PACE UNIVERSITY
Office of Research and Graduate Education

Innovative Solutions to Contemporary Challenges:
Scholarly Creativity in the Service of Humanity

Pace University Spring Research Conference
May 8, 2025

8:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

(Sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Education, the Office of the Provost, and the Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship)

To register for the conference, please click HERE

In a world increasingly shaped by complex global challenges—ranging from political turmoil and war to natural and human-made disasters—there is a pressing need for innovative and creative solutions. This conference will explore the vital role that science, art, and creativity play in addressing these challenges, with a focus on promoting justice and equity on a global scale.

Planning Committee Members (in alphabetical order):

David Paul Benjamin, PhD (Seidenberg, NYC), Anna Beskin, PhD (Office of Research and Graduate Education, NYC and Pleasantville), Sean Coughlin (Public Affairs, NYC), John Damiao, PhD (CHP, Pleasantville), Sally Dickerson, PhD (Dyson, NYC), Julia Eisenberg, PhD (Lubin, Pleasantville), Dan Farkas, PhD (Seidenberg, Pleasantville), Garrett FitzGerald, PhD (Dyson, NYC), Christopher Godfrey, PhD (Dyson, NYC), Paul Griffin (Dyson, Pleasantville), Maria Iacullo-Bird, PhD (Office of Research and Graduate Education; Dyson, NYC), Erica Johnson, PhD (Dyson, NYC), Adrienne Kapstein, PhD (Sands, NYC), Kelley Kreitz, PhD (Office of Provost; Dyson, NYC), Jessica Magaldi, JD (Lubin, NYC), Patrick McGuigan, DPS (Lubin, Pleasantville), Joshua Mendelsohn, PhD (CHP, NYC), Adrian Rivero (Wilson Center), Jason Slyer, PhD (College of Health Professions, Pleasantville), Sonia Suchday, PhD (Office of Research and Graduate Education, NYC and Pleasantville; Dyson, NYC), Rebecca Tekula, PhD (Office of Provost; Wilson Center; Dyson, NYC), Sharon Wexler, PhD (CHP, Pleasantville), Michele Zaccario, PhD (Dyson, NYC)

Conference Track Chairs:

Community Engagement Co-Chairs: Rebecca Tekula, PhD (Office of Provost; Wilson Center; Dyson, NYC) and Garrett FitzGerald, PhD (Dyson, NYC)

Health and Healthcare Innovations Co-Chairs: John Damiao, PhD (CHP, Pleasantville) and Joshua Mendelsohn, PhD (CHP, NYC)

Interdisciplinary Collaboration Chair: Erica Johnson, PhD (Dyson, NYC)

Pedagogy and Creativity Chair: Julia Eisenberg, PhD (Lubin, Pleasantville)

Technology and Humanity Chair: Jessica Magaldi, JD (Lubin, NYC)

Graduate Student Submission Chair: Christopher Godfrey, PhD (Dyson, NYC) and Sharon Wexler, PhD (CHP, Pleasantville)

Conference Timeline & Index:

<div align="center">

Breakfast & Opening Remarks

8:30 a.m.–9:50 a.m.

15 Beekman, Bianco Room

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Please join us for breakfast, connect with colleagues old and new, and settle in as we kick off the day with opening remarks and a preview of the exciting sessions ahead.

Advancing Undergraduate Education in Public Service and Nonprofit Studies: Our Role in Civic Education, Public Humanities, Experiential Learning, and the Future of Liberal Arts Education

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W205

Moderator: Garrett FitzGerald, PhD (Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Program, Dyson, NYC)

Presenters: Ric Kolenda, PhD (Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Chairperson, MPA, Dyson, NYC), Rebecca Tekula, PhD (Interim Associate Provost for External Engagement and Faculty Opportunity; Executive Director of the Wilson Center for Entrepreneurship; Professor of Public Administration, NYC), and Gina Scutelnicu-Todoran, PhD (Professor and Department Chairperson, MPA, NYC)

This panel explores the vital role of civic education in shaping the future of liberal arts education in the U.S. and beyond. Panelists will discuss the evolution of undergraduate public service and nonprofit studies, highlighting its connection to public humanities, experiential learning, and community engagement. We'll share successful fundraising strategies, including a recent $300,000 Teagle Foundation implementation grant and support for community-engaged research. The panel will showcase how civic education inspires student participation in civic life and transforms pedagogy and research into meaningful scholarly contributions.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Dementia: A Preliminary Review of the Literature/Call to Action

Location: 15 Beekman, Room 805

Moderator: Linda Carozza, PhD (Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC)

Presenters: Linda Carozza, PhD (Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), Elizabeth Carrano (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), Natasha Cruz (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), Alexa Damon (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), Hanin Khalil (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), Madison Lewis (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), Victoria Mauro (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC), and Kiara Medina (MS Student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Professions, NYC)

This presentation aims to analyze current evidence on the link between trauma and long-term brain changes, particularly its role in dementia development. It calls for health care providers to examine patient histories more thoroughly to enhance public information and therapeutic approaches. The review emphasizes the need for heightened awareness of trauma's impact on

brain health, urging earlier intervention before symptoms of dementia appear. By focusing on causative factors, this research aligns with global health initiatives to address dementia prevention and improve medical approaches for at-risk communities.

Creating Equitable Learning Environment: Disability-Inclusive Initiatives Across CHP

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W102 (Zannino Conference Room)

Moderator: Michele Lopez, DHEd, RN, CNE, CDE, CHES (Assistant Professor, Nurse Education, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville)

Presenters: Elizabeth Berro, PhD (Director (ABS) and Assistant Professor, Nurse Education, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville), Marie Lourdes Charles, EdD, RN-BC, FNYAM (Associate Professor, Nurse Education, College of Health Professions, NYC), John Damiao, PhD (Department Chair and Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville)

This panel features three presentations centered on promoting equity, inclusion, and diversity. This collaborative effort between the nursing and occupational therapy programs at Pace University's College of Health Professions (Pleasantville campus) will highlight the significant work that has been done—and continues to evolve—to create opportunities for students with disabilities in healthcare professions. The panel will provide valuable insights into ongoing initiatives and successful strategies that support the inclusion of students with disabilities in these fields.

Parenting Theory, Assessment, Programs, and Research

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W613

Moderator: Barbara A. Mowder, PhD (Psychology Professor and Director of the Parent-Child Institute, Psychology Department, Dyson, NYC)

Presenters: Barbara A. Mowder, PhD (Professor and Associate Chair, Psychology Department, Dyson, NYC), Trista Guan (PsyD Student, School-Clinical Child Psychology, Dyson, NYC), and Masha Voronchenko (PsyD Student, School-Clinical Child Psychology, Dyson, NYC)

The Parent-Child Institute (PCI) at Pace University has been researching parenting for well over a decade, focusing on how parents foster healthy child development. This presentation explores foundational work in parenting research, the development of parenting programs—including online workshops—and research on parenting young children during COVID-19. Emphasizing the importance of cultural and ethnic variations, the panel aims to share insights into how parents can better support their children's mental health and wellbeing, benefiting global communities.

AI, Education, and Society: Rethinking Learning and Digital Engagement in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center West

Moderator: Jessica Magaldi, J.D. (Professor, Lubin, NYC)

Presentation 1: Considering the Challenges of AI Technologies in Teacher Preparation

Presenters: Francine Falk-Ross, PhD (Professor and Chair, School of Education) and Peter McDermott, PhD (Professor, School of Education)

This presentation examines middle school teachers' perspectives on integrating AI into their instruction, particularly following the rapid adoption of digital tools during the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of ChatGPT in 2022. Using a teacher inquiry method, 40 K-12 graduate literacy teachers compared their own essays with AI-generated versions. Findings showed that 80% supported AI use, highlighting three key themes: lesson planning, differentiated instruction, and concerns about student AI use. The study underscores the need for continued exploration of AI's role in teacher preparation and classroom practice.

Presentation 2: Reimagining the High School Curriculum: Preparing Students for the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Presenter: Valerii Negodiaev, MPA

This presentation explores the urgent need for transforming high school education in the U.S. to better prepare students for an AI-driven world. It proposes a new curriculum that integrates AI to foster creativity, ethical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. By emphasizing real-world case studies and applied knowledge, this approach aims to develop analytical, critical-thinking, and social competencies. Additionally, it redefines the role of instructors to enhance their impact. This study offers concrete strategies for equipping students with the skills necessary for ethical innovation and responsible AI integration.

Presentation 3: Bridging The Digital Divide: An Analysis of Online Engagement Activities in Older Adults During and After the Covid-19 Pandemic

Presenter: Fredy Cardozo

This study examines how the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped digital engagement among middle-aged and older adults, highlighting key factors driving their online activity. It explores patterns of digital adoption in areas such as telehealth, online banking, and e-commerce, emphasizing the role of smartphone use in facilitating daily interactions. The research also identifies barriers and facilitators influencing technology adoption in this demographic. By understanding older adults' digital behaviors, the study offers insights into designing accessible, user-friendly technology and online services to better meet their needs.

From Drills to Pills: Training Speech-Language Pathology Students in Pharmacology

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center East

Moderator: Erica Johnson, PhD (Professor and Associate Chairperson, English, Dyson, NYC)

Presenters: Ellayne S. Ganzfried M.S., CCC-SLP, FASHA, FNAP (Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Speech, Language, and Hearing Center and Office of Interprofessional Education and

Collaborative Practice, College of Health Professions, NYC), Chris Hanley, PharmD, FNYAM (Adjunct Professor, Nurse Education, College of Health Professions, NYC), Cindy Paradiso, PhD (Assistant Professor, Nurse Education, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville)

This panel examines the role of interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) in enhancing healthcare outcomes and patient safety across various settings, including clinical, school, and home care. Despite its importance, IPECP training is often lacking, particularly in bridging disciplines such as pharmacy, nursing, and speech-language pathology (SLP). This quasi-experimental study explores the impact of a pharmacology education module for SLP students, delivered by a Doctor of Pharmacy and a nursing professor. The module covers medications affecting speech, hearing, swallowing, and cognition, aiming to improve patient safety, collaboration, and clinical decision-making in medically complex cases.

From Pixels to Fashion: Generative AI's Impact on Fashion and the Runway

Location: Bianco Reception, 15 Beekman

Presenters: Christelle Scharff, PhD (Professor and Director of Artificial Intelligence Lab, Seidenberg, NYC), Gisele Faye (ESMT, Senegal), Riya Golani (Graduate Student and Graduate Research Assistant, Seidenberg School of CSIS, NYC), Rohan Niranjan Kalpavruksha (Graduate Student and Graduate Research Assistant, Seidenberg, NYC), Kseniya Liavitskaya (BS Student, Computer Science, Seidenberg, NYC), and Stephanie Sicilian (Graduate Student, Seidenberg, NYC)

Wax prints are vibrant textiles widely worn across Africa, known for their intricate, repeating geometric patterns and symbolic meanings. This project explored generating African wax patterns using StyleGAN2-ADA and Stable Diffusion, based on a curated dataset of 2,000 high-resolution images created with DALL·E 2. We evaluated pattern quality using Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) and expert reviews. In collaboration with African designers and artisans, we transformed select AI-generated designs into accessories and apparel. We propose exhibiting these pieces at the Pace University Research Conference to highlight the fusion of tradition and technology.

<center>**11:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m.**</center>

Bridging Healthcare Gaps Through Technological and Pedagogical Innovations

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W102 (Zannino Conference Room)

Moderator: John Damiao, PhD (Department Chair and Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville)

Presentation 1: Automated Diagnosis of Fluency Disorder Cluttering: Advancing Speech Diagnostics in Healthcare

Presenter: Gunjan Asrani, PhD (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Seidenberg, NYC)

This presentation introduces an innovative, AI-driven approach to diagnosing cluttering, a fluency disorder that affects communication. By combining audio processing, visibility graph analysis, and machine learning, the method significantly reduces diagnosis time from months to minutes. The system achieves 92.68% accuracy in classifying speech samples as cluttered or non-cluttered. This scalable, objective, and language-independent tool offers faster, more accurate diagnoses, supporting Speech-Language Pathologists and healthcare systems in providing timely interventions and improving access to care, aligning with health and healthcare innovations.

Presentation 2: Exploring Interprofessional Education and Collaboration in the Midst of COVID-19

Presenter: Tiffany Henley, PhD (Associate Professor, MPA, Dyson, NYC)

This presentation draws on research conducted in collaboration with Ana Amaya, DrPh (Associate Professor, College of Health Professions, NYC) and Kyomi Smith, PhD (Assistant Professor, College of Health Professions, NYC). It explores the role of interprofessional education and collaboration in emergent care during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic at a predominantly minority-serving hospital in New York City. Using data from two focus groups with healthcare workers and administrators, the study highlights how supportive work environments—characterized by knowledge sharing, open communication, and ongoing culturally competent training—can strengthen clinical practice and improve health outcomes in under-resourced and historically marginalized communities.

Presentation 3: Increasing Walker Use in Community Dwelling Older Adults Using a Novel Animatronic Pet

Presenters: Sharon Wexler, PhD (Department Chairperson and Professor, PhD in Nursing, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville) and Lin Drury, PhD (Professor, PhD in Nursing, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville)

This study evaluated the impact of the "Walker Squawker," an animatronic bird designed to encourage older adults to consistently use their walkers. By chirping and singing, the bird added an interactive element, aiming to promote safer ambulation and reduce stigmatization associated with walker use. Interviews with 30 community-dwelling older adults revealed a strong emotional attachment to the bird, though it did not directly increase walker use. The findings suggest further research with larger, more diverse samples to explore the potential benefits of this intervention.

Innovations and Awareness in Psychological and Emotional Wellbeing Across Cultures and Contexts

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W613

Moderator: Joshua Mendelsohn, PhD (Director and Associate Professor, Public Health, College of Health Professions, NYC)

Presentation 1: From Taboo to Talk: Using Neuroscience to Open Mental Health Conversations in Indian community.

Presenter: Nikita Krishnan, PhD (Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychology, Dyson, Pleasantville)

This presentation explores a neuroscience-based psychoeducational initiative aimed at addressing mental health stigma within Indian communities in the U.S. and India. Despite the high prevalence of mental health disorders, cultural beliefs linking mental illness to karma and weakness often hinder help-seeking behaviors. By framing mental health as a brain-based phenomenon, the initiative leverages trusted neuroscience to challenge stigma and promote understanding. The presentation demonstrates how this approach bridges cultural divides and offers a replicable model for improving mental health outcomes in these communities.

Presentation 2: Income Inequality in New York City (2019-2023)

Presenter: Reeya K. Ramdeen (MPA Student, Pace University)

This presentation examines how income inequality in New York City evolved before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the impacts of education, unemployment, and income. By analyzing secondary data, the research reveals that income disparities significantly worsened during the pandemic, with lower-income populations facing higher job losses and slower economic recovery. The findings highlight the role of educational attainment in long-term wage stagnation and employment challenges. The presentation will emphasize the need for targeted policies to address economic recovery and workforce development in low-income neighborhoods.

Presentation 3: Arab, Middle Eastern and North African (AMENA) Individuals Lived Experiences of Being First-Generation in the United States of America

Presenter: Christine Romano, PhD (Assistant Professor, Mental Health Counseling, Dyson, Pleasantville)

This study explores the lived experiences of Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African (AMENA) first-generation Americans. Eighteen participants were interviewed using a qualitative phenomenological approach. Five key themes emerged: gratitude for immigration, pride in bicultural identity, identity development, microaggressions, and unique mental health culture. The study highlights both the resilience and challenges faced by this community as they navigate dual cultural worlds. The findings underscore the importance of cultural humility in counseling and offer guidance for future research and clinical practices, aiming to challenge stereotypes and advocate for this often marginalized group.

AI and Analytics for Data-Driven Research

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center West

Moderator: Jessica Magaldi, J.D. (Professor, Lubin, NYC)

Presentation 1: Leveraging Location Analytics and AI for Research Using U.S. Census Data

Presenters: [Dan Farkas, PhD](#) (Professor, Seidenberg, Pleasantville) and [Namchul Shin, PhD](#) (Professor, Seidenberg, NYC)

This presentation explores the use of location analytics to examine relationships between socio-economic and demographic factors across geographic regions. By leveraging U.S. Census Bureau and Tigerline geographic data, researchers can visualize and analyze patterns in education, income, and crime rates. The study employs regression analysis to uncover quantitative insights and examines the role of AI in generating research questions. While particularly valuable in Information Systems research, this approach extends to sociology, healthcare, and economics, offering a powerful tool for data-driven inquiry across disciplines.

Presentation 2: Interactive Visual Analytics for Model Uncertainty using Dimensionality Reduction Techniques

Presenters: Syed Anas Mohiuddin (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC), Sowmya Maanini (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC), and Manasvini Abhigna Chintamalla (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC)

This presentation explores how to make artificial intelligence (AI) systems more transparent and reliable by better understanding their uncertainty. AI models can make highly accurate predictions, but it's often unclear how confident they are in their answers—an issue that is especially critical in fields like healthcare and finance. This study introduces an interactive tool that helps users visualize and analyze AI uncertainty, making it easier to identify errors and refine models. By improving AI transparency, this approach enhances trust and safety in AI applications.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Social Impact: Building Partnerships, Addressing Inequities, and Redefining Leadership

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center East

Moderator: [Erica Johnson, PhD](#) (Professor and Associate Chairperson, English, Dyson, NYC)

Presentation 1: Six Tips for Building and Maintaining (Mostly) Successful Relationships with Community and Interdisciplinary Partners

Presenter: [Christopher-John Godfrey, PhD](#) (Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Psychology, Dyson, NYC)

This presentation discusses the benefits and challenges of developing and maintaining partnerships with community organizations and non-academic partners, such as local government, healthcare, and arts organizations. By examining lessons learned from collaborative efforts, the presentation highlights how these partnerships can generate research, funding, and creative engagement opportunities that go beyond what either partner could achieve alone. It also emphasizes the importance of inclusive knowledge development and offers practical recommendations for initiating and sustaining successful community-academic partnerships to address complex social issues.

Presentation 2: EARTH.SPEAKS: Cultivating System of Change

Presenter: Dana Greenfield (Adjunct Professor, PPA, NYC)

This presentation explores *EARTH.SPEAKS*, a groundbreaking initiative led by artist Brooke Smiley (Wah-zha-zhe, Osage). Produced by SOZO, the project reimagines the intersection of Indigeneity, the body, and the land by engaging Native and non-Native communities in the creation of earth markers—sustainable outdoor sculptures. Integrating somatic healing and extended reality technologies, *EARTH.SPEAKS* fosters cultural awareness and uplifts Contemporary Native Identity. Dana Greenfield, as a co-leader and creative producer, discusses how thought partners can uplift Native voices and design impactful, interdisciplinary, and intercultural collaborations.

Presentation 3: Explaining the Gender Pay Gap in the Nonprofit Sector: A Case Study of Nonprofit Organizations in Westchester County, New York

Presenters: Gina Scutelnicu Todoran, PhD (Professor and Department Chairperson, MPA, NYC) and Rebecca Tekula, PhD (Interim Associate Provost for External Engagement and Faculty Opportunity; Executive Director of the Wilson Center for Entrepreneurship; Professor of Public Administration, NYC)

This study examines gender representation and compensation disparities within the nonprofit workforce, focusing on Westchester County, New York. Despite women's high representation in nonprofit roles, they remain underrepresented in executive and board leadership positions. The research addresses two key questions: 1) What is the state of gender diversity among nonprofit employees and board members in Westchester County? 2) How do compensation differences vary by gender, position type, and service area? By analyzing both secondary and primary data, this study aims to highlight and address gender inequity in nonprofit organizations.

Presentation 4: Explaining Gender and Racial Inequities in Higher Ed Administrative Roles

Presenter: Gina Scutelnicu-Todoran, PhD (Professor and Department Chairperson, MPA, NYC)

This study explores gender and racial inequities in academic leadership roles, particularly in public affairs programs in the U.S. By analyzing over 600 surveys and 40 interviews, the research examines how faculty members' career paths in leadership differ based on gender, race, and their intersection. Findings reveal that women and faculty from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups are often stalled in lower leadership positions, facing invisible barriers like "glass ceilings" and "glass cliffs." The study proposes solutions to enhance diversity and inclusion in academic leadership roles.

Focusing on Pedagogy: Developing Student Skills Through Experiences

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W518

Moderator: Julia Eisenberg, PhD (Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Chair, Management and Management Science, Lubin, Pleasantville)

Presentation 1: Embodying Care: Tools for Cultivating Relational Skills in Pedagogy

Presenter: Nicki Miller, MFA (Adjunct Professor, Sands College of Performing Arts, NYC)

This presentation explores the role of embodied self-awareness in enhancing relational learning and soft skills development within movement pedagogy. Drawing from scholars such as Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen, Nita Little, Alan Fogel, and Experience Bryon, it offers practical tools for educators and students seeking deeper body-mind connections. The session includes an experiential self-awareness practice and discusses its application in aerial, dance, and theater pedagogy. It highlights how integrating movement-based learning fosters self-efficacy, communication skills, and technical development in both artistic and academic spaces.

Presentation 2: History in the Archives: Civic Engagement and Experiential Learning in the Modern Latin America Survey

Presenter: Michelle Chase, PhD (Associate Professor and Latin American Studies Program Director, History, Dyson, Pleasantville)

This presentation will explore Civic Engagement and experiential learning initiatives in a history course on Modern Latin America. Students partnered with a local nonprofit to index and digitize archival materials and develop photo essays using historical images. This project provided hands-on archivist experience while offering insight into social justice initiatives and U.S. policy in Latin America. The presentation assesses these initiatives in terms of student learning outcomes and examines the benefits and challenges of incorporating civic engagement and experiential learning into teaching.

Presentation 3: Soils and Society: The Critical Zone – A Pedagogical and Philosophical Experiment

Presenters: S. Perl Egendorf, PhD (Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, Dyson, NYC), Alexa Castro (BA Student, Environmental Studies Major, Dyson, NYC), Vanessa Iradi (BS Student, Environmental Science Major, Dyson, NYC) Christina Jean (BA Student, Environmental Studies Major, Dyson, NYC), Ryan Kinningham (BS Student, Environmental Science Major, Dyson, NYC), Abbey Leach (BA Student, Environmental Studies Major, Dyson, NYC), Isabella Salicetti (BS Student, Environmental Science Major, Dyson, NYC), Brooklyn Staab (BA Student, Environmental Studies Major, Dyson, NYC), and Olivia Walker (BA Pace Alum, Environmental Studies Major, Dyson, NYC)

In this presentation, Professor Egendorf and eight students will reflect on *Soils and Society: The Critical Zone*, an Environmental Studies course that examines soil as both a scientific and metaphorical framework for understanding environmental justice, labor, and identity. Highlighting guest speakers, civic engagement, and creative projects, this session offers a justice-oriented STEAM approach to environmental education that fosters critical reflection and applied scientific skills. This presentation, and a forthcoming article, showcase methods for integrating Earth Systems knowledge with civic engagement, contributing to broader efforts in equity-focused pedagogy and interdisciplinary, experiential learning.

12:00 p.m.–1:20 p.m.

Lunch and Keynote Presentation

15 Beekman, Bianco Room

Unlocking Solutions: The Vital Role of Academic Research in Challenging Times

Keynote Presenter: José Luis Castro '88 (WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Chronic Respiratory Diseases)

José Luis Castro '88 is the founder and former President and CEO of Vital Strategies, a global health organization he led for 20 years. Under his leadership, the organization expanded from a lung health nonprofit into a $100 million global force with 400+ staff working across 80+ countries on tobacco control, climate health, overdose prevention, and more. Mr. Castro also served as Executive Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, and as founding President of the NCD Alliance. A recognized global health leader, he holds an academic appointment at Pace University, where he earned his BA in Political Science and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2005. Mr. Castro will be leading the newly launched Center for Global Health at Pace University that will focus on addressing chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) and other communicable and non-communicable diseases in urban environments through research, advocacy, and education.

1:30 p.m.–2:20 p.m.

Community Engaged Theater Practice

Location: 1 Pace Plaza W618

Moderator: Amanda Flynn, EdD (Assistant Professor and Program Head of Musical Theater, Sands College of Performing Arts)

Presenters: Ianthe Demos (Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Program Head: BA International Performance Ensemble, Sands College of Performing Arts), Jennifer Holmes, PhD (Dean and Executive director, Sands College of Performing Arts), Adrienne Kapstein, MFA (Associate Professor and Program Head: BA International Performance Ensemble, Sands College of Performing Arts) and Yoshiko Usami, MFA (Adjunct Professor, Sands College of Performing Arts)

This panel features Sands College of Performing Arts' faculty who are active theater practitioners and whose creative research deeply engages with communities, nationally and internationally. Using collaborative theater-making approaches, panelists will share their unique creative processes and interests, discuss their partnership models with diverse communities, and explore the connections between their artistic practice, teaching philosophy, and pedagogy.

Community Engagement in Higher Education: Integrating Intersectionality, Civic Learning, and Social Justice Research

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W102 (Zannino Conference Room)

Moderator: Rebecca Tekula, PhD (Interim Associate Provost for External Engagement and Faculty Opportunity; Executive Director of the Wilson Center for Entrepreneurship; Professor of Public Administration, NYC)

Presentation 1: The Difference that Difference Makes: Intersectional Praxis, Pedagogy, and Program Design in Peace and Justice Studies

Presenters: Garrett FitzGerald, PhD (Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Program, Dyson, NYC) and Emily Welty, PhD (Associate Professor, Department Chairperson, Peace and Justice Studies Program, Dyson, NYC)

This presentation examines the development of Pace University's Peace & Justice Studies (PJS) program through the lens of intersectionality. Drawing on Black feminist scholarship and the work of Patricia Hill Collins, it explores how the program has integrated feminist, queer, decolonial, and anti-racist frameworks into student learning outcomes, pedagogy, and community engagement since 2016. The presentation will highlight challenges and lessons learned, considering how intersectional approaches shape peace and justice education within a university situated at key sites of historical oppression and resistance.

