New Faculty 2022-2023

Professor Jing Chen, Tenure Track, Assistant Professor, Nicolais School of Business
Before joining Wagner College, Dr. Chen had three years working experience at Texas A&M University Kingsville. She received her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of Texas at El Paso in August 2019, and Master in Management from KEDGE business school in 2016, and a Master in Economics from Tongji University in 2016. She enjoys teaching and researching the marketing field. Her research areas include and are not limited to: Artificial intelligence in marketing, Human-Technology Interface, and Sales. Her publications could be seen in International Journal of Bank Marketing, An International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Research, Journal of Personal Selling & Sales Management, and International Journal of Business Intelligence Research. She also holds the Educator of the Year Award from College of Business Administration at Texas A&M University Kingsville in 2022.

Professor Sajad Ebrahimi, Tenure Track, Assistant Professor, Nicolais School of Business
Dr. Sajad Ebrahimi has a Ph.D. in Transportation & Logistics with a focus in Supply Chain Management from North Dakota State University. He also holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. He has taught several courses in both undergraduate and graduate levels including Operations Management, Supply Chain Management, Operations Research, and Business Software Applications. In his research, Dr. Ebrahimi applies quantitative and qualitative approaches such as mathematical programming, statistics, and multi-criteria decision making to solve real-world business problems. His research has been published in journals such as Applied Energy and Research in Transportation Business and Management.

Professor Matthew Holben, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts
Professor Holben is a printer, designer, and artist from Lansing, Michigan. After earning a Plant Biology degree from Michigan State University, it was a keen interest in letterpress printing that pushed him towards a design degree at Wayne State University and an MFA in Graphic Design from the Maryland Institute College of Art. His process driven practice encompasses a variety of media, such as printmaking, book and publication design, and fibers.

Professor Alika Hope, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Performing Arts
Alika earned a B.A. in sociology from The University of Notre Dame with a minor in dance from St. Mary’s College. She received her M.A. in early childhood special education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Alika is a Certified Trauma Professional (CTP) and holds a certificate in Diversity & Inclusion from Cornell University. Alika was awarded a Gold Global Music Award for her most recent album, and she is the co-host of Perspective TV which airs on Fox in CT and CBS in MA. Alika’s research interests include community engagement and inclusion in the arts, particularly ways to use 21st century technology to increase in-person arts engagement in underserved communities.
Nicole LaMassa – Visiting Assistant Professor – Biology
Dr. Nicole LaMassa received her BS in Biology and Psychology from The City College of New York, MS in Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities from the College of Staten Island, and her PhD in Biology from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her research uses techniques in molecular cell biology and electron microscopy to investigate the role of cell adhesion molecules in neurodevelopment and synapse formation. Her teaching interests include cell biology, genetics, immunology, and neuroscience. She has been teaching and participating in research for over 8 years.

Professor Heyun Li-Ore, Tenure Track, Assistant Professor, Nicolais School of Business
Heyun Li-Ore, MBA, Assistant Professor of Accounting, is a Ph.D. candidate in Accounting at Baruch College — CUNY who conducts inter-disciplinary archival accounting research involving economics, law, and management. Her specific research interests include the economic consequences and externalities of disclosure-based regulations on capital market participants; roles that non-investor stakeholders play in shaping information environment; and corporate misconduct and regulatory enforcement. She holds an MBA from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, and a M.S. in Accounting from University from Maryland, College Park. Prior to joining Wagner, she audited clients at BDO, managed a portfolio totaling $50 million in an asset management company, and taught Accounting at Baruch College. In 2021, she was awarded the Mills Tannenbaum Research Excellence Award, as well as the Dean H. Fenwick Huss Teaching Award. In her free time, she enjoys playing sports, improv, and spending time with her family, friends, and her corgi.

Professor Karim Malak, Visiting Assistant Professor, History Department
Professor Malak is a historian of the Non-Western World with a focus on the modern Middle East. In 2022 he received his doctoral degree from Columbia University's Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies program. His teaching encompasses the colonial and postcolonial histories of Africa, the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East while his research focuses on governmental technologies of rule and their intersection with colonialism. His first book project looks at the history of governmental calculative technologies such as the census and is titled "Counting Colonialism: Calculation and the Anglo-Egyptian Colonial Encounter 1805-1954." His second book project looks at the history of colonial encounters at sea in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea area. Karim's research has appeared in the Review of African Political Economy and Comparative Studies of South Asian, African and Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr. Christopher Marra, Visiting Assistant Professor, Biology Department
Dr. Marra is a New York native having spent his life between Brooklyn and Staten Island. Dr. Marra’s family arrived from Naples Italy in the 1960s making him a second generation immigrant. He attended Susan E. Wagner High School and received his B.S. in Biology from the College of Staten Island in 2012 and his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Hunter college in 2020. An electrophysiologist by training, Dr. Marra’s research has been focused on studying altered voltage-gated sodium channel modulation and the implications therein including cardiac arrhythmia and epilepsy.

Dr. Susan Briffa-Mirabella, Visiting Assistant Professor, Biology Department
Dr. Briffa-Mirabella is a native of Brooklyn, NY. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in business administration from Fordham University, her master’s in Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities from CUNY College of Staten Island, and her PhD in Neuroscience from the CUNY Graduate Center. Dr. Briffa-Mirabella’s research investigates hypothyroxinemia’s effect on cortical cellular structure. Her teaching focuses in the areas of Anatomy & Physiology, Animal Behavior, and Neuroscience.
**David Pallister – Director - Occupational Therapy**

Professor Pallister is an alumnus of Wagner College and was appointed Director and Clinical Professor for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program in 2022. He has been an occupational therapist since 1995 and an occupational therapy educator for over 17 years. Professor Pallister’s clinical work focused mainly on adult and older adult rehabilitation, ergonomics and work wellness, and environmental modification. Professor Pallister’s scholarship interests lie in the areas of best practices for online occupational therapy education; practice-related legal, ethical, and policy issues; and the role of exercise as an occupation-based intervention. Teaching areas include neurological and orthopedic conditions, physical and cognitive disabilities intervention, kinesiology, ergonomics, leadership, administration and supervision, and clinical education.

**Dr. Michelle Romano – Tenure Track, Assistant Professor, Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing**

Dr. Romano is an alumni of Wagner College, Undergrad Nursing BSN, ’97 and Graduate Nurse Educator MSN, 2012. She received Doctorate from Teacher’s College, Columbia University, 2018; Doctoral research: Interprofessional Education. Dr. Romano received Post Masters Certificate in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner from Saint Peter’s University, 2020 and has been a Nurse Educator since 2009 with a specialty in Maternal Child and an Aesthetics Nurse since 2016. Her passion is to educate future nursing talent, explore interprofessional education opportunities between healthcare professional students, as well as helping clients achieve confidence through the practice of aesthetics.

**Professor Brian Sgambati, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Performing Arts**

Brian Sgambati- is a Teaching Artist, Director, and Actor. A proud alumnus of Wagner College, he has served as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Theatre and Speech since 2013. He is also an instructor at The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, where he teaches Voice and Speech. Wagner College directing credits include On the Twentieth Century, A Doll's House Part Two, and Or. Acting credits include the Broadway productions of The Merchant of Venice starring Al Pacino, King Lear with Christopher Plummer, and The Coast of Utopia trilogy, which won a record breaking 7 Tony Awards. National Tour: Frost/Nixon starring Stacey Keach. Off-Broadway work includes BAM, Soho Rep, Irish Rep, and Signature Theatre. Selected Regional:Long Wharf, Huntington, Goodman, and The Old Globe. Film and Television credits include the Emmy winning Bad Education starring Hugh Jackman, New Amsterdam, Bull, Unforgettable, Blue Bloods, and Law and Order.  Associate Artist, The Civilians. MFA: The University of California, San Diego.

**Danielle Walley, Clinical Professor, Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing**

Danielle has been a registered nurse of 20 years. She achieved her Master’s degree in Nursing Education and has been teaching nursing clinicals here at Wagner for the last 6 years. She specializes in Emergency, Intraoperative, Post-operative and Cardiac Nursing.

**Dr. Margaret Wilkins, Visiting Assistant Professor Government and Politics**

Dr. Margaret Wilkins earned her Ph.D. in Sport Administration from The University of New Mexico with a double minor in business and communication, her M.S. in Sport Administration, and her B.S. in Sport Management from Hampton University. Her primary research interests focus on the intersectional experiences of minorities and women within athletic administrations at HBCUs and Division I institutions and the economic impact analysis of Division I HBCUs for the neighboring communities, and the key multipliers within those sport environments.