ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

NEW FACULTY

Advancing the Potential of Every Student

2022

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 from around the globe to our great University to be taught and mentored by you and your innovative faculty colleagues who are dedicated to advancing the potential of every student. 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.

I am confident that you will excel at St. John's, and we are excited to follow 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 available, as well as the numerous 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 Vice President for Academic Affairs
University Distinguished Professor
Provost Endowed Chair

St. John's University
UNIVERSITY
St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"Through its distinctive faculty and curriculum, St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provides the foundational knowledge, critical thinking skills, and creative possibilities to unleash the boundless opportunity and potential in every student. It's an exciting time to engage in a liberal arts education at St. John's, one that is deeply committed to promoting ethical citizenship for a pluralistic, globally conscious, and antiracist society. Our students graduate with an understanding of diverse histories, a capacity to discern fact from fiction, and the ability to apply all they have learned to creative problem solving—as the kind of leaders our world so desperately needs."

Teresa Delgado, Ph.D., *Dean*
St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Joseph S. Biehl, Ph.D. '90C

Dr. Biehl joined St. John's University in Spring 2022 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, after having earned a B.A. from St. John's and a Ph.D. from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York.

With a particular concentration on business ethics and the philosophy of the city, his work focuses on how traditional philosophical concerns about truth, justice, and meaning are manifested (and often obscured) in contemporary society. He is the founder and executive director of the Gotham Philosophical Society, Inc., a 501(c)(3) that uses the critical rigor and analytical imagination of philosophical thought to transform the civil, political, and educational institutions of New York City.

Nidal Daou, Ph.D.

Dr. Daou comes to St. John's University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. She earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from the Learning Processes and Behavior Analysis subprogram at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her research interests include social interaction and independent engagement among children and adolescents on the autism spectrum. Inspired by the neurodiversity movement, she recently found a great interest in encouraging a participatory research approach in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Emine Karaman, Ph.D.

Dr. Karaman comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics. She earned a B.S. degree in Physics, an M.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Her research interests involve the structural, electrical, and electrochemical properties of electrode materials and their application in energy storage devices, as well as computational modeling using density functional theory calculations to gain an understanding of the mechanisms underlying the observed properties of these experimental studies. She has gained an awareness of the intellectual needs of students spanning a range of backgrounds, diversity, and academic levels due to her experience teaching at various colleges including Nassau Community College, SUNY Maritime, Hofstra University, and Yeshiva University.

Xue Mei, Ph.D.

Dr. Mei comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. She earned her doctoral degree in Cell and Developmental Biology from the University of Iowa, where she worked on cellular signaling pathways during embryonic development and disease.

After her Ph.D., she worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where she studied light-sensing molecules in the development and function of the eye. She then moved to Rutgers University, where she worked in Andrew Singson, Ph.D.'s lab to study reproduction in the experimental model animal, roundworm. Her current work explores the molecular mechanisms of fertilization, using genetic and biochemical approaches.

Christian Perring, Ph.D.

Having earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Princeton University, Dr. Perring joined St. John's University in Spring 2022 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy. His areas of research are in the philosophy of psychiatry and psychology, philosophy of medicine, and medical ethics. He is currently President of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry. He also has an active interest in philosophical counseling.

Anne Vázquez, Ph.D.

After serving for one year in the Department of Chemistry in a non-tenure track role in 2021–22, Dr. Vázquez has now joined St. John's University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry. She earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry and M.S. degree in Postsecondary Science Education from the University of Michigan.

Her research interests are in environmental analysis, investigating the binding of organic pollutants in soil, and in chemistry education, studying the impact of peer-teaching and learning programs.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

James Coviello, Ed.D.

Dr. Coviello comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership. He earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas at El Paso.

His research examines the intersection of equity, leadership, and policy implementation in K–12 schools. His current projects focus on the equity leadership efforts of urban superintendents, as well as school-site leadership and inclusion for students with disabilities. Before pursuing his doctorate, Dr. Coviello was a classroom teacher for 10 years in New York and New Jersey.

"In The School of Education, we fundamentally believe in this year's theme of 'Advancing the Potential of Every Student.' Every member of our faculty takes up our vital work because we know education has the capacity to make the world a better, more just, place."