Presentation 2: The Economics of Poverty and Income Distribution - A Civic Engagement and Public Values Course

Presenter: Veronika Dolar, PhD (Associate Professor, Economics, Dyson, NYC)

This presentation explores how *The Economics of Poverty and Income Distribution (ECO 272)* at Pace University integrates civic engagement with academic learning to analyze social and economic disparities. Partnering with the nonprofit DOROT, students engage in hands-on community work, including Passover Package Delivery, while also conducting data-driven program evaluations. Through research, writing, and impact assessment, students apply economic principles to real-world issues, strengthening leadership skills and fostering a commitment to social justice. This model demonstrates the transformative potential of experiential learning in economics education.

Presentation 3: Grounding Undergraduate Research in Queer Community Engagement

Presenters: Erin Mysogland, MA, MSc (Assistant Director, Center for Community Action and Research, NYC; Adjunct Assistant Professor in Peace and Justice Studies) and Toby Parks (Political Science and Peace and Justice Studies Major, BA Student, Political Science Major)

This presentation explores how community engagement fosters undergraduate research development, drawing on a three-year partnership between Pace University and SAGE, a nonprofit supporting LGBTQ+ older adults. Highlighting student Toby Park's journey—from volunteering in *Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies* to conducting research on cultural competency in NYC senior centers—this case study demonstrates how direct service can inspire academic inquiry. The presentation also discusses best practices for building ethical, sustainable

campus-community partnerships that enhance student learning, research, and sense of belonging.

The Evolving Digital Collective Book: AI, Language, and Cultural Exchange

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center West

Moderator: Jessica Magaldi, J.D. (Professor, Lubin, NYC)

Presenters: Ali Motamedi, PhD, FMA (Lecturer, Seidenberg, NYC), Packirisamy Anaya (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC), Ippala Deepthireddy (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC), Chuppala Indrani (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC), Gorijala Venkata Naidu (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC), Rawat Vikas (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC)

This presentation introduces *The Evolving Digital Collective Book*, an experimental project where language, identity, and AI-generated text converge. Participants contribute multilingual texts, which machines process to create a continuously evolving hybrid language. Through phonetic, syntactic, and morphological analysis, the book transforms dynamically, challenging traditional ideas of authorship and meaning. Information visualization reveals these shifts in real time, offering new ways to experience language, culture, and collective creation.

Science with Impact: Translating Research into Sustainable and Equitable Solutions

Moderator: Anne Toomey, PhD (Associate Professor, Dyson, NYC)

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center East

Presentation 1: Solutions-Based Stories in Film

Presenter: Melanie LaRosa, MFA (Associate Professor, Dyson, Pleasantville)

This presentation explores solutions-based storytelling in the feature documentary *How To Power A City*, which follows individuals and communities using solar and wind power to drive change. In contrast to dominant doomsday narratives that can overwhelm audiences, solutions storytelling offers a constructive lens for engaging the public. Drawing from a solutions journalism approach, the film fosters global dialogue about renewable energy's potential and limits. This talk outlines the fundamentals of solutions storytelling and demonstrates how it can be a powerful tool for scientists and communicators working to connect with diverse audiences.

Presentation 2: Reforming Animal Protection Policies in New York State

Presenter: Michelle Land, J.D. (Clinical Professor and Director of MS Program, Dyson, Pleasantville)

New York State's animal protection laws are weak and outdated because regulations are driven by agricultural, hunting and fishing interests, exacerbated by unclear oversight between state agencies. Consequently, animals are vulnerable to exploitation, policy gaps, and loopholes. Advocates, like Pace University's Animal Advocacy Clinic, work to reform animal and wildlife

policy on a case-by-case basis, but a comprehensive overhaul of protection laws and agency responsibilities is needed. This talk will discuss the unique challenges of animal protection in New York and showcase how our Clinic's faculty, undergraduate, graduate, and law students research, design, and advocate for improved policies.

Presentation 3: For Her Own Good: The Gendered, Protectionist Politics of HIV Prevention for Women

Presenter: Erica Gollub, DrPh, MPH (Professor, College of Health Professions, Pleasantville)

More than forty years into the AIDS epidemic, women's needs in HIV prevention remain critically underserved. A major obstacle has been the lack of technologies that reflect (cis-) women's realities in assessing and controlling HIV risk with male partners—especially challenges around condom negotiation and partner risk assessment. While new prevention tools have emerged through advocacy, funding agencies and regulatory bodies, including the FDA, continue to delay support for women's inclusion in trials and product rollout. This presentation examines how regulatory inaction and protectionist attitudes contribute to persistent HIV-related health disparities among women and communities of color.

Presentation 4: Utilizing Critical Participatory Action Research to Promote Social Justice and Health Equity

Presenter: Lisa Rosenthal, PhD (Associate Professor, Dyson, NYC)

This presentation explores the speaker's ongoing journey to incorporate and contribute to social justice through academic research, with a particular focus on critical participatory action research (CPAR). The presenter will introduce the core principles of CPAR and reflect on the process of learning and applying this approach in two collaborative projects involving students, faculty, and community partners: (1) Women and Femme People of Color and Their Intimate Partners' Sexual and Reproductive Health and (2) Understanding Experiences of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter with Youth Participatory Action Research.

<div align="center">

2:30 p.m.–3:20 p.m.

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Machine Learning and Market Trends

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center West

Moderator: Jessica Magaldi, J.D. (Professor, Lubin, NYC)

Presentation 1: Smart Car Price Prediction: A Hybrid Learning Approach

Presenter: Venkata Pranathi Yammanuru (MS Student, Seidenberg, NYC)

This presentation addresses the challenge of estimating used car prices, which often results in inconsistent and unfair deals. By using machine learning, specifically a deep learning model called TabNet, combined with gradient boosting models (XGBoost/LightGBM) in a hybrid approach, we provide a data-driven solution for more accurate car price predictions. The model analyzes key factors such as brand, mileage, and ownership history, improving pricing fairness

and efficiency. This method benefits both individual buyers and businesses, enhancing trust and reducing pricing disputes in the used car market.

Presentation 2: Mathematics and Investing in Bitcoin

Presenter: Qian Chen, PhD (Clinical Assistant Professor, Mathematics, Dyson, NYC)

This research explores Bitcoin as both a blockchain technology and a potential long-term investment. As a decentralized payment system, Bitcoin is an open network that on it runs a mathematical algorithm using many functions and probability distributions, such as hash function, Beta function, Gamma function, Markov chains, exponential distribution, Poisson distribution, Negative Binomial distribution, and Hypergeometric distribution, etc.. Bitcoin's decentralized nature, scarcity, and global accessibility make it an attractive option for those looking for a store of value and an alternative to traditional assets. On March 7, President Trump signed an executive order establishing a U.S. strategic bitcoin reserve. We will apply statistical processes to examine Bitcoin's return, associated risks and introduce a potential investment plan. In brief, our goal is to encourage deeper understanding of Bitcoin's role in technology and its implications for various risk-takers, highlighting its potential in the evolving financial landscape.

Teaching Goals for a Sustainable Future

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, Student Center East

Moderator: Julia Eisenberg, PhD (Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Chair, Management and Management Science, Lubin, Pleasantville)

Presentation 1: Teaching for Contemporary Challenges: Sustainability

Presenters: Mary Long, PhD (Professor, Lubin School of Business, NYC) and Dennis Sandler, PhD (Professor, Lubin School of Business, NYC)

This presentation explores an *International Marketing Travel* course to Scandinavia as a high-impact pedagogical approach that integrates global perspectives and sustainability education. Combining classroom learning with a 12-day experiential trip to Copenhagen and Stockholm, students engage with businesses, universities, and organizations such as Maersk, Electrolux, and SEBank. Pre-trip assignments and partnerships with the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce and Pace's Center for Sustainable Development provide foundational knowledge. This study-abroad model aligns with National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) high-impact practices, enhancing student learning, engagement, and global awareness.

Presentation 2: Teaching 15 Goals: Tai Chi for Global Sustainable Development

Presenter: Ilona Bito, MAT (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sands College of Performing Arts, NYC)

This presentation explores *15 Goals Tai Chi*, an innovative approach that integrates martial arts with global development education to promote awareness of the first 15 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By blending somatics, performance psychology, and intergenerational learning, this project enables participants to recite and remember each SDG

through movement. The session includes a live demonstration of key Tai Chi moves, inviting the audience to participate in learning the first movement (End Poverty). The presentation also discusses its potential to support the UN's educational mission in diverse communities worldwide.

Innovative Solutions to Community Engagement: Strengthening Inclusion, Civic Participation, and Social Justice

Location: 1 Pace Plaza, W506

Moderator: Rebecca Tekula, PhD (Interim Associate Provost for External Engagement and Faculty Opportunity; Executive Director of the Wilson Center for Entrepreneurship; Professor of Public Administration, NYC)

Presentation 1: When Dogs Make the Difference: Jail-Based Parenting With and Without Animal-Assisted Therapy

Presenter: Kimberly Collica-Cox, PhD (Professor, Criminal Justice, Dyson, NYC and Pleasantville)

This study examines *Parenting, Prison, and Pups*, a jail-based parenting program for incarcerated mothers that integrates animal-assisted therapy (AAT). Using a mixed-method quasi-experimental design, researchers compared mothers who completed the course with and without AAT. Findings showed significantly lower parental stress, higher self-esteem, and increased parental knowledge among the AAT group. Qualitative data suggest therapy dogs fostered trust, communication, and group connectedness. These results highlight the importance of innovative, trauma-informed approaches to strengthening maternal bonds in incarcerated populations.

Presentation 2: Fostering Civic Participation Through Women's Leadership: How Diverse Municipal Officials Transform Community Engagement in New York and Westchester Counties

Presenter: Rajni Jaiswal (MA Student, MPA, Dyson)

This presentation examines how women municipal officials in New York and Westchester Counties are transforming civic participation through innovative engagement strategies. Using an intersectional framework and a mixed-methods approach, the study analyzes how gender and racial identities shape leadership in local governance. Findings highlight initiatives such as participatory budgeting, multilingual outreach, and neighborhood advisory councils, which enhance policy responsiveness. Women of color demonstrate particular effectiveness in engaging marginalized communities. The study underscores the need for diverse leadership to strengthen democratic participation and community-centered governance.

Presentation 3: Applying an Altruistic College Pedagogy for Enabling Equity, Inclusion and Justice for Disadvantaged People of Society

Presenter: James Lawler, DPS (Professor, Information Technology, Seidenberg, NYC)

This conference presentation will showcase the Design Factory pedagogy at Pace University, an innovative approach that fosters equity, inclusion, and justice through STEM-based experiential

learning. By collaborating with nonprofit organizations, interdisciplinary student teams develop solutions addressing economic and social challenges in disadvantaged communities, such as apps for migrant food services, elderly healthcare, and disability mobility support. This session will explore how the Design Factory model cultivates empathy, advocacy, and problem-solving skills while offering a scalable framework for other colleges to implement in promoting social justice and community empowerment.

3:00 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

Poster Presentations

15 Beekman, Bianco Room

(The Networking Reception will start at 3:30pm.)

AI-Powered Historical Analysis Project: Use NLP Models to Analyze Historical Newspapers, Documents, or Archives to Uncover Insights About NYC's Island Development

Presenters: Avantika Krishan Agrawal (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC) and Prince Gupta (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This research analyzes the economic impact of New York City's islands—Governors Island, Staten Island, Roosevelt Island, and Manhattan—using artificial intelligence and machine learning. The study focuses on key metrics such as trade volume, tourism, real estate values, and job creation. By leveraging data from sources like the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Zillow, the research identifies past trends and predicts future economic patterns. Using Python, Power BI, and machine learning models, the study provides a data-driven framework for policymakers, investors, and urban planners to make informed decisions about NYC's island economies.

Fair and Explainable Multi-Modal AI for the Automatic Diagnosis of Knee Osteoarthritis

Presenter: Soheyla Amirian, PhD (Assistant Professor, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This poster presents a multi-modal AI framework designed to improve the accuracy and fairness of knee osteoarthritis (OA) diagnosis. Traditional diagnostic methods, such as the Kellgren-Lawrence grading scale, often introduce subjectivity, leading to inconsistencies in patient care. While AI and deep learning have shown promise in automating OA analysis, existing models rely solely on imaging data, overlooking key patient-specific factors like sex and race. By integrating MRI scans with patient metadata, this study enhances diagnostic precision, reduces biases, and increases clinician trust through explainable AI.

