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Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President

Message from the Provost

The fall semester is fully underway as we enter October. In between powerful storms, campus has come to life with students and warm days of early autumn. I am grateful for all faculty and staff in making necessary adjustments to keep the community safe and healthy. Our protocols are working; the vaccination rate among students, faculty, and staff increased impressively over the past month. No doubt the challenges this fall have been many, but the resilience of spirit and acts of human kindness, large and small, that I witness every day have been heartening. Thank you for participating in NJCU's 40th Convocation on September 15. Our community came together to celebrate the start of the academic year in a formal tradition that remains embedded in our academic life. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Anthony Jack, inspired students, staff, and faculty with a talk on equity in higher education and the challenges faced by first-generation and lower income students. We greatly enjoyed his visit.

This month I want to highlight NJCU's launch into the American Council on Education (ACE) Learner Success Lab 20. NJCU will participate in a national cohort including CETYS University (Mexico), Clarke University, Florida International University, Lewis University, Rowan College at Burlington County, Southern University at Shreveport, and Washington State University Tri-Cities for an 18-month suite of Transformation Labs to advance evidence-based practice for persistence and completion and career exploration for our students. This is vital work for us, as it will help us increase retention and time-to-degree completion. This is a cross-divisional effort, being led by three co-chairs at NJCU – Dr. Gail Fernandez, Dr. Jason Martinek, and Ms. Veronica Garcia (SOAR). Under their leadership we will work through a structured planning process that will involve many individuals across campus, from faculty to student support services.

I would also like to announce that a search will begin this month for our new director of the Career Office at NJCU. We are excited to get this search underway and are looking forward to a new chapter of career and professional development opportunities and experiential learning for our students.

Please enjoy this month's *Academic Connections*. We look forward to your suggestions and submissions for future editions.

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F e l d f f U d e a n S a a

Todd Regn has over 25 years of project, personnel, and change management experience, including over 20 years of grant and contract administration experience. Todd has spent over 15 years protecting and facilitating the research interests, scholarly activities, and creative endeavors of universities, including 7 years directing a research administration office. The universities have included a predominantly undergraduate institution

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INITIATIVES

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Department of Online Learning

The Department of Online Learning offers NJCU faculty regularly scheduled training and faculty development sessions on various topics including: Pedagogical Best Practices, Effective use of Educational Technologies in online, blended, hyflex and web-enhanced courses. The schedule of these sessions is shared with faculty on a weekly basis by email (sent by the Provost's office) and posted to the "Fundamentals of Online Teaching" course in Blackboard. The Department of Online Learning has worked with the Information Technology Department to develop a Knowledge Base of frequently asked questions and resolutions for faculty and students. This resource is continuously updated and can be reviewed at <https://njcu.info/help/>. If faculty or students have any questions regarding the use of Blackboard, accessing the Fundamentals of Online Teaching course or are in need of any assistance in regards to pedagogical best practices, please contact: helpdesk@njcu.edu.

History

Dr. Jacob A. Zumoff, Assistant Professor of History, gave a virtual talk "The Red Thread: The Passaic Textile Strike," on September 9, under the auspices of the scholarly journal American Communist History, publication of the Historians of American Communism. The chair was Dr. Timothy Johnson (retired professor at NYU and journal editor) and the respondent was Dr. Norman Markowitz (Rutgers University).

Panel Discussion

Dr. Louise Stanton and NJCU alumna, Hana Katz (Class of 2021--in red dress), participated in a panel discussion on "The Role of Businesswomen in Building a Sustainable Green Economy" at the Turkish Mission to the United Nations during the UN General Assembly opening on September 21, 2021. The program, organized by the Turkish First Lady, Emine Erdoğan, brought together Turkish and American businesswomen and others to discuss initiatives to promote environmental and economic sustainability. NJCU's participation in the program was facilitated by our newest international partner, Istanbul Galata University.



Sociology and Anthropology

Dr. William Westerman was an invited speaker at the Symposium on Telling Migrant Stories at George Mason University in Arlington, Va. His talk was called "Challenging Colonial Paradigms in the Collection and Ethnographic Study of Immigrant Stories"

Art

Assistant Professor Deborah Jack has a retrospective exhibition of 20 years of work at Pen + Brush in New York City through January 29, 2022. <http://www.penandbrush.org/exhibitions/deborah-jack-20-years>

English

Professor James Broderick's novel, *The Last Words of James Joyce*, published by Addison & Highsmith, will be available February 8. Principal photography on the filming of his screenplay, *Holmestead*, was completed on October 2, and his off-off Broadway play, *The Hamlet Experience*, opens at the Teatro Lutea in Manhattan November 4. (Tickets are available at <https://innovationtickets.com/product/the-hamlet-experience/>).

History

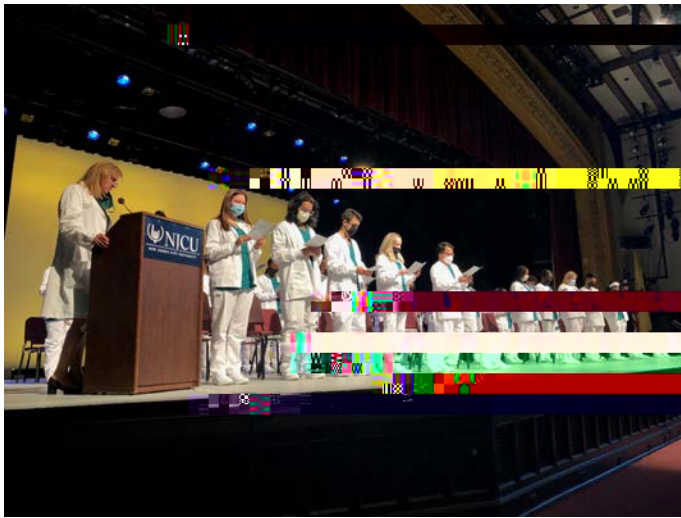
Dr. Jacob A. Zumoff, Assistant Professor of History, had his book *The Red Thread: The Passaic Textile Strike* published by Rutgers University Press. <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/bucknell/the-red-thread/9781978809895>

Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

SEPTEMBER RECAP

White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony took place in the Margaret Williams Theater on September 29th. Nearly 50 of the more than 60 nursing students participated.



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HOW TO SEND NEWS AND SUBMISSIONS