

Administration 200
(479) 968-0319
atu.edu/academics

Academic Affairs Newsletter
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Academic Affairs

WE ARE TEACHERS

Arkansas Tech University is a teaching institution dedicated to excellence in teaching and student success. Success in teaching is one of the most rewarding experiences a faculty member can have. At Tech, each and every one of our students comes to us with a dream; a dream to be successful, to have a good life, and to contribute to society. They come to us with the dreams of their families and friends for them to be better and to do better. Some do require more help and support academically. Some require more advising, both academically and personally. Some require more motivating and help to persist in the pursuit of these dreams. They all, however, have something in common. These students and their families entrusted us at Tech with their dreams, and it is our privilege and duty to do what we can to help them. Our success in helping these students is reflected in being in the top 5% of institutions in the country on the social mobility index (SMI), a true measure of our ability to change students' lives. In fact, ATU has been among the top 70 institutions in the U.S. on the SMI for two consecutive years and has been ranked number one in the state on the SMI for four consecutive years.

Excellence in teaching and advising are important aspects of supporting our students. One of the best books I read early in my career was *What the Best College Teachers Do* by Ken Bain. One of the key elements the book highlights is that these teachers take student learning as a serious intellectual challenge and approach each teaching situation uniquely. Because their teaching and research go hand-in-hand, these teachers approach each endeavor with careful preparation, implementation, and evaluation. For these teachers, every student presents a unique set of challenges, and each class of students presents a different dynamic. Thus, these teachers are eager to come to class and excited to try new approaches to disseminating their information. Furthermore, as the book highlights, these teachers believe that, with some guidance, students can and ultimately should be in charge of their own learning. True learning is not restricted to only intellectual development, but also personal development or change. Rather than memorize the material, teachers attempt to help students personally identify with the material, thereby internalizing it in a way that cannot be accomplished by simple rote learning. In effect, they are instilling a sense of curiosity in students that may not have been there before and empowering students to take charge of their education. These teachers see teaching as an art that will never be perfected and consider each class they teach as an opportunity for professional development and growth. Simply put, each class provides learning moments for both students and teachers.

As the fall semester comes to a close, I want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication. It is a true pleasure to work with you. As I said when I first started, I believe in the power of ideas, and I ask that you please share with me your ideas on how we can all do better.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.

Bain, Ken, author. *What The Best College Students Do*. Cambridge, Massachusetts :The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2012.



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SAVE THE DATE

- End of Course Exams
December 6–12
- Board of Trustees Meeting
December 14
- Graduation
December 15-16
- Campus Closed
December 22–January 1
- Professional Development
January 10

ARKANSAS
TECH
UNIVERSITY



Student Success



Norman Career Services (NCS) continues to serve the university as a center for career and professional development. So far this semester, NCS has completed 638 drop-ins and appointments. This semester alone, 1,250 students participated in one of the seven career fairs. NCS has conducted 89 class visits, workshops, and information sessions, which were attended by 2,842 students. The on-campus interview program has hosted 13 organizations, interviewing 157 applicants. While NCS is still striving to increase the number of active users in Handshake, currently 15% of the ATU student body have active

accounts. Please continue to encourage students and alumni to access Handshake for jobs, internships, resume reviews, on-campus information, and more. Currently, there are 364 internship postings and 1,074 job postings in Handshake. NCS is glad to announce that ELEVATE: The Career Advancement Academy now has 66 enrollees. Throughout this self-paced course, students are creating career action plans, practicing better interview skills, perfecting their resumes, and more. You are welcome to visit NCS in Doc Bryan 153; NCS appreciates your continued support.

Advising Center



ATU academic advisor William Scott Tomlin recently received the 2017 Arkansas Academic Advising Network (ArkAAN) award for outstanding academic advising in a primary advising role. Tomlin serves as assistant director and as an academic advisor in the Roy and Christine Sturgis Academic Advising Center at ATU. He has worked at the center since 2014 after previously serving on the staffs of the ATU Department of Art and the ATU Office of the Registrar.

