

Academic Affairs

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Last week, I received an email from a former colleague requesting some information regarding outcomes from a previous grant we collaborated on, as he plans to submit a proposal to establish a site for Research Experience for Undergraduates. This brought back some fond memories related to providing close to 100 undergraduate students and high school teachers with a significant research experience over my career as a faculty member. This is particularly relevant to our focus on high impact practices leading to student success. Involving graduate students in scholarly work comes naturally to most of us, as it is part of our standard training as faculty members. However, research has shown undergraduate research to be one of the highest impact practices that effect a lasting positive change in students. Involving undergraduate students in scholarship early in their educational journey can be challenging and requires more innovation and planning. Although the context of my experience was engineering research, I believe the concept applies equally well to scholarly and creative experiences and crosses the boundaries of STEM into other areas such as social sciences, the humanities, and the arts.

There are many ways to expose students to scholarly experiences that range widely in cost, time, and intensity. Some of the more intensive experiences are provided through summer research opportunities, such as those offered through NSF funded sites. The creation of such sites was one of the most rewarding experiences I had as a faculty member. My focus was on interdisciplinary research experiences for students. This allowed me to cross the boundaries of STEM disciplines to work with colleagues from other colleges and campus offices. Our intent was to not only design authentic research experiences that could be accomplished within a few weeks, but also to navigate the logistics of hosting students and teachers from all over the region country for the summer.

The creation of a competitive proposal was by itself a formidable, yet an exciting, challenge. The competition was fierce, and we had to convince the reviewers that we could provide an experience on a higher level than other institutions. The reviewers are always looking to be wowed with creative, well thought-out, and realistic proposals. This required us to look broadly across the institution for resources, as they were limited within a single area. We had to think outside the box and create an innovative, meaningful experience for each of the participants, as well as for the faculty mentors and graduate students involved in the site. Most importantly, we had to identify and define our strengths and weaknesses and create a narrative for what made this proposal unique and relevant to the region, the country, and the student population we served. Receiving a phone call that notifies you of your selection for funding is one of the most exhilarating moments a faculty member can experience. It is important to realize, however, that receiving a rejection letter is not a failure, but rather success in the making. The process of writing an interdisciplinary proposal in itself is a growth opportunity and, when done well, establishes coherence and better understanding among the faculty members participating in the effort. Arkansas Tech has a program that offers a good opportunity for developing and testing interdisciplinary ideas and that can be a good starting point for faculty members who aspire to create an undergraduate research site (*continued*)



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SAVE THE DATE

- Thanksgiving holidays
Wednesday, November 22–
Friday, November 24
- Last day to drop courses
with a “W”
Monday, November 27
- Reading Day
Wednesday, December 6
- Grades due by noon
Wednesday, December 13
- Graduation
Friday, December 15–
Saturday, December 16
- Winter Intersession
classes begin
Monday, December 18



*“Education is not solely about earning a great living. It means living a great life.”
- Brad Henry*

Tutoring Services

Tutoring Services offers free academic coaching for all students; students who live on-campus have an Academic Coach assigned to their residence hall

Online tutoring is also available through Blackboard Collaborate; students can also make appointments online at tutoring.atu.edu The directions are on the schedule: <https://www.atu.edu/tutoring/docs/tutoringschedulefall2017.pdf>

We also have tutoring in the library on Sundays & Thursday, 5pm – 9pm.

Tutoring Services has seen an increase from 630 total students last fall to 1658 this fall.

Resume Day

Friday, October 20
9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Doc Bryan 153

(continued)

<https://www.atu.edu/research/docs/interdisciplinarygrantguidelines.pdf>). I invite you to discuss ideas for interdisciplinary projects involving students with one of the directors for interdisciplinary research (<https://www.atu.edu/ospui/irc-directors.php>).

Research experience sites are only one way to involve students in scholarship. Their disadvantage is mainly the high cost associated with recruiting and hosting students over a relatively extended period. One of the most widely used methods is the involvement of individual students in scholarly or creative projects of a faculty member. Arkansas Tech provides resources through the faculty research grants to support this type of experience (<https://www.atu.edu/uresearch/grants.php>). In order to expand opportunities for exposing students to scholarship as undergraduates, last year, Academic Affairs provided funding on a competitive basis for faculty members who were interested in redesigning their courses to include a scholarly component. The idea was to have a model for involving undergraduate students in scholarship which was sustainable. Five faculty members were selected from various disciplines and were provided with release time to redesign the course and funds for supplies needed to support the redesign. This year, we intend to continue with the program and I invite faculty members from all disciplines to watch for the announcement and submit ideas for involving students in scholarly and creative activities within the context of their courses.

I am excited about our trajectory at Arkansas Tech and our success over the past year in implementing various aspects of the strategic plan including high impact practices focused on student success. These successes are only possible through the dedication and continued innovation of our faculty and staff. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.

Student Success

Ellucian CRM Advise Update

The Office of Student Success launched Ellucian CRM Advise in August during the Faculty Development Activities. Department Heads, faculty, and staff from the Academic Advising Center and academic departments across campus participated in a training session to learn more about the software. Student Success is in the process of distributing more licenses and offering training opportunities to faculty and staff across campus through the guidance of the Academic Deans. They are excited to have this new software available to assist their efforts with further meeting the needs of Arkansas Tech students.

Career Week

Arkansas Tech University students were able to prepare for their future careers during the 2017 Career Week, which was hosted by Norman Career Services. The fairs included an all majors career fair; an agriculture, food, and natural resources career fair; and a STEM career fair. In all, more than 120 employers were on campus over the course of the week to visit with students.

Student Support Services

Student Support Services (SSS) is proud of our students' commitment to our Trio program and their education. Student participants meet with their SSS advisor at the beginning of each semester to discuss their academic goals and create a success plan for that term. 91% of our students already met with their SSS advisor by August 31, 2017. This great start to the new academic year will lead to other wonderful accomplishments in the future, as seen by our recent 2016-2017 numbers.

12,200 total contacts which include advising, workshops, financial literacy, emails and messages

390 total tutoring hours, assisting 64 students with 93 different courses

50% 6-year graduation rate for 2011-2012 cohort

63% 4-year graduation rate for 2013-2014 cohort

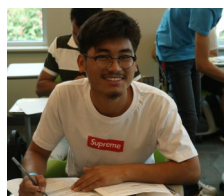
Hispanic Heritage Month Keynote Lecture



Mireye Reith, founding executive director of the [Arkansas United Community Coalition](#), provided the 2017 ATU Hispanic Heritage Month keynote lecture on Tuesday, October 10. Reith is currently serving a seven-year term as an appointed member of the Arkansas State Board of Education. She is the first Latina appointed to that board. Over a span of 14 years, Reith worked in international political development on five continents. Since returning to the Natural State, Reith has provided leadership in immigrant integration and community development through the Arkansas United Community Coalition and by developing a youth civic association called the New Latino Movement.



IMSSO



The International and Multicultural Student Services Office (IMSSO) welcomed more than 70 new international students to campus for the Fall 2017 term. On August 15, many rode on the IMSSO's free shuttle bus from Clinton National Airport in Little Rock. Although they seemed to be exhausted from traveling by air for 24 hours or more, they were relieved to meet the pick-up crews and were excited to get to know other international students on the shuttle bus.

On August 16, IMSSO kicked off the first day of orientation with students from Albania, Bahamas, Benin, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Honduras, India, Isle of Man, Japan, Kuwait, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Togo, and Vietnam. The orientation cohort of Fall

2017 is one of their most diverse intake groups! During the orientation, the IMSSO staff covered the topic items very specific to international students including: immigration, health & insurance, safety & security, academic expectations, technology & campus involvement, a brief campus tour, housing assistance, English Language Institute (ELI) Assessment (for those needing ELI before beginning regular coursework), an on-campus T-Spot & immunization clinic, TOEFL and Accuplacer placement exams, assistance in getting an ID Card in Student Accounts, P. O. Box set up assistance, Walmart Shopping through a free shuttle service, and course registration support. Collaboration with other offices on campus makes our orientation possible, and the IMSSO is very grateful to be part of a Tech family that works together to support each and every student.



On August 25, IMSSO partnered with Diversity and Inclusion to host an IMSSO Luau/DDI Kickoff in the Doc Bryan Courtyard. Free food and drinks, free t-shirts, interactive games, and an opportunity to meet new friends was provided to students. There was also a performance by the Spirit Squad and a live D.J.

