Letter from the Provost

The start of the new academic year is always a period of great excitement as our campus seems to explode in a sea of new faces and energies. This year is an especially exhilarating time as thirty-nine new faculty members join the Brooklyn College community. These faculty will begin to assume the mantle of innovative teaching, exceptional scholarship, and dedicated service.

It is the purpose of this guide to introduce our new colleagues to you and to each other. Many have earned their degrees at the world’s most esteemed institutions. Their presence enriches not only our campus community but the greater Brooklyn community, at a time when the borough is undergoing an enormous period of renaissance. Over half of our full-time faculty has been appointed since 2000, enriching this vibrant community of scholars.

This guide is available both in print and online. It will assist all members of the College in identifying those with similar interests and others on totally different academic journeys.

I am delighted to welcome our new colleagues to this special institution, Brooklyn College. May their experiences here always be rewarding and fruitful.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Tramontano
Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs
Jeanne M. Angus  
Assistant Professor, Education  
Ph.D., New York University, 2007  

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College; Hunter College; and Teachers College, Columbia University. Research interest: issues in elementary, middle school, and high school education for children with Asperger’s syndrome and related disorders.

Isabelle Barriere  
Assistant Professor, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences  
Ph.D., Birkbeck College, University of London, 2001  

Previous appointments: Touro College Graduate School of Education and Psychology; Johns Hopkins University; and University of Hertfordshire, England. Research interests: the acquisition of language (British Sign Language, English, French, Yiddish); bilingual development; early literacy, typical and impaired development; intervention and the link between theoretical research, education policies, and clinical interventions.

Toby H. Birnbaum  
Assistant Professor, Economics  
J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 1994  

Attorney: affiliated with various law firms, most recently with Lee M. Nigen & Associates and with Behar & Heaney, both in New York City. Research interests: commercial litigation, mediation, real estate, landlord-tenant, and family law.
Naomi Braine
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2000

Previous appointments: Barnard College; Hunter College; and, as deputy director, Social Theory Core, at the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI). Research interests: public health; social policy; organizations and work; gender and sexuality; research methods.

Brett F. Branco
Assistant Professor, Geology
Associate Director, Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC)
Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2007

Previous appointment: NSF research fellow, The University of Western Australia. Research interests: coupling between physical transport and biogeochemical reactions in aqueous environments; controls on and rates of sediment-water interactions; hydrodynamic interactions and mass fluxes associated with aquatic vegetation.

Tamara Mose Brown
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2008

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College and Hunter College. Research interests: race and ethnic relations; ethnographic research methods; urban sociology; community research.
Chia-ju Chang
Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures
Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2004

Previous appointments: Washington and Lee University, Trinity University, and University of Florida at Gainesville. Research interests: contemporary Chinese and Taiwanese literature and film; ecocriticism, feminism, and postcolonial studies; Buddhist environmental ethics.

Sarah J. Christman
Assistant Professor, Film
M.F.A., Temple University, 2006

Previous appointment: Temple University. Filmmaker: director of documentary and experimental films focusing on the personal and cultural impact of media and technology; post-production work in television and independent film.

Anthony E. Clement
Assistant Professor, Mathematics
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2006

Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interest: group theory (with emphasis on combinatorial group theory).
Eliza A. Dragowski  
Assistant Professor, Education  
Ph.D., New York University, 2006  

Ken Estey  
Assistant Professor, Political Science  
Coordinator, Studies in Religion Program  
Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary, 1998  
Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interests: religion and labor; religion and American political thought and theory; community power and politics.

Jason Frydman  
Assistant Professor, English  
Ph.D., Columbia University, 2008  
Previous appointment: Columbia University. Research interests: twentieth-century Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora literature; aesthetics of the African Diaspora; migratory labor and literature; oral and performative traditions.
Brian R. Gibney  
Associate Professor, Chemistry  
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1994

Previous appointment: Columbia University. Research interests: metalloprotein design; bioinorganic chemistry; biophysics.

