MERCY COLLEGE FACULTY EXPERTS

Contact: Public Relations  (914) 674-7596 OR 914-674-7314

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Topic: Adolescent substance abuse, anxiety, depression, panic/phobias, smoking cessation.

Name: Ori Shinar
Title: Assistant Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Science and Director of Student Counseling Center
Terminal Degree: Psy.D. Ferauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Broad Subject: Clinical psychological services to enhance general individual wellness
Topical Areas: Anxiety, smoking, cessation, depression, trichotillomania, panic/phobias
Professional Affiliations: Member of the American Counseling Association, American College Health Association and American Psychological Association
Work: (914) 674-7233
Preferred Email: oshinar@mercy.edu
Website: http://www.mercy.edu/faculty/shinar/askDrS/index.htm

BUSINESS

Topic: Small Business Consulting, Investments

Name: Robert Boccino
Title: Assistant Professor and Program Director for Banking
Terminal Degree: Ph.D. Business Administration, Pacific Western University and Doctor of Business Administration, Accounting, Argosy University  
Broad Subject: Small business consulting, with specialty in banking and accounting  
Topical areas: Banking, Accounting, Taxation  
Professional affiliations: National Association of Tax Practitioners  
Work: (212) 480-3200  
Preferred Email: rboccino@mercy.edu

Topic: Business, Organizational Training, Internet Systems

Name: John DiElsi  
Title: Associate Professor and Program Director  
Degrees: Master of Science in Physics from Manhattan College; Master of Science in Computer Science from Polytechnic University of New York; Master of Science in Internet Strategy Management from Marlboro College  
Broad Subject: Internet Business, Computer Science  
Topical areas: Website Management, Education  
Work: 914 674-7306  
Preferred Email: jdielsi@mercy.edu

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Topic: Computer Arts and Animation

Name: Jeffrey Bellantoni  
Title: Associate Professor of Computer Arts and Technology; Program Director for Computer Arts and Digital Media Design  
Terminal Degree: MFA Virginia Commonwealth University  
Broad Subject: Animation, typography, graphic design  
Topical areas: Digital animation, web design, game design, motion graphics  
Professional affiliations: International Game Developers Association (IGDA), American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), Association of Computing Machinery (New York City chapter of ACM SIGGRAPH)  
Publications: “Designing for Time and Space” (RotoVision 2000); Type in Motion: Innovations in Digital Graphics (Thames and Hudson/Rizzoli, 1999)  
Work: (914) 948-3666 Ex 3310  
Preferred email: jbellantoni@mercy.edu

Topic: Computer Arts, Web design, Kinetic Imagery

Name: James Pannafino  
Title: Assistant Professor of Computer Arts  
Terminal Degree: MFA, Rochester Institute of Technology  
Broad Subject: Computer Arts and Technology  
Topical areas: Graphic Design, Web design, Interactive and new media design, motion graphics
Professional Affiliations: American Association of University Professors (AAUP), College Art Association (CAA), International Institute for Information Design (IIID), Certified Online Facilitator-Socrates Distance Learning Technologies Group
Work: 914-948-2202 ext. 3326
Preferred Email: jpannafino@mercy.edu

EDUCATION

Topic: Urban Education, Alternate Routes to Teacher Certification

Name: Constance K. Bond
Title: Assistant Professor and Director of New Teacher Residency Program
Terminal Degree: Ph.D. Teachers College, Columbia University
Broad Subject: Politics and Education
Topical areas: Curriculum, education and public policy, diversity in the classroom, residency-based teacher education.
Work: 212-615-3368
Preferred email: cbond@mercy.edu

Topic: Education, Administrative Mentorship, Teacher Certification, Individualized Certification Programs and Counseling

Name: Esther Wermuth
Title: Associate Professor of Education and Psychology
Terminal Degree: Ed.D. Fordham University
Broad Subject: New York State Licensing issues, administrative mentoring, Special Education,
Topical areas: Professional teacher certification, Teacher regulatory issues.
Professional affiliations: School Administrators of New York State, New York State School Counselor Association
HEALTH

Topic: Communication disorders, speech, language and hearing science.

Name: Patricia Chute
Title: Professor and Division Chair for Health Professions
Terminal Degree: Ed.D. Columbia University
Broad Subject: Communication disorders, speech production and perception in children and adults, auditory disorders in children and adults.
Topical areas: Cochlear Implants, language and speech development of deaf children, noise induced hearing loss, assessing infants for hearing loss, ethical issues of educating deaf children.
Professional affiliations: American Board of Audiology Specialty Certification Program Chair; Licensed audiologist in New York State, Currently Editor of The Volta Review, Scientific Trustee Board Deafness Research Foundation
Svirsky, M.A., Chute, P.M., Green, J, Bollard, P, Miyamoto, R.T. (2004) “Language development in children who are prelingually deaf who have used the SPEAK or CIS stimulation strategies since initial stimulation.” The Volta Review (102)4, 199-214.

