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Academic Affairs Newsletter
February 22, 2018
Volume 4, Issue 6



Academic Affairs

HAPPY FEBRUARY!

The work highlighted in our newsletter is truly humbling in its commitment to serving others and stewardship of our responsibilities. Your work changes lives, creates opportunities, and enhances the ability of our Tech family to solve problems, improve our communities, and harness social capital for promoting the common good. The success of our pioneering alumni such as George Hudgens attests to the role Tech has played in being a beacon for progress and opportunity.

In 1963, George T. Hudgens became the first African American student to graduate from Tech. Last year, Tech honored him with its highest award as an inductee into the Hall of Distinction. Col. Hudgens had a distinguished 29-year military career that included serving as a commander in Vietnam and leading counterterrorism efforts as inspections branch chief in the U.S. Army Office of the Inspector General at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He retired at the rank of Colonel following a career that included serving as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee for former president George W. Bush and as Deputy Director of the Inaugural Committee for former president William Jefferson Clinton (ATU press release, 2017).

As part of Black History Month events in 2016, Colonel Hudgens noted that Black History is not entirely part of the past, but lives within each of us as we carry on our daily work for inclusion and fairness. Ultimately, our collective path forward must be on an arc that bends toward justice. These are the values we profess, practice, and achieve through the work each of you do each day. They are also included in the strategic plan goals adopted in 2016 (Goal 1, Action Items 7 and 8). Thank you again for the work we do together, and for ensuring Tech remains on a path that inspires our colleagues and students to constantly seek progress and to serve others.

Sincerely,

Phil Bridgmon, AVPAA

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SAVE THE DATE

- Midterm
Monday, March 5
- Deadline for textbook selections for summer and fall
Friday, March 16
- Spring Break
Monday, March 19—Friday,
March 23

Student Success

TUTORING SERVICES

Tutoring Services is proud to announce that the number of students utilizing its services has increased substantially since the fall of 2016, particularly in academic coaching. Academic Coaching is a free program that allows students to meet one-on-one with an Academic Coach to discuss their academic goals and to develop a customized plan for success. Students typically meet for thirty minutes a week with a coach to develop their study habits, time management skills, and more. Each visit is tailored to the needs of the student.

| | Fall 2016 | Fall 2017 | Percentage Increase |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| All Services (tutoring/group study sessions/pop up events/Praxis workshops/Academic Coaching, etc.) | 1,391 | 4,327 | 211.0711718 |
| Tutoring Only | 967 | 1,886 | 95.03619442 |
| Academic Coaching Only | 67 | 153 | 128.358209 |

Spring Tutoring Schedule

The current tutoring schedule can be found [here](#). As a reminder, Tutoring Services has a satellite location in RPL 129, known as the “Tech Learning Center,” and also has extended daytime hours in DB 153. Tutoring Services can also present at any class over their services or academic skills.

Ozark Tutoring

Online Math tutoring is now available for Ozark students Sunday - Thursday nights from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM, courtesy of Russellville Campus Tutoring Services. Online tutoring will also be available for Introduction to Biological Sciences, Chemistry, English Comp, and Introduction to Physical Science. Accounting tutoring will be available on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

If you have further questions, contact Student Success Coordinator Mike Bogue at (479) 508-3368 or jbogue@atu.edu.

CAREER SERVICES

FOCUS 2

FOCUS 2 is an online interactive, self-guided career and education planning system designed to help students make decisions about their future career goals and education plans. FOCUS 2 will guide students through an interactive process to:

1. Assess their career planning readiness, work interests, values, skills, personality type, and leisure time interests;
2. Discover occupations that match their personal preferences; and
3. Explore which career fields, majors, and training programs are the best fit.

The FOCUS 2 Assessment may be taken [here](#). The access code is **arkansastech**.



Student Support Services

SSS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

This year, the federally-funded Student Support Services (SSS) TRIO program will celebrate its 50th anniversary. SSS was established in the 1968 re-authorization of the Higher Education Act.

Arkansas Tech has offered the SSS program on its campus since receiving an initial five-year grant in 2010. ATU received a second Student Support Services (SSS) grant in the amount of \$220,000 per year for five years in 2015.

