



2025-26

Southeastern Conference

**Academic Leadership
Development Program
Fellows**



Andrew C. Billings

Discipline: Journalism & Creative Media

Title: Associate Dean for Faculty

College: College of Communication & Information Sciences

P.O. Box 870172

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

205-348-8658

acbillings@ua.edu

Andrew C. Billings (Ph.D., Indiana University, 1999) serves as the Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Communication & Information Sciences, co-director of the Beyond Sports Initiative, and the Ronald Reagan Endowed Chair of Broadcasting at the University of Alabama. Previous administrative experiences range from direction of a campus-wide communication center to founding director of the Alabama Program in Sports Communication.

Having authored 27 books and over 280 journal articles and book chapters, he is the most published sports media scholar in the world. His work has been cited over 11,000 times, largely focusing on issues triangulating sport, media, and issues of identity. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the prominent academic journal *Communication & Sport*, member of the Digital Cultures & Sports Research Laboratory at the University of Salerno, and has been interviewed over 700 times by news outlets including The New York Times, Associated Press and ESPN.

Billings has studied sports media phenomena in over 20 nations, earning over 60 awards from the International Communication Association, National Communication Association, Broadcast Education Association, and Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication. He is a Fellow of the International Communication Association and North American Society for the Sociology of Sport. He also is a former Visiting Chair of Olympism at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a past Research Symposium Chair for the Broadcast Education Association. In 2025, he was given the Lifetime Achievement in Scholarship Award by the Broadcast Education Association.



Albert D. Pionke

Discipline: English

Title: Associate Dean of General Education and Academic Affairs

College: College of Arts & Sciences

105B Clark Hall, Box 870268

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

205-348-7007

apionke@ua.edu

Dr. Albert D. Pionke is the Associate Dean of General Education and Academic Affairs at the College of Arts & Sciences and the William and Margaret Going Endowed Professor of English. As Associate Dean, his responsibilities include leading all aspects of the college's response to the first revision of the general education curriculum at UA in over forty years, overseeing the college-level academic misconduct, grade change, academic grievance, and undergraduate program review processes, and coordinating the college's response and public statements of principle with respect to the use of GenAI in teaching and research.

Pionke has previously served as the Assistant Dean for General Education, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Assistant Chair, the latter three different times, for the English Department, and the leader of several sensitive administrative tasks at the college and university levels at UA, and the Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Executive Board Member for the Victorians Institute, as well as Editor of the Victorians Institute Journal and Digital Studies in Language and Literature. He was the 2024 recipient of UA's Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award.



Cassander L. Smith

Discipline: English

Title: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

College: Honors College

290 Honors Hall, Box 870169

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

205-348-8444

clsmith17@ua.edu

Cassander L. Smith is the associate dean of academic affairs for the Honors College, which serves more than 7,000 students. In this position, she oversees the college's academic operations to ensure that course offerings meet the needs of students and faculty. Her work includes supervising the college's academic advising team and registrar, ensuring compliance with academic procedures and policies, and maintaining the College's handbook. She also manages faculty affairs, which involves professional development and annual evaluation for the college's 12 full-time faculty and 30+ part-time instructors. In addition, she serves an external-facing role for the college, building and maintaining cross-campus and other external partnerships. Prior to serving as associate dean, she served two years as the Provost Faculty fellow for diversity, equity, and inclusion. She worked to improve the University's diversity infrastructure with a specific focus on teacher training.

Her research focuses on race, literature and the transatlantic slave trade. She has written two books, *Black Africans in the British Imagination: English Narratives of the Early Atlantic World* (LSU Press, 2016) and *Race and Respectability in an Early Black Atlantic* (LSU Press, 2023) and co-edited several volumes, including one focused on pedagogy and race, titled *Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom* (Northwestern University Press, 2019). She earned her B.S. degree in newspaper journalism from Florida A&M University, a historically Black university in Tallahassee, Florida, and earned a MFA in fiction and a PhD in literary studies, both from Purdue University.



