

# ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

## Message from the Provost

Dear Faculty and Staff!



On behalf of my colleagues in the Office of the Provost, we are pleased to greet you at the start of the academic year 2021-2022 with a new newsletter. You will receive Academic Connections every month during the academic year (except January) so that we can provide information about activities relevant to all of us in Academic Affairs. It is my hope that in this format we can foster a deeper sense of community and to connect our schools and departments, particularly after a long period of isolation. Academic Connections is a newsletter for all of us, so please send us your items to share. We will apprise you of upcoming events, workshops, deadlines, and a feature story or two, but we also need your input and feedback on what you would like to see included. We are excited to launch Academic Connections!

I wish all of you a productive and rewarding start to the new year.

Tamara



## Convocation 2021

**Wednesday, September 15, 2 p.m.**

**Margaret Williams Theatre**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Dr. Anthony Jack, Assistant Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and author of *The Privileged Poor***

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Anthony Jack, Assistant Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and author of *The Privileged Poor*.

Jack is a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. His feature for *The New York Times Magazine Education Issue* was based off his book and life experience as a low-income college student (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/10/magazine/college-inequality.html>). His research has been cited by *The New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Atlantic*, *The Huffington Post*, *The National Review*, *The Washington Post*, *American RadioWorks*, *WBUR*, and *MPR*. His book *The Privileged Poor*, was named the 2018 recipient of the *Thomas J. Wilson Memorial Prize* by Harvard University Press.

## Welcome to NJCU



**Dr. Huijian Dong**

Dr. Huijian Dong joined NJCU this summer as the Associate Dean of the School of Business. Before joining NJCU, his prior roles included serving as the Academic Coordinator of the Kate Tiedemann School of Business and Finance at the University of South Florida, and as the University Curriculum Chair at Pacific University Oregon. In addition, he was the Director of the Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Center, managing donor funds for the USF Foundation. He was also elected to the CFA Society Tampa Bay Board of Directors to lead the university relations initiatives. Associate Dean Dong earned his PhD in economics with a concentration in finance from the University of Delaware. His research interest lies in financial market analysis and higher education administration. His work has been published and well-cited in the *Journal of Asset Management*, the *Journal of Investing*, *Journal of Wealth Management*, among others. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) designations holder.



**Dr. Gail H. Fernandez**

Dr. Gail H. Fernandez comes from Westchester Community College where she served as Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs. She worked with faculty through all phases of curriculum development, oversaw outcomes assessment of student learning and assessment of General Education, reimagined the program review process, managed the catalog, and coordinated articulation and transfer agreements. In addition, she collaborated across the college on strategic planning and policy making. Prior to her role at Westchester Community College, Dr. Fernandez was a tenured Associate Professor in the English as a Second Language Program at Bergen Community College. She also served as an Assessment Fellow in the Center for Institutional Effectiveness and later became the first Dean of Assessment. In that role, she assisted faculty and staff with the design and implementation of assessment projects, chaired the Faculty Senate Learning Assessment Committee, co-lead the development of the strategic plan, coordinated non-academic unit program reviews, and served on the College's self-study steering committee. She worked closely with faculty through her work as chair of the Policy Advisory Council, chair of the General Education Committee, as a Grants Office Fellow, a faculty mentor and co-leader of the college's Partners in Learning program.

She has been a presenter at regional and national conferences including the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) annual conference, Drexel University Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning, and the Assessment Institute in Indianapolis. Dr. Fernandez received a bachelor's degree in Modern Languages/History from Union College in Schenectady, New York. She holds a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a doctorate in Community College Leadership from National American University/Roueche Graduate Center.



**Dr. Muhammad Jawad**

Dr. Muhammad Jawad is an assistant professor of Finance in the School of Business. He received his doctorate from the Paul H. Chook Department of Information Systems and Statistics Management at the Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, CUNY. Before joining Baruch, he was an assistant professor at FAST School of Management, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (Lahore, Pakistan). He received a Master of International Business Studies from the University of Miami (FL USA), a Master of Business Administration from the International University of Japan (Niigata, Japan), and a Bachelor's in Computer Science from FAST-National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (Lahore, Pakistan). He has several years of work experience in software development and business development.

His research interests include online reviews, innovation bandwagons, IT Security and digital platforms. His PhD dissertation is about how technology is shaping online user decision-making. His teaching interests include information systems, business analytics, software programming, research methods, computer-based modeling, consumer decision making, and cybersecurity. He is also a recipient of the H. Fenwick Huss Teaching Award from Baruch College.