Student Support Services



Student Support Services (SSS) offers an opportunity for students to participate in an all-expenses-paid cultural enrichment trip each fall and spring semester as a reward for meeting program requirements and demonstrating college success behaviors. This October, SSS invited students to Bentonville, Arkansas, for a visit to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and a private painting class at Painting With a Twist. For many of the students, this was a first time experience at the museum, and they enjoyed building experiences with fellow program participants. Students began the trip as mostly strangers and ended as friends, chatting about majors, classes, and exchanging phone numbers. SSS loves giving students opportunities to

experience new things, but one of their favorite aspects of these trips and activities is students engaging with one another and gaining a sense of belonging to the SSS program and Arkansas Tech. Some students really step outside their comfort zones when they participate in a trip, workshop, or other program activity, so SSS does its best to make sure they have a positive experience; it can have a major impact on their future involvement.



“Educating yourself does not mean that you were stupid in the first place; it means that you are intelligent enough to know that there is plenty left to learn.”
- Melanie Joy

Ad Astra Update

Arkansas Tech University plans to go live with the Events Scheduling and Calendar portions of the Ad Astra Software on January 2, 2018. Ad Astra provides a real-time, campus-wide calendar that faculty and staff can view at their convenience; room availability is displayed, as well as a comprehensive list of the technology available in each room. Reservations will still need to be approved by the Office of Events but requested through the Ad Astra system; however, it should be a much quicker, easier process.

Campus Master Plan Overview

https://www.atu.edu/masterplanning/docs/ATU_Board%20of%20Trustees_FINAL.PDF

IMSSO

The joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, International Education Week (IEW), is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. At Arkansas Tech University, the International and Multicultural Student Services Office (IMSSO) held a series of IEW 2017 events to promote international education on campus from Monday, November 13 through Friday, November 17. The week began with decorating the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive with the flags of 38 countries represented by 379 international students enrolled at ATU. On Monday, November 13, an international fashion show was held in Baz-Tech Lobby and an international faculty/staff dinner was held in the evening at Lake Point Conference Center.

Tuesday evening, A Night In Nepal offered students an opportunity to experience Nepali culture via performances, presentations, and authentic food.

The Japanese Cultural Festival took place on Wednesday, November 15th, at which students could enjoy dance performances and partake in free food and fan painting. That evening, a Language Dinner Table event allowed students to enjoy a free gourmet meal while engaging in conversation with native speakers of German, French, Japanese, and Spanish.

On Thursday, November 16, a Get To Know Your International Peers event took place in Baz Tech; a panel of international students from different cultures was present to discuss traditions and customs unique to their countries. Later that night, A Taste of India offered students an evening of traditional Indian dances, fashion, and authentic Indian food.

To wrap up the week, an International Talent Expo was held in the Doc Bryan Lecture Hall, where students could show off their talents and compete to win \$300.

LULAC PRESENTS SERVICE AWARD TO ATU

On Friday, October 13, the League of United Latin American Citizens Council (LULAC) honored ATU with a University Service Award during the LULAC annual gala. The University Service Award recognized initiatives developed for the recruitment and retention of Latino students, including partnerships between the university and LULAC to provide scholarship assistance to eligible students. ATU and LULAC entered into a memorandum of understanding in October 2016 that provides enhanced educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans.



ATU CONNECT TRAIL



ATU and the City of Russellville hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the official opening of the Arkansas Tech Connect Trail on November 14. The ribbon cutting took place at the trail bridge, halfway between the aquatic center and the western boundary of the ATU campus. The pedestrian and bicycle trail is 2,080 feet and connects the Tech campus with both the aquatic center and Bona Dea Trails.

The path to Tuesday's ceremony began approximately seven years ago when a group of citizens partnered with the Russellville Department of Recreation and Parks to create the Russellville Connected Trail Plan. Funding for the Arkansas Tech Connect Trail was made possible in part through a grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

Upward Bound

On November 11, the Arkansas Tech University Upward Bound Programs held an event to honor veterans. SFC Thomas Roots and SSG Tyler Ridenhour spoke to the students about their deployments with the National Guard. Along with sharing stories of their deployment, SFC Roots spoke to the students about the importance of a college degree. SSG Ridenour, an Arkansas Tech University UBMS alum, also spoke about the importance of a college degree and the Upward Bound program. Along with guest speakers, community service was also incorporated into the event. Students prepared “Warm Welcome Home” care packages to soldiers who have been deployed.



Faculty Development

During the Fall 2017 application cycle, proposals from the following faculty members were granted in the categories indicated:

Sabbaticals

Jeffrey Pearson, Spring 2018
Shelia Jackson, Spring 2018
Seung Suk Lee, Fall 2018

Faculty Research Grant Awards

Victor Agubra
Rajib Choudhury
Kaiman Zeng

Professional Development Grant Awards

Jeff Aulgur	Cathi McMahan
Ernest Enchelmayer	John David McGrew
Fatima Ferguson	Gregory Michna
Latasha Holt-Bocksnick	Sarah Stein
Shelia Jackson	Deborah Wilson
Aaron McArthur	

Library

Veterans Appreciation Event

The Pendergraft Library hosted the All Veterans Appreciation Event on Thursday, November 9. More than 150 people were in attendance, including ATU students, faculty, and many guests from the surrounding community. Colonel (Ret.) Nate Todd, Director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs, served as the keynote speaker for the event. Representatives from several veterans’ services organizations, including the Arkansas Veterans Benefits Administration, ATU Veterans Upward Bound, and Pope County Veteran Services, were also present at the event to provide information about the programs and resources that they provide.

Scholarly Speaker Series

On November 13, Nathaniel Chapman, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Arkansas Tech, participated in the library’s “Second Mondays” speaker series, which showcases the research of members of the Arkansas Tech faculty and administration. Chapman shared from his recently published book *Untapped: Exploring the Cultural Dimensions of Craft Beer*. The book, published by West Virginia University Press, includes a collection of 12 previously unpublished essays that analyze the rise of craft beer and explore many diverse topics, from activism at beer festivals to how craft beer is revitalizing cities and local economies.

New Digital Resource in the Library

Arkansas Tech library users now have access to a high-speed, digital book scanner. The KIC Click scanner is capable of scanning nearly 20 book pages per minute for instant access on tablets, notebooks, smart devices and easy transfer to desktop PCs and servers. The scanner can capture up to 22 x16 inch books and other print materials at a resolution of 300 dpi. Digital images made by the scanner can be e-mailed or saved on a flash drive.

OSPUI Connection

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES (OSPUI)

Congratulations!



Arkansas Tech University recently partnered with the River Valley Child Advocacy Center (RVCAC) to provide children who have been victims of abuse a safe space to be interviewed by the proper authorities. An MOU was recently signed by ATU President Dr. Robin Bowen and RVCAC President Marti Wilkerson to allow RVCAC access to the Crabaugh House. RVCAC also recently received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence to assist in the formation of the center. Multiple offices on ATU joined in this collaborative effort, including the President's Office, University Counsel, the Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives, and the following departments: Art; Behavioral Sciences; Computer and Information Science; Nursing; and Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration.

The Arkansas Tech Small Business and Technology Development Center received notification that it has been awarded \$55,000 to continue funding for its operation. The funding is made possible by a prime contract between the U.S. Small Business Administration and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The center houses Director Nathan George, Training Specialist Ronda Hawkins, and Administrative Specialist II Tracie White. Last year, ATU's center received the Innovation and Excellence Award, which goes to the top performing center in a five-state region that includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. Nathan George recently won the State Star and was recognized at this year's annual Small Business Development Center Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. This award is designated for those that contribute significantly to the ASBTDC program, have high performance, and show a strong commitment to Arkansas small businesses. This continues a positive trend for ATU SBTDC staff, as Ronda Hawkins won the same award two years ago.

University Initiatives



As part of their charge to support economic development, OSPUI sponsored two initiatives promoting entrepreneurship in the River Valley. Both events coincided with Global Entrepreneur Week (November 13 – 19), a program created by the Global Entrepreneur Network in partnership with the Kauffman Foundation. The first event was the kick off of OSPUI's speaker series Exploring the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (E3). A panel discussion was held with Dr. Robin Bowen, Bruce Sikes, Mayor Randy Horton, and local entrepreneur Korri Freeman to discuss the role collaboration plays in supporting community and economic development.

To continue to support the community, OSPUI also partnered with the ASBTDC and Russellville Chamber of Commerce to launch a digital marketing campaign to support shopping locally this holiday season. The campaign started the first day of Global Entrepreneur Week and ran through Small Business Saturday on November 25.