Gregory Thompson

Discipline: Metallurgical & Materials Engineering
Title: Executive Director for the Alabama
Materials Institute
Department: Office for Research and Economic
Development

1005 Bevill Building, 201 7th Ave
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
205-348-1589
gthomps@ua.edu

Professor Gregory B. Thompson serves as the Executive Director of the Alabama Materials Institute (AMI), one of five cross-cutting institutes for strategic research investment by the University of Alabama. AMI facilitates interdisciplinary materials research with faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders that advances new material types, understanding of their fundamental properties, and the development of novel synthesis, fabrication, and manufacturing processes. Thompson oversees two major user facilities within AMI, the Core Analytical Facility, which houses analytical instruments that characterize the chemical structure of materials, and the Powder Processing Facility, which enables novel alloys and ceramics to be made and consolidated. Thompson leads a team of eleven full-time AMI staff members who provide training to more than 100 users per year of AMI's instruments, with other team members translating applied research programs with the Army Research and Air Force Research Laboratories as well as state, regional, and national industrial partners.

Before his appointment to AMI, Thompson served as the Director for the Interdisciplinary PhD program in Materials Science (2012-2023), where he led an increase in the graduate enrollment from 9 to more than 40 students during his tenure for a program that involves more than 10 academic departments within three colleges. He is recognized as a Distinguished University Research Professor for the UA System and has held the James Cudworth Chair in Engineering.



Jacquelyn Mosley

Discipline: Agriculture
Title: Professor and Associate Dean
College: Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural,
Food and Life Sciences

1120 W Maple (E-219 AFLS)
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-4688
jwiersma@uark.edu

Dr. Jacquelyn Mosley is a Professor and the Associate Dean of Bumpers College at the University of Arkansas. She served as Assistant Dean from 2022-2025. Her primary research appointment has been with the Division of Agriculture for the past 15 years focused on issues related to interpersonal relationships and cultural competence.

She has received several national research and teaching awards, including the National Agriculture Experiment Station Award (2023), APLU's USDA National Teaching Excellence Award (2022), and the national Cognella Innovation Teaching Award in Family Science (2019), and both the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy New Fellow and Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence in Bumpers College. She has published over 60 research articles and secured over \$4.2 million in federal funding.



Chase Rainwater

Discipline: Industrial Engineering
Title: Department Head
College: College of Engineering

4207 BELL Engineering
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-6029
cer@uark.edu

Dr. Chase Rainwater is Professor and Department Head of Industrial Engineering at the University of Arkansas. Rainwater holds a Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Florida and a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Arkansas.

Rainwater has secured over \$20 million in research funding from agencies including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Transportation, Walmart Foundation, and Department of Education. His collaborative efforts have advanced food supply chain safety, autonomous systems, and computational optimization.

Rainwater has engaged in multiple leadership roles, including serving as Department Head for Industrial Engineering for the past two years and Associate Department Head for three years prior. He directed the J.B. Hunt Innovation Center of Excellence for six years and has co-directed the Arkansas Security Research and Education Institute for the past seven. He is the chair of the University of Arkansas Artificial Intelligence Task Force. He is serving as the Provost's Fellow, leading efforts in integrating artificial intelligence into the academic and operational campus missions.

Rainwater has advised numerous graduate theses and dissertations and consistently earns top teaching evaluations. He was recognized as a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers and the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy.

Rainwater is also engaged in service leadership in his professional societies, having chaired the IISE Board of Trustees Scholarship Committee and the INFORMS Doing Good with Good OR Committee. In addition, Rainwater was co-Chair and General Chair of the IISE annual conference.





Chris Schulte

Discipline: Art Education

Title: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

College: Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

5004 East Cabo Drive

Fayetteville, AR 72703

814-360-0225

cschulte@uark.edu

Christopher M. Schulte is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and Professor and Endowed Chair of Art Education in the School of Art. Since joining the School of Art in 2019, Schulte has served in several leadership roles, including as Undergraduate Coordinator of Art Education, Graduate Coordinator of Art Education, Assistant Director of the School of Art, and Interim Director of the School of Art. Previously, Schulte held faculty appointments at Penn State University and the University of Georgia, where he served as chairperson of the School of Visual Arts' Faculty Governance Council, Undergraduate Coordinator of Art Education, Associate Director of Research for the Center for Pedagogy in Arts and Design, Graduate Coordinator of Art Education and Co-Area Head of Art Education.