English Language Institute



The Arkansas Tech English Language Institute (ELI) has earned accreditation through the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), which accredits more than 300 programs and institutions. The accreditation process took two years and included a self study report, site visit, and more.

The ELI offers five eight-week sessions each year for incoming international students. Subjects taught through the ELI include grammar, reading, writing, and listening/speaking.



Upward Bound

Federal grants to administer the Upward Bound math and science program, as well as the Upward Bound classic program, have been renewed for up to five additional years. In all, the grants will provide ATU with more than \$2.6 million in funding to serve high school students with identified class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education as defined by TRIO.



The Upward Bound classic program at ATU serves students from the public high schools in Atkins, Dover, Hector, and Lamar. ATU's Upward Bound math and science program is for public high schools students from Danville, Dardanelle, Two Rivers, and Western Yell County.

*“A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron.”
- Horace Mann*

Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness

This semester marks the first 13 non-specialized accreditation academic programs and nine non-academic offices to follow the internal program review process at Arkansas Tech University (ATU). Another nine programs will begin examining their student learning outcomes and curriculum in the spring semester. Academic programs that have a specialized accreditation will continue to follow the schedule and process set by their accrediting body. While every academic (and non-academic) program can participate in this process, it was developed to aid in the consistent review of program quality and assist in preparation for the ADHE review process that non-specialized accreditation academic programs are required to perform every 7-10 years. The ATU internal review processes will also assist academic and non-academic programs in gathering student learning outcomes and other assessment data in preparation for the institution-wide Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation in 2020-21 academic year. The internal program review process will thereafter be scheduled to occur at approximately the mid-point in the ADHE process for each academic program as a means of providing on-going quality review.

The Office of Assessment maintains a schedule for completing internal academic program reviews that will see all academic and non-academic programs making their assessment plans current by spring of 2020. Any academic program that is interested in completing the process earlier can contact Christine Austin at 479.880.4282 or caustin@atu.edu.

Arkansas Tech Museum

Dardanelle and the Bottoms:
Overview and Selected Readings
by Diane Gleason
Tuesday, October 17
6:00 PM—7:00 PM Reception
7:00 PM— Presentation

Paper Marbling workshop lead
by Aaron McArthur
Friday, October 20
6:00 PM—7:00 PM—Workshop
7:00 PM to 7:30 PM - Reception
7:30 P.M.—Exhibition opening
for *Who Tells Your Story? Representing Native Americans, Past and Present*. Featuring
Gallery talk by James Peck,
Museum Director and Exhibition Curator.

Both receptions are catered. The museum will be on open October 21 for homecoming and will have a table at the Arts & Humanities open house at the Rock House.

Underwood Honored for Service

David Underwood, who retired as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at ATU earlier this year, was honored on Family Day 2017 with induction into Upward Bound as an honorary member. The award is in recognition of the role that Underwood played in securing grants that brought Upward Bound programming to ATU in 2003 and Student Support Services programming to the university in 2010, as well as subsequent grants that have sustained those programs at ATU.



OSPUI Connection

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES (OSPUI)

Congratulations!

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



Jessica Young, Assistant Professor of Physics

Received \$14,300 from the Academy of Applied Science (made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of Defense) to support the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

Veterans Upward Bound Program Grant

Arkansas Tech University recently earned a federal grant that will allow the institution to enhance its support for veterans of the U.S. Armed Services. Veterans Upward Bound will provide student success resources to 125 veterans at ATU each year. It will be the fourth TRIO program at Arkansas Tech University, joining the existing Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math and Science, and Student Support Services programs. The grant for Veterans Upward Bound at ATU is for five years. Grant funding for the first year is \$263,938, and the anticipated funding from the U.S. Department of Education from September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2022, is more than \$1.3 million. This was a collaborative effort between David Underwood, Lucy Jones, Shauna Donnell, and OSPUI. ATU had a perfect score on its application and was one of only 55 applicants in the nation to be funded. The program will have 3 new full-time positions that will be paid 100% from the grant and will serve 125 veterans each year. The service area encompasses ten counties which include Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Perry, Pope, Sebastian, and Yell. The director will be housed on the Russellville campus, with one advisor on the Ozark campus, and another advisor tentatively scheduled to be located in Plumerville.

IRB Video

Thank you to incoming IRB chair Jeff Aulgur for his recent presentation about the IRB process. A video of the presentation can be found here: <https://atu.sharestream.net/ssdcms/ipublic.do?u=9bbfoab94434472>. IRB applications or questions can be sent directly to Aulgur at jaulgur@atu.edu. Another big thank you to Jack Tucci for all of his work as former chair. More information about the IRB can be found here: https://www.atu.edu/ospui/human_subjects.php.

Interdisciplinary Research Center (IRC) Grant

The IRC grant program was established to enhance faculty and departmental efforts for professional growth and development of faculty, students and programs through funded research projects. These grants will support faculty initiatives in all academic disciplines with a priority given to pilot studies in interdisciplinary projects.

Eligibility: All tenure-track or tenured faculty members are eligible to apply.

Interdisciplinary or multi-faculty proposals are highly encouraged and considered a priority.

Pilot projects designed to collect preliminary results for an external proposal are a priority.

Deadlines: The completed grant proposal (original and 5 photocopies) must be submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs & University Initiatives (OSPUI) in Admin 207 no later than **November 1, 2017**. This deadline applies only to the 2017 – 2018 budget cycle. Late proposals will not be accepted.

For full guidelines visit the IRC website at: <https://www.atu.edu/ospui/docs/2017-18-IRC-Grant-Guidelines-final-draft2.pdf>

Please contact an IRC Director if have any questions. Contact information can be found here: <https://www.atu.edu/ospui/irc-directors.php> or email irc@atu.edu.



College Highlights

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Department/Faculty Accomplishments

Mark Peacock, as a member of the Arkansas Bar Association Task Force, helped rewrite the pre-trial mental health court orders (Senate Bill 42). He helped revise the bill seven times before presenting it to the Arkansas Senate and the House. The bill passed, and Peacock has been elected to train Circuit Court Judges on the implementation of the bill.

Josh Lockyer and Shelby Baugh received a \$1400 ATU Undergraduate Research Grant for the project "Seed Savers in the South: Motivations and Experiences in Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation in the Ozark-Ouachita Region."

David Eshelman directed the summer radio play, *The Maltese Cat*.

Jay Hudkins presented "Preparing for a Residency Position Interview" at a seminar facilitated for fourth-year medical students (M4s) enrolled in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Alexis Johnson co-published "Communicatively Constructing the Bright and Dark Side of Hope: Family Caregivers' Experiences during End of Life Cancer Care." Behavioral Sciences. 7(2), 1-12.

Michael Rogers was selected as the 2017 recipient of the Political Science Education Section Best American Political Science Association Conference Paper Award for "The History of Civic Education in Political Science" presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 1-4 September 2017.

David Blanks presented "The Big Questions about Big History" at World History: Theory and Practice, 3rd Annual Conference, St. John's University, New York, NY, 29 April 2017 and "Food Ink: Chewing over the History of Food Writing" at the 26th Annual World History Association Conference, Boston, MA, 22-24 June 2017.

Patrick Hagge received a grant of \$1330 from the Interdisciplinary Research Center at ATU for the purchase of an aerial photography drone for the Cultural and Geospatial Studies Program (CGS). The drone will be used for mapping in CGS courses as well as for research.

Joseph Swain has been invited to become a reviewer of manuscripts for the Journal of Settlements and Spatial Planning.

Holly Ruth Gale spent ten weeks this summer working at Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, N.C. where she played the leading role of Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* and Muriel in *Fox on the Fairway*. Highlands Playhouse is the oldest continually-operating live theatre in North Carolina. Every summer since 1938, with the exception of two years during World War II, there has been a season of plays at the Playhouse.

Upcoming Events

Arkansas Society of Printmakers
Printastic! Art Exhibit
Monday—Friday through
October 24
8:00 AM—5:00 PM
Norman Hall Art Gallery

Arkansas Radio Theatre

October 21—*Concealed Carrie, Episodes 13 & 14*
October 28—*The Monkey's Paw*
November 4—*Miss Julie*
November 11—*The Millionaire's Proposal*
Saturdays at 7:00 PM on KXRJ
91.9 FM

ATU Theatre

The ATU Theatre fall production, "Rope" by Patrick Hamilton, will be staged at 8:00 PM on Thursday; October 26, Friday, October 27; and Saturday, October 28 at the Techionery Theatre. Tickets (\$8.00 general admission and \$5.00 with a valid ATU ID) will be sold at the door each evening. Senior theatre major Glen Poole will direct the three performances.

ASBTDC Events

QuickBooks Online for Beginners and QuickBooks Online Day-to-Day Basics
Thursday, October 19
9:00 AM
Beall Barclay & Company

Make a Marketing Map for Your Rural Business
Wednesday, November 8
10:00 AM
Van Buren Public Library

QuickBooks Desktop Payroll
Thursday, November 16
9:00 AM
Beall Barclay & Company



BUSINESS

Faculty Accomplishments

Mark Reavis and Peng Huang were recently informed that their paper, “Are Credit Unions Less Efficient Than Commercial Banks? An Empirical Analysis of Operating Efficiency,” was accepted for publication in *Review of Business Research*. In addition, the paper was accepted for presentative at the IABE 2017 New York Conference in October.

Efosa C. Idemudia presented two research papers relating to the research he conducted as a Carnegie Fellow this year, 2017: “The Effects of Gender On The Adoption of Social Media: An Empirical Investigation” and “Factors Influencing Employees’ Participation in Non-Malicious, Information Systems Security Deviant Behavior: Focus on Formal Control Mechanisms and Sanctions.” The research papers were presented in the Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS 2017) as well.

George Receives State Star Award

Nathan George received the State Star Award at America's SBDC “Work Smarter. Live Better.” Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference boasted 140 workshops and over 40 exhibitors and featured keynote speakers Dan Thurmon and Joe Acuff.



Interdisciplinary Research Center Workshop

Efosa Idemudia will present an IRC workshop about Fulbright experiences on Friday, October 27 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM in RCB 134.

College to Career Conference

The annual College to Career Conference sponsored by the College of Business will be held on Thursday, November 2 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM in Rothwell Hall. This will be a conference utilizing all the academic departments within the College of Business. The event will begin with expert panelists from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM in Rothwell classrooms 138, 121, and 311. There will be a speaking engagement from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Doc Bryan Lecture Hall.

EDUCATION

Department/Faculty Accomplishments

Michael Waller presented two research posters at the National NSCA conference in Las Vegas: “The Acute Effects of Different Lower-Body Exercises on Countermovement Vertical Jump Performance” and “Can 6 Weeks of Focused Hip Extension Training Improve Muscular Performance?”

Gina Kraft and Jamie McDougal presented at the NSCA Arkansas State Clinic at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Kraft’s presentation was titled “The Vegetarian Athlete”; McDougal’s presentation was titled “Overcoming Weak Links: Utilizing and Programming Accommodating Resistance.”



ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Bruce Chehroudi and his collaborators (Professors A. P. Carlucci, A. Ficarella, D. Laforgia, and researcher L. Strafella) from the University of Salento were invited to contribute a chapter in a book titled "Carbon Nanotubes - Recent Progress". The book is edited by M. M. Rahman and A. M. Asiri (ISBN 978-953-51-5707-6). The chapter title is "Potential Application of Photo-Thermal Volumetric Ignition of Carbon Nanotubes in Internal Combustion Engines". It will be published in INTECH Open Science / Open Minds (<https://www.intechopen.com/>).

Chehroudi has also been collaborating with Prof. Antonio Ficarella, Prof. Antonio Paolo Carlucci, Prof. Domenico Laforgia (former President of the University of Salento), and the PhD Student Dr. Luciano Strafella at the Department of Innovation Engineering, University of Salento, Italy, which led to a recent acceptance of a publication in the Journal of Fuels (Elsevier) in a special Volume for Dual-Fuel and Fuel Additives (coming soon). The work is quite unique further demonstrating original and pioneering work by Chehroudi in applications of nano-structured materials for ignition and combustion of fuels to achieve light-activated Volumetric ignition of fuel-air mixtures, especially under lean conditions. Collaborators were Prof. Antonio Ficarella, Prof. Antonio Paolo Carlucci, Prof. Domenico Laforgia (former President of the University of Salento), and the PhD Student Dr. Luciano Strafella who did an excellent job in such a difficult research work. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016236117309079#!>

On August 31, Sandy Maxwell Smith led a breakout session at the 2017 Arkansas Emergency Management Conference regarding the "Next Generation Emergency Management Core Competencies: Applicable for Arkansas Practitioners?" Smith shared the discipline's competencies that build the individual, practitioner, and relationships as determined by a Delphi study completed in 2016. Dialogue from the 45 attendees confirmed the competencies do meet the needs for Arkansas emergency management practitioners.

