffered massive cyanobacteria and algal bloom in September of 2020. The Fairview Lake & Watershed Conservation Foundation (FL&WCF) requested the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EESC) to investigate the potential source of water contamination. A team led by Dr. Md Shahinoor Rahman, Assistant Professor of the EESC department, along with three undergraduate summer interns Jonathan Rodriguez, Alex Rodriguez, and Collin Canaley, mapped nine inflow streams that flow into the lake. The team utilized state-of-the-art GPS technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) for mapping these streams which were previously unknown in most of the maps. The team also took water samples and ground photos from different parts of these inflow streams to analyze nutrient contents in stream water. This summer research was supported by two grants: US Education Department Title III Part F HSI STEM Grant and US Education Department Title V DHSI Grant.



Music, Dance and Theatre

Classical Guitar Studies

Dr. Celil Refik Kaya, Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies, has been selected to be part of GFA (Guitar Foundation of America's) Mentorship program. This program helps young classical guitarists of color and guides them to have better careers through individual instructions. GFA is the largest guitar foundation in the world. <https://www.guitarfoundation.org/page/AboutMentorship>

NOTABLES

Ed.D. in Ed Tech Leadership Ranked Top 10 Nationally

The Ed.D. in Educational Technology Leadership was ranked 9th nationally by Top Education Degrees. The ranking metrics include several factors including graduation rate and return on investment after graduation. The value proposition of the doctoral program is to be the [most student-centered doctoral program in the United States](#). The department's MA in Educational Technology was ranked 3rd in the nation for Online Educational Technology Programs by the Center for Online Education and 1st in the nation by the College Affordability Guide.



GRANTS

AAC&U Grant

NJCU was one of eighteen colleges and universities chosen to participate in the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) project, *Advancing Evidence on Civic and Community-Based Engagement in Higher Education*. This project is designed to develop national baselines for student performance on civic outcomes. Dr. Jennifer Pax and Dr. Yu Feng Wei are leading this work.

During the fall 2021 semester, representatives from the eighteen institutions will participate in professional development activities related to implementing equity-focused global learning, civic, and community-based experiences; designing intentional assignments linked to civic outcomes; and working with rubrics for direct assessment of students' civic capabilities. In spring 2022, each participating institution will submit at least one hundred student work products to AAC&U's Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) Institute. The student work will be scored by certified VALUE scorers, and the resulting baseline data will be disaggregated to identify any equity gaps in civic skill development. The project will culminate in the release of a summary report that will include recommendations for how individual campuses—and higher education as a whole—can best support civic skill-building for all students.

Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium

NJCU is the recipient of a three-year Mellon Grant, titled Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium. The \$3 million grant was awarded to the Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium (DEFCon), which includes Salem State, New Jersey City University, Texas Southern University, and Cal State Fullerton. The grant supports the growth, development, and long-term sustainability of digital ethnic studies at regional public institutions by supporting the development of models that embed digital ethnic studies into institutional structures. It will increase NJCU faculty capacity to provide students with culturally relevant, experiential learning experiences, mentorship and intellectual enrichment while deepening the understanding of the intersections of humanities-based inquiry and the computing technologies to aid that inquiry. In addition, the grant will help mobilize public engagement by collaborating with community partners and attract minoritized students to humanities disciplines and prepare those students to use humanities tools to combat injustice and steward the humanities beyond universities. DEFCon also has resources for library staff development.

Dr. Sonya Donaldson



Dr. Sonya Donaldson will serve as a co-PI with Salem State University (lead PI). Other members of the NJCU grant team include Dr. John Cunningham (Program Manager); Dr. William Montgomery (GIS Specialist); and Honors student, Alejandra Martinez (Black Ecologies Project Lead). The grant will also fund two additional undergraduate and two graduate students. More information can be found on Twitter at @DEFConsortium.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES



Dr. Scott O'Connor
General Education Director
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy & Religion

Scott O'Connor read for his Ph.D in Philosophy at Cornell University. He has a B.Phil in Philosophy from Oxford University and a B.A. in Philosophy from Trinity College, Dublin. He has presented and published papers on Aristotle's natural philosophy and metaphysics. Originally from Co.Kildare, Ireland, he joined NJCU in 2014, where he has developed and taught a range of courses in ancient philosophy and metaphysics. He has also been an active member of the Honors Program since he joined NJCU and has led a number of Honors' study abroad programs.

PUBLICATIONS

Ed.D. in Community College Leadership

Christine Harrington, Chris Genthe, Cohort 1 doctoral student, and colleagues authored the research study, *Community College Faculty: Perceived Value of Scholarship*. It was published in the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*.

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies program:

Virginia Ochoa-Winemiller published the textbook *Racialism, Drugs & Migration. Contemporary Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean* with Cognella Academic Publishing (2021).

Psychology

Dr. Peri Yuksel, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has had the following published or accepted to be published:

"**Stories of Perseverance: Using the Lazuri Alboni (alphabet) for the Emergence of Literary Genres of an Endangered South Caucasian Language**" was accepted as a chapter in a forthcoming book, *Lazuri: An Endangered Language of the Black Sea*. Lincom. The chapter was co-authored with an indigenous community member (Irfan Çağatay Aleksiva) and edited by Zuleyha Unlu. Currently, she is collaborating with **Omer Eren**, a linguistic doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago, to collect data on language learning and planning in heritage speakers across various linguistic profiles.

