

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to take this opportunity to celebrate and recognize the outstanding research accomplishments of our faculty here at St. Joseph's University, New York.

As provost and vice president for academic affairs, it is truly gratifying to witness the exemplary research in which our faculty are involved. Your collective efforts continue to elevate the reputation of our University and contribute to advancements in knowledge across various disciplines.

Over the past year, despite challenges, so many of you stayed committed to excellence in teaching and scholarship, and you continued to serve the University in extraordinary ways. This Faculty Highlights issue is an opportunity to commemorate some of the notable research achievements that have emerged from our faculty members.

As we look ahead to the future, I am confident that our faculty will continue to demonstrate leadership, innovation and excellence in their research pursuits. Together, we will build on our successes and continue to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of science, scholarship and society.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to research excellence.

Regards,

Heather E. Barry, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
St. Joseph's University, New York



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Championing Critical Thinking: Dr. Eunah Lee's Passion for Philosophy

BY SAMANTHA CHEYENNE MILLER '13

Eunah Lee, Ph.D., first became interested in philosophy during high school.

She found herself mesmerized while reading Korean-translated excerpts from German-American philosopher Herbert Marcuse in her literature class.

Now, Dr. Lee has the privilege of introducing that same passion for the subject to her students at St. Joseph's University, New York, in her role as assistant professor of philosophy.

"Philosophy is essential to students, as it promotes the habit of clear and critical thinking, which is crucial to success in any field," the Seoul, South Korea, native explained.

"More importantly, however, it explores perhaps the ultimate questions about life, death and meaning," she continued. "Philosophy can lift our gaze from the mundane to the world of ideas that have the ability to shape and transform our everyday lives."

What interests Dr. Lee most about the field of philosophy, however, is the ability to converse with others in a deeper way.



Eunah Lee, Ph.D.

"I love when I'm reading and I can anticipate what the author may say on the next page or think to myself, 'Hey, what about this?'" and then immediately find the author's answer to the questions I had in my head," said Dr. Lee, who earned a doctoral degree from Stony Brook University.

"Although rare, I cherish these special moments. It almost feels like you get to know someone deeply across time and space."

Dr. Lee received a summer faculty research grant from St. Joseph's University to continue conducting her own research, which focuses on human rights violation.

"This summer research grant will help me focus on a book project that explores philosophical themes that arise in the transnational redress movement regarding sexual slavery in World War II, which is called the comfort women system," Dr. Lee said. "My goal is to provide a theoretical and normative framework to understand survivors' silenced and obscured stories, and to critically analyze some contemporary artistic representations of these victims."

A paper she co-authored, "In the Name of Awareness: Audience, Venue, and the Politics of Witnessing Human Rights Violation," is scheduled to be published in fall 2025 by Duke University Press in the journal *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*.



Bio Professor Pamela Lovejoy Thrives on Nurturing Curiosity

BY BRIAN HARMON

Curiosity, dedication and a deep-rooted connection to the natural world.

It's what fuels SJNY Assistant Professor Pamela Lovejoy's journey through the world of biology.

A passion began to take root during a childhood spent exploring in her hometown Guilford, Connecticut.

"I spent a lot of time outside as a child, so I became interested in nature and learning about how it worked," Dr. Lovejoy, Ph.D., reflected.

Dr. Lovejoy's path toward biology unfolded gradually, influenced by inspiring teachers and hands-on experiences in high school.

"In high school, I always enjoyed my science courses the best, I think because of the hands-on activities," she said. "My biology teachers, in particular, were amazing, and their enthusiasm for the material they taught hooked me."

"I spent a lot of time outside as a child, so I became interested in nature and learning about how it worked."

— Pamela Lovejoy, Ph.D.

Her transition to college marked the beginning of her professional journey in biology.

"I started college as a biology major, got involved in research as soon as I could, and knew that it was the path for me," said Dr. Lovejoy, whose first professional experience within the field came during an internship with the Dolphin Communication Project.

In the internship, she studied tactile communication among wild Atlantic spotted dolphins off the coast of Bimini.

"It was an amazing experience and solidified my interest in animal behavior," she said.

Joining the faculty at St. Joseph's Brooklyn Campus was a natural fit for Dr. Lovejoy, she said.

"I was drawn to SJNY because it is a small school that values research," she said. "Students and faculty are able to connect in a way that just isn't possible at a larger school."



Pamela Lovejoy, Ph.D.

As part of the research she conducts at St. Joseph's, Dr. Lovejoy delves into understanding how genetic and environmental factors influence behavior in the common fruit fly. Specifically, she's attempting to identify the genes that influence the response that flies have to the herbicide atrazine.