Enhancing the Campus Operations Using Natural Language Processing & Generative Artificial Intelligence

Presenters: Sai Teja Bainapalepu (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC) and Aditya Bhavsar (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This project proposes an AI-powered solution to enhance emergency response during severe weather events like hurricanes and blizzards, which often disrupt university operations. Current systems are slow and prone to inaccuracies due to human oversight and outdated procedures. The AI model forecasts disruptions, interprets social media for public sentiment, and sends timely emergency notifications to ensure accurate, efficient communication. This scalable solution improves disaster management, enhances campus safety, and accelerates response times, setting a new standard for emergency preparedness in public institutions.

The Association of Social Cohesion and Hypertension Management in African American Church-Going Women

Presenter: Angela Banfield, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This poster explores the link between social cohesion and hypertension management in African American women who attend church. Given the role of churches in fostering social support, social cohesion may be a key factor in improving hypertension outcomes. The research will assess associations between social cohesion, medication adherence, sodium intake, and blood pressure control using a descriptive correlational design with 120 participants from NYC churches. Findings may highlight the potential of faith-based communities as social determinants of health in managing hypertension.

A Survey of Transgender Patients' Experiences in Healthcare

Presenter: Shirley Beauvais, MSN, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This poster presentation explores the challenges transgender individuals face in accessing primary healthcare, focusing on how race, gender, and socioeconomic status influence their experiences. Through an online survey of adult transgender patients in the U.S., the study examines barriers to care, perceptions of healthcare interactions, and delays in treatment due to intersecting identities. Findings aim to shed light on disparities in healthcare access and quality, informing providers and policymakers on ways to improve equitable, inclusive, and competent care for transgender communities.

A Machine Learning based Investigation into Transit Development and Economic Disparities in New York City Islands

Presenters: Burhan Latief Dar (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC) and Saloni Chitre (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This poster examines the disparate economic development trajectories of New York City's islands, focusing on why certain areas consistently underperform despite various governmental interventions. By analyzing historical development plans, policy documents, and government

funding records, the study seeks to identify recurring challenges such as infrastructural gaps and policy inertia. Utilizing machine learning, natural language processing, and geospatial analysis, the project will correlate historical decisions with economic outcomes to propose data-driven, actionable recommendations for sustainable growth. Future phases will involve GIS mapping and econometric analysis to further refine strategies for equitable development.

The Clinician's Perspective and Experience in Collecting and Utilizing Historical Sexual Trauma Information in Psychiatric Inpatient Care: An Exploratory Case Study

Presenter: Nadia Elliott-Hernandez, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

Sexual trauma (ST) from childhood sexual abuse is a prevalent adverse childhood experience linked to psychiatric disorders and hospitalization. Despite its impact, over half of psychiatric inpatients report never being asked about their ST history upon admission. This study explores clinicians' perspectives on collecting and using ST history in psychiatric inpatient care. Using a trauma-informed care framework, it employs a multiple exploratory case study design, analyzing clinician interviews, electronic health records, and organizational documents to understand ST assessment practices and their role in psychiatric diagnosis and nursing care.

VR Sports Analytics: Live Screening and Predictive Insights

Presenters: Dalyn Fernandes (MS Student, Computer Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC), Livan Valdes (MS Student, Computer Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC), and Usha Reddy Venna (MS Student, Computer Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This poster explores the use of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies to transform sports analytics and fan engagement. The goal is to develop an AR dashboard that overlays performance metrics onto players and the field, offering real-time insights for coaches, players, and fans. Additionally, a VR-based immersive analytics lab will enable 3D visualization of game data for advanced analysis and training. This research aims to enhance player development, improve performance analysis, and create more interactive fan experiences by integrating AR and VR technologies into sports.

Digital Empowerment for South Asian Immigrants, an Intervention for Metabolic Syndrome

Presenter: Amir Islam, FNP-BC (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This poster demonstrates an evaluation of the effectiveness of a culturally tailored digital health intervention (CT-mHealth) in reducing metabolic syndrome (MetS) among South Asian immigrants (SAIs) in Hudson Valley, NY. By integrating culturally relevant dietary modifications, physical activity, and community support via a digital platform, the intervention aims to improve adherence and health outcomes. A randomized controlled trial will assess changes in MetS parameters, physical activity, and dietary habits while examining the influence of acculturation and demographic factors on engagement, retention, and intervention success.

Sovereignty, Sustainable Development, and Global Governance: Rethinking Boundaries in the 21st Century

Presenter: Sophia N. Johnson, PhD (Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science and Economics Department, Dyson, NYC)

This poster session examines the evolving concept of sovereignty in the context of global challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, and political fragmentation. It presents novel frameworks to reconcile national sovereignty with global sustainability goals, with a focus on islands and archipelagos. Using New York City as a case study, the session highlights the creation of a Sustainability Action Plan for the Village of Ardsley. The research bridges theory and practice, showcasing community-based strategies that align local efforts with global environmental targets, promoting global sustainability through localized solutions.

Smart Speakers Among Hypertensive Black Older Adults to Assist with Medication Adherence: A Feasibility Study

Presenter: Krystina Mathelier, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This poster explores the feasibility of using smart speaker technology to improve medication adherence in Black older adults with hypertension. By utilizing verbal medication logs, the study aims to enhance self-reported medication adherence and assess user experience. The research will employ a mixed-methods design, measuring adherence through scales and collecting qualitative data through semi-structured interviews. Fifty participants will use the smart speaker technology for three months, followed by interviews with twelve participants to explore attitudes and experiences, ultimately informing the integration of the findings to improve usability.

A Secondary Comparative Analysis: Coronary Artery Disease Prevalence and Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events among South Asian Americans and other Ethnicities

Presenter: Renu Mathew, MA, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This study aims to design a model for identifying major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) among South Asian Americans (SAA), African Americans, Hispanics, and Caucasians with coronary artery disease (CAD). With CAD being a leading cause of death globally, understanding the incidence and prevalence of MACE across these diverse ethnic groups will help improve early detection and prevention, enhancing the quality of life for patients. A quantitative, retrospective cohort research design using electronic medical records (EMR) from a large medical center in the Bronx will be employed to analyze this data.

Exploring the Relationship between the Nurse Work Environment, Burnout, and Central Line-Associated Bloodstream and Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections

Presenter: Shiyon Mathew, MS, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

Healthy work environments are essential for safe patient care and positive outcomes. This study surveyed 236 nurses across 40 inpatient units at a large U.S. medical center to examine the relationship between nurse burnout, work environment, and infection rates. Findings revealed high emotional exhaustion, moderate depersonalization, and good perceived work environments. Emotional exhaustion and depersonalization were negatively correlated with work environment quality. However, no link was found between burnout, work environment, and infection rates. These results emphasize the need for system-level strategies to reduce burnout and enhance workplace well-being.

HealthMate - An Application for End-to-End Predictive Analytics for Diabetes Prevention & Post Diagnosis Care

Presenters: Aaschita Reddy Mathuru (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC) and Manidweep Reddy Bhavanam (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

Our research introduces HealthMate, an AI-driven predictive analytics system designed for diabetes prevention and management. Combining ensemble machine learning models, explainable AI (XAI), and reinforcement learning, HealthMate integrates multimodal datasets, including the Stanford Diabetes, PIMA Indian, and NHANES datasets, for enhanced prediction accuracy. With dynamic visualizations of lifestyle changes, the system offers a web-based interface and wearable device integration for real-time monitoring. By enhancing transparency, usability, and ensuring compliance with HIPAA and GDPR, HealthMate aims to redefine personalized diabetes care and improve public health outcomes.

Rompiendo Fronteras: Addressing Language Barriers in Palliative Care for Hispanics

Presenter: Carla McNulty, MS, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

Early palliative care improves symptom management, reduces costs, and enhances quality of life, yet it remains underutilized, particularly among underserved Hispanic populations. Language barriers contribute to lower rates of advance directives and higher healthcare utilization at end-of-life. This study explores Hispanic patients' and caregivers' perceptions of palliative care, the role of language in acceptance, and their definitions of quality of life. Using a focused ethnographic approach, data will be collected through consultations and interviews to develop key themes for improving culturally sensitive palliative care.

Bridging Past and Present: Community-Engaged History and Place-Based Learning in Rural Schools

Presenter: Jessica Morris, Ed.D. (Associate Professor, Education, New England College)

This project emphasizes the vital role of rural schools in their communities by integrating local history into social studies curricula. Using 100+ WWII letters and local narratives, students engage with history as a lived experience rather than memorized facts. By connecting students to personal stories from their own towns, they gain a deeper understanding of their role in historical preservation. Additionally, this work supports pre-service teachers in developing place-based learning strategies that strengthen school-community ties and foster meaningful engagement with the past.

Detection of Fraudulent Activities and Improving Access to Health Insurance Using AI

Presenters: Ali Inamdar (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg) and Anchal Rai (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg)

This poster presentation proposes an AI-based approach to address two critical issues in New York's healthcare system: access to insurance and insurance fraud. By using AI models to identify communities with limited insurance access and developing machine learning systems to detect fraudulent claims, this study aims to improve fraud detection and pinpoint underserved neighborhoods. With real NYC health data and insurance claims, the model seeks to inform policymakers, create fairer insurance pricing, enhance healthcare access, and reduce costs for individuals and providers.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Female Sexual Pain Disorders: A Literature Review in the 21st Century with Treatment and Clinical Recommendations

Presenter: Christine Romano, PhD (Assistant Professor, Mental Health Counseling, Dyson)

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has shown efficacy in treating female sexual pain disorders, yet these conditions are often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. This literature review critically examines clinical intervention studies on CBT and its subdivisions as treatment modalities. Additionally, it highlights gaps in counseling education regarding human sexuality and reproductive health, emphasizing the need for comprehensive training. By addressing these gaps, particularly for marginalized populations, clinicians can better support diverse clients facing complex emotional and psychological challenges related to sexual health.

Sociocultural Influences on Diabetes Self-Care Among Ethnic Minority Churchgoers in Northern New Jersey

Presenter: Ann Marie Sailsman, DNP, FNP-BC, MPH (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

Chronic illnesses like diabetes disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities, leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. Self-care is essential for diabetes management, yet socio-cultural factors significantly influence adherence to self-care behaviors. This study examines how these factors impact diabetes self-care among ethnic minority churchgoers and evaluates the effectiveness of a 12-week faith-based intervention. Using a quasi-experimental pre-

test/post-test design, data on health metrics and self-care behaviors will be collected to assess the impact of culturally tailored health education on diabetes management.

Rethinking Access: Understanding Help-Seeking Patterns in TGNC Post-Operative Care

Presenter: Sophia Schaedle, MA (PsyD Student, School-Clinical Child Psychology, Dyson)

This study examines post-operative care requests among transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) adults undergoing gender-affirming surgery, highlighting healthcare inequities. Analyzing 337 intake forms from QueerCare, a peer-led support organization in NYC and San Francisco, findings revealed that individuals with larger support networks paradoxically requested longer care durations. This unexpected trend underscores complex barriers to accessing care. By identifying patterns in help-seeking behaviors, this research informs targeted outreach and peer-support models, contributing to more equitable, community-driven healthcare solutions for TGNC individuals.

The Impact of Combining Nurse-Led Comprehensive Structured Behavioral Counseling Sessions and Digital Health Technology on Total Body Weight and Psoriasis Severity in Adult Patients with Psoriasis and Overweight/ Obesity

Presenter: Rinta Thomas, RN (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

Psoriasis affects 7-8 million adults in the US, with obesity impacting 40-50% of these patients, exacerbating disease severity and treatment outcomes. This poster explores the feasibility and effectiveness of combining digital health tools with nurse-led behavioral counseling to address obesity and psoriasis severity in overweight/obese psoriasis patients (BMI >25). Using a quasi-experimental design, 14 structured counseling sessions over 6 months, along with digital tracking apps for activity, calories, and weight, will measure changes in body weight and psoriasis severity. Results will offer insights into effective strategies for managing both conditions.

Analyzing Trends and Disparities in New York City Shelter System

Presenters: Sudharsan Vasudevan (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC) and Venkata Durga Kavya Bhatta (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This poster analyzes trends in New York City's Department of Homeland Services (DHS) shelter system, focusing on factors influencing shelter occupancy, demographic disparities, and the impact of education enrollment on homeless children. Utilizing machine learning techniques, including DBSCAN clustering, the research aims to uncover patterns in shelter utilization and forecast occupancy trends. By identifying factors that contribute to successful shelter exits, the study provides data-driven insights to inform evidence-based policymaking, optimize shelter operations, and improve housing programs, ultimately supporting strategies to reduce homelessness in NYC.

AI-Powered Mapping of NYC's Island Relationships: Generative AI for Geospatial Narratives

Presenter: Neelima Verma (MS Student, Data Science, Seidenberg School of SCIS, NYC)

This project combines Generative AI and Geospatial AI to create an interactive map visualizing the historical connections between NYC's islands. By applying Natural Language Processing (NLP) to historical texts and using geospatial AI models trained on satellite and GIS data, the research uncovers insights into trade, migration, and environmental changes over time. The approach includes NLP-driven historical analysis, AI storytelling, and geospatial AI visualization to map cultural exchanges and climate shifts. This interdisciplinary work highlights how AI can transform digital humanities and historical storytelling.

Maximizing Resources for Safety Net Hospitals Through Academic-Practice Partnerships

Presenters: Sharon Wexler, PhD (Department Chair and Professor, Nursing, College of Health Professions), Kathleen Karsten, PhD, RN (Professor at Deputy Director of Health Sciences, LaGuardia Community College of the City University of New York), Susan Iovino, DNP, RN (Chief Nursing Officer, Jamaica Hospital Medical Center), Lin Drury, PhD, RN, FNGNA (Professor, College of Health Professions), Vivekanand Singh, MA, RN (Director of Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing, and Director of Nursing Finance at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center), and Robert Pryce, MSN, RN (Director, Critical Care Nursing at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center.

This project highlights a collaboration between a safety net hospital and two academic partners— a private university and a community college— to create an innovative model based on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Academic Practice Partnerships. PhD-prepared Nurse Scientists, employed by both the hospital and universities, collaborate with senior nursing leadership to advance nursing practice and achieve organizational goals. This partnership creates career development pathways, clinical placements, research opportunities, and internships, while also addressing the nursing shortage in NYC by enhancing education-to-practice transitions and fostering nursing leadership.

The Effect of the Gamification of Hypertension Education on Adults with Asymptomatic HTN in an Urgent Care Setting

Presenter: Marsha Williamson, NP (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This poster examines the impact of gamified hypertension (HTN) education on self-care, health literacy, blood pressure (BP), and primary care provider (PCP) follow-up in adults with asymptomatic HTN in an urgent care setting. This quasi-experimental pre-test post-test study aims to assess HTN self-care, health literacy, BP control, and PCP follow-up, while identifying factors that influence these outcomes. Data will be collected through self-reports, health literacy scales, and BP monitoring.

Digital Health Education and its Impact on Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Female Youth and Young Adults

Presenter: Jennifer Winter, NP (PhD Candidate, Nursing, College of Health Professions)

This study examines the impact of short story videos on increasing STI knowledge among biological females aged 14-24, a group with higher STI rates. Using a quantitative longitudinal design, participants from a reproductive health center in Newark will complete the Sexually Transmitted Disease Knowledge Questionnaire (STD-KQ) before and after viewing an STI prevention video. Follow-up surveys at 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months will assess knowledge retention and gather feedback on the video. Results aim to inform digital health education strategies for STI prevention targeting youth and young adults.

The Networking Reception

3:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

15 Beekman, Bianco Room

Join us at the Networking Reception to explore the Book Display, featuring works published by over 30 colleagues across diverse academic fields. Enjoy poster presentations, connect with peers from across the university, and celebrate the end of the semester with lively conversation, refreshments, and a well-deserved moment to unwind.

Biographies of Conference Participants

Avantika Krishan Agrawal is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University, New York, with a strong focus on Data Analytics and Machine Learning, expected to graduate in 2026. With a background in data analysis and machine learning, has experience working with large datasets and developing insights using Python, SQL, and Power BI. She has worked on several projects, including analyzing and visualizing 3 NYC Open Data datasets, generating insights on demographics, crime, and transportation, and optimizing SQL queries to reduce query time by 20%. She also developed a text summarization algorithm using NLP, processing 50,000+ words with 70% content retention. Her interests lie in transforming complex data into actionable insights for business decisions.

[Soheyla Amirian, PhD](), is an Assistant Professor at Pace University's Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems. She leads the Applied Machine Intelligence Initiatives & Education (AMIIE) Lab, focusing on AI applications in public health, imaging informatics, and education. Specializing in AI and deep learning, she has authored over 25 peer-reviewed publications and received numerous accolades, including the IEEE Atlanta Section Outstanding Educator Award. Professor Amirian has organized conferences, served on program committees, and was recently awarded an NIH/NIA grant.

[Gunjan Asrani, PhD](), is a Computer Science PhD graduate from Pace University's Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems. Her research explores the intersection of machine learning, audio processing, and healthcare technology, focusing on automated diagnosis of fluency disorders like cluttering. Utilizing visibility graph theory and deep learning, she has developed a novel diagnostic tool to improve the accuracy and efficiency of cluttering diagnosis. In addition to her research, Professor Asrani teaches data science and AI courses as an Adjunct Assistant Professor, aiming to enhance healthcare accessibility with innovative AI solutions.

Sai Teja Bainapalepu is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University with a strong focus on AI, Machine Learning, and Big Data. His expertise spans predictive analytics, fraud detection, and AI-driven automation. Sai has worked on various projects, including customer churn models, agricultural forecasting, and phishing URL detection for banking sites. With hands-on experience in DevOps and MLOps for end-to-end deployments, he has also contributed to voice tag technology using Nvidia's Tacotron-2 during his internship at INFOSYS. Sai is committed to building scalable, data-driven solutions, currently at Turing Minds.AI.

Angela Banfield, RN, is a chemotherapy and immunotherapy nurse specializing in surgical oncology at NYP Columbia and a private medical oncology practice at Mt. Sinai. With over 20 years in public health, her work has focused on HIV/AIDS and reducing health disparities in communities of color. Currently a PhD student at Pace University, her research examines social cohesion as a social determinant of health and its role in hypertension management among African American women who attend church.

Shirley Beauvais, MSN, RN, is a nurse leader with expertise in executive management and perioperative services, including critical care and endoscopy. She holds board certifications in Nurse Executive, Critical-Care Nursing, and Central Sterile Processing. Currently a Ph.D. student

at Pace University, her research focuses on transgender health disparities. Known for advancing quality improvement initiatives, implementing cost-effective operations, and modernizing healthcare systems, she is a results-driven leader committed to professionalism and excellence in patient care.

Elizabeth A. Berro, PhD, RN, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing and Program Director at Pace University's College of Health Professions. With a clinical background in pediatric nursing, she has experience in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, emergency care, general pediatrics, outpatient care, and telehealth. Professor Berro's academic focus includes nursing competency development and integrating disability content into education. As a Certified Nurse Educator and Healthcare Simulation Educator, her research explores the impact of simulation fidelity on student engagement and learning, and she has contributed to grant-funded initiatives in simulation and disability education.

Venkata Durga Kavya Bhatta is a Data Science Master's student at Pace University, currently working as a Graduate Assistant. With experience as a Senior Operations Analyst and QA Engineer at Net Cracker Solutions, Kavya has worked on telecom domain projects, optimizing network performance and solving service issues. She has also led projects like Mall Customer Analysis and an Anti-Theft ATM Machine system. Proficient in Python, SQL, Tableau, AWS, and machine learning, Kavya aims to drive impactful innovations in data science and AI.

Manidweep Reddy Bhavanam is a graduate student in Data Science at Pace University, focusing on machine learning and big data technologies. With a Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication Engineering, he published a paper on "IoT Drone & AI-based Precision Agriculture System." Manidweep has been involved in The Robotics Club and has six years of experience developing custom ROMs for Android devices, enhancing his programming skills. He also interned in graphic design, contributing to branding for college events. Manidweep is passionate about combining data science with emerging technologies to create impactful solutions.

Aditya Bhavsar is a Master's student in the Data Science program at Pace University with extensive experience in machine learning, programming, and web development. His background in web development has honed his problem-solving and programming skills, particularly in optimizing web performance through data-driven SEO strategies. As a business analyst at Balsam Developers, Aditya applied data insights to guide strategic decision-making. Currently, he is using Python to develop an application that evaluates the authenticity of web domains with cutting-edge, data-centric metrics.

Ilona Bito holds a Masters in The Art of Teaching from Sarah Lawrence College. She received her tai chi teacher certification from the WCC Chen School of Tai Chi Chuan. She is currently assistant adjunct professor of Tai Chi in Pace University's Sands College of Performing Arts. Ilona is the founder of Taproot Tai Chi LLC, and Push Hands Now. In Taiwan in 2023, she won the Tai Chi Push Hands World Championship. In Spain in 2024, she received the highest honor of "Best Female Competitor." Bito co-created the two minute "15 Goals" tai chi form with her husband and coach James McConnell, who has taught tai chi in NYC for over 30 years, including teaching at the United Nations.

Fredy Cardozo is a student in the Pace University MPA program, concentrating on government. His interest in this field stems from his work in healthcare research, where he has observed the challenges older individuals face in adopting digital tools and platforms. Many struggle with technology and find it overwhelming to navigate complex online systems. Driven by a commitment to improving accessibility, Fredy aims to develop policies that enhance digital inclusion and support older adults in an increasingly technology-driven world.

[Linda Carozza, PhD](#), Linda Carozza, PhD, CCC-SLP, is a faculty member in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at Pace University and serves on the faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. An active clinician-researcher, she specializes in adult neurogenic communication disorders. Her original research identified early language retrieval changes in individuals with Alzheimer's-type dementia, highlighting potential early disease markers. Professor Carozza also explores quality of life outcomes for individuals with chronic neurogenic conditions, including stroke-induced aphasia and PTSD as a disease indicator.

Elizabeth Carrano is a first-year graduate student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at Pace University. She earned her Bachelor's degree in CSD from Brooklyn College in 2024. With a growing interest in bilingualism and cognitive development, she is committed to working with individuals across the lifespan to support communication and language growth.

[José Luis Castro '88](#), is the founder and former President and CEO of Vital Strategies, a global health organization he led for 20 years. Under his leadership, the organization expanded from a lung health nonprofit into a $100 million global force with 400+ staff working across 80+ countries on tobacco control, climate health, overdose prevention, and more. He also served as Executive Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, and as founding President of the NCD Alliance. A recognized global health leader, Mr. Castro holds an academic appointment at Pace University, where he earned his BA in Political Science and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2005.

[Marie Lourdes Charles, EdD, RN-BC, FNYAM](#), is an Associate Professor at Pace University and a dedicated community health nurse, researcher, and educator with over 40 years of experience. Her work focuses on improving health outcomes for underrepresented populations, particularly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those in resource-poor communities. A board member of AHRC, she advocates for enhanced research and care. Her scholarship includes grant-funded studies presented and published in peer-reviewed venues, all rooted in a lifelong commitment to health equity and social justice.

[Michelle Chase, PhD](#), is a historian of modern Latin America, specializing in twentieth-century Cuba. She teaches courses on Modern Latin America and the Caribbean, World History, histories of immigration and the border, and the history of the Cold War.

[Qian Chen, PhD](#), is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Pace University and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Hunter College. She earned her PhD in Mathematics from CUNY Graduate Center, specializing in spectral sequences on almost complex manifolds. With over a decade of teaching experience across CUNY institutions, she has presented extensively on complex geometry and cohomology theory. Her research has been recognized with multiple

awards, including the Mathematics APO/EO Award and the DSRG Award. Professor Chen is dedicated to advancing mathematical research and education.

Manasvini Abhigna Chintamalla is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University's Seidenberg School. With a background in Electronics and Communication Engineering, she specializes in AI, big data, and cloud computing. At Deloitte, she optimized workflows through ServiceNow configurations. Her research spans diabetic diagnostics, aviation delay analytics, and cardiac prognosis using XGBoost, SHAP, and SVM. Passionate about explainable AI and anomaly detection, she also collaborates with UNICEF and TSIC to drive educational innovation at scale.

Saloni Chitre is a Data Science Graduate Student at Pace University and is a native of Mumbai. She holds a Bachelor's degree from MithiBhai College in Mumbai. Saloni possesses experience in the domains of Machine Learning, Big Data, and PostgreSQL.

Indrani Chuppala is a Data Science graduate student and Teaching Assistant at Pace University. Her work spans machine learning, intelligent tools, and AI-driven storytelling, contributing to NEY STUDIO's hybrid language book while applying her skills in both academic and industry settings.

[Kimberly Collica-Cox, PhD](#), is a Professor of Criminal Justice at Pace University and Director of Dyson College's Jail-Based Services. A certified ACA and PREA Auditor, she holds a PhD in Criminal Justice from CUNY. Her research focuses on corrections-based issues, and she has authored two books and over 40 journal articles. An Inside-Out instructor with Temple University's International Prison Exchange Program, she is a recipient of the National Jefferson Award, the Ken Peak Innovation in Teaching Award, and the John Howard Award from ACJS.

Natasha Cruz is a graduate student in her first year at Pace University's Communication Sciences and Disorders program. She holds a Bachelor's degree from SUNY New Paltz, where she cultivated her interest in neurogenic communication disorders and educational access. Natasha is passionate about equity in speech-language services and mentoring future students in the field.

