

**Felix Arauz**  
**Unit Computing Manager**  
**University Human Resources**  
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Scarlet Knight through and through. My Rutgers life started in 1997 as an undergrad Rutgers College student and 24 years later it continues. I graduated from Rutgers in 2002 with a degree in Spanish and Economics, three weeks later my professional career began, a few years later a second degree in Information Technology and Informatics from SCILS was achieved. My first job at Rutgers was as Web Designer but soon transition to Web Developer and now, 17 years later, a Unit Computing Manager. Proud husband and parent of two Alexandra, soon to be 8 and Maxton, 6 and future Scarlet Knight First Basemen. A marathoner in my younger years but now a Lymphoma survivor. I have given my everything to helping the Rutgers community and had the pleasure to having received the Rutgers support at the tough times. Some people can never leave, I am glad to say that has become my story. Rutgers is my home, I have grown as a person from the many experiences on the banks of the Raritan.



**Margaret Avallone**

**Associate Dean Baccalaureate Programs/Clinical Assistant Professor**

**Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden**

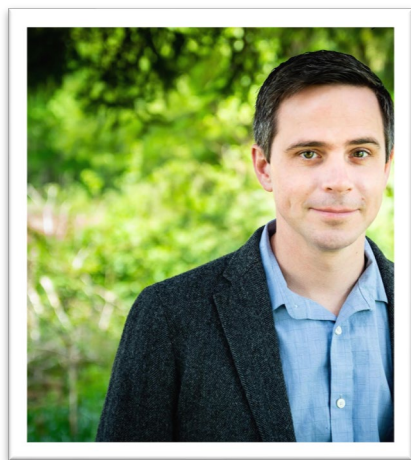
Email: [margaret.avallone@rutgers.edu](mailto:margaret.avallone@rutgers.edu)

Dr. Peg Avallone is a Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Baccalaureate Nursing Programs at Rutgers University School of Nursing in Camden, NJ. She received her Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, specializing in Critical Care Nursing, and her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.

She is certified as a Critical Care RN (CCRN) and as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). Dr Avallone has been the subrecipient PI for Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden, collaborating with the NJ Institute for Successful Aging, Rowan University School of Medicine on a \$3.75 grant from DHHS/HRSA to develop evidence-based competencies to improve the care of the vulnerable elderly in the community. She was the Co-PI on a RWJ Foundation New Careers in Nursing grant to evaluate strategies for student success. She has presented her findings at national and international conferences and has published on these topics.

In her role at Rutgers, Dr Avallone works with a motivated team of faculty, staff and students to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders, equipped with the knowledge and skills to meet the healthcare challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Peg is married to husband Joe and has two children- A daughter who is a senior at Rutgers New Brunswick, and a son who is an Army officer 2Lt, stationed at Ft Bragg, NC. She enjoys hiking, baking, reading historical novels. Favorite book read recently- *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.



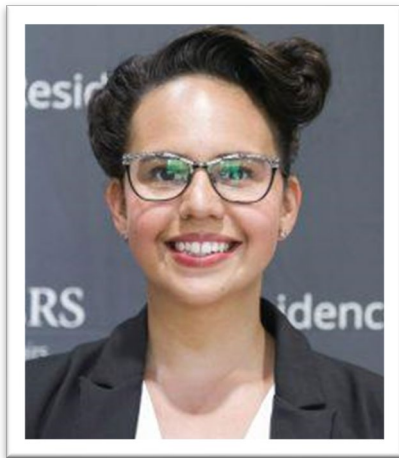
**Derek Balcom**

**Director, Rutgers Community Arts**

**Mason Gross School of the Arts**

Email: [dbalcom@mgsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:dbalcom@mgsa.rutgers.edu)

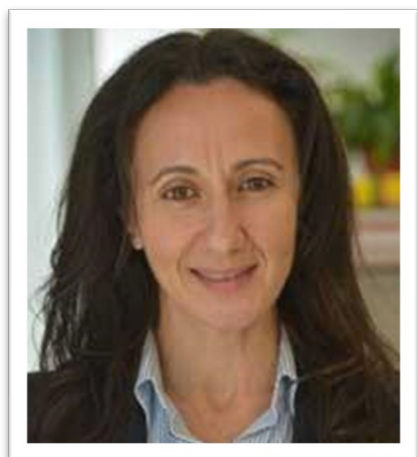
Derek Balcom is a versatile arts educator and administrator, currently leading Rutgers Community Arts, a division of Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. In two years at RCA, he has successfully rebranded and restructured the division, deepened relationships within Mason Gross, developed cross-campus partnerships, and oversaw the quick transition to a virtual arts education program, engaging over 250 students of all ages in visual arts, dance, film, music, and theater annually. Prior to joining Rutgers, Mr. Balcom led the educational outreach efforts of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for 10 years. He developed the first curriculum for in-school programming, resulting in a 63% increase in grant funding. He brought together a consortium of NYC-area educators, resulting in the publication of *Building a Chamber Music Program: A Teacher's Guide*, which he presented at state-level music educators conferences in New York and New Jersey. A music educator at heart, Mr. Balcom began his career as a band teacher at IS 347K in New York City. He holds a BM from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, and an MBA from Rutgers Business School.



**Amanda-Rae Barboza Barela**  
**Busch Campus Director**  
**Residence Life**

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Amanda-Rae Barboza Barela (she/hers) serves as Busch Campus Director for Residence Life at Rutgers University- New Brunswick. She oversees the day-to-day Busch campus operations, activities, university partnerships, and initiatives. Busch Campus is home to thousands of residents from all over the world with various identities, interests, and life experiences, including graduate, non-traditional, and students with families. As a member of the Residence Life Leadership Team, Amanda-Rae actively engages staff throughout the department to contribute to organizational planning, development, culture, and decision-making. Together with talented professional staff and student leaders, Amanda-Rae builds vibrant on-campus living environments that promote meaningful connections, learning, social change, and wellness (for oneself & others). Previously, Amanda-Rae worked at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota serving in several roles during her 5-year tenure: Residence Hall Director, Assistant Director and Associate Director for Residence Life at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. In combination with her residence life experience, Amanda-Rae has contributed to initiatives and literature in sexual violence prevention, residential curriculum development, faculty partnerships, diversity and inclusion and coordinating professional development opportunities through national, regional, and/or departmental organizations. Amanda-Rae received her bachelor's degree in Government & International Affairs with a minor in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University & master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs with a concentration in Social Justice Education from Iowa State University.



**Rola A. Bekdash, MS, PhD, MBA**  
**Assistant Teaching Professor**  
**Biological Sciences Department**  
**Rutgers University**  
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Dr. Rola Bekdash is an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University and a Biology Scholar with extensive experience in teaching and research. She received her BS degree and MS degree in Biology from the American University of Beirut and her PhD in Neuroscience from Rutgers University and UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In 2012, she joined the Anesthesiology Department at Columbia University as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. At Columbia University, she got awarded the prestigious Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Fellowship (F32) from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the Ruth Kirschstein Institutional National Research Award (T32) to investigate the long-term effects of substance abuse such as alcohol abuse during adolescence on inhibition in the brain. In 2015, she joined Rutgers University in Newark as a professor teaching undergraduates and graduates in the Biological Sciences Department. In 2020, she got her MBA in Strategy & Leadership from Rutgers Business School.

Her research focused on the long-term effects of gene-environment interaction during early development on brain function and behavior. Her research work has been published in various journals such as *Biological Psychiatry*, *Brain & Behavior*, *Advances in Neurobiology*, *Nutrients*, *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, and *PLOS ONE*. Her goal is to apply her research to help people overcome addiction and live a better life. Her teaching goals are to help students acquire transferable skills that set them up for career success.



**Johanna Bernstein**  
**Assistant Dean for Global Programs**  
**Rutgers Global**  
Email: [jrbernst@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:jrbernst@global.rutgers.edu)

Johanna Bernstein is the Assistant Dean for Global Programs at Rutgers Global. Currently, she is co-Director of the Rutgers Mandela Washington Fellowship Leadership Institute in Business, and coordinates the University Administrators Support Program at Rutgers, a capacity building program for university research administrators at international universities. At Rutgers Global, she works with faculty to develop multi-disciplinary strategic initiatives that expand the university's international partnerships, increase diversity in study abroad, and engage the university within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. She also developed and co-leads a new initiative called the Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge that brings teams of undergraduate students from business and engineering together to work on local challenges that help to solve global programs.

Johanna holds an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Brown University, an MS in Art Conservation from the University of Delaware and an MSE and PhD in Materials Science from Johns Hopkins University. Following a postdoc at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UK), she came to Rutgers to run a multi-university NSF-IGERT Program: Nanotechnology for Clean Energy that included international experiences in Africa for the graduate participants and hosting visiting scholars. She led a successful undergraduate exchange program with Jilin University in China in the Rutgers Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Johanna also led the Women in Energy Initiative within the Rutgers Energy Institute. She is a member of the Materials Research Society and an international member of the African Materials Research Society.

Throughout her academic career, Johanna has applied her multidisciplinary background as a lens for understanding a broad range of topics in higher education including international education and capacity building. Every spring semester, she teaches a Byrne Seminar, "The Secret Life of Art," that explores scientific applications of art and cultural materials, cultural context and critical thinking.