OSPUI would also like to thank President Bowen for her support of the Veteran's Appreciation Tent at the Military Appreciation Football Game on November 11, where veterans and their families enjoyed refreshments and fellowship before the game. For those unable to attend, a video can be viewed here:

<https://atu.sharestream.net/video/8a8080b55aa34e78015fc08393d7021c/8a8080b55aa34e78015fc12c86ac021d>.

Meeting with OSPUI

OSPUI has been fortunate to be able to assist many faculty with their grant proposal preparation. Depending on where the faculty member is in the grant process, some meetings may take an extended amount of time. To ensure OSPUI has enough time available to give faculty the attention their proposal deserves, we ask that you please make an appointment to meet with OSPUI staff for all proposal preparation questions. Drop-in visits will always be welcome, but scheduled appointments take priority. Appointments may be made by emailing gcrouch@atu.edu, thenry1@atu.edu, or completing the contact form at: <https://www.atu.edu/ospui/contact.php>.

We also would like to stress the importance of scheduling an appointment to meet with us as soon as a grant is being considered. While every project is different, ideally we need at least one month's notice to be able to fully assist with proposal preparation, review the final document, and collect the necessary approvals. We need at least three months' notice for large proposals like NSF. Please contact OSPUI with any questions about the timeline.

OIS—Technology Learning Resources Update

Starting with the Spring 2018 semester, course shells in the Blackboard Learn LMS will have a new content area created by default in the left-side menu for all courses. The Barnes & Noble content area will have a link to Faculty Enlight for instructors to "Research and Adopt Course Materials," as well as links for students to "Purchase Course Materials" from the bookstore website and "Access Digital Course Materials" via B&N's Yuzu learning platform, which delivers an enhanced digital reading experience.

*"Divergent thinking is the route, not the obstacle, to innovation."
- Tim Brown*



Arkansas Radio Theatre

December 2—*The Five Little Peppers Merry Christmas*

December 9—*A Christmas Carol*

December 16—*The Christmas Masquerade*

Saturdays at 7:00 PM on KXRJ 91.9 FM

Music

Percussion Ensemble Concert
Wednesday, November 29
7:30 PM—9:00 PM

2018 Study Abroad Opportunities

Mexican Civilization and Culture, Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico
December 27 -January 6

Delhi, Jaipur & Agra
March 16—March 26

Costa Rica Experience 2018
March 16-24

History of Healthcare in London, England
July 8—July 18

ATU Visual Arts Association Sale

Members of the Arkansas Tech University Visual Arts Association (VAA) will make their artwork available for purchase during the fall 2017 VAA sale on Tuesday, Nov. 28, and Wednesday, Nov. 29.

The sale will take place both days from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM in the Witherspoon Hall lobby.

College Highlights

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Faculty Accomplishments

Michael Rogers published “The Past, Present and Possible Future of Civics in Political Science” in *Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines* (American Political Science Association, 2017), 73-96. Rogers also attended the American Political Science Association’s (APSA) annual meeting and co-presented a paper entitled “Structuring Civic Education: Assessing Civic Literacy Retention and Curricular Sequencing,” 31 August-3 September in San Francisco. At this meeting, he received the APSA Political Science Education Award for Best Paper 2016 for “The History of Civic Education in Political Science” and was made the 2018 APSA annual meeting chair for Political Science Education.

Jessica Mongeon opened a solo exhibit entitled “Cascade of Scales” in the University of the Ozarks’ Stephens Gallery. The exhibit, a collection of her acrylic paintings that explore the idea of scale in nature based on self-similarity, is part of the University’s Artist of the Month Series. Mongeon also gave an artist talk and participated in an artist meet-and-greet.

Guolin Yi presented a paper “*Da waixuan* (Great Foreign Propaganda): The Global Projection of China’s Soft Power” at the 23rd annual conference of the Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) at High Point University in North Carolina on October 21, 2017. Yi was also elected to the ACPSS Board of Directors.

Patrick Hagge attended in October the Arkansas Geographic Information System (GIS) Users Forum Symposium in Eureka Springs. His poster presentation, “GIS in the non-GIS Classroom,” won 3rd place for “Best Map/Poster.”