The funds allow Arkansas Tech to provide specialized services to current students who are first-generation college students from low-income families and current students who have disabilities evidencing academic need.



Password Security

The Office of Information Systems is always working to keep user accounts and data as secure as possible while providing our students and employees convenient methods for managing their account.

OIS is pleased to announce an enhancement to our Account Management System (AMS) <https://ams.atu.edu> that provides our users a secure and convenient new way to recover a forgotten password similar to what is used by many major websites.

Users have been provided a “Forgot Password” link on the AMS page that requires them to enter their user id and recovery information (either cell phone or email) matching what they have previously provided and a password reset link will be sent.

With this new functionality in place, the Campus Support Center will no longer be able to reset passwords. This change was implemented on February 1.

If you have not already done so, please take the opportunity now to populate your recovery email address and phone number so this new functionality will be available to you. You can use the “Update Password Recovery Information” link in the Personal Information portlet on the Home page in OneTech.

Summer Internship

The Griffiss Institute will be accepting applications for summer employment through February 28. This is a paid summer internship opportunity for Science and Engineering students currently enrolled in an accredited college or university at the freshman level through Ph.D. level to work on-site with Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) employees on a wide variety of projects. Additional information can be found by visiting <http://www.griffissinstitute.org/who-we-work-with/afri/summer-internship>.

ATU, UTM Sign MOU



Arkansas Tech University and Universidad Tecnológica de Matamoros of Mexico have entered into an agreement that establishes a formal educational partnership between the two universities. The memorandum of understanding was signed by Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president, and Dr. Gloria Ivett Bermea Vázquez, rector for UTM. The memorandum of understanding also establishes a framework by which ATU and UTM

may create specific agreements for any special projects developed in support of the partnership between the two institutions. Find the full story [here](#).

*“The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice.”
- Brian Herbert*

Keynote Speaker

Arkansas Tech University will host a Black History Month keynote address entitled “From the Streets to the Stage” by Monti Washington on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Doc Bryan Student Services Center Lecture Hall, which is located at 1605 Coliseum Drive on the ATU campus in Russellville. Admission will be free and open to the public. The presentation focuses on providing students with problem solving skills they can use in the classroom and their lives.

2018 International Film Festival

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the institution are invited to attend the third annual International Film Festival at Arkansas Tech University during the spring 2018 semester. Eight films in five languages will be screened during the festival, which is part of the On Track program under the Global Focus track. Each screening is free and open to the public, and each one will begin at 7 p.m. in the Doc Bryan Student Services Center Lecture Hall. The festival is organized by the staff of the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center in coordination with the ATU Department of English and World Languages. The full schedule is available [here](#).

Office of Sponsored Programs & University Initiatives (OSPUI)

1 MILLION CUPS



Forty-five members of the community attended Russellville's inaugural 1 Million Cups event and listened to presentations by Mary Gasaway, owner and operator of Mary's Kitchen and John-Paul Davis, founder and president of Perspectives Group Financial. 1MC is a national program started by the Kauffman Foundation designed to give local entrepreneurs a platform to share their startup stories with the intent to inspire community members to start businesses or non-profits of their own. A collaborative effort between ATU staff and local business owners, 1MC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00A at Dog Ear Books. This event provides free Penny University coffee, is open to the public, and is an OnTrack event for ATU students. The next event is on March 14. Each event is recorded by First Person Productions and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/V7g-feWAolk>. For more information please visit <https://www.1millioncups.com/russellville>.

CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINED SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION (CSSI)

Data and Software solicitation from NSF: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18531/nsf18531.pdf>

28 awards will be given for a total of \$34M

Due April 18, 2018

The goal of the CSSI umbrella program is to create a software and data cyberinfrastructure ecosystem that scales from individuals or small groups of researchers/innovators to large communities.

1. Elements – Up to \$600,000 for 3 years

Elements (either Data Elements or Software Elements): These awards target small groups that will create and deploy robust capabilities for which there is a demonstrated need, and that will advance one or more significant areas of science and engineering. It is expected that the created elements will be disseminated to the community as reusable resources, with the potential for sustainability. The development approach may support the hardening of early prototypes and/or expanding functionality to increase end-user relevance.