**Dr. Lauren Michele Johnson**

Dr. Lauren Michele Johnson is an assistant professor in the Management Department (Sport Management). She earned her Ph.D in Sport Management and Policy from the University of Georgia, and a Master's degree in Sport Administration from Hampton University. Her bachelor's degree in Business Marketing was also earned at Hampton University. Dr. Johnson's research interests include strategic leadership, consumer behavior in sport, and the globalization of the business of sport. She has disseminated her research in academic and sport business conferences around the world. Prior to academia, she enjoyed a career as a generational fan building director for professional sport organizations. She is a former professional basketball athlete and a native of Metro Atlanta.



**Nathalie Pfeifer**

Nathalie Pfeifer is joining NCJU as an assistant professor of Fitness, Exercise and Sports in the College of Professional Studies. Her academic journey began in 2007 when she moved to the United States to pursue a new college degree and career. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University, and holds a master's degree in Exercise Science from Montclair University. She earned a B.S. in Exercise Science from St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, OK, and a B.S. in Advertising and Marketing from the Pontifical Catholic University, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

According to Professor Pfeifer, working with a diverse community has been both a blessing and a challenge, which is why she decided to pursue a doctoral degree in education. Her passion for teaching stems from the impact that education has on transforming lives. Her philosophy of teaching is based on the belief that learning needs to be student-centered and that students need to be equal partners in the learning process. Her research has included an investigation of the effects of mental imagery on self-efficacy and performance. Her dissertation research explores the experiences of a deaf community from a critical perspective through narrative inquiry and visual methodology.



**Dr. Jonathan D. Rosen**

Dr. Jonathan D. Rosen is Assistant Professor in the Professional Security Studies Department. Dr. Rosen earned his Master's in Political Science from Columbia University and received his Ph.D. in International Studies from the University of Miami in 2012. Dr. Rosen's research focuses on drug trafficking, organized crime, and security. He has published 20 books with Routledge, Lexington Books, Palgrave Macmillan, the University of Florida, and the State University Press of New York. He has published journal articles in Trends in Organized Crime, the Journal of Criminal Justice, Deviant Behavior, International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, and Contexto Internacional, Revista CS, among other journals. He has participated in grant funded research studies in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Mexico. In 2017, Jonathan and his colleagues at Florida International University interviewed and surveyed nearly 1,200 active and former gang members in El Salvador.



**Dr. Natoschia Scruggs**

Dr. Natoschia Scruggs is an Assistant Professor of African & African American Studies as well as Director of the Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center at New Jersey City University. Her research interests revolve around contemporary and historical public policy formation and analysis, particularly as they pertain to global migration. She specializes in using mixed methods to examine the personal narratives and life histories of individuals, alongside government documents and state-provided information, to discover how immigration and refugee policies are implemented, and how those policies shape people's lived experiences across societies and time, with emphasis on urban spaces.

Before joining NJCU, Dr. Scruggs held positions over the years at other academic institutions, NGOs, and in government, including having served as principal advisor on research to Ambassador Susan Rice, Ambassador Samantha Power, and Ambassador Nikki Haley at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. In addition to hands-on, extensive experience working with conflict-affected populations, refugees, asylum seekers, and survivors of gender-based violence, Dr. Scruggs has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters addressing family violence, elder abuse, sexual exploitation, displacement, and state violence. She earned an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in African Diaspora Studies with a focus on global migration and emphasis on women, gender and sexuality from the University of California, Berkeley. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was a Ford Foundation Fellow, Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow, Fulbright Scholar, and American Field Service high school foreign exchange student.



**Dr. Michael Sparrow**

Dr. Michael Sparrow, Assistant Professor of Community College Leadership, has served in faculty and higher education administration for more than fifteen years. Getting a start in higher education in classrooms around the greater Philadelphia area, teaching history courses at the University of Delaware, Rowan University, and Montgomery County Community College, Professor Sparrow later transitioned into administration, starting as the Student-Veteran Services Coordinator at Ocean County College. Following OCC, he served as the Director of the Academic Success Center at Immaculata University. Eager to return to his Lehigh Valley and community college roots, Mike accepted a position at Northampton Community College, first as the Director of the Learning Center and then as the Associate Dean of Academic Success. Mike concluded his career at NCC as the Dean of Enrollment Management and Retention.