"Flies are an excellent genetic model organism, and scientific discoveries made using them can relate to humans or to other insects," she attested.



ONLINE FACULTY FEATURE

Inspiring Minds and Exploring the Past: Dr. James Blakeley's Passion for History

BY SAMANTHA CHEYENNE MILLER '13

Growing up, James Blakeley, Ph.D., dreamed of being a motorcycle patrol officer for the California Highway Patrol.

And although professor and chair of history at St. Joseph's University, New York isn't exactly what he imagined as a child, Dr. Blakeley doesn't complain about where he landed in life.

"As far back as I can remember, I have been interested in history," said Dr. Blakeley, who joined

St. Joseph's in 2007. "As a child, I loved participating in the summer library reading contests; I spent hours reading as many books as I could from a series of historical biographies that were geared toward young people."

While his first job in the field of history was leading tours of the Bybee-Howell House on Portland's Sauvie Island as a graduate student at Portland State University in the late 1990s, he has found that he more enjoys working on the academic side of history.

"What I enjoy most about my job is conveying my excitement and passion for history with my students," Dr. Blakeley said. "Everything from our governing ideals to religion to cultural trends are often rooted in the past."



James Blakeley, Ph.D.

Dr. Blakeley is grateful that his work allows him to continue researching areas of history he finds fascinating.

"The focus of my research is early modern Europe, especially the impact of the Reformation in Switzerland," he said. "I find this time period fascinating, as people were challenged to find ways of cooperating and working with one another despite their deep religious differences. It was a time of upheaval and violence, but it resulted in compromises that set the stage for religious tolerance that we consider important."

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Everything from our governing ideals to religion to cultural trends are often rooted in the past."

— James Blakeley, Ph.D.

Last year, at an international conference, Dr. Blakeley presented some of his findings on small villages in rural Switzerland where residents had the unusual right to vote on religious matters.

"Usually, villagers were forced to adopt the religions of their superiors," he explained. "I have spent a lot of time in Swiss archives examining the results of votes, records of religious disputes and how they were adjudicated."



APPEARANCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Nerissa Aksamit, Ph.D., an assistant professor of history at the Long Island Campus, published “Paving the road to reconciliation: The Training and Practice of the Friends Relief Service in post-War Reconciliation, 1943 to 1947” in the *European Review of History: Revue européenne d’histoire*. The article examines a British Quaker relief organization, the Friends Relief Service, as they navigated wartime training courses and post-war relief work that emphasized reconciliation between displaced persons, refugees and German populations.



Nerissa Aksamit, Ph.D.

Dr. Aksamit also received a small SJNY faculty grant to conduct research last summer. The materials she collected help to shed light on the complicated relationship between war and society.

Frank Antonawich, Ph.D., professor of biology, this spring was one of the plenary speakers at the 13th International Advanced Applications in the Medical Practice Conference, entitled “Mitochondrial Medicine: Healing in Chronic & Post-Infectious Illness.” The session provided clinical and scientific expertise on mitochondrial function and disorders, updating attendees’ understanding of this core area of cellular health and disease. His presentations focused on the way mitochondria work, the many ways they are damaged, and how that can affect whole-body health and disease in post-infectious and chronic illness, including long-term COVID.

Patricia Barry, Ed.D., and **Harry Voulgarakis, Ph.D.**, assistant professors of child study at the Long Island Campus, have continued their studies of dyslexia and individuals with academic language and learning challenges. Their research was presented at the International Dyslexia Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

In her article, “Special Considerations

in Mediating Sexual Abuse Cases,” the **Hon. Elizabeth Bonina, J.D.**, business administration lecturer, explains why mediating a Child Victims Act sexual abuse case is very different from typical personal injury claims. She discusses the challenges of placing a value on the psychological injuries of the survivor, and managing the emotions and expectations of all parties, as well as such obstacles as the passage of time, death or lack of witnesses, and uninsured or underinsured defendants.

Michael Burke, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy at the Brooklyn Campus, published a book in March called “The Ethics of Horror: Spectral Alterity in Twenty-First Century Horror.”

Peter Lin, Ph.D., professor and associate chair of psychology, has produced a monthly podcast and webinar, C.A.F.E. 229, since the pandemic. The purpose of C.A.F.E. 229 is to serve the public with excellent education and inspire individuals to be more insightful and altruistic. These themes are echoed in the words that constitute the C.A.F.E. name: Compassion in Action, Freedom, Enlightenment.

In its 40th episode, Dr. Lin interviewed Dr. Judith Beck, a prominent figure in the field of psychology and psychotherapy, particularly known for her work in cognitive therapy. She is the daughter of Aaron T. Beck, the founder of cognitive therapy and cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT).

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is the current “gold standard” of psychotherapy. About 70% of mental health professionals use CBT to treat depression and anxiety. Dr. Lin also hosted the 2024 World Interfaith Harmony Week event, which was presented by Tzu Chi USA, Chan Space New York, Tzu Chi Center and Global Family for Love and Peace. SJNY’s Thomas Petriano, Ph.D., professor and chair of religious studies, was among the panelists.

William Leonelli, Ed.D., assistant professor of human services, defended his dissertation in March 2023, completing his Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership from St. John’s University. The topic researched was “Adjunct Instructors’ Preparedness to Support Students with Disabilities and Diverse Learning Styles of All Students.” The research method used was a qualitative phenomenological study.



William Leonelli, Ed.D.

Anna Egbert, Ph.D., a Brooklyn Campus assistant professor of psychology, and her BRAID Lab hosted a Diversity Appreciation Fundraiser on March 2 in the Touhy Hall Auditorium. Opened to the public, guests were invited to walk through an interactive maze of the history of stigma/discrimination, play games prepared by SJNY honors students and win raffles.



Peter Lin, Ph.D.

APPEARANCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Continued from previous page



Phillip Dehne, Ph.D.

Phillip Dehne, Ph.D., executive dean of the Brooklyn Campus as well as professor of history, presented “Liberal Internationalism and the Origins of Economic Sanctions” at the Rethinking the

Past and Present of Liberal Internationalism conference at the London School of Economics in May 2023. He also presented “How the First World War Permanently Changed Economic Warfare” at the Economic History of War conference in June 2023. In October, his chapter “Blockaders as Humanitarians? Connecting the Allied Blockade of Germany and Post-War Humanitarianism” was published in the book “Humanitarianism and the Greater War, 1914-24,” edited by Elisabeth Piller and Neville Wylie.

Sharon Didier, Ph.D., associate professor and director of Graduate Management Studies at the Brooklyn Campus, presented a paper in November on “The Shifting Talent Pool and Emerging Employee Engagement: Re-evaluating flexible Work arrangements.” The study had broad implications for employers and faculty on how best to engage a generation with insights into the role. The results from the study confirmed what other researchers are saying: companies need to

understand the generational differences to more effectively communicate and reach potential employees where they are.

Amy Poland, Ph.D., professor of criminal justice, as well as associate dean and director of online learning, co-authored a book chapter entitled “Serial Rape,” which appears in the book “Serial Crime: A Criminological and Psychological Analysis,” published by Carolina Academic Press. This chapter examines the characteristics of serial rapists, their victims, and the selection and methods of attack employed by serial rapists.

David Siegel, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, published an article in the journal *New Political Science* on the role of violence in Soviet collectivization and post-Soviet land privatization. He also wrote a forthcoming book chapter on the political history of Russian colonialism in Central Asia. He will present new research on authoritarianism and social alienation at the Northeastern Political Science Association’s annual meeting.

Kimberly Poppiti, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication studies, served as editor for “Equestrian Drama: An Anthology of Plays” (Routledge, 2023). She also presented her research on “Learned Horses” and chaired a panel on literature and popular culture at the Northeast Popular Culture Association’s 2023 Conference. Dr. Poppiti authored numerous reviews for Penn State University’s Educational

Media Reviews Online database. Additionally, she serves as a reader and reviewer of plays for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival National Playwriting Program.

Gretchen Owens, Ph.D., a professor of child study, authored and co-authored comprehensive reviews of two of the most commonly used standardized tests for young children: the Battelle Developmental Inventory, Third Edition (BDI-3), and the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, Fourth Edition (Bayley-4).

These instruments are important tools for psychologists and educators who are conducting a comprehensive assessment of young children’s skills in multiple areas of functioning. They are commonly used for research purposes, to assess eligibility for special education services, and to plan instruction.

Both reviews (the latter co-authored with Dr. Harry Voulgarakis) have been published in the 22nd edition of the *Mental Measurements Yearbook* put out by the Buros Institute of Mental Measurement. These are the latest of the 13 invited reviews Dr. Owens has contributed over the years, resulting in her designation since 2014 as a “Distinguished Reviewer.”

Jeonghee Kang, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry at the Brooklyn Campus, published a research paper in *Colorants*. “pH-Induced Orthogonal Photoresponse of trans-Chalcone Isomers and Related Compounds in Equilibria” reports improved control of anthocyanin isomers, with structural changes influenced by pH and photon absorption, offering potential for photoresponsive drug delivery, including applications for the COVID vaccine.