**Soumitra Bhuyan**

**Assistant Professor**

**Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy**

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Soumitra Bhuyan, PhD, MPH is an Assistant Professor at the Bloustein School. His primary teaching and research interests include chronic disease management and health information systems with an overarching emphasis on population health. Dr. Bhuyan has received several awards from national organizations including the American Public Health Association and AcademyHealth for his research and leadership activities. Dr. Bhuyan and colleagues received the 2017 Charles E. Gibbs Leadership Prize for their research in women's health issues, which is awarded annually to recognize excellence in research on women's health care or policy. He was the recipient of the "Rising Star" award from the American Public Health Association Health Administration Section in 2013, which recognizes the outstanding potential in the field of health administration and public health practice. Dr. Bhuyan is an Associate Editor of *BMJ Global Health* and serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Medical Systems* and *Hospital Topics*. Dr. Bhuyan's has published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, as a first-author or co-author. Apart from academic writing, Dr. Bhuyan's writing has appeared in various regional and national news outlets such as The Hill, ABC News, Becker's Hospital Review, The Star-Ledger, and more.



**Christina Bifulco**

**Associate Director for Teaching and Learning Analytics**

**Center for Teaching Advancement and Assessment Research**

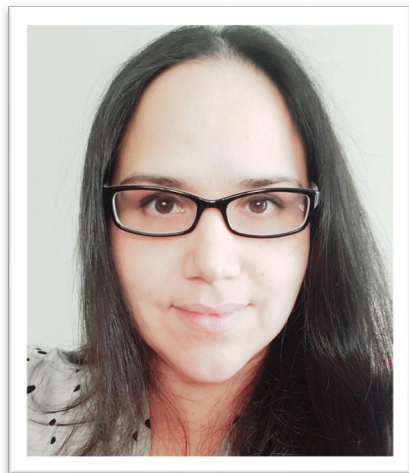
Email: [bifulco@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:bifulco@docs.rutgers.edu)

Christina Bifulco, EdD is the Associate Director for Teaching & Learning Analytics at the Center for Teaching Evaluation & Assessment Research (CTAAR) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Her primary responsibility is supporting instructors, schools, and departments in the development and analysis of meaningful measures that provide actionable data to understand and improve instruction at the university. This includes support and administration of the Student Instructional Ratings Surveys and the Improvement of the Evaluation of Teaching Initiative.

Christina is passionate about assisting instructors in utilizing research-driven methods to advance their teaching and learning and offers faculty development workshops on pedagogy. One of her current projects is the development of a Classroom Inclusivity Series that will bring together the offerings of various units across the university and support instructors in building and supporting inclusive learning environments for their students.

Christina received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University and worked as a Geotechnical Field Engineer for two years before attending The College of New Jersey where she earned her Masters in Mathematics Education. She has 12 years of teaching experience in K-12 and higher education in the United States and England. She was awarded her Ed.D. from Johns Hopkins School of Education in 2017.

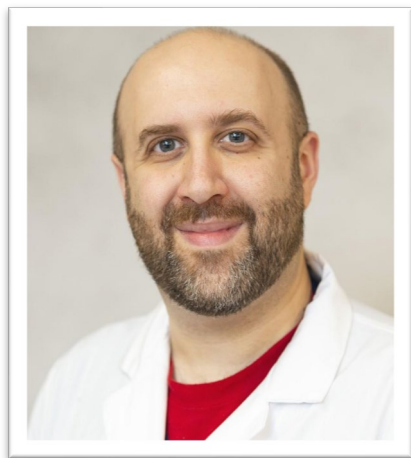




**Sheila Borges Rajguru**  
**Research Development Specialist**  
**School of Social Work**  
Email: [sheila.rajguru@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:sheila.rajguru@ssw.rutgers.edu)

Dr. Sheila Borges Rajguru is a Research Development professional at Rutgers University, School of Social Work (SSW). She leverages her multi-disciplinary 15+ year training to enhance the SSW's sponsored programs enterprise. At Rutgers University (B.A.) and NYU (M.S.), she worked on microbiology/immunology research prior to earning her doctoral degree from Columbia University, Teachers College in K-12 STEM education. There she co-developed and implemented an intervention on how to (re)build trusting relationships between teachers and their culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse students using social capital theory as a framework. Previous positions include working as a STEM Educator/Faculty preparing the next generation of scholars, providing professional development to international educators, and serving as an engineering education investigator and program director on federal, corporate, and foundation grants.

Dr. Borges Rajguru also has served as a federal panel reviewer. Furthermore, she is an executive board member for the *Northeast Association for Science Teacher Education*, and has been interviewed by ABC News & 5T Jewish Times. Dr. Borges Rajguru is an invited keynote, national, and international speaker in the areas and intersection of STEM, K-12 and higher education, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.



**Richard Brodsky, MD FAAP**

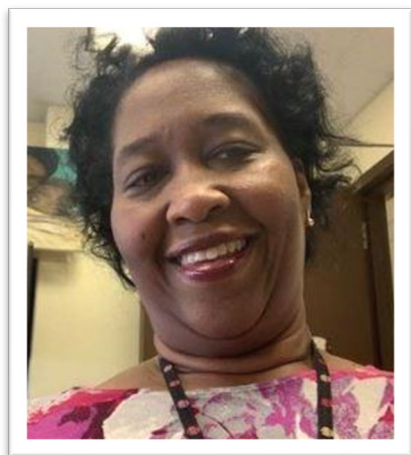
**Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Assistant Director Pediatric Emergency Department,  
Director of Pediatric Telemedicine**

**Pediatric Emergency Medicine**

**RWJ Medical School**

Email: [brodskri@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:brodskri@rwjms.rutgers.edu)

Doctor Richard Brodsky is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and the assistant director of the pediatric emergency medicine department at the Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson, Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital. He is fellowship trained and board certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine physician. He has over a decade of clinical experience in the treatment of emergency conditions in children. After fellowship training at the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia, he has worked at multiple academic institutions in order to continue to teach and participate in Resident physician and Fellow education. For the past 8 years Dr. Brodsky has been innovating in the field of Pediatric Telemedicine by setting up and expanding telehealth initiatives at multiple institutions. Within the RWJ-Barnabas system he created and administered a functional intra-hospital telemedicine program, as well as aiding in the transition of our outpatient pediatric subspecialty services to telemedicine. He serves on multiple hospital committees and has recently been named as Director of Pediatric Telemedicine Services for the RWJ-Barnabas Health System. He has published several academic studies, given multiple grand round presentations, been invited as an international speaker to the Women's and Children's hospital in Panama, and presented on behalf of the NJAAP specifically on telemedicine.



**Damali Campbell Oparaji, MD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**New Jersey Medical School**  
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I am a physician board certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Addiction Medicine. For almost two decades I have dedicated my practice to improve the care for women in underserved areas. Since graduation from residency training, I have worked in New Jersey urban areas including Jersey City, Paterson, and Newark. My special interests within women's health include broadening health education and I have spearheaded a number of programs focused on community women's health including implementing Centering Pregnancy at our academic medical center and co-leading our College of American Pathology (CAP) grant sponsored free cervical and breast cancer screening program for uninsured women. I am also the physician lead for our medical center to be the first hospital in our population dense County to achieve the Baby Friendly Designation. In addition to a focus on women who live below the poverty line in my clinical practice, I also see and manage women who are pregnant with addiction and manage both the pregnancy and the medical aspects of their addiction. My career has been focused on addressing social determinants.

Since 2007 I have been a committee member of the NJ Maternal Mortality Review Committee which is a volunteer multidisciplinary peer-review group that reviews each death of a woman within 365 days of a pregnancy regardless of the pregnancy location of the pregnancy. This work and advocacy for improvement /awareness of maternal health has led me to be a part of various work groups in NJ including NJ first Lady's maternal initiative- Nurture New Jersey Summit and a speaker for the US Surgeon General's listening tour on maternal mortality.

Starting in May of 2020, I now serve as the Medical Director for the NJ Maternal Care Quality Collaborative, a CDC grant received by the NJ Department of Health. In this role I am a Maternal and Child Health Advisor to the New Jersey Department of Health, including hold positions which include the Chair of the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Committee (NJMCQC) and a special officer of the 2019 newly legislated New Jersey Maternal Mortality Review Committee (NJMMRC).



**Randi Chmielewski**

**Chief of Staff**

**Eagleton Institute of Politics**

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As chief of staff, Randi Chmielewski supervises Eagleton Institute communications and events, manages confidential projects, serves as a surrogate for the director, and assists in strategic areas. She leads and participates in cross-functional senior leadership teams responsible for implementing Eagleton's mission to develop responsible leadership in civic and governmental affairs and solutions to our political problems.

Her recent projects include a leading Eagleton's diversity strategic planning process, a comprehensive effort to embed Eagleton's core values across the Institute's work; supporting Eagleton's 2019 leadership transition; and upgrading communications systems to increase engagement. In addition, she is a co-instructor and co-creator of an undergraduate course on talking politics across differences and co-taught Eagleton's Political Campaigning course for 5 years.

Chmielewski previously worked on re-visioning the Institute's brand and website, building Eagleton's interdisciplinary Science and Politics Initiative, and developing the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award Program. She and her team have presented programs for audiences of 25 to 5,000—featuring former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Congressman John Lewis, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and former U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and George Mitchell. In addition, Chmielewski managed Eagleton's Citizenship Rutgers naturalization application assistance program in collaboration with Rutgers Law School from 2012-2013.

Before returning to Eagleton in 2011, she served as special assistant to Mayor Jun Choi in Edison Township. She is an alumna of Rutgers and the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program and served as co-chair of the Eagleton Alumni Committee from 2013 through 2016.

Chmielewski currently serves as board secretary for her homeowners' association. Elected in 2016, she previously served as board treasurer and three terms as president.



**Mark DeGuzman**

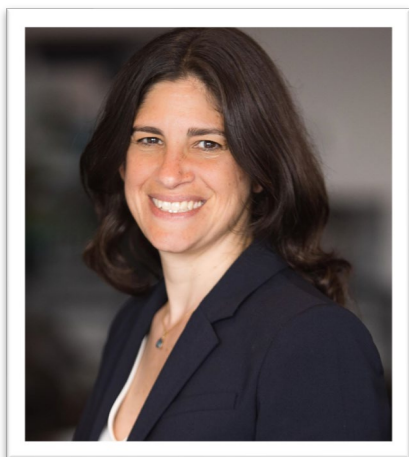
**Research Project Coordinator/Rutgers I-Corps Program Manager  
Materials Science Engineering**

Email: [m.deguzman@rutgers.edu](mailto:m.deguzman@rutgers.edu)

Mark DeGuzman manages all aspects of the Rutgers I-Corps Site Program, an NSF-funded program designed to train scientists to think like entrepreneurs to help accelerate commercialization of their technologies from the lab to the market. Mark's activities include outreach and recruiting, interviewing, training and mentoring teams, financial management, program evaluation and development, and preparing teams for the NSF I-Corps Teams program and other innovation programs. His instructional focus in I-Corps@Rutgers is on Customer Discovery activities, skills-based training, and professional development. While a staff member of the Physics Department at Rutgers-Newark over 10+ years, he participated as the Entrepreneurial Lead for the NSF I-Corps Teams Program with Dr. Murnick in the development of a Laser-based Radiocarbon Analyzer for Pharmaceutical and Environmental Monitoring applications. Mark is based in the Physics Department in Rutgers-Newark and Materials Science Engineering Department in Rutgers-New Brunswick. Mark earned a BS in Materials Science Engineering from Rutgers School of Engineering and an MBA at the Rutgers Business School studying wealth creation through technology commercialization and management.

Mark's I-Corps experience sparked his passion to support and develop the Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) Ecosystem at Rutgers. Mark expanded the NSF-funded Rutgers I-Corps Site Program to all Rutgers campuses and regional Hispanic/Minority Serving Institutions with a I-Corps@Rutgers Fellowships to help train innovative students in I-Corps that might not otherwise have access to innovation resources and funding. His work is helping build an Inclusive Innovation pipeline and ecosystem in the region.





**Tamara Dujovne**  
**Director, Talent Management and Learning**  
**Rutgers University Foundation**  
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Tamara Dujovne, MA Director, Talent Management and Learning Rutgers University Foundation Email: [tamara.dujovne@ruf.rutgers.edu](mailto:tamara.dujovne@ruf.rutgers.edu) Tamara Dujovne is the Director of Talent Management and Learning at the Rutgers University Foundation where she leads learning and professional development initiatives, the performance review process, and other employee engagement initiatives. In her role Tamara revamped the Foundation's performance review process, rolled out a comprehensive training and education program, developed a management program, and pioneer initiatives focused on the work-life balance and retention of all employees. She oversees the Foundation's onboarding program, Futures in Advancement, the foundation's 10-week summer internship program, and is the point person for catered learning and coaching services for senior staff. In June 2021, Tamara was named acting AVP of Talent Management overseeing the foundation's recruitment and human resources areas in addition to the learning and professional development area. Before joining the Rutgers University Foundation in 2016 Tamara worked in various training and organizational development functions in healthcare organizations including Capital Health in New Jersey and Brigham and Women's Hospital and Partners Healthcare in Boston. Tamara holds a Master's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from NYU. She is a native of Argentina where she lived before moving to the United States.





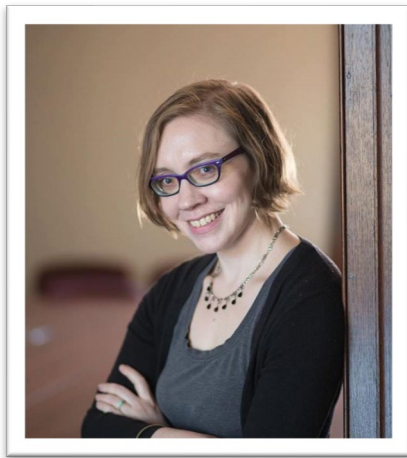
**Ghada Endick**  
**Senior Director for Student Engagement**  
**Division of Student Affairs**  
Email: [gendick@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gendick@echo.rutgers.edu)

Ghada has been a long-standing member of the Rutgers community for 26 years and currently serves as the Senior Director for Student Engagement. She has served Rutgers Student Affairs and Academic Affairs divisions in multiple leadership roles including, Director of Residence Education and Staff Development, Director of Learning Communities and Assistant Dean for Office of Student Leadership, Involvement and Programs.

Ghada has dedicated her higher education career for a passion on designing curricular and co-curricular structures that promote active student engagement, increasing faculty involvement in the student experience, enhancing and extending students' learning in and outside the classroom and identifying strategies and initiatives that create synergies between student affairs and academic affairs to foster student success, student engagement and the overall student experience. She has been involved in research and assessment grants as a co-principal Investigator for a NSF Science Talent Expansion Program (STEP) grant that focused on recruitment and retention for underrepresented students pursuing STEM fields from 2008-2014 and for a Multi-Institutional Research Seminar hosted by Elon University Center for Engaged Learning examining Residential Learning Communities as a High Impact Practice 2017-2019.

She has presented at regional and national conferences on creating an FYE program, living-learning community design and development, utilizing first-year and transfer Learning Communities as strategic interventions for improving retention of women and underrepresented minorities pursuing STEM and poster presentations at NSF Annual Meetings.

Ghada received her Bachelor's degree in Communications from Rutgers University as well as her Master's degree in Education, Educational Administration and Supervision from the Graduate School of Education. Her personal experiences as an immigrant and a first-generation college student has shaped her career journey in supporting students' transition into college and ensuring that they find connections, guidance and mentorship to maximize their academic and personal journey at Rutgers.



**Leah Falk**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Writers House**  
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Leah Falk directs programming at the Rutgers-Camden Writers House, a joint campus and community space for literary programming established in 2016, which is located in an historic structure on Camden's Cooper Street. Her professional career began in nonprofit direct service as an AmeriCorps volunteer with the literacy organization ReadBoston, and with other out-of-school time organizations. After graduate school, she managed education and public programs at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City before coming to Rutgers in 2016. She has been a board member of Emerging Arts Leaders: Philadelphia, a volunteer workshop leader with NY Writers Coalition, and is currently a member of the editorial collective for Coda, a special section of *Community Literacy Journal* focused on creative outputs of community writing projects. Leah earned her MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan in 2012, has published widely in literary journals, and is the author of a collection of poems, *To Look After and Use*.



**William Field**  
**Teaching Professor/Undergraduate Program Director**  
**Political Science, School of Arts and Sciences**  
Email: [whfield@polisci.rutgers.edu](mailto:whfield@polisci.rutgers.edu)

I have a love of political activism and have run for public office several times. Most of my family consider me a political junkie, though to be honest I'm not into senseless debates. My research has focused on voting behavior, particularly in the United Kingdom, and my current teaching love explores political ideology and the intersection of religion and politics. I have been at Rutgers intermittently since 1997 – continuously since 2005 – and have also taught at Temple University, Georgian Court University, and West Chester University. I serve as director of the undergraduate political science program and supervise the department's internship programs.

I grew up in Delaware and spent time in Burgundy, France (high school baccalauréat), Connecticut (BA from Connecticut College, Maryland (job between BA and PhD studies), and Massachusetts (PhD from Brandeis University) with a semester at the University of Bonn and a year at Oxford during my studies. From these travels I retain a fragment of fluency in French and German but have to admit that language skills fade when not exercised.

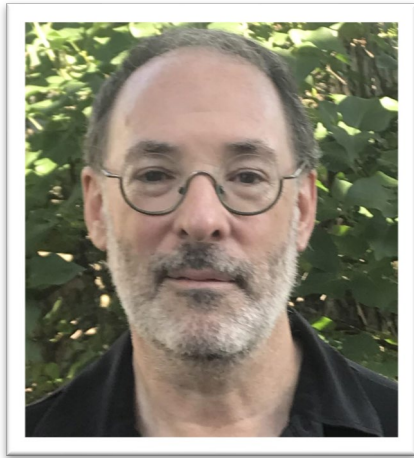
When my wife and I moved to New Jersey in 1994 our then-five year old daughter told us we weren't allowed to move anymore, so we've been stable for the past 26 years. Since I've lived here longer than anywhere else on the planet I guess that makes me a Jersey native but rather than call New Jersey home I'll give that honor to Rutgers. I love the size and diversity of our campus and student body and do all I can to help our students realize their dreams.