James D. Wolfinger, Ph.D., *Dean*
The School of Education

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE PETER J. TOBIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Vaibhav Anand, Ph.D.

Dr. Anand joins St. John's University's Maurice R. Greenberg School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science as an Assistant Professor. He completed his Ph.D. in Risk and Insurance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research examines how people and firms make decisions under risk and uncertainty.

Prior to joining the doctoral program at UW-Madison, Dr. Anand worked for nine years in financial services, specializing in credit risk analytics. His teaching interests are closely aligned with his research and professional experience. He looks forward to teaching courses in risk management and insurance, insurance economics, and risk analytics.

In addition to the Ph.D., he holds a Bachelor of Technology in Engineering Physics from IIT-Bombay, India; a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from IIM-Lucknow, India; and Financial Risk Manager certification from the Global Association of Risk Professionals.

"At The Peter J. Tobin College of Business, we focus on a holistic approach to education. We emphasize experiential learning and educate our students to be ethical business leaders in their professional careers. Our faculty excel as dedicated teachers and mentors, as well as successful scholars."

Norean R. Sharpe, Ph.D., *Dean*
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Rachel Marie Brooks Atkins, Ph.D.

Dr. Atkins comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Finance. She is a 2020 graduate of The New School, having earned a Ph.D. in Public and Urban Policy. Her research examines racial economic inequality among entrepreneurs and workers, especially those in high technology sectors. In her dissertation, Dr. Atkins investigated whether and how disparities in entrepreneurship entry or exit among Blacks and Whites in the US varied over the business cycle. She further examined the extent to which cyclical changes in labor and housing markets explained variation in the disparities.

She has published work examining racial disparities in entrepreneurship during the Great Recession, and racial differences in loans received by small businesses from the Paycheck Protection Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Atkins is completing the final year of the Provost's Postdoctoral Faculty Fellowship at New York University.

Shima Azizi, Ph.D.

Dr. Azizi joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Analytics and Information Systems, teaching courses in prescriptive and predictive analytics and operations management. Her research focuses on the use of advanced analytics, specifically operations research and data science, to solve practical problems in humanitarian operations, health care, and sustainability.

Prior to joining St. John's, she investigated alleviating challenges within refugee camp systems, the US foster care system, as well as in US community paramedicine programs. Dr. Azizi earned her Ph.D. in Operations Management from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, her M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Kurdistan, and her B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Tabriz.

Natalie Dixon

Professor Dixon joins St. John's University as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Accountancy. She earned a Master of Accountancy degree and is a Candidate for the D.B.A. in Accounting from The University of Scranton.

Her dissertation research involves academic dishonesty. More specifically, her work focuses on finding effective solutions to aid administrators and the accounting profession to enforce ethical standards, with the objective to reduce fraud in accounting students—who are the next generation of professionals. Other areas of interest include corporate social responsibility and business ethics.

Michael Herley, D.B.A. '96MBA

Dr. Herley comes to St. John's University as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Analytics and Information Systems. He earned a D.B.A. in Finance from Sacred Heart University's Jack Welch College of Business and Technology, an M.B.A. in Corporate Finance from St. John's University, and an M.S. degree in Mathematics from Fairfield University.

Dr. Herley has more than 25 years of industry experience. Until June 2019, he was a Partner at Kekst CNC on Madison Avenue, when he left to launch his entrepreneurial venture and focus on his executive doctoral degree. His research leverages regime-switching models and machine-learning techniques to improve time-series econometric forecasts. His ongoing research projects focus on examining the relationship between financial and economic variables at different levels of market risk using self-exciting threshold autoregressive and Markov-switching models.

Ansel Felix Schiavone, Ph.D.

Dr. Schiavone joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Finance. Having earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Utah, his research focuses on inequality, structural change, and stagnation. His most recent work includes an article, "Essentially Unemployed," published in the *Review of Social Economy*, in which he analyzed the impacts of COVID-19 on income inequality. He has also published in journals such as *Regional Studies* and *Metroeconomica*, and is coauthor of a chapter in a forthcoming book, *The Great Polarization: Economics, Institutions, and Policies in the Age of Inequality.* He teaches a wide range of subjects, from econometrics to economic history.

Xin Zhao, Ph.D.