Dr. Sparrow's research interests include academic success initiatives, student learning, student onboarding/orientation, student-veterans, and enrollment/retention strategies. He has published and presented at numerous regional and national conferences on many of these topics. Before his career in higher education, Mike served eight years in the United States Navy and completed two combat deployments. Mike is a product of a community college himself, starting at Northampton Community College before completing an A.B. in History and Government and Law from Lafayette College. Mike also holds a M.A. in American History from the University of Delaware, a M.S.L. in Legal Studies from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership.



**Dr. Marvin Walker**

Dr. Marvin Walker joined NJCU this summer as the Associate Dean in the College of Professional Studies. He is a recognized social policy expert and behavioral health researcher with over 22 years of leadership experience across various industries.

Prior to coming to NJCU, he served as Assistant Director for Webster University responsible for leading the extended campus in Southern Maryland including campus operations, academic and administrative services, faculty and student support, enrollment management, and leading accreditation and state licensure requirements. He has served in numerous teaching, research, curriculum development, and doctoral research committee chair roles at various institutions including Northcentral University, Trident University International, and Westminster College.

Before embarking on an academic career, Dr. Walker served ten years as a federal employee, first serving as a Business Consultant with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health. He served in numerous senior leader roles in the intelligence community promoting cyber security best practices, information sharing, and critical infrastructure protection. Dr. Walker served as Executive Officer with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, leading national security strategies and public policy initiatives, and led various national security programs in efforts to prevent domestic terrorism activities within the United States. He served as a program analyst with the U.S. Department of Defense, responsible for financial and contract audit readiness oversight across the U.S. Army. He served eight years in the United States Marine Corps in various leadership roles in the Infantry, from 1998 – 2006 including deployment to Iraq in 2003.

Dr. Walker received a BA in Business Administration with a Finance minor from Columbia College, a Bachelor of Theology from the International Theological Seminary of California, an MBA with Procurement and Acquisitions emphasis from Webster University, and his Doctorate in Policy and Law from Northeastern University.

## *Year in Review*

### NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED

- M.S. Business Information Systems (Dr. Xiaodi Zhu, Dr. Ahmad Rabaa'i, Dr. J.D Jayaraman).
- Minor in Professional Financial Planning (Professor Marilyn Ettinger, Dr. Rosilyn Overton, Professor Richard Mayell).

### GLOBAL INITIATIVES

In fall 2021, NJCU will launch three additional programs in Tbilisi, Georgia; Ahmedabad, India; and Guangdong, China.

The College of Education will host a 2+1 accelerated joint degree in Early Childhood Education with Guangdong Normal College Maoming, China.

The School of Business will host a 3+1 joint degree program in Management with Gujarat Law University, and the College of Professional Studies will host an accelerated 2+1 joint degree in Cyber Security.

Deans Edmondson, McSherry and Woo, Associate Deans Rutledge and McSherry, and Professors Laura Zieger, Saigeetha Jambunathan, Michael Krantz, Abdullah Al Hayajneh, Scott Fisher, Syed Haider, and Kutub Thakur were instrumental in the development of these revenue-generating international programs.

### PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

#### **Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies**

- Dr. Virginia Ochoa-Winemiller presented the paper “Crafting and Trading along the Banks of the Telica: Artisan Communities and Regional Interaction in Eastern Honduras and Beyond” at the 86th Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, held virtually in April.
- Dr. David Blackmore facilitated the workshop “Inequality in Higher Education: The Case of Hispanic-Serving Institutions” at the 35th Reunion of the Harvard-Radcliffe Class of 1986 (held virtually).

#### **Management**

- Professor Michael Bell was an invited panelist and research presenter for the 8th Annual NJ Big Data Alliance (NJBDA) Symposium: Smart State: Big Data for Community Impact that took place in April at Princeton University.

#### **Psychology**

- Dr. Peri Yuksel coordinated the Fourth Annual Pedagogy Day with presentations on the impact of COVID-19 on P-12 students. (April 2021)

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### **Counselor Education**

- Dr. Jean Georgiou and Dr. Vaibhavee Agaskar, associate professors in the Department of Counselor Education and licensed clinicians were looking for a way to volunteer their time during the COVID-19 pandemic. They came across the Emotional PPE Project which connects healthcare workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis to volunteer mental health practitioners. They have been volunteering since March 2020.

#### **Marketing**

- Dr. Kathleen Rennie was elected to the Commission on Public Relations Education (CPRE) Board. CPRE is recognized internationally as the trusted voice on public relations education.

