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Academic Affairs Newsletter
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Academic Affairs

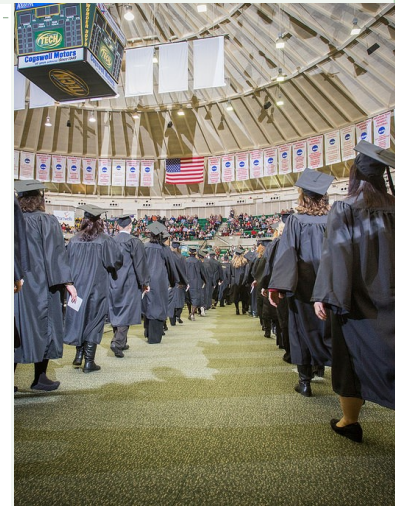
ADVISING VS. MENTORING: WHAT WINS?

When I started my academic career, I had no idea what advising an undergraduate student should look like. I had not received formal training in graduate school about what advising was and how it should be done. In my first semester as faculty, I was given a crash course from a senior colleague about reading degree plans, checking prerequisites, and few other hints regarding electives. During the advising period, most students appeared in my office with an advising slip already filled out. I met them with a smile and a willingness to answer any questions they may have and be of assistance. I noticed most advisees did not have any questions for me, but later realized as I matured as a faculty member, they needed me to ask the right questions.

The early version of these advising sessions were short and cordial, but lacked the depth to learn from each other and build a relationship. It soon became clear that I needed to establish a better connection with my advisees. I began building rapport with each advisee and shifting my focus from advising to mentoring. Advising sessions got a little longer but gave me a chance to better understand and help my advisees. I learned why they were here, why they chose their major, what their aspirations were, what their dream job was, how they were handling the gateway courses, etc. Similarly, they were able to learn from the lessons I had already learned as a student, as a practitioner, and as an educator, in both successes and failures. I shared my knowledge of the job market, my predictions for future trends, and how to prepare for their dream job, while ensuring the ability to pivot as needed. I shared the importance of networking, communication and soft skills, and finding the right internship which could make all the difference for their future career plans.

As I look at emerging technology such as DegreeWorks, students now have the ability to customize and follow degree plans within our established parameters. I believe this functionality can shift the transactional aspect of registering for classes more to the student, while allowing the faculty members to evolve into more of the mentor role, emphasizing the relationship with each advisee, while ensuring each student is on track academically. So, the challenge may not be advising versus mentoring, but rather how to become both an advisor **and** mentor.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.



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SAVE THE DATE

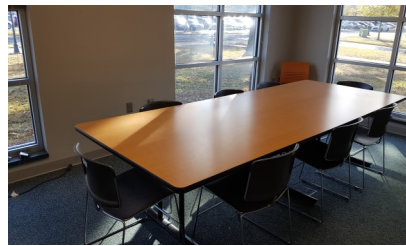
- End of Course Exams
December 7–13
- Board of Trustees Meeting
December 15
- Graduation
December 16-17
- Campus Closed
December 23–January 2
- Professional Development
January 11
- MLK Day
January 16
- Spring Classes Begin
January 17



Student Success

New Home for Career Services, Tutoring Center

Norman Career Services and the Doc Bryan Tutoring Center have moved to a new location. You can now find them in their new location: Doc Bryan 153 (previously the old Registrar’s Office). The new location provides Norman Career Services with better visibility and more space for private interviewing when employers visit. The new space has also allowed the Doc Bryan Tutoring Center to add additional computers for use in tutoring, supplemental instruction, and academic coaching. Each of these services has been expanded, during this fall semester, to provide access to more services by more students. Please feel free to stop by, and also encourage your students to visit the new location.



Career Services Events

Holiday Celebration
Tuesday, December 6
11:00 AM—2:00 PM

Welcome Back Party
Thursday, December 19
11:00 AM—2:00 PM

Resumania: Educator and Teachers
Thursday, January 26
9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Professional Attire: DRESS the Part
Tuesday, January 31
4:00 PM—5:00 PM

Student Support Services

TRIO Student Awarded Scholarships

The Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs (AASAP) awards two annual scholarships to TRIO students in Arkansas, and both of this year’s recipients were Student Support Services (SSS) participants from Arkansas Tech University. Mike Harris was awarded the Arkansas TRIO Walter O. Mason Scholarship, and Esther White was awarded the Arkansas TRIO Robbie L. Lyle Scholarship. The SouthWest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) is a regional organization for TRIO professionals, and it has awarded Aysia Jackson, another SSS participant from ATU, with a SWASAP Collegiate Scholarship.