Dr. Zhao joined St. John's University as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Accountancy last year, and is now a member of the tenure-track faculty. She teaches courses in Accounting Information Systems and Financial Accounting and enjoys introducing students to accounting concepts and data analytics mindsets and skillsets.

Dr. Zhao earned her Ph.D. in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Temple University's Fox School of Business and an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation focused on the impact of a law on auditing firms' behaviors. Her research interests are auditing, firm risk, law enforcement, cybersecurity, and corporate governance. She also has work experience in the information technology industry.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

"The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences provides cutting-edge health science curricula and dedicated faculty, administration, and staff to help our students achieve their goals of becoming exemplary and mission-driven health-care professionals and scientists. The College is committed to academic excellence, scholarship, and service to humanity through the discovery and application of biomedical knowledge."

John M. Conry '96P, '98Pharm.D., *Interim Dean*
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Pengli Bu, Ph.D.

Dr. Bu comes to the faculty of St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in Toxicology from the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Therapeutics at the University of Kansas Medical Center and completed her postdoctoral training there in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Prior to joining St. John's University, Dr. Bu spent three years as an Assistant Professor in the College of Pharmacy at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. Her research interests include harnessing herbal medicine for Leydig cell protection, investigating transporters as biomarkers for precision and personalized cancer therapy, and safety assessment of biopharmaceuticals.

Hyunah Cho, Ph.D.

Dr. Cho comes to the faculty of St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She earned her B.Pharm. and M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, South Korea, and earned her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also earned her M.A. in Higher Education Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Prior to joining St. John's University, she worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis, MO, for 3.5 years and as an Associate Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University for 4.5 years. Dr. Cho's current research interests include nano-based drug delivery systems, 3D-printing of dosage forms, optical image-guided surgery, combination chemotherapy, and cosmeceuticals.

Yon Choi-Gomes '97MT (ASCP), M.A.Ed.

Prof. Choi-Gomes joins the full-time faculty as Assistant Professor/Industry Professional and Clinical Coordinator of the Clinical Laboratory Science program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from St. John's University and a Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Higher Education from the University of Arizona. Prof. Choi-Gomes has been a licensed and certified clinical laboratory scientist for 25 years.

For the past eight years, Prof. Choi-Gomes was a Clinical Chemistry Laboratory Supervisor at Flushing Hospital Medical Center, and an adjunct instructor of Clinical Chemistry in the Clinical Laboratory Science program at St. John's University for the past three years. Her research interests are in improvements of specificities and sensitivities of viral antibody detection.

John Dorangricchia, D.P.T.

Dr. Dorangricchia joined St. John's University in Spring 2022 as an Assistant Professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program within the Department of Clinical Health Professions. He earned his B.S. in Health Sciences with a concentration in Medical Informatics at Stony Brook University and his Doctor of Physical Therapy at Long Island University.

Prior to joining St. John's University, he practiced at Rusk Rehabilitation for nine years, where he received advanced training in vestibular and neurological rehabilitation. Dr. Dorangricchia has appeared on Sirius XM's *Doctor Radio–The Otolaryngology Show* as a guest expert in vestibular rehabilitation, and has an episode on the *Rusk Insight on Rehabilitation Medicine* podcast. He has served as a clinical instructor in both inpatient and outpatient settings, where he taught entry-level students the applications of neurological rehabilitative principles.

Dr. Dorangricchia's research and teaching interests include the assessment and treatment of vestibular disorders, cervicogenic dizziness, concussions, and other neurologic disorders.

Sei Higuchi, Ph.D.

Dr. Higuchi joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He earned his B.A. and M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the pharmacy school at Josai International University in Japan. He earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Fukuoka University (Japan), and is a licensed Japanese pharmacist.

Dr. Higuchi has been working on lipid metabolism research for more than 10 years and his research goal is to propose a novel approach to treat obesity and metabolic-related diseases. As a graduate student, he trained in behavioral pharmacology and neuroscience. He spent four years as a postdoctoral research scientist at Kyoto University (Japan), after which he spent seven years at Columbia University to train in intestinal lipid metabolism with a focus on the role of bile acids in intestinal lipid metabolism. His work revealed that bile acids act as regulators of intestinal lipid sensing and food intake regulation.