Justin Killingsworth recently spent ten days in the African nation of Uganda as part of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Catholic Relief Services Farmer-to-Farmer program.

Computer Science Education Leadership Summit



The Department of Computer and Information Science and the ATU STEM Institute assisted many other statewide agencies in hosting the Arkansas Computer Science Leadership Summit on the ATU campus Thursday, October 12. The purpose of the conference was to support the state's Computer Science initiatives through education and professional development. The conference was designed 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. Attendees received information on Computer Science education policy changes, including K-12 curriculum, university programs, and teacher licensure; professional development opportunities were also available through a variety of workshops. Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson provided the keynote address, which was entitled "How Does Computer Science Education Affect the Pipeline for Business and Economic Growth in Arkansas?" Additional speakers included Dr. Robin Bowen, ATU president; Vic Dreier, director of the Arkansas Tech University STEM Center; and Dr. David Greer, senior vice president and chief programs office for Project Lead the Way.

EAS Departmental Professors of the Year

Agriculture – Lucas Maxwell

Computer & Information Science – Matt Brown

Emergency Management – Ekong Peters

Electrical Engineering – Matt Young

Mechanical Engineering – John Krohn

Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration – Theresa Herrick

EAS College Professor of the Year

John Krohn, Mechanical Engineering

EAS College Junior Professor of the Year

Lucas Maxwell, Agriculture

EAS Professor of the Year for Outstanding Service

Johnette Moody, Computer & Information Science



Upcoming Events

Parks, Recreation, & Hospitality
Administration Homecoming
Saturday, October 21
8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Williamson Dining Hall

Interdisciplinary Research Series

Interdisciplinary Research Center
Directors “Grant Tips & Tricks”
Friday, November 17
3:30 PM–4:30 PM
RCB 134



Emergency Management Faculty Present at Arkansas Emergency Management Conference

Sandy Maxwell Smith, Jamie Earls, and Wilson Short recently presented “Utilization of sUAS in Emergency Management and Its Legal and Ethical Considerations” at the final plenary session of the 2017 Arkansas Emergency Management Conference in Rogers, Arkansas, on Friday, September 1st. The faculty shared the various uses of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) in urban and rural areas for emergency management, fire, and law enforcement. Additionally, the faculty team made explicit the ethical and legal considerations when utilizing sUAS in these situations. The audience was particularly interested in how Arkansas Tech University Department of Emergency Management’s “fleet” of sUAS might assist them with a disaster. Short already has assisted several counties and state agencies with aerial photos while responding to or mitigating disasters.

ATU Team to Compete in 2018 Mercury Robotics Challenge

The Mercury Robotics challenge is self-described as an international, interscholastic competition held at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater, OK that involves the design and implementation of a robot to complete specified tasks while being operated from over 50 miles away. Arkansas Tech University had two entries to the competition in the Spring 2017 semester with teams successfully operating their robots from Russellville, a distance of over 220 miles! While the past entries did not achieve top rankings, a new team is looking to be competitive for the Spring 2018 competition. This team, composed of 3 senior electrical engineering students (Benjamin Keisling, Gavin Dundee, and Michael Ikwuyum) will work under the guidance of assistant professor Matthew Young (Electrical Engineering) to create a new design concept to enter into the competition for their senior electrical capstone course. The students will need to command electrical design concepts including embedded programming, wireless communication, and the challenge of latency to be successful. The competition is to be held April 21, 2018 in Stillwater, OK at the OSU campus.

ATU Women in STEM

This past summer, Arkansas Tech Women in STEM had the opportunity to study abroad and do humanitarian work in Japan. They spent their school year planning and fundraising for this trip. The STEM students participated in two independent studies, one related to Bio-Chemistry and one related to Mechanical Engineering. Their time spent in Tokyo was extremely exciting.