Work: 914 674-7644
Email: ewermuth@mercy.edu

Topic: Physical Therapy

Name: Claudia B. Fenderson, PT
Title: Associate Professor and Director of Physical Therapy, Board Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist

Terminal Degree: Doctor of Education- Nova University, Florida

Broad Subject: Physical therapy.

Topical areas: Pediatric physical therapy, training and support for families with infants and children who are developmentally disabled, domestic violence


Work: 914-674-7823

Preferred email: cfenderson@mercy.edu

Topic: Occupational Therapy

Name: Michael E. Gawronski
Title: Associate Professor

Terminal Degree: Master of Science- D’Youville College, Buffalo, New York

Broad Subject: Occupational Therapy

Topical areas: Purposeful activity versus non-purposeful activity; Assistive / Rehabilitative Technology including: Seating and Wheeled Mobility, Electronic Aids to Daily Living, Computer Accessibility and Use, and Home Environmental Modifications.

Professional affiliations: American Occupational Therapy Association; Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America.

Work: 914-674-7832

Preferred email: mgawronski@mercy.edu

Topic: Occupational Therapy

Name: Laurette J. Olson
Title: Professional Associate

Terminal degree: Ph.D., Occupational Therapy, New York University, New York, NY, The Steinhardt School of Education.

Certification and license: American Occupational Therapy Association, New York State License to practice occupational therapy, Board Certified in Pediatrics

Broad topic: Occupational Therapy.

Topical areas: Childhood and Occupational Therapy Practice, Adolescence and Occupational Therapy Practice, Small Group Process for the Health Professional, Qualitative Research Methods lectures in research course in occupational therapy.
**Professional affiliations:** American Occupational Therapy Association, New York State Occupational Therapy Association, Sensory Integration International, Society for Research in Child Development.


**Work:** 914-674-7816
**Preferred email:** lolson@mercy.edu

**Topic:** Occupational therapy, physical disabilities rehabilitation

**Name:** Christine F. Sullivan
**Title:** Director, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
**Terminal Degree:** Master of Science, College of New Rochelle

**Broad Subject:** Gerontology

**Topical areas:** Long term care, home care, day treatment programs

**Professional affiliations:** American Occupational Therapy Association; Executive Board Member and Secretary of the Westchester District of the New York State Occupational Therapy Association; Program Committee Member for the NY Chapter/Hudson Valley Branch of the Arthritis Foundation; Member of the Professional Advisory Council for the Visiting Nurse Service of Westchester.


**Work:** (914) 674-7831
**Preferred Email:** csullivan@mercy.edu

**LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION**

**Topic:** English Literature, Communication, English as a Second Language

**Name:** Sean R. Dugan
**Title:** Chair, Division of Literature, Language and Communication
**Terminal degree:** Ed.D Teachers College, Columbia University  
**Broad Subject:** Literature, English composition,  
**Topical Areas:** Speech and perception, English as a Second language,  
**Publications:** What is the role of correction in the ESL speech class? NEMLA (2003); Crisis in the Classroom and the World, NYS Speech Communication Association (2002); Communication in 3D: Workplace and academic oral communication, NYS Speech Communication Association (2002); Accent perception and employability: Conference on American Popular Culture, Kingston, Rhode Island (2001).  
**Work:** (914) 674-7356  
**Preferred Email:** sdugan@mercy.edu

**Topic:** Violence and representation on stage and screen, culture wars, experimental theatre, politics of Northern Ireland

**Name:** David Kilpatrick  
**Title:** Assistant Professor of Literature  
**Terminal degree:** Ph.D Comparative Literature  
**Broad Subject:** Modernism, history of drama, violence and representation  
**Topical Areas:** Literature, Communication, language, Theory of Criticism  
**Work:** (914) 674-4213  
**Preferred Email:** dkilpatrick@mercy.edu

**Topic:** Animals in Literature; Myths, Cyberculture

**Name:** Boria Sax  
**Title:** Director of Online Research, Development and Training  
**Terminal Degree:** Ph.D. State University of New York at Buffalo  
**Broad Subject:** Mythology, Intellectual History; Cyberculture.  
**Topical areas:** Animals in Myths and Literature, Fairy Tales; Online Learning.  
**Professional Affiliation:** Nature in Legend and Story (Founder); International Society for Anthrozoology; Sloan-C  
NATURAL SCIENCE

Topic: Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,

Name: Barbara T. Nash
Title: Assistant Professor Natural Science Department
Terminal Degree: Ph.D., Biochemistry
Broad Subject: Membrane Protein Biochemistry, Protein Sorting and Vesicular Traffic, Biotechnology, General Chemistry
Topical areas: Computer technology and inquiry-based pedagogy and laboratory activities in biochemistry and general chemistry. Biological relevance of chemistry for life science students.
Professional affiliations: American Chemical Society (ACS), ACS Division of Chemical Education, Alliance of Chemistry Educators, Putnam-Westchester Industry and Science Teacher Alliance.
Work: (914) 674-7206
Preferred Email: bnash@mercy.edu

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Topic: Democracy and dictatorships

Name: Arthur J. Lerman
Title: Associate Professor
Terminal Degree: Ph.D., Princeton University
**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Topic:** Community, ethnicity, gender, family, and victims’ rights.