**Megan Francis, Ed.D. Candidate**  
**Assistant Dean of International Programs**  
**Office of International Programs,**  
**School of Environmental and Biological Sciences**  
Email: [megan.francis@rutgers.edu](mailto:megan.francis@rutgers.edu)

Megan Francis, M.A., Ed.D. Candidate is the Assistant Dean of International Programs for the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. She received her Master of Arts in International Education and Training from the American University in Washington D.C. and is in the final dissertation phase of her Ed.D. here at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education. Her research interests include diversity in study abroad, educational access, campus climate, international student support and ethics. She is equally interested in efforts to diversify leadership within education, especially promoting professional development opportunities for people of color, women, and the LGBTQA population.

Megan joined Rutgers in October of 2012 to support internationalization efforts taking place at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. In this role, she collaborates across the university to promote partnership development, curriculum integration for study abroad, and support services for incoming students. Additionally, she works closely alongside faculty to integrate internationalization strategies into ongoing SEBS research.



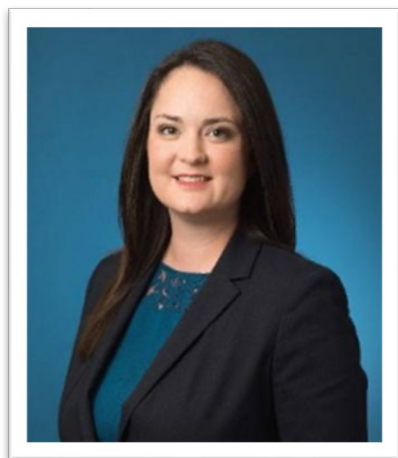
**Jeff Friedman**

**Associate Professor**

**Dance Studies, Dance Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts**

Email: [jfdance@mgsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:jfdance@mgsa.rutgers.edu)

Jeff Friedman is Associate Professor of Dance Studies at Mason Gross School of the Arts. He is a working dance artist with national and international credits as well as a doctoral researcher in dance history, culture, philosophy and aesthetics, specializing in oral history theory, method and practice of embodied communication. He is the founding director of LEGACY Oral History Program (1988-2013, San Francisco Museum of Performance & Design) and teaches oral history training workshops nationally and internationally. His peer-reviewed articles are published by *Oral History Review* (US), *Oral History* (UK), *Oral History in New Zealand*, *Australia/New Zealand Dance Research Journal*, *Qualitative Social Research Forum* (Germany), and the *Korean Dance Research Journal*, among others. His book chapters have been published on oral history, memory and performance studies, and dance philosophy and aesthetics by Oxford, Bloomsbury, Routledge and Empodium (Germany) presses, among others. Jeff is also a choreographer and performer, converting oral histories into verbatim performance, including *Muscle Memory* seen world-wide. Jeff has received fellowships from Sophia Antipolis University (Cote d'Azur consortium), Allen Smith Graduate Library Science Fellowship (Boston), and the Fulbright Senior Research and Teaching Fellowship (Frankfurt) and received the James V. Mink and Forrest C. Pogue Awards for service to the oral history communities of the Southwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, respectively. Jeff is the founding director of the MFA in Dance degree at Mason Gross School of the Arts and also created the International Dance Studies online certificate at Rutgers Arts Online. Along with Javier Robles (Kinesiology and Health), he is co-Coordinator of Rutgers' Disability Studies working group (2017), introducing a new all-Rutgers Disability Studies Minor in Fall 2022 and, as of July 2021, is founding director of the new Integrated Dance Collaboratory at Mason Gross School of the Arts, serving dance research, teaching and community-engagement initiatives inclusive of multiple disabilities.



**Alexis Fulks, MS**

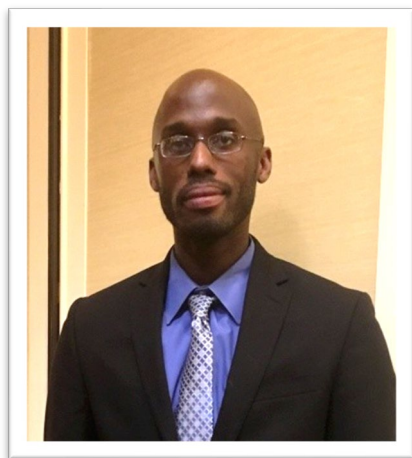
**Director, Marketing, Communications and Strategic Initiatives  
School of Health Professions**

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Mrs. Alexis Fulks is a seasoned university administrator with 15 years of experience in communications, marketing, project management, and student affairs. She currently serves as the Director of Marketing, Communications, and Strategic Initiatives at the School of Health Professions, where she leads the school's efforts in internal/external communications, strategic planning, and special projects.

Prior to joining Rutgers, Mrs. Fulks held multiple roles in student affairs at Florida International University, including student life and student conduct, where she focused on student engagement outcomes and crisis response. Prior to higher education, she was a project manager at Insight Research, a pharmaceutical market research company, where she led research efforts with key opinion leaders on new and emerging prescription drugs. Mrs. Fulks earned a Master of Science in higher education administration from Florida International University.





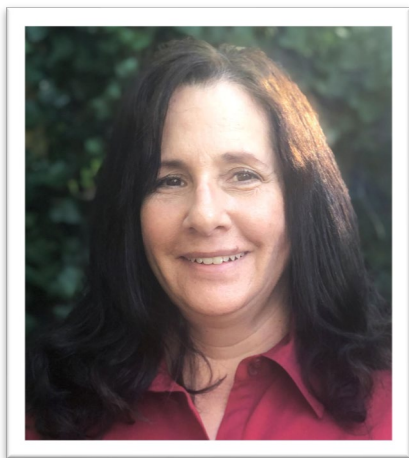
**Anthony Gardner**

**Assistant Director of Business Services/Business Manager II Supervisor  
School of Social Work**

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During his tenure at Rutgers, Anthony Gardner grew from a temporary employee, to a full time staff member, to a management position in less than a one-year time frame. His current role as Assistant Director of Business Service at the School of Social Work has broadened his scope adding to over fifteen years of management experience at Rutgers and in the private sector. Prior to his current role Anthony served as a Business Manager in the Division of Life Sciences within the School of Arts and Sciences where he supported pre and post award research administration while overseeing full-time staff members. Prior to joining Rutgers, Anthony served as a manager, district manager, and director of operations for both a corporate and franchisee retail food operation. This opportunity allowed him to oversee hundreds of employees and develop a broad view of leadership and operations.

Anthony holds a B.A. from Rutgers, a MBA with a finance concentration from NJIT, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in professional accounting from Rutgers.



**Janet Gilmartin**  
**Director of Business Operations**  
**New Brunswick Chancellor's Office**  
Email: [jag489@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:jag489@echo.rutgers.edu)

Janet Gilmartin is the Senior 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.



**Christopher Gitzelmann, MD, FACS**  
**Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief of Pediatric Surgery**  
**Pediatric Surgery,**  
**Department of Surgery,**  
**RWJ Medical School**  
Email: [cg833@rutgers.edu](mailto:cg833@rutgers.edu)

I have been a pediatric surgeon for nearly 20 years. Due to the nature of my specialty, I have always been associated with large academic institutions. As an academic surgeon, I take pride in teaching both medical students, residents and fellows. I have always implemented and taught evidence-based medicine, however, a majority of my hands-on bedside teaching relates to clinical diagnosis and clinical sense. I was recruited to the RWJ Medical School to establish and build an academic pediatric surgical service at Saint Barnabas medical Center in Livingston NJ as part of the RWJ pediatric surgery group. For the past 2 years I have transformed the service from a private practice service to an academic division of pediatric surgery. I have introduced evidence-based medicine to the service with implementation of guidelines, policies and standards of care. I have also focused on integrating medical students and residents into the service, including but not limited to weekly teaching, implementing research projects, quality improvement projects and scholarly activity. I have recently taken on a Rutgers system leadership role for the northern region of NJ.



**Marsha Gordon, MPH**

**Executive Director, RWJMS Center Advancing Research and Evaluation for Patient-Centered Care (CARE-PC); and Division Administrator, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Research Division (FMRD)**

**Public Health/CARE-PC and FMRD,  
RWJ Medical School**

Email: [marsha.gordon@rutgers.edu](mailto:marsha.gordon@rutgers.edu)

Marsha Gordon was introduced to our beloved Rutgers community through a minority high school student biomedical research apprentice program at the age of 16. After high school, she obtained a Bachelor of Science in public health from Rutgers Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy and Douglass Residential College, as well as a Masters in health systems and policy from Rutgers School of Public Health. Before joining Rutgers professionally, she worked on quality improvement efforts for the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) and the New Jersey Electronic Birth Certificate Program (NJEBC). Marsha has worked at Rutgers for a combined 12 years in outreach, community-based participatory research, and program administration roles.

Presently, Marsha serves as Executive Director of the Rutgers Center Advancing Research and Evaluation of Patient-Centered Care (CARE-PC, est. in 2018) and Division Administrator for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Research Division. Through CARE-PC and the New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ ACTS) Community Engagement Core, Marsha brings together key healthcare system stakeholders to empower patients to make informed decisions and play active roles in their care. Concurrently, she works with Research Division faculty to secure and operationalize federal, state, and local grants. Marsha's work with CARE-PC and the Division creates cross-disciplinary partnerships to mobilize resources across the multiple schools and institutes.



**Imani Johnson**

**Director of Communications**

**Douglass Residential College**

Email: [imani.johnson@rutgers.edu](mailto:imani.johnson@rutgers.edu)

Imani O. Johnson is the founder and CEO of Maven Market, LLC., the parent company of her brand "BY IMANI." Maven Market provides public relations, brand strategy, graphic design, event planning, and social media curation for small businesses. Imani has been distinguished as a "rare talent"—an innate leader, visionary, strategist, creative, mentor, equity advocate, and media expert.

