

Francine M. Bates, Ed.D., L.P.C.
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Francine M. Bates, EdD, LPC, has been providing career and employment counseling for 25 years. Early in her profession she worked as a vocational specialist and manager of a supported employment program providing services to individuals with mental health conditions. In 2001 Dr. Bates was hired as faculty in the Integrated Employment Institute in the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her experience and expertise in providing employment services to individuals with mental health conditions rendered her a clear candidate to advance supported employment services in New Jersey and beyond through education, consultation, and technical assistance. Her master's degree in counseling and doctorate in educational leadership provides a blend of skills that promote effective training of mental health staff. Dr. Bates specializes in the expansion of evidence-based employment services and employment parity for individuals with mental health conditions. Additionally, Dr. Bates develops training manuals and conducts research on the topic of employment services. Her most recent research explored the employment decision making process of individual in recovery and who are receiving supplemental security income. Dr. Bates has co-authored several workbooks and manuals including topics on peer employment support, employment services/train-the-trainer, individual job-search-skills, and decision-making. She is on the board of directors for the NJ chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



Adam C. Berger, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Chief Section of Melanoma and Sarcoma Surgical Oncology
and Associate Director for Shared Resources
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Adam C. Berger, MD, FACS is a Professor and Chief of the Melanoma and Soft Tissue Sarcoma Section at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He is also the Associate Director for Shared Resources in the Cancer Institute. He completed his residency in surgery at the University of Maryland in 2002 after spending two years in the Surgery Branch of the National Cancer Institute from 1997-1999. He then completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center from 2002-2004. He was at Thomas Jefferson University from 2004 to July 2019. His research interests include clinical trials for cancer, the formation of clinical databases and prospective evaluation of clinicopathologic prognostic factors for various malignancies. Prior to leaving Jefferson, he was the head of the Breast Cancer Care Integration Committee for the four major hospitals that had merged. He is interested in continuing that work in Cutaneous Oncology and Sarcoma at Rutgers. As the Associate Director for Shared Resources, he is responsible for 8-10 core facilities that provide scientific support to the CINJ and Rutgers community to facilitate many aspects of cancer-related research. He works with shared resource directors and managers to ensure that they provide well-reviewed services and to ensure that they stay on recommended budgets.



Rajita Bhavaraju, Ph.D., M.P.H.
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Rajita Bhavaraju is Deputy Director of the NJ Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute, at Rutgers University, and Adjunct instructor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Science at the Rutgers School of Public Health. She has a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Family Health Science and PhD in Public Health Education and Behavioral Science. She has conducted research on several aspects of tuberculosis care and have authored several articles and manuscripts. Rajita has held positions at the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) as Director of Curriculum and Assessment and worked in the mental health field early in her career. She was the Chair for IUATLD's Coordinating Committee for Scientific Activities; Chair, Staffing and Training Sub-Workgroup, 2001-2004, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & National TB Controllers Association Contact Investigation Recommendations Workgroup; Consultant, World Health Organization Program Review Team for Internationally Supported TB Control Programs in the Russian Federation, July 2006. Rajita was a member of World Lung Foundation (2014-2015) and IUATLD Board of Directors (2010-2014) and is Member-at-Large for The Union-North America Region Council (2017-2019). Past positions also include Secretary (2001-2003) and Member-at-large (2000) for the New Jersey Public Health Association. In her present position, Rajita oversees day-to-day operations at the Global Tuberculosis Institute including finances, research administration, compliance, and human resources.



Jasmine Cordero-West, M.H.R.M.
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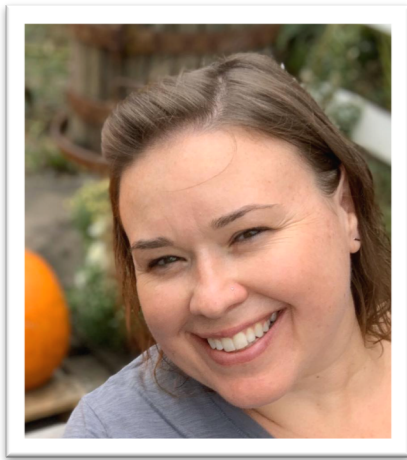
Jasmine Cordero-West is the Associate Director of Rutgers Advanced Institute for the Study of Entrepreneurship and Development (RAISED) at Rutgers Business School. Jasmine combines her commitment to urban renewal and the socio-economic development of urban communities with the experience and training gleaned from work in corporate leadership development to the training and development of entrepreneurs. Jasmine oversees various entrepreneurship programs. Under her leadership, the Entrepreneurship Pioneers Initiative (EPI) has helped over 250 entrepreneurs to sustain and grow their businesses. Jasmine serves on the NJIT Newark Innovation Acceleration Challenge board of advisors, Urban League of Essex County Opportunity Corporation/Real Estate Committee and as panel reviewer for various entrepreneurship awards and grants committees. She has also been a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator. Jasmine was named one of NJBIZ's Forty under 40. She is co-author of *Entrepreneurship Education in Practice: The Development of a Hybrid Training Model in an Urban Environment* paper.

