

## **Faculty Development Committee Annual Report, 2025–2026**

Members: Monica Das (Economics), Chair  
Joshua Ness (Biology)  
Eliza Kent (Religious Studies)  
Caroline D'Abate (Management & Business)

### *The Year in Summary:*

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) met 12 times to carry out its responsibilities related to faculty development funding, leaves, awards, and policy review.

The committee reviewed nominations and selected recipients for the annual Edwin Moseley Faculty Research Lecturer, the Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Phyllis A. Roth Faculty Distinguished Service Award. The recipient of the Phyllis A. Roth Faculty Distinguished Service Award was announced at the December 5, 2025 faculty meeting. The recipients of the Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Edwin Moseley Faculty Research Lecturer award were announced at the March 27, 2026 and May 1, 2026 faculty meetings, respectively. In Fall 2025, the committee also reviewed applications for Faculty Development Grants, Emeritus Faculty Development Grants, Full-Year Sabbatical Leaves, and Sabbatical Enhancement Applications. In addition, the committee discussed faculty commencement speaker nominations and held budget discussions as needed.

In Spring 2026, the committee reviewed one-semester sabbatical and pre-tenure research leave applications, Faculty Research Initiative Grants, Summer Faculty/Student Research proposals, Schupf Scholar Research proposals, Spring Round Faculty Development Grants, Kress Family Creative Pedagogy Grants, and Emeritus Faculty Development Grants. The committee also finalized deliberations for the Ciancio and Moseley awards.

The committee additionally considered a request to revisit criteria related to non-tenure-track and part-time faculty applications. After discussion and review, the committee concluded that the matter was already adequately addressed in the Faculty Handbook and therefore did not recommend changes at this time.

The Committee would also like to thank Oscar Perez-Hernandez for his guidance and institutional insight, Gina Hoefler for coordinating the many details associated with grant applications and budgets, and Debbie Peterson for her outstanding administrative support throughout the year.

### **Incoming membership:**

Eliza Kent, Chair - Religious Studies , Monica Das - Economics , Joshua Ness – Biology  
Caroline D'Abate - Management and Business

### **Distinguished Faculty Service Award**

**Fehling, Pat**

Professor, Health and Human Physiological Sciences

### **Edwin M. Moseley Faculty Lectureship**

**Breves, Jason**

Professor, Biology

### **The Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching**

**Prasad, Pushkala**

Professor, Management and Business

### **Faculty Development Grants – Fall Round**

**Arora, Neha**

Assistant Teaching Professor, Biology

*AlgaeMine: Green Recovery of Rare Earth Elements with Microalgae*

**Benzon, Paul**

Associate Professor, English

*Unbound Things: Sasha Stiles*

**Biberman-Ocakli, Yelena**

Associate Professor, Political Science

*Programmed for Power: Politics and Technologies of Modern Eugenics*

**Bogin, Benjamin**

Associate Professor, Asian Studies

*Translating the Love Songs of the Sixth Dalai Lama*

**Breves, Jason**

Professor, Biology

*Thermal physiology of Atlantic killifish*

**Castillo, Ruben**

Assistant Professor, Art

*2026 Sabbatical Studio Research Support*

**Chatterjee, Debamalya**

Assistant Professor, Biology

*Role of flavonoid pigments in stomata conductance and caterpillar herbivory damage tolerance in corn plants*

**Day-O'Connell, Sarah**

Professor, Music

*Sound and Story in the Medical Museum: Vienna's Josephinum*

**Day-O'Connell, Jeremy**

Associate Professor, Music

*Cross-Cultural Music/Linguistics*

**Ennis-McMillan, Michael**

Associate Professor, Anthropology

*Ethnographic research on humanitarian volunteers and asylum seekers in Paris*

**Hart, Siobhan**

Professor, Anthropology

*Radiocarbon Dating of Wood Charcoal from the Lake George Battlefield State Park*

**Howson, David**

Teaching Professor, Arts Administration

*Future Forms of Arts Venues: Technology, Immersion, and Audience Engagement*

**Lewis, William**

Professor, Philosophy

*Why Theater? Althusser's Critical Theory of Theatrical production*

**Lopez, Hassan**

Professor, Psychology

*Effects of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) on empathy and altruism in rats*

**Mason, Will**

Associate Professor, Music

*Will Mason Trio (Electroacoustic album)*

**Prasad, Pushi**

Professor, Management and Business

*Capitalism's Dark Complexion: Race, Markets and the Global System of Valuation*

**Prasad, Aarathi**

Associate Professor, Computer Science

*Peekaboo Blur: Privacy-preserving wearable system for children*

**Rabinowitz, Laurie**

Assistant Professor, Education Studies

*Translating Disability and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies to Chilean Teacher Education*

**Rios, Bernardo**

Associate Professor, Anthropology

*The Half-Court: Citizenship, Ethnic Representation, and Cultural Belonging in Competitive 3x3 Basketball*

**Rusenova-Ina, Boryana**

Assistant Professor, Art

*Particiapte in Group Exhibition on Bulgarian women artists*

**Sargeant, Kieron**

Assistant Professor, Dance  
*Certification and Field Research in the Talawa Technique*

**Sattler, Paul**  
Professor, Art  
*New Painting Project: "Enoch"*

**Smemo, Kurt**  
Associate Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences  
*Invasive mammals disrupt plant-soil interactions and drive functional collapse in native New Zealand forests*

**Vuvan, Dominique**  
Associate Professor, Psychology  
*EEG caps for new research methods course*

### **Faculty Development Grants – Spring Round**

**Austin, Alicia**  
Assistant Professor, Theater  
*Visual research trip of traditional Norwegian textiles and dress from the Sami people*

**Ballard, Joe**  
Assistant Teaching Professor, Economics  
*Gender Differences and the Role of Feedback in Advice Giving*

**Baustian, Kathryn**  
Assistant Professor, Anthropology  
*Assessing Mortuary Treatments and Identities at the Harris and Elk Ridge Sites*

**Benzon, Paul**  
Associate Professor, English  
*Unbound Things: Bethany Collins and Shanzhai Lyric*

**Biberman-Ocakli, Yelena**  
Associate Professor, Political Science  
*China and the Changing World Order*

**Bogin, Benjamin**  
Associate Professor, Asian Studies  
*The Copper-Colored Mountain in Cooperstown and Kathmandu*

**Day, Jennifer**  
Professor, History  
*Mother of the Nation: Song Qingling and the Afterlives of the Chinese Revolution, 1893-1981*

**Day-O'Connell, Jeremy**  
Associate Professor, Music  
*Cross-Cultural Music/Linguistics*

**Ennis-McMillan, Michael**

Associate Professor, Anthropology

*Ethnographic research on humanitarian volunteers and asylum seekers in Paris*

**Kizuk, Sarah**

Assistant Professor, Philosophy

*Philosophical Interventions of Viola F. Cordova*

**Klein, Jared**

Senior Artist-in-Residence, Theater

*Exploring The Edinburg Fringe Festival*

**LeSage, Emily**

Assistant Professor, Biology

*Effects of stress on innate immunity*

**Lyons, Sara**

Assistant Professor, Theater

*Research Development for the Third Reich of Dreams and BLUE*

**Matheron, Aurelie**

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Literatures

*Le Corbusier: Modernist Architecture, Facism, and Ghardaia*

**McAdams, Ruth**

Associate Teaching Professor, English

*Victorianist Writing Retreat at the Dickens Universe*

**McDevitt, Sylvia**

Associate Professor, Biology

*Copper induced oxidative stress in bacteria*

**Nechtman, Tillman**

Professor, History

*The Journals of the Endeavor Voyage*

**Oakli, Feryaz**

Associate Professor, Political Science

*Food Security and the Leveraging State in South Vietnam*

**Prince, Alexandra**

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

*Mapping the Legacy and Futures of the Tree of Peace Society*

**Ricketts, Floyd**

Artist-in-Residence, Theater

*Recording New Choral Spirituals for Low Voices: A Research-Based Performance Project*

**Schebetta, Dennis**

Assistant Professor, Theater

*Neon Sky Solo Performance*

**Sperry, Eileen**

Assistant Teaching Professor, English  
*The Early Modern Sickbed Poem*

**Talley, Cate**

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Literatures  
*Teaching French as a Foreign Language Summer University*

**Upadhyay, Sakshi**

Assistant Professor, Economics  
*Immigrants - views, policy, and messsging*

**Vavarella, Emilio**

Assistant Professor, Media and Film Studies  
*Completing a new art film for the Ca' Pesaro International Gallery of Modern Art*

**Wuensch, Juliane**

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Literatures  
*Organizing and Convening the Scholarly Seminar "German Women and Epistolary Culture" in Support of Book Project Development*

**Faculty Research Initiative Grants**

**Kao, Chia-Ying**

Visiting Artist-in-Residence, Dance  
*AI as Collaborator: Improvisation, Somatic Practice, and Shared Authorship in Dance*

**Hou, Xiaoshuo**

Professor, Sociologies / Asian Studies  
*International Migrant Workers in China's Bordering Cities: Gender and Precarity*

**Bozio, Andrew**

Associate Professor, English  
*Scenes of Dispossession: English Theater and the Aesthetics of Racial Capitalism*

**Kim, Young**

Senior Artist-in-Residence, Music  
*The Spirit of Korea: Commissioning, Premiering, and Recording New Works for Solo Piano*

**Kress Family Creative Pedagogy Grant**

**Wolff, Melora**

Professor, English  
*Special Studies in Writing: The Vintage Writer*

**Emeritus Faculty Development Grants – Fall Round**

**O'Brien, Mary-Elizabeth**

World Languages and Literatures  
*Girl Trouble in DEFA Films 1948-1978*

**Vella, David**  
Mathematics and Statistics  
*MAA Lifetime Membership*

### **Emeritus Faculty Development Grants – Spring Round**

**Leavitt, Kate**  
Art  
*Bricolage Book*

**Denny, Tom**  
Music  
*Drone Documentation of SoBro Trianble*

### **Faculty Student Summer Research Program**

**Amin, Anjni**  
Assistant Professor, Music  
*Online Learning Sources for the Self-Teaching of Pop/Rock Music*

**Arciero, Paul**  
Professor, Health and Human Physiological Sciences  
*Comparison of Essential Provisions Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) versus a commercially available MRE on Body Composition, Cardiometabolic and Fitness Outcomes in Women and Men*

**Arora, Neha**  
Assistant Teaching Professor, Biology  
*Algae for Rare Earth Metal Recovery: Harnessing the potential of aid-tolerant microalgae*

**Ashmore, Anthony**  
Assistant Professor, Physics  
*New symmetries in quantum systems with neural networks*

**Ashmore, Anthony**  
Assistant Professor, Physics  
*Exploring the strong force with neural networks*

**Ball, K. Aurelia**  
Associate Professor, Chemistry  
*Using Gaussian Accelerated Molecular Dynamics to study long-timescale conformational changes of flexible proteins*

**Berheide, Catherine**  
Professor, Sociology  
*The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Faculty Well-being*

**Biberman-Ocakli, Yelena**

Associate Professor, Political Science

*New Eugenics and the Future of American Democracy*

**Bilotta, Neil**

Assistant Professor, Social Work

*Decolonizing Refugee Social Work: Prioritizing Indigenous Ways of Knowing*

**Bonner, Jennifer**

Associate Professor, Biology

*The Role of Hemp Extract on Zebrafish Behavior*

**Bonner, Jennifer**

Associate Professor, Biology

*The Role of Hemp Extract on Zebrafish Cellular Structures*

**Bozio, Andrew**

Associate Professor, English

*Scenes of Dispossession: English Theater and the Aesthetics of Racial Capitalism*

**Brandes, Daniel**

Assistant Professor, Chemistry

*Photochemical C-H Arene Nitration using 1-Nitropyrazole*

**Brandes, Daniel**

Assistant Professor, Chemistry

*Photocatalytic Oxidation of Sulfenamides to Sulfinamides for the Synthesis of Medicinally-Relevant Compounds*

**Cantave, Rachel**

Assistant Professor, International Affairs

*Exploring the Socioeconomic Construction of Brazilian Transgender Identities*

**Castillo, Ruben**

Assistant Professor, Art

*Unexpected Archival Kin- and Image-making*

**Chatterjee, Debamalya**

Assistant Professor, Biology

*Defense response of corn against fall armyworm herbivory*

**Chatterjee, Debamalya**

Assistant Professor, Biology

*Effectiveness of corn flavonoid against herbivory of invasive fall armyworm larvae*

**Daniels, Patrick**

Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

*Ekedahl-Oort types of Artin-Schreier curves*

**D'Evelyn, Charlotte**

Assistant Professor, Music

*Video Game Sounds: Approaches for Studying Music in Interactive Narrative*

**D'Evelyn, Charlotte**

Assistant Professor, Music

*Echoes from the Margins: Listening to Ethnicity in the People's Republic of China*

**Diaby, Bakary**

Associate Professor, English

*Blake and the Jew: "Without contraries there is no progression"*

**Frederick, Kimberley**

Professor, Chemistry

*Development of a microfluidic paper analytical devices (uPAD) for measuring the antioxidant potential in beverages*

**Frey, Steven**

Associate Professor, Chemistry

*Analysis of Manganese(II) Complexes with High Stability in Aqueous Solution*

**Gleit, Rebecca**

Assistant Professor, Sociology

*Examining K-12 Educators' Responses to Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct*

**Greaves, Maggie**

Associate Professor, English

*Writing Wonder Outdoors: Creative Writing Pedagogies of Attention and Planetary Awareness*

**Hawke, Sam**

Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

*Reducing High-Dimensional Political Data*

**Ives, Stephen**

Professor, Health and Human Physiological Sciences

*Exploring the Synergistic Effects of High Intensity Interval Training Exercise with and without Heat Stress on Cardiovascular and Vascular Health in Adults*

**Johnson, Rebecca**

Professor, Psychology

*The Body-Object Interaction Effect on Children's Eye-Movements During Reading*

**Kent, Eliza**

Professor, Religious Studies

*Theosophy in John Neihardt's Black Elk Speaks (1932)*

**Lagalwar, Sara**

Professor, Neuroscience

*Effects of stress on Spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA1) cells: depolarization of mitochondria*

**Lagalwar, Sara**

Professor, Neuroscience

*Effects of stress on Spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA1) cells: sharing the mitochondrial burden*

**Le Sage, Emily**

Assistant Professor, Biology

*Grow, multiply, and evade: exploring phenotypic variation among Bd isolates*

**Le Sage, Emily**

Assistant Professor, Biology

*The effect of road salt runoff on amphibian fungal disease prevalence and intensity*

**Li, Yueqi**

Assistant Professor, Management and Business

*When Prior Effort Clouds Judgment: Sunk Cost Bias in External Auditing and the De-biasing*

*Role of GenAI Decision Support*

**Malen, Greg**

Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

*Extremal Hyperbolic Polyforms*

**McDevitt, Sylvia**

Associate Professor, Biology

*Understanding Copper Resistance in Enterobacteria*

**Navea, Juan**

Professor, Chemistry

*Oxidation of volatile hydrocarbons via non-thermal plasma chemistry*

**Navea, Juan**

Professor, Chemistry

*Daytime chemistry in the marine atmosphere: nitrous acid formation*

**Navea, Juan**

Professor, Chemistry

*Atmospheric processing of sea spray aerosols*

**Ocakli, Feryaz**

Associate Professor, Political Science

*Mapping Urban Food Vulnerability: Testing Embedded Experiments across Local Surveys*

**Owens, Tammy**

Assistant Professor, American Studies

*The Burden of Proof: How Underrepresented Memoirists (Re) Create Themselves*

**Park, Joowon**

Associate Professor, Anthropology

*Psychological Warfare of the Far East Command*

**Possidente, Bernard**

Professor, Biology

*Circadian Clock Function in a Gene Knockout Mouse Model for Angelman's Syndrome*

**Prasad, Aarathi**

Associate Professor, Computer Science  
*Creating picture books on healthy use of technology*

**Raththagala, Madushi**

Associate Professor, Chemistry  
*Investigating the Regulation of Glucan Phosphatases Family of Enzymes*

**Raththagala, Madushi**

Associate Professor, Chemistry  
*Investigate the mechanism of SEX4 kinetic cooperativity*

**Reiter, Johanna**

Assistant Professor, Social Work  
*Survivor Strengths: Voices from Youth Exposed to IPV*

**Schmitt, Harrison**

Assistant Professor, Psychology  
*Promoting Racism-Conscious Environmental Perceptions through Critical Historical Understandings*

**Seaton, Christopher**

Professor, Mathematics and Statistics  
*Orbifold Euler Characteristics of Torus Representations*

**Sheppard, Kelly**

Professor, Chemistry  
*Dual Pathways for B. anthracis Asn-tRNA Formation*

**Smemo, Kurt**

Associate Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences  
*Forest management to mitigate an imminent threat to Eastern Hemlock in the Adirondacks*

**Szabo, Csilla**

Associate Teaching Professor, Mathematics and Statistics  
*Agent-based Model of Patchwork Biological Corridors for Pollinators*

**Talley, Cate**

Assistant Professor, World Languages and Literatures  
*Reading Tales of Racial Apprenticeship in French Colonial Literature*

**Tinkle, Adam**

Associate Professor, Media and Film Studies  
*Increasing Understanding and Empathy around Middle East Conflicts through Familial Archives and Intergroup Dialogues*

**Vecsey, Christopher**

Professor, Neuroscience  
*Studies of sNPF Neuron Function in Drosophila melanogaster*

**Vecsey, Christopher**

Professor, Neuroscience

*Identification of Modifiers of DIP-alpha-mediated Neural Connectivity in Drosophila melanogaster*

**Vuvan, Dominique**

Associate Professor, Psychology  
*EEG Hyperscanning*

**Vuvan, Dominique**

Associate Professor, Psychology  
*Language and Music in the Early Infant Auditory Environment*

**Wojcik, Erica**

Associate Professor, Psychology  
*Learning Words in Different Contexts*

**Wojcik, Erica**

Associate Professor, Psychology  
*Language processing in a second language*

**York, Benjamin**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics  
*Applications of Combinatorics to Baseball*