In addition to her duties as an entrepreneur, Imani is the Director of Communications at Rutgers' Douglass College, where she is dedicated to innovative solutions in public relations and diversity communications. Additionally, she serves as chairperson of the Douglass Talent Acquisition and Retention Committee, a member of the Douglass Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and the Douglass College Dean's Leadership Cabinet, a Douglass Advisory Board member, and a fellow in the Rutgers Leadership Academy.

Before her higher education career, Imani served as the Manager of Digital Marketing and Experiences and Team Lead at Odyssey Media, a marketing and communications company focused on empowering influential multicultural women. It currently partners with 30 of the nation's leading Fortune 500 companies. Imani's portfolio features global collaborations with Chief Diversity Officers and Heads of Marketing of Fortune 50 and 100 corporations, such as Google, Intel, Prudential, and Walmart; small-businesses with \$10K - \$1M social media advertisement and influencer budgets; and media placements in Forbes, Essence, Black Enterprise, TheGrio, Nj.com, and Rutgers Today.

Imani recently earned her Master's in Communication and Media from the Rutgers School of Communication and Information with a concentration in Public Relations, earning a 4.0 GPA. She is a Cum Laude graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, where she received a joint B.A. from the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Communication and Information.

Imani Johnson thoughtfully intersects her passion for diversity, equity, inclusion, and the necessity for representation in the media. She believes that "in order to be it, you have to see it."



**Hazel-Anne Johnson-Marcus**

**Associate Teaching Professor and Director of the HRM Undergraduate Program  
Human Resource Management, School of Management and Labor Relations**

Email: [hazelanne.johnsonmarcus@rutgers.edu](mailto:hazelanne.johnsonmarcus@rutgers.edu)

Dr. Hazel-Anne M. Johnson-Marcus earned her Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of South Florida. She is an Associate Teaching Professor and the Director of the Human Resource Management Undergraduate Program in the School of Management and Labor Relations. Dr. Johnson-Marcus has been at Rutgers since September 2011 and approaches her role with great passion and enthusiasm! Her mission is to encourage our students to become more socially responsible citizens in their organizations and in the broader society.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus teaches in the areas of human resource management, talent acquisition, diversity and inclusion within organizations as well as the future of work. She was the recipient of SMLR's Jim Chelius Teaching Award in 2013. In recent years, Dr. Johnson-Marcus has also been engaged in executive and professional education focused on diversity and inclusion for many organizations in our region.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus has been the Co-Chair of the SMLR Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee since the Spring of 2019. In addition, beginning in Spring 2020, she has served as the SMLR Diversity Champion and Equity Advisor, a role that liaises with the Office of the Senior Vice President for Equity as part of the Rutgers Diversity Strategic Planning Process.





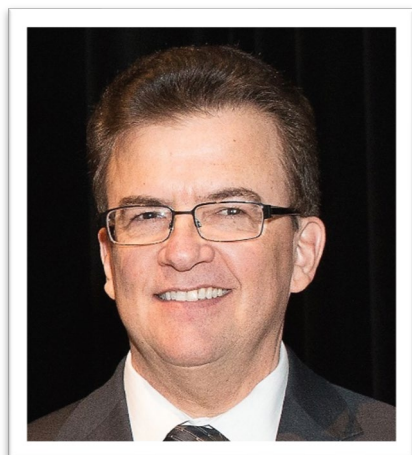
**Jessica Rispoli Joines, MGC, LGC**  
**Program Director, Genetic Counseling Master's Program**  
**Genetic Counseling,/Genetics,**  
**School of Arts and Sciences**  
Email: [jrj88@hginj.rutgers.edu](mailto:jrj88@hginj.rutgers.edu)

Jessica Rispoli Joines is a board certified genetic counselor and is the Director of the Genetic Counseling Master's Program (GCMP) at Rutgers University. Jessica received her Master's in Genetic Counseling from the University of Maryland. Before coming to Rutgers, she served as the Assistant Program Director at the University of Maryland for over ten years. She has over 15 years of clinical experience providing genetic counseling in oncology, pediatric, and neurology clinics. Over her career Jessica has mentored dozens of students in both classroom and clinical settings. As Director of the GCMP, she oversees all aspects of the program and directs a number of courses in both the first and second year curriculum. As the founding director of the GCMP, she and her team accepted their first class in 2017 and the program has quickly grown to its target size of 20 students, accepting 10 per year from an applicant pool of over 150. She is committed to the program's mission of training genetic counseling students to be prepared to fulfill a number of genetic counseling roles. Her professional interests include career development of genetic counselors and expansion of genetic counselors in roles beyond hospital settings. Jessica is also a mom to two daughters, ages 10 and 7.



**Cecelia Kane, DNP, MSN, RN, FNP-BC**  
**Nurse Practitioner**  
**Student Wellness Center**  
Email: [cecekane@rutgers.edu](mailto:cecekane@rutgers.edu)

Cecelia Kane, DNP, MSN, RN, FNP-BC is a Nurse Practitioner at Rutgers University Camden Student Wellness Center, where she has served the health and wellness of her patients since 2004. She is a nationally certified family nurse practitioner, with over 25 years' experience working as a nurse, 18 of which were as a nurse practitioner. She received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Rutgers University Camden School of Nursing in May 2021 and her Masters in Nursing from Rutgers in 2002. Her primary areas of interest are adolescent and young adult health, health disparities and health inequities, and nursing education. She served as a Rutgers Staff Senator representing the Camden Campus for 4 years. She is currently sits on Rutgers Camden's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and serves as a board member for Region 5 of the New Jersey State Nursing Association. She is a United States veteran who served as a Lieutenant in the United States Public Health Service providing care to underserved populations. Last, but certainly not least, she is a mother of 3 and a grandmother of 5.



**Glenn Krell**

**Director of Research Integrity**

**Office of Research**

Email: [gk434@research.rutgers.edu](mailto:gk434@research.rutgers.edu)

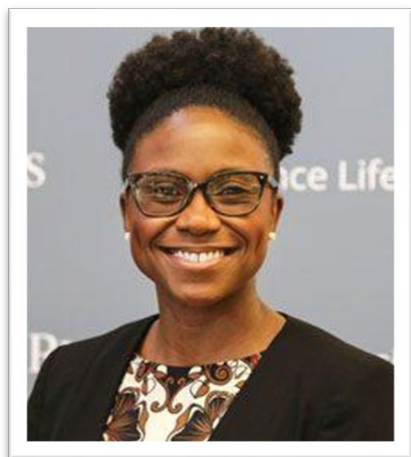
Glenn Krell is Director of Research Integrity in the Office of Research. He joined Rutgers in 2018 after working with research faculty at the University of California, San Francisco, UC Berkeley and Illinois Institute of Technology. Glenn has a master's in public administration and has attained several research administration certifications. Among his responsibilities at Rutgers are the confidential investigations of allegations of [research misconduct](#), conducted in accord with Rutgers university policy and regulations of the federal DHHS Office of Research Integrity.

Glenn is working to implement a Responsible Conduct of Research (“RCR”) education program across Rutgers. This program will expand RCR education to include all who do research, and it upholds key elements of the Rutgers mission to forge strategies and develop initiatives to strengthen our academic enterprise to propel Rutgers among our finest peer institutions. The RCR education program, initiated by the Rutgers University Senate, is in accord with President Holloway’s desire for achievement of a beloved community. That is because RCR includes respectful mentorships, honesty and integrity.

To make it easier for the Rutgers community to identify requirements for responsible conduct of research education, Glenn launched a [Rutgers RCR website](#). The site includes a “[Responsible Conduct of Research Toolkit](#)” featuring best practices for the responsible conduct of research.

With the help of Dr. Prabhas Moghe, Glenn initiated a Big Ten Academic Alliance peer discussion group on RCR education, now known as the “[BTAA Consortium for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).” The BTAA RCR Consortium has benchmarked the RCR programs of all BTAA institutions, and holds [annual conferences](#) each fall.

You may email Glenn with your questions about these initiatives at [gk434@research.rutgers.edu](mailto:gk434@research.rutgers.edu).



**Ariel Leget**

**Assistant Director, Living-Learning Communities and Academic Initiatives**

**Residence Life**

Email: [ariel.leget@rutgers.edu](mailto:ariel.leget@rutgers.edu)

Dr. Ariel Leget is an experienced Residence Life and Student Affairs professional with a demonstrated history of working in higher education for over a decade. As Assistant Director for Living-Learning Communities and Academic Initiatives, Ariel oversees living-learning communities (LLCs), diversity education, and international programs for Residence Life. She manages LLC recruitment, selection, the creation of co-curricular experiences, and their assessment, for 450+ undergraduate residents for the New Brunswick campus, and has developed partnerships with 14+ academic departments. Her latest project included the creation of a year-long diversity, equity, and inclusion curriculum for 90 professional staff within Residence Life. Ariel earned her B.A. in Psychology from UCONN, M.S.Ed. from Old Dominion University, and Ed.D. from Rutgers University – New Brunswick. She is an active member of NASPA, having presented LLC work at ACUHO-I LLP, MACUHO, and ASHE conferences. Prior to joining Rutgers University, Ariel worked at Georgia Southern University within Residence Life, a career pathway that emerged in her undergraduate years as a Resident Assistant. Ariel's personal interests include holistic health (fitness and plant-based nutrition), laughing heartily, cooking, active mentoring, weekend FaceTime with loved ones, and engagement as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. -- the first Black Greek-letter sorority.



