NEW COLLEGE SCHOLARS FACULTY PRINCIPALS 2022-2024!

Jelagat Cheruiyot is a faculty member for the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. Her field of research includes plant and animal interactions. Recent experiences with post hurricane challenges and the pandemic have inspired her to create a transformative space for intellectual engagement with students and the community to explore environmental justice, food security, food justice, and climate change both theoretically and experientially. Her cohort will alternate discussions and community engagement at community gardens in New Orleans.

Marie Dahleh is a faculty member in the Mathematics Department and Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives in the School of Science and Engineering. Her cohort will converse about the opportunities that data and algorithms provide as well as the potential that they have for reenforcing existing structures in society especially those that marginalize populations including individuals who identify as women, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC. She hopes to engage students with an interest in data in a variety of topics ranging from art to economics to policy.

Mollye Demosthenidy is a faculty member in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Her academic interests center on health care reform and the intersection of law, policy, and politics, particularly as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is excited to work with NTC college scholars, exploring themes around health, inequity, and public policy.

Antonio Gomez is a faculty member in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, where he teaches classes on Latin American literature and film. He is interested in issues of representation in contemporary culture and will invite students to critically scrutinize the symbolic and material construction of minorities in cultural products we consume daily – texts, movies, plays, tv shows, sports events, etc. – to critically reflect on the presence (or absence) of those minorities in social and political structures.
Stephen Ostertag is faculty member in the Department of Sociology and among other courses, he teaches an introductory criminology course and an upper-level course on the intersections of race, crime and punishment. He is interested in exploring issues of race and the US Criminal Justice System with students at a time when there exist real opportunities for significant and meaningful changes. His cohort will investigate these themes through a combination of readings, lectures, open discussions, multi-media, case studies, fieldtrips, and research.

Ambika Prasad is a faculty member in the School of Business. She studies diversity related attitudes within the workplace and how concepts rooted in social psychology (like implicit biases, social justification, stereotype content model, social identity, etc.) are applicable in the workplace. She is also interested in the factors that make a virtual team effective and what are its major challenges. She looks forward to being part of an intellectual space where students can converse about interdisciplinary ideas, explore status of research, and identify areas still bereft of scientific enquiry.