

Academic Affairs

TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

In October, the Board of Trustees adopted new mission and vision statements. Both were carefully crafted to reflect the strategic plan that was developed with broad interest and contributions from Arkansas Tech University stakeholders. The vision statement presents three guiding principles for all at Tech to keep in mind as we move forward: student success, innovation and developing communities. The first recognizes something that all at Tech have always valued and strived to achieve: **Student Success**. I would like to focus on it for this issue of the newsletter while addressing the others in the coming issues.

I have alluded on many occasions that student success depends to a great extent on the degree of success and fulfillment of all of us working at Tech. Hence, the efforts we are taking towards student success include ways to support faculty development, including:

- Offering workshops and training resources to the campus community through the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning as well as the newly developed New Faculty Academy, which aims to provide a head start for new faculty through extensive training.
- Supplementing faculty research and faculty development grants to provide opportunities for faculty to develop and pursue scholarship in the broader sense of Boyer, as outlined in the last issue.
- Providing catalysts for collaboration across campus through the newly developed Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives, as well as the restructure of the Energy Center to provide more interdisciplinary opportunities guided by several research directors from various colleges.

Student success is everyone's job. The faculty will always play a critical role in supporting student success, as they are the role models for the students and those best prepared for mentoring and advising students who are faced with difficulties in academic or career development. Faculty development in the area of mentoring and advising will continue to be an important strategy for supporting student success. Tech has also started several actions to support student success, including:

- Establishing the new Office of Student Success and hiring an interim Assistant VP to lead the office and coordinate the campus wide efforts.
- Expanding the tutoring program to include additional courses and provide direct support for students who are on academic probation or suspension to help them recover academically. The tutoring center is also getting ready to move to a new area in Doc Bryan (previously the Registrar's Office) that will be better suited to provide services to students.
- Revamping our approach to math education through several initiatives, including the ability for students to select either College Algebra or Quantitative Literacy according to their major. We are also piloting several programs for restructuring remedial math, with the goal of increasing the percentage of students passing college level math. Finally, we are considering offering remedial math as a co-requisite to the college level course, a practice that has shown success in many other institutions.
- Identifying students who are more likely to need additional mentoring support using a methodology developed by Dr. David Underwood and Institutional Research based on data analytics. A preliminary effort to support this group of students through the Bridge to Excellence (B2E) program launched this fall.
- Introducing research in the classroom as a high impact practice through an effort led by Dr. Mostafa Hemmati. A solicitation for proposals to inject research into the classroom is currently underway.

I appreciate the hard work and commitment from many of the faculty, staff and administrators who worked on these initiatives, and I look forward to further support from all in Academic Affairs as we expand these efforts. I would like to hear your ideas and feedback on any of the student success initiatives.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.



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SAVE THE DATE

- "Human Library"
November 1-2
- Development Grant
Presentations:
November 3, 4 & 8
- Appreciation Dinner for
International faculty and staff,
November 14
- Open enrollment for benefits
November 14–30
- Thanksgiving Holidays,
November 23–25
- Last day to drop courses with a
"W" or change from credit to
audit
November 28



Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

This time of year is so busy, going to a professional development workshop is not always an option. That is why the CETL is bringing professional development to faculty and staff through an online subscription to [Academic Impressions](#). Membership to Academic Impressions is for all ATU faculty and staff and provides access to training on the critical issues facing higher education. Faculty and staff receive unlimited access to the online training library, free registration for upcoming online programs, and discounts on upcoming Academic Impressions conferences and webcast recordings.

Arkansas Tech University also has a group online subscription to *The Teaching Professor* and *Academic Leader*. As a member of the ATU campus community, these online resources from Magna Publications are available at no cost to ATU faculty.