**Sharon Lydon, Ph.D.**

**Associate Dean of Alumni & Corporate Engagement/**

**Professor of Professional Practice, Supply Chain Department**

Email: [slydon@business.rutgers.edu](mailto:slydon@business.rutgers.edu)

Sharon Lydon, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean of Alumni & Corporate Engagement (ACE) at Rutgers Business School. She is also a Professor of Professional Practice in the Supply Chain Management Department ranked #2 by Gartner and #12 by U.S. News. She is a certified executive coach from Columbia University. She teaches leadership in supply chain, leading change and creating high performing teams. She has worked at Rutgers Business School for the past 16 years serving as the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Program and Senior Associate Dean of Academic Programs. Prior to her tenure at Rutgers, she worked at Estee Lauder Companies in New York City. She worked specifically in their Global Management Strategies Department conducting training and developing seminars, succession planning and created professional development plans for high-performing teams and high potential employees. In her early years, she worked as an HR Associate at D.E. Shaw & Co. and as a management consultant at Accenture. Dr. Lydon has a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from The George Washington University with a research focus on Entrepreneurial Leadership. She has been awarded a master's degree from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College.



**Tara Matisse**  
**Professor and Chair**  
**Genetics, School of Arts and Sciences**  
Email: [matisse@rutgers.edu](mailto:matisse@rutgers.edu)

I am Professor and Chair of Genetics. I have been at Rutgers since 2000, following a postdoc at Rockefeller University, NYC, a postdoc at Columbia University, NYC, graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh, and undergrad at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. For many years, my career focused on the development and application of computational genetics resources to aid in the identification of human disease genes. One of my primary contributions to genetics was the development of software (MultiMap) to construct linkage and radiation hybrid maps. I used this program to construct numerous maps of the human genome, and I, and others, used it to construct maps in many other species. This work was followed by development of an approach to combine evidence from both sequenced genomes and linkage maps to create improved maps. I have also applied statistical genetics approaches to identify linkage and association between disease genes or genetic markers and a number of genetic traits. Recently, my focus has shifted away from investigator-initiated research to management of large-scale genetics studies. I am currently PI of the coordinating center for two NHGRI-funded multi-site studies: PAGE (Population Architecture using Genetics and Epidemiology; <http://www.pagestudy.org>) and GSP (the NHGRI Genome Sequencing Project; <http://gsp-hg.org>). In the spring I teach 447:302 Quantitative Biology and Bioinformatics. I became Chair of the department in July, 2018.





**Matthew Matsaganis, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor and Ph.D. Program Area Coordinator  
Communication, School of Communication and Information**

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Matthew Matsaganis is an Associate Professor at Rutgers University's School of Communication & Information. His research focuses on the role of communication as a determinant of health in urban communities, but also on how the well-being of neighborhoods can be transformed through communication-centered interventions. In this context, he also investigates how ethnic media can serve critical information needs of immigrant and ethnic communities in the digital age.

He is co-author and co-editor of four books, including *Understanding Ethnic Media: Producers, Consumers, and Societies* (SAGE, 2011), *The Communication Ecology of 21st Century Urban Communities* (Peter Lang, 2018), and *Ethnic Media in the Digital Age* (Routledge, 2019). His work has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, and funded by U.S. federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but also private foundations. Matthew was a Fulbright Scholar to Greece in 2018, during which time he investigated strategies employed by individuals and families in disadvantaged communities of Athens to weather the ongoing economic crisis and its health-related effects. He has continued to conduct research in Greece since then. In 2020, he spearheaded a joint initiative by the School of Communication & Information and the School of Health Professions to participate in the International Academic Partnership Program–Greece, an academic incubator program sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Institute of International Education, and designed to promote collaboration between U.S. and Greek universities. For more information on Rutgers' IAPP-Greece initiative, visit: <https://iapp-greece.rutgers.edu/>

At Rutgers, Matthew currently serves as Ph.D. Program Coordinator for the Department of Communication. He is a Core Member of Rutgers' Global Health Institute. He also sits on the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum's Working Group charged with assessing organizational effectiveness. Matthew was also a founding member and later Vice President of the Urban Communication Foundation.



**Larry McAllister II**  
**Assistant Director of Social Media Strategy**  
**University Communications and Marketing**  
Email: [liimc@rutgers.edu](mailto:liimc@rutgers.edu)

Larry McAllister II is a digital strategist, photographer, graphic designer, and multimedia content creator who has served the Rutgers community for over a decade.

Born in California and raised in Pennsylvania, Larry attended Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts, where he earned a BFA in Visual Arts, concentrating in both graphic design and printmaking, and received a Visual Arts Awards for outstanding achievement in visual arts.

After graduating, Larry would join Rutgers University Student Life's marketing and communications office where he would serve as project manager and, eventually, as assistant director. In these roles, he managed graphic design, photo, and video projects, coordinated with web developers for the creation and maintenance of web and design projects, and developed the department's social media presence.

Wanting to pay forward his own undergraduate experience working in the Student Life marketing office, Larry developed and instituted a credited internship program for students interested in graphic design, photography, video, social media, journalism, and web design/development. During his time in this role and as the department was absorbed by the Division of Student Affairs, Larry recruited, trained, supervised, and assessed over 80 undergraduate and graduate interns, preparing them for roles in marketing, communications, and multimedia production with companies like Pepsi, Esquire, Business Insider, Forbes, and many others.

After completing his Master's in Communication and Information Sciences, Larry would transition to serving as the assistant director of social media strategy for Rutgers University Communications and Marketing. In this role, he develops and executes content and distribution strategies designed to raise the profile of the university, its faculty, staff, students, and key strategic initiatives through the use of universitywide social media channels and the production of highly engaging multimedia content.



**Karen Holly Muller**  
**Director, RBHS Faculty Affairs**  
**RBHS Academic Affairs**  
Email: [mullerkh@rbhs.rutgers.edu](mailto:mullerkh@rbhs.rutgers.edu)

Karen Muller is the Director of RBHS Faculty Affairs in the Office of Academic Affairs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) with more than 27 years in Human Resources and Faculty Affairs within Rutgers. She oversees the faculty action process and provides training to chairs, administrators, staff and faculty on appointments, promotions and reappointments. Karen is a liaison between RBHS Faculty Affairs and the eight RBHS schools and units, participates in University ad hoc committees and workgroups and collaborates with units across the University.

Karen's community volunteer activities have included serving as a board member of the Junior League of Morristown, the Red Cross and the Zoological Society of Turtle Back Zoo. She continues to be a member of the Junior League of Morristown and College and University Professional Association (CUPA). In her personal time Karen is a pastry chef, avid fly fisherwoman and loves camping and canoeing with her husband.



**Beth Ann Murphy**  
**Instructor of Professional Practice**  
**Professional Science Masters Program**  
Email: [bam165@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:bam165@docs.rutgers.edu)

Beth Ann Murphy, PhD is the Life Sciences Coordinator and Instructor of Professional Practice for Rutgers Professional Sciences Master's Program. Prior to joining Rutgers she spent more than three decades as a scientist in the pharmaceutical life sciences biotech sectors, including 25-years at Merck & Co . She has extensive and holistic experiences in all aspects of drug discovery and development across multiple disease disciplines and has contributed the success of innumerable drug discovery programs .In addition to being an active Rutgers faculty member, she is also founder of BAM Consulting, LLC where she advises early stage life science companies.

Dr. Murphy earned her bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College, her master's degree from Seton Hall University, and her doctorate from Rutgers University where she completed her doctoral degree while also maintaining a full-time position at Merck. She was awarded, by Merck, a prestigious, two-year paid sabbatical to complete her Ph.D. studies.

Dr. Murphy is a member of numerous professional organizations including AAAS, AWIS, and NYAS. She is a regular study section member for the National Institutes of Health SBIR/STTR grant program. She is an adjunct instructor with the National Science Foundation-sponsored Innovation Corps entrepreneurial training program. Dr. Murphy is the author of over 25 scientific papers published in peer review journals. She is passionate about promoting roles to advance equality for women in STEM-based fields and has spent significant time blending her industry experience and academic knowledge to develop and expand STEM education and STEM-based curricula. She has provided career-long mentorship to girls and women interested in careers in science. When her nose is not in a science book, Dr. Murphy is a history buff who is particularly fascinated by the Tudor period and European royalty. She is also an avid traveler whose goal is to travel to all seven continents (three down, four to go).



**Margaret O'Donnell**  
**Manager of Military and Veteran Engagement Programs**  
**Rutgers Business School**  
modonnell@business.rutgers.edu

Margaret O'Donnell is the Manager of Military and Veteran Engagement Programs at Rutgers Business School (RBS), a position held since July 2017. She also functions as the Faculty Advisor for the STEM Veterans USA at Rutgers student organization. In 2019, she received the “To Infinity and Beyond” Award from the STEM Veterans USA at Rutgers for exemplary service. Margaret’s passion for helping veterans and the military-connected community comes from her time as a Navy spouse. She is frequently invited as a presenter on veteran topics for conferences, workshops, and events.

Prior to her current role, Margaret managed a portfolio of RBS Executive Education programs. She spent the earlier part of her Rutgers career with the Division of Continuing Studies in positions at the University Inn, as well as the Center for Continuing Professional Development.

Margaret is a proud and active Rutgers alumna, volunteering for multiple officer, committee chair, and member-at-large roles since her graduation. In 2014, Margaret was honored with the designation “Loyal Daughter of Rutgers.”

Outside of Rutgers, Margaret is active in her local community as an elected government official and a volunteer coordinator for recreation programs.

Fun fact about Margaret – she is the “voice of Rutgers Business School” – moderating and hosting webinars in both the Virtual Lunch n Learn and Signature Leadership Series.





**Yvette Ortiz-Beaumont, MPA**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Office of University-Community Partnerships**  
Email: [yortiz@rutgers.edu](mailto:yortiz@rutgers.edu)

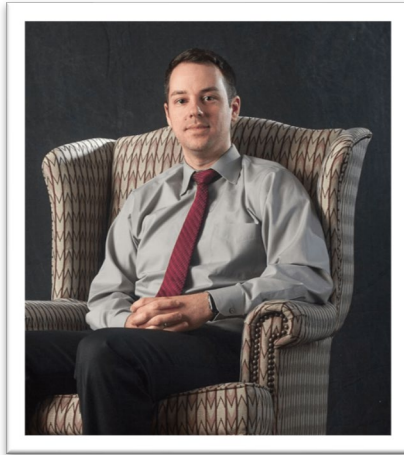
Yvette Ortiz Beaumont serves as the Assistant Director with the Office of University-Community Partnerships (OUCP) at Rutgers University-Newark. Yvette began working in the department in 2004 as an Administrative Assistant. One of her key responsibilities was to serve as the student supervisor/mentor for upwards of 100 students, assigned to the department annually, who worked as Campus Information and Conference Services Representatives. The representatives were trained and scheduled as well as monitored by Yvette assuring quality information, customer service and a positive interface with internal and external community members was maintained each day by way of the campus information hub.

Yvette has remained with the department throughout its successive expansions and title changes. During her tenure she has worked in several facets of the department, having served as the operations manager, ensuring efficient work practices for the department's 3 campus-based locations. In addition, from 2002-2017 Yvette served as the business manager overseeing the university budget for the department as well as 12 grant accounts totaling over 1.4 million dollars. She is responsible for managing personnel processing and is the unit's Human Resources liaison.

As the department's Conference and Special Events Manager, Yvette annually managed up to 25 on-campus programs with internal and external partners hosting up to 1,300 participants. This experience combined with her prior 6th grade teaching experience enabled her to effectively manage the OUCP Summer Academy consisting of 6-8 partnership summer programs that served approximately 300 City of Newark youth throughout the summer months. Simultaneously, Yvette managed 10-15 students participating in the City of Newark's College Internship program. She currently serves as a Co-Coordinator of the department's RU Ready for Work program, a work and career readiness program for Newark high school youth. She also coordinates activities for the department's Advocates for Healthy Living Initiative (AHLI), which serves seniors throughout greater Newark.

Yvette earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University-Newark and her MPA from RU-Newark's School of Public Affairs and Administration. She has completed the Leadership Newark Fellowship Program and is IRB Certified.





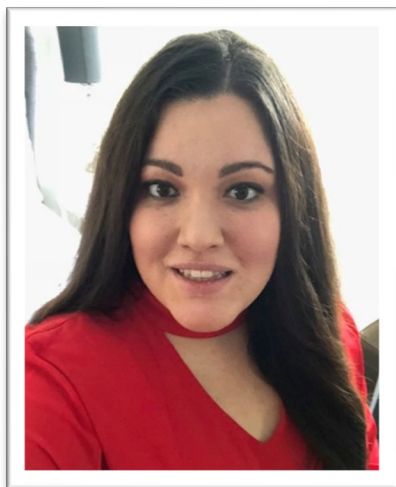
**Jason Pappas**

**Director, IT**

**Mason Gross School of the Arts**

Email: [jppappas@mgsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:jppappas@mgsa.rutgers.edu)

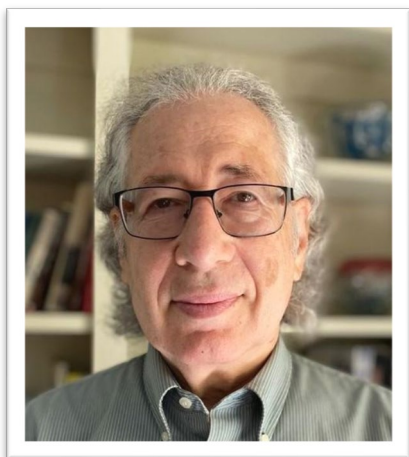
Jason Pappas is the Director of Information Technology for Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. After achieving his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers, he worked in industry as a project manager for one of the leading companies in automation equipment for medical device manufacturing headquartered in Italy. He then spent the bulk of his 11-year career at Rutgers at the School of Arts and Sciences as a Unit Computing Manager for Statistics and Geology. In his current role, he leverages his seasoned technical knowledge to focus on strategy, budget analysis, management, and relationship building both within the school and beyond. Outside of his professional endeavors, Jason is an avid homebrewer and teaches others how to taste, describe, and evaluate beer as a Certified Beer Judge. A loving father of one, he enjoys the culinary arts, gardening, and beekeeping.



**Jacqueline Roscoe**  
**Associate Director for Admissions**  
**University Enrollment Services**  
Email: [jacqueline.roscoe@ues.rutgers.edu](mailto:jacqueline.roscoe@ues.rutgers.edu)

Jacqueline Roscoe is an enthusiastic professional with 12 years of enrollment management experience. She joined the Rutgers University community as an admissions counselor on transfer student enrollment at Rutgers University-Camden. After three years, she was promoted to a Senior Admissions Counselor, where she was tasked with redesigning the visit student experience at Rutgers-Camden, including the design, and building of a new Welcome Center. In 2017, she was granted a greater leadership opportunity as Associate Director for Admissions and Enrollment Management. During her years as an associate director, Jackie worked closely with the Vice Chancellors and other leaders to implement strategic changes to meet enrollment goals, specifically targeted at our first-year population. Within the first year in her role, Rutgers-Camden doubled our first-year enrollment. In addition, Jackie worked with other EM leaders to open the One Stop Shop and Contact Center in Camden. Most recently, Jackie joined University Enrollment Services in a central capacity to manage strategic and operational initiatives for admissions. A few of her current projects include the Enterprise Salesforce CRM implementation, managing the operation center for document processing for admissions, and leading several committees looking to make long-term changes to business practices. Jackie is member of multiple enrollment and admissions professional organizations. Jackie is motivated by the opportunity to create access and make college affordable for all students to attain their educational goals.

Jackie is first-generation student earning her Bachelor's of Science in Biology and Spanish from Albright College and her Master's in Education from Gwynedd-Mercy University. In September 2021, she will commence her doctoral studies at Northeastern University. Jackie is a Philadelphia native currently residing in Gloucester Township, NJ with her husband and partner, Craig and their two children, Henry and Savannah.



**Aron Schwartz**  
**Associate Vice President and Deputy**  
**General Counsel**

Email: [aschwartz@ogc.rutgers.edu](mailto:aschwartz@ogc.rutgers.edu)

Aron Schwartz joined the Office of General Counsel in January 2014 after 33 years in private practice, most recently at Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, and Davis where he chaired the Employment Law Practice Group. Aron began his legal career in the New Jersey Attorney General's office as a Deputy Attorney General assigned to represent the state colleges and universities. In private practice, he continued to represent colleges and universities, including Rutgers, and also represented school districts and other public entities. Aron is a past member of the District X Ethics committee, of which he was Vice Chair in 1988-89 and Chair in 1989-90, and served two four year terms on District X Fee Arbitration Committee. He was also a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Skills and Methods from 2003-05.

Aron has extensive experience in State and Federal court litigation, appeals in both State and Federal appellate courts, administrative proceedings, and arbitration and mediation.

At the Office of General Counsel, Aron leads the General University Affairs / Litigation Practice Group, one of the four practice groups in the office.

Aron received his J.D. degree from the Duke University School of Law in 1976 and his B.A. degree in philosophy from the University of Rochester in 1974.



**Jason Schweitzer, MS**  
**Director**  
**Enrollment Management Analytics**  
Email: [j.schweitzer@em.rutgers.edu](mailto:j.schweitzer@em.rutgers.edu)

Jason Schweitzer currently serves as the Director of Enrollment Management Analytics at Rutgers University–New Brunswick where he supports the institution through research and planning activities that facilitate data-informed decision making. In his previous role at Rutgers–Camden, Jason provided reports and analyses that deepened the campus’ understanding of its students. He successfully created and established the campus’s first institutional research office to better serve its students, faculty, and staff. Before joining Rutgers, Jason worked at The College of New Jersey as a research analyst in the Center for Institutional Effectiveness. He is a member of the North East Association for Institutional Research (NEAIR) and has served as a member of the Nominating Committee, responsible for conducting the election of officers. He is also a proud member of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) where he enjoys the collaborative nature of institutional research practitioners. Jason received his bachelor of science degree in Business Administration from The College of New Jersey and a master of science degree in Computer Systems Management from the University of Maryland University College. He’s currently taking post-master’s graduate coursework in quantitative methods in Rutgers–Camden’s Public Affairs & Community Development program. He serves as a volunteer firefighter in Merchantville where he resides with his wife, Megan, and two children, Josiah and Lorelai. In the realms of his work and community, he seeks opportunities to help those less fortunate than him.



