

EDI FRIDAYS

LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER — ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME



EQUITY / DIVERSITY / INCLUSION

Friday, Nov 3, 2023

Learning about each other...one Friday at a time

NOVEMBER NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

DEFINITIONS

PRIVILEGE

The unearned access to resources (social power) that are readily available to certain individuals as a result of belonging to a particular social group.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

“When we identify where our privilege intersects with



somebody else's
oppression, we'll find
our opportunities to
make real change."

– Dr. Ijeoma Oluo
*Writer, speaker, & best-selling
author*

[Biography](#)

[Website](#)

"Political correctness is a
label that the privileged
often use to distract from
the privilege."

– Dr. DaShanne Stokes

[Biography](#)

[Website](#)



SPOTLIGHT

Faculty/Staff Spotlight

Lisa Brockenbrough



Sanon-Jules

Assistant Dean for Advising &
Student Success

Biography

Hobbies | marathon running

“I do equity work because I firmly believe in the maxim of being the change that I want to see in the world.

“The only reason why I have the opportunities I have is because someone before me was unafraid to fight for those rights.

“If I want my children and my students to have those same opportunities—I must fight for them.”

Student Spotlight



RU STUDENT
MELISA TEKIN

(She/Her)

MFA in Design (2nd year), at the
Mason Gross School of the Arts

Hometown | Queens, NY

Hobbies | Pilates, Interior Design and baking vegan treats!

“Advocating for equity and giving voice to marginalized people is central to my design practice. I have worked as both a marketer and graphic designer in the nonprofit/government space for over 10 years, and believe that through effective (and beautiful!) design, we can communicate important issues to the public and raise awareness for those in need.”

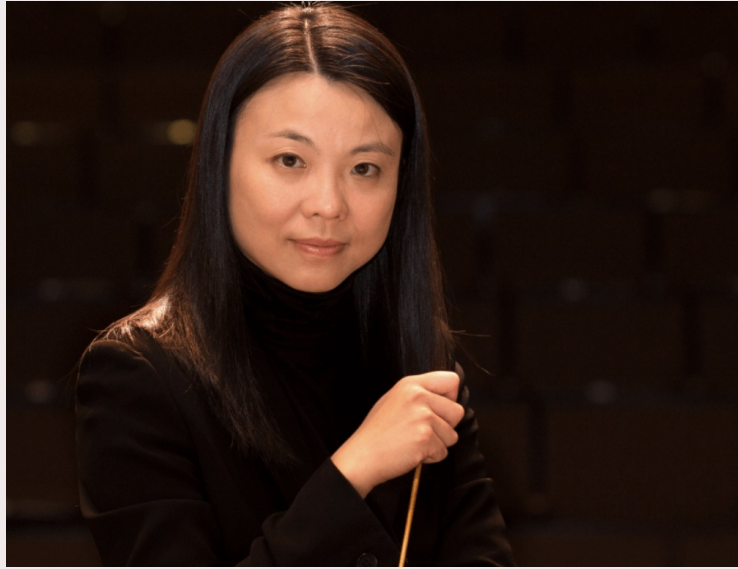
“Check out my design practice, Neighbors Studio, if you’d like to see some of my socially engaged work.”

Neighbors Studio

Fun fact: “My first degree isn’t in graphic design, it’s in Urban Studies and Marketing! I view nearly all my design work through the lens of the urban environment, and what we can uncover from even

the smallest elements present in a city.”

Artist Spotlight



CHING-CHUN LAI

(She/her)

Director of Orchestral Activities and Engagement
Conductor, Rutgers Symphony Orchestra

[Biography](#)

[Website](#)

“...an expressive baton technique – but perhaps her greatest asset is her musical intelligence. In my long life and vast experiences, I have rarely encountered a young conductor with such a bright analytical mind and an ability to so quickly grasp and understand all the important information contained in a score, be it by Beethoven or Stravinsky or Boulez.”