**Name:** Dorothy M. Cali Balancio  
**Title:** Professor  
**Mercy Department:** Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
**Terminal Degree:** Ph.D., Graduate Center of City University of New York  
**Training:** Harvard University Law School, Cornell University, Visiting Fellow Andrew Mellon Foundation, NYU Visiting Scholar.  
**Broad Subject:** Sociology, social psychology, urban communities, gender roles, Italian Americans, conflict resolution and mediation  
**Topical areas:** Victim’s rights, families, alternative dispute resolutions, career planning.  
**Professional affiliations:** National Exchange Club, NYS Sociological Association, and Certificate in Conflict Resolution, International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution (ICCCR), Columbia University, Certified in Mediator, Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution (IMCR), Certified in career management, decision making, transition, instituted the Louis Balancio Organization for Conflict Resolution, Certified as a Family Life Course Educator (National Council of Family Relations), NYS Teaching License in early childhood  
**Work:** 914 674-7665  
**Preferred Email:** dbalancio@mercy.edu

**Topic:** Anthropology, Minority and Group Relations, Culture and Identity, African Diaspora

**Name:** Lucia M Desir  
**Title:** Assistant Professor  
**Terminal Degree:** Ph.D. The John Hopkins University  
**Broad Subject:** Anthropology  
**Topical areas:** Comparative New World Slave Systems and Race Relations; Cultural awareness training, minority group awareness; African Diaspora.  
**Publications:** "Ethnography, 'Lucy':E.S.L. Students in the 'Content' Classroom." Research and Teaching in Developmental Education. Finger Lakes Community College. "Reification of Culture in Cultural Awareness Models". In Proceedings of the American

**Professional affiliations:** American Anthropological Association, Latino American Studies Association, Teachers of English as a Second Language.

**Work:** 914-674-7357

**Preferred email:** dlucia@mercy.edu

**Topic:** Conflict Management, Mediation, Local Government and Family Law

**Name:** Diana D. Juettner

**Title:** Professor, Co-Chair-Social & Behavioral Sciences Division and Program Director for Legal Studies

**Terminal Degree:** Touro College School of Law, J.D.

**Broad Subject:** Real estate, wills & estates, family law and local government.

**Topical areas:** Mediation, training, diversity and workplace issues.

**Publications:** "Merging Disciplines and Departments," presented at National Conference of the American Association for Paralegal Education, St. Louis, Mo., October 2003.


**Professional affiliations:** Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution; American Association for Paralegal Education; North East Academy of Legal Studies in Business; Westchester County Bar Association, Westchester Women’s Bar Association.

**Professional Training:** Mediation Certificate: Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution (IMCR), January 2003 Negotiation Training; Harvard Law School, June 2000; Environmental & Public Policy Dispute Settlement Skills: Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law, August 2001

**Work:** (914) 674-7546

**Preferred Email:** DJuettner@mercy.edu

**Topic:** Gender Issues, Women Studies, Women and Church

**Name:** Theresa Kane

**Title:** Associate Professor and a Sister of Mercy, (Roman Catholic Order of Nuns that founded Mercy College)

**Degrees:** M.P.A. New York University, Master of Arts Sarah Lawrence College

**Broad Subject:** The Changing Role of Women in Church and Society
Topical areas: Gender Issues, rape, sexual abuse, exploitation of women, poverty of women and children, domestically and universally

Professional affiliations: AAUW (University Women); WOC Women’s Ordination Conference; CTA Call To Action; a National Catholic Social Action Group; Amnesty Intl; NCR(A national Catholic independent weekly newspaper) National Catholic Reporter- Board Member, Serve on the Board of Thorpe - a Homeless Shelter for Women and children - Bronx. Board Member for Mercy Center in Morthaven, Bronx - for education, job employment, advocacy for poor women and children

Work: 914-674-7507
Preferred Email: tkanersm@nymercy.org

Topic: Organizational training and conflict resolution

Name: Robert Schachat
Title: Associate Professor
Terminal degree: Ph.D., University of Connecticut – Social Psychology
Broad Subject: Business, Social Psychology
Topical areas: Organizational training and conflict resolution.
Publications: The Leader's Guide to Recapturing the Trust, 50 Years of Declining Trust
Professional affiliations: New York State Licensed Psychologist.
Work: (914) 674-7625
Preferred Email: rschachat@mercy.edu