[John Damiao, PhD](#), is an accomplished occupational therapist and academic with a strong commitment to improving mobility and quality of life for individuals with disabilities. He earned his PhD in Health-Related Sciences from Virginia Commonwealth University, where his research focused on reducing pressure injury risk through innovative seating design and shape capture methods. Professor Damiao also holds an MS and BS in Occupational Therapy from Dominican College, where he received a Leadership Award, and an A.A.S. in Occupational Therapy Assistant from Union County College.

Alexa Damon is pursuing her Master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Pace University. She graduated from St. John's University in 2024 with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Her interests include language acquisition and clinical intervention strategies that support diverse learners. She is eager to grow her clinical competencies while contributing to inclusive care practices.

Burhan Latief Dar is a Data Science Graduate Student at Pace University and is from the Kashmir region of India. He completed his Bachelor's degree at NIT Srinagar. Burhan has three years of experience working on Machine Learning and Deep Learning, particularly in Agriculture.

Ianthe Demos is a Clinical Associate Professor and the Artistic Director of One Year Lease (OYL) Theater Company and its International Performance Residency. She leads this innovative global program, which cultivates cross-disciplinary, multigenerational, and multicultural performance in India, Japan, and Greece. The residency includes intensive training, workshops, and rehearsals that culminate in multilingual performances at historic sites across Greece. In 2025, the company will premiere *Arms*, a response to *Lysistrata* by Lisa Sanaye Dring, continuing OYL's mission of bold, collaborative, and globally engaged theater-making.

Veronika Dolar, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Economics at Pace University, where she teaches courses on inequality, gender, race, and class. Her research explores labor economics, economic disparities, and public policy, with work published in both academic and public outlets. She mentors students, advises the Women in Economics group, and is editing *Women in Economics – Missing Voices*. A dedicated advocate for inclusive economics, Professor Dolar integrates experiential learning into her teaching and frequently collaborates with nonprofits and speaks on economic justice issues.

Lin Drury, PhD, is a Professor in the PhD in Nursing Department at Pace University's Lienhard School of Nursing. She recently served as the Chairperson of Undergraduate Nursing. Since joining Pace in 2004, Professor Drury has primarily taught Community Health in the Undergraduate Nursing program. Her research is centered on vulnerable populations, with a focus on addressing their unique healthcare needs. Professor Drury's work contributes to advancing nursing education and improving health outcomes for underserved communities.

S. Perl Egendorf, PhD, (they/them or she/her) studies urban soils and their intersections with food justice, environmental justice, and climate justice. Perl conducts participatory research in collaboration with urban gardeners, farmers, composters, artists, youth, and elders to investigate the viability of constructed soils for growing food in cities, limiting exposure to legacy and emerging contaminants, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Julia Eisenberg, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Chair in the Management and Management Science Department at Pace University's Lubin School of Business. She earned her PhD in Management from Rutgers Business School, focusing on organizational behavior. Her award winning research explores leadership, innovation, and collaboration in distributed teams, among other areas. She serves as an Associate Editor at two management journals and actively contributes to the academic community in a variety of ways. With over a decade of industry experience at Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, and Morgan Stanley, she brings real-world insight to the classroom. A recipient of the 2023 Kenan Award for Teaching Excellence, Professor Eisenberg is deeply engaged in student mentoring and research collaboration.

Nadia Elliott-Hernandez is a registered nurse clinician specializing in psychiatry at NYU Langone Medical Center and a PhD candidate at Pace University. She has worked with psychiatric patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings, holding roles at the bedside and in

administration. Raised in a caregiving culture, Ms. Elliott-Hernandez is passionate about providing care for underserved psychiatric patients, focusing on creating a culture of understanding and empathy by telling the stories behind the diagnoses.

Francine Falk-Ross, PhD, is a Full Professor and Chair of the School of Education at Pace University, where she also coordinates the online Literacy Specialist MSED program and literacy courses. Active in recruitment and on the NYFC's Faculty Affairs Committee, Francine's research focuses on reading, composing, online literacies, and multimodal resources for content area literacy. She has authored two books and numerous articles, with recent work exploring the use of graphic novels to enhance learning for students with language differences. She regularly presents at professional conferences, including the American Educational Research Association.

Dan Farkas, PhD, is a Professor of Information Systems at Pace University's Seidenberg School. He founded the AIS Special Interest Group on GIS (SIGGIS) and researches GIS applications in conservation biology and criminal justice. He has developed innovative GIS curricula and led workshops on networking, Linux, and GIS globally. Holding degrees in history, computer science, and educational technology from NYU, he also earned an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins, supporting his research in environmental conservation.

Gisèle Faye is a telecommunications engineer who graduated from ESMT Dakar (Ecole Superieure Multinationale des Telecommunications). As an Associate Atlassian Consultant at Valiantys, she deploys and configures collaborative tools such as Jira and Confluence for international clients. She is a certified AWS Cloud Practitioner and Jira Projects for Cloud Manager. Simultaneously, Gisèle serves as Chief Innovation Officer at mJangale, a coding school for youths in Senegal. In her master thesis, she engages with the fashion ecosystem in Senegal to explore how AI can transform African fashion.

Dalyn Fernandes holds a Master's in Computer Science and has 5 years of research experience in robotics and automation within the automobile and food production industries. He is proficient in programming languages such as C, C++, Java, Python, and Node.js, as well as in CAD (Solidworks), Ansys simulation, and electronics design tools like KiCad and Eagle.

Garrett FitzGerald, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Peace and Justice Studies at Pace University where he teaches classes on racial justice and intersectional approaches to conflict and peacebuilding. His teaching and research draw on Black feminist and Indigenous scholarship to challenge the politics of knowledge production in the theory and practice of peacebuilding. Forthcoming publications address intersectional approaches to environmental violence and the challenges that settler colonialism poses to normative Peace Studies.

Amanda Flynn, EdD, is a voice professional, author, and performer with extensive experience on Broadway and beyond. She runs a private studio with clients performing in top productions, including *The Lightning Thief* and *Be More Chill*, where she served as Production Vocal Coach. A Singing Voice Specialist, she collaborates with NYC-based laryngologists to support injured singers. Amanda has performed in *Wicked*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Oklahoma*. She holds advanced degrees from NYU, is an active voice researcher, and currently serves on the boards of NYSTA and PAVA.

Ellayne S. Ganzfried, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program and Director of the Speech, Language, and Hearing Center at Pace University. She also directs Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) for CHP. Formerly Executive Director of the National Aphasia Association, Ellayne co-authored *The Word Escapes Me: Voices of Aphasia*. A Fellow of ASHA and Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice, she chairs the NAP Speech-Language Pathology Academy and has presented nationally/internationally on aphasia, rehabilitation, IPECP, and leadership.

Christopher-John Godfrey, PhD, is a Clinical Health Psychologist and Associate Professor in Pace's Psychology (NYC) Department. Throughout his career, Professor Godfrey has worked with community and non-academic partners in health, education, and the arts on research and programs addressing well-being, community, and mental health. His interdisciplinary partners span fields from medicine, nursing, and public health to artists, urban planners, public administrators, and community members.

Riya Golani is a graduate student in Computer Science at Pace University. She works on AI research and builds tools that simplify everyday experiences. Currently, She's developing frontend interfaces to visually interact with Hugging Face models. She works extensively with Python, Hugging Face, and the MERN tech stack in her projects and apart from technology she has experience managing multiple social media accounts for Pace University.

Erica L. Gollub, DrPH, MPH, is a Professor in the Health Science Department at Pace University's College of Health Professions. An epidemiologist with over 30 years of experience, her research centers on sexual and reproductive health, HIV/STI prevention, and gender-based health disparities among marginalized populations. She has led numerous NIH- and CDC-funded behavioral intervention studies and consulted with WHO, NIH, and FDA. A Fulbright and French ANRS awardee, Professor Gollub also serves on the board of the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies.

Venkata Naidu Gorijala is a Data Science graduate student and Digital Transformation Analyst at Jaguar Land Rover. With over three years of experience in analytics and AI, his fellowship project explores generative AI, language, and interactive media.

Dana Greenfield is a producer, educator, and director who brings her background in theater and collaborative storytelling to creative projects across disciplines. She has directed work throughout New York City and internationally, including Romania and Argentina. A collaborator of avant-garde theater pioneer Lee Breuer, she continued direction on his final production, after his passing. Dana's recent work includes directing *The Telling* by Daniel Bernard Roumain and producing *EARTH.SPEAKS* by brooke smiley and *The Dream Machine Experience* by Nona Hendryx at Lincoln Center. She teaches Theater Directing at her alma mater, Pace University.

Trista Guan is a third-year doctoral student in the APA-accredited PsyD program in School-Clinical Child Psychology at Pace University–New York City. She is an active member of the Parent-Child Institute, a research lab within the university's Psychology Department. Currently, Trista is engaged in research focused on child development and parent-child dynamics, contributing to ongoing studies that support the well-being of children and families.

Prince Gupta is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University, graduating in 2026. He holds a Bachelor's in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from VESIT, Mumbai. His expertise includes Python, R, SQL, and machine learning techniques such as Random Forest, KNN, and Neural Networks. Prince has built predictive models, including a salary predictor using AWS SageMaker and a customer churn model with 87% accuracy. His work also includes data visualization with Power BI and experience analyzing NYC Open Data. He has interned at RelyERP and IT Vedant.

Chris Hanley, PharmD, FNYAM is an Adjunct Professor at Pace University's College of Health Professions with over a decade of pharmacy experience in hospital, long-term care, and community practice. He is certified as a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) provider and serves as Director of Pharmacy Education and Chair of Clinical Pharmacology at Manhattanville University. Professor Hanley teaches graduate and undergraduate courses and serves on the Editorial Board of *Integrated Pharmacy Research and Practice* and the Clinical Advisory Board for safeMedicate®. He advocates for advancing pharmacology curricula and interprofessional collaboration.

Tiffany Henley received a PhD in Public Administration in Public Administration and Urban Policy from Old Dominion University in 2016. Her research interests include health policy, public policy, collaboration, and nonprofit management.

Jennifer Holmes, PhD, is a Professor and Dean of Sands College, and the co-founder and Artistic Director of Global Empowerment Theatre (GET), an international nonprofit that uses applied theatre to uplift and educate underserved youth. With past projects in India, Kenya, Myanmar, Tanzania, the UK, and the US, GET empowers young people to share their stories, build confidence, and drive positive change in their communities. Professor Holmes champions self-expression as a pathway to global citizenship, equity, and educational transformation.

Ali Inamdar is a dedicated graduate student in Data Science with a background in Computer Engineering. He has developed a passion for transforming raw data into actionable insights. Originally from India, his recent projects involve API integration for URL analysis, real-time scoring models, and deploying machine learning pipelines in cloud environments like AWS with Hadoop and Hive. In his free time, Ali enjoys swimming, watching motorsports, reading and believes in the power of blending analytical thinking with imagination to build solutions that are not only smart but socially impactful.

Susan Iovino, DNP, RN, is the Chief Nursing Officer at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Queens, New York.

Deepthi Ippala is a Spring 2025 Fellow and a Data Science graduate student at Pace University. Her project explores the use of AI to blend languages and cultures through storytelling, focusing on preserving cultural meaning across different scripts.

Amir Islam, FNP-BC, is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and nursing PhD student with expertise in clinical practice, research, and education. Amir serves as a hospitalist Nurse Practitioner at Garnet Health Medical Center, providing advanced care to hospitalized patients. With a background in emergency and critical care nursing, Amir also teaches advanced physical assessment for nurse practitioner students. His research focuses on digital applications in

nursing education and patient care, particularly addressing metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular health among South Asian immigrants through culturally tailored interventions.

Rajni Jaiswal is a Master of Public Administration candidate at Pace University with research expertise in gender and racial dynamics in governance. She holds an MPhil in International Relations from Jadavpur University and an MA in Political Science from Presidency University, both with distinction. Her work explores women legislators' leadership in India and civic participation in the U.S. Rajni has held roles as a Graduate Assistant at Pace and a Tech Connect Intern at NYPL. She recently presented equity-focused research at NECoPA and her panel paper presentation on fostering inclusion and equity at the ASPA 2025 conference, where she received both SPOD (Section on Professional and Organizational Development) and SWPA (Section for Women in Public Administration) Scholarship awards for her contributions to the field.

[Erica Johnson, PhD](), is Professor and Associate Chairperson of English at Pace University. Her research centers on Caribbean literature and cultural memory studies. She is the author of several books, including *Caribbean Ghostwriting* and *Cultural Memory, Memorials, and Reparative Writing* and has co-edited four books including *The Female Face of Shame* (with Patricia Moran). Professor Johnson is also a recent recipient of a Camargo Foundation Fellowship in France and, currently, a Mellon Foundation grant that supports her continued scholarship in literature, memory, and postcolonial studies.

