

ADMINISTRATION

Milton Santiago, Interim President
Pamela Brown, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Miguel Cairol, Vice President for Administration and Finance
Marling Sone, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs
Rita Uddin, CIO/Vice President of IT

Reginald Blake, Associate Provost
Justin Vazquez-Poritz, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences
Maureen Archer-Festa, Dean, School of Professional Studies
Hong Li, Interim Dean, School of Technology and Design



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Reginald Blake, Chairperson
Lubie Alatraste, Daniel Alter, Esteban Beita Solano, Monica Berger, Mary Ann Biehl,
Karen Bonsignore, Candido Cabo, Soyeon Cho, Gwen Cohen-Brown, Susan Davide, Lynda Dias,
Boris Gelman, Evgenia Giannopoulou, Darya Krym, Zory Marantz, Nazanin Munroe,
Susan Phillip, Marcia Powell, Ashwin Satyanarayana, Shelley Smith, and Junior Tidal

PREVIOUS SCHOLARS ON CAMPUS

2001	Carmen Valle
2002	Adrienne Wortzel
2003	Roman Kezerashvili
2004	Maria Estela Rojas
2006	Djafar Mynbaev
2007	Annette Saddik
2008	Gregory Matloff
2009	Hugh McDonald
2010	Hans Schoutens
2011	Jane Mushabac
2012	XiangDong Li
2013	George Guida
2014	Monique Ferrell
2015	Benjamin Shepard
2016	Reginald Blake
2017	Janet Liou-Mark
2018	Reneta Lansiquot
2019	Maura Smale
2020	Hamidreza Norouzi
2022	Diana Samaroo
2023	Giovanni Ossola
2024	Suzanne M. Miller
2025	Andrea Ferrogli

SCHOLARSHIP ON CAMPUS

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
285 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, 11201

Monday, May 11, 2026

Award Ceremony at 4PM | Academic Complex
Reception at 5:30PM | Room A-105

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks _____ **Milton Santiago, Interim President**
Pamela Brown, Provost

Introduction of Scholar _____ **Andrea Ferrogliola, PhD**

“You’re Very Strange, That’s a Good Thing” _____ **Jennifer Sears-Pigliucci**
Scholar on Campus 2026–2027

Presentation of Award _____ **Milton Santiago, Interim President**

Presentation of Master Mentor Award _____ **Pamela Brown, Provost**
Shelley Smith, PhD

Presentation of Certificates _____ **Pamela Brown, Provost**
Scholar on Campus Finalists 2026
Mentorship Awards:
· Faculty Mentoring Faculty
· Faculty Mentoring Students
· Student Peer Mentoring
2025 Poster Session Student Winners _____ **Diana Samaroo, Professor**
Faculty Poster Session Recognitions _____ **Roman Kezerashvili, Professor**
New Grant Awards (2025–2026)

SCHOLAR

Jennifer Sears-Pigliucci’s writing and scholarly work has received recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation of the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simmons Iowa Short Fiction Award, the Northeast Modern Language Association’s Fiction Book Award, and the 2025 CUNY Book Completion Award.

Her book *What Mennonite Girls Are Good For*, published by the University of Iowa Press in 2025, garnered praise from Mary Gaitskill, Tim O’Brien, Margot Livesey, and Julia Spicher-Kasdorf. Her stories and essays appear in *Guernica*, *Electric Literature*, *Fence*, *Ninth Letter*, *Kenyon Review*, *Witness*, *Fiction International* and elsewhere, and have earned distinction in *Best American*



Essays, *Best American Short Stories*, and *Best American Nonrequired Reading*. Her scholarly writing focuses on Ralph Waldo Emerson’s late-life journey to Egypt and Vladimir Nabokov. Her articles on pedagogy, co-written with City Tech faculty, explore the student first-year experience.

Sears-Pigliucci’s professional writing career began at *The Boston Globe*. She received an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University’s School of the Arts and is co-founder and co-coordinator of the Minor in Creative Writing in the English department at City Tech.