Greg Michna presented “A Long Road to Sainthood: The Half-Way Covenant of 1662 and its Indian Implications in John Oxenbridge’s ‘Conversion of the Gentiles’” at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, October 5-6, Little Rock, AR. David Cullen also presented “The Politics of Fear and Nostalgia: The Triumph of the Republican Party and Modern Conservatism, 1968-2016” at the meeting, while David Blanks presented “Heterodoxy and Anti-Clericalism in Languedoc.”

Blanks also published “Scientific History and the Muslim Worldview,” *International Journal for the Transformation of Consciousness*: “Our Place In The Cosmos: Big History and Universal Consciousness,” ed. Barry Rodrigue 31:1 (January-June 2017), 238-245 and presented “The Church Scientific or La religion de l’humanité relancé” at the 5th International Scientific Congress, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, 25-30 September 2017 .

James Moses released a [virtual exhibit](#) for the UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture. The exhibit was about Rabbi Ira Sanders, his stance towards civil rights, and his role during the desegregation of Arkansas's educational system.

Jason Ulsperger was recently elected Vice President of the Mid-South Sociological Association. He previously served as a session organizer, Nominations Committee member, and is currently on the Stanford Lyman Book Award Committee.

Jan Jenkins recently published a review of Eduardo de Mesa, *The Irish in the Spanish Armies in the Seventeenth Century* 74:3-4 (February 2017): 128-130 and a review of Roger Lloyd-Jones and M.J. Lewis, *Arming the Western Front: War, Business and the state in Britain 1900-1920*, for *Michigan War Studies Review* (12 April 2017). She also presented "Propaganda and Persuasion: Dissemination of Information in the United States During World War I" as part of the library's World War I Centennial Lecture Series.

David Cullen published a review of Edward H. Miller, *Nut country: Right-Wing Dallas and the Birth of the Southern Strategy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015) in the *Journal of Southern History* (August 2017).

Rebecca Wiewel was elected President of the Arkansas River Valley Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society.

Sarah Stein has been asked to serve as Assistant Editor of *Scribblerian*, an important scholarly journal focusing on eighteenth-century literature.

11th Annual Juried Student Competitive Exhibition

Arkansas Tech University student Megan McClain of Pine Bluff won first place in the 11th annual Juried Student Competitive Exhibition, which is on display at Norman Hall Art Gallery through Tuesday, Dec. 5. Kimaly Ballard of Clarksville captured second place and Danielle Gregory of Van Buren earned third place in the judging, which was performed by guest judge Ken Burchett, professor of art at the University of Central Arkansas.

Forty-four ATU students submitted 96 works for consideration of inclusion in the exhibition. Of those, 47 pieces by 25 artists are on display.

Anthropology Club Hosts Last Lecture

On November 14, the Anthropology Club held its annual "Last Lecture" event. This fall, Caroline Hackerott, Assistant Professor of Emergency Management, was the speaker. The event is modeled on an actual case in which a professor (Dr. Randy Pausch) who knew he was dying was asked to give a talk in which he would share whatever wisdom with the world he wanted, given that it might be his last chance to share it. His talk at Carnegie Mellon University, entitled "The Last Lecture: Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams," was a huge success and inspired a book by the same name. As this year's speaker, Hackerott gave her own hypothetical last lecture. Past speakers have included Jason Warnick, Sean Huss, and Jan Jenkins.

BUSINESS

Faculty Accomplishments

Efosa Idemudia recently published a research article entitled "[An Empirical Investigation of Factors that Influence Government Apps Usage/Adoption](#)" in the *International Journal of Technology Diffusion*.

College to Career Conference

On November 2, the College of Business held The College to Career Conference, a networking event for the ATU Business students. There was an expert panel session for each major in various locations in Rothwell, followed by a keynote speaker presentation by ATU alumnus Russell Apple. The expert panels included 18 industry experts in the fields of accounting, management and marketing, business data analytics, and economics and finance.



*"Let us remember:
One [student], one
teacher, one book,
and one pen can
change the world."
- Malala Yousafzai*

Museum Research Library

The Museum's Research Library offers a vast array of materials related to the development and maintenance of museums and on topics relative to the exhibits and programming of the Museum. Also included in the holdings are a significant selection of Native American, Archeological, Anthropological and Arkansas related references. Hours of operation are M-F, 8am to 5pm. Call (479)964-0826 for more information about the library.