-Gunther Schuller (1925-2015)

Celebrated composer, conductor, musician, historian, educator.



Did you always want to be a conductor?

No. I was hired as a conductor. I was playing in orchestra and all of a sudden, we needed a conductor. They felt that I was the most experienced musician, so they asked me, and I became the interim conductor. I was 18.

What! 18 years old??

Yeah, I was a student in the university orchestra. But I wasn't studying music, I have scientific degrees.

If I wasn't a conductor, I would work for NASA (laughs).

[For the record, Professor Lai holds a Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Aeronautics and Aeronautic Engineering from the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, which is renowned for engineering and computer science.]

What's it like being a conductor in a male-dominated field?

I have to be honest, it's difficult at times. There's a lot of bias. But I think it's important for young people to see me – a little Taiwanese lady with energy - in this visible position.



What do you enjoy about teaching?

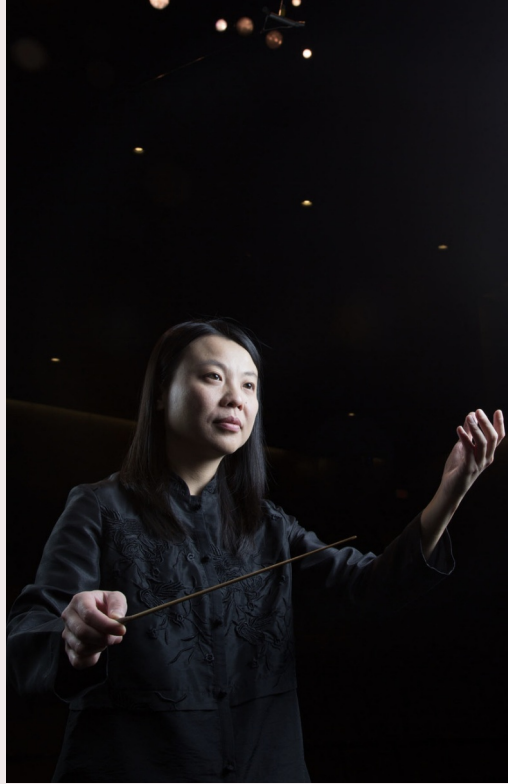
Providing impact on students. To let them know that BIPOC and women can lead in the field, not just white males. It makes a difference.

Can you provide an example of the impact?

Sure. There's a former student who is now a professional. He said to me "you're the reason that I'm here." He saw me conduct the Youth Orchestra and knew he wanted to be on stage. He was just a kid in the audience, but that concert changed his life. This happens a lot. Under-represented young people can envision their future when they see me. I want to be able to identify real talent. I encourage students to express their artistic soul.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Yes, I enjoy the parallel of having mastered science and the arts. But I love music the best.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MFA Visual Arts – first-year exhibition

November 27 to December 14, 2023 – Mason Gross Galleries

[More info](#)

Writers at Rutgers – novelist Angie Cruz

Wednesday November 29, 2023

[More info](#)



EVENTS

FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

NBCO@Zimmerli – A Haunting Dance

Julia Baumanis leads lively discussion about spooky works.

November 5, 2023 | 1:00pm to 3:00pm

[More info](#)

"Where is Anne Frank?" - *in-person screening*

Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

November 5, 2023 | 3:30pm to 5:00pm

[More info](#)

Storytime & Art Activity with Juana Martinez-Neal

Zimmerli Art Museum – *event designed for children*

November 12, 2023 | 1:00pm to 4:00pm

[More info](#)

Building an Inclusive Academy

Diversity Plan Progress Summit

November 14, 2023 | 9:30am to 6:00pm

[More info](#)

Indigenous Arts & Culture Series: Alan Michelson
Zimmerli Art Museum – *event designed for children*

November 16, 2023 | 9:30am to 6:00pm

[More info](#)

NOVEMBER
NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH