

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

April 30, 2024

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

Growth and Knowledge are the key values of higher education and what have my focus as we enter the final weeks of the semester. All our students should be able to complete this semester centered on their accomplishments, particularly our soon-to-be-graduates, many of whom were unable to celebrate their high school graduations publicly.

In today's update I want to (1) recognize faculty excellence (fostering both growth and knowledge!) by sharing news of our awardees at the Annual Faculty Recognition Awards, (2) remind you to sign up for our Academic Affairs Field Trip featuring Professor Lisandro Pérez's special tour of Green-Wood Cemetery on May 17, (3) promote the use of Perusall as an AI-resistant collaborative reading and thinking tool for students, and (4) begin a conversation we will be having over the next few years about student grades.

Allison

Faculty Excellence

Why do we love the Olympics? Because we see people who already excel, push themselves to be better than we thought possible.

I feel as excited about Faculty Recognition Awards as I do the Olympics: there is nothing as motivating as seeing outstanding faculty who are leaders in their fields, who show students their own potential and help students grow beyond their own understanding of who they can be, and who shepherd colleagues and programs even above their own self-interest because it serves the greater good.

Please join me in applauding these marvelous 11 colleagues who represent the best of John Jay.

Distinguished Teaching

Kim Liao, English

Christen Madrazo, English

Distinguished Faculty Service to Students

Joseph Maldonado, Counseling & Human Services

Distinguished Faculty Service to the College

Jay Hamilton, Economics

Scholarly Excellence

Amy Adameczyk, Sociology

Claudia Calirman, Art & Music

Crystal Ensley Taylor, Africana Studies

Ke Li, Political Science

Marie-Helen Maras, Security, Fire & Emergency Management

Gohar Petrossian, Criminal Justice

Donal E. J. MacNamara

Emily Haney-Caron, Psychology

Academic Affairs Field Trip May 17th

The Office of the Provost is pleased to sponsor an event aimed at bringing faculty and staff together to enjoy the expertise of one of our faculty members. Professor Lisandro Pérez of the Latin American and Latinx Department is an expert on Cuban Americans and in his award-winning book, *Cuba, Cigars, and Revolution: The Making of Cuban New York* (NYU Press, 2018) he presents a comprehensive and detailed picture of the development of the Cuban community in New York during the nineteenth century, which at the time was the largest concentration of Latin Americans east of the Mississippi. Many of the historical characters in his book, including plantation owners, sugar merchants, cigar manufacturers, and revolutionaries, are buried in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. Since the publication of his book he has led several tours of their gravesites as part of Green-Wood's public programming. His tour weaves the stories of those interred there into a narrative of Cuban history during its anti-colonial struggle.

Professor Pérez has agreed to conduct a special tour exclusively for the John Jay community. Space is limited – please sign up via the linked form: <https://forms.gle/T6N4HKcRqbgf4MzY9>

Attendees must provide their own transportation to and from the Green-Wood Cemetery. Wear comfortable shoes – there will be walking involved!