Schulte's research interests focus on the artistic, play-based, and aesthetic practices of children. In support of this work, Schulte founded and now directs the Center for the Study of Childhood Art. In addition to an extensive record of published scholarship, Schulte is a Distinguished Fellow of the National Art Education Association, a recipient of the Viktor Lowenfeld Award, an invited member of the Childhood, Law, & Policy Network, and an elected member of the Council for Policy Studies in Art Education. Schulte is also past-chairperson of the Seminar for Research in Art Education, past-coordinator of the Elliot Eisner Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, and past-coordinator of the Marilyn Zurmuehlen Working Papers.



Marc A. Scott

Discipline: Supply Chain Management

Title: Associate Department Chair

College: Sam M. Walton College of Business

191 N Harmon Ave.

Fayetteville, AR 72701

479-575-7674

marcs@uark.edu

Dr. Marc A. Scott currently serves as the Associate Department Chair of the JB Hunt Transportation Department of Supply Chain Management in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. Scott is also an Associate Professor of Practice in the department. As Associate Department Chair, Scott is responsible for the oversight of the teaching, research, service and outreach activities of the department which includes both traditional and online bachelor's and master's programs in supply chain management, hybrid and executive graduate programs, a doctoral program, and a research and outreach center. Scott also works with college or university administrators to leads or coordinate various college- and university-wide efforts to develop and implement innovative educational and research programs and partnerships with governmental, private sector or other stakeholders.

Prior to assuming the Associate Department Chair role, Scott served as the Director of Strategic Supply Chain initiatives in the supply chain management department from 2021 to 2024, where he led faculty and student teams, and coordinated with other government and private sector stakeholders engaged across numerous funded research and outreach programs in collaboration with industry partners that included industry study projects, workforce development programs, executive education programs, and innovative education initiatives. Scott also served as the Director of the Southern Center for Logistics and Intermodal Transportation at Georgia Southern University from 2018 to 2021 where he coordinated and led the logistics and supply chain management department's industry talent development outreach programs, engaged in efforts to drive collaborative research initiatives with governmental and private sector stakeholders, and drove increased innovative partnerships with industry engagement and support. Upon graduating from his doctoral program in 2011, Scott assumed a supply chain role with Walmart Stores Inc. at its headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas, and has additional professional experience in the applied research and consulting, public transportation, development banking, investment banking, energy, and manufacturing industries.

Scott is a logistician that studies and publishes work focused on logistics strategy, logistics service design, service operations, logistics and transportation markets, mobility, and technologies in supply chain management. As an academic, Scott is also an active member of, and has served the academe in varied capacities with, the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA), the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP), and the Decision Sciences Institute (DSI). Scott has a PhD. in Transportation and Logistics with a focus in Supply Chain Systems, an M.S. in Transportation, and a B.S. in Economics.





Brent I. Fox

Discipline: Pharmacy
Title: Special Assistant to the Dean
College: Harrison College of Pharmacy

2316 Walker Building
Auburn, AL 36849
334-844-2932
foxbren@auburn.edu

Brent I. Fox is Professor with tenure in the Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy at Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy, where he currently serves as Director of Student Affairs, and Special Assistant to the Dean. Joining the college in 2006, Fox's teaching, research, and outreach programs have focused on pharmacy informatics education and the use of health information technology in pharmacy practice. Since 2019, Fox has served as the College's Director of Student Affairs, being named Student Organization Supporter of the Year by Auburn University Student Involvement in 2024. In January 2025, Fox assumed the role of Special Assistant to the Dean where he supports the dean in all areas with a focus on strategic plan implementation and monitoring.