Prior to her employment at Rutgers she worked at Johnson & Johnson Corporate Headquarters developing young talent for leadership roles within the corporation. She has worked at Rutgers for over 15 years and received both her undergraduate and Masters in Human Resources Management from Rutgers University.



Carrie Ferraro, Ph.D.
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Carrie Ferraro, Ph.D., Associate Director, Coastal Climate Risk & Resilience Initiative, Institute of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences and Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Carrie received her Ph.D. from Rutgers in Oceanography in 2010, studying the active microbial population in aquatic environments using molecular markers. After graduating, she began working with researchers to communicate their science through the construction and implementation of innovative Broader Impact statements that fulfill National Science Foundation requirements. Through this effort, she created high quality educational materials that fostered connections between students, educators, and researchers. Currently, Carrie is the Associate Director for Coastal Climate Risk & Resilience (C2R2), an NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) working to prepare the workforce that will build coastal resilience in the face of climate risks. She also works with the Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences and the Rutgers Raritan River Consortium (R3C) to create opportunities for students and researchers to access and study the evolving status of the Raritan River.



Jane A. Ferrick, M.S.
Director,
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Jane Ferrick has two decades of experience in higher education supervising staff and teaching at the university level. She is a graduate of SUNY Buffalo State College, where she received her Masters of Science in College Student Administration Personnel. Jane is currently the Director for the Office of Academic Success at Rutgers School of Nursing, where she has been recognized for exceptional results recruiting and training tutors and for engaging students in learning activities and dialogue about strategies to advance learning and support scholarship. Jane has significant experience working closely with mentoring students from diverse national and socio-economic backgrounds. Jane is a board member for the College Reading and Learning Association of PA/NJ and will serve as the regional president 2020-2021.



Janet Gilmartin, C.P.A.
Director of Business Operations,
New Brunswick Chancellor's Office
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Janet Gilmartin is the Director of Business Operations in the Chancellor's Office for the New Brunswick Campus. She is responsible for the New Brunswick Cost Center's financial budgets totaling \$36 million. She provides oversight for the daily operations, policy, and internal controls of these organizations. Janet also acts as a liaison for the New Brunswick Campus for Purchasing, Expense Management, and Grant Accounting. Janet started her career at Rutgers University in August 2012 at the Division of Continuing Studies (DoCS). As a Business Analyst, she was responsible for multiple units within DoCS, where she provided support in all aspects of the daily financial operations for the units as well as long-term planning. Janet holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from St. John's University. She began her profession at KPMG in the audit department. As an auditor, she serviced a diverse portfolio of clients including a Fortune 500 consumer products manufacturer, real estate investment companies, life insurance, higher education, and several not for profit corporations. She performed evaluations of accounting and operating procedures and controls. During her time at KPMG, she developed recommendations for improvements to achieve efficiencies, cost reductions, and to enhance internal controls. After leaving public accounting, she worked in the private sector at a real estate developer, a major publishing company, and a small CPA firm, before coming to Rutgers University. While at these companies, she gained experience in SEC Reporting, Financial Reporting, and Tax Reporting and Compliance. Janet holds a Certified Public Accountant license in New York and New Jersey.



Michael Hayes, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor,
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Dr. Michael S. Hayes received his PhD in Public Administration & Policy from the School of Public Affairs at American University. He is currently an assistant professor at Rutgers University-Camden in the Department of Public Policy & Administration.

His research interests include public budgeting & finance, K-12 education finance, summer learning loss, value-added models, and state and local tax policy. He has been honored with the Emerging Scholars Award by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs & Administration. Additionally, he was selected as an Emerging Education Policy Scholar by the Fordham Institute. His research has been published in various academic journals including the [American Journal of Education](#), [Economic Letters](#), [Educational Policy](#), [Journal of Economic Geography](#), [Public Budgeting & Finance](#), and [Public Personnel Management](#). He also has been interviewed and cited in numerous media outlets including [The Brookings Institute](#), [Chalkbeat](#), [Education Week](#), [Politico](#), U.S. News and World Report, [The Wall Street Journal](#).

Professor Hayes teaches Financial Management of Public Programs, Foundations of Policy Analysis, Public Budgeting and Finance, Quantitative Methods, and Research Methods. He has been recognized for his teaching with the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2020.

In addition to serving various service roles in his department, Michael also serves as a faculty senator in the College of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University-Camden.



Carolyn J. Heckman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Population Science, Medicine, RWJMS
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Dr. Heckman is an Associate Professor of Medicine with tenure and is Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. She received her BA in psychology from Brown University and PhD in Counseling Psychology from The University of Iowa. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in health psychology and addictions at Virginia Commonwealth University and is a licensed psychologist. Dr. Heckman's research program focuses on developing, evaluating, and disseminating innovative interventions to improve cancer risk and risk-reduction behaviors. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and presented numerous times at national and international conferences. She has been funded by the National Cancer Institute including three R01s, an R21, R03, and a K07, as well as having received funding from the American Cancer Society and Pfizer. In addition to her primary research duties, Dr. Heckman has been involved in several activities as a leader. In terms of national service, she is a member of the NIH Community Level Health Promotion study section, and she is on the Editorial Board of the journal *Translational Behavioral Medicine*. For four years, she served as the national chair of the Don't Fry Day skin cancer prevention awareness campaign sponsored by the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention. She spearheaded Rutgers and Temple University's earning the national Indoor Tan-Free Skin Smart Campus Platinum Award. Regarding local service, she is the Founder/Leader of the CINJ Dissemination and Implementation Science Working Group. Additionally, she has served on numerous steering and advisory, grant review, search committee, training, and other committees and served in several community groups.



Oscar Holmes IV, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs,
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Dr. Oscar Holmes IV is the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, Associate Professor of Management and RUSE Director at Rutgers School of Business-Camden. Additionally, he is the founder and CEO of WHConsulting Firm, LLC and creator and host of Diversity Matters podcast. His research examines how leaders can maximize productivity and well-being through fostering more inclusive environments and has been published in several top-tier management journals and books. He earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in Management from The University of Alabama. While on sabbatical in fall 2016, he was a Visiting Research Professor of Management at the LeBow College of Business at Drexel University and a Research Fellow at the University of Pretoria (South Africa). He has won numerous awards for his scholarship and teaching such as being named one of Poets & Quants 40 Under 40 Best Business School Professors in the world, Philadelphia Business Journal 40 Under 40, and won the Mid-Atlantic Association of College of Business Administration Innovation in Teaching Award, the New Jersey Policy Research Organization Foundation Bright Idea Research Award, and the Rutgers University Leaders in Faculty Diversity Award. He is a 2020 Lead New Jersey Fellow and is the creator and host of Beyond The Mill, a live Diversity Dialogues Talk Show at Rutgers-Camden. In addition to his scholarship being covered in various news outlets, he is a highly sought-after speaker, organizational consultant, and has made a number of media appearances that include Huffington Post Live, television, and radio interviews. He can be reached at Oscar.HolmesIV@Rutgers.edu.



Maureen Hurd, D.M.A
Associate Professor,
Performance, Department of Music, Mason Gross School of the Arts
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Clarinetist Maureen Hurd joined the faculty of the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University in 2002, and she is currently Head of the Woodwind Program and Associate Professor of Clarinet. She has appeared in solo, chamber, and orchestral concerts and master classes throughout Europe, Asia, and North America, performing at New York City's Carnegie Hall, David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall, (le) poisson rouge as soloist in Michel van der Aa's *Hysteresis*, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, with the American Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and New York City Opera Orchestra, as well as the Broadway production of *The King and I* at Lincoln Center. She has performed at International Clarinet Association (ICA) ClarinetFests® in Belgium, Italy, Japan, Canada, and the US and at the Henri Selmer Paris, Norfolk, Skaneateles, Lancaster, and Zodiac Festivals. She has been recognized for her study and performances of classical works connected to Benny Goodman, including the recent 2019 world premiere of the last Goodman commission, Allen Shawn's *Concerto for Clarinet and Cello* (completed in 1983 but never performed) and presenting lectures and performances at Yale University and Carnegie's Zankel Hall, the Bruno Walter Auditorium of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and the University of North Texas. She has published articles in *The Clarinet*, journal of the ICA, and she is New Jersey State Chair for the ICA. She has recorded for Naxos, MSR Classics and Marquis Classics. Her solo CD, *Spelunk*, includes premiere recordings of American works for clarinet and includes music by William Bolcom, Evan Hause, Morton Gould, Alan Shulman, and Robert Starer. She recently performed William Bolcom's *Concerto* with the Rutgers Wind Ensemble, and she was soloist for that ensemble's Naxos recording of Michael Daugherty's *Brooklyn Bridge*.



Shakirat Bola Ibraheem, M.B.A.
Business Manager SVPR,
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Shakirat Bola Ibraheem is an alumna of Rutgers MBA class of 2002. She worked in the corporate world as an Accountant at Research and Development company such as Sarnoff Corporation, Medical technology company such as Siemens Medical Solution, Real Estate company etc., where she applied her dynamic accounting knowledge to multifaceted problems following the General Accepted Accounting Principle and Practices (GAAP). Bola finally returned home to Rutgers a little over 10 years ago, starting at the then EVPAA and OBRS, where she helped to support the business needs of Rutgers' top leaders. She quickly acquired thorough knowledge of the University funding models and intricacy of Higher Education accounting and funding structure. In her current job as Business Manager at Rutgers Global, she leverages her extensive corporate experience, knowledge of accounting and finance, and deep familiarity with University budgeting resources and procedures. She is adept at all fiscal responsibilities including budgeting, forecast, and preparation of financial documents and reports for stakeholders. She oversees, trains, and mentors the business office staff across Rutgers Global. She serves on University-wide committees, administers the Mandela Washington Fellows program for the last 5 years, and works on multiple programs, in collaboration with sponsors such as USAID, to send Rutgers Students abroad for internship and research. Bola intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Higher Education.



Olga Jarrín Montaner, Ph.D.
**Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Institute for Health,
Health Care Policy, and Aging Research**
Director, Community Health and Aging Outcomes Lab
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Olga Jarrín is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing and a core faculty member in the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research. Olga received bachelor's and master's degrees in Nursing Science from the University of Connecticut, where she also earned her Ph.D., specializing in nursing philosophy and quantitative methods for community and public health research. She completed postdoctoral research fellowships in gerontological nursing outcomes and health services research at the University of Pennsylvania, where she received an AHRQ Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) to study the comparative effectiveness of home care for diverse older adult populations. Her independent program of research focuses on generating evidence for home health care as an intervention to improve care quality and outcomes for older adults living with chronic and advanced illness. Olga's research and teaching build on her prior experience as a home health nurse and case manager, serving chronically ill/medically complex, low-income, Medicare/Medicaid-dual eligible, and Spanish-speaking older adults. Since joining the Rutgers faculty in 2016, Olga has obtained grant support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Institutes of Health, and the Alliance for Home Health Quality and Innovation. She was also recognized by the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence as a Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing. At the Institute for Health, Olga directs the Community Health and Aging Outcomes Laboratory, and co-directs the Healthy Aging Research Interest Group. She is also a co-investigator on the NIH funded New Jersey Minority Aging Collaborative, and co-lead of the Integrating Special Populations in Research Core of the New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (CTSA Hub).

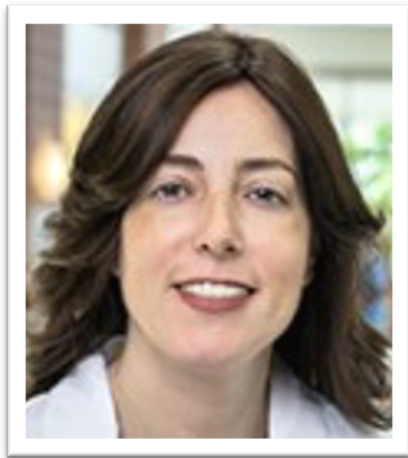


Kwangwon Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and the
Director of Undergraduate Biology
Rutgers-Camden (RUC)
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Lee is an Associate Professor and the Director of Undergraduate Biology at Rutgers-Camden (RUC). In addition to his teaching and administrative role, he runs a research laboratory with both undergraduate and graduate students studying genetic/molecular mechanisms of circadian rhythms. Lee is also the Director of the MARC U-STAR program at RUC, a NIH-funded undergraduate research training program for supporting students from underrepresented groups in pursuing Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. degree.

Lee became the Director of Undergraduate Biology at RUC in 2013. Since then, Lee has been leading a campus-wide effort to expand and revise the RUC Undergraduate Biology program. Lee has improved the curriculum by integrating multiple mechanisms for experiential learning into both lower- and upper-level courses. For example, students now have opportunities to 1) shadow research laboratories of their choice during their freshman year, 2) take the required Exploring Careers in Biology (ECB) course in their freshman year, 3) take two required courses (SBR and PPBR) that prepare them to conduct an original research “Cornerstone Project” during their sophomore year, 4) conduct independent research under faculty supervision in their junior year, and 5) complete a year-long “Honors Thesis Project” in their senior year.

Lee has also initiated Biology Day each semester, where undergraduates present their research progress in an oral and poster presentation. This event also serves to increase biological sciences recruitment, since Camden high school students also attend. Further, Lee also created the online RUC undergraduate research journal, [Journal of Biological Sciences](#), and is serving as its Editor in Chief. A select group of class research projects are published each year in this journal.



Aliza L. Leiser, M.D.

Interim Division Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology

Assistant Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences,

Rutgers RWJMS, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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I am a mid career Gynecologic Oncologist at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, with a robust clinical and surgical practice. Since May of 2019 I serve as the Interim Director for the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. I am active in hospital committees both at CINJ and at Rutgers RWJ Barnabas Hospital. These include Robotic Steering Committee, Co-Director of Gyn Disease Site Group, Ethics Committee and Scientific Review Board. I am looking forward to participating in this leadership course as a way to help navigate the increasingly complex landscape of academic medicine at a large health system hospital.



Jason MacDonald, M.B.A.
Chief Investment Officer,
University Finance

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Jason MacDonald is the Chief Investment Officer at the Rutgers University Investment Office, overseeing approximately \$1.4 billion in endowment assets. Prior to joining Rutgers in 2016, Jason was Senior Portfolio Manager for Private Markets with the New Jersey Division of Investment. In that role, he was responsible for investing the Division's \$20 billion alternative investment portfolio and managing the underlying portfolio team. Jason began his career at the Division as an analyst within the private equity group. Jason holds a BS in Environmental Business Economics from Rutgers University, and an MBA in Finance from St. Peter's College.



Christina Maggio, M.B.A.

**Director Fiscal Affairs,
Enrollment Manager**

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I am a budget, finance and HR expert working in Higher Ed. In my current role, I utilize limited resources to better meet the Divisions short and long-term strategic goals to help the division meet the needs of our prospective, incoming and current student population. One of my greatest enjoyments is working with the directors to identify efficiencies, streamline processes and strategically realign resources to serve the Division and meet the needs of our students. In addition to budget and administration expertise, I am willing and capable of taking on other responsibilities. I find new challenges exciting! For example, in order to improve the student experience, I have acted as a project manager for the One Stop Student Services Center. I took on this role because at that time there was a significant need for someone to maneuver the leadership and stakeholders around the various aspects of developing a One Stop concept but a lack of resources to hire someone to manage/coordinate them into one place.



