New Faculty

2021 ~ 2022

Seton Hall University

What Great Minds Can Do
Welcome from the Provost

I joined the Seton Hall family just one year ago, and, like you are now, I was eager to learn more about this great University. Although we had to learn so mostly online, with limited opportunities for the face-to-face interaction that we have today, I took away three valuable lessons from the past year.

First, Seton Hall is a family. Today, faculty convocation officially welcomes each of you into our family.

Second, Seton Hall always moves forward. Our motto, "Hazard Zet Forward" means "Despite hazards, move forward." As one would expect, Seton Hall moved forward during the pandemic, launching a new strategic plan and many new initiatives that will propel the University to the next level. And, we were able to do so because everyone came together - the faculty, the staff, and the students - understanding that we had to make sacrifices and practice our best behavior to stay together, safe, and healthy. Those collective sacrifices and forward-thinking led us to be able to welcome these new faculty members despite the pandemic.

Finally, Seton Hall provides an education for the Mind, the Heart, and the Spirit. Our great minds, our professors, partner with other great minds in our campus ministry, our staff and administrators, and our priest community to teach our students how to think and make decisions. You will touch the hearts of students as you inculcate values such as service and social justice. Pursuing this calling as a professor will feed your spirit because our Catholic and inclusive faith tradition permeates every aspect of our campus life, welcoming diverse thought and inviting contribution to our one University.

Sincerely,

Katia Passerini, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
The College of Arts and Sciences
Shajina Anand, Ph.D.
Mathematics & Computer Science

Dr. Shajina Anand has over 10 years of multi-faceted experience, cutting across industry, academics, and have played roles as programmer, lecturer, researcher, and mentor for students. She holds a PhD from Anna University, India in authentication in cloud computing. She has published over 15 International journals and conferences including IEEE, Elsevier, and springer.

Dr. Anand’s research interest is cybersecurity trends such as autonomous vehicle security issues and cloud computing. She has been teaching at Seton Hall for last year on Functional programming - Dr Racket. Prior to that she was teaching at TCNJ, where she handled courses on Software engineering, Programming languages - Java, C++, Operating system, Data structures etc.

Felipe Lopez, Ph.D.
Political Science

Felipe H. Lopez is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs and the Program in Latin American and Latino/a Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall.

Originally from the Zapotec town of San Lucas Quiavini in Oaxaca, Mexico, he obtained his Ph.D. at UCLA in 2007 at the department of urban planning and regional development. He researches on transnational development, with special focus on Indigenous issues in both Mexico and the United States. He also writes poetry and short stories in his native language. Dr. Lopez’s work can be found in Latin American Literary Review, The Acentos Review, and Latin American Literature Today. His Zapotec short story Liaza Chaa “I am going Home“ was awarded the 2017 Premios CaSa prize, an annual competition for the creation of literature in Zapotec, and was published in Latin American Literature Today.
Maureen Coyle, Ph.D.
Psychology

Dr. Maureen Coyle is a visiting assistant professor in the Psychology department at Seton Hall University. She graduated from the Basic & Applied Social Psychology program at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Dr. Coyle’s research focuses on how computer-mediated communication affects impression formation and relationship development. She aims to determine the extent to which ambiguity in computer-mediated communication disrupts interpersonal connections and how individuals attempt to reduce ambiguity. She has conducted several online and laboratory studies that examine how emoji use in iMessage conversations affects perception of novel interaction partners. In addition, Dr. Coyle has studied ghosting in online dating and how it affects future perception and pursuit of potential partners.

Kristen Stives, Ph.D.
Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work & Criminal Justice

Dr. Kristen Stives joins the faculty in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at Seton Hall University this Fall. She completed her MS and PhD in Sociology, with a concentration in Criminology, at Mississippi State University. Her research and teaching interests focus on criminology, deviance, bullying, and corrections. Her current research examines parent’s perceptions of bullying behavior and definitions of bullying. Her research has appeared in scholarly works such as Journal of Criminal Justice Education, Educational Studies, Youth & Society, and Criminal Justice Policy Review.
Marylynn Snyder, Ph.D.
Biology
Dr. Marylynn Snyder received a B.S. degree from Felician University in conjunction with Rutgers-School of Health Professions in Clinical Laboratory Sciences/Medical Technology. Her graduate work was completed at Rutgers-Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Dr. Snyder’s thesis research focused on eukaryotic DNA replication. After receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Snyder received a postdoctoral fellowship from Cornell University-Weill Cornell Medical College.

Her postdoctoral research focused on breast cancer metastasis and stem cell differentiation. Following postdoctoral training, Dr. Snyder accepted a research faculty position at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School where she researched molecular mechanisms that contribute to malaria pathogenesis and liver infection. Prior to coming to Seton Hall University, Dr. Snyder was an Assistant Professor at Felician University and Touro College.

Mitch Sitnick, Ph.D.
Biology
Dr. Mitchell Sitnick received his Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology from the University of California, Davis where he focused on the molecular signaling involved in the regulation of skeletal muscle function during aging and obesity. He then did his post-doctoral research investigating the contribution of altered lipid metabolism towards the onset of disease. His research looks at the changes in molecular pathways during aging, obesity, and exercise.

In the classroom, Dr. Sitnick teaches a variety of courses centered about molecular biology and physiology. His goal is to create lifelong learners who can ask questions and apply their knowledge to seek answers.
The College of Education
and Human Services
Dr. Paul Garton is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods in the Educational Leadership, Management, and Policy department.

Prior to working at Seton Hall, Paul was an Assessment Program Coordinator at the University of South Carolina. Paul completed a PhD in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education at Michigan State University in 2020.

His research focuses on higher education and economic development, particularly urban development, often using a comparative lens.

M. Cristina Cruza-Guet is a new Assistant Professor in the Professional Counseling and Family Therapy Programs, where she has been teaching as adjunct faculty since the Fall of 2019. She received her master’s and doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Lehigh University. She completed her clinical pre-doctoral internship at the University of Pennsylvania and upon graduation, became a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University’s School of Medicine. Dr. Cruza-Guet’s research focuses on the relationship between informal and paraprofessional social support systems and psychological wellbeing, particularly among Latinx populations. She is interested in the development of recovery-oriented and community-based peer-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Dr. Cruza-Guet is an American Psychological Association (APA) Minority Fellow (MFP Program) and has served as a member of the APA Committee on Early Career Psychologist and APAGS Committed on Ethnic Minority Affairs.
Manuel Gonzalez, Ph.D.
ELMP

Dr. Gonzalez earned his Ph.D. in industrial-organizational (I-O) psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His research revolves around two broad aspects about work: (1) How emotions (felt or expressed) influence various social and organizational processes. (2) Fairness and ethics, with a recent focus on issues that emerge when implementing technologies such as those utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

In addition to these two areas, Dr. Gonzalez’s research occasionally branches out to additional topics relevant to work, such as personality, distractions, engagement and burnout. His research has been published in various outlets, such as Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, Personnel Assessments & Decisions, and Emotion Review, and has received coverage in media outlets such as Forbes, Wall Street Journal, and Scientific American.

Through his research and training as an I-O psychologist, Dr. Gonzalez has a strong foundation in an array of organizational topics (e.g., leadership, training and development, personnel selection, occupational health and well-being), and in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Outside of his work, Dr. Gonzalez is also a loving husband and father, pun enthusiast, metal head, and caretaker of two endearingly unintelligent cats.
Nora Roan, DNP, RN, APN
Graduate Programs
Advanced Practice Nurse in Child, Adolescent and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with over 40 years of experience in the field.

Extensive clinical experience in multiple psychiatric settings including hospitalized adult psychiatric patients with serious behavioral health problems, substance use disorders, psychiatric consultation liaison psychiatry, intensive outpatient setting and emergency crises intervention.

Nora has past private psychiatric practice with adults and adolescents. Currently she maintains clinical practice in an acute care behavioral health hospital. In the past, Nora has worked as an adjunct with psychiatric nursing affiliations and graduate psychiatric nursing preceptorship.
The School of Health and Medical Sciences
Jessica Dunn, PT, DPT, GCS
Physical Therapy

Jessica Dunn, joins us as a physical therapist with 21 years of experience in the post-acute environment, Dr. Dunn has been a leader and advocate for the Genesis Rehab Services (GRS) student program since 2009. Jessica has been instrumental in creating a vision and structure for the program in the ever-changing post-acute environment. Not only has she developed several resources to support clinical instructors with student orientation and supervisory responsibilities, she has also put systems in place to ensure an organized, challenging and fulfilling student education experience. In addition, she has personally guided countless clinical instructors and students work through supervisory and/or performance challenges during the experience. Jessica has been instrumental in facilitating clinical education placements for a number of SHMS students across the professions.

When Jessica is treating patients, her expertise and passion are ignited by working with individuals with multiple medical complexities.

Jessica received her Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy in 2000 and Master of Science at Northeastern University in 2001. She furthered her studies at Arcadia University and received her Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in 2010. In 2012, she became a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Geriatrics with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

Julia Guzmán, Ed.D, OTD, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy

Julia M. Guzmán, was formerly a faculty member in the Master of Occupational Therapy program at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. She was previously employed as an assistant professor and assistant director at Rutgers University-Newark Therapy Services faculty practice where she supervised a team of clinical instructors of school-based occupational therapy. She also taught in the occupational therapy assistant program at Rutgers-Biomedical and Health Sciences, School of Health-Related Professions. Dr. Guzmán holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) degree in Movement Science and Occupational Therapy from Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. She received a clinical doctorate in occupational therapy (OTD) and an advanced post-professional pediatric certificate from Misericordia University, Pennsylvania. She previously earned a master’s degree from Dominican College of Blauvelt and a bachelor’s degree from Kean University of New Jersey.

Julia serves in two national occupational therapy committees. She was appointed as a member of the select National Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and is currently a team leader in the Roster of Fellowship Reviewers for the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Fellowship Program. Dr. Guzmán uses quantitative methods including classical test theory and Rasch methods to explore emergent areas of occupational therapy practice such as instrument development and validation, community-based learning, and telehealth practice. She has served as a research mentor for several student projects and has published research in pediatric movement disorders, learning disabilities and resilience and continues her work on future research and manuscripts. Julia is a member of review boards for several occupational therapy journals. She has presented multiple research projects at the State, national and international levels.
Immaculate Conception Seminary
School of Theology
Father Paul Tomczyk, Ph.D.
Formation Faculty at Immaculate Conception Seminary
Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology

Born to Krystyna and Andrzej Tomczyk in Szczecinek, Poland, Father Pawel Tomczyk has an older sister, Agnieszka. Father Pawel began his studies in 2009 at the Theological Institute of the Missionaries of St. Vincent in Krakow, Poland. After completing two years of undergraduate studies in philosophy, he immigrated to the United States to continue his formation to the priesthood.

He obtained a Master of Arts in Theology with distinction from SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI. During his stay in Michigan, Father Pawel discovered his interest in Christian ethics, which led him to the writing of his master’s thesis on the morality of lying. In Fall 2013, he was transferred to the Theological College Seminary in Washington, DC, where he completed his formation to the priesthood and earned his doctorate in moral theology two years later.

Father Pawel was ordained a priest on May 23, 2015, for the Diocese of Paterson. He currently serves on both the academic faculty and the formation faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and assists in the work of evangelization at St. Paul Inside the Walls, the Catholic Center for New Evangelization, in Madison, NJ.
Sara Gras, J.D., M.L.I.S.
Law School

Professor Gras is an Associate Professor, and Executive Director of the Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Law Library Center for Information & Technology. In her capacity as the Director of the Rodino Center, she oversees the day-to-day operations of the law library and IT, including budget, strategic planning, facilities, personnel, collections and archives, patron outreach, legal practice technology and educational technology programming, and legal research instruction and support. She teaches Technology for Evolving Legal Practice, and lectures on a variety of legal research topics. Professor Gras is an active member of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Prior to joining Seton Hall Law, Professor Gras was most recently the Acting Associate Dean of Law Library and IT Services at the University of the District of Columbia School of Law. She has held library positions at the Georgetown University Law Center and Brooklyn Law School and served as Law Librarian for the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She received her J.D. from Saint Louis University School of Law where she was the Managing Editor of the Saint Louis University Public Law Review. She received her M.L.I.S. from Queens College (CUNY).

Eugene D. Mazo, J.D., Ph.D.
Law School

Eugene D. Mazo is a nationally recognized scholar of election law who is currently a Visiting Professor of Law at Seton Hall. Professor Mazo’s research focuses on voting rights, redistricting, campaign finance, and the regulation of democracy, both in the United States and around the world. Professor Mazo’s books include THE BEST CANDIDATE: PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN POLARIZED TIMES (Cambridge University Press, 2020), DEMOCRACY BY THE PEOPLE: REFORMING CAMPAIGN FINANCE IN AMERICA (Cambridge University Press, 2018), and ELECTION LAW STORIES (Foundation Press, 2016). In 2020, Professor Mazo served as the Chair of the Section on Election Law at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), the scholarly organization that governs law schools in the United States. In his writings, Professor Mazo examines the laws that regulate our democracy and seeks to make them accessible to broad audiences.

He has taught at several universities throughout his career, including Baltimore, George Mason, Maryland, Rutgers, and Wake Forest. A graduate of Columbia College, Professor Mazo received his master’s degree from Harvard, a doctorate in politics from Oxford, and his law degree from Stanford. The son of immigrants, he was raised in Newark, New Jersey.
Michael Granne, J.D.
Law School

Professor Granne specializes in international litigation and arbitration and international business law. He has taught various international law and litigation-related courses, including Civil Procedure, International Business Transactions, International Law and International Litigation and Arbitration.

Professor Granne has had many years of practice experience, focusing on cross-border and general commercial litigation, international arbitration, and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) advice and investigations. He has represented foreign sovereigns and multinationals in a variety of disputes in U.S. courts, ranging from securities claims to breach of contract to enforcement of judicial and arbitral judgments. He clerked for the Honorable Walter K. Stapleton on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and is fluent in Italian and Portuguese and proficient in Cape Verden Crioulo and Spanish.
Matthew Bolin is the new Acquisitions and Metadata Librarian for Seton Hall Libraries. He received his Master of Information Studies (Library Science Concentration) from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information in 2006. He also received a Master of Arts in English from the Claremont Graduate School in 1997. Prior to coming to Seton Hall, Matthew was the Assistant Director for Acquisitions at the Research Library of the American Museum of Natural History for over a decade.
This brochure reflects all new faculty members at the time of publication.