

# Faith & Health Educator Directory



Interfaith  
America

# Welcome to Interfaith America's Faith & Health Network.

This directory features more than 70 educators who have partnered with IA to help unlock the positive potential of our nation's religious diversity in health settings. The list includes faculty, administrators, and staff from religious studies, pre-health programs, public health, and beyond.

Through course and curricular design, research, guild service, and campus-community partnerships, they work to engage diverse identities and communities to strengthen human wellbeing. Interfaith America is proud to recognize this esteemed group of innovative, committed educators. Feel free to contact any network members directly, or reach out to our team directly with further questions. (Note: Many publications mentioned in their profiles are co-authored or edited.)





## Kamal Abu-Shamsieh

Director of Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

Institution: Graduate Theological Union	Email: kshamsieh@gtu.edu
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Location:  
Berkeley, CA



*I train international communities on the intersection of spirituality and health in clinical settings. Most of my activities centered in Malaysia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Palestine-Israel.*

Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Chaplaincy Settings and Models
- Interreligious Approaches to Spiritual Care
- Death Theologies and Rituals

Related Research and Publications:

- [The Spiritual Formation of a Chaplain: An Islamic Perspective \(2013\)](#)
- Barriers to Spiritual Care Among Muslim Patients (2012)
- End of Life Care and Islamic Practical Theology: A Case Study: The Dying Experience of Prophet Muhammad (2020)
- The Application of Maqāsīd al-Sharīḥah in Islamic Chaplaincy (2020)

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Spiritual Care in Palliative Care
- Bioethics and Islamic Theology

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- [Ziyara Muslim Spiritual Care](#)
- [Federation of Islamic Medical Associations](#)
- [Association of Muslim Chaplains](#)
- [Association for Clinical Pastoral Education](#)



## Toluwani Adekunle

Assistant Professor

Department: Psychology and Public Health	Institution: Calvin University	Email: toluwani.adekunle@calvin.edu
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Location:  
Grand Rapids, MI



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Introduction to Public Health (Public Health)
- Global Health (Nursing)



Location:  
Pittsburgh, PA



# Stuart Allen

Professor

Department:  
Communication and  
Organizational Leadership

Institution:  
Robert Morris University

Email:  
allens@rmu.edu

## Related Research and Publications:

- [A framework for leader, spiritual, and moral development \(2022\)](#)
- [Undergraduate students' perceptions of learning about leadership in multifaith workplace \(2020\)](#)
- [Teaching management, spirituality, and religion: André Delbecq as a pioneer \(2020\)](#)
- [Designed for inclusion: André Delbecq's approach in multi-faith environments \(2020\)](#)
- [Spiritual development in executive coaching \(2019\)](#)
- [A spiritual aspect to executive coaching \(2019\)](#)
- [Workplace spirituality in the public sector: A study of US water and wastewater agencies \(2019\)](#)
- [Human resource professional's competencies for pluralistic workplaces \(2018\)](#)
- [Navigating the study of executive leaders' spirituality: André Delbecq's journey \(2017\)](#)
- [Graduate leadership students' perspective on including spiritual topics \(2015\)](#)
- [Faculty perspectives on the inclusion of spirituality topics in nonsectarian leadership and management education programs \(2014\)](#)

## Related Activities:

- Previous chair of Religion & Spirituality Focal Group (RMU President's Inclusion Council)

## Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Management Spirituality and Religion Division (Academy of Management)



# Matthew Bersagel Braley

Professor

Department:  
Ethics, Culture, and Society

Institution:  
Viterbo University

Email:  
mtbersagelbraley@viterbo.edu

Location:  
La Crosse, WI



## Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion, Resistance, and Reconciliation in South Africa
- Global Health, Local Healthworlds

## Related Research and Publications:

- "From Whence Does Their Help Come: The Religious "Nones" as Caregivers during the COVID-19 Pandemic," Program Grant for Researchers, Louisville Institute
- "Recovering Religion: Practicing Intersectoral Cooperation in a Time of Cholera" (2017)
- "Global Health after Pentecost: Toward Theological Reflection as a Religious Health Asset" (2014)
- "The Christian Medical Commission and the World Health Organization," in Religion as a Social Determinant of Health (2014)
- "Checking Vitals: The Theological (Im) Pulse of Christian Leadership in Global Health" (2011)

## Related Activities:

- Board Member, Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center (FQCHC in rural Wisconsin)
- Board Member, Bethany-St. Joseph Corporation (ecumenical senior care centers)

## Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Fellow, [Leading Causes of Life Initiative](#)
- Society of Christian Ethics



## Paul Boaheng

Associate Professor and Philosophy Program Coordinator

**Department:**  
Intelligence Studies, Geospatial Science, Political Science, and History

**Institution:**  
Fayetteville State University

**Email:**  
pboaheng@uncfsu.edu

**Location:**  
Fayetteville, NC



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- World Religions and Health Care (PHIL 121)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- “Compulsory Vaccination, Christian Conservatives, and the Bible”
- “Utilizing Tenets of Stoicism to Handle Covid-19 Pandemic”
- “Shintoism and Confucianism in Modern Japanese Society”
- “How to Incorporate Shintoism into World Religion”
- “Building an Environmental Ethics from the Confucian Ethical Concepts”
- “The Biblical Foundation for Social Justice”
- “Prisoner Right to and Right to Refuse Medical Treatment”

- “God and the Traditional African Experience: Shattering the Stereotypes”
- “Locke on God, Capitalism, and Self-Ownership”
- “Should Creation Science and Evolutionary Theory be taught in the Public Schools?”
- “God and the Principle of Sufficient Reason”

**Related Activities:**

- Philosophy of Religions
- Health Care Ethics

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- North Carolina Religious Studies Association (NCRSA)
- Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)
- American Philosophical Association (AMA)
- International Institute for Human Factor Development (IIHFD)



## Linh Bui

Assistant Professor

**Department:**  
Public Health Program

**Institution:**  
California State University Bakersfield

**Email:**  
lbui1@csub.edu

**Location:**  
Bakersfield, CA



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Introduction to Public Health (Public Health 2000)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- American Public Health Association
- AcademyHealth



## Jasmina Cheeseman

Program Director and Assistant Professor of MSPA Studies

Department: Physician Assistant Studies	Institution: Franklin College	Email: jcheeseman@franklincollege.edu
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Location:  
Franklin, IA



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Bridge to Clinical Practice I, MSPAS



## Emil Chuck

Director of Advising Services

Institution: Health Professional Student Association	Email: emilchuck@hpsa.org
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Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Becoming a Student Doctor (online course)
- Treating Trans Patients (online course)

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions
- Academy for Professionalism in Healthcare



## Dan Clanton

Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Department: History	Institution: Doane University	Email: dan.clanton@doane.edu
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Location:  
Crete, NE



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Death and the Afterlife (EIS/SOC 315)

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Society of Biblical Literature

*I am the point person and faculty associated with our Ethics and Interfaith Studies program. Ours is an interdisciplinary program, and one of the programs we work with is our Health Sciences department. We're also hoping to establish partnerships with health care providers in our area and are working with our Director of Strategic Partnerships to do so.*



## Kathleen Clark

Associate Professor

Department: Nursing	Institution: Augsburg University	Email: clarkk@augsborg.edu
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Location:  
Minneapolis, MN