As he starts an independent laboratory, Dr. Higuchi will focus on intestinal lipid sensing in obesity and obesity-related diseases in three subject areas: satiety and satiation regulation system; fatty food appetite; and obesity-related inflammation and neurodegenerative disease such as depression.

Francine Laterza, Ed.D., R.N., PNP, CNE

Dr. Laterza joins the faculty of St. John's University as an Associate Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Clinical Health Professions, and Clinical Coordinator of St. John's B.S. degree program in Nursing. She has been in the nursing profession for more than 30 years, with 18 years of clinical practice as a registered nurse and pediatric nurse practitioner and 14 years in nursing education serving as faculty, program coordinator, and program director.

Dr. Laterza earned her Ed.D. in Nursing Education from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT; her M.S. degree in Nursing/Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from Hunter College in New York, NY; and a B.S. degree in Nursing from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, NY. In addition, Dr. Laterza is a National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator.

Dr. Laterza is committed to contributing her teaching, service, and scholarship to the College and to educating the next generation of registered professional nurses. Her areas of teaching and scholarly interests include men in nursing, the transition of nursing students into the profession, simulation and learning outcomes, and interprofessional education.

Jessica Varghese, Ph.D.

Dr. Varghese joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional for the new Nursing program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in Nursing from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, in 2017. She has an M.S. in Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Systems from Grand Canyon University and an M.A. in Urban Affairs from Queens College, City University of New York. She completed her undergraduate nursing degree at St. John Fisher College.

Dr. Varghese has been a registered nurse for more than 20 years. Her dissertation research was on structural empowerment and work engagement in managed care nurses. Dr. Varghese has a strong interest in global and environmental health, health policy, trauma informed care, and equity and justice research. Currently she is working on a national research study centered on the sense of belonging in nursing students.
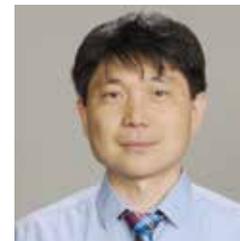
Shanzhi Wang, Ph.D.

Dr. Wang joins St. John's University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University in 2010. Before joining St. John's University, he was a faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

His research focuses on drug development using chemistry and biology tools. Specifically, the Wang group is working closely with experimental biology and bioinformatics labs to create new therapeutic proteins (not antibodies) through protein engineering.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE LESLEY H. AND WILLIAM L. COLLINS COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
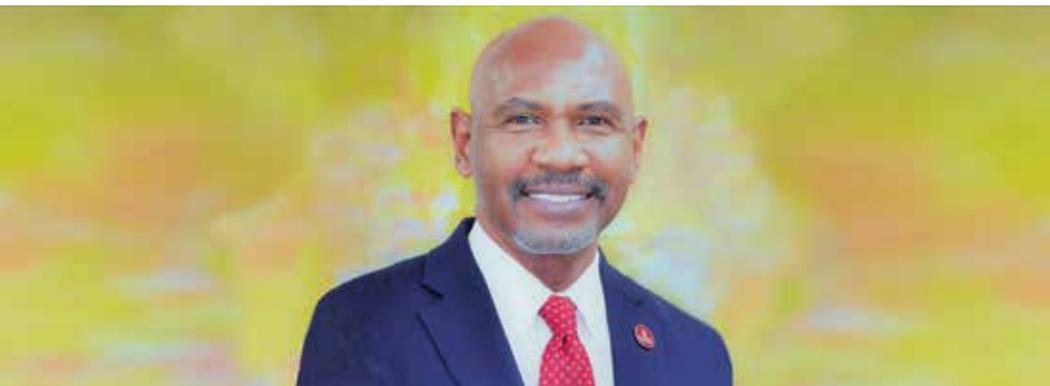
"The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies develops well-rounded professionals capable of integrating theoretical knowledge with applied concepts learned through classroom, experiential, online activities, local and global service-learning, and academic and career-focused internships. We remain committed to advancing the potential of every student through our delivery of innovative and cutting-edge pedagogy by our dedicated scholars and industry professionals."

André McKenzie, Ed.D., *Interim Dean and Vice Provost*
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies

Meghan Dunn, Ph.D.

