

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

October 25, 2022

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

I want to start this email with praise for our Department Chairs. Chairs are the most influential people in the professional lives of faculty in their departments. Right now, our chairs are working through the reappointment, tenure and promotion process of full-time faculty members, they are fielding constant inquiries from students, faculty and administrators, and they are leading the search efforts for the many new faculty we are hiring. They are also doing their own work of teaching and research! So show your Chair some appreciation because they create the college we all work in.

I asked Chairs to share with me some of the great things our faculty are doing right now because I want to celebrate the many ways our faculty are rocking it. Rocking it? Yeah, I searched for a better phrase but decided to lean into my demographic (white woman in her 50s with a PhD) and let “rocking it” be both a serious and corny salute to the many achievement and contributions our faculty colleagues are making right now.

Who Is Rocking It?

Virginia Diaz-Mendoza, Assistant Professor of SEEK, is rocking it right now. Not only did she receive a BRESI grant, but she is serving as Pedagogical Co-Leader of the Transformative Learning in the Humanities initiative.

Alberto Gotay, Substitute Instructor of Health & Fitness, is creating new Health and Physical Education courses, showing up for Dept Meet & Greets to talk about the HPE minor to students, mentoring junior faculty and teaching boxing classes. He’s not just rocking it, he is socking it!

Ma’at Lewis, Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Services, is doing some heavy lifting for her department right now, serving on multiple search committees, developing online courses, mentoring faculty, and participating in/organizing undoing racism conversations. Ma’at – you are rocking it!

Cristina Lozano Argüelles, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages, gave the talk Bilingualism & Translation: Working Together for Social Justice at the SASP series From Justice talk to Justice Walks on October 12 at Moot Court. She rocked it.

1

Samantha Majic, Associate Professor of Political Science, is rocking it so hard. She has a forthcoming book on anti-trafficking politics from U of CA press and is currently working on a large, privately funded grant about sex workers. She continues as an editorial board member of multiple journals. Her department is so proud of her!

Professor of Sociology Andrew Karmen has been rocking it for years as a hardworking and steadfast Criminology Major Coordinator. Lately he has organized interesting and invigorating workshops with parttimers on job opportunities for students and analyzing the news. He's a jewel!

You know who rarely rocks it, because he is a Latin Jazz guy? Ben Lapidus, Professor of Music. Ben just published New York and the International Sound of Latin Music: 1940-1990. The book gives a vivid account of how musicians made and transmitted Spanish Caribbean popular music in NYC.

Lucia Velotti, Assistant Professor of Emergency Management is rocking it with a new book on COVID-19 in Italy: Social Behavior and Governmental Policies. The book draws on data surveys conducted in Italy during the transition between the first lockdown and staged reopening, examining people's risk perception and their willingness to trust the sources and channels of information that were available to them.

Adjunct Lecturer in Film & Videography, Tusia Dabrowska, was awarded the Winter Session Artist Residency at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center. Tusia will interrogate glasshouses as a form of media to create "Synthetic Garden," a video that combines original and synthetic (AI-generated) footage. She was also awarded a one-year BRIClab Video Art fellowship at the BRIC Arts Media in Brooklyn. During her fellowship, Tusia will train a machine learning model as part of work on a short film about immigrant belonging, contaminated future, and New York City. That rocks.

Hyunhee Park, Professor of History rocked a BRESI to create an interdisciplinary "Global Asian Studies" minor at John Jay, combining traditional regional Asian studies with Asian-American studies in the globalized world. On November 3, at 6:30 PM at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater, Prof. Park will co-host an educational theater performance event (an old Korean silent movie along with a reconstructed fun narration/music performance) with scholars from the Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. See you all there at that rocking performance.

Adam Wandt, Assistant Professor of Public Management and Marie Helen Maras, Associate Professor of SFEM, are a rock duo who have brought in a combined \$3.7 million in NIJ and BJA money to enhance John Jay's ability to train students to fight cybercrime.

Anru Lee, Associate Professor of Anthropology, while publishing, grant-writing and serving as deputy chair of the Anthropology Department, has also created two new courses, ANT 339 Asian American Identity and Struggles for Justice and ANT 229 Global Asian Pop Culture both of which were approved for John Jay's Gen Ed College Option and our Anthropology major. Her department thinks she truly an outstanding scholar and educator on all fronts! I think she is rocking it.

Adjunct Lecturer and HEO in Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration, Kim Taylor, came up with the idea to create a shared "sandbox" shell on Blackboard to share best practices from our faculty who teach CJBS 250. This initiative was created to improve our graduation rates and create a culture of peer-to-peer learning. That is truly rocking it!

So proud and thankful for the work of each of you and of those who appreciate you, your chairs.