Sophia N. Johnson, PhD, is a political economist with over 15 years of experience developing scalable solutions for inclusive growth. She recently led Columbia University's Program for Economic Research, where she advanced strategic engagement and promoted diversity in economics. Professor Johnson currently teaches at Pace University and has previously held teaching roles at NYU, Columbia's SIPA, and Seton Hall University. She has also served as a Visiting Scholar at the American Institute of Indian Studies and the University of Kashmir, contributing to global development research.

[Rohan Niranjan Kalpavruksha]() is a Graduate Student and Graduate Research Assistant at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems, Pace University, NYC. With a strong foundation in data science, machine learning, large language models (LLMs) and AR/VR, he actively contributes to AI research and model deployment projects. Previously, he worked as an iOS App Developer at Mercedes-Benz Research and Development, where he contributed to building scalable, user-centric applications. He holds a B.Tech in Electronics and Communication with a minor in Computer Science and is passionate about creating impactful, data-driven solutions.

[Adrienne Kapstein, MFA](), is an Associate Professor and writer/director of original theatrical works. Her current research engages with communities through participatory and site-responsive performances, and invites audiences to reimagine neighborhoods through participatory, place-based storytelling. She is a founding member of UP CLOSE Projects, a collective creating immersive civic experiences for diverse, intergenerational audiences that has presented work from the Lincoln Center to the Brooklyn Navy Yards. Professor Kapstein is the writer/director of *The Society of Historic Sonic Happenings* (SHSH), winner of the Dorothy Webb Write Now Award and a 2025 NEA grant recipient, and recently presented at the La Jolla Playhouse's international immersive festival, Without Walls (WOW).

Kathleen Karsten, PhD, RN, is a Professor at Deputy Director of Health Sciences at LaGuardia Community College of the City University of New York. Professor Karsten is also a Nurse Scientist at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Queens, New York.

Hanin Khalil began her graduate studies in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Pace University after earning dual Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Sociology from Brooklyn College in 2024. Her interdisciplinary background informs her passion for the cognitive and social dimensions of communication, and she aims to bridge research with community-based care.

Ric Kolenda, PhD, is a Clinical Associate Professor of Public Administration at Pace University, where he teaches public policy and management. He holds a PhD in public policy from Georgia Tech and Georgia State University and is a former tech and nonprofit entrepreneur. His research focuses on the economic geography of creative industries, urban inequality, and the gig economy. Professor Kolenda has published in journals such as *Urban Studies* and *Economic Development Quarterly* and is the Immediate Past President of ASPA's NYC chapter.

Nikita Krishnan, PhD, is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Pace University with a Ph.D. in Mental Health Counseling and nearly nine years of teaching experience. She teaches courses such as Cognitive Psychology, Behavioral Neuroscience, and Suicidal Behavior & Counseling, emphasizing the intersection of neuroscience, psychology, and cultural competence. Professor Krishnan is an advocate for mental health awareness, particularly in underserved communities. She actively develops psychoeducational initiatives to reduce stigma and promote mental health literacy, collaborating with nonprofits to encourage early help-seeking behaviors and open dialogue.

Michelle D. Land, J.D., is a Clinical Professor and Director of the MS in Environmental Science and Policy program at Pace University, where she teaches environmental law/policy and animal advocacy. She founded the Animal Policy Project and collaborates with groups like the Veterinary Initiative for Endangered Wildlife, serving on its board. Michelle received the Jefferson Award for Public Service and Pace's Kenan Award for Teaching Excellence. She holds a J.D. and Environmental Law Certificate from Elisabeth Haub School of Law and a BSc in Wildlife Biology from the University of Guelph, Canada.

Melanie LaRosa, MFA, is a filmmaker, professor, and author. Her 2024 documentary, *How To Power A City*, explores renewable energy in six locations and features BIPOC and women leaders. Nominated for four awards, festival and conference screenings ran through 2024-25. It broadcasts nationally on PBS starting May 2025 with distribution through New Day Films. Her books include *Contemporary Post-Production* (Routledge, 2025) and *Communities and the Clean Energy Revolution* (Lexington, 2022). She is a Public Voices Fellow on the Climate Crisis and has published in *The Progressive*, *NACLA*, and more.

James Lawler, DPS, is a Professor of Disability Studies and Information Technologies at Pace University's Seidenberg School. He designs interdisciplinary, community engagement programs with nonprofits supporting disadvantaged populations, including people with disabilities. A pioneer in social entrepreneurship and Design Factory initiatives, he mentors students on STEM-based projects that address social justice issues. Professor Lawler has received the AHRC NYC

Community Partnership Award and the Jefferson Award for Community Service in recognition of over 20 years of impactful work at Pace University.

Madison Lewis is a first-year CSD graduate student at Pace University, having earned her Bachelor of Science in CSD from the University of Texas at Austin in 2022. She is especially interested in neurogenic disorders and the intersection of communication science and healthcare access. Madison looks forward to applying evidence-based strategies in clinical settings.

Kseniya Liavitskaya is a Computer Science undergraduate at the Seidenberg School of CSIS, Pace University, NYC. Her research focuses on using Generative AI in fashion, applying models like Stable Diffusion and StyleGAN to create African wax print patterns. She works with Python, Google Colab, and pretrained models from Hugging Face. As a member of the Pace AI Lab, she explores how AI can support creative and culturally inspired design.

Mary M. Long, PhD, is a Professor of Marketing at the Lubin School of Business, Pace University in New York City. She earned her PhD and MPhil from the City University of New York, an MBA from Fordham University, and a BA in Computer Science from NYU. Her research focuses on consumer behavior and services marketing. She has published in leading journals such as *Journal of Business Research*, *Psychology & Marketing*, and *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, and regularly presents at conferences hosted by ACR and the Academy of Marketing Science.

Michele Lopez, DHEd, RN, CNE, CDE, CHES is a dedicated health education practitioner and lifelong learner. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Pace University, a Master of Arts in Nursing Administration, Leadership, and Organization from Columbia University's Teachers College, and a Doctorate in Health Education from A.T. Still University, College of Graduate Health Studies. Professor Lopez's research explores incivility and bullying in nursing academia, as well as the lived experiences of emerging junior undergraduate nursing students. She is a published author and frequent presenter at professional conferences.

Sowmya Maanini is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University. She holds a Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication Engineering, with a strong foundation in data analysis, machine learning, and statistical modeling. Her projects in predictive modeling and data visualization have deepened her passion for data science. With hands-on experience applying these skills in real-world settings, she is particularly interested in the intersection of AI, machine learning, and data visualization, aiming to contribute to the evolving field of data science.

Jessica A. Magaldi, J.D., is the Ivan Fox Professor and Scholar in the Department of Legal Studies. She holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the *Review of Law and Social Change*. Professor Magaldi's research, published in leading law reviews and interdisciplinary journals, explores the intersection of law and technology, emphasizing humanities-based inquiry, civic engagement, and civil dialogue. Professor Magaldi is dedicated to broadening the impact of the humanities through interdisciplinary collaborations with the professional disciplines, particularly related to technology and artificial intelligence.

Krystina Mathelier is a board-certified adult nurse practitioner with critical care nursing experience. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ramapo College of New Jersey and her Master of Science from New York University. Currently a PhD in Nursing student at Pace University, her research interests include healthy aging, chronic disease self-management, oncology, and innovative technology to improve health outcomes for older adults. Krystina has been serving her community since 2008.

Renu Mathew, MA, RN, a registered nurse with 17 years of experience, earned her Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from The College of New Rochelle, NY, and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from L.T.C.N, Mumbai, India. Passionate about preventive cardiology, she focuses on addressing the disproportionately higher risk of heart disease among South Asian Americans. Renu plans to conduct a secondary comparative analysis to examine coronary artery disease and major adverse cardiovascular events across ethnicities and develop culturally tailored interventions to improve heart disease prevention.

Shiyon Mathew, MS, RN, earned her BS from the College of New Rochelle and MS in Nursing Administration from Columbia University. She defended her dissertation in Nursing at Pace University in January 2025 and is set to graduate in May 2025. Her dissertation explores the relationship between the nurse's work environment, burnout, and patient outcomes. Passionate about professional well-being, Mathew is dedicated to advancing research and initiatives that support healthcare workers and currently practices in critical care at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

Aaschita Reddy Mathuru is a graduate student specializing in Data Science at Pace University. With a Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication Engineering, she focused on machine learning, gaining a solid foundation in the field. Aaschita has published multiple papers, including works on "Social Health Protection During the COVID-Pandemic Using IoT" and "Wearable Covid Companion." She has received international recognition for her project "Sree Swachh: A Community-Level Waste Segregator." As President of the innovation START club, Aaschita fosters creativity and collaboration, aiming to develop data-driven solutions to real-world challenges.

Victoria Mauro is a graduate student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at Pace University. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Sacred Heart University and brings a deep commitment to language development and educational equity. Victoria is enthusiastic about advancing her skills to work with children and adults in diverse learning environments.

[Peter McDermott, PhD](#), is a professor of literacy education at Pace University's School of Education. A former Fulbright Scholar to Bosnia-Herzegovina, he taught civic literacy at the University of Sarajevo. Peter has served as president of the New York State Reading Association and editor of *The Language and Literacy Spectrum*. His research focuses on literacy education, new technologies, and urban education. Peter's work has appeared in multiple journals, and he regularly presents at conferences such as the American Educational Research Association and the New York State Reading Association.

Carla McNulty is a certified oncology nurse practitioner at Montefiore Medical Center with over 15 years of nursing experience. She earned her BSN from Lehman College and her MSN from

the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Currently pursuing a PhD in Nursing at Pace University, her research focuses on palliative care for Hispanics. Carla has worked in intensive care and as a clinical instructor. A passionate advocate for oncology and hospice care, she has presented her research at FIRE and SSA conferences.

Kiara Medina is currently completing her first year in the CSD graduate program at Pace University. She earned her Bachelor's in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Brooklyn College in 2024. Kiara is focused on bilingualism and cognitive-linguistic development, and she's dedicated to promoting language equity and advocacy through speech-language pathology.

Joshua Mendelsohn, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the College of Health Professions and the inaugural Director of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at Pace University, which launched in Fall 2024. His grant-funded research spans global public health topics, including HIV stigma reduction in Uganda, HIV viral suppression among migrant men in Shanghai, health-seeking behaviors in serodiscordant couples in Canada, PrEP use among gay and bisexual men in Canada and China, chronic illness empowerment, and vaccine acceptance among college students.

Nicki Miller, MFA (she/her) is an interdisciplinary theatre artist, aerialist, performer, writer, and movement educator whose work blends imagination, intellect, and embodied practice. She holds a BFA in Drama from Syracuse University and an MFA in Theatre from Sarah Lawrence College. At Pace University, she teaches aerial arts in the Commercial Dance Department and substitutes in movement for the International Performance Ensemble. A certified coach since 2010, Nicki integrates continued education in neuroscience-based movement, somatic practices, and mobility training into her work. www.nickimiller.com

Syed Anas Mohiuddin is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University. He holds a Bachelor's in Data Science & AI and published "Stock Price Forecasting Using Bayesian-LSTM" in *FICTA 2023*. An active member of Hackathon Raptors, he is passionate about innovation and collaboration. His projects include a Parkinson's onset prediction model using CONVXGBOOST and a Knee OA detection system. Committed to cutting-edge research, Syed aims to apply machine learning to real-world challenges in data science.

Jessica Morris, Ed.D. is an Associate Professor of Education at New England College and Director of Project Pericles. She specializes in pre-service K-12 teacher training and strengthening rural schools through immersive fieldwork. Her work addresses teacher shortages and expands learning opportunities in rural southwest New Hampshire. Passionate about experiential education, she recently led a student storytelling initiative in Scotland. Her upcoming sabbatical will focus on historical research to develop community-based social studies curricula.

Ali Motamedi, PhD, MFA, is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and professor at Pace University in New York City. His work examines the intersection of language, AI, and visual storytelling, exploring themes of diasporic identity and cultural expression. He has exhibited in New York and Tehran and published two nonfiction collections on immigration and identity. His current project, *The Evolving Digital Collective Book*, expands his research on asemic writing, AI, and collective authorship, pushing the boundaries of language and technology in contemporary art.

Barbara Mowder, PhD, is a Professor in the Psychology Department at Pace University–NYC and Director of the Parent-Child Institute. She served as the first Program Director of the PsyD in School-Clinical Child Psychology from 1988 to 2021. With a PhD in School Psychology from Indiana University, Professor Mowder has researched parenting, infant and early childhood psychology, and child well-being for over 30 years. She has authored numerous publications and presents nationally and internationally at leading psychology and child development conferences.

Erin Mysogland, MA, MSc (she/her) is the Assistant Director of the Center for Community Action and Research on Pace's NYC campus and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Peace and Justice Studies Program. In both roles she connects Pace students with community organizations to enhance justice through meaningful partnerships.