Toys for Tots Drive

The ATU Department of Public Safety is conducting a Toys for Tots drive from Friday, Nov. 17 through Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Those wishing to donate new and unwrapped toys may drop them off weekdays from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Arkansas Tech Department of Public Safety headquarters, which is located at 1508 N. Boulder Ave. in Russellville. For more information, call (479) 968-0222.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research

The 2018 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) will be co-hosted with the Council on Undergraduate Research. It will occur at the University of Central Oklahoma April 4-7, 2018. The abstract submission portal for NCUR 2018 is open and will close on December 5, 2017. Please share the information with your colleagues and encourage students to submit abstracts.

If you have any questions regarding NCUR 2018, please call (405) 974-NCUR (6287) or send an email to NCUR2018@uco.edu. For more information, visit: <https://www.cur.org/conferences-and-events/student-events/ncur-2018/>.



EDUCATION

Faculty Accomplishments

John O'Connor, Pete Kelly, and Rockie Pederson presented "Games, Therapy, Education, and Fun: Everyone Can" at the 2017 Arkansas Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference. O'Connor also presented "Teaching Art in a Color-Blind World—Lessons for a Severe Profound Class" at the conference.

At the 2017 ArkAHPERD Convention, Kelly, O'Connor, Pederson, and HPE student Carson Ayers gave multiple presentations. Shelia Jackson and Morgan Scott presented "Effects of Attentional and Motivational Priming on Athletic Performance"; Jackson and Kayla Freeman presented "Effects of Acute Resistance Training on the Stroop Performance of College Students."

Pederson received recognition as the Coordinator of the ArkAHPERD 2017 Top Collegiate Event of the Year.

Jackie Paxton, Timothy Leggett, and David Bell presented at the annual Child Care Aware Northcentral Arkansas conference in Batesville, Arkansas. Paxton, Leggett, Bell, and Latasha Holt-Bocksnick also gave a presentation entitled "Super Sensory Heroes" at the AECA annual conference in Little Rock.

Chris Giroir was asked to present a pre-conference on Career Preparation for Graduate Students and New Professionals in the field of Student Affairs at the Partners for Student Success state conference in Hot Springs. Rene Couture and CSP graduate assistant Laura Wohlford presented a session entitled "Losing Their Religion: Perspectives on a Changing Religious Landscape in Higher Education" at the conference as well.



Fatima Ferguson and Ellen Treadway have been awarded a 2018 Association of Teacher Educators Clinical Fellowship. They will participate in a research symposium entitled "Delving into Dilemmas and Developing Direction for Clinically-Based Teacher Education Programs" at the annual Association of Teacher Educators conference in February 2018.

COE Sends Care Packages to Ray of Hope Academy

Students and faculty in the ATU College of Education have sent care packages of curriculum, produced in both English and French, to a group of children in Cameroon with special learning needs. Ernest Ehabe, a former ATU student, is the founder of Ray of Hope Academy, a part of Bread for Life International. Ray of Hope Academy is located in Douala, Cameroon.



ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Bryan Rank, and Dr. Scott Smalley of Iowa State University co-wrote a peer review research article entitled "Students' Perceptions of School-Based Agricultural Education Through an Initial Early Field Experience," which was published in the *Journal of Agricultural Education*.

Student Accomplishments



Department of Agriculture student Matthew Smith attended the Agriculture Future Leaders Conference in Kansas City. He was awarded a scholarship and has had the opportunity to network with over 70 leaders in the agriculture industry and hundreds of agriculture students across the nation.

2017 AgriBusiness Conference

The Arkansas Tech University Department of Agriculture recently welcomed representatives from the private, public and educational sectors to Russellville for the 2017 ATU Agribusiness Conference. Speakers included Kim Bremmer, founder of Ag Inspirations and president of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture; Dr. Josh Maples, livestock marketing economist at Mississippi State University; Dr. Harold Newcomb, technical service veterinarian for Merck; Dr. Kabel Robbins, staff veterinarian for Butterball LLC; and Blake Williams, sales representative for Dow AgroSciences. Sponsors for the conference included the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association, Arvest Bank, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas, OK Foods and Tyson Foods.

eTECH

Faculty Accomplishments

Tennille Lasker-Scott and Jeremy Schwehm, Assistant Professors of Professional Studies presented their research study, "Faculty of Color in the Online Environment," at the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Annual Conference on November 2 in Memphis, TN. This study examines, through narrative and quantitative methods, the experiences of faculty of color that teach online and focuses on how race and gender have affected those experiences.

Jeff Aulgur, Department Head and Associate Professor of Professional Studies, and Caroline Hackerott, Assistant Professor of Emergency Management, presented their research study, "Disaster Resilience within Developing Societies: A Study of the Ecuadorian Third Sector," at International Society for Third-Sector Research's 11th Latin America & Caribbean Network Conference: Democracy and Civil Society in Latin American and the Caribbean in a Time of Change, October 18-20, 2017 in Quito, Ecuador.

eTech Offers Revamped Faculty Course

The College of eTech is offering full-time ATU faculty members a newly redesigned certification course during the spring 2018 semester. The course will be a six-week hybrid class that will include three face-to-face meetings. Participants will learn about best practices for teaching and learning online.

GRADUATE COLLEGE

National Pumpkin Day Carving with the Grad College

On October 26, the Graduate College celebrated "National Pumpkin Carving Day" by having graduate students get into the Halloween spirit and carve their own pumpkins. Graduate students that attended had a great time networking and taking a break from their graduate studies.

ATU Poinsettia Sale

Thursday, November 30—
Friday, December 1
8:00 AM—5:00 PM
ATU Greenhouse

On-Track Events

How Should Moral Disagreement
Inform Health Care Policy?
(Graduate Scholar)
Friday, December 1
3:30 PM—4:30 PM
RCB 134

New Scholarship Offer for BAS Students

A limited number of \$1,000 scholarships will be presented to eligible BAS students for the spring 2018 semester. Priority in scholarship selection will be given to students who are enrolled for the spring 2018 semester by December 1 of this year. Scholarship applicants must be graduates of an AAS degree program, new to the ATU BAS program for spring 2018, and enrolled in a minimum of nine credit hours for the spring semester. Students who were enrolled through ATU in Russellville during calendar year 2017 are not eligible.



Emerging Graduate Scholarships

The Graduate College has two scholarship opportunities available for new, incoming graduate students. The EDGE Scholarship is designed for those students wanting to pursue the TESOL graduate degree and the Emerging Graduate Scholar is open to new, incoming graduate students pursuing all graduate degrees. Learn more about both awards by visiting the Graduate College website.

Graduate student of the month

The Graduate Student Council has selected Sallie Forrester as the Graduate Student of the Month for October. Sallie was nominated for her leadership skills and innovation with new student orientation. Sallie is a CSP graduate student and also holds a graduate assistantship in Campus Life.

2018 NASA Glenn Faculty Fellowship Program

NASA John Glenn Research Center (GRC) in Cleveland, Ohio, is accepting applications from full-time, qualified STEM faculty in accredited U.S. colleges and universities for the summer 2018 NASA Glenn Faculty Fellowship Program (NGFFP), tenured at GRC. For the 2018 Application and additional information, visit <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-glenn-higher-education-students-faculty-postdoc-fellows>.

2018 Summer ORISE Fellowship Opportunity

A summer fellowship opportunity is available in the Division of Laboratory Sciences within the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the Chamblee Campus in Atlanta, Ga. Collaborating with a multidisciplinary team, the selected participant will use state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to address topics relevant to public health. The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 19, 2018, at 2 p.m. If you have questions, send an email to CDCrpp@orau.org. Please include reference code CDC-NCEH-2018-0013 in your email.

Graduate Student Professional Development & Research Grants

The Graduate College, in conjunction with the Advancement office, have awarded over \$1,600 to support professional development activities and graduate research this academic year. ATU has graduate students preparing outstanding presentations at all levels (international, national, regional, and state) as well as conducting breaking research. Many of these presentations will be highlighted in the annual Graduate Student Symposium in April, 2018.

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*.

Rajib Choudhury authored two research articles titled "[Supramolecular self-assembly of water-soluble cavitands: Investigated by molecular dynamics simulation](#)" and "[Ultrafast electron transfer from upper excited state of encapsulated azulenes to acceptor across an organic molecular wall](#)."