Dr. Dunn joined St. John's University three years ago as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rhetoric, Communication, and Theatre, and is now a member of the tenure-track faculty in the Division of Mass Communication as an Assistant Professor of Public Relations. She earned her Ph.D. in Communication Studies/Rhetoric from the University of Colorado at Boulder and an M.A. in Communication Studies/Rhetoric from the University of Texas at Austin.

Her research investigates how information, knowledge, or truth(s) are conducted through emergent technologies or 'novel' media, especially by marginalized communities in times of disaster, crisis, and political upheaval. After participating in and studying the Occupy Movement and Occupy Sandy, she leveraged her knowledge of community-led crisis response to cofound Boulder Relief Co.—a nonprofit and grassroots disaster relief 'startup' formed in the wake of the Boulder/Colorado flood of 2013—before working as a consultant with the United Nations. There, she served as an Innovation Research Analyst in the Office of Information and Communications Technology and as an Information Management Specialist in the Department of Peacekeeping and Field Operations.

Emma McClendon

Prof. McClendon joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Fashion Studies in the Division of Administration and Economics. She earned her M.A. in History of Dress from The Courtauld Institute of Art in London and an M.A. Hons. in Art History from The University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Prior to coming to St. John's University, Prof. McClendon worked as a curator at The Museum at The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) for nine years and taught in the Fashion Studies programs at Parsons School of Design and at FIT.

Her research focuses on the power dynamics inherent in the international fashion industry with a particular interest in body politics, labor, technology, and standardized sizing. Her recent publications include *Power Mode: The Force of Fashion (2019), Denim: Fashion's Frontier* (2016), and *Yves Saint Laurent + Halston: Fashioning the 70s* (2015). She is currently completing her Ph.D. at The Bard Graduate Center in New York.

Sharon Yamen, J.D.

Prof. Yamen comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Legal Studies. She earned her J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law. She is accredited by the US Veteran's Administration, assisting veterans in receiving their benefits. She holds her own practice assisting small businesses and start-ups, and represents expedition athletes in contract negotiations.

Her research interests are vast and varied and have led to articles on the American Rule; discrepancies in the law regarding customs and borders protection; the duty to rescue; landlord/tenant law; and equity crowdfunding as a bubble that will burst.

ST. JOHN'S
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SCHOOL OF LAW

"The success of our graduates is what defines St. John's Law, and that success comes from the strength of our faculty: outstanding scholars, dedicated teachers, and experienced lawyers."

Michael A. Simons, J.D., *Dean*
School of Law

Miriam A. Cherry, J.D.

Prof. Cherry joins St. John's University's School of Law as Professor and faculty Codirector of the Center for Labor and Employment Law. She holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and clerked for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit after graduation from law school. Prior to joining St. John's, Prof. Cherry taught at Saint Louis University Law School and the University of the Pacific.

Prof. Cherry's research focuses on the future of work, technology, and globalization. She is the author of more than 40 published law review articles and books, and her latest book is under contract with Cambridge University Press. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute and the former Chair of The Association of American Law Schools Section on Contracts.

Martin J. LaFalce, J.D.

Prof. LaFalce joined the St. John's School of Law faculty in Spring 2022 as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Legal Education and Director of the Defense and Advocacy Clinic.

Prof. LaFalce spent 14 years as a public defender at The Legal Aid Society. He began his career representing clients at Rikers Island charged with violating the conditions of their parole. In that role, he pursued impact litigation that led the Appellate Division, First Department, to strike down the New York State Board of Parole's draconian board review procedure, a procedure that allowed parole commissioners to unilaterally imprison New Yorkers without affording them a hearing.

Prof. LaFalce also worked as trial attorney in Manhattan for 10 years, representing New Yorkers charged with crimes ranging from low-level marijuana possession to murder. During that time, Prof. LaFalce teamed with Legal Aid colleagues, community activists, and state legislators to repeal New York State's discriminatory gravity knife law. Most recently, he worked as a policy attorney in Legal Aid's Criminal Defense Practice, coordinating their legislative reform agenda before the New York City Council and New York State Legislature.

ST. JOHN'S
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Caroline Fuchs '04MLS,
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian
St. John's University Libraries

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New York, NY 10003

Via Marcantonio Colonna, 21A
Rome, Italy 00192

This brochure reflects all new faculty members at the time of publication. For the latest list, please visit www.stjohns.edu/newfaculty.