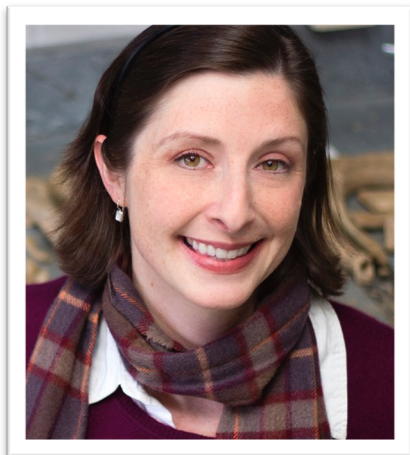
Maria Chiara Manzini, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

**Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in the Child Health Institute of New Jersey
and the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology**

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Dr. M. Chiara Manzini is an Associate Professor at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in the Child Health Institute of New Jersey and the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology. She initially trained in Human Genetics at the University of Pavia in Italy and received her PhD in Neurobiology and Behavior at Columbia University. She then completed postdoctoral training at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Neurogenetics studying multiple types of brain malformations and non-syndromic intellectual disability and autism. The main goal of Dr. Manzini's research is to bridge the genetics and mechanisms of disease to identify genes that are essential for human cognition and to define the molecular mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders focusing on autism and neuromuscular disorders. The Manzini lab combines human genetics with molecular, cellular, and behavioral approaches in murine and zebrafish models to link human genetics to neuronal cell biology, intracellular signaling, and behavior. She started her independent career as an Assistant Professor at the George Washington University Institute for Neuroscience in Washington, DC where she participated in the School of Medicine governance as a member of the Research Committee and the Task Force on Women Faculty. At Rutgers, she serves on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. She is also a member of the Professional Development Committee of the Society for Neuroscience where she developed resources for both trainee and faculty career development.



Kimberlee Moran, M.S.
**Associate Teaching Professor of Forensics
Chemistry**

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Kimberlee Sue Moran is the Director of the Forensic Science Program at Rutgers-Camden and a practicing forensic archaeologist. Kimberlee holds an undergraduate degree in Classical and Near Eastern archaeology from Bryn Mawr College and a Masters of Science in forensic archaeological science from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London. Her archaeological research includes ancient fingerprints, the Whispering Woods site in Salem, NJ, and the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia cemetery also known as “The Arch Street Project”. Kimberlee has worked on forensic cases in a range of capacities. She helped to launch the JDI Centre for the Forensic Sciences in 2010 and has run an educational organization, Forensic Outreach, since 2004. She also provides forensic services to legal professionals and regularly runs training workshops for local law enforcement. In 2020 she was selected to serve as a Fulbright Specialist to help build forensic capacity internationally. She is part of a working group at Rutgers dedicated to launching an Innocence Project for the state of New Jersey. Her forensic research includes taphonomic studies, fingerprint development and enhancement, post-mortem toxicology, and the interface of forensic archaeology and crime scene investigation. Kimberlee serves on the Crime Scene Investigation sub-committee of the NIST-led Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). Kimberlee is passionate about public outreach, STEM education, and science in the service of justice.



Mary L. Nucci, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor,
Human Ecology; SEBS
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Dr. Mary Nucci is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Prior to Rutgers, she worked at Enzon Inc. where her work was part of research that led to two therapeutics: one for severe combined immunodeficiency disease (aka the “Bubble Boy” disease; AdagenR) and the other for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (OncasparR). She then moved into informal education as the Director of the Health Floor at Liberty Science Center where she was responsible for managing and developing programming and exhibitions, including the award-winning *Live From... Cardiac Surgery*. In 2010 she received a PhD in Media Studies at Rutgers University, focusing on representations of science in mass media and joined the Department of Human Ecology. She teaches multiple courses in science communication and her research interests include public perception of science, and science communication in film, media and museums. Since joining the department, she has developed and directs the Minors in Science Communication and Science Outreach, created and manages the SEBS Science Cafes and Alternative Careers in Science programs, and with colleagues across the University, created the Science Communication Initiative, a network of Rutgers faculty, staff and students who promote research, teaching and training in science communication. She also serves as Assistant Dean for Community Outreach at Rutgers where she is responsible for developing and leading co-curricular activities to generate school-wide engagement among faculty, students, and staff.



Nirav Patel, Ph.D.

**Assistant Research Professor and the Director of Immersive Experiential Learning
Honors College**

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Dr. Nirav S. Patel is an Assistant Research Professor and the Director of Immersive Experiential learning at the Honors College. He earned his Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Cornell University where he was recognized for his excellence in teaching, character, service, and advocacy for students enrolled in the core biology instructional program. He believes that innovative education recognizes that excellence is correlated with diversity both of which are necessarily intertwined for an integrated learning in education to be initiated. As a trained natural and a social scientist with expertise in coupled natural-human systems his research overlaps my teaching which by definition is experiential and focuses on Food-Energy-water nexus as a universal point of introduction to interdisciplinary nature of knowledge. At the Honors College, he has developed and implemented mission course, the Forum which is an integrated learning experience shaped by 21st century innovative education—non-cognitive skills, interdisciplinary research and complex problem-solving. The students then work in teams from many majors and schools to research and articulate projects dedicated to learning more about, critically examining, and then proposing ways to address current, contemporary issues in real communities. The articulation of the one or more of the United Nations Millennium/ Sustainable Development Goals. This is the very expression of a 21st century engagement. It incorporates contemporaneous research and changes in teaching pedagogy to create impactful education is a course about creating interdisciplinary knowledge itself, and the importance of learning and research connections necessary to build a bridge in an R1 university.. Given this work, he is the current recipient of the Provost's Award for Excellence in Innovative Teaching. An award given to him individual faculty whose teaching practices involve non-traditional approaches to enhance learning outcomes, including new forms of pedagogy, instructional technologies, and multimedia.



Tej Phatak, M.D., M.B.A.
Program Director, Radiology Residency, NBIMC
Chief of Pediatric Radiology and Ultrasound, NBIMC
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Dr. Phatak obtained a BA in chemistry and physics with honors at Harvard College and a dual-degree MD and MBA at Columbia University followed by dual residencies in pediatrics (Children's National) and diagnostic radiology (New Jersey Medical School) and fellowship training in pediatric radiology (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). He has enjoyed a rewarding clinical practice of pediatric radiology for nearly a decade with a passion for patient care, professionalism, and workplace culture. At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, he holds several leadership positions including program director of the radiology residency program and vice-chair of the Institutional Review Board. He is a devoted educator and has received back-to-back teacher-of-the-year awards from his radiology residents. He is also thrilled to lead a band of carolers annually on Christmas morning through the hospital wards to spread joy and cheer. Most recently he was fortunate to be recognized in the New York Times Magazine Diagnosis column which can be found here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/13/magazine/why-was-this-teenager-bleeding-so-excessively.html>.



Amee Pollack, M.F.A.
Undergraduate Program Advisor,
Department Of Art & Design
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Amee Pollack oversees the undergraduate program in the Department of Art & Design at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers. She is responsible for the academic and career planning of all BFA and BA students in the department. She has over 25 years' experience in Art Education, formerly teaching as a lecturer and adjunct at Creative Arts Laboratory, Teacher's College, Columbia University and The College of New Rochelle, New York and as an art teacher and consultant throughout New York City.

Other current leadership includes being appointed by her town's mayor on the Highland Park Arts Commission, starting in 2016, where she helped implement 50+ arts events including the Sculpture River Walk, Windows of Understanding, and a mural commissioned by an MGSA graduate student to be installed this summer. Pollack also created a large bench-sculpture installed in October 2019 to facilitate more public art in town.

Her artists' books and constructions, under the banner "Spitz & Pollack", are in the permanent collections of over 50 organizations such as the Cooper Hewitt-Smithsonian Design Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, The Getty Research Institute, and Yale University. Amee holds an MFA in Book Arts & Printmaking from The University of the Arts, an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Art Education & Design from Pratt Institute, and a BA in Art from Franklin & Marshall College.



Robert P. Roesener, J.D.
Associate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel,
Office of the Senior Vice President and General Counsel
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Robert P. Roesener is a Deputy General Counsel at Rutgers and focuses on the University's transactional legal needs in the areas of real estate, capital finance, investments, construction, utilities, environmental compliance, commercial contracts, and procurement contracts. Robert also advises senior leadership on governance issues as well as the Rutgers Board of Governor's Committee on Finance and Facilities and the Joint Committee on Investments. Robert also manages litigation and disputes that arise from the foregoing transactional practice areas, such as construction litigation and bid protests.

Prior to joining Rutgers, Robert worked in private practice at the New Brunswick office of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP where he specialized in redevelopment, land use, corporate and real estate law. He represented developers and municipal redevelopment entities in all aspects of development and redevelopment projects around New Jersey.

Robert is active with the Higher Education Real Estate Lawyers group where he has been a conference speaker and has helped plan this group's annual conference which has been hosted by institutions from around the country. He is also involved in various civic matters and served on the New Jersey Supreme Court District VIII Ethics Committee and has been the vice chairperson of the Highland Park, NJ zoning board for many years.

Robert received a B.S. with high honors from Cook College and a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law – Newark where he graduated with high honors. Robert is licensed to practice in New Jersey and New York. Prior to law school, Robert worked as an environmental scientist at the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where he participated in several research cruises in the New Jersey/New York harbor system as well as Prince William Sound in Alaska.



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Hatem E. Sabaawy, MBBCh, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Pathology. He joined the faculty of Rutgers Cancer Institute in 2008 after completing a fellowship in the Transplantation Branch of the NCI in Bethesda, MD. He has his Bachelor degree in medicine and surgery from Cairo University and his medical and PhD degree from New York Medical College, with Honors in genetic pharmacology research. Hatem received certificates in Clinical Research from NIH and a master's degree in Clinical Pathology. At UMDNJ and Rutgers, he led international trials for tissue regeneration and developed cell therapy and patient derived organoid technologies with multiple issued patents. He is an NIH funded investigator and his laboratory research has been continuously funded by NIH, DOD, NSF and many foundations. Hatem has authored many manuscripts and book chapters and presented his work at regional, national, and international meetings. He is a member of three special emphasis panels for NIH and member of review committees for NCI, NYSTEM, DOD and international agencies such as Stem Cell Global Task Force, French ANR, British Cancer Innovation Fund and Australian Research Committee. He serves as a reviewer and is on the editorial board of multiple journals. He has mentored and trained dozens of undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, residents and fellows at RWJMS. Hatem serves as Associate Director of the Biorepository & Histopathology Shared Resource at Rutgers Cancer Institute, Director of the PDX/PDO Service, and Director of the Genomics in Cancer Therapeutics graduate school course at GSBS and RWJMS. He is a passionate educator and strong advocate for investing in people.



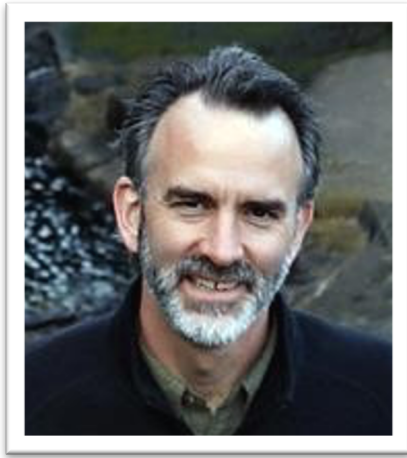
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Lisa Brockenbrough Sanon-Jules is the Director of Advising and Assistant Dean of the Rutgers University Honors College in New Brunswick, NJ, where she created the academic advising system and structure for the College. Dr. Sanon-Jules has over 25 years of experience in higher education where she has worked in various aspects of higher education with the Educational Opportunity Fund Program, the Ronald M. McNair Program, the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program and the Honors College. Prior to her time at Rutgers, Lisa also worked at The College of New Jersey and Peirce College where she gained invaluable experience in career advising, admissions and international student affairs. Lisa completed her Ed.D. at Rutgers University, her Masters in Student Affairs Administration at Teachers College, Columbia University and her undergraduate studies at Rutgers University. Her research interests lie in the areas of high achieving first generation college students from underrepresented backgrounds. Lisa serves as an instructor for courses in community engagement, leadership and women studies. She is a frequent panelist and keynote speaker. She is the author of *The Effects of Parental Level of Education: Social Capital among African American College Students* and has published articles for the *National Association of Academic Advising* and for *The Chronicle of Mentoring & Coaching*. Lisa enjoys reading, running marathons, spending time with family and friends.



Kelley Sokolowski, M.Ed.
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Kelley Sokolowski has been a professional in higher education for over 30 years and has had the privilege of spending nearly 20 of those years as a Rutgers University employee. After earning her Masters of Education in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville, she began her career in College Athletics, specially focused on compliance and student athlete eligibility certification. As an intercollegiate student athlete herself, this line of work appealed to her a great deal and seemed the perfect fit. She worked at several institutions, including her alma mater, gaining valuable experience and making professional connections along the way. One such connection, afforded her the opportunity to take on a unique challenge at Rutgers. She took on the position of Manager of Student Athlete Certification, a newly created position in the Office of the Registrar, which was developed as a result of a major infraction investigation done by the NCAA. During her first year, she worked closely with outside counsel to develop what is now a formalized athletic certification process, involving the registrar, athletic compliance and the office of athletic academic services. As this position evolved and she gained more knowledge about the processes within the Office of the Registrar, opportunities arose within the office and she was able to take on additional responsibilities. She has most recently been promoted to the position of University Registrar and is honored to hold this position at such a prestigious institution.



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Kevin St. Martin is an Associate Professor of Geography at Rutgers University. Dr. St. Martin is a human geographer whose work is at the intersection of economic geography, political ecology, and critical applications of GIScience. His research concerns the development and institutionalization of economic and environmental discourse. It emerges from a strong background in both social theory and spatial analysis, and it has been clearly and consistently linked to issues of environmental policy. While at Rutgers, Dr. St. Martin has worked on several well-funded research projects that have in common the regulation and transformation of the marine environment. In particular, his research uses the paradigmatic case of fisheries in the U.S. Northeast to better understand the power of discourse to shape economic and environmental practices. Within this context Dr. St. Martin examines the potential for community participation in development and resource management, the relationship between local ecological knowledge and formal science, and the representation of resource dependent communities. Dr. St. Martin has edited a volume titled [*Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies*](#) and is currently an editor of a book series at the University of Minnesota Press called [*Diverse Economies and Liveable Worlds*](#). He is also a contributor to the [*Centre for Maritime Research \(MARE\)*](#) and an associate editor for its journal [*Maritime Studies \(MAST\)*](#), and he serves on the advisory board of the [*Floating Laboratory of Action and Theory at Sea \(FLOATS\)*](#).



Jennifer St.Pierre, M.B.A.
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Jennifer St.Pierre is the Director of Strategic and Campus Communications for Rutgers Health Affairs within Rutgers Communications (R-Comm). In this position she oversees executive and internal communications for the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences division in addition to health communications for the university. In previous roles, Jennifer led the marketing efforts for NJIT's online graduate programs, served as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Rutgers Graduate School of Education, and worked as the lead account executive at a public relations and advertising agency in northern New Jersey for several clients such as Wal-Mart, Lennar, and QuickChek in the tri-state area. Jennifer is an alumna of the Rutgers Business School (MBA'11) and Penn State where she earned her bachelor's degree in advertising and public relations with special honors in media studies. Jennifer volunteers as a tutor and an occasional events assistant for the Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, an organization that promotes literacy throughout the community by providing student-centered tutoring and literacy programs for adults so that they may function more effectively in their daily lives. In her free time, Jennifer also enjoys gardening, attempting home improvement projects with her husband, traveling, and spending quality time with her friends and family.