AEEA Conference

On October 12, Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA) hosted a conference entitled "Environmental Education Goes to Work" on the ATU Russellville campus. The intent of the event was to connect students and teachers with employers from the public and private sectors who are providing career opportunities to environmental science. Speakers included Jay Bassett, division chief for the Arkansas Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force; Amber Mullis, re-employment specialist for the Russellville Workforce Center; Leah Saffian, president of the AEEA board; and ATU's own Deborah Leslie.

News from Our Ozark Campus

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus recently received five-year accreditation for its Associate of Applied Science degree in human services from the Council for Standards in Human Services (CSHSE).

ATU Ozark also received approval from the ATU Board of Trustees and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to offer its Associate of Applied Science degree in paramedic/emergency medical services through courses delivered at Fort Smith Emergency Medical Services.

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark campus recently organized a Manufacturing Day event to coincide with National Manufacturing Day. The event provided a chance for these industries to connect with students, educational providers, and the community. ATU-Ozark partnered with Rockline Industries and Bridgestone Americas Tube Business, along with the Russellville Chamber of Commerce, Arkansas Valley Alliance for Economic Development, and the ATU Russellville campus to make the event a success.

Heather Nelson, Program Chair of Logistics Management, presented to 40+ attendees at the annual Arkansas Waterways Association Conference, the premier professional association for companies that use the 5-river waterways in their supply chain. This conference allows suppliers, port authorities, and customers to network and receive updates about current issues and legislative items. Nelson's presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Announcements

BLANKET DRIVE

Billy Reeder, Assistant Professor of Journalism, is conducting a blanket drive to support local homeless advocacy groups in Russellville and Central Arkansas. He is asking for donations of clean, adult-sized blankets and sleeping bags that will be distributed to unsheltered individuals by *The Russ Bus* in Russellville and *The Van* in the Little Rock area. All donations can be dropped off at Reeder's office, #104 in the Energy Center. Pick up can also be arranged by contacting him at wreeder@atu.edu. He will be accepting donations through the end of the semester.

FACULTY/STAFF HOLIDAY PARTY

Arkansas Tech University faculty and staff are invited to the Russellville campus 2017 holiday party, which will take place on Wednesday, December 6, from 1:30–3:00 PM in Baswell Techionery. There will be a trophy for the winner of the fourth annual ATU faculty and staff ugliest holiday sweater contest. Refreshments will be served.

BEDSOLE NAMED VP FOR ENROLLMENT



Dr. C. Blake Bedsole has accepted an offer to become vice president for enrollment management at ATU contingent upon approval by the ATU Board of Trustees. Bedsole, director of admissions and enrollment management at the University of West Alabama, will take office at ATU on January 2, 2018. He will become the first person to serve as Arkansas Tech vice president for enrollment management, a position that will have direct responsibility for undergraduate, graduate, transfer, international and online admissions on the ATU campuses in Russellville and Ozark. Recruiting, financial aid, marketing and communication will also report to Bedsole.

POWELL NAMED INTERIM DEAN OF EAS



Wayne Powell was selected as interim dean for the Arkansas Tech University College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He will provide short-term leadership for the college while a simultaneous search for a permanent dean moves forward. Powell was president at Lenoir-Rhyne University (N.C.) from 2002 until the time of his retirement in 2016. He has additional experience as a mathematics faculty member and dean of the graduate college at Oklahoma State University as well as vice president and dean for academic affairs at Lenoir-Rhyne. He has also served on the faculty at the University of Kansas.

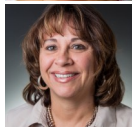
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE STAFF CHANGES



Deanna Simmons filled the Records Management Analyst position September 8. She previously held a Registrar's Assistant position. Simmons processes incoming transfer transcripts and serves as the Professional Studies department liaison for the Registrar's Office.



Brandi Duvall filled the position of Assistant Registrar on July 1st following the retirement of Rhonda Fleming. Duvall previously held the position of Records Management Analyst. She processes undergraduate degree audits, enters substitutions into Degree Works, and assists students and faculty with questions regarding degree requirements. She also serves as the back-up for processing master candidacy forms



Laurie Clayton filled the Registrar's Assistant position November 1. Clayton previously held the Administrative Assistant position for the Department of Behavioral Sciences; she will be processing incoming transfer transcripts.

***Final Grades
Posted by
Noon***

December 13