*I work with the Interfaith Scholars at Augsburg University during their studies to understand health and interfaith and have experiences in the community. I have also helped create a course on Interfaith Nursing for Augsburg University's continuing education department.*





## Meghan Clark

Associate Professor of Moral Theology

Department: Theology & Religious Studies	Institution: St. John's University	Email: clarkm1@stjohns.edu
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Location:  
Stearns County, MN



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Moral Theology of Healthcare (THE 3330)

Related Research and Publications:

- "Practicing Local Listening with Village Midwives in Sudan: A Case Study for Theological Ethics" (2023)
- ["Charity, Justice, and Development in Practice: A Case Study of the Daughters of Charity in East Africa" \(2020\)](#)

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Society of Christian Ethics
- Catholic Theology Society of America
- American Academy of Religion

*At St. John's, Moral Theology of Healthcare is a required component for pharmacy, nursing, physician assistant, and other allied health majors. A key course goal is to engage many faith traditions on medical ethics and public health so that students are prepared to treat patients from diverse religious backgrounds with care and respect.*



## Elizabeth Cochran

Professor of Catholic Studies and Theology

Department: Catholic Studies	Institution: Duquesne University	Email: cochrane@duq.edu
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Location:  
Pittsburgh, PA



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Health, Disability, and Justice
- Health Care Ethics

Related Research and Publications:

- "Race, Autism, and Health Disparity: Assessing the Landscape in the Pittsburgh Region," supported by Duquesne's Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research

Related Activities:

- Disability and ethics
- Virtue ethics
- Christian theological anthropology

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Society of Christian Ethics
- American Academy of Religion



## Elizabeth Coody

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Department: Humanities	Institution: Morningside University	Email: coodye@morningside.edu
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Location:  
Sioux City, IA



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion and Medicine (REL290)

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Interfaith Leadership
- Cultural Studies
- Religious Studies
- Biblical Studies

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Academy of Religion
- Society of Biblical Literature
- Theta Alpha Kappa (National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology)
- Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honor Society)

*I'm in partnership with Dr. Amanda Haverhals, DNP, RN, CNL, Associate Professor of Nursing, to revise my course for our healthcare and nursing students.*



## Disa Cornish

Associate Professor

Department: Physician Assistant Studies	Institution: University of Northern Iowa	Email: disa.cornish@uni.edu
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Location:  
Cedar Falls, IA



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Maternal and Infant Health (Public Health)



## Kalvin Cummings

Assistant Director for Religion and Spiritual Life

Department:  
Office of Diversity, Inclusion,  
and Multicultural Education

Institution:  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Email:  
kcummings@wpi.edu

Location:  
Worcester, MA



*I spread awareness and support spiritual wellness and interfaith resources by hosting services and programs in the Collegiate Religious Center at WPI. I support faculty, staff, and students with the priority of collaborative wellness and self-care initiatives by increasing prayer and reflection spaces on campus. With this particular focus on the concept of belonging and wellbeing, I work with Campus Chaplains, Religious Advisors, the Center for Wellbeing (CWB), the Student Development Counseling Center (SDCC), and campus and local community partners to promote spirituality and wellness through wellness resource guides.*



## Giovanna Czander

Associate Professor

Department:  
Religious Studies

Institution:  
Dominican University New York

Email:  
giovanna.czander@duny.edu

Location:  
Orangeburg, NY



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion, Spirituality, and Healthcare (HL/RS 111, team-taught)

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Interfaith Studies

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Catholic Biblical Association
- Society of Biblical Literature



## Lucas Dargo

Program Director

Department: Rehabilitation Sciences	Institution: Manchester University	Email: liddargo@manchester.edu
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Location:  
Fort Wayne, IN



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Athletic Training Seminar

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access related issues in athletic training governmental affairs.

*I am the Director of the Master of Athletic Training Program at Manchester University. I am also the Director of Interprofessional Education.*



## Michael DeJonge

Professor and Chair

Department: Religious Studies	Institution: University of South Florida	Email: mdejonge@usf.edu
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Location:  
Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion and Medicine in Society

Related Research and Publications:

- Research interest in the socio-structural differentiation and relation of religion and medicine



## Laura Dingeldein

Clinical Assistant Professor

Department: Religious Studies Program	Institution: University of Illinois Chicago	Email: ldingeld@uic.edu
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Location:  
Chicago, IL



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Religious Diversity in the Healthcare Fields (Religious Studies)

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Society of Biblical Literature
- American Academy of Religion

**Related Activities:**

- Created an undergraduate course on the intersection of religion and healthcare
- Partnered with faculty at UIC's College of Medicine and College of Applied Health Sciences to develop curricular items for graduate students on the intersection of religion



## Darren Duerksen

Associate Professor Intercultural and Religious Studies

Department: Biblical and Religious Studies	Institution: Fresno Pacific University	Email: darren.duerksen@fresno.edu
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Location:  
Fresno, CA



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Religion, Health, and Healing (cross-registered as an undergraduate Biology and Religious Studies class and a graduate Chaplaincy/Ministry class)

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American Academy of Religion
- American Society of Missiology

**Related Activities:**

- Interfaith coalitions focused on various social justice initiatives



## Angela Ekwonye

Associate Professor

Department: Public Health	Institution: St. Catherine University	Email: amekwonye034@stkate.edu
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Location:  
St. Paul, MN



**Related Research and Publications:**

- Exploring the role of faith communities in promoting community health and well-being during a health crisis

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Spirituality and mental health
- Stress and resilience

**Related Activities:**

- Member of Lumen Christi Catholic Community Mental Health and Wellness Ministry

*My research focuses heavily on mental health promotion with a specific focus on the mechanisms and factors of resiliency underlying the health of vulnerable and diverse populations in the face of social and economic adversity. My expertise includes a strong background in spirituality, meaning, and mental health. I collaborate with a local faith community to improve the mental health status of its members.*

*Details about my research work can be found here: ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1552-7158>*



## Adam English

Chair & Professor of Theology and Philosophy

Department: Christian Studies	Institution: Campbell University	Email: englisha@campbell.edu
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Location:  
Buies Creek, NC



*Ordained minister,  
Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship*

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Public Health Ethics (Public Health)
- Debating Ethics (Philosophy)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- “Golden Rule Ethics Applied to Relational Models” (2023)

**Related Activities:**

- Co-Coach College Ethics Bowl debate team
- Executive Secretary-Treasurer, National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- History of Christian theology

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Association of Practical and Professional Ethics
- American Academy of Religion
- National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion



## Mark Erath

Assistant Professor

Department: Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences	Institution: Mary Baldwin University	Email: mark.e.erath@gmail.com
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Location:  
Staunton, VA



*My goal is to explore and understand religiously diverse underpinnings and to employ interfaith values that underlie essential behaviors of health sector leaders when engaging in policy making processes and in making ethical decisions, at any scale among challenging alternatives more deeply.*

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Healthcare Policy, Law and Ethics (HCA 245)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- Ethics framework developed for application in all healthcare administration courses taught in the curriculum

**Related Activities:**

- Partnership with MBU Religion Department/University Chaplain

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Over 30 years of practical experience serving as an advisor to or executive with leading health organizations across the U.S. before working in academia