Sharon Stroye, M.B.A, M.P.A.
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Sharon Stroye currently serves as Director of Public Engagement in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University – Newark. She also serves as the Director of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center (TRHT @ RU-N). She has been a member of the Rutgers University – Newark community since 2001. Her previous roles included Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs (SPAA), Newark Academic Transition Program Director in School of Arts and Sciences (a special admission program for first year students) and Director for the Upward Bound Program. Sharon holds two Masters degrees in Business and Public Administration (MBA and MPA) including an undergraduate degree in Accounting. Born and raised in the city of Newark, NJ has afforded her the expertise of creating inclusive community programming for the residents of the city.

In the dual roles of Director, Sharon has the ability to cultivate a community engaged culture and inclusive environment through teaching, research and public service utilizing the enriched talent and knowledge of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners to create innovative solutions for the ever changing societal issues “in and of Newark”. The TRHT Center @ RU-N is one of ten inaugural campus centers established by the Association of American Colleges and Universities to “prepare the next generation of leaders to dismantle the belief in a racial hierarchy of human value”. Sharon is a trained Racial Healing Circle Practitioner and has trained over 30 new racial healing circle practitioners in diverse sectors to incorporate healing into their everyday practices. Sharon has served on national panels, facilitated workshops, written articles about building relationships and changing narratives amongst people from diverse backgrounds. Under Sharon’s leadership, the TRHT Center @ Rutgers University – Newark is positioning itself to become a regional center for the northeast region. Her focus and aligning strategic partnerships and developing strategic leaders has provided sustainable collaborations with individuals and community partners.



Sherylyn D. Tucker
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Sherylyn Tucker is an Executive Assistant with seventeen years of experience working alongside the executive team at Rutgers University. As an Executive Assistant, she skillfully ensures the smooth operation of the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs.

With over 25 years of experience in professional office management positions and a track record of strong performance in high-volume, high-pressure environments, Sherylyn's avid research skills, and dedication to success have led her to many opportunities. Sherylyn's skill set ranges from managing a marketing office, and building websites, to participating in a myriad of projects supporting EVP-level executives, faculty, and other high-profile individuals. Sherylyn assists with the coordination of various activities, meetings, conferences, and workshops.

Sherylyn specializes in administrative technology and has proven to be indispensable in organizing and managing schedules and resources. She is obsessed with innovative technology and relishes the challenge of learning new software or applications. As technology changes, she is one of the first to adapt and embrace new skills.

Sherylyn is a powerful force in the workplace and uses her positive attitude and tireless energy to encourage others to work hard and succeed. She is driven by a desire to inspire and develop others. She sees herself as a student of leadership always working to better herself.

When not traveling, Sherylyn enjoys a good Netflix binge but can also be found going on hikes and planning for the next adventure with her husband and children.



Ross Whiting, Ph.D., M.M.Ed
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Ross Whiting, Ph.D. is the Director of Research and Evaluation at Senator Walter Rand Institute (WRI) for Public Affairs at Rutgers University-Camden, a public affairs think-and-do tank dedicated to improving the lives and life chances of people in southern New Jersey through applied research, community engagement, and organizational development. Dr. Whiting has dedicated his career to promoting equity for marginalized groups in a variety of settings. Starting as a teacher at Edward W. Bok Technical High School, he worked to create high-quality, culturally-responsive educational opportunities for his students. He spent six years at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, managing projects that promoted access to college and improved quality of life for people with disabilities in educational settings. In his current role, Dr. Whiting oversees an extensive portfolio of research and evaluation projects focused on education, population health, and community development including the South Jersey Strengthening Families Initiative Evaluation. Dr. Whiting is also the principal investigator of a collaborative effort with the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Legislature to expand social-emotional learning supports to elementary-age students across New Jersey. Dr. Whiting earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Mansfield University, a master's degree in Music Education from Boston University, and a doctorate in Urban Education from Temple University.



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Originally born and raised in Kansas by immigrant parents from Hong Kong, Kristin Wong earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University and Medical Doctorate from the University of Kansas. She then completed a Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency and an additional year as Internal Medicine Chief Resident at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. She continued at Rutgers, finding her passion for teaching and serving the Newark community as an Assistant Professor and the Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program Director. She practices as a hospitalist and primary care physician to both adults and children and serves on various graduate education and hospital committees focused on improving medical education and patient care throughout University Hospital. Some of her most impactful work has been serving on various local and national committees, driving the educational agenda for the National Section on Med-Peds Academic and Education Subcommittee and the GME Grand Rounds for the Faculty, Coordinator, and Resident Development Subcommittee, as well as revamping the Med-Peds residency curriculum, including the development of a Transitional Care rotation to teach the importance of achieving adolescent and young adult healthcare independence.