2. Frameworks Implementations - \$600,000 - \$5M for 3-5 years

Framework Implementations (either Data Frameworks or Software Frameworks): These awards target larger, interdisciplinary teams organized around the development and application of common infrastructure aimed at solving common research problems faced by NSF researchers in one or more areas of science and engineering, resulting in a sustainable community framework serving a diverse community or communities. Some awards are anticipated to be continuing grants, where funds will be released annually subject to agreed-upon milestones, based on approval by NSF and the availability of funds.

Future solicitations will focus on:

3. Planning Grants for Community Cyberinfrastructure (either Community Data Cyberinfrastructure Planning Grants or Community Software Cyberinfrastructure Planning Grants):

Planning grants focus on the establishment of long-term capabilities in cyberinfrastructure, which would serve a research community of substantial size and disciplinary breadth.

4. Community Cyberinfrastructure Implementations (either Community Data Cyberinfrastructure Implementation or Community Software Cyberinfrastructure Implementation):

These Community Cyberinfrastructure Implementations focus on the establishment of long-term hubs of excellence in cyberinfrastructure and technologies, which will serve a research community of substantial size and disciplinary breadth. For example, the outcomes of a Community Software Cyberinfrastructure go beyond the software itself, including the development infrastructure and process, successfully responding to science and engineering challenges, and enabling transformative new science and engineering. These Community Cyberinfrastructures will provide expertise, processes and architectures, resources and implementation mechanisms to transform computational science and engineering innovations and community software into robust and sustained software infrastructure for enabling science and engineering, which in turn will transform research practices and productivity. Community Cyberinfrastructure proposals will bring together multidisciplinary teams of domain scientists and engineers, computer scientists, software and data engineers, and technologists and educators .



COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION LAUNCHES SECOND YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE

[North American environmental ministers](#) are calling on youth to champion bold ideas for green growth to address the complex sustainability challenges we currently face. Visit cec.ideascale.com to submit your science, technology and business innovations and get the chance to [present your idea to North America's top environmental officials](#), receive \$5,000 in project seed funding, and meet with experts at the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

The CEC Youth Innovation Challenge is open to residents of Canada, Mexico and the United States (and its territories) aged 18-30. Participants are encouraged to look beyond incremental solutions and propose bold ideas to leapfrog to solutions that address the complex sustainability challenges facing North America. Ideas will be evaluated based on four criteria: innovation, impact, feasibility/replicability and profitability. Students and young entrepreneurs are invited to propose ideas on a broad range of green growth topics. The challenge opens 15 January 2018 and idea submissions are due by 3 April 2018.

For general information on how to apply, visit <https://www.epa.gov/P3/how-apply-p3-grant>.

Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness (OAIE)

The Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness (OAIE) offers grants to promote and support assessment of student learning and institutional effectiveness through both project and recurring grants of up to \$5,000. If you are planning to perform assessment of any kind, or are interested in attending an assessment related conference, see how we can help support your efforts. Applications can be found on the OAIE Assessment Resources page (<https://www.atu.edu/assessment/assessmentresources.php>) under Assessment Grant Forms – Project Grant Assessment. For more information please contact Dr. Christine Austin at 479-880-4282 or caustin@atu.edu.

University Honors

All qualified, current Tech students who are not already part of the University Honors program will have an opportunity to apply. University Honors will offer a two-week application period for current ATU undergraduate students through February 26. Previously, applications have been restricted to entering freshmen. Applications are available in Witherspoon Hall room 239B. Completed applications must be returned to Dr. Jan Jenkins, director of the University Honors program and professor of history, by noon on Monday, February 26.

Tech Learning Center

A space on the first floor of Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center has received a makeover to better serve students and facilitate their success. The Tech Learning Center provides a collaborative space for students to work on group projects, receive tutoring and interact with instructors in small-to-medium sized groups. The center is in the right half of room 129, which previously served as storage for the library's microfilm archives. Those archives have been relocated to the left side of room 129 to make way for the Tech Learning Center.