Dr. Yuksel's former student **Arisha Andha** got accepted as a juris doctor candidate at Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School at Yeshiva University and published an opinion piece on the importance of "Implementing rights of indigenous people: perspectives of Honduras" in *Norwich University News Edition: Voices from The Hill*.

Research publications with students (*current/former)

Dr. Yuksel encourages students to collaboratively conduct research on pressing societal issues, such as (1) multicultural training, (2) parenting practices and policy, and (3) psychological literacy:

(1)*Atamnia, B. A., *Soriano, H. V., *Andha, A., & Yuksel, P. (in press). A pilot study on the efficacy of college textbook reading and multicultural learning among undergraduate psychology students. *FIRE: Futuristic Implementations of Research in Education*, 2(2). [journal article]

(2)*De Soto Frias, R., *Dawood, H., & Yuksel, P., (2021). A global view on complex parenting dynamics for better practices and social policy to overcome 21st century crisis times. In J. A. Jaworski (Ed.), *Advances in Sociology Research. Volume 36* (pp. 113-142). Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

(3)*De Soto Frias, R., *Dawood, H., & Yuksel, P. (October 15, 2021). *Using parental role-play to foster civic consciousness and creative communication*. E-poster to be presented at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology's 20th Annual Conference on Teaching (ACT).

(4) *Dawood, H., De Soto Frias, R., & Yuksel, P. (November 12, 2021). *Effects of COVID-19 on parental stress*. Poster to be presented at the NJCU Undergraduate STEM Research Symposium New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ.

(5) *Abakkas, M., & Yuksel, P. (November 12, 2021). *Understanding trauma and neuroplasticity through child clinical case studies to prevent and heal*. Oral talk to be presented at the NJCU Undergraduate STEM Research Symposium. New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Art:

Dr. Midori Yoshimoto, Associate Professor of Art History and Gallery Director, held a Book-launch Lightning Talks and Q&A on October 20th for the anthology *Women, Aging, and Art* of which she is an editor along with her colleague, Pratt Institute professor, Frima Fox Hofrichter.

Finance Department

The "Advancing Your Career-Virtual Career Panel Discussion & Networking" event on October 27, 2021 was a big success. There were about 60 participants and students found that suggestions given by industry professional were very insightful and deemed them to be beneficial to advance their careers. Student members and academic advisor of the Financial Management Association (FMA) NJCU Chapter hosted the event.

Global Initiatives

In September 2021, Dr. John Donellan and Dr. Amit Mokashi presented *The Paradigm Shift in Both International Education and International Business Initiatives for The Office of Global Initiatives'* International Virtual Exchange Program in partnership with Somaiya Institute in India. More than 300 people attended virtually.

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies program:

David Blackmore presented "Latinxs and Language in the U.S.": Engaging Students in Critical Analysis of Language Ideologies at a U.S. Hispanic-Serving Institution" at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Conference in May (virtual).

Workforce Development Summit

Michal Edmondson was a panelist at the Workforce Development Summit sponsored by the NJ Energy Coalition.



NJ Energy Coalition

Workforce Development Summit

Wednesday, October 13th at 10:00am

With Opening Remarks from
NJ Board of Public Utilities
President Joe Fiordaliso

and a Panel Discussion with



Jen Becker
New Jersey Economic
Development
Authority



Dave Daly
PSE&G



Dr. Michael Edmondson
New Jersey City
University

and Moderated by Rebecca Freed
Genova Burns



NJCU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Career Panel Discussion

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

6-7 P.M. CAREER PANEL DISCUSSION
7-8 P.M. NETWORKING WITH 15 FINANCE
INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AND PROFESSORS

MODERATOR
Ramon M. Magall
Assistant Professor of Finance, NJCU

PANELISTS INCLUDE
Srikanth Sridhar
Assistant Professor, P&G
Andrew B. Lerner
Senior Advisor, World Financial

ORGANIZERS
FMA NJCU Chapter
FMA Group
Finance Department
Adrian Vandenbroucke
Executive Director,
Economic Dev. Office, PSE&G
Dr. Hui
APR, The KeyBank Companies

MEETING ID: 944 6198 3731
PASSCODE: 14835433



NJCU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Paradigm Shift in both International Education and International Business initiatives

Dr. Amit Mokashi
Dr. John Donnellan
9/29/2021

Workshop on International Relations and Diplomacy: International Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Fellows and Community Engaged Learning

Faculty can still join this year's Faculty Fellows cohort. For more information, contact Dr. Saul Petersen at spetersen1@njcu.edu or Jennifer Musial at JMusial@njcu.edu.

General Education

The General Education director and committees are busily working to implement the new requirements that apply to students who entered NJCU in fall 2021. More information will be available soon. Until then, please see the enhanced catalog entry on GenED at <https://catalog.njcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-degree-requirements/general-education/#text>.

Institutional Effectiveness

Now is the time to enter your 2021-2022 assessment plans in Tk20. Need help? Contact Institutional Effectiveness @ cswider@njcu.edu

Office of the Provost

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

Dr. Nurdan 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

Jennifer Fitzgerald, Project Coordinator, Jfitzgerald@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, December 3. Submission of news deadline is **Friday, November 19**.