Celebrating Faculty Expertise

Discover Perusall @ John Jay May 7, 2-3 pm

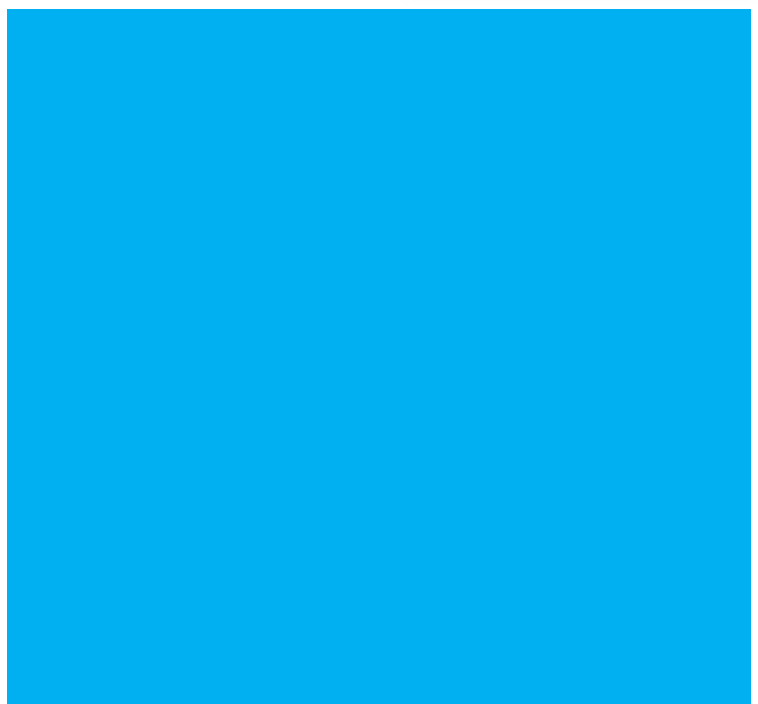
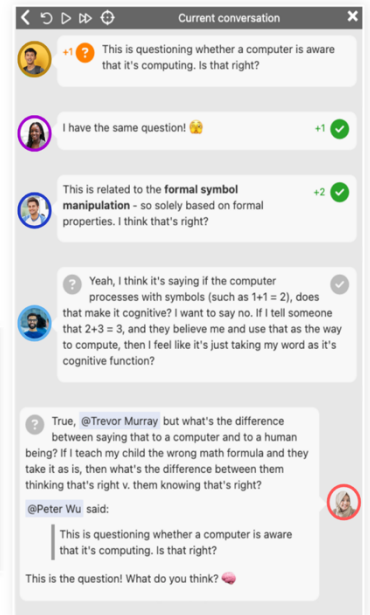
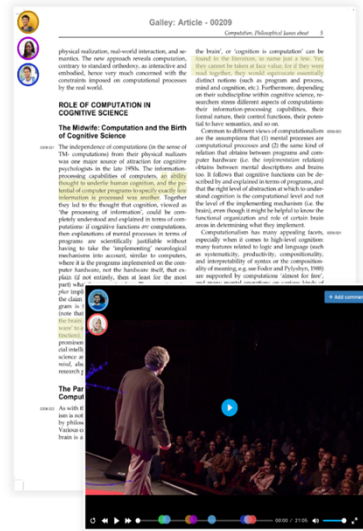
As we work to enhance critical reading skills and ensure authentic student responses, you might consider using [Perusall](#), embedded in Brightspace. Perusall allows students to comment within readings and engage in discussions, creating a vibrant academic conversation directly within the material.

Perusall also simplifies things for instructors with its automatic grading system, which evaluates the quality and quantity of student comments to assess engagement. Inherently, Perusall is a generative AI deterrent for students which can give instructors some peace of mind knowing their students are putting forth their original work.

Instructors are equipped with valuable insights thanks to its detailed analytics, highlighting common areas where students might be struggling with the material.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Join Perusall Onboarding Session on Zoom, May 7 from 2-3 pm

Here is the link to the registration form: [John Jay Onboarding Registration](#)



Addressing DFWs and Different Outcomes

Students who don't pass courses don't graduate from college. This is glaringly obvious, but it merits consideration.



Over the next few years we want to foster thoughtful conversations around student performance in courses. Without compromising academic rigor, we – all of us – need to explore, openly and without blame, why completion rates for certain courses are consistently lower for some groups of students. Then we need to roll up our sleeves and improve student outcomes.

Tomorrow, Dean Sidman and Academic Programs will be sharing with Chairs and Program Coordinators student outcomes data for courses disaggregated by race. Because HOW we have these conversations will determine how constructively we can respond and improve our education, please take time to read the **Guidelines for Examination of Disaggregated Student Outcomes Data** (attached to this email).