Jason Ostrowe, Ph.D., an assistant professor of criminal justice at the Long Island Campus, presented to NEACJS



Gretchen Owens, Ph.D.



Sharon Didier, Ph.D.



his paper “Systemic Misconduct and Unconstitutional Policing: A New Model of Prevention.” His article “A Framework to Forestall Police Misconduct: Applying DOJ’s Pattern or Practice Findings to Municipal Police” was accepted for publication in *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*. Both projects were supported by an SJNY small faculty grant.

Konstantine Rountos, Ph.D., associate professor of biology at the Long Island Campus, gave an invited presentation at the South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting in October. “Establishing a Baseline of Microplastics in Long Island Coastal Ecosystems” provided an overview of the microplastics research in his lab and future research needs.

Mathematics and computer science professor **David Seppala-Holtzman, Ph.D.**, developed a paper, “The Optimal Tennis Serve: A Mathematical Model,” that is set to be published in *The Mathematical Gazette* in November 2024. He presented last April on the paper at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) meeting. He also had a challenge problem accepted for publication in *Math Horizons*, and he has extended his Problem of the Month feature that he’s done since 2004 to the MAA website.

Stephen J. Rockwell, Ph.D., professor of political science at the Long Island Campus,

published his latest book “The Presidency and the American State: Leadership and Decision Making in the Adams, Grant, and Taft Administrations.



Stephen J. Rockwell, Ph.D.

Dr. Rockwell examines how the influence and independence of John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant and William Howard Taft.

Susan Van Scoy, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of art, was selected as a 2023 co-honoree for The Heckscher Museum’s Celebrate Achievement Benefit for her service and patronage of the museum. She currently serves on the museum’s Collections Stewardship Committee, weighing in on museum acquisitions, and she was recently asked to join the Museum’s Board of Trustees in 2024.

Jessica Sher Lisa, Psy.D., associate professor of child study at the Long Island Campus, and Dr. Harry Voulgarakis have spent the last two years collecting data on the overlap between gender constructs, autistic profiles and behavioral features, which was presented by Dr. Voulgarakis in May at the International Society for Autism Research in Stockholm, Sweden. Their data collection has involved the incorporation of both undergraduate and

graduate research assistants. This data has been put into manuscript form and is now under review for publication. Their systematic review on the same topic was recently published in the *International Journal of Psychology and Behavior Analysis*.

Lisa Tafuro, Ph.D., associate professor of communication studies at the Long Island Campus, presented at the American Speech Language Hearing Association international conference in Boston on cultural responsiveness in early childhood classroom and clinic settings. She discussed how deficit perspectives and the hidden curriculum hinder children’s learning, and she shared new tools being developed that capture the cognitive and cultural dimensions of interaction with children.

Wendy Turgeon, Ph.D., professor and chair of philosophy, prepared a presentation for the Public Philosophy Network in San Diego. The topic was “Philosophy and Technology.” She was unable to attend, but her colleagues shared the presentation in her place. She also worked last year, with the support of an SJNY summer grant, to compile and edit a volume on fairy tales and philosophy for Palgrave Macmillan, “The Ocean of Stories: Philosophy and Fairy Tales.” It is a collection of essays by scholars from around the world on the philosophical ideas found in fairy tales from many different cultures.

Sabbatical Success for Art Department Professor

Susan Van Scoy, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the art department, received a sabbatical in spring 2023, during which she served as a guest curator for an exhibition of landscape photography at the Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington. The exhibition, installed from Jan. 23 through April 16, was entitled “Viewfinders: Photographers Frame Nature.”

Dr. Van Scoy assisted with the art and label installation in the galleries, as well as putting the finishing edits on all exhibition text, including the accompanying essay. She

ran workshops, and she attended openings and panel discussions for members. She hosted a reception for St. Joseph’s University, New York alumni at the museum in February 2023, which was well-attended by faculty and former students.

Her exposure to the artists in the exhibition became inspiration for additional projects, Dr. Van Scoy said, such as an article that is in the works, a memorial exhibition set to open in May 2024, and community service projects. She was also asked to join the Heckscher Museum’s Collections Committee,

where she gets to impart expertise on the acceptance of museum acquisitions and gifts.

“Each opportunity I was able to commit to due to my time off afforded me several new opportunities to curate, research, write and volunteer, and for that I am truly grateful to the University,” she said.



Susan Van Scoy, Ph.D.



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