Resources in the center include dry erase boards and access to power for laptops, tablets and other electronics. Seating styles are varied and flexible to suit the needs of different groups. Sherry Tinerella, assistant librarian at ATU, said the Tech Learning Center will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The ATU Tutoring Center will also make use of the space on select days. For more information about the Tech Learning Center, call (479) 964-0569.

World on Wednesday

Wednesday, March 14
12:00 PM—1:00 PM
Baz Tech 203

NSF EPSCoR

The Center for Advanced Surface Engineering (CASE), part of the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1, is requesting proposals for the Seed Grant Program.

The RFP and templates for required documents can be found [here](#).

Applicants must submit their proposal along with a budget and budget justification to kxbo09@uark.edu. The RII Track 1 Proposal Project Summary is also posted at that link to provide background information.

CASE Seed Grant proposals must be received by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 2.

Mentoring Opportunity

International Student Services (ISS) offers a program called Global Connect for international students to get to know domestic students and vice versa. Global Connect provides Arkansas Tech University students with the opportunity to serve as mentors to international students. The primary purpose of the program is to assist international students with academic, social, and cultural adjustments through friendship and support. Coordinated through the Office of International Student Services, Global Connect mentors provide international students with immediate peer support and encouragement upon their arrival to the Arkansas Tech University campus and throughout their collegiate experience. For more information, contact ISS at (479) 964-0832 or imsso@atu.edu.

ISS also offers a program called World on Wednesday, which is tied to Global Connect. An international and an American student are paired in a mentor-styled setting, providing an opportunity to bring Global Connect partners together to discuss cultural topics and current events, play fun games and participate in activities, and get to know each other as a group.

ATU Scholarships

Robert and Sandra Norman of Tulsa, Oklahoma, recently made a \$500,000 gift to the Arkansas Tech University Foundation to endow scholarships for business data analytics, management and marketing students in the ATU College of Business. However, this is not the first act of generosity that the Normans have performed for ATU. In fact, the Norman family has a long history with Tech.

Much of the landscaping on the Tech campus is a direct result of the Normans' interest and philanthropy, including more than 950 trees planted with their support. They provided for modern equipment for students seeking career advice, and thus the Norman Career Services office is located in the Doc Bryan Student Services Center.



In addition to Norman Career Services, Mr. and Mrs. Norman have been recognized for their contributions with the naming of the Robert and Sandra Norman Center for the Arts. Norman Hall, as it is commonly known, opened in summer 2006.

Mr. Norman has served the university as chairman of the annual fund drive in 1983 and as a member of the Tech College of Business Advisory Board. He was inducted into the Arkansas Tech Hall of Distinction in 1985, and the Normans received the Presidential Fellow award from Tech in 2011.

Mrs. Norman has served on the Arkansas Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The first floor of Brown Hall is named for Mr. and Mrs. Norman in recognition of their lead gift to the Dr. Robert Charles Brown and Jill Lestage Brown Endowment through the Arkansas Tech University Foundation.

ATU No. 9 as “Best Bang for the Buck”

Washington Monthly magazine has named Arkansas Tech University one of the top 10 universities and colleges in the southern United States when it comes to providing students with the most return on their investment. ATU is No. 9 on the 2017 list of *Washington Monthly* “Best Bang for the Buck” institutions of higher learning in the region. Arkansas Tech ranks No. 1 among Arkansas colleges and universities on the list.

Criteria for the rankings include six-year graduation rates, the percentage of students who are eligible for the Pell Grant, the percentage of students who are first generation, median earnings 10 years after beginning college, price of attendance and the rate at which students are able to repay their student loans.

Annual Symposium

Collaborative Solutions, an Interdisciplinary Project Based Learning (IPBL) course at Arkansas Tech University designed to develop critical thinking and communication skills, will host its annual symposium on Tuesday, March 6, at 6 p.m. in Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center room 300A. The symposium is free and open to the public. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Damon Bryant, who will speak on the utilization of artificial intelligence to predict elite sport performance, and Dr. David May, who will lecture on the implementation of robots in social sciences research.