Fox has received numerous recognitions for his work within and external to the University. In 2012, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists recognized Fox's service with the Distinguished Service Award for the Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology. Also in 2012, the Auburn University Alumni Association recognized Fox's professional accomplishments with the Young Alumni Achievement Award. Fox's outreach activities were recognized with the Excellence in Outreach Award from the Harrison College of Pharmacy in 2017. He is a former Fellow with the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education and current Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Fox completed his BS, PharmD, and PhD degrees at Auburn.



Justin Miller

Discipline: Architecture
Title: Professor and School Head
College: College of Architecture, Design,
and Construction

104 Dudley Hall, Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849
334-844-4516
jkm0001@auburn.edu

Justin Miller is the Head of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture (APLA) and Professor of Architecture at Auburn University. The school includes academic programs in Architecture, Interior Architecture, Environmental Design and Landscape Architecture as well as off campus programs at Rural Studio and Urban Studio. Prior administrative appointments include serving as Chair of the Architecture program.

Miller has taught across programs within APLA over the past 17 years, focusing on design, research, and technology. He has also been involved in collaborative research projects to support aging-in-place as well as affordable housing design. He is the co-author, with colleague Prof. David Hinson, of two books on affordable housing design: *Designed for Habitat: Collaborations with Habitat for Humanity* and *Designed for Habitat: New Directions for Habitat for Humanity*.

Miller holds a Master of Architecture from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Interior Architecture from Auburn University. He is a registered architect in Alabama and Massachusetts.



Laura W. Plexico

Discipline: Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
Title: Associate Dean of Engagement and Graduate Studies
College: College of Liberal Arts

308 Tichenor Hall
Auburn, AL 36849
334-844-9620
lw0002@auburn.edu

Dr. Laura Plexico is a scholar, educator, and leader in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology. With nearly two decades of experience at Auburn University, Plexico has made significant contributions as a Full Professor, mentor, and administrator. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Audiology and Speech Pathology from The University of Memphis, where she also earned a Master of Arts in the same discipline. Throughout her career, she has held a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and an Alabama State License in Speech-Language Pathology.

In her current role as Associate Dean for Engagement and Graduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, Plexico supports graduate programs, fosters internationalization efforts, and strengthens student, faculty, and alumni engagement. Previously, her leadership experience has extended to co-chairing Auburn University's Department Chair Leadership Series, where bi-monthly programming was developed to support department chairs. Plexico has also previously served as Department Chair for the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, overseeing faculty and staff while managing multiple academic programs, including a Doctor of Audiology, a Master's in Speech-Language Pathology, and an undergraduate program. She was also Clinic Director of the Auburn Speech and Hearing Clinic where she played a pivotal role in healthcare compliance, billing, and managing a student training clinic.

A dedicated advocate for higher education leadership, Plexico has served as Secretary and Secretary-Elect of the Auburn University Senate that provided opportunities to shape university policies and address institutional needs. She has also chaired and participated in various department, college and university committees. As a teacher and scholar, Plexico has provided instruction and focused her research interests on the experience and management of stuttering as well as speech acoustics.



Xiao Qin

Discipline: Computer Science

Title: Professor and Director of Graduate Programs

College: Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

3101E Shelby Center, Auburn University

Auburn, AL 36849

334-844-6327

xqin@auburn.edu

Xiao Qin is a Professor and Director of Graduate Programs in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. Since joining Auburn in 2007, his research has centered on big data, parallel computing, and storage systems, resulting in 361 publications in top-tier venues such as IEEE and ACM Transactions. His work has garnered 10,664 citations, reflecting its broad impact in the computer science field. As PI or co-PI, Qin has secured more than \$10 million in external funding, including an NSF CAREER Award.

As a dedicated educator, Qin has graduated 36 doctoral students including an NSF CAREER awardee, two GEM Fellows, and three Distinguished Dissertation winners. His teaching excellence has been recognized with the William F. Walker Teaching Award in 2023. As Director of Graduate Programs, he expanded Ph.D. enrollment from 48 to 129 students. Qin also drives graduate curriculum innovation by leading the graduate faculty to develop master's degree program in AI Engineering and master's degree program in data science and engineering.

Qin serves on multiple committees at various levels, including the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering's Graduate Student Professional Development Committee, the University Senate's Faculty Grievance Committee, and the CSSE's E-Day Committee. By bridging academia and industry, Qin positions Auburn University at the forefront of technological innovation and graduate education.



Sean Adams

Discipline: History

Title: Associate Dean

College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

PO Box 117320

Gainesville, FL 32611

352-273-3354

spadams@ufl.edu

Sean Adams is the Hyatt and Cici Brown Professor of History at the University of Florida, where he teaches 19th century American history, the global history of energy, and the history of capitalism. He arrived in Gainesville in 2005 after five years in the History Department at the University of Central Florida.

Soon after arriving at UF, he began his administrative career with a stint as the History Department's Associate Chair, a position that he held from 2007-2010. In the 2013-14 academic year, Adams served as the Acting Director of the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere and in August 2014 he began a four year term as History Department Chair. In 2023, he served on the Review Board for General Education Core Review, Civics Requirement, and Articulation for HB 1537, Florida State Board of Education and Board of Governors. In the 2024-25 academic year, Adams served as the Interim Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts, where he is cognizant dean for the humanities departments and of faculty affairs in the College.



Jules Bruck

Discipline: Landscape Architecture
Title: Director and Chair
School: School of Landscape Architecture
and Planning

1480 Inner Road
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-294-3859
jbruck@ufl.edu

Dr. Jules Bruck, FASLA, PLA, is currently serving as the Director of the School of Landscape Architecture and Planning and is Chair and Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florida. Her administrative career has been defined by program-building and launching innovative initiatives. Prior to her role at UF, she was the founding Director of the University of Delaware's Landscape Architecture program, where she successfully guided the program from inception to accreditation.

At Delaware, Bruck co-founded the award-winning Coastal Resilience Design Studio (CRDS), an academic initiative that provided interdisciplinary students with applied learning opportunities while supporting underserved coastal communities in developing resilience strategies. She later served as Director of UD's Gerard J. Mangone Climate Science and Policy Hub, where she oversaw university-wide collaborations on climate adaptation and policy.

At UF, Bruck has led faculty recruitment, curriculum and assessment updates, development efforts and fostered research collaborations across disciplines.

Bruck is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and member of the Network for Engineering with Nature. She holds a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.



Roxane Coche

Discipline: Mass Communication

Title: Department Chair

Department: Department of Media Production,
Management, and Technology

2079 Weimer Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-0463
rcoche@ufl.edu

Dr. Roxane Coche is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Media Production, Management, and Technology (MPMT) at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications (CJC). Her background as a TV reporter and producer, where she collaborated with international colleagues and successfully managed multi-sport productions and tight deadlines, has proven to be a valuable precursor to her academic career. During Coche's tenure as chair, the MPMT department has created new media-related hands-on experiences for students, established a minor, experienced an increase in student enrollment, and overhauled its curricula.

Joining the University of Florida in 2018, she took on administrative roles early on, first as associate director of sports journalism and communication within the CJC (2019-2022), then as graduate coordinator of the master's degree in international / intercultural communications (2020-2021), before transitioning to department leadership as associate chair (2022-2023), interim chair (2023-2024) and now chair (since April 2024). She was also her college's liaison with the UF International Center from 2020 to December 2024 and continues to serve as a leading voice in the CJC's internationalization efforts.

Prior to joining UF, Coche held faculty positions at the University of Memphis, the University of North Georgia Dahlonega, and Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Guadalajara (Mexico).



Elayne Colón

Discipline: School Psychology
Title: Associate Dean
College: College of Education

PO Box 117040
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-273-4376
epcolon@coe.ufl.edu

Dr. Elayne Colón is Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and a Clinical Professor in the School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies in the College of Education at the University of Florida. Her responsibilities include oversight of recruitment, admissions, advising, curriculum, funding, student engagement, graduation, certification, assessment, reporting, and accreditation for undergraduate and graduate, online and on campus, degree and certificate programs. A current area of administrative focus is building college infrastructure to expand undergraduate research opportunities with targeted, generous funding support from the university.

Colón has a record of external funding to support her scholarly and professional work, including from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation, and scholarly publications in journals such as the Journal of Special Education and Action in Teacher Education. She has extensive national and state service, including serving on the Accreditation Council for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and previously as a commissioner on Florida's Education Practices Commission. With a background in school psychology, her scholarly interests include pathways to teaching, assessing quality educator preparation, and issues related to accountability and accreditation in higher education.



Philip Hong

Discipline: Social Work
Title: Dean
School: School of Social Work

279 Williams Street
Athens, GA 30602
706-542-5424
pyphong@uga.edu

Dr. Philip Hong has served as the Dean and Professor at the University of Georgia (UGA) School of Social Work (SSW) since 2022. Advancing the teaching, research, and public service mission of UGA, he has promoted SSW's academic excellence through degree programs including the Master of Social Work (MSW) in Athens, Gwinnett Campus, and Online along with the Ph.D. in Social Work, Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), and the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

Prior to joining UGA, he held the positions of Associate Dean for Research and the Lucian and Carol Welch Matusak Professorship at Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work, where he led the establishment of three research centers and more than doubled faculty grant submissions and total funding. He also served as the director of the Ph.D. program during which time the program saw a significant improvement by significantly increasing scholarship and stipends and adding an extra year of funding for all enrolled students in partnership with the Graduate School and faculty Principal Investigators. As the founding director of Center for Research on Self-Sufficiency (CROSS), he led a community-engaged, federally and privately funded research center that generated social impact through local, national, and global initiatives and public-private partnerships on strengthening self-sufficiency policies, programs and systems.

Hong earned his MSW and PhD in Social Work at the Brown School of Washington University in St. Louis and he also holds an MA and PhD in Political Science from University of Missouri–St. Louis.



Neil Lyall

Discipline: Mathematics

Title: Associate Dean

College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

324 Old College
Athens, GA 30602
706-248-6149
lyall@uga.edu

Neil Lyall is an Associate Dean in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Georgia. In this role he oversees the division of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, serving as the liaison for the departments of Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Statistics, and the School of Computing. He also oversees instructional budgets, workforce planning, enrollment management, experiential learning, and honors for the college at large.

Lyall is a Professor of Mathematics. Prior to joining the Dean's office, he has served as the Head of the Department of Mathematics and Director of Graduate Studies. His primary research interests lie in the fields of Harmonic Analysis and Arithmetic Combinatorics.



Juan “Dren” Meng

Discipline: Journalism and Mass Communication
Title: Department Chair and Program Director
Department: Department of Advertising and Public Relations

120 Hooper Street
Athens, GA 30602
706-542-4791
jmeng@uga.edu

Dr. Juan (pronounced as “Dren”) Meng is the UGA Athletic Association Endowed Professor and professor of public relations in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. Meng has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Advertising and Public Relations since 2022 where she oversees and delegates the work of all faculty and staff within the department. When interacting with multiple groups of stakeholders, e.g., faculty, students, staff, alumni, executive board members, and industry leaders, Meng manages departmental work related to faculty recruitment, performance evaluation, curriculum revision, program development, program assessment, operations and budgeting at the departmental and program levels, student and alumni engagement, outreach and development, emergency responsiveness, and accountability. Her leadership and vision offer support and guidance towards excellence in instruction, research, service and extension programs within the department.

The department has already built an outstanding record of achievement and accomplishments and was named the Top Five Outstanding Education Program in the country by PRWeek, a leading trade publication in the industry, twice (in 2024 and 2025). In addition, Meng was the founder of UGA’s Go Global Choose China study abroad program and directed the program from 2014 to 2018. She also founded and directs UGA’s Cooperative Education 3+1+1 programs with Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai International Studies University in Shanghai, China and the National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. She currently directs UGA’s Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity Study Abroad Program.



Connie Rogers

Discipline: Nutrition

Title: Professor and Department Head

Department: Department of Nutritional Sciences,
College of Family and Consumer
Sciences

305 Sanford Drive
Athens, GA 30605

706-542-4869

crogers.nutrition@uga.edu

Dr. Connie Rogers is a Professor and Department Head of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia, and occupies the Bill and June Flatt Chair in Foods and Nutrition. Prior to her arrival at the University of Georgia (UGA) in 2022, she was a Professor of Nutritional Sciences and Physiology, Co-Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute TL1 Predoctoral Training Program, and Associate Director of the Huck Institutes for the Life Sciences at Pennsylvania State University. In her role as Department Head of Nutritional Sciences at UGA, she oversees the department's strategic and operational functions including managing and leading the research, education, and service, outreach and Extension mission of the department. Additionally, Rogers currently serves as the chair of the Academic Nutrition Departments and Programs Community within the American Society for Nutrition. In this role, she is leading a data collection initiative on policies and procedures, curriculum, and resources allocated to graduate education in academic nutrition departments and programs across the US.

Rogers holds a PhD in Cell Biology and Physiology and a Master in Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on the role of changes in energy balance and various nutritional factors on chronic disease risk and progression. She has published over 80 peer reviewed manuscripts and book chapters. Her research is and has been supported by grants from several foundations and federal agencies throughout her career.



Rae Goodwin

Discipline: Art Studio

Title: Associate Dean for Research/Creative Activity

College: College of Fine Arts

310D Art & Visual Studies Building

236 Bolivar Street

Lexington, KY 40506

rae.goodwin@uky.edu

Rae Goodwin, Professor of Art Studio in the School of Art & Visual Studies (SAVS), serves as Associate Dean for Research/Creative Activity in the College of Fine Arts (CFA) at the University of Kentucky. In this role she empowers, supports, and celebrates faculty, staff, and students in research/creative activity practices and achievements. With this mindset she collaborates with CFA's Director of Communications, highlighting great successes and with the Integrated Business Unit providing clarity in funding policy and procedure. She updates and manages eight funding programs, leads a grants workshop series, meets regularly with faculty and staff in search of support, and liaises with the Office of the Vice President for Research. With her leadership, faculty in the CFA now bring in substantive external funding for their research.

Prior leadership roles include Acting Associate Director and Acting Director of Graduate Studies in SAVS. Also for twelve years Goodwin served as Director of Foundations (the first-year program) in SAVS. While holding that position she served on national boards, including President of Integrative Teaching International (ITI) and VP for Finance of FATE. More recently she served as Treasurer for Grace Exhibition Space, NYC.

Goodwin received awards from the Atlanta Public Schools, a Master Educator Award from Foundations in Art, Theory & Education (FATE), and UK's Research Professorship. Goodwin's art has been exhibited and performed widely at many national and international venues including: Queens Museum, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, McColl Center for Visual Art, Dimanche Rouge Paris, LIVESTOCK Dublin, grüntaler9, Satellite Art Show.



Anthony Limperos

Discipline: Communication

Title: Department Chair, Associate Dean

College: College of Communication and Information

340A Pence Hall

Lexington, KY 40506

859-323-6796

anthony.limperos@uky.edu

A native of Warren, Ohio, Anthony M. Limperos earned both his B.A. (2004) and M.A. (2006) in communication from Kent State University and his Ph.D. (2011) from Penn State University where he studied mass communication.

Over the past 15 years, he has taught both graduate and undergraduate students in courses which focus on persuasive speaking, communication theory, mass communication and research methods. Limperos' own research program focuses on media uses and effects, with specific interests in the areas of communication technology, video games, instruction and health.

Since joining the faculty at the University of Kentucky in 2011, Limperos has held two leadership positions. In 2019, he was appointed as the Associate Dean for the Graduate Program in Communication and served in that position until 2024. In 2022, he was elected by his faculty to become Chair of the Department of Communication. Over the past six years, Limperos has served in administration, holding the Associate Dean and Chair role concurrently from 2022-2024. He will serve as the Chair of the Department of Communication until 2027. Prior to serving in these formal administrative roles, Limperos chaired numerous search committees for new faculty, participated in "Chair's Academy," and served on Faculty Senate and Graduate Council, which were university level governance committees.





Nicole S. McCain

Discipline: Emergency Medicine, Faculty Affairs and Development

Title: Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development

College: College of Medicine

780 Rose Street, MN 140A

Lexington, KY 40536

859-218-7275

nicole.mccoin@uky.edu

Dr. Nicole McCain is a Professor of Emergency Medicine and the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where she holds the Schwartz Commonwealth Professorship in Physician Leadership.

An Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, McCain completed both her residency and chief residency in Emergency Medicine at Vanderbilt, where she remained on faculty for many years. During her tenure, she served in multiple leadership roles, including Course Director in the School of Medicine, Faculty Senator, and Vice Chair for Education and Residency Program Director in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

She later served as Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. A 2019–2020 Fellow in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program, McCain has been recognized for her leadership and teaching excellence with several honors, including being named a 2020 Nashville Woman to Watch, the 2021 Ochsner Health System Physician Academic Contributor of the Year, and recipient of the 2023 American College of Emergency Physicians National Emergency Medicine Faculty Teaching Award.

McCain joined the University of Kentucky in April 2024. As Vice Dean, she leads faculty affairs and development across the College of Medicine, serving over 1,500 faculty members, more than 2,000 learners, and four regional medical campuses. She is widely recognized for her commitment to education, faculty development, leadership in academic medicine, and efforts to build supportive, high-performing institutional cultures.





Virginia L. Valentin

Discipline: Physician Assistant Studies
Title: Department Chair
College: College of Health Sciences

201A Wethington Building
900 South Limestone St.
Lexington, KY 40536
859-218-0857
virginia.valentin@uky.edu

Dr. Virginia L. Valentin, Daus Family Endowed Professor of Physician Assistant Studies, serves as Department Chair of Physician Assistant Studies in the College of Health Sciences (CHS) at the University of Kentucky (UK). Valentin concentrates on building a strong Kentucky healthcare workforce by developing PA professionals with a rural focus informed by an international perspective through leadership, advocacy, and scholarship.

From the Women's Executive Leadership Program and Chairs Academy at UK to the Health Sciences Leadership Program at the University of Utah and the AAPA-PAEA Research Fellowship, Valentin consistently seeks out opportunities to grow and develop as a leader in her field. Advocating for the PA profession is important to Valentin. Nationally she has served on the Physician Assistant Education Association board, Government Relations Steering committee, and the Research Mission Advancement committee. Locally she has served as president of the Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants. Through her engagement with donors, she has assisted in raising over one million dollars for her department in the last three years.

Understanding the utilization of, and barriers to, the PA workforce in providing patient care is the focus of Valentin's research. Her contribution to scholarship was recently recognized by the 2025 CHS Excellence in Scholarship Award for Established Scholars. She has also been awarded over 7 million dollars in external grant funding.

Valentin earned her RN from Weber State University, Bachelor's from the University of Utah, Master's in PA Studies from Barry University, and Doctor of Public Health from UK.





Jon Cogburn

Discipline: Philosophy

Title: Department Chair

Department: Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

102 Coates Hall

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

225-578-2220

jcogbu1@lsu.edu

Jon Cogburn is a Professor in the LSU Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. His service in the department has included terms as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy Section Head, Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and now Chair of the department.

His university and college level service has included multiple terms on LSU Faculty Senate, serving as interim Vice President of the Humanities and Social Sciences Senate, and being a member of the Humanities and Social Sciences Promotion and Tenure Committee.

As Chair, he has reorganized department workflow and helped faculty gain new success with respect to grant activity. His work has been focused toward helping align the department better with the university's strategic direction by encouraging focus on ethics and the philosophy of emerging technologies, spearheading the completion of a proposal to transition LSU's master's degree in philosophy into a PhD program, and achieving greater efficiencies by using the Program Review process to reorganize departmental structure.

Cogburn has published twenty-seven peer reviewed journal articles, seven chapters in essay collections, and four substