The new academic year brings with it fresh talents and fresh energies. The generation of faculty that joins Brooklyn College this fall will become part of a proud tradition of strong teaching and innovative scholarship—and extend it into the future.

The guide to new faculty introduces new colleagues to each other and to the members of the College community. They come from places as distant as Katmandu, Nepal, and Houston, Texas, and as close to home as Brooklyn, with credentials from the great universities of the world, and they enrich us with unique wisdom, knowledge, and passion across the broad reaches of the arts and sciences.

As diverse as they are in background and interests, they are at one in their decision to come to Brooklyn College—and the greater Brooklyn community—at a time when, more than ever, the College is the place to teach, to learn, and to discover. They are part of the more than 230 teacher-scholars, now fully half of our full-time teaching faculty, who have been appointed since the turn of the new century.

This guide to new faculty is available both in print and online. It will help faculty, staff, and students to identify and contact colleagues with similar academic interests as well as those whose academic journey is totally different.

Please join me in welcoming these new colleagues to our midst and in helping ensure that their academic experience, and ours, remains ever-stimulating and rewarding.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hager
Acting Provost
Jennifer D. Adams  
Assistant Professor, Education  
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2006  

Previous appointment: The American Museum of Natural History, as curriculum specialist and manager of curriculum initiatives for professional development programs. Research interests: science teaching and learning to teach science using informal or out-of-classroom resources; classroom practices in science teaching and cultural interactions in science teaching and learning.

Christian Gabriel Beneš  
Assistant Professor, Mathematics  
Ph.D., Duke University, 2004  

Previous appointments: Tufts University and Duke University. Research interests: probability (specifically, discrete models arising in statistical physics) and local central limit theorems.

Alan A. Aja  
Assistant Professor, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies  

Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interests: race and ethnicity; ethnic enclaves; immigrant incorporation; globalization and sustainable development; Latino/African American studies.

Rebecca Boger  
Assistant Professor, Geology  
Ph.D., Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, 2002  

Previous appointments: deputy director for international/U.S. partnerships and outreach and international project scientist at the GLOBE Program, a worldwide Earth system science and science-education program. Research interests: watershed, coastal, and climate change studies; primary and secondary geoscience education; community-based monitoring; environmental health. Awarded the Knauss Fellowship in Marine Science by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1998.

Andrew W. Arlig  
Assistant Professor, Philosophy  
Ph.D., Ohio State University, 2005  

Previous appointments: Hunter College and Fordham University. Research interests: ancient philosophy; medieval philosophy and metaphysics.

Reza Chamanara  
Assistant Professor, Mathematics  
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2002  

Previous appointments: State University of New York at Stony Brook and Indiana University at Bloomington; postdoctoral fellow, Fields Institute, Toronto. Research interests: combinatorial and hyperbolic geometry; disk patterns and circle packings; Riemann surfaces, Teichmüller spaces, and Kleinian groups; real and complex dynamics; complex analysis.
Douglas Cohen  
Lecturer, Music  
Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo, 1992  

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College and Houston Community College. Contemporary music composer and performer. Specializes in experimental music theater works and collaborative projects utilizing the Internet and in the development and dissemination of emerging technologies for artistic uses.

Tracy Daraviras  
Assistant Professor, SEEK  
Ph.D., Steinhardt School of Education, New York University, 2006  

Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interests: basic skills and critical inquiry learning methods for English and reading education; assessment, mentoring, and tutoring in urban education.

Mary Beth Easley  
Assistant Professor, Theater  
M.F.A., University of Georgia, 1982  

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College, University of Iowa, and The Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting. Theater artist with numerous directing credits, including Off-Broadway, regional, and university theater productions. Has directed and supervised theater outreach for community groups, children, and the homeless with the Circle Repertory Company and the Directors Company in New York City.

Jason Eckardt  
D.M.A. (composition), Columbia University, 1998  

Previous appointments: Columbia University, New York University, Northwestern University, Rutgers University, and Oberlin College. Composer and promoter of contemporary music with numerous recording and commission credits. Director and cofounder of Ensemble 21, a contemporary music performance group in New York City.

Louis Fishman  
Assistant Professor, History  
Ph.D., University of Chicago, 2007  

Previous appointments: Carleton College and Washington University. Research interests: Near Eastern languages and civilization; Jewish and Arab national movements in Palestine.