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American College of Healthcare Executives
- Healthcare Financial Management Association
- National Association for Healthcare Quality
- American Society for Quality
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program



## Darlene Flaming

Associate Professor

Department: Religion	Institution: Mercer University	Email: flaming_dk@mercer.edu
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Location:  
Macon, GA



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Health and Healing Across Religions

**Related Activities:**

- Directed a group of Faith in the Vaccine Ambassadors



## Joseph Florez

Assistant Professor

Department: Religious Studies	Institution: California State University Bakersfield	Email: jflorez1@csub.edu
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Location:  
Bakersfield, CA



## Brenda Ford

Chaplain (Affiliate) and Lecturer

Department: • Africana Studies • Undergraduate College of Global Health, Wellness, and Community	Institution: Stony Brook University	Email: revbrenda.ford@stonybrook.edu
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Location:  
Suffolk County, NY



*I serve as chaplain at Stony Brook University. In addition, I teach courses for both the Africana Studies department and Undergraduate College of Global Health, Wellness, and Community. I have served in several arms of chaplaincy from university to hospital.*

### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Varieties of Religions
- AIDS, Gender Race and the Black Community
- The African America Family
- Social Medicine Grand Rounds
- History of Medicine - An African American Perspective
- Spiritual Wellness: Caring for your Soul While in College

### Related Research and Publications:

- [“How Reverend Brenda Ford Uses Her Commute to Unwind” \(2022\)](#)

### Related Activities:

- Alumni of Union Theological Seminary

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Master of Community Health Administration
- Master of Divinity

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Ordained, Itinerant Elder - African Methodist Episcopal Church, Member
- Association of Pastoral Chaplains, Member of The African-American Advance Care Planning/Palliative Care Network
- Member, National Campus Ministry Association
- Member, Spiritual Care Association
- Member of Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education





## Mary Glenn

Assistant Professor of the Practice of Chaplaincy and Community Development

Location:  
Pasadena, CA



**Department:**

Chaplaincy, Justice and Advocacy, Intercultural/Urban

**Institution:**

Fuller Theological Seminary

**Email:**

maryglenn@fuller.edu

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Christian Chaplaincy and Pluralistic Context (MA in Chaplaincy)

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Association of Professional Chaplains
- Academy of Religious Leadership

**Related Research and Publications:**

- [Responding to Suicide With the Ministry of God's Presence](#)



## Megan Granquist

Professor of Kinesiology & Director of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program

Location:  
La Verne, CA



- *Spirit of La Verne Award for Interfaith Cooperation (2017)*

**Department:**

Athletic Training

**Institution:**

University of La Verne

**Email:**

mgranquist@laverne.edu

**Related Research and Publications:**

- "Incorporating Interfaith Concepts in Education on Patient-centered Care" (2022)
- "Incorporating Interfaith Concepts in Athletic Training for Patient-Centered Care," presented at Northern New England Athletic Training Conference, West (2023)

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- I am a Professor of Kinesiology and Director of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program at the University of La Verne. Among my publications, I am lead-author of the textbook, Psychosocial Strategies for Athletic Training (2014) and co-author of the chapter "Psychosocial Considerations for Rehabilitation of the Injured Athletic Patient" included in Prentice's 7th edition Rehabilitation Techniques. My research is focused on psychosocial aspects of sport injury and rehabilitation and interfaith concepts in athletic training and health care.

**Related Activities:**

- Interfaith America: Religion & Health Curriculum Grant (Granquist & Padilla)
- Interfaith America: Building Interfaith America Grant (Granquist, Rose, Wagoner)
- Fellowship to attend Teaching Interfaith Understanding, Chicago, IL
- Interfaith Youth Core Faith & Health Campus Grants: Leveraging Our Religiously Diverse Landscape Toward Community Wellbeing (Granquist & Wagoner)



# Judy Gregg

Dean of School of Nursing & Health Sciences

<b>Department:</b> School of Nursing and Health Sciences	<b>Institution:</b> Mount Vernon Nazarene University	<b>Email:</b> judy.gregg@mvnu.edu
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Location:  
Mount Vernon, OH



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Professional Perspectives in Healthcare (HSC1012)

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Public Health/Leadership

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Sigma Theta Tau
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing



# Hans Gustafson

Director and Faculty

**Department:**

Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies and Theology

**Institution:**

University of St. Thomas

**Email:**

hansgustafson@stthomas.edu

Location:  
St. Paul, MN



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Interreligious Encounter
- Lived Religion
- Religion in Public and Professional Life

**Related Research and Publications:**

● BOOKS:

- *Humanizing Dialogue Across Difference: Theory and Practice* (2024, forthcoming)
- *Everyday Wisdom: Interreligious Studies in a Pluralistic World* (2023)
- *Interreligious Studies: Dispatches from an Emerging Field* (editor, 2020)

● PUBLICATIONS:

- “An Emerging Phronetic Framework in Interfaith and Interreligious Studies Courses in the United States: A Response to Jones and Meyer” (2022)
- “Sparring with Spider Silk: Models for the Relationship between Interreligious Studies and the Interfaith Movement,” in *Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies* (2021)
- “Interreligious Studies and Personal Changemaking Pedagogy for Leadership and the Common Good: The My Story Assignment” (2021)
- “Defining the Academic Field of Interreligious Studies” (2020)
- “Vitality of Lived Religion Approaches,” in *Interreligious Studies: Dispatches from an Emerging Field* (2020)
- [“Teaching Lived Interreligious Encounter in a Virtual COVID-19 World” \(2021\)](#)
- “A Tale of Two Pandemics: Interreligious Engagement in the ‘Fierce Urgency of Now’” (2020)

**Related Activities:**

- Working with nursing faculty interested in integrating modules on religious literacy
- Helping undergraduate student set up nursing internship that includes religious diversity training
- Founder/director of Interfaith Fellows program at University of St. Thomas
- Minnesota Multifaith Network (Advisory Board)

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Interreligious Studies
- Lived Religion
- Leadership

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Association of Interreligious/Interfaith Studies (Leadership team)
- Interreligious & Interfaith Studies unit at the American Academy of Religion (Steering committee)
- European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (member)
- Journal of Ecumenical Studies (Associate Editors Board)
- Indonesian Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Humanity (Inaugural Advisory International Editorial Board)



## Susan Haddox

Professor of Religious Studies

Department: Justice, Diversity, and Interdisciplinary Humanities	Institution: University of Mount Union	Email: haddoxse@mountunion.edu
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Location:  
Alliance, OH



Faith and Health Courses Taught: Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Interreligious Understanding for Healthcare (REL240)

- Society of Biblical Literature

Related Research and Publications:

- Biblical studies with a focus on masculinity studies, including issues of health and ability



## Amy Hinkelman

Associate Professor and Academic Officer of the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program

Department: Microbiology & Immunology, School of Medicine	Institution: Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine	Email: hinkelman@campbell.edu
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Location:  
Buies Creek, NC



Related Research and Publications:

- Vaccine hesitancy
- COVID-19 serology and risk behaviors
- Immune mechanisms of disease and response

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Career guidance and professional skills building for young professionals and those in pursuit of healthcare careers
- Medical and healthcare education
- Curricular development and design