Jennifer Sears-Pigliucci
Professor, English Department

NEW GRANT AWARDS (2025-2026)

- **Viviana Acquaviva** - *From sparse data to full spatio-temporal fields: Surface ocean carbon and beyond*, SIMONS FOUNDATION-PP (\$1,780,097.00)
- **Navid Allahverdi, Farrukh Zia, Ben Mendoza** - *Interdisciplinary AI Education Initiative in Civil and Computer Engineering Tech*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$25,000.00)
- **Reginald Blake and Hamidreza Norouzi** - *REU Site: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Satellite and Ground-Based Remote Sensing at NOAA-CESSRST: Fundamental Preparation*, National Science Foundation (NSF)-FF (\$681,265.00)
- **Pamela Brown and Patty Gorkhover** - *Perkins 2025-2026*, New York State Education Department (NYSED) (\$1,430,394.00)
- **Pamela Brown and Alana Kim** - *STEP-Science and Technology Entry Program*, New York State Education Department (NYSED) (\$545,587.00)
- **Pamela Brown and Alana Kim** - *CSTEP-Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program*, New York State Education Department (NYSED) (\$445,951.00)
- **Vitaliy Dorogan and Ivana Radivojevic Jovanovic** - *Beginnings: A Quest to Understand and Experience Semiconductor Technologies for a Quantum Future (QUEST for Quantum Future)*, National Science Foundation (NSF)-FF (\$804,391.00)
- **Emerson Ea** - *SmartStart at City Tech Nursing: AI-Powered Pre-Nursing Advising Pilot*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$28,500.00)
- **George Garrastegui and Sara Woolley** - *Design Hackathon*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$12,000.00)
- **Samaneh Gholitabar, Samsur Rahman, and Muhammad Moniruzzaman** - *Microgravity Simulation for Lunar In-Situ Build*, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)-FF (\$49,500.00)
- **Eun Jeong Lee** - *ICT-Enabled Information Access Among Korean Americans: Community and Organizational Adaptation in the New York Metropolitan Area*, CUNY AAARI Asian American / Asian Research Institute (\$10,000.00)
- **Douglas Moody** - *Infusing RAG, or Retrieval-Augmented Generation exercises into CTforAll.net*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$21,000.00)
- **Hamidreza Norouzi, Reginald Blake, and Viviana Acquaviva** - *Collaborative Research: EPIIC: Accelerating sustainable partnerships for innovation, research, and entrepreneurship in AI*, National Science Foundation (NSF)-FF (\$400,000.00)
- **Maria Pagano and Diana Mincyte** - *Building AI Literacy Through Course Conversion in Sociology and Psychology*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$12,000.00)
- **Cesar Salazar** - *Responsible AI Co-Pilots for Construction Documentation, CAD, and BIM*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$25,000.00)
- **Diana Samaroo** - *City Tech’s Undergraduate Research and AI Integrity Initiative*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$15,000.00)
- **Xi Shen** - *Nonlinear PDE in Complex Geometry*, National Science Foundation (NSF)-FF (\$111,379.00)
- **David Smith** - *Modeling and Simulation Eco-System for Mobility Design in Multi-Domain Operations*, WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE-PP (\$52,500.00)
- **David Smith** - *Integrated AI Ethics and Immersive Blended Learning Initiative*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$25,000.00)
- **Esteban Beita Solano and Eugene Seungho Park** - *Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Architectural Representation and Design Education*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$24,000.00)
- **Viviana Vladutescu** - *AI Training of Faculty and implementation in Curriculum*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$25,000.00)
- **Yongchao Zhao, Kannan Mohan, Baruch and Trang Nguyen, Baruch** - *AI-Powered Assistant for Institutional Data*, CUNY Academic AI Innovation (\$24,939.00)

FACULTY POSTER SESSION RECOGNITIONS

SCHOLAR ON CAMPUS FINALISTS 2026

BEST POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDEES

- **Vishwas Joshi** - *Ligand Design and Synthetic Strategies for Nanopatterning Bismuth Nanoparticles*
- **Marissa J. Moran** - *Artificial Intelligence and the Law*
- **Samaneh Gholitabar** - *Planning a Health Impact Assessment Framework for Major Events in New York City*