Other notable achievements of SSS participants this semester include Amber “Kat” Storment as the first recipient of the Dr. Lyman B Harris Scholarship at Arkansas Tech University and Malik Oliver, who was selected for a fellowship with the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUFP).

“All students can learn and succeed, but not in the same day, in the same way.”

- William G. Spady

Tutoring Center Hours for Finals Week

The Tutoring Center will operate under an amended daytime schedule during finals week. The amended hours will be available on Tech A – Z under “Tutoring Services.” The night hours will remain the same: Sunday – Thursday from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM.



“The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.”
- C.S. Lewis

Upcoming research opportunities

The Office of Science/U.S. Department of Energy is offering paid research opportunities for full-time faculty from the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Internship opportunities for STEM undergraduate or graduate students from visiting faculty members' institutions, made at the visiting faculty member's option, are available through an invitation process. The application system for the Term Visiting Faculty Program (VFP) is currently open, with all applications due by 4:00 PM on January 13, 2017. Application is made online. For full program information and descriptions, visit <http://science.energy.gov/wdts/vfp/>.

February 1, 2017, is the deadline for [Faculty Research Grant](#) and [Professional Development Grant](#) applications.

IMSSO

The International and Multicultural Student Services Office (IMSSO) and the campus community celebrated International Education Week (IEW) 2016 from Monday, November 14 through Friday, November 18. The week began with the display of the flags of 42 countries represented by 392 international students enrolled at ATU, followed by the International Fashion Show and the appreciation dinner for international faculty and staff. On Tuesday, international students participated in a panel discussion in BazTech, while foreign language learners gathered together at the Language Dinner Table at the Williamson Dining Hall. Traveling Arts Festival brought Cuban culture on Wednesday, and an off-Broadway award-winning show, *They Call Me Q*, was the “edutainment” on Thursday. The finale was the International Festival and Talent Expo on Friday.



SERVICE LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) will partner with the ATU chapter of Campus Compact on Wednesday, December 7, to host a Service Learning Symposium from 10:00am to 12:00pm in Rothwell 138. In the first hour of this event, ATU faculty, students, and community partners will give a poster session detailing their experiences with service learning inside and outside of the classroom. In the second hour, Mr. Jeff Stinson, Director of Entrepreneurship, from the Arkansas Innovation Hub will detail his work on HubX-NextGen, a program developing entrepreneurship and civic engagement in high school students. The event will offer great information and advice for colleagues who are considering this important pedagogical practice. The atmosphere will be casual, and snacks will be provided.

EXPERIENCE EL PASO

On November 2 and 3, Arkansas Tech University hosted two public events that generated conversation about the forthcoming development of North El Paso Avenue between campus and Russellville Downtown.

A walking and bicycle tour of North El Paso Avenue took place on Wednesday, November 2, to explore ideas and gain feedback from participants. On Thursday, November 3, Arkansas Tech hosted an open-door visioning exercise for North El Paso Avenue at its College of eTech North El Paso facility. President Bowen and Mayor Randy Horton each addressed the attendees, providing complementary perspectives on the possibilities for El Paso development. Both activities focused on gaining participant feedback that will be used to inform decisions about the future development of North El Paso Avenue. A short video exhibiting the activities of the two-day program can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loTwnyjZE2o>.

If you have your own ideas for the development of North El Paso Avenue, you are encouraged to share them on social media using the hashtag #ExperienceElPaso or visit <http://www.experienceelpaso.com>.



SPUI Connection

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES (SPUI)

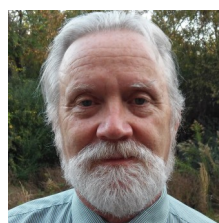
Interdisciplinary Research Center (IRC)

SPUI is proud to introduce the Directors of the Interdisciplinary Research Center (formally known as ACENRES). The Directors will help promote the research activities of all disciplines and assist in facilitating faculty collaboration. For more information on the IRC, please contact Tiffany Henry (880-4327 or thenry1@atu.edu) or the appropriate director.



Turaj Ashuri, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering
IRC Director of Natural and Applied Sciences, tashuri@atu.edu

Turaj Ashuri is an Assistant Professor and Director of Engineering Research in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He received his Ph.D. from Delft University of Technology (2012), followed by a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2014). His research is focused on theoretical and applied multi-disciplinary design optimization using high-performance physics-based computation, uncertainty quantification, renewable energy and model-free control algorithms. He is a technical committee member of International Energy Agency (Task 37), and a senior member of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.