John Frankenstein  
Assistant Professor, Economics  
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1983  

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College, Columbia University, New York University, and University of Hong Kong. Research interests: international economics and management; Asian studies; U.S.-China trade; cross-cultural management.
Olympia Hadjiliadis  
Assistant Professor, Mathematics  
Ph.D., Columbia University, 2005

Previous appointments: joint appointment as associate research scholar at Princeton University and assistant professor at Drexel University. Research interests: statistical surveillance and sequential detection; change-point detection as applied to quality control, finance, and medicine; mathematical finance and stochastic control problems.

Kathleen L. Haley  
Assistant Professor, English  
Ph.D., Harvard University, 2007

Previous appointments: Harvard University and University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research interests: Renaissance studies; Shakespeare; Rabelais; early modern drama and poetry; humor studies.

Amy E. Hughes  
Instructor, Theater  
Ph.D. Candidate, City University of New York, 2008

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College, Baruch College, and Hunter College. Research interests: nineteenth-century American theater; the influence of religion on arts and culture; pedagogical theory and method.

Sarumathi (Saru) Jayaraman  
Assistant Professor, Political Science  
J.D., Yale Law School, 2000  

Previous appointments: New York University (Gallatin School), Queens College, and Brooklyn College. Research interests: social conditions and community organizing models for urban immigrant workforces. Founder and executive director of an immigrant workers’ center for restaurant workers in New York City; cofounder and, until 2000, chair of Women and Youth Supporting Each Other in Los Angeles. Winner of Union Square Award for outstanding grassroots community work (2003).

Stephanie Jensen-Moulton  
Instructor, Music  
Ph.D. Candidate, City University of New York, 2007

Previous appointments: Hunter College, Boston University, Daniels Music Foundation and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, both in New York City. Research interests: American music; women’s history in music; feminist theory and music.

Herman Jiesamfoek  
Assistant Professor, Education  
Ed.D., Teachers College, Columbia University, 2003

Previous appointments: New York City Department of Education and Teachers College, Columbia University. Research interests: the arts and artistic practices in material cultures of indigenous societies. His professional credits in the art world include ballet performance, choreography, costume and set design, and art exhibitions here and abroad.
Meral Kaya
Assistant Professor, Education
Ph.D., Ohio State University, 2002

Previous appointments: Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, Rhode Island College, Ohio State University, Afyon Kocatepe University and Mustafa Kemal University, both in Turkey. Research interests: literacy; reading; children’s literature; language arts.

Catherine Kemp
Associate Professor, Philosophy
Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1995
J.D., University of Texas, School of Law, 1996

Previous appointments: Pennsylvania State University and University of Colorado. Research interests: philosophy of law; modern philosophy; history of philosophy.

Raymond W. Leung
Associate Professor, Physical Education and Exercise Science
D.P.E. (exercise science), Springfield College, 1999

Previous appointment: University of Southern Indiana, Evansville. Research interests: kinesiology; fitness; and exercise science.

Sharon A. Levy
Professor, SEEK
D. Phil., Oxford University, 1989

Previous appointments: Borough of Manhattan Community College, Brooklyn College, and Baruch College. Research interests: teaching and learning with technology; developing language, literacy, critical thinking, and reading skills with nontraditional students.

Hong-Jen (Abraham) Lin
Assistant Professor, Economics
Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo, 2004

Previous appointments: Nyack College and Queens College. Research interests: international finance (asset pricing, banking, and currency forecast); international business (productive and cost efficiencies).

Zhiheng Liu
Assistant Professor, Physics
Ph.D., Boston University, 2004

Previous appointments: Boston University and, as a joint appointment as postdoctoral research associate, the University of Minnesota and Vanderbilt University. Research interests: interdisciplinary studies on optical properties of such nanostructures as quantum dots and carbon nanotubes, and on light-induced processes on solid-state surfaces; selective adsorbate-surface bond scission using tunable lasers.
James A. Lynch, Jr.
Assistant Professor, Economics
J.D. University at Buffalo, Law School, 1994

Long-time legal practitioner in national and international real estate and banking, with expertise and lecture experience in corporate and personal finance, micro-loans and first-time home buying. Has also served as legal consultant to numerous non-profit housing and community groups.

Veronica Manlow
Assistant Professor, Economics
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2004

Previous appointments: Baruch College, St. Joseph’s College, and Fashion Institute of Technology of the State University of New York. Research interests: the economics and sociology of fashion.

John Marra
Professor, Geology, and Director of the Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC)
Ph.D., Dalhousie University, Halifax, 1977

Previous appointments: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, as associate director for biology and paleoenvironment and Doherty senior scholar; and NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Research interests: oceanography; phytoplankton processes and primary production in the global ocean.

Miranda J. Martinez
Assistant Professor, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies
Ph.D., New York University, 2002

Previous appointment: Vassar College. Research interests: urban sociology; community politics; community development; sociology of consumption; the U.S. Latino experience.

Genna Rae McNeil
Belle Zeller Visiting Professor in Public Policy and Administration for 2007–2008
Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1975

Previous appointments: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Howard University, and Hunter College. Research interests: African American history; race and history; and women in the civil rights and black power movements. Her book, Groundwork: Charles Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights, won the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel Award in American Legal History.

Mim Lai Nakarmi
Assistant Professor, Physics
Ph.D., Kansas State University, 2005

Previous appointments: Kansas State University and Kathmandu University, Nepal. Research interests: material growth and characterization and design of nitride-based novel structures for electronic and photonic devices.
Sharon Anne O’Connor-Petruso  
Assistant Professor, Education  
Ed.D., St. John’s University, 1998

Previous appointments: State University of New York at Old Westbury, and Molloy College. Research interests: secondary analyses of large databases; mathematics achievement; and instructional technology/asynchronous learning.

Vanessa Yvette Pérez Rosario  
Assistant Professor, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies  
Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 2006


James Alan Pletcher  
Lecturer, Classics  
Ph.D., University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 1997

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College and University of St. Andrews. Research interests: the ancient Greek novel; tragic and comic traditions; theories of reading and interpretation from the classical to the modern world.

Tanya Pollard  
Associate Professor, English  
Ph.D., Yale University, 1999

Previous appointments: Montclair State University and Macalester College. Research interests: Shakespeare; early modern drama; Greek drama; genre theory; theater in performance; literature and science; history of medicine and science.

Michael J. Rawson  
Assistant Professor, History  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2005

Previous appointment: Stanford University. Research interests: United States social and cultural history; environmental history; urban history.

Abraham D. Reich  
Lecturer, Economics  
M.S.E.E., Polytechnic Institute of New York, 1976

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College and Seton Hall University. Research interests: operations management; digital engineering.
Penny S. Repetti  
Lecturer, Philosophy  
M.A., Brooklyn College, 1990


Marie Rutkoski  
Assistant Professor, English  
Ph.D., Harvard University, 2006

Previous appointment: Harvard University. Research interests: Shakespeare; Continental medieval and Renaissance literature; childhood in Western literature; magic realism.

Delida Sanchez-Page  
Assistant Professor, Education  
Ph.D., Teachers College, Columbia University, 2002

Previous appointments: Baruch College, Pace University, and Colorado College. Research interests: racial and cultural identity development among populations of color; cross-cultural psychology; consultation and outreach.

Stanley Sauber  
Lecturer, Economics  
C.P.A., New York State, 1972


Douglas Schwab  
Assistant Professor, Art  
M.F.A., Brooklyn College, 2003

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College, Pratt Institute, and Adelphi University. Photographer; schooled in both the practical and artistic dimensions of the profession; his work has focused in part on photo portraiture and historical photographic processes.

Karl Steel  
Assistant Professor, English  
Ph.D., Columbia University, 2007

Previous appointments: Columbia University, Barnard College, and Western Washington University. Research interests: medieval literature; medieval intellectual history; posthumanism.
Barbara Studamire  
Visiting Professor, Biology  
Ph.D., Cornell University, 2001

Previous appointments: Cornell University and, as a postdoctoral research scientist, Columbia University. Research interests: genetics and retroviral integration; experiments with the most commonly used retroviral vector in gene therapy (the MoMLV virus) to probe integration target site selection for leukemia and HIV-1 viruses.

Sheila Tejada  
Visiting Professor, Computer and Information Science  
Ph.D., University of Southern California at Los Angeles, 2002

Previous appointments: Tulane University and University of New Orleans. Research interests: artificial intelligence (machine learning, intelligent information agents); robotics (human-robot teams, human-robot interfaces); and databases (data mining, data cleansing, information integration). The project founder, in 2000, and current adviser for Gamebots, which provides virtual environments for artificial intelligence research, at the USC/Information Sciences Institute.

Christine Vitrano  
Assistant Professor, Philosophy  
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2005

Previous appointments: Mount Sinai School of Medicine and City College of New York. Research interests: the concept of happiness in ethical thought; bioethics.