Museum

“SHOWTIME: Photographs of Music Legends by Watt Casey Jr.” opened at the ATU Museum on Friday, February 9th. Organized by the Old Jail Art Center, the show features photographs of famous musicians from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, spanning the American music genres of blues, country, folk, jazz, and rock-and-roll by Watt Casey Jr. As always, there will be no admission fee; students, ATU faculty and staff, and faculty members are welcome.

Adjunct Accomplishments

Jeanna Cook: Curriculum and Instruction

Opened the first Little Free Library in Johnson County in October 2017. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. (<https://littlefreelibrary.org>) It is located at the Lamar City Hall.

David Cullen: History Department

Review of *The Flood Year 1927: A Cultural History* by Susan Scott Parrish for the *Agricultural History* (Fall 2017)

Review of *Nut Country: Right Wing Dallas and the Birth of the Southern Strategy* by Edward H. Miller for the *Journal of Southern History* (Fall 2017)

Presenter, “The Politics of Fear and Nostalgia: The Triumph of the Republican Party and Modern Conservatism, 1968-2016,” annual conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, Little Rock, AR. October 2017

Presenter, “The Legacy of President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points,” Arkansas Tech University’s 2017 Summer Institute of Teaching, Russellville, Ark. June 2017

Organizer and Chair, “The Career and Scholarship of Pioneer Labor Historian, James Green: A Round-table Discussion,” Texas Center for Working-Class Studies annual conference, Plano, February 2017

Mark Evans: History Department

Award for outstanding board member from the Arkansas School Boards Association. The award will be presented at the annual school board association meeting in Little Rock in December.

Brian Faulkner: Department of Professional Studies

Publication: Tate, K. & Faulkner, B. (2017). Designing a Completely Online Course to Prepare Elementary Teacher Candidates to Integrate the Arts across the Curriculum. In P. Resta & S. Smith (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference 2017* (pp. 895-899). Chesapeake, VA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).

Presentation: SITE 2017 28th International Conference - Austin TX March 2, 2017 Paper and presentations with Dr. Kathleen Tate – American Public University.

Produced/Directed/Performed "On a Winter's Night: the Music of Trans-Siberian Orchestra" as a fundraiser for Arkansas Center for Music Education.

Scott Frasad: Department of Professional Studies

Presented a keynote speech at the Work 2.0 conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2017.

Editorial board for the journal, *Industrial and Commercial Training*, member

Mindy Hudson: English Department

2017 Chairman of the Russellville Oakland Cemetery Commission.

Published a volume of folklore about the Dover area. *The Headless Horseman of Booger Hollow and Other Dover Tales*. (2016)



College Highlights

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Department/Faculty Accomplishments

David Mudrinich had two works accepted in the Arkansas Pastel Society 7th National Exhibition at the Butler Centre for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock. The exhibit opened on November 10 and will run until February 24, 2018.

Nathaniel Chapman presented his paper entitled “Gendered Gatekeeping Mechanisms within Craft Beer Culture” at the 47th Annual Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association Conference in Conway, Arkansas.

Chapman also co-authored *Untapped: Exploring the Cultural Dimensions of Craft Beer*, which was named one of the [top 15 books for craft beer lovers](#) by *Hop Culture Magazine*.

Rebecca Wiewel co-authored “Give the People What They Want: Revitalizing a Campus Museum,” which was published in *Southeastern Archaeological Conference: Proceedings and Abstracts of the 74th Annual Meeting*.

Alexis Johnson was chosen to serve on the National Communication Associations governance board as part of the legislative assembly and had three full research papers accepted to the National Communication Association Annual Convention. This is the discipline’s largest and most prestigious academic conference.

Greg Michna published “A Prey to Their Teeth’: Puritan Sermons and Ministerial Writings on Indians During King Philip’s War” in *Sermon Studies*, as well as “Protestant Missionaries” in *Encyclopedia of the Atlantic World, 1400-1900: Europe, Africa, and the Americas in an Age of Exploration, Trade, and Empires*.

Peter Dykema presented “The Reformation and the New World History” at the Midwest World History Association Conference in Oklahoma City and “German History and German Immigration to the USA” at the Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society in Bentonville.

Patrick Hagge presented “Initial Assessment of Geography Education at Arkansas Tech University: From Mapping Locations and Preferences to Teaching GIS on the Fly” at the 2017 Southwest States Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting; he also served as a session chair for a panel entitled “Curriculum and Training.”

