

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Rocking It Edition

November 14, 2023

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

Close your eyes and imagine you can hear the opening guitar riff of Prince's When Doves Cry. Great, right? Well, that's what it's like to watch these amazing John Jay citizens in action. I asked you all to tell me who is rocking it and, like Carlos Santana and Jimmy Hendrix in a jam session, you did not disappoint. Here's who is rocking it lately.



Kuralay Zharmagambetova, Grants and Research Budget Analyst, OAR Recognized separately by both Katie Gentile and Debbie Koetzle, this is a sure sign that Kuralay is our hardest rocker this fall. She is responsive, proactive and solves problems for those navigating the complicated world of RF. And she's nice too? Rock on Kuralay!



Jerylle Kemp, Associate Director, Pre-Law Institute
Maxwell Mak says Jerylle is rocking it because she recruited new judges for the Judicial Internship Program, doubling the number available to work with students by fostering these relationships, and convincing them to join the Judicial Internship Program. Thanks rocker Jerylle!



Kathy Crawford, Interim Director of the Center for Careers and Professional Development and Associate Director of Academic Internships
Teammate Kristina Simonson says Kathy has stepped up as the CCPD searches for its next Director. She oversees one of the busiest units in the department but is also supporting everyone in the CCPD, ON TOP of being a Doctoral Student in Hunter's Ed.D. program. It sounds like this rocker has the grateful support of the band and they are all keeping a steady beat. Rock on CCPD!



Daniel Braslavsky, Study Abroad Coordinator

Starting his job as the pandemic hit, Daniel had to wait 2.5 years to work on international programs. Ken Yanes says Daniel has completely rocked the relaunch of our study abroad, revamping advising and marketing campaigns, helping students land lots of funding, and reviving the peer-advisor program. A global educator, an international scholar, and a John Jay alum, Daniel is a hard rocker.



Christopher Church, Senior Academic Advisor, Math & Computer Science
Christopher goes above and beyond in supporting and advising Computer Science students. Shweta Jain says that despite a personal loss at the beginning of the year, he is fully present for our students, advising them, and helping them stay on track for graduation. Keep rocking Christopher!



Debra (Debbie) Spivey, College Assistant, Technical Services, Library
Debbie's smile and laughter lighten everybody's day, says Maria Kiriakova. Debbie's main responsibility is processing new books, but she also skillfully repairs old ones. She knows many people who work all over the college by name and liaisons with them so the library's physical space gets good care. Stop by, talk to her, and you will immediately become her friend. Debbie is a rocker!



Wynne Ferdinand, Director of General Education and Educational Partnerships
Recognized by Stephen Russell, Wynne rocks so hard it could seem like she is using the phaser and the Wah pedal at once - from articulation agreements with two-year colleges to bridge programs for humanities transfer students, from general education assessment to the Lecturers' Consortium, Wynne has been an unrelenting initiative taker who has worked collaboratively across the college, thought creatively about student learning pathways, and shepherded many student-centered projects towards success. You are a rock star, Wynne Ferdinand!



Edgardo Sanabria-Valetín, PRISM Associate Director, Science Dept
No matter where he goes, Ed is always wheeling and dealing to secure more opportunities for our students to engage in internships, post-graduate programs, and graduate school. In addition to his many other day-to-day obligations, he just brokered a deal to open internship opportunities for science students at biotech start-ups through Life Science Cares. Anthony Carpi knows Ed rocks – so does John Jay!



Kyeanna Bailey, Director of Faculty Services
Maki Haberfeld says Kyeanna rocked how she helped new faculty learn the personnel process. She worked with them, made sure their materials were uploaded properly, and even offered to upload the materials herself. As Maki says, the process is critical to their future at John Jay so we all salute this hard rocking colleague and her partner in patience, Natalie Plaza (not pictured)!



The Apple Corps Team
Jennifer Hernandez-Khan, the band leader of one of our most exciting rock groups, Apple Corps, salutes their persistent excellence in helping the students who entered their program in 2019 to graduate at a John Jay high of 72.5% in four years or less. Friends, these people are John Jay rock legends!



Lisa Rodriguez, Operations Manager, Public Management
 David Shapiro knows that Lisa Rodriguez is the source of institutional knowledge and skill necessary for the Public Management department members' wellbeing. Changes in leadership have not adversely impacted her delivery of administrative services over the past many years. Lisa is that hard-hitting beat that keeps the band together.

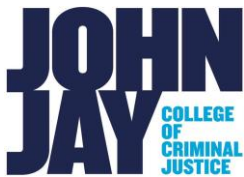


Maggie Arismendi, Associate Director of Curriculum and Educational Partnerships
 Not pictured at left, Maggie Arismendi coordinated the Transfer Explorer (T-REX) expansion project at John Jay over the last year. Wynne Ferdinand applauds how she coordinated course equivalency review for the college's largest transfer-serving majors and trained almost 100 staff and faculty in using T-REX, an interactive tool that improves students' ability to plan and navigate the transfer process. Drum solo!



Dr. Bryce Tolbert, Director of Academic Support and Learning Technologies, SAER
 Bryce started in the spring of 2022 and in less than two years has made his presence and leadership felt on campus. Sumaya Villanueva appreciates that he created a great team atmosphere with all the tutoring center leaders, and that student utilization of tutoring services is steadily increasing back to prepandemic rates. Student use of the Math and Science Resource Center has doubled! He has been a valuable member of the Emerging Leaders and My Brother's Keeper (MBK) programs on campus that focus on the academic success of young men of color. He has also partnered with administrators, faculty, and staff across the entire campus to make sure that Academic Support is understood as an asset rather than a deficit-based service to students. Even as he shredded the guitar on all of that, he completed his Ed.D in the Spring of 2023. Sir, you shred!

Allison Pease Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs



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