Valerii Negodiaev, MPA, is a recent Pace University graduate with an MPA and holds a law degree from Russia, where he worked as a civil lawyer and entrepreneur. His experiences fueled his passion for community engagement and societal impact. He is particularly interested in integrating AI into public policy and regulation. Committed to fostering critical thinking, creativity, and ethics in education, he advocates for policies that ensure all students, regardless of background, can thrive in an increasingly technological world.

Anaya Packirisamy is a graduate student in Computer Science with a background in healthcare and nonprofit work. Her interests lie at the intersection of social science and technology, including web design and game development.

Cindy Paradiso, PhD, is an Associate Professor at Lienhard School of Nursing (LSN) with over 20 years of nursing experience. She is clinically active as a Clinical Quality Nurse Specialist in the White Plains Hospital Quality Department. Her research interests include qualitative research, patient safety, medication error prevention, student retention, and interprofessional collaboration. Professor Paradiso has studied medication errors in novice nurses and the experiences of student nurses during their first medication administration. She is passionate about medication safety and producing safe, competent nurses.

Toby Parks (he/him) is a junior at Pace University, majoring in Peace and Justice Studies and Political Science. His civic engagement course led him to volunteer with SAGE as a freshman, where he became passionate about the unique experiences and challenges faced by LGBTQ+ older adults. This experience inspired his research on LGBTQ+ cultural competency training within senior living facilities, exploring how inclusive policies impact the well-being of residents.

Robert Pryce, MSN, RN, is the Director of Critical Care Nursing at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Queens NY. Mr. Pryce is a graduate of the Accelerated BS in Nursing Program at the Lienhard School of Nursing and is currently a PhD in Nursing candidate at the Lienhard School of Nursing.

Anchal Rai is a graduate student in Data Science with a background in Electronics and Communication Engineering. Originally from India, she discovered her passion for machine learning during a B. Tech project using Raspberry Pi to detect anomalies in fruits and vegetables. Her current work focuses on detecting fraudulent activities and improving access to health insurance through AI. Outside academia, Anchal is an avid runner, taekwondo practitioner, and

enthusiastic reader. She is passionate about combining creativity with technical skills to make a positive impact in the tech world.

Reeya K. Ramdeen is a graduate student at Pace University pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a concentration in Health Administration, set to graduate in May 2025. She works full-time as a Scheduling Coordinator at Mount Sinai, bringing over a decade of healthcare experience. Reeya earned her Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Hofstra University in 2021 and presented at the NECOPA conference in October 2025. Passionate about healthcare accessibility and operational efficiency, she is committed to advancing healthcare administration and community engagement.

Vikas Rawat is a Data Science graduate student passionate about AI and hands-on learning. He actively participates in talks, hackathons, and creative tech challenges.

Christine Romano, PhD, is a licensed mental health counselor, EMDR-trained therapist, and AASECT-certified sex therapist and supervisor. Her clinical expertise spans trauma, anxiety, sexual dysfunctions, gender diversity, and relationship counseling. With a background in counseling research, education, and supervision, she has contributed to both academic and clinical settings. She also has experience in human resources and law across corporate and nonprofit sectors. Passionate about teaching and research, Professor Romano explores topics such as interpersonal relationships, sex therapy, counselor development, and multicultural counseling, advocating for accessible mental health care.

Lisa Rosenthal, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Pace University's New York City campus. Professor Rosenthal earned her PhD in Social and Health Psychology in 2011 from Stony Brook University, of the State University of New York. She then completed a 2-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Public Health at Yale University. Her work has focused on the roles of intersecting forms of stigma and discrimination in health inequities, how to incorporate intersectionality into the field of psychology, and intergroup attitudes and relations.

Ann Marie Sailsman, DNP, FNP-BC, MPH is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the undergraduate nursing department at Seton Hall University and a Community Health Nurse at University Hospital in Newark, NJ, with over 30 years of nursing experience, including 20 in academia. She specializes in OB, community health, population health, pediatrics, psychiatry, and gerontology. She earned her BS and MS from Pace University, her DNP from Rutgers, and her MPH from Columbia. A leader in nursing education, she founded the Population Health Student Ambassadors Program and the Minority Future Nurses Club, working to increase diversity in nursing and improve health education. She also provides health education and conducts health screenings for underserved communities in Essex County, New Jersey.

Dennis Sandler, PhD, is a Professor of Marketing at the Lubin School of Business, Pace University, where he teaches marketing, advertising, direct marketing, consumer behavior, and Field Studies in Europe. His research focuses on advertising, promotion, sponsorship, and sports marketing, with publications in *Journal of Advertising Research*, *International Marketing Review*, and *Sport Marketing Quarterly*, among others. He co-founded the Sport Marketing Special Interest Group of the American Marketing Association and has served as faculty advisor to

student chapters of AMA and AIESEC. Professor Sandler earned his PhD from New York University.

Sophia Schaedle is a doctoral candidate in the PsyD School-Clinical Child Psychology program at Pace University. A Brooklyn native and Duke University alumna, she brings an intersectional perspective to her research on gender, sexuality, and sexual education. Her current work examines healthcare access patterns among transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, focusing on support networks and post-operative care-seeking behaviors. Committed to advancing healthcare equity, Sophia aims to develop culturally responsive support systems that address the unique needs of LGBTQ+ communities.

[Christelle Scharff, PhD](), is a Professor of Computer Science and Associate Dean at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University. She holds a PhD in Symbolic Artificial Intelligence from INRIA, France. Her research spans global software engineering, mobile for social change, and deep learning. A U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Senegal, she has taught internationally and received grants from NSF, IBM, Microsoft, and Google. She integrates research, education, and technology to foster innovation and global collaboration in diverse communities.

[Gina Scutelnicu-Todoran, PhD](), is Chair and Professor of Public Administration at Pace University. She holds a PhD in Public Affairs from Florida International University and degrees in Public Service Management and Public Administration from Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. With over 15 years of teaching experience, Professor Scutelnicu-Todoran's expertise includes local government, urban politics, public service leadership, and data analysis. Her research focuses on collaborative governance—particularly specialized government entities—and advancing social and gender equity in public service.

[Namchul Shin, PhD](), is a Professor of Information Systems at Pace University's Seidenberg School. He earned his PhD in Management from UC Irvine. His research explores the economic and societal value of IT, focusing on sustainability, open data, GIS, and nonprofits. A co-founder of AIS's SIGGIS, he has led workshops on GIS and location analytics. He serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Electronic Commerce Research* and has been a Faculty Fellow at Pace's Provost Office and Wilson Center.

Stephanie Sicilian is a graduate student in Information Systems at Pace University's Seidenberg School. She is a Graduate Research Assistant in the AI Lab, where she works on generative and classification models and supports the AI Summer Internship program. Stephanie also serves as Communications Lead for the campus Google Developer Group (GDG), helping organize events focused on AI and emerging technologies. She earned her bachelor's degree in Computer Science while competing as a student-athlete on Pace's women's volleyball team.

Vivekanand Singh, MA, RN, is the Director of Nursing for Medical Surgical Nursing and Director of Nursing Finance at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Queens, New York.

[Rebecca Tekula, PhD](), is Interim Associate Provost for External Engagement and Faculty Opportunity at Pace University, Executive Director of the Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship, and Professor of Public Administration. She brings 20 years of leadership experience with social justice and impact organizations locally and globally. Professor Tekula

holds a PhD in Economics and Public Management from the University of Lugano, with degrees from Vassar, Pace, and Oxford. Her research focuses on impact investing, social enterprise, nonprofit governance, and management education.

Rinta Thomas is a PhD in Nursing student at Pace University Lienhard School of Nursing and a nurse practitioner at a Dermatology Clinic in a large academic medical center in NYC. Her research focuses on the intersection of psoriasis and obesity, specifically testing the feasibility and effectiveness of digital health technology and nurse-led behavioral counseling to manage both conditions in adult patients with psoriasis and a BMI over 25. Her work aims to develop strategies for improving patient outcomes through comprehensive lifestyle interventions.

[Anne Toomey, PhD](#), is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Science at Pace University in New York City. Her research focuses on using science to address real-world environmental challenges through public engagement and participatory methods. Professor Toomey has published in journals such as *Conservation Letters*, *Biological Conservation*, and *Ambio*, and is the author of *Science with Impact*. She has conducted research across the U.S. and Latin America, including the Bolivian Amazon, and is the co-founder and executive director of Participatory Science Solutions LLC.

[Yoshiko Usami, MFA](#), known professionally as Yokko, is an Adjunct Associate Professor, an interdisciplinary Artist, and the Artistic Director of RenGyoSoh and UNFIX NYC, a festival for creating an awareness of ecology through arts. Inspired by the Scotland-based UNFIX Festival, UNFIX NYC explores climate change and ecological transformation through embodied practices—dance, theatre, music, film, and panel discussions. Yokko launched UNFIX NYC in 2016 as RenGyoSoh's annual festival, inviting audiences to experience ecological renewal through the arts. Her original work, *SHINKA, a story of a living being*, received several awards at the New York Innovative theatre award 2019 and Planet Connection Festivity 2018.

Livan Valdes is currently pursuing his master's in computer science and possesses internship experience as a Data Analyst as well as a background in logistics and supply chain. He is interested in AI and proficient in Python and Java.

Sudharsan Vasudevan is a Data Science graduate student at Pace University with over eight years of experience in the banking industry, specializing in credit risk analysis, financial crime compliance, and government schemes. He has worked on optimizing banking processes, reducing non-performing assets, and ensuring regulatory compliance. Passionate about financial inclusion and data-driven policymaking, Sudharsan aims to leverage his expertise in predictive analytics and automation to contribute to public welfare and positive social change in both corporate and public sectors.

Usha Reddy Venna is pursuing a master's in computer science with an interest in coding and technology and proficiency in C, C++, and Java.

Neelima Verma is a Data Science Master's student at Pace University – Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems. With over 10 years of experience in financial services, she transitioned into data science to leverage AI and machine learning for business intelligence, risk modeling, and predictive analytics. Her research interests include Generative AI, Geospatial AI, and AI-driven historical analysis. Neelima has worked on projects in loan

default prediction, sentiment analysis, and AI-powered resume matching. She is also a core member of the Pace University Data Science Club.

Masha Voronchenko is a third-year doctoral student in the APA-accredited PsyD program in School-Clinical Child Psychology at Pace University–New York City. She has been actively involved in the Parent-Child Institute, a research lab within the university's Psychology Department, for the past two years, where she contributes to studies focused on child development and parent-child dynamics.

Emily Welty, PhD, is an activist, artist and academic living and working in New York City. She is the Director of Peace and Justice Studies at Pace University where she teaches classes focusing on nonviolence, humanitarianism, reconciliation, transitional justice and the role of arts in peacebuilding. Professor Welty is part of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) where she worked on faith-based engagement in nuclear disarmament. She is the co-author and editor of *Peace and Justice Studies: Critical pedagogy* (2019), *Unity in Diversity: Interfaith Dialogue in the Middle East* (2007) and *Occupying Political Science* (2013).

Sharon Wexler, PhD, is the Amelia A. Gould Endowed Professor and Chairperson of the PhD in Nursing program at Pace University's Lienhard School of Nursing. She earned her BSN from Simmons College and her MSN and PhD in Nursing Research and Theory Development from NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. With over 30 years of experience in clinical practice and nursing education, Professor Wexler specializes in gerontological nursing. Her research focuses on improving functional and cognitive outcomes for older adults, particularly through the use of gerotechnology.

Marsha Williamson is a PhD student in the nursing program. She has over 20 years of nursing experience and is a Family Nurse Practitioner working in Urgent Care, as well as a nurse educator for a prelicensure nursing program. Her expertise spans critical care, professional development, neurosurgery, and primary care. Her current focus is on engaging and educating students and the community to improve patient care and health outcomes. She is an active member of Sigma Theta Tau, Nurse Practitioner Association, and Eastern Nursing Research Society.

Jennifer Winter is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner with twenty years of experience. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Rutgers University while serving as a medical service specialist in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, receiving the Dean's Award from Rutgers and Airman of the Year from McGuire Air Force Base. Jennifer completed her master's in nursing at Columbia University and is certified as a women's health nurse practitioner. She currently practices in Newark, NJ, and is pursuing a PhD at Pace University Lienhard School of Nursing.

Venkata Pranathi Yammanuru is a Master's student in Data Science at Pace University with a background in mechanical engineering. Passionate about machine learning and deep learning, her research focuses on predictive modeling, NLP, and time series forecasting. She has worked on projects like NYC crime prediction, stock price forecasting, and customer segmentation. Currently, she is deploying a dynamic car price prediction model using TabNet. An active

member of data science communities, she shares knowledge through technical blogs and aims to develop impactful, data-driven solutions.