For instructions on accessing these resources, please visit the CETL's website:

<http://www.atu.edu/cetl/cetlsubscriptions.php>

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Upcoming Academic Impressions Live Webinars

Four Leadership Practices for Current or Aspiring Deans
November 2 at 12:00 PM

Translating Your Student Development Services for Online Students
December 1 at 12:00 PM

November’s “Appy Hour”

Explain Everything
November 2
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
BazTech 202

Student Success

Please remind your students to schedule their advising appointments to register for Spring 2017 courses. Students can find their academic advisor’s name on their OneTech account under the “Student” tab. Below is the registration calendar for students based on earned credit hours:

- October 24: All Graduate and undergraduate students with 60 or more earned hours
- October 31: 59–32 earned hours
- November 3: 31–21 earned hours
- November 10: 20–12 earned hours
- November 17: 11–3 earned hours
- November 29: 2 or fewer earned hours

Norman Career Services will host the following events for the month of November. Please encourage your students to attend, as the goal is to enhance career readiness across the Arkansas Tech student body. All events will be held in Doc Bryan 242 from 4:00–5:00 PM. For more information, contact Norman Career Services at (479) 968-0278.

- Tuesday, November 1Major & Career Choices: Finding Your Fit
- Wednesday, November 2.....Benefits: The Salary You Forget
- Tuesday, November 8.....LinkedIn and Virtual Networking
- Wednesday, November 9Major & Career Choices: Finding Your Fit
- Wednesday, November 16.....Job Search Strategies
- Wednesday, November 30Major & Career Choices: Finding Your Fit





Faculty Development

As part of ATU's commitment to the professional growth and development of the faculty, opportunities for sabbaticals, faculty development funds, and undergraduate research funds are available each year. Congratulations to the following faculty members, who were granted awards from the categories indicated:

Sabbaticals

Alejandra Carballo, Spring 2017
Peter Dykema, Fall 2017
Neal Harrington, Fall 2017
Sangki Lee, Spring 2017 [granted Fall 2015]
David Middleton, Spring 2017 [granted Fall 2015]
Joseph Swain, Spring & Fall 2017

Professional Development Grant Awards

Chris Giroir
Latasha Holt-Bocksnick
Dong-Soo Lee
Cathi McMahan
Darla Sparacino
Zhi Tao

Faculty Research Grant Awards

Doug Barron
Rajib Choudhury
Mariusz Gajewski
Charles Mebi
Jorista van der Merwe

Undergraduate Research Grant Awards

Turaj Ashuri & Bruce Chehroudi
Doug Barron
Rajib Choudhury
Jamie Dalton
Efosa Idemudia & Kim Troboy
Mariusz Gajewski
Frank Hardcastle
Amber Harrington
Willy Hoefler, Mack Rainey & Alvin Williams
Muhammad Khan & Turaj Ashuri
Scott Kirkconnell
Brenda Lauffart
Charles Mebi
Hamed Shojaei
Ivan Still
Chris Kellner
Matt Young
Kaiman Zeng

Meetings & Events

Arkansas Curriculum
Conference, November 3–4

CUR Dialogues 2017
February 16–18, 2017

Senior Honors and Student
Research Symposium
March 15, 2017

CUR Undergraduate Research
Posters on the Hill (POH)
March 2017

National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
April 6–8, 2017

Annual Meeting of the Arkansas
Academy of Science
April 7–8, 2017

Arkansas Space Grant
Symposium, April 21, 2017



Faculty Fellowships

The Marshall Space Flight Center is offering Faculty Fellowships for qualified STEM faculty at U.S. colleges and universities to conduct research with NASA colleagues during a ten-week residential program in Huntsville, Alabama, from June 5–August 11, 2017. Women and under-represented minorities, as well as persons with disabilities, are encouraged to apply.

For additional information, please contact mhemmati@atu.edu.



College Highlights

NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Jason Patton was selected as Chairman of the Arkansas Board Registration for Professional Geologists. In his new position, he will oversee the licensure of professional geologists in the state and serve as a voting delegate at the National Association of State Boards of Geology annual meeting in Lawrence, Kansas. Jason Patton also authored a paper entitled “Sedimentation in the Upper Reaches of Lake Ouachita,” which will appear in the *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science*. In addition, he received an in-kind grant from IHS Inc. worth approximately \$240,000.

Jorista van der Merwe has published two papers: “Variation in Metapopulation Dynamics of a Wetland Mammal: The Effect of Hydrology” (van der Merwe, J., Hellgren, E.C. and E.M. Schaubert) was published in *Ecosphere* and “A Classic Question Revisited: Disentangling Confounding Hypotheses Surrounding Parental Investment Theory and Nest Defense Intensity” (Shew, J.J., J. van der Merwe, B.K. Caldwell, C.K. Nielsen, and E.M. Schaubert) was published in *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*.

Melinda Wilkins provided a presentation on the Role of Nursing in Health Informatics at the Arkansas Student Nurses Association conference in Little Rock, held in conjunction with the Arkansas Hospital Association, on October 6. She is also a member of the American Health Information Management Association Foundation Leadership Institute Advisory Panel. This is a panel that is working to develop a leadership institute to offer to members of the healthcare community and expects to accept the first cohort early in 2017. The Advisory Panel members met during the American Health Information Management Association conference in Baltimore, Maryland, October 15–20.

BUSINESS

The College of Business will be holding its annual College to Career Conference on Thursday, November 10. The keynote speaker will be David Bartlett of Simmons First; he will speak in the Doc Bryan Auditorium at 10:45 AM. Prior to that, current students will have the opportunity to interact with several panels comprised of recent Arkansas Tech University graduates who are employed in different areas of the business workforce and who will be here to visit and share their knowledge and advice.

Grant Workshop

Jeff Aulgur, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, is presenting a grant workshop, “Faculty Research and Professional Development Grants: Key to Success and Lessons Learned,” for faculty members during the month of November. There will be three opportunities for faculty to attend.

Thursday, November 3
2:00 PM in RPL 300 South

Friday, November 4
2:00 PM in Rothwell 321

Tuesday, November 8
10:00 AM in Witherspoon 273





EDUCATION

Jackie Paxton, Timothy Leggett, and David Bell delivered both an opening and a closing keynote and presented a session on meeting the challenge of sensory processing integration at the 19th Annual Fall Child Care Conference, sponsored by Childcare Aware of North Central Arkansas in Batesville, Arkansas. They also presented a session at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference in Little Rock.

David Bell represented the Arkansas chapter of the Association of College for Teacher Education at the Arkansas ASCD Shareholders Conversation meeting in Little Rock.

Sheila Jackson's Methods of Teaching Adapted to Physical Education students participated in the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators (ArATE) Fall Conference on the ATU campus.

Mary Gunter, Tim Carter, and Linda Bean recently met with Matt McClure from the Cross County School District concerning the partnership between Arkansas Tech University and CCSD to place selected student interns in the Delta region of the state. McClure recently wrote and was awarded a federal grant that will help achieve the recruiting and development goals of CCSD.

The College of Education (Partnership Office) hosted the fall conference of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators Assistant Principals, many of whom are ATU alumni. The conference was held during the campus Fall Break.

eTECH

eTech Offers 8-Week Online Certification Course to Full Time Faculty

eTech is offering full-time faculty an opportunity to learn best practices for teaching and learning online. The next certification course will be offered during the Spring 2017 semester. To apply, an application is required and can be obtained at www.atu.edu/etech/faculty-apply.php. Applications are due Friday, November 18 by 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Hanna Norton at hnorton@atu.edu.

Faculty Accomplishments

Jeff Aulgur received the Legion of Merit from the United States Army in recognition of his 26 years of service and retirement at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. Awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievement, the Legion of Merit is sixth in the order of precedence of U. S. military awards.

Tennille Lasker-Scott serves as the Secretary and as a board member for the Adult Higher Education Alliance.

Jeremy Schwehm and Jennifer Saxton will present a paper entitled "The Transition Process of Adult Students from an On-Campus Program at a Two-Year College to an Online Bachelor's Program" at the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students in February 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Graduate Student of the Month

The Graduate Student Council has selected Avinandan Dahal, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Information Technology, in recognition of community service. He is very active with his role as a graduate assistant in the Department of Computer & Information Science.

Professional Studies Graduate Accomplishments

Carole Daley (PS Public Relations) is the Fashion Communications & Special Events Coordinator for Dillard's in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Marvin Saffold (PS Criminal Justice) serves as a Captain in the Arkansas State Police and is assigned to Governor Hutchinson at the Arkansas State Capitol.

Alesa Lamber (PS Early Childhood Education) was accepted to the Birth to Kindergarten Special Education MAT program at Henderson State University.





ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

3rd Annual Arkansas Computer Science Education Leadership Summit

D3: Deleting the Digital Divide – The Arkansas Computer Science Education Leadership Summit 3.0, sponsored by the Arkansas STEM Coalition, Computer Science Teachers’ Association, ATU’s STEM Institute and the Arkansas Department of Education, was held on Thursday, October 20 and was hosted by Arkansas Tech University and the Computer and Information Science Department. The summit was held “to consider the state landscape for computing education and how Arkansas can provide all of its students with opportunities for careers and entrepreneurship in computing technologies.” Representatives from several companies and organizations, such as the Arkansas Discovery Network; Arkansas Environmental Education Association; Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts; Arkansas STEM Coalition; Computer Science Association; Cyber Innovation Center; EAST Initiative; Learning Blade; Other Machine Company; Project Lead the Way; Vidcode; and ZUNI Learning Tree were present at the summit.

Herrick and Bishop Founding Members of AIM for Wilderness Stewardship

Theresa Herrick and Glen Bishop are founding members of a new nonprofit organization, the AIM for Wilderness Stewardship, which came into existence September 27, 2016, in Doniphan, Missouri. As federal budgets for natural resource management have not kept pace with needs over the past few years, the purpose of AIM for Wilderness Stewardship is to work with federal agencies to improve wilderness stewardship in Arkansas, Illinois, and Missouri.

Hospitality Society to Hold Run for a Cause Annual 5K

The Hospitality Society will hold the Run for a Cause Annual 5K on Saturday, November 5. The cost is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. The funds will support Parks and Recreation student Tyler Rollins’ organization, Rise Up for Spinal Cord Injuries Foundation.

Faculty/Student Collaborations

The students and faculty in the Department of Emergency Management led the Dardanelle Disaster Preparedness Expo on Tuesday, October 25.

From October 5–8, Cathi McMahan and six Recreation and Park Administration students attended the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference and Expo in St. Louis, Missouri. The students had the opportunity to learn more about the parks and recreation profession and network with professionals in the field.

Caroline Hackerott accompanied ATU’s International Associations of Emergency Managers (IAEM) students to the 64th Annual IAEM Conference that was held October 16–19.

Did you know...?

Arkansas Tech entered the realm of emergency management education in 1997. Tech was the first institution in the world to have its degree programs in emergency management accredited by the Foundation on Higher Education in Disaster/Emergency Management and Homeland Security.



*“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.”
- Aristotle*



ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The Department of Communication & Journalism recently hosted an on-site visit to KXRJ-FM from representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO), and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). The station and personnel received an excellent rating from the federal agency.

Jenava Harris's play, *Miss Julie*, was entered into the Kennedy Center—American College Theatre Festival competition.

Michael Rogers has been elected as an at-large member to the executive board of the Political Science Education section of the American Political Science Association.

Tom DeBlack recently published "What is to Become of Us?": The Postwar Lives of Civil War Generals in Arkansas" in *Competing Memories: The Legacy of Arkansas's Civil War*, ed. Mark Christ (Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2016, pp. 29-56).

David Blanks recently published "Cosmic Evolution in the Cradle of Civilization" in *From Big Band to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology*, eds. Barry Rodrigue, Leonid Grinin, and Andrey Korotayev (Delhi: Primus Books, 2016). His review of *Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History*, eds. Barry Rodrigue, Leonid Grinin, and Andrey Korotayev was also included in the *Journal of World History* 3:27 (September 2016).

INTERDISCIPLINARY HIGHLIGHTS

DESIGN FOR CHANGE

On Tuesday, October 11, Arkansas Tech hosted nearly one hundred high school students from five surrounding schools at a workshop designed to provide information about how to design and build a micro shelter with the homeless population in mind. The workshop was part of the ATU Design for Change competition, an interdisciplinary project led by four ATU faculty members with the goal of giving high school students an opportunity to apply their engineering skills to solve a real-world problem: homelessness. Students are challenged to learn about poverty and issues of homelessness and then to use that knowledge to inform their designs of a micro shelter that can be used to provide short-term shelter for a member of the homeless community. The workshop included four speakers who provided information about construction, planning, homelessness, and community service. The top five designs will be brought on to the ATU campus in spring where a winner will be chosen. For more information, see www.atu.edu/designforchange.



10th Annual Juried ATU Student Competitive

The 10th Annual Juried ATU Student Competitive will run from November 7–December 2, 2016. This exhibition is open to all current Arkansas Tech University students who were enrolled in art classes in Spring 2016 or who are currently enrolled in art classes during the Fall 2016 semester and are currently seeking an undergraduate degree. All work must be original, must be designed and executed by the artist who is submitting the work, and must have been created while the artist was attending Tech. Artists are encouraged to enter artwork in any traditional or non-traditional media. Fine art as well as graphic design work is eligible.

Dr. Ann Prentice Wagner, curator of drawings at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, will serve as the juror who will choose which entries will be exhibited and pick the winners. There will be a First Place Award of \$300, a Second Place Award of \$200, and a Third Place Award of \$100. There will also be two Honorable Mention Awards. Any questions should be directed to Neal Harrington at (479) 964-3237 or nharrington@atu.edu.

Announcements

IMSSO to Celebrate International Education Week

International Education Week (IEW) is a celebration that was initiated in 2000 by the US Department of State and US Department of Education to encourage and celebrate international education and exchange worldwide. Today, it's celebrated in more than 100 countries. To celebrate this week, the International and Multicultural Student Services Office (IMSSO) will display the flags of the countries represented by international students on the ATU campus on West O Street through the week of November 14–18. It will also host a variety of daily events, including an Appreciation Dinner for international faculty and staff on Monday, November 14, from 6–9 PM at the Lake Point Conference Center. All international faculty and staff members are welcome to attend. For a list of other IEW events, please visit the IMSSO website at www.atu.edu/imsso/Activities_and_Events.php.

Course Redesign/Research and Scholarship

Arkansas Tech aims to enhance student involvement in undergraduate research and scholarship in ALL academic fields of study with the help of innovative faculty who are willing to redesign their courses to include an undergraduate research and scholarship component. The redesigned course will include active student participation to develop skills in scientific investigation, such as data collection, data analysis, critical thinking and reasoning, and preparation and presentation of reports.

Faculty or faculty teams in ALL academic fields are encouraged to submit proposals for course redesign that incorporates an undergraduate research and scholarship component. The proposals should be submitted to the Undergraduate Research Office (McEver 108) by November 20, 2016. Proposals submitted by faculty members will be reviewed by a committee of their peers, and successful proposals will be announced before the end of the fall 2016 semester. Successful candidates may potentially receive compensation or release time, and may also receive supporting funds for implantation of the redesigned course.

Additional information regarding the review criteria and guidelines is available at www.atu.edu/uresearch/coursedesign.php.

Library Adds New Databases, Hosts “Human Library”

The Pendergraff Library has added two new databases to its research collection this month. The first, *MathSciNet*, is produced by the American Mathematical Society and is the leading online research database for the mathematical sciences. The second, *Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture & Law*, is an online, searchable primary documents collection of essential legal materials on slavery in the United States and the English-speaking world. Both resources are available from the Pendergraff Library website and can be found in the “A-Z Databases” list.

On November 1-2, from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM, the library will host its second annual “Human Library” event. This program is designed to promote understanding and compassion within a diverse community and to help break down communication barriers. Guest speakers are available as human “books” that may be checked out for thirty minutes to tell his or her story. The event gives attendees the opportunity to learn about others which have otherwise been stereotyped or misunderstood. This year’s “books” will include an environmental activist, a home-school mom, a recovering drug addict, and a person displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Scholarship Deadlines

Faculty and staff working with freshmen and transfer students should keep the following deadlines in mind. The priority deadline for freshmen academic scholarships is November 15, while the final deadline is February 15. Please note that there are new award guidelines for Fall 2017. The deadline for consideration for a University Honors stipend is noon on December 1. Students must have an early admit status and submit an essay through the essay submission portal on the website for interview consideration. The deadline to apply for transfer academic scholarships for Spring 2017 is December 15.

Freshman and transfer students must have an early admit status for scholarship consideration. Questions should be directed to Alisa Wanieweski, Associate Director for Academic Scholarships, at awanieweski@atu.edu or (479) 968-0343.



**International
Education
Week**
**November
14–18**