Related Activities:

- Coharie Tribe and other state-recognized tribal communities--various activities to promote community health and wellness
- NCWorks--health and non-health related workshops, etc. for women of all ages
- Interprofessional Education among the health sciences (public health, physical

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- International Association of Medical Science Educators
- Society of Self Fellows



## Megan Hudson

Physician Assistant and Associate Professor

Department:  
College of Natural and Health Sciences

Institution:  
Southeastern University

Email:  
mmhudson@seu.edu

Location:  
Lakeland, FL



*Educating future  
leaders in healthcare to  
empower and serve the  
hurting world*

Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Diagnostic Clinical Foundations
- Medical Terminology

Related Activities:

- Global Health Outreach in Clinical Education in Uganda

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Physician Assistant with specialization in disordered eating behaviors



## Mona Ibrahim

Professor

Department:  
Psychology

Institution:  
Concordia College

Email:  
ibrahim@cord.edu

Location:  
Moorhead, MN



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Psychology and Culture (PSY 220)

Related Research and Publications:

- “Religious Coping and Psychological Well-being: An Examination of the Relationship Between Positive Religious Coping and Mental Health among Young Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic” (2023): poster presented at the 13th International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Athens, Greece

- “Investigating Faith and Mental Health in College Students During COVID-19: A Focus Group” (2023): oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA), Chicago, IL
- “Religious Coping Predicts Mental Health among College Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Pilot Study” (2023): poster presented at the APS’s International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS), Brussels, Belgium



# Katherine (Trina) Janiec Jones

Chair and Professor, Religious Studies

Department: Religious Studies	Institution: Wofford College	Email: joneskj@wofford.edu
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Location:  
Spartanburg, SC



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Spiritual Autobiography and Memoir

**Related Activities:**

- I am the chair of a department that has many double-majors or people who minor in religion and major in a health-related field.

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Buddhist Studies
- Interfaith Studies

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American Academy of Religion



## Mark Johnson

Professor and Director of Postgraduate Education

Department:  
Pharmacy

Institution:  
Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy

Email:  
mjohnson@su.edu

Location:  
Winchester, VA



### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Spirituality in Patient Care (health professions elective taught to pharmacy students and other health professions students)
- Lecture to 1st year pharmacy students and PA students on Spirituality and Health
- Experiential rotation to pharmacy students at a local nursing home called “Whole Patient Care in Pharmacy Practice”
- Health Fairs in the Community

### Related Research and Publications:

- “Spirituality in Pharmacy Textbook: Providing Holistic Care—It’s More Than Medicine” (2021)
- Response to “De-Conflating Religiosity/Spirituality” (2019)
- “The Spirituality and Religiosity of Pharmacy Students” (2019)
- “Patient Attitudes Concerning Pharmacist Inquiry of Spirituality in a Community Pharmacy”
- “Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Health Professions Students’ Spirituality and Well-being”

### Related Activities:

- Incorporation and Evaluation of Interprofessional Education on Spirituality Into the Curricula of First Year Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Students
- Various Health Fairs in Community
- Partnership with Winchester Rescue Mission to provide pharmacy consultation

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Outside Lectures:
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Webinar Series: Overcoming Mistrust of Health/Medical Information and Research—Roles for Faith Communities and Pharmacy Personnel, Virginia Pharmacists Association, May 2023
  - Whole Person Care: The Importance of Addressing the Mind, Body, Spirit of a Patient, Presentation to Seniors of Winchester and Frederick County during Active Aging Week, Godfrey Miller Center, Winchester, VA, October 2022
  - Shenandoah University/Valley Health Spirituality and Health Conference “Integrating Spirituality In Today’s Healthcare: An Online Conference For Healthcare Professionals Including Providers, Students, & Clergy,” Overall Conference Moderator, November 2021

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
- American Society of Health System Pharmacists
- Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International



## Staci Johnson

Chair, School of STeM; Professor of Biology

Department: Life Sciences	Institution: Southern Wesleyan University	Email: sjohnson@swu.edu
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Location:  
Central, SC



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Bioethics (BIOL 3313)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- Student Conceptions of Reproduction:**  
This work seeks to learn how undergraduate students understand human reproduction and how those correlate with their views on reproductive health care.

**Related Activities:**

- Pre-health advisor at SWU

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Biology education researcher using qualitative and mixed methods

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Human Anatomy & Physiology Society
- American Physiology Society
- Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research



## Patricia Koplas

Professor of Biology/Chair

Department: Biology and Chemistry Department	Institution: Queens University of Charlotte	Email: koplas@queens.edu
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Location:  
Charlotte, NC



*I also serve as the pre-health advisor for undergraduate students.*

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Interfaith Competencies for Health Professions (IDS300)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- I presented my course at a health advisor workshop in May 2023.

**Related Activities:**

- I assisted with development of a Biomedical Ethics minor with colleagues in other departments at Queens.

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Licensed physical therapist with years of clinical experience

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions





## Oleg Kostyuk

Assistant Professor of Religion, Assistant to the President for Mission

Department: Health and Biomedical Sciences	Institution: AdventHealth University	Email: Oleg.kostyuk@ahu.edu
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Location:  
Orlando, FL



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- World Religions for Health Care Professions
- Spiritual Disciplines and Practice for Healthcare Professions

**Related Research and Publications:**

- New Testament
- Philosophy of Emotions
- World Religions
- Spirituality
- Flourishing

**Related Activities:**

- Assistant to the President for Mission

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- New Testament
- Flourishing
- Wholeness Research

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions
- Adventist Society of Religious Studies
- Society of Biblical Literature

*I currently serve as the Assistant to the President for Mission at AdventHealth University, where I lead the university's mission integration initiatives and oversee the development and implementation of the University's Mission Integration Master Plan. In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I teach courses in religion, specifically world religions and spirituality.*



## Katie Kunnen

Associate Professor

Department: Nursing	Institution: Calvin University	Email: katherine.kunnen@calvin.edu
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Location:  
Grand Rapids, MI



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Faith Community Nurse Foundations Course (Continuing Education)
- Critical Reflections (NURS 380)

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Faith Community Nursing International

Related Research and Publications:

- Minority Student Perspectives of Barriers, Supports, and Christian Virtues in an Undergraduate Christian Nursing Program

*I am passionate about embodying faith in my teaching and practice. I believe the wisdom of spiritual practices can be applied to help individuals and communities change behavior to be holistically healthy.*



## Minji Lee

Assistant Professor

Department: Religion and Medical Humanities	Institution: Montclair State University	Email: leemin@montclair.edu
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Location:  
Montclair, NJ



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Body and Soul: Body in Asian Medicine and Religion

- “Woman’s Weakness Saving Humankind: Hildegard of Bingen’s Views of the Woman’s Reproduction and Sexual Differences” (2021)

Related Research and Publications:

- “Hildegard of Bingen’s Medical/Spiritual Healing: the Intersection of History of Religion and Medical Humanities” (2022)
- “The Womb in Labor: Representing the Woman’s Body as an Active Vessel in Hildegard of Bingen’s Cause et cure” (2022)
- “True Knowledge of God Obscured in Mind and Body: Hildegard of Bingen’s Medical and Religious Understanding of Adam’s Fall” in Essays on Women in Western Esotericism Beyond Seeresses and Sea Priestesses (2022)

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Medieval gynecology
- Mysticism
- Female saints
- Asceticism

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Editor, [Nursing Clio](#)
- American Academy of Religion



## Lahronda Little

Assistant Professor in Practice of Spirituality and Health

Department: Candler School of Theology	Institution: Emory University	Email: lahronda.little@emory.edu
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Location:  
Atlanta, GA



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Spirituality and Health
- Vocational Discernment

Related Research and Publications:

- [\*A Womanist Holistic Soteriology: Stitching Fabrics with Fine Threads\* \(2023\)](#)
- ["Can America Be Saved? A Pastoral Response to Racism and Covid-19 and an Appeal for Dreams, Visions, and Imagination" \(2021\)](#)

Related Activities:

- L'Arche USA - Safeguarding Commission
- Emory School of Public Health

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Pastoral Theology

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Society for Pastoral Theology



## Heidi Miller

Professor, Physician Assistant

Department: Department of Clinical Health Professions	Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology	Email: hbmscl@rit.edu
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Location:  
Rochester, NY



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Spirituality, Religion and Medicine

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Medical Education and Humanities
- Medical Ethics
- History of Medicine

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Rochester Academy of Medicine
- New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct



## Anne Mocko

Associate Professor

Department:  
Religion

Institution:  
Concordia College (MN)

Email:  
amocko@cord.edu

Location:  
Moorhead, MN



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

● Death & Dying (REL345)



## Susan Myers

Associate Professor

Department:  
Theology

Institution:  
University of St. Thomas

Email:  
SEMYERS@stthomas.edu

Location:  
Saint Paul, MN



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

● Person-Centered Care: Women and Theology (Theology)



Location:  
Greenville, NC



# Mary Nyangweso

Professor of Religious Studies

Department:  
Philosophy and Religious Studies

Institution:  
East Carolina University

Email:  
WANGILAM@ecu.edu

## Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion and Healthcare
- Religion and Reproductive Health

## Related Research and Publications:

- “Disability in Africa: A Cultural/ Religious Perspective” in *Disability in Africa: Inclusion, Care, and the Ethics of Ubuntu* (2021)
- [“Contending with Health Outcomes of Sanctioned Rituals: The Case of Puberty Rites” Religions](#) (2022)
- “Social Determinants of Reproductive Health Outcomes in Kenya” (2020): presentation at Conference on Intercontinental Meeting on Gender and Sexuality Studies
- “Religion and the Rights of African Women in the Age of HIV/AIDS: Illustrations from Kenya,” in *Strong Women, Dangerous Times: Gender and HIV/AIDS in Africa* (2009)
- “The Role of Traditional Doctors in Modern Health Sciences” (1995)

## Related Activities:

- Co-convenor of a conference titled, “Religion and Public Health: Bridges for Collaboration,” East Carolina University (2018)
- Convenor of “Religion, Immigration, Health, and Human Rights: Challenges and the Way Forward” 2013
- “Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Clinical Implications for Women’s Health” (2018): poster presentation at REOG APGO Annual Meeting, National Harbor, Maryland
- “Religion, Humanities and Public Health” (2017): presentation at the National Humanities Conference, Boston, Massachusetts

## Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Academy of Religion
- The Pan-African Dialogue Institute



## Andra Opalinski

Associate Professor

Department:  
Nursing

Institution:  
Mercer University, Georgia Baptist  
College of Nursing

Email:  
opalinski\_as@mercer.edu

Location:  
Macon, GA



### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Spirituality and Health modules for population health courses in nursing curriculum

### Related Research and Publications:

- "A Qualitative Unitary Caring Theory Perspective of Adolescent and Young Adult Experiences of Resilience" (2023)
- "Foods Served at Faith Community Events for Children – Is there Room for Improvements in this Unexplored Child Nutrition Site?" (2019)
- ["Food Culture of Faith Communities and Potential Impact on Childhood Obesity" \(2017\)](#)

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Health promotion and well-becoming for adolescent and young adult populations

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Nurses Association
- Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of nursing
- American Nurse Practitioners Association



# Da'Tarvia Parrish

Director of The Honors Program

Department:  
English

Institution:  
Livingstone College

Email:  
datarvia@gmail.com

Location:  
Salisbury, NC



*With a PhD in Humanities, and ethnic concentrations in African American and Africana Women's Studies, my passion is rooted in care for historically marginalized communities and women. As healthcare security is intrinsically tied to economic security, I make strident efforts to rally for universal access to quality, affordable healthcare that includes insurance and comprehensive family planning services.*

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- At Your Disposal: Consent, Conductions, Complications, Cadavers and Covid - The Black Body in US History (HON 330: Special Topics)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- Advised Senior student researcher Emile Dogbe-Gakpetor who also presented at the North Carolina Honors Council conference relating to the effects of Covid on a small HBCU campus

**Related Activities:**

- Livingstone College partnered with over 10 churches and community groups from 2020-2023 to combat health initiatives in the Rowan-Salisbury community and greater area to include HIV/AIDS Awareness, Covid-19 hesitancy and awareness, mental health initiatives, and breast cancer awareness. This year's work will include topics related to Alzheimer's disease.

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Children with imprisoned mothers
- Other interdisciplinary interests include:
- Geography and African American writers
  - Photography and Southern women
  - Film and historical fiction
  - Visual culture and the Black church
  - Civil rights law and narrative fiction

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American Association of University Women, chapter president of Salisbury Branch
- Board member of National Association of African American Honors Program
- Regional President of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society
- Key reader for Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
- North Carolina Civil Rights Trail board member
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated



## Sharrona Pearl

Associate Professor

Department: Health Administration, History, Center for Science, Technology & Society	Institution: Drexel University	Email: shp72@drexel.edu
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Location:  
Philadelphia, PA



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Jewish Medical Ethics (HSAD/Jewish Studies T380)

Related Research and Publications:

- [“Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die? An Unethical Ethics Committee Decides” \(2022\)](#)
- [“Art, Disability, and Family: A Review of Golem Girl” \(2021\)](#)
- [“A Blessing Too Good for Jews Alone” \(2021\)](#)

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Health Humanities
- Bioethics
- History of Medicine
- AI Ethics

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Association for the History of Medicine
- History of Science Society
- Society for the History of Technology
- International Communication Association



## Ann Pederson

Professor of Religion, Coordinator of Medical Humanities and Society

Department: Religion	Institution: Augustana University	Email: pederson@augie.edu
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Location:  
Sioux Fall, SD



*I have an appointment as an Adjunct Professor in the Section for Ethics and Humanities at the Sanford School of Medicine, University of South Dakota University*

Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion, Medicine, and Ethics
- Medical Humanities and Society  
Capstone: Designing Your Life

Related Research and Publications:

- I have published both articles and books at the intersection of religion and science, religion and medicine with a focus on the extended mind. Much of my research is interdisciplinary.

Related Activities:

- I am the faculty sponsor for the Medical Humanities Club at Augustana University.

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Religion and Science, Lutheran Constructive Theology, Religion and Place/Geography

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Academy of Religion
- Institute on Religion in an Age of Science





## Garrett Potts

Assistant Professor

Department: Religious Studies	Institution: University of South Florida	Email: garrettpotts@usf.edu
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Location:  
Tampa, FL



*I am an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at USF. My work focuses on religious-cultural competence, particularly in the areas of Health, Business, & Religion. To date, my research examines virtuous leadership and the importance of empathy and active listening while striving to engage respectfully with others' religious and cultural backgrounds. I teach multiple undergraduate courses around these topics. Additionally, I have published on servant leadership, work as a calling, moral injury, and spiritual caregiving.*

### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- World Religion for Healthcare Professionals
- Health, Ethics, & Religion
- Religion & the Meaning of Life

### Related Research and Publications:

- [“Spiritual Caregiving and Assessments for America’s Religious ‘Nones’: A Chaplaincy Perspective” \(2023\)](#)
- [“A MacIntyrean Account of Chronic Moral Injury: Assessing the Implications of Bad Management and Marginalized Practices at Work” \(2022\)](#)
- [Work As a Calling: From Meaningful Work to Good Work \(2022\)](#)

### Related Activities:

I am part of the Life Worth Living Project Team. We attend carefully to convening life-giving, holistic learning communities in which students and instructors together strive to answer life’s biggest questions. We convene life-giving learning communities that offer space for students and instructors to be their whole selves and to marry their most profound existential questions with the best of their intellectual energies. Invited to draw on their personal histories and daily lives throughout the course, participants are

taught to critically examine philosophical and religious texts but also each other’s lives. Offering a model of vulnerability, humility, and empathy paired with intellectual rigor, we ask students to hold each other accountable to the pursuit of existential meaning. Cohorts of Life Worth Living students emerge with the courage and tools to have conversations that matter within and far beyond campus life. Additionally, I am on the Patient Advisory Group at Tampa General Hospital, supporting the spiritual care department.

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Servant Leadership
- Work as a Calling
- Moral Injury
- Civic Pluralism

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- International Society for MacIntyrean Inquiry



## Star Robinson Russell

Assistant Professor of Health & Wellness

Department: Education	Institution: Livingstone College
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Location:  
Salisbury, NC



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Physical Education, Health & Wellness (PED 130)

Related Research and Publications:

- Physical Education and the Virtual Student

Related Activities:

- American Cancer Society Board Member

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Breast Cancer Survivor & Thrive(r)

*I am a Christian and truly believe that our overall health & wellbeing is essential to being faithful stewards of God. Our bodies are the first temple God gives us to house his greatest creation, US. I love what I teach and how it represents the best part of living well.*



## Khlood Salman

Associate Professor

Department: Nursing	Institution: Duquesne University	Email: salmank@duq.edu
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Location:  
Pittsburgh, PA



- Member of the board in the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh
- Cofounder and a member of the Consortium of Christian Muslim Dialogue
- Collaborator and Organizer of Women's Health Program with the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh and Hello Neighbor Organization
- Founder of the Arab Muslim Women Group at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Clinical Prevention and Population Based Health Promotion

Related Research and Publications:

- Integration of Religion Module into Health Education (2023): research grant
- The Influence of Religiosity and the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Psychological Well-being of Undergraduate Nursing Students: A Cross-sectional Study: research project
- USA Islamic Relief Fund 2018. Religion and Welfare of Vulnerable Population: grant

Related Activities:

- "Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Dying Muslim Patients" (2008): presentation at the Hospice Palliative Nurse Association Clinical Forum, Pittsburgh, PA

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Refugee and immigrant health
- Vaccine uptake

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Professional organization
- Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing
- National League for Nursing
- Trans-cultural Nursing



## John Schmalzbauer

Professor & Blanche Gorman Strong Chair in Protestant Studies

Department: Languages, Cultures & Religions	Institution: Missouri State University	Email: jschmalzbauer@missouristate.edu
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Location:  
Springfield, MO



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Religion, Spirituality, & Health (REL 348)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- *The Resilience of Religion in American Higher Education* (2018)
- Principal Investigator, [Landscape Study of Chaplaincy and Campus Ministry in the United States](#)

**Related Activities:**

- Chair of Professional Advisory Group for the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Mercy
- Member, Chaplaincy Innovation Lab Advisory Council

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- American Academy of Religion
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- American Sociological Association



## Catherine Sherron

Professor

Department: Philosophy	Institution: Thomas More University
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Location:  
Crestview Hills, KY



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Medical Ethics
- Death and the Good Life

**Related Research and Publications:**

- Research into barriers for end of life planning as well as teaching medical ethics

**Related Activities:**

- Professional advisory group for chaplain training at Cincinnati VA Hospital and Medical Center

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- End of life

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American Philosophical Association



## Walter Sisto

Professor

Department:  
Humanities and Social Science

Institution:  
D'Youville University

Email:  
sistow@dyc.edu

Location:  
Buffalo, NY



*Research Scholar:*  
[\*Northwestern University\*](#)  
[\*Research Initiative for\*](#)  
[\*the Study of Russian\*](#)  
[\*Philosophy and\*](#)  
[\*Religious Thought\*](#)

### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Living Well: Religious Competency and Healthcare Decision Making (RS189)
- The Challenges of Death and Dying (RS214)
- Dying Well: Conversations about the End-of-Life (RS189)

### Related Research and Publications:

- *Philosophical and Religious Perspectives on Bioethics* (2023)
- *Death and The World Religions: How Religion Informs End-of-Life Decisions* (2015)
- “Cyborg Technologies: Bulgakov and His Sophiological Perspective” (2023)
- “Towards the Future of Orthodox Theology: Bulgakov and Cyborg Enhancement Technology” (2023)
- “Near-Death Experience and Russian Theology” (2019)

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Catholic Theology
- Orthodox Theology
- Sophiology
- Ethics of Cyborg and Transhuman Technology
- Interfaith and Ecumenism Studies

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Society for Simulation in Healthcare
- Golden Key International Honors Society
- Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture
- American Academy of Religion
- Catholic Theological Society of America



Location:  
Atlanta, GA



# Antonius Skipper

Assistant Professor

Department:  
Gerontology Institute

Institution:  
Georgia State University

Email:  
askipper1@gsu.edu

## Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion and Aging
- Health and the Older Adult

## Related Research and Publications:

- “Religious Justification as a Contributor to Vaccine Hesitancy in Older African Americans: Qualitative Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic” (2023)
- “The Association between Sanctification and Depression through the Communal Coping of African American Couples” (2023)
- “‘The prayers of others helped’: Intercessory Prayer as a Source of Coping and Resilience in Christian African American Families” (2018)
- “How Religion Influences Coping with Stress and Challenges in Families” in *Religion and Families: An Introduction* (2016)

## Related Activities:

- Board Member of Adult Children of Aging Parents, Atlanta
- Advisory Board Member of Christian Imagination and Law Journal

## Related Areas of Expertise:

- Strong African American Families

## Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Gerontological Society of America
- Southern Gerontological Society



## Kristy Slominski

Associate Professor of Religion, Science, and Health

Department: Religious Studies and Classics	Institution: University of Arizona	Email: slominski@arizona.edu
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Location:  
Tuscon, AZ



*I am a core faculty member in our new B.S. degree in [Religious Studies for Health Professionals](#) at the University of Arizona.*

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Spirituality & Sickness: Religion & Health in the US
- Religious Diversity in Healthcare: Intercultural Training

**Related Research and Publications:**

- “Teaching Moral Sex: A History of Religion and Sex Education in the United States” in *The Routledge Handbook of Spirituality, Religion, and Medical Humanities* (2021)
- “Doctor, Reverend, Sex Educator: Medicine and Religion in Early Sex Education” (2019)

**Related Activities:**

- Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit Co-Chair for the American Academy of Religion

- Leadership Team member for the Religion, Health, and Humanities Researchers network

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Young Scholars in American Religion participant (2022-2024)
- Former Board Member of the American Academy of Religion.

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- [Religion, Health, and Humanities Researchers network](#)
- American Academy of Religion
- History of Education Society



## C. Melissa Snarr

Director of Doctor of Ministry Programs, Associate Professor of Ethics & Society

Department: Divinity School	Institution: Vanderbilt University	Email: melissa.snarr@vanderbilt.edu
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Location:  
Nashville, TN



*I direct, in collaboration with Mental Health Integration in Chaplaincy Services colleagues, particularly Dr. Keith Meador (funded by the Veterans Administration) a unique program in Integrative Chaplaincy. We seek to better equip students to address whole person healthcare needs – both as individual spiritual care providers and as collaborative professionals partnering with other care providers. We particularly focus on incorporating evidence-based psychological practices and principles within the scope of chaplaincy practice and collaborating effectively with MH and other healthcare professionals. We enroll approximately 40 chaplains a year in our Doctor of Ministry program.*

**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Final Project in Integrative Chaplaincy (Divinity 8037-8039)

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Interfaith organizing and leadership development
- Social Ethics

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American Academy of Religion
- Society for Christian Ethics



## Vicki Talbot

Senior Instructor of Nursing

Department: Blair College of Health	Institution: Queens University of Charlotte	Email: talbotv@queens.edu
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Location:  
Charlotte, NC



### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- The Art and Science of Nursing (NUR 495)
- Queens Health and Wellness (QHW 103)

### Related Research and Publications:

- “Enhancing Intercultural Skills through Promoting Interfaith Knowledge, and Appreciation” (2023): presentation at Workshop on Intercultural Skills Enhancement conference, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC
- “Using Diverse Interfaith Case Studies to Promote Person-Centered Care” (2022): presentation at Transform Conference 2022: The Future of Nursing Education: Innovation, Inclusion, and Influence. Chicago, IL
- “Advancing Improvements in Academic Nursing Including Interfaith Concepts in Simulation” (2022): presentation at South Eastern Nurse Educator Symposium, Asheville, NC

### Related Activities:

- Faith in the Vaccine Initiative IFYC
- Creation of Case Studies for the Interfaith America library:
  - Muslim Patient and Modesty Concerns
  - Religious Diversity and Nursing Staff
  - Roman Catholic Organ Donation and End-of-Life

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator
- Certified Nurse Educator

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Sigma Theta Tau



## David Tillman

Associate Professor and Chair

Department:  
Public Health

Institution:  
Campbell University

Email:  
tillmand@campbell.edu

Location:  
Buies Creek, NC



### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Ethical Issues in Rural Public Health (PUBH 682)

### Related Research and Publications:

- "Re-membering the Mission: Institutional Impacts of an Interdisciplinary Community Outreach Project" in *Community Engagement in Christian Higher Education: Enacting Institutional Mission for the Public Good* (2021)

### Related Activities:

- "The Hospitality Problem" (2023): presentation at Interfaith America's Health and Faith Convening, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
- "Carolinas Faith in the Vaccine and The Tripleemic: Q&A Session" (2023): presentation at New Bethel Baptist Church, Clinton, NC

- "COVID-19 Pandemic, Vaccines, and Boosters: Where Are We Now? Q&A Session" (2022): presentation at Elrod Baptist Church, Rowland, NC

- "Faith and the Vaccine: Q&A Panel" (2021): presentation sponsored by the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Campbell University Student Union Chambers Theater, Buies Creek, NC

- "[Combatting Vaccine Hesitancy with Faith](#)" (2023): Interfaith Voices podcast featuring the work of Campbell University

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Community-Based Participatory Research for Health Equity Institute San Francisco State University, June 2013
- Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems Institute Louisville, KY, October 2016
- National Hispanic Health Foundation Research Mentorship Program (PCORI) Washington, DC, May 2017





## Joseph Vukov

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Associate Director of the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage

Department: Philosophy, Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage	Institution: Loyola University Chicago	Email: jvukov@luc.edu
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Location:  
Chicago, IL



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Philosophy and Biology for the Future (PHIL288E and BIOL395E)

**Related Research and Publications:**

- The Perils of Perfection: The Limits and Possibilities of Human Enhancement (2023)
- Navigating Faith and Science (2022)

**Related Activities:**

- Community partnerships with several faith communities, including communities that meet primarily in virtual spaces

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Bioethics
- Science and religion
- Ethics of human enhancement
- Ethics of AI



## Andrew Walker-Cornetta

Assistant Professor

Department: Religious Studies	Institution: Georgia State University	Email: awalkercornetta@gsu.edu
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Location:  
Atlanta, GA



**Faith and Health Courses Taught:**

- Disability and Memoir
- Religion, Race, and Health in Modern America
- Religion and Aging
- Spiritual Care and the Study of Religion

**Related Research and Publications:**

- “Without the Lord: Eliza Suggs, Religion, and the Good Disabled Subject” (forthcoming)
- ““These Are Our Saints’: A Lourdes Shrine, The St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children, and the Catholic Remaking of Cognitive Disability” in *American Patroness: Marian Shrines and the Making of US Catholicism* (forthcoming)

**Related Activities:**

- Advisory Council Member: Center for Leadership in Disability, Georgia State University
- Selection Committee Member: The Ikouii Creative, Open Call: “Spirituality, Religion, and Disability,” Fall 2022

**Related Areas of Expertise:**

- Disability history/studies
- US religious history

**Professional Guilds and/or Associations:**

- American Academy of Religion
- American Catholic Historical Association



## Andrew Walsh

Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Department: Religion and Philosophy	Institution: Culver-Stockton College	Email: awalsh@culver.edu
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Location:  
Canton, MO



Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Health, Religions, and Spirituality

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Interfaith Leadership

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Academy of Religion



## Catherine Wright

Executive Director; Associate Professor

Department: The Collaborative for the Common Good; Religion Department	Institution: Wingate University	Email: c.wright@wingate.edu
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Location:  
Wingate, NC



Website:  
[thewrightcotheologian.com](http://thewrightcotheologian.com)

*I have expertise in General Education High Impact Pedagogy and Design (Community Engaged Food and Faith Class) for Freshmen and underserved student populations. I am in the process of creating a Service Learning Religion and Health General Education Class for Sophomores/ Juniors. It will connect Vocation, Religion and Purpose for Students in Health Care programs.*

Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Food & Faith: Health and Happiness Around the Many Tables of our Lives
- Global Perspectives in Ethics

Related Research and Publications:

- “Food and Faith: From Dirt to Dessert” (2023)
- “[Cultivating a Collaborative Culture for Ensuring Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education: An Integrative Case Study](#)” (2022)

Related Activities:

- The Collaborative for the Common Good

Related Areas of Expertise:

- Sustainability
- SDGs
- Ecotheology

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Catholic Theological Association
- Canadian Theological Association
- American Academy of Religion
- Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education



Location:  
Rochester, NY



# C. Denise Yarbrough

Director, Religious and Spiritual Life

Department: Religious and Spiritual Life	Institution: University of Rochester	Email: cyarbrou@ur.rochester.edu
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Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion and Public Health (Religion and Classics and Public Health)

Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education



Location:  
New Orleans, LA



*I direct, in collaboration with Mental Health Integration in Chaplaincy Services colleagues, particularly Dr. Keith Meador (funded by the Veterans Administration) a unique program in Integrative Chaplaincy. We seek to better equip students to address whole person healthcare needs – both as individual spiritual care providers and as collaborative professionals partnering with other care providers. We particularly focus on incorporating evidence-based psychological practices and principles within the scope of chaplaincy practice and collaborating effectively with MH and other healthcare professionals. We enroll approximately 40 chaplains a year in our Doctor of Ministry program.*

## Naomi Yavneh Klos

Professor & Rev Emmett Bienvenu SJ  
Distinguished Chair of Humanities

Department:  
Languages and Cultures

Institution:  
Loyola University

Email:  
yavney@loyno.edu

### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- "Faith and Diversity in Healthcare" (offered through Languages and Cultures for BSN and prehealth students' core requirement)

### Related Research and Publications:

- "Zooming with Anne Frank: Moving from Empathy to Compassion in a Global Pandemic," in *Teaching Anne Frank and Other Difficult Life Stories* (forthcoming)
- "Creativity and Compassion: A Response to Covid" (2020): presentation at Siberian Honours Conference, Krasnoyarsk University
- "In Quarantine with Anne Frank: Spiritual Resilience in a Time of Anxiety, Uncertainty, and Hate" (2020): virtual public lecture
- "Lying-In and Dying: Moderata Fonte's Death in Childbirth and the Maternal Body in Renaissance Venice" (2004)

### Related Activities:

- Faculty Liaison for Jewish Students and member of Covenant Partners Team (interfaith team of Student Life and Ministry at Loyola University New Orleans)
- Co-chair, Mental Health Committee, Touro Synagogue New Orleans (2019-2022)
- Co-chair Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, National Collegiate Honors Council (2018-2022)

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- National Collegiate Honors Council
- AJCU Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation Steering Committee
- SSEMW (Society for the Study of Early Modern Women & Gender)



Location:  
Grand Rapids, MI



Here is a link to my CV:  
[https://calvincollege-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/jeiy2\\_calvin\\_edu](https://calvincollege-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/jeiy2_calvin_edu)

## Julie Yonker

Professor

Department:  
Psychology & Public Health

Institution:  
Calvin University

Email:  
julie.yonker@calvin.edu

### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Religion, Spirituality & Health (Master of Public Health)
- Religion, Health & Justice (interdisciplinary course)

### Related Research and Publications:

- "Relational based Christian Practices of Gratitude and Prayer Can Positively Impact Christian College Students' Reported Prosocial Tendencies" (2019)
- "The Relationship Between Spirituality and Religiosity on Psychological Outcomes in Adolescents and Emerging Adults: A Meta-analytic Review" (2012)
- [Faith in Teaching Podcast #27: Team Science and Christian Practices Project \(2022\)](#)
- "Mentoring for the Cultivation of Virtues in the Sciences. Vocation Matters. Mentoring for the Cultivation of Virtue in the Sciences" (2021)

### Related Activities:

- I have a partnership with a community health case management organization, Tandem 365. Through research, I have found that this partnership has positive supportive benefits for both older adults physical and mental health and university student learning and empathy. This partnership is part of a service learning project for my Health Psychology Course.

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Another area of research involves Christian Practices as related to the virtues.
- A new research area will be examining informal caregivers and the role that religion can play in the support of their caregiving duties. We will also examine the role religion may play in the way nurses educate informal caregivers about their medical duties.

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- Association for Psychological Science



## Yousra Yusuf

Postdoctoral Fellow

Department: Population Health	Institution: New York University, Grossman School of Medicine	Email: Yousra.Yusuf@nyulangone.org
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### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Community-engaged research
- Immigrant health
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Life course perspective
- Structural determinants of health

Location:  
New York, NY



*I am a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Section for Health Equity at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. My current research focuses on the social and structural determinants of health around COVID-19, mental health, cancer management, and sexual health. My background is in reproductive health priorities using a life course perspective in underserved, immigrant communities. I have extensive experience in mixed methods and community-engaged research to advance health and gender equity in racial and religious minoritized groups in the U.S. I serve in various capacities on nonprofits working with Asian and South Asian communities in New York and in international settings. I completed my Masters in Public Health at the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health with a specialization in Epidemiology and a research focus in maternal health and my PhD in reproductive and maternal health with a certificate in health communications at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.*



## Homayra Ziad

Senior Lecturer, Islamic Studies, Faculty Fellow

### Department:

Program in Islamic Studies,  
Center for Social Concern

### Institution:

Johns Hopkins University

### Email:

hziad1@jhu.edu

### Location:

Baltimore, MD



### Faith and Health Courses Taught:

- Arts, Repair and Healing (First Year Seminar)

### Related Research and Publications:

- [“Interpersonal stranger violence and American Muslims: an exploratory study of lived experiences and coping strategies” \(2019\)](#)
- Muslims in Baltimore City: An Exploratory Study around Urban Integration (in process)

### Related Activities:

- Co-creator and co-director, Healing Khayal: a music and healing residency (with khayal master Ustadh Naseeruddin Saami, vocalist Zebunnisa Bangash, and six fellows, funded by Center for Cultural Vibrancy, Lahore, Pakistan), Summer and Fall 2023 (music residency that documents the impact of the Sufi musical practice of khayal on emotional and spiritual wellness)
- Facilitator, Muslim Women’s Cohort: Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy, Auburn Seminary, June 2023
- Mentor/Co-Director, Interfaith Youth Core’s Faith in the Vaccine Student Cohort (a vaccine awareness project in Muslim communities in collaboration with American Muslim Health Professionals), 2021

- Co-creator and core team member, 99 Clay Vessels: The Muslim Women Storytelling Project (<https://www.99clayvessels.com/>), 2020 – 2022 (art, spirituality and healing project in collaboration with a psychotherapist and artist)

- Consultant, “American-Muslims in Urban Centers: An Exploratory Study Of Baltimore City,” Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, JHU 21st Century Cities Initiative, Spring 2018.

- Consultant, “American-Muslim Health Initiative” (studying impacts of discrimination and violence), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

- Editorial Advisor, Institute of Muslim Mental Health Blog, 2019-2021

- Member, Board of Advisors, Institute of Muslim Mental Health, 2017-2019.

### Related Areas of Expertise:

- Scholar of Islam and interfaith studies
- Award-winning educator
- Interreligious facilitator
- Writer, editor, speaker

### Professional Guilds and/or Associations:

- American Academy of Religion

*To learn more about Interfaith America’s Faith & Health sector, [please visit our website](#). There you’ll find relevant articles, resources, grant opportunities, and more details on our initiatives in this sector.*