As the Women in STEM group, they like to leave everyone they meet feeling inspired and empowered, and they got to do just that by helping with a language camp for children in Ofunato. These young boys and girls are growing up in a community that is trying to rebuild after a devastating tsunami in 2011. The Women in STEM students helped assist in classes to teach subjects like speaking, writing, crafts, and dancing.

This was the first time some of the young ladies had ever left the country, and they are so thankful for their new found perspective. The chance to learn in a new country is an incredible honor. They are beginning to plan for the summer of 2018 and hope to be able to return to Japan and to bring even more STEM students with them.





eTECH

Department/Faculty Accomplishments

Jeff Aulgur, Department Head and Associate Professor of Professional Studies, will present his chapter, “*Journaling with Paulo Freire*,” at the Carnegie Writers Third Annual Conference Series, The Culture of Writing: Values, Customs, Traditions, Community and Diversity, on November 11, 2017 in Savannah, Georgia. Aulgur’s chapter will be published in the Carnegie Writers Conference Series Anthology.

The Department of Professional Studies is developing 2+2 or MOUs with ASU Newport, ASU-Beebe, UACCM, SAU Tech, Phillips County-UACC, and National Park Community College. Departmental personnel have visited or plan to visit 14 community colleges (including Ozark campus) by mid-October.

The College of eTech will be offering \$1000 scholarships for new students enrolling in nine hours of the BAS degree for spring 2018 semester.

GRADUATE COLLEGE

Record Student Enrollment for Graduate College

The Graduate College has over 1000 graduate students enrolled this fall, which is the first time in Tech’s history. Special thanks to the Graduate College staff for all their work in recruiting and processing applications. In addition, thanks are due to the graduate program directors for their efforts in getting these new and returning students registered for classes.

Successful Start to the MBA

The Graduate College has over 45 students enrolled in the MBA graduate program, which began this fall semester. In addition, they are now accepting applications for students wanting to begin this program for the spring, 2018 semester. Congratulations to the COB and all their efforts for getting the program off to a great start.

New Graduate Certificate Launched

This fall semester the Graduate College launched a new graduate certificate in Advising, which is being offered by the College Student Personnel Department. It is a new educational credential that specializes in preparing higher education administrators for their job duties in a variety of advising capacities. The certificate has 18 students enrolled this fall and is growing. We hope to see other areas launch graduate certificates in the future.

Interdisciplinary Research Series

Jeff Aulgur and Jeremy Schwehm will present “Board Effectiveness and Commitment: Assessing the Affective Commitment Scale and Demographic in formation” from 12:00 PM—1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 1, in RTH 321B.

“The principal goal of education is to create [individuals] who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done...”
- Jean Piaget

Graduate Student Spotlight

The September “Graduate Student of the Month” is Sarah Tomke, a graduate student in Fisheries and Wildlife, who was recognized for her research on the genetic structure of the lizard population in the state of Arkansas. She has submitted a paper for publication on this research that is currently under review. In addition to outstanding research, she is excelling in her graduate studies with an outstanding grade point average.

Bookstore Gives \$20,000 for ATU Scholarships

Barnes and Noble College donated \$20,000 to fund scholarships for Arkansas Tech University students during a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the grand opening of the Barnes and Noble College ATU Bookstore on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Tech entered into an agreement with Barnes and Noble College to manage its on-campus bookstores in Russellville and Ozark following action by the Tech Board of Trustees in December 2016. Under the terms of the agreement, Barnes and Noble College will guarantee to match the price offered by any outside source to Arkansas Tech students on textbooks and other instructional materials. In addition, Barnes and Noble College will invest \$250,000 over a span of three years in bookstore improvements at Arkansas Tech.



New Scholarships created for Grad Students

Several new scholarships were launched to support graduate students this academic year. The TESOL program was given the opportunity to award the EDGE scholarship to those who completed the TESOL academy program in hopes they would continue their education and earn a TESOL graduate degree. Also created was the Emerging Graduate Scholarship that was awarded to students beginning their graduate studies either this summer or fall semester thanks in the financial support of the Advancement Office (President's annual fund-raising gala).

NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

On Friday, September 8, Rebecca Burriss presented "Reversal Theory States in Smoking Cessation among Adolescents" as part of the Interdisciplinary Research Series.

Arkansas Environmental Education Association Event

The College of Natural and Health Sciences helped sponsor the Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA) event entitled "EE Goes to Work." This event focused on exposing regional high school students to jobs of all skill sets in the environmental field through a conference like setting where professionals from around the state demonstrate their jobs, including the latest technology and communicate what employers are looking for. Exhibitors included Arkansas State Parks, USES Industrial Environmental Specialty Services, ClearResult, Arkansas Department of Highway and Transportation, ADEQ, the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, CDI Contractors, and several others. The event was October 12th on the ATU Russellville campus in the Young Ballroom and McEver Hall.

News from Our Ozark Campus

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus has received authorization from the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to add five Certificate of Proficiency programs to its curriculum effective immediately. Certificate of Proficiency programs in medical billing, logistics management and mobile applications will each require a student to complete 12 credit hours in order to earn the credential. Fifteen credit hours will be required for successful candidates seeking a Certificate of Proficiency in medical coding or in phlebotomy. All five of the latest Certificate of Proficiency programs at ATU-Ozark are designed to lead into more advanced credentials through Arkansas Tech University. Certificate of Proficiency graduates are eligible to continue on through Technical Certificate, Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs as a result of ATU's stackable degrees approach.

Arkansas Tech University is proud to announce Paramedic and EMS Program Director, Joshua Freeman, as the Arkansas Emergency Medical Technician Association (AEMTA) 2017 EMS Instructor of the Year.

Mike Bogue, Student Success Coordinator on the Ozark campus, recently published his new book, *Apocalypse Then: American and Japanese Atomic Cinema, 1951-1967*, through McFarland.

Katy Dodd has joined the ATU-Ozark Campus faculty as an Instructor of English. She received her BA in English in 2011 from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. In 2014, she earned her MA in English from Arkansas Tech University. After graduate school, she worked as an adjunct instructor for both Arkansas Tech University campuses, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, and University of the Ozarks. She has presented academic research at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, University of Central Arkansas, and University of Mississippi. Dodd is a published author of poetry and fiction.





Announcements

GREEN AND GOLD CUPBOARD

The Green and Gold Cupboard formally opened on Monday, October 2. The food pantry is for ATU students and employees and provides a confidential resource for individuals facing food insecurity. The Green and Gold Cupboard will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:00 PM–6:00 PM during the fall 2017 semester. Any individual with a need and a valid ATU identification card can visit the pantry at 1019 N. Arkansas Avenue to receive food and personal hygiene items.

TECH OPEN HOUSE

The Office of Admissions at Arkansas Tech University will host its annual Tech Open House on October 21, 2017 from 10:00 AM until noon in Tucker Coliseum. Held in conjunction with Homecoming activities, Open House brings together representatives from every academic program on campus in one single location. Campus tours, complimentary tickets to the football game, and a drawing for a fall 2018 tuition scholarship are all part of the Open House festivities. No pre-registration is required.

RID FY18 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Arkansas NASA EPSCoR Office has announced its Call for Proposals for the FY18 Research Infrastructure Development (RID) Preparatory Program. The due date is October 24, 2017. Proposal details can be found on the OSPUI website at: <https://www.atu.edu/ospui/funding.php>. Please contact OSPUI at 880-4327 or ospui@atu.edu for questions or assistance with this application.

ARKANSAS TITLE IX CONSORTIUM

In partnership with NWACC and UCA, Arkansas Tech University is hosting the 2017 Arkansas Title IX Consortium on Thursday, October 26. Presentations on topics such as VAWA/Clery Requirements and Legal Updates will be conducted. You can register here: <https://www.atu.edu/titleix/consortium.php>.

STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The ATU Human Resources Office will present Dustin Baker from St. Mary's Regional Health System for a program on stress management on Wednesday, October 25. The presentation will be at 10:00 AM in Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Room 242. All ATU employees are invited to attend. Baker will discuss common causes of stress, results of too much stress, and how to reduce and/or cope with stress. For more information, call (479) 968-0396.



*Early
Registration
for Spring
2018*

*October 23—
December 5*