ONE-MINUTE FACULTY POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **David M. Bradley and Johann Thiel** - *Polynomials that Encode Depth and Node Information for the Binary Trees Created by QuickSort.*
- **Lia Dikigoropoulou and Michael Ray Malonjao**, in *LAWN 2025: Collaborative Futures for Ukraine's Urban-Nature Landscapes.*
- **Vitaliy Dorogan, Alex Davis, Khaoula Dehhou, Ivana Radivojevic Jovanovic** - *Photoluminescence of Novel Hybrid Quantum-Dot / Indium Selenide Nanostructures for Optoelectronics.*
- **Samaneh Gholitabar, Owen Murphy** - *Planning a Health Impact Assessment Framework for Major Events in New York City.*
- **Aseela Hassan, and Margaret Rafferty** - *Lyme Disease: Implications for Nursing.*
- **Ahmed Hasebo** - *Smart Cities and Surveillance Technology: Balancing Innovation, Security, and Privacy in Urban Environments.*
- **Vishwas Joshi** - *Ligand Design and Synthetic Strategies for Nanopatterning Bismuth Nanoparticles.*
- **Marissa J. Moran** - *Challenges Posed When Using Emerging Technologies in Law Practice.*
- **Khrystyna Vyprynyuk and Isis Marsh** - *Documentation and Communication as Key Elements of Risk Management.*
- **Noreen Y. Whysel, Shari Thurow, and Beverly Corwin** - *The Anatomy of a Question in Information Architecture and AI: Chatbots and Search.*
- **Tianyi Zhao, Viviana Vladutescu, Mikhail Polyanskiy, William Li, Vikas Teotia, Marcus Babzien, Dismas Choge, Mark Palmer, Tahsinur Rahman, Joseph Rukaj, Brandon Palencia, Jorge Chavez, Mithila Islam, Oscar Situ, Li Geng, Lufeng Leng, and Giovanni Ossola** - *Comprehensive Design and Testing of Particle Accelerator Technology.*



Urmi Duttagupta | MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Urmi Duttagupta is a Professor of the Mathematics Department at New York City College of Technology – CUNY, received her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics jointly from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University, and a B.S. in Applied Mathematics from The Ohio State University.

Her current research interests include optimization, infectious disease modeling, and criminal network analysis. As a strong proponent of undergraduate research, she has mentored more than 45 students over the years. As a PI and co-PI, she received numerous prestigious grants, including three major NSF S-STEM grants, six Mathematical Association of America (MAA) National Research Experience for Undergraduates (NREUP) grants, two Department of Homeland Security (ORISE, DHS) grants, and two PSC-CUNY grants, reflecting her dedication and impact in the field. She has years of experience advising students, serving as the Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Computer Science Coordinator.

Additionally, she has a keen interest in mathematical art and education-focused volunteer initiatives spanning marginalized communities in India and the 50+ community in the USA. She co-initiated an education sponsorship program for disadvantaged children in Kolkata with a local non-governmental organization, hoping that small efforts would inspire many and help the children break the cycle.



Huseyin Yuce | MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Huseyin Yuce is a Professor of Mathematics at New York City College of Technology - CUNY. He holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Michigan State University (2005), where he also earned an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Industrial Mathematics. He received an M.S. in Mathematics from Lamar University and a B.S. in Mathematics from Anadolu University, Turkiye.

His research bridges mathematical modeling, data science, and health analytics. Trained in differential equations, perturbation theory, and vibration analysis, his early work focused on biharmonic equations and structural vibrations before expanding into large-scale data-driven modeling in healthcare, and epidemiology.