Jason Ulsperger and his students recently donated over 700 items to the River Valley Shelter for Battered Women and Children. Introductory Sociology students and members of the university’s sociological honor society participated in collecting commodities.

Guolin Yi presented a paper entitled “Yang Naiwu Case in Shanghai Newspapers: Discourses on Legal Reforms during the Self-Strengthening Movement” at the 132nd American Historical Association conference in Washington, D.C. This is the largest and most prestigious conference in the country.

Megan Toland received a \$500 grant from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) regional directors.

Anthony Caton was asked to serve on the editorial board of the Science Publishing Group.

AHECB Approves B.A. in Criminal Justice and Criminology

At the January meeting of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board, the B.A. in Criminal Justice and Criminology was approved, effective fall of 2018. The criminal justice and criminology bachelor’s degree will be offered under the auspices of the ATU Department of Behavioral Sciences.

Art Exhibits

Bootlegger’s Ballad Series
January 8—February 23

Small Works on Paper
March 5—16
Reception: Wednesday,
March 7 at 2:30 PM

Radio Theatre

Arthur Gordon Pym, Part 2
March 3

The Brushwood Boy
March 10

The Maltese Cat
March 17

Saturdays at 7:00 PM on
KXRJ 91.9 FM

ATU Theatre

Arkansas Tech University Theatre is thrilled to announce its spring production, *Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare. The production is set to open on Thursday, March 8th, at 8 p.m., with additional showings on March 9th and 10th. A matinee performance is planned for Sunday, March 11th, at 2 p.m.

All performances will take place in the Techionery Theatre, across from Baz-Tech. The cost is \$8 general admission, \$5 student/ATU ID. Tickets will not be sold in advance.

Interdisciplinary Research Series

“Lived Histories: The Egyptian Revolution”
Friday, March 16
3:30 PM—4:30 PM
RCB 134

Annual Agri Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Arkansas Tech University Department of Agriculture will host its fifth annual Agriculture Scholarship Golf Tournament on Thursday, April 5, at Russellville Country Club. The four-person scramble will begin with a shotgun start at 9:00 AM. Registration is \$75 per person or \$300 per team. Lunch and awards will follow.

For more information or to register, contact Mack Rainey at mraineyjr@atu.edu or Chelsea Martin at cmartin6@atu.edu.

Father Daughter Dance

The Arkansas Tech University Department of Agriculture will host its second annual Father Daughter Dance on Friday, March 9, in the Young Ballroom. Tickets are \$20 per pair and includes the dance, refreshments, goody bags, and photos. To reserve your tickets, call 479.968.0251 or email shinkle2@atu.edu.

Interdisciplinary Research Series

“Sustainable Energy Solution Inspired by Nature”
Friday, March 30
3:30 PM–4:30 PM
RCB 134

Nursing Research Conference

Arkansas Nursing Research Conference
Friday, April 13
7:30 AM–4:30 PM
Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute 17th floor, UAMS

BUSINESS

New Programs of Study

The ATU Board of Trustees recently approved the addition of two programs of study in the College of Business: an Associate of Science degree in Business and an Advanced Certificate in human resources management. The human resources management credential will require the completion of 21 semester hours and will be available to all ATU students, regardless of major. Students who earn the certificate will be qualified to sit for the Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional exam.

EDUCATION

Faculty Accomplishments

Tim Carter’s article on “Preparing Generation Z for the Teaching Profession” has been published in the *SRATE Journal* 27(1) Winter 2018 edition.

The office of Teacher Education Student Services has announced 97 interns in 50 different school districts. In the inaugural cohort for Elementary Education there are 31 interns; Middle Level Education has 8, Secondary Education has 50, and there are 8 in the Master of Arts in Teaching. There are 8 new school districts we are working with this spring and include: Cave City, Lakeside, Lincoln, Magnet Cove, Midland, Pangburn, Salem, and Wonder-view.

AHECB Approves M.Ed. In K-12 Literacy

At the January meeting of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board, the M.Ed. in K-12 Literacy was approved, effective summer of 2018. The new degree will support the Reading Initiative for Student Excellence (RISE) introduced by Gov. Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Education in January 2017.

ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

AHECB Approves B.S. in Computer Engineering

At the January meeting of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board, the B.S. in Computer Engineering was approved, effective summer of 2018. Separating computer engineering into its own degree rather than continuing it as an option under electrical engineering will improve the job prospects of graduates.

NATURAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Charles Mebi played host to participants at the 30th bi-annual meeting of the Midsouth Inorganic Chemist Association at Arkansas Tech University. The daylong meeting featured eleven research presentations and an exhibition of Missouri State University’s chemistry graduate program. ATU speakers at the meeting were Rajib Choudhury, Newt Hilliard, Frank Hardcastle,





Victor Agubra, Justin Barrett and Mebi. Presenters from the following universities were present: University of Central Arkansas, Missouri State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and University of Memphis.

Mebi also gave a presentation on his research entitled “Biomimetic hydrogen evolution catalysts” at the 2017 Southwest Regional Meeting (SWRM) of the American Chemical Society in Lubbock, Texas.

Wilkins Appointed to National AHIMA Board



Melinda A. Wilkins, professor and director of the health information management and health informatics programs at Arkansas Tech University, has become the first Arkansas resident elected to the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Board of Directors. Wilkins is former chair of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. She has worked in outpatient and inpatient settings as well as in consulting. Wilkins is a recent recipient of the AHIMA Leadership Triumph Award and has served in many volunteer roles at both the national and state level.

Update from John Watson, Interim STEM Institute Director

At the beginning of the year I became the interim STEM Institute director and it has been an enlightening experience for me. The Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program has grown tremendously! We, as the Arkansas affiliate for PLTW, oversee 158 programs in 131 different schools in the State. This pretty much covers every region of Arkansas and gives Arkansas Tech a lot of exposure to prospective students. Additionally, the institute oversees VEX robotic competitions in about every region of the State. You can imagine how much travel is involved. The first order of business when I began was planning for the State PLTW conference which was held on January 29-30 (Thankfully, Sarah Burnett did almost all of the planning and preparation). We had about 100 teachers, counselors, and principals attend this conference. Next came the Girls in STEM Conference on February 9. There were around 135 ninth-twelfth grade girls from local schools in attendance. They attended sessions on cybersecurity, drones, simulations in nursing, optical communication, data analytics, and gerrymandering.

Japan Studies Institute Program

June 4-17, 2018
San Diego State University

The [Japan Studies Institute](#) (JSI) offers college and university faculty members without prior experience in Japanese studies to learn from scholars, business leaders, artists and journalists about Japan, both past and present. The Institute involves two weeks of intensive seminars, lectures, readings, films, and cultural activities related to Japanese history, culture, literature, government, business, language and education. Previous programs have included topics as diverse as wartime and occupation Japan, social relations and the changing role of women in Japan, Japanese foreign policy and regional relations, classical music, ikebana, calligraphy, introductory Japanese, Japanese film in the classroom, and philosophical and religious traditions in Japan. Classes are held Monday through Friday, from morning until late afternoon.

ACE Leadership Academy for Department Chairs

July 17-18, 2018
Alexandria, VA

The [ACE Leadership Academy for Department Chairs](#) is a 2-day workshop that prepares department chairs for their roles as institutional leaders who can advance their programs and contribute to the larger mission of their colleges or universities. Under the guidance of experienced college and university leaders, participants explore best practices for leading departments in times of change. The format includes case studies, tabletop discussions, simulations on key leadership issues, and peer-to-peer sharing about achieving departmental success.

Summer ORISE Fellowship

Summer research opportunities are available at the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) facility in Jefferson, Arkansas. Selected individuals will train alongside NCTR investigators who conduct FDA mission-critical, translational research that provides a scientifically sound basis for FDA regulatory decisions, and that reduces risks associated with FDA-regulated products.

This program, administered by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an inter-agency agreement between DOE and the FDA. The appointment period is full time for up to 10 weeks beginning May 21, 2018. The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program.





Announcements

EMPLOYEE TRAINING/SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Arkansas Tech University has partnered with the software company Haven to provide employee training and important skills to address sexual assault prevention. Under federal law, Title IX, the university is required to create and maintain a safe workplace for its students, employees and the public. In order to ensure the university is in compliance with Title IX, all employees are required to complete an online training course designed to promote a greater awareness of sexual assault, stalking, intimate partner violence and sexual harassment.

Section 1 of this course is to be completed by February 28, 2018. The course is divided into seven modules which involves viewing videos and taking course quizzes. The time to complete Section 1 will vary depending on the individual, but should take approximately an hour and a half to two hours. The directions regarding how to access this training and the nine step process to complete the course are located on the Human Resources website: <http://www.atu.edu/hr/docs/Employee%20Mandatory%20Training%20Access%20instructions.pdf>

BLANCHARD ELECTED ATU BOARD CHAIRMAN



On January 17, Charles H. Blanchard of Russellville was elected to serve as chairman of the ATU Board of Trustees for the 2018 calendar year. Blanchard, a Russellville resident, is chairman and chief executive office for First State Bank and former president of the Russellville Chamber of Commerce. He was the 2001 Russellville Citizen of the Year and has served as treasurer and campaign drive chairman for the River Valley United Way.

Other Arkansas Tech Board of Trustees officers for 2018 elected on Wednesday are Fritz Kronberger of Russellville (Vice Chairman) and Tom Kennedy of Little Rock (Secretary).

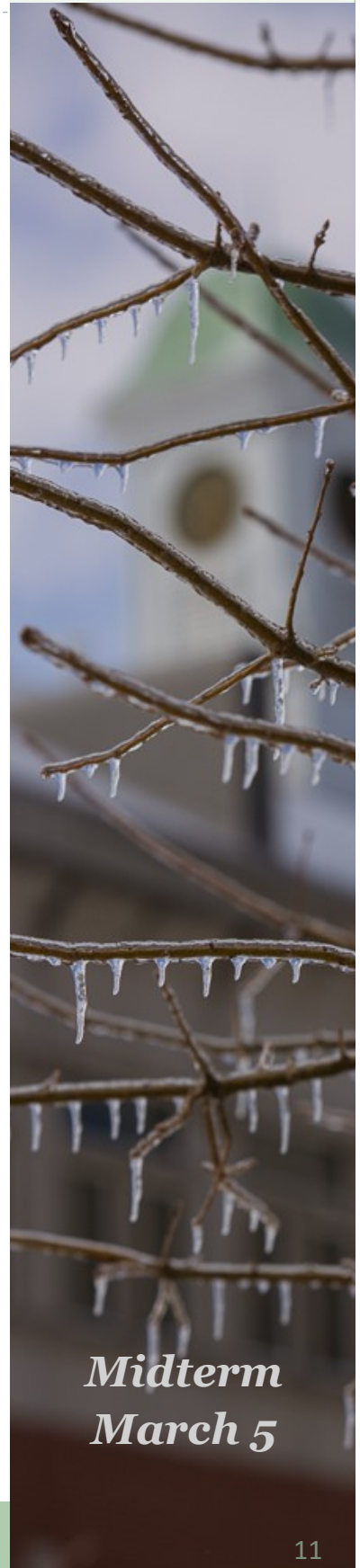
ATU VETERANS UPWARD BOUND STAFF

Three individuals have been hired to serve as the staff for the new Veterans Upward Bound program at Arkansas Tech University.

Kristie Wilson holds a bachelor's degree from Henderson State University and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Her work experience includes eight years in the Veterans Upward Bound program at Henderson State and service in the Army National Guard.

Alan Parsons earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and a graduate certificate in advising from Arkansas Tech. He is on pace to earn a master's degree in college student personnel from ATU in May 2018. Parsons, a nine-year veteran of active duty with the U.S. Army, was a graduate assistant in the ATU Department of Public Safety before accepting his academic advising position with Veterans Upward Bound.

Allison Sims received a bachelor's and master's degree from Arkansas Tech. She is daughter, granddaughter and niece to a veteran. Sims has worked as an education specialist coordinator in the Veterans Upward Bound program at Henderson State and as a graduate assistant in the Office of Veteran Services at ATU.



*Midterm
March 5*