Nicolas Giovambattista  
Associate Professor, Physics  
Ph.D., Boston University, 2004

Previous appointment: postdoctoral research associate, Princeton University. Research interests: thermodynamics and statistical mechanics of complex fluids and of nanoscale particle systems; glasses, glass transition, and polyamorphism; self-assembly of nanoscale systems; computer simulation studies.

Christian Grov  
Assistant Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences  
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2007

Previous appointments: Hunter College and, as postdoctoral fellow, at the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI). Research interests: HIV/AIDS transmission and control; drug and alcohol use and abuse; human sexuality (including health issues among sexual minorities).
Amy Hempel
Professor, English
Coordinator, M.F.A. Fiction Program

Previous appointments: Princeton University; Sarah Lawrence College; Bennington College; Duke University (Visiting Blackburn Professor in Creative Writing), and Washington University, Saint Louis (Fannie Hurst Visiting Professor).

Author: four collections of short stories, first published in one volume in 2006 (finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and named by the New York Times as one of the Ten Best Books of the Year). Articles, essays, and short stories for various publications. Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2000 and, in 2006, the Harold D.Vursell Memorial Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Yong-gang Huang
Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures
D.A., St. John’s University, 2000

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College, Drexel University, and St. John’s University. Research interests: Chinese intellectual history and Chinese literature.

Amy E. Ikui
Assistant Professor, Biology
Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 2003

Previous appointment: postdoctoral fellow, The Rockefeller University. Research interest: yeast cell cycle and cancer biology, emphasizing the molecular function of Cyclin/CDK complex.
Natalie A. Kacinik  
Assistant Professor, Psychology  
Ph.D., University of California, Riverside, 2003

Previous appointment: postdoctoral researcher and lecturer, University of California, Davis. Research interest: psycholinguistics, the cognitive and neural processes that underlie language comprehension and the representation of meaning, with an emphasis on higher levels of language (sentences, discourse, figurative expressions, and pragmatics).

Rosamond S. King  
Assistant Professor, English  
Ph.D., New York University, 2001

Previous appointments: Long Island University and, as postdoctoral fellow, University of Chicago and Rutgers University. Research interests: sexuality studies; Caribbean literature; African literature; carnival studies; performance studies; contemporary art.

Sandra Kingan  
Assistant Professor, Mathematics  
Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 1994

Previous appointments: Rutgers University and Pennsylvania State University. Research interest: discrete structures, such as graphs, matroids, lattices, codes, designs, and finite geometries and their applications.
Jack Lachman
Assistant Professor, Economics
M.B.A., Finance, Long Island University, 1973;
C.P.A., New York State

Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interest:
accounting and finance of international markets.

Thomas A. Lewandowski
Associate Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences
Ph.D., University of Washington, 2000

Previous appointment: University of Washington. Research
interests: health effects of lead and mercury; biologically
based modeling; environmental epidemiology; reproductive
and developmental health hazards.

Tammy L. Lewis
Carol Zicklin Endowed Chair in the Honors Academy, Sociology
Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 1996

Previous appointments: Muhlenberg College; Denison
University; and University of California, Davis. Research
interests: sociological issues in environmental, conservation,
sustainability, and globalization studies.
Emily A. Moss
Assistant Professor, Music
D.A., University of Northern Colorado, 2007

Previous appointment: University of Northern Colorado.
Research interests: music education; wind conducting; wind chamber music.

Barbara E. O’Neill
Assistant Professor, Education
Ed.D., Teachers College, Columbia University, 2008

Previous appointment: Teachers College, Columbia University.
Research interest: the role of creative drama in fostering inclusive educational environments for young children.

Ursula Oppens
Distinguished Professor, Music
M.S., The Juilliard School, 1967

Previous appointments: Northwestern University (John Evans Distinguished Professor of Music), and faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center. Concert pianist: solo appearances with almost all of the major orchestras, performing at halls and festivals throughout the world. Two Grammy nominations for her recordings. Co-founder of Speculum Musicae and member of the board of directors of the Naumburg Foundation, the Koussevitsky Music Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Concert Artists Guild. Winner of the Busoni International Piano Competition, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a Record World Award, among others.
Laura C. Reigada  
Assistant Professor, Psychology  
Ph.D., Hofstra University, 2006

Previous appointment: postdoctoral research fellow, New York University, Child Study Center and School of Medicine. Research interests: anxiety and depression; treatment of chronically ill youth; evidence-based treatments; cognitive processes in treatment change.

Clifford Rouder  
Assistant Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences  
Director, Undergraduate Program in Nutrition  
Ed.D., Columbia University, 2001

Previous appointments: Brooklyn College; Saint Louis University, Missouri; and Long Island University, Brookville, New York. Research interest: implementation and evaluation of nutrition education interventions to improve access to locally grown, affordable, culturally appropriate, and sustainably produced foods for community residents, especially for those with limited resources.

Anjana Saxena  
Assistant Professor, Biology  
Ph.D., University of Mumbai, India, 1996

Previous appointments: New York University Langone Medical Center and, as postdoctoral fellow, Columbia University. Research interests: checkpoint-tumor suppressor signaling and the cell cycle regulators of therapeutic values, with the major focus on p53/p14ARF pathway regulation by Nucleolin.
Teresa Snider-Stein  
Assistant Professor, Theater  
M.F.A., Yale University, 1988  

Costume designer: Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theater productions; film and television productions. Research interests: costume design for stage, film, and television, with special attention to technological advances in the field; artistic collaboration and cross-cultural productions, with a special interest in Asian culture; alternative hands-on learning tied to language, writing, and verbal skills via art and design settings.

Justin D. Steinberg  
Assistant Professor, Philosophy  
Ph.D., Boston University, 2007  

Previous appointments: Colby College and The College of Wooster. Research interests: early modern philosophy; political philosophy.

Karen B. Stern  
Assistant Professor, History  
Ph.D., Brown University, 2006  

Previous appointments: Dartmouth College and University of Southern California. Research interests: religion and culture of Jewish populations in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean; history, religion, art, and archaeology of Roman North Africa, Syria, and Italy.
Barbara Studamire  
Assistant Professor, Biology  
Ph.D., Cornell University, 2001

Previous appointments: Cornell University; Columbia University, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Department, as postdoctoral research scientist. Research interests: genetics and retroviral integration: a major ongoing research project involves 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.

Sophia N. Suarez  
Assistant Professor, Physics  
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2004

Previous appointments: Howard University and, as a research associate, National Research Council (NRC). Research interest: ionic transport properties in fuel cell and battery electrolytes.

Laura L. Tesman  
Assistant Professor, Theater  
Ph.D., University of Colorado, 2001

Previous appointment: University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Research interests: modern and contemporary theater; women in theater; collaborative and interdisciplinary performance; Shakespeare; directing, acting, and dramaturgy credits.
Jason J. Thompson
Assistant Professor, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences
Ph.D., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2008

Previous appointment: University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Research interest: strategic interaction within families and personal relationships: compliance-gaining communication, communicating social support, adviser-advisee communication, communication in ethnic minority families, privacy-management communication.

Chun Wang
Assistant Professor, Economics
Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 2008

Previous appointment: University of California, Davis.
Research interests: applied macroeconomics; time series econometrics; monetary economics.
Christian Warren
Associate Professor, History
Ph.D., Brandeis University, 1997

Previous appointments: as academy historian, New York Academy of Medicine, and Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. Research interests: social history of medicine and public health in the United States; historical dimensions of environmental health.

Puisan Wong
Assistant Professor, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2008

Previous appointment: Guild for Exceptional Children, Early Childhood Educational Center, Brooklyn. Research interests: speech perception and production in native and non-native speakers; speech and language development in children.