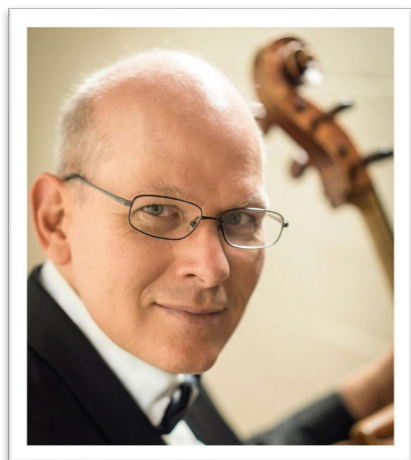
**Brenda Sheridan**  
**Director of Marketing and Communications**  
**School of Information and Communication**  
Email: [brenda.sheridan@rutgers.edu](mailto:brenda.sheridan@rutgers.edu)

Brenda Sheridan has an extensive background in higher education administration that has spanned both private and public institutions. She is currently the Director of Marketing and Communications at the School of Communication and Information. (SC&I) At SC&I, she is responsible for the marketing of the academic programs, the communication strategy including social media, and the promotion of the faculty's research to sustain the school's reputation. Sheridan is also part of the website team and supervises multiple staff members and interns each semester.

Before arriving at Rutgers, she served as the Director of Communication and Executive Director of Drexel University Computing Academy at the College of Computing & Informatics at Drexel University.

Sheridan also teaches in SC&I's [Professional Development Studies](#) program specializing in Smart PR Measurement, Social Media Strategies, and Marketing Communications.

Sheridan has an Ed.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in Higher Education Administration; a Masters from West Virginia University, and a Bachelors from Penn State in Journalism. Finally, she is a member of Kappa Tau Alpha, National Journalism Honorary, and has worked in higher education as a part-time faculty member, fundraiser, and administrator.



**Jonathan Spitz**

**Assistant Professor of Music, Head of the string area**

**Cello/Music, Mason Gross School of the Arts**

Email: [jonathan.spitz@rutgers.edu](mailto:jonathan.spitz@rutgers.edu)

Jonathan Spitz was appointed as Assistant Professor of Cello and Head of the String Area in the Mason Gross School of the Arts in 2015. He was promoted to Associate Professor in April 2021.

Spitz has been principal cello of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra since 1991, and tours internationally as a member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, where he also served as co-artistic director for seven years. He also performs as the principal cellist of the American Ballet Theater Orchestra.

Spitz has appeared as a soloist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on numerous occasions, including performances of the cello concertos of Schumann, Dvorák and Haydn, Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations, as well as Brahms' Double Concerto with NJSO Concertmaster Eric Wyrick. He has also performed frequently as a soloist with Orpheus, the Riverside Sinfonia, and Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic.

An active chamber musician, Spitz was a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival and has performed with artists such as Rudolf Serkin, Benita Valente, Felix Galimir, and Oscar Shumsky. He also was a founding member of the Leonardo Trio, and toured and recorded extensively with that ensemble. Each summer he serves on the artist faculty of the Brevard Music Center.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute, Spitz was a student of David Soyer. He has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, EMI, Decca, Nonesuch, and Blue Note, among others, and performs on a cello by Grubaugh and Seifert from 2012.





**Mafudia A. Suaray, MD MPH**

**Associate Professor**

**Family Medicine and Community Health, RWJ Medical School**

Email: [bangurma@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:bangurma@rwjms.rutgers.edu)

Dr. Mafudia A. Suaray is a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician and Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She migrated to the United States from Sierra Leone, West Africa in 1997 during the country's civil war. She practiced as a Registered Nurse for 5 years before transitioning to medical school. She obtained a combined MD/MPH degree from the former UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (now Rutgers) and completed her Family Medicine Residency training at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Suaray joined Rutgers University in 2013 and practiced both ambulatory and Hospital medicine for 5 years before focusing her practice on Hospital Medicine. She is engaged in a variety of teaching activities ranging from small group facilitator for pre-clerkship students to Teaching Residents on the Family Medicine Inpatient Service.

As a physician educator within the Division of Hospital Medicine, Dr. Suaray, led the development of practical, easy-to-use guidelines for the safe and effective care of hospitalized COVID patients. Dr. Suaray serves as a Physician Advisor for RWJ University Hospital and recently joined the newly formed Physician Advisory Board for the RWJUH Health Equity Program.

She is an engaged leader in the West African Diaspora community who currently serves on the board of a one-of-its-kind orphan care non-profit in Sierra Leone, West Africa. She additionally co-hosts a bi-weekly online health education discussion program in the local language for the Sierra Leone Diaspora and she serves as a trusted advisor to her church leadership on health issues as well as general issues of church growth and administration.

She is married to a physician husband and has two adorable young children. She enjoys clinical work, teaching, speaking engagements, and spending time with her family.



**Michael Varano**  
**Associate Director for Student Engagement**  
**Rutgers School of Nursing**  
Email: [mv372@sn.rutgers.edu](mailto:mv372@sn.rutgers.edu)

My name is Mike Varano and I am the Associate Director for Student Engagement for the Rutgers School of Nursing – Newark/New Brunswick. Within my role I work closely with our Assistant Dean to coordinate and manage all major event planning for the School of Nursing, including orientations and graduation. I also oversee leadership development for our student leaders by serving as an advisor to our student senate executive board and peer mentors. Outside of student engagement I manage all of the internal School of Nursing scholarships including applications, selections, and notifications to financial aid.

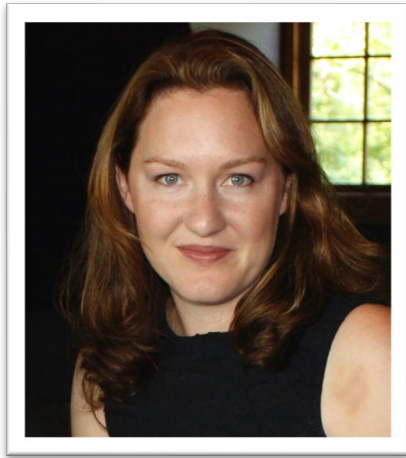
One of my major responsibilities is to oversee all student services for our 2+2 partnership program with Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ. This unique partnership allows students to complete their prerequisite courses (first two years of study) at the community college level, and then transfer into the School of Nursing for the upper-division and clinical nursing courses. These students graduate with their bachelor's degree and go on to sit for their licensure exam. I have been working with this program since its inception and it has been an honor to watch it grow to the level of success that it has reached.

Through my role I have the opportunity to work with both traditional and non-traditional students across multiple campuses and collaborate with many campus partners to ensure that our nursing students have the best experience during their time at Rutgers. I work with an amazing team, each of us being located on a different campus, which has allowed adapting to our virtual atmosphere to be very easy. I am very excited to follow in my supervisor's footsteps by participating in the 2021-2022 Rutgers Leadership Academy and am very grateful to Dr. Kyle Warren for nominating me.



**Larissa Varela, LSW**  
**Program Manager, Faculty Affairs CINJ**  
**Cancer Institute of NJ, Administration and Planning**  
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Larissa Varela leads the Office of Faculty Recruitment and Affairs for the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, overseeing the execution and management of all Rutgers Cancer Institute faculty and physician affairs to meet strategic aims and compliance as a NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, in accordance with all University policies and RWJ Barnabas Health System guidelines for physician-related activities. She serves as the primary liaison for faculty affairs between Rutgers Cancer Institute and the University Schools, RBHS Chancellor's Office, and the RWJ Barnabas Health Oncology Service Line. Under the direction of the Executive Vice President and Vice President for Strategy for Oncology Services for the RWJBH Oncology Service Line, Larissa manages physician recruitment activities, including development, implementation and management of faculty physician contracts. She works closely with the Rutgers Cancer Institute Associate Director for Faculty Affairs and the Chief of Administration and Operations on faculty development and mentorship programs, Institute infrastructure and policy development, and faculty satisfaction and retention initiatives. Larissa is a Rutgers alumna, earning her BA in Financial Economics and an MSW, LSW, with focused interests in policy management, employee advocacy and development, and diversity and inclusion. Larissa is a member of the Group on Faculty Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and a Certified Medical Staff Recruiter.



**Sara Wakefield**  
**Associate Professor**  
**School of Criminal Justice**  
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Sara Wakefield received her Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Her research interests focus on the consequences of mass imprisonment for the family, with an emphasis on childhood wellbeing and racial inequality, culminating in a series of articles and book, [Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality](#) (Oxford University Press, with Chris Wildeman). More recently, she is working on several team-based projects that provide information on the consequences of contact with the criminal legal system that are not easily captured in available datasets. The [PINS](#) and [WO-PINS](#) studies leverage a variety of methods and data sources (surveys, intensive interviews, administrative data, and social network analysis) to examine social relationships while incarcerated and through reentry. The Family History of Incarceration Survey ([FamHIS](#)) provides nationally representative estimates of the [concentration of incarceration experiences in American families](#). Finally, recent demographic analyses estimate [the number of people in the United States with a felony conviction](#) and the [prevalence of termination of parental rights among U.S. children](#).