



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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## **UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH WELCOMES NEW FACULTY**

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Aug. 27, 2019) – The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) welcomed professors at the start of the 2019-20 academic school year.

“At the University of Saint Joseph, we take pride in the expert faculty who prepare our students for successful futures and who contribute to the advancement of scholarship in their fields,” said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. “We are excited to welcome these new faculty members and we look forward to watching our students thrive under their careful guidance throughout their degree programs at USJ.”

**Joshua Anderson**, Ph.D., assistant professor, joins the department of English this fall. Dr. Anderson earned his Ph.D. in English from The Ohio State University. He is an American literature scholar with expertise in contemporary multiethnic and Native American literatures. Prior to joining USJ, he taught at The Ohio State University and Columbus State Community College, and worked as the editorial assistant at *Western American Literature*, *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, and *Poetics Today*. His research explores the intersections of law, land, and literature in works by contemporary Native American writers, filmmakers, and comic book artists, with a particular focus on the relationships among land theft, resource exploitation, and missing and murdered Indigenous women, men, and Two Spirit peoples.

**Susan Budris**, M.S., visiting assistant professor, joins the department of Education/Special Education. Professor Budris earned her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Administration from Sacred Heart University and her Master of Science in Special Education from Central Connecticut State University. Prior to joining USJ, she was the director of Special Education and Pupil Services for the Bethel Public Schools. Professor Budris’ professional background includes over 30 years in the field of special education at the local, state, and federal level, including serving as the state leader at the Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.

**Ozlem Dilek**, Ph.D., assistant professor, joins the department of Chemistry. Dr. Dilek received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Chemistry from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. She obtained her Ph.D. in Chemistry/Chemical Biology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton. She completed her postdoctoral studies at Cornell University, later doing collaborative postdoc research at the University of North

Carolina-Chapel Hill and SUNY. Her research interests focused on the development of novel fluorescent chemical tools for fluorescent imaging of proteins inside living cells. She holds more than 15 journal publications, one U.S. patent, and peer-reviewed book chapters. Prior to joining USJ, Dr. Dilek was an assistant professor and program director of the Biochemistry program in Husson University's College of Science and Humanities. Dr. Dilek serves as a management committee member of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology and an ambassador of the American Society for Cell Biology.

**Sheila Garilli**, MSN, RN, instructor of Nursing, joins the department of Nursing this fall. Professor Garilli received her master's degree in Nursing from the University of Hartford. She is a registered nurse with a clinical background in the acute care hospital setting, focused in Emergency Nursing. Her research interests include nursing students connecting their classroom learning out in the community to give safe, competent, and nurturing care to their patients. Prior to joining USJ full time, she served as an adjunct faculty member at the institution. Professor Garilli is a first-generation college student and will be pursuing a doctorate degree in the near future.

**Isaac Gottesman**, Ph.D., associate professor, joined the department of Education/Special Education in July 2019. Prior to joining USJ, he was an associate professor and division head of Teaching, Learning, Leadership, and Policy in the School of Education at Iowa State University. As a historian of education, Dr. Gottesman focuses on the history of radical political and social thought that have shaped the field of education and other areas of study in the social sciences and humanities since the 1960s. Dr. Gottesman also studies the role of social foundations of education in teacher education. He received his Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Foundations of Education at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Rammi Hazzaa**, assistant professor, joins the department of Business Administration this fall. He is a sport management teacher and scholar with expertise in organizational behavior, human resource management, and corporate social responsibility. Prior to joining USJ, he was a graduate research assistant and instructor for the Sport Administration program at the University of Northern Colorado. His research broadly explores the intersection of positive psychology and human behavior for effectively managing sport organizations. He has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals and regularly presents his work at national conferences. Dr. Hazzaa is completing his Ph.D. in Sport Administration from the University of Northern Colorado.

**Ryan Kimball**, Ph.D., assistant professor, joins the department of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies this fall. Dr. Kimball received his Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA®) with expertise in the assessment and treatment of severe destructive behavior exhibited by neurotypical children and children diagnosed with intellectual or developmental disabilities. His primary research interests include increasing the feasibility and durability of applied behavior analytic interventions, as well as determining the causes of treatment relapse.

**Chelsea A. May**, PA-C, assistant professor, joined the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies in the summer of 2019. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Springfield College and started working in the Emergency Department at Holyoke

Medical Center upon graduation. Prior to joining USJ, Professor May worked in several clinical settings – most recently in Urgent Care for Baystate Health. Professor May has fostered a desire to teach throughout her career and believes that teaching is an inherent component of being a Physician Assistant, especially because patient education is one of the most important aspects of her job.

**Lauren Micalizzi**, Ph.D., assistant professor, joins the department of Psychology this fall. Dr. Micalizzi earned her doctorate in Psychology with a Developmental Science concentration from Boston University. Prior to joining USJ, she was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University. Her fellowship was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to receive specialized training in predictors of and contextual influences on trajectories of adolescent substance use in youth. Her research explores the genetic and environmental factors that contribute to individual differences in child and adolescent social-emotional, cognitive, and behavioral development.

**Karen M. Myrick**, DNP, associate professor, joins the department of Nursing this fall. Dr. Myrick earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Connecticut. She is a nurse practitioner with expertise in orthopedics and sports medicine. Prior to joining USJ, she was a tenured associate professor of Nursing with a Joint Appointment in the School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. Her research agenda includes a collaborative and interprofessional program of scholarship that focuses on orthopedic and sports injury prevention, management, and epidemiology, and best practices for injured athletes to return to, or obtain, optimal performance. Dr. Myrick has a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Methods, a Fellowship in Leadership for Academic Nursing Programs (LANP), and a Fellowship in Interprofessional Education.

**Kaydian Reid**, DrPh, assistant professor and director of the Master of Public Health program, joins the department of Nutrition and Public Health this fall. Dr. Reid received her Doctor of Public Health from the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY). She is a public health practitioner and scholar with expertise in evidence-based public health practice and research. Prior to joining USJ, she was a visiting assistant professor at Mercy College in New York and Presidential Health Disparities Doctoral Fellow at the University at Albany, SUNY. Her research explores minority health disparities and adolescent sexual and reproductive health, especially among Caribbean Black adolescents. Dr. Reid has co-authored and presented at regional and national conferences.

**Tiffany Tsai**, Pharm.D., assistant professor, joins the department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration this fall. Dr. Tsai earned her Pharm.D. from University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy. Prior to joining USJ, she completed her post-graduate year one (PGY-1) training at Veteran Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System in California and her PGY-2 training in ambulatory care at Oregon State University/Oregon Health & Science University, where she also completed a clinical fellowship in cardiology. Dr. Tsai is a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist with research interests in medication management and innovating teaching. Her professional experience includes diabetes management, cardiovascular risk reduction, and outpatient heart failure.

**Elisa Valenzuela**, Ph.D., assistant professor, joins the department of Business Administration this fall. Dr. Valenzuela holds a doctoral degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Valenzuela has over 18 years of experience in the field of consulting, industrial organizational psychology, strategic planning, and human resources. She has been involved with the challenges of leading and developing talent across cultures, including in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and the United States. Prior to joining USJ, she taught at Siena College, Elmira College, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, and Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez.

**Jennifer S. Violette**, MSPA, assistant professor, joined the department of Physician Assistant Studies in summer 2019. Professor Violette received her MSPA from Seton Hall University. She is a physician assistant with expertise in primary care and internal medicine. Prior to joining USJ, she was a physician assistant practicing in urgent care at ProHealth Physicians Express Care Centers in West Hartford and Bristol. Her research explores population health, process improvement, and optimization of the use of electronic health records. She holds the designation of Distinguished Fellow in the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

**Jeffrey White**, Ph.D., LMFT, visiting assistant professor and program director for Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT), joins USJ this fall. Dr. White received his Ph.D. in Couple and Family Therapy from Drexel University. Licensed to practice as a marriage and family therapist in Connecticut, Texas, and New York, Dr. White is an AAMFT Clinical Fellow, an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, a Certified Gottman Therapist, and a Gottman Master Trainer. Dr. White's professional background includes over 15 years in clinical settings in the United States and abroad. White has served in several key roles at higher education institutions, including Manhattan College, Texas A&M University – Central Texas, the Blanton-Peale Institute, and Iona College. He also serves as a member of the COAMFTE Eligibility Review Committee and as a COAMFTE Site Visitor.

For more information about USJ and its expert faculty, visit [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with opportunities for mentored research, community service, clinical field work, and internships. Programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph offers degrees with value and values. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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