Newton Hilliard, Associate Professor of Chemistry
IRC Director of Biology and Health Sciences, nhilliard@atu.edu

Newt Hilliard arrived at Arkansas Tech University in the fall of 2014 as Associate Professor of Chemistry and primarily teaches Biochemistry I and II lectures and associated labs. His academic interests include lecture and lab pedagogy development, bioenergetics and metabolic regulation in bacteria from extreme environments, and involving undergraduate students in high impact research/scholarly engagement activities. Interests outside of the academic arena include hiking, canoeing and DIY electronics.



Efosa Idemudia, Assistant Professor of Business Data Analytics
IRC Director of Social and Behavioral Sciences, eidemudia@atu.edu

Efosa C. Idemudia is an Assistant Professor of Business Data Analytics at Arkansas Tech University. Idemudia holds a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from Texas Tech University, a Master's in Computer Information Systems from the University of Texas at El Paso, and an MBA in International Business from the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration. Idemudia is a member of the editorial boards for the *International Journal of Technology Diffusion*, *Journal of Information Technology Management*, *American Journal of Science and Technology of AASCIT*, and *Electronic Commerce Research and Application*.

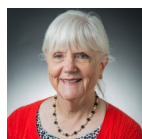


Rebecca Wiewel, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
IRC Director of Humanities and the Arts, rwiewel@atu.edu

Rebecca Wiewel is an anthropological archaeologist who studies North American Indian societies. Her recent research has focused on geochemical sourcing of ceramics from seventeenth-century American Indian village sites across Arkansas to study regional interaction. She is also interested in public perceptions of archaeology and in working collaboratively with contemporary American Indian descendant communities.

Congratulations!

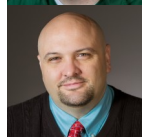
SPUI congratulates the following faculty for securing external funding to support their programs:



Rebecca Burris, Head and Professor of Nursing
Received \$135,199 from Blue Cross Blue Shield for Nursing equipment, which includes lab updates, Pyxis MedStation, and SimNewB.



Peter Kelly, Instructor of Health and Physical Education
Received \$2,500 worth of archery equipment from Arkansas Game and Fish.



Aaron McArthur, Assistant Professor of History
Received \$3,350 from Arkansas Community Foundation for iPads and kiosks for the Museum.



College Highlights

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Faculty Accomplishments

David Mudrinich has a solo exhibit that is being hosted by Cantrell Gallery in Little Rock through December 24.

Neal Harrington won the 2016 Pacific States Biennial North American Print Exhibition Awagami Paper Award with *Feather Signal*.

Jason Ulsperger, Kristen Ulsperger, and Cole Smith's "The Emergence of Contemporary Bestiality Law: Applying the Integrative Conflict Model to the Enumclaw Case" was recently published in *The Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*.

Jeff Pearson was elected President of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers at this year's annual meeting; Jan Jenkins was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Christopher Housenick appeared on a November [episode](#) of AETN's *Arkansas Week*, a program that features Arkansas journalists and political scientists.

Jan Jenkins presented a lecture entitled "What History Leaves Us: Grandmother's Roasting Pan and Other Tales" at the Anthropology Club's Last Lecture Event on November 15.

Student Awards

Winners of the 10th Annual Tech Juried Student Competitive were: First Place—Deondra Swanigan for his digital painting, *Contemplation, 2001*; Second Place—Datona Hunt for her clay sculpture, *Warrior*; Third Place—Liz Dalton for her oil on canvas, *Rio Grande Gorge, Taos, New Mexico*; Honorable Mention #1—Lexie Wood for her mixed media package design, *Cherry on Top*; Honorable Mention #2—Casey Dean for her cardboard and paint, *Faces of Me*.

The Arkansas Tech University debate and forensics team won five awards at the 2016 Red River Swing tournament, hosted by Louisiana State University at Shreveport during the weekend of November 12.

Upcoming Events

The 15th Annual Feast of Carols, presented by the Concert Chorale and Chamber Chorale, will take place at First United Methodist Church in Russellville on Sunday, December 4, from 2:30 PM—4:00 PM. Traditional carols and other Christmas music will be performed. The event is free and open to the public.

The Norman Art Gallery will host an exhibition of Spiridon Scarvelli's collection of watercolors beginning on Tuesday, January 10, and running through Friday, February 24, from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM.

Arkansas Radio Theatre

December 3—"The Christmas Masquerade" & Other Tales

December 10—"The Christmas Masquerade" & Other Tales

December 17—*A Christmas Carol*

December 24—*A Christmas Carol*

Saturdays at 7:00 PM on KXRJ 91.9 FM

2017 Study Abroad Opportunities

Dublin: The City Experience
March 2017

London, Normandy, Paris: WWII
March 2017

Germany and Austria
May 2017

London: History of Healthcare
June 2017

London: British Gothic Revival
June 2017

Communication & Journalism Graduate Accomplishments

Melody Tabor (Broadcast Journalism) began employment as a senior editor and producer at KHBS-TV (ABC) in Fayetteville.

Nate Bartlett (Broadcast Journalism) is now employed as an account executive at KARK-TV (NBC) in Little Rock.

Jose Harber (Broadcast Journalism) is now employed as an account executive at KFSM-TV (CBS) in Fayetteville.

Karissa Hubbard (Broadcast Journalism) completed her first novel, *The Popular Girl*, which will be released in Spring 2017.

Kristin Jacobelli (Public Relations) is now working for Chartwell's Food Service Group at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus.

BUSINESS

Faculty Accomplishments

Efosa Idemudia's presentation, "An Empirical Investigation of Factors that Influence Government Apps Usage/Adoption," has been accepted for presentation during the Association of Business Information Systems sessions at the Federations of Business Disciplines Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, which will be held March 8-11, 2017.

Jack Tucci and Kevin Mason were awarded a best paper citation for "Environmental Warfare and the Oil and Gas Industry: Is a 5.6 Earthquake the Sound of the Coffin Closing on Fracking?" (Mason, Andrew N., Tucci, Jack E., & Mason, Kevin) at the Academy of Business Research San Antonio conference.

EDUCATION

Jackson, Pederson Honored by ArkaAHPERD

On Friday, November 4, Sheila Jackson received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arkansas Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (ArkaAHPERD).

Rockie Pederson also received the ArkAHPERD Higher Educator of the Year Award.



ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

On November 14, Bruce Chehroudi was invited by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) to give a presentation on Effective Management of Research and Development Teams and Organization. Audiences from a broad range of industry attended.

Muhammad Khan attended the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technologies Conference 2016 in Seattle, Washington, from October 13-16, and presented "An Acoustics Based Approach to Mitigate Sewer System Overflows." Khan also submitted a proposal for funding an undergraduate research project titled "An Acoustics Based Approach for Crack Detection in PVC Pipes," which was reviewed and funded for \$2,500.

Wayne Helmer and Muhammad Khan, along with two students, took part in Bentonville High School's Career Fair and set up an ATU Engineering stall. BHS students showed keen interest in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences programs in general, and Engineering in particular.



Graduate student of the month

Jenn Terrell is a graduate student pursuing an MA in Multimedia Journalism. She was nominated for her research and scholarly activity. For her publishing course this semester, she has focused her research and storytelling on the subject of depression. Jenn also works as the Public Information Specialist at Arkansas Tech University Ozark Campus. As a graduate student, she was also a graduate assistant and staff photographer for the Arka Tech. Outside of class, she works as a freelance photographer.

Poinsettia Sale

Students from the ATU Department of Agriculture will put their fall semester work on display during a poinsettia sale at the Arkansas Tech Greenhouses on December 1-2. Proceeds from the sale will be used by the ATU Department of Agriculture to purchase greenhouse plants and supplies.



eTECH

Faculty Accomplishments

Jeff Aulgur, Department Head and Assistant Professor of Professional Studies, had his article, "Structure of Nonprofit Organizations," accepted for publication in the forthcoming *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*.

Jeremy Schwehm and Tennille Lasker-Scott, Assistant Professors of Professional Studies, presented "A Comparison of Learning Outcomes for Adult Students in Service-Learning and e-Service-Learning Courses" at the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Schwehm also presented "It's Okay to Talk in Class" at the conference.

Hanna Norton, Dean and Professor of Journalism, successfully completed the Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning, sponsored by Penn State and the Online Learning Consortium, on November 15. There were approximately fifty participants selected from around the world to participate in the four-month program.

INTERDISCIPLINARY HIGHLIGHT

New Interdisciplinary Course for Spring 2017

The spring semester of 2017 will bring the inaugural section of a new interdisciplinary course, Collaborative Solutions, which aims to use project-based learning to investigate real-world solutions to contemporary problems. The first section of Collaborative Solutions will be comprised of twenty students and will tackle the issue of climate change. Members of the class will network with and learn from climate change experts during a mid-semester symposium. At the end of the course, course participants will present their projects. Upper-level students from every discipline across campus are encouraged to consider enrolling in the course. For more information, contact Caroline Hackerott at chackerott@atu.edu.

NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Doug Barron authored "Cognition as a Target and Facilitator of Sexual Selection," a chapter in the book *Animal Cognition: Principles, Evolution, and Development* by Nova Science publishers. He also co-authored a journal article entitled "Testosterone activates sexual dimorphism including male-typical carotenoid but not melanin plumage pigmentation in a female bird" in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

Nursing Students Attend Flight Nursing On-Campus Demo

On November 4, a team of three pilots and flight nurses associated with Survival Flight Inc. and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Russellville landed their helicopter on the band practice field on ATU's campus to provide a learning opportunity to junior and senior nursing students. Students and faculty from the ATU Department of Nursing visited with the crew and learned about careers in flight nursing.



Library Extends Hours and Introduces "Book It"

The Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center is proud to announce the return of their 24-hour services during the week of finals. This year, the library will open at its regular time of 7:00 AM but will not close again until Friday, December 9, at 6:00 PM. As always, certain services, such as Interlibrary Loan and the Music Lab, will retain normal hours; users will not be able to pay fines between 1:00 am and 7:00 AM.

The library has also recently launched a new online reservation system for study rooms called "Book It." Tech students, faculty, and staff who wish to reserve a study room can do so online via the library's homepage. Study rooms can be reserved in one hour blocks up to two weeks in advance, with no more than two reservations per person, per day. The Audio Lab—the library's new in-house studio—is also available to reserve through this new system in two hour blocks.

For more information about this new service or any other questions, see the library's website or e-mail askalibrarian@atu.edu.





Announcements

OAIE TO LAUNCH SURVEYS

Starting in early February 2017, the Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness (OAIE) will be overseeing the administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which documents “dimensions of quality in undergraduate learning.” ATU will join over 1,600 other institutions in examining the extent to which students engage in the high impact learning practices associated with student success. First-year and senior-level students will receive an e-mail invitation on February 14 to participate in this survey, which was last administered at ATU in 2007. In addition to the NSSE, ATU will also be examining the faculty perception of student learning through the companion Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE), scheduled to be administered at the end of March 2017. For more information on either survey, please contact Dr. Christine Austin at (479) 567-2361 or caustin@atu.edu, or by visiting <http://nsse.indiana.edu>.

BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Arkansas Tech University Bookstore will host its 2016 holiday open house from 7:30 AM—5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 6, with refreshments served from 2:00 PM—4:00 PM.

STAFF, FACULTY PORTRAIT SESSION DECEMBER 6

ATU will host an open call for complimentary head and shoulders photos for faculty and staff on Tuesday, December 6. Participating faculty and staff will receive a digital version of the image. Faculty and staff members who are unable to attend the December open call will have future opportunities to participate. Those needing a photo should submit a request on the University Marketing and Communication (MARCOMM) project management tool at <https://atu.robohead.com/login.do>.

REGISTRAR’S OFFICE WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Elon Kierre joined the Registrar’s Office team in October as a Registrar’s Assistant. Elon graduated from ATU in 2016 with a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism. She is now pursuing a Master’s degree in Liberal Arts at Tech. Elon worked in the Academic Advising Center for four years prior to joining the Registrar’s Office.



Brooke Strasser joined the Registrar’s Office team in October as a Registrar’s Assistant. Brooke is a native of Searcy, Arkansas, who graduated in 2012 from Harding University with a Bachelor’s degree in Fashion Merchandising and an MBA in 2013 from Harding. Brooke and her husband moved from Rogers in early 2016 to Russellville where they currently reside. While living in Rogers, she worked for a year and a half at Outdoor Cap Company prior to joining the Registrar’s Office team.



Tim Stone started working at the Registrar’s Office in mid-October as a Registrar’s Assistant, which mainly focuses on customer service. Before that, Tim was a student at Arkansas Tech University and graduated with a degree in music in December 2015. Tim worked for the Office of Information Systems during his five-year academic pursuit before joining the Registrar’s Office team.



*Final Grades
Posted by
Noon*

December 14