Dr. Yuce has contributed extensively to health economics and outcomes research using large administrative datasets, including Medicare, Veterans Affairs, and MarketScan claims data. His recent work examines population-weighted density and COVID-19 transmission dynamics, and he is currently investigating rare event analysis applied to rare diseases. He holds 56 peer-reviewed publications with 1,926 citations, an H-index of 28, an I10-index of 42, and has secured 19 research grants (18 as principal investigator). As a University Faculty Leadership Fellow at the CUNY Office of Research, he co-developed the CUNY Research Convergence and Expertise Map. He actively integrates research into undergraduate teaching and projects.

MENTORSHIP

2025 POSTER SESSION STUDENT WINNERS

Master Mentor



Shelley E. Smith | ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

Professor Smith's practice, scholarship, and teaching focus on construction technologies, preservation, and architectural history. Projects and publications have included ground penetrating radar (GPR) for historic masonry investigation, monitoring techniques for timber frame construction, masonry coatings analysis, historic resource surveys, cultural landscapes, vernacular buildings of the colonial Americas, and mid-century modern housing. Work has been published and presented for the Society of Architectural Historians, the Vernacular Architecture Forum, the Association for Preservation Technology International, and the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*.

Grant activities include: Project Director of the *STEM Success Collaborative* (Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions grant, US Department of Education, 2021–2026), PD of the NSF *Fuse Lab: Collaborative Education for Tomorrow's Technology in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction* (2011–2015), and Assistant PD of *Along the Shore: Changing and Preserving the Landmarks of Brooklyn's Industrial Waterfront* from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and CoPI on the *Living Laboratory: Redesigning General Education for a 21st-Century College of Technology* from the US Department of Education.

A committed institutional leader and mentor, Professor Smith served as chair of the Department of Architectural Technology (2010–2015), served as Faculty Co-Chair of the college's Middle States accreditation (2016–2018), and currently serves as Co-Director of City Tech's Faculty Commons.

Prior to joining City Tech in 2007, Professor Smith was an Associate at Walter Sedovic Architects, Project Architect at Buttrick White & Burtis, and an adjunct professor at Marymount College (Fordham University).

Faculty Mentoring Faculty

REGINALD BLAKE	NINA BANNETT	CHARISSE MARSHALL	ELIZABETH MILONAS
DAVID B. SMITH	ERNESTO MESTRE-REED	DOUGLAS MOODY	LUBIE ALATRISTE
SHELLEY SMITH			

Faculty Mentoring Students

AHMED HASSEBO	FARRUKH ZIA	LIA DIKIGOROPOULO	STEVEN INDELICATO
ALEXANDER APTEKAR	JEFFREY KEITER	MARZI AZARDERKASH	VISHWAS JOSHI
ANNE CHEN	JENNA SPEVACK	MOHAMED ISLAM	YOUSOON BAEK
DAVID SMITH			

Student Peer Mentoring

SHIOU CHING CHEN	ADRIAN GUIN RIZZO	NATASHA WALCOTT	SHAHZODA KAMOLIDDINOVA
SONYA WEINSTOCK	AZIZA AMINJONOVA	AURIBEL VARGAS PENA	

Fall

- **Kyshia Anderson** mentored by **Prof. Alyssa Adomaitis**, *AI-Driven Sustainable Textile Waste Utilization in New York State: Part I*
- **Sydni Ann Kolokoltsev** mentored by **Prof. Vishwas Joshi**, *GRAPES CURE CANCER: My First Molecular Docking Analysis of Resveratrol Binding to Anti-Apoptotic Protein BCL-2: In Silico*
- **Sabahat Moughal** mentored by **Prof. Sarah Price**, *Legal and Communication Challenges of Immigrant Physicians: Navigating the U.S. Healthcare System on JI and HIB visas*
- **Forruk Ahmed, Anna Aleksyeyeva, Oman Balan, and Ashley Hassang** mentored by **Prof. Zoya Vinokur**, *First mammography screening participation and breast cancer incidence and mortality in the subsequent 25 years: population based cohort study*
- **Khaoula Dehhou and Alex Davis** mentored by **Prof. Vitaliy Dorogan**, *Photoluminescence of Novel Hybrid Quantum -Dot/Indium Selenide Nanostructures for Optoelectronics*