## AWARDS, EXHIBITS, PERFORMANCES, AND PUBLICATIONS

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### Art

- Professor Ashley Lyon from the Department of Art had her artwork “Mountain” included in the Bethany Arts Center in Ossining, NY and had a solo exhibition at the Elijah Wheat Showroom in Newburgh, NY in August 2021. [elijahwheatshowroom.com](http://elijahwheatshowroom.com).
- Professor Deborah Jack from the Department of Art had her photo essay “Drawn by Water” published in *Forgotten Lands: Caribbean Art and Dialogue Volume Three—In Defense of Paradise*. [forgottenlandsart.com/shop/volume3](http://forgottenlandsart.com/shop/volume3). Her work was recently acquired by the Smith College Museum of Art. [scma.smith.edu/blog/collecting-101-acquisition-deborah-jacks-water-between-us-remembers-so-we-wear-history-our](http://scma.smith.edu/blog/collecting-101-acquisition-deborah-jacks-water-between-us-remembers-so-we-wear-history-our).

### Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library

- Frederick Smith, Director of Library Services, copy-edited two recent books of British naval fiction: *Hellfire Corner* (2020) and *The Seeds of War* (2021). He is also the author of the well-regarded blog *Armchair Seadog*.

### Math

- Dr. Alemtsehai Turasie published an article titled “Exceedance and Return Period of High Temperature in the African Region” in a special issue of the *Climate* journal.

### Media Arts

- Professor Vera Dika has a book contract with Routledge Press, forthcoming, 2022. *The Pictures Generation at Hallwalls: Traces of The Body, Gender, and History*.
- The essay “A Confrontation with History: Reviewing the Horror Film Sources of *Get Out*” in *Was it Yesterday? Nostalgia in Contemporary Film and Television*, edited by Matthew Leggatt, State University of New York Press, 2021.

### Music, Dance and Theatre (Jazz)

- Professor Jay Anderson has won two more Grammy awards with the Maria Schneider Orchestra in 2021—Best Large Ensemble and Best Instrumental Composition for the CD *Data Lords*. He also finished recording a new CD with faculty colleague Garry Dial called *Long Distance*.
- Professor Gabriel Alegria has released his 7th CD as a leader called *Social Distancing: Coming Together While Apart* on Saponegro and Tiger Turn Records. He will be participating in the 2021 Latin Grammy process. He was also asked by The New School in New York City to be a commencement keynote performer.
- Professor Gary Dial recorded a new CD with faculty colleague Jay Anderson called *Long Distance*.

### Philosophy & Religion

- Dr. Scott O'Connor wrote a review of "Aristotle's Theory of Bodies by Christian Pfeiffer." *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, vol. 58, 1 (Jan. 2020), pp. 167-168.
- Dr. Sabine Roehr wrote a review of "Aesthetic Reason and Imaginate Freedom: Friedrich Schiller and Philosophy, ed. by Maria del Rosario Acosta Lopez and Jeffrey L. Powell." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 58, 1 (Jan. 2020), pp.178-179.

### Professional Security Studies

- Dr. Juste Codjo, assistant professor of Professional Security Studies wrote an op-ed in French that assessed the risks of political instability and violence in the run-up to the presidential elections in the West African country of Benin.

### Psychology

- Dr. Ansley LaMar edited *Academic Forum*, 22, special issue on Academic Standards. Contributors included Dr. LaMar and Dr. Lennon from the Psychology Department.
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Guarini Institute for International Education and Economic Mobility – Annual Forum

September 16, 2021, 1:00 – 4:00

The Guarini Institute at NJCU

Webinar Registration: [https://njcu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ru5LcMTiQUerhMN8HK5uBw?](https://njcu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ru5LcMTiQUerhMN8HK5uBw?_x_zm_rtaid=pCdiAJQxQx2dkUygKtk3uQ.1631283818439.99ba7514e3352e55c4379c1aeda15f63&_x_zm_rhta)

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### Interfolio

#### Reappointment for AY 2021-22:

- If you have any questions, contact Dr. Aydin (Naydin@njcu.edu).

#### Promotion for AY 2021-22::

- The promotion schedule will be announced shortly.

### National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development

- The Office of Academic Affairs supports the NCFDD platform.
- If you have not utilized this virtual opportunity, click the following link and follow the instructions (attached) <https://www.facultydiversity.org/join>

### Online Learning

- We are happy to announce that Daniel Ward (Ed.D) is our new interim director of the Online Learning Department.

## *Office of the Provost*

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## HOW TO SEND NEWS AND SUBMISSIONS

Please send faculty achievements and departmental events to Academic Affairs at [academicaffairs@njcu.edu](mailto:academicaffairs@njcu.edu).

Next Academic Connections will appear on Friday, October 1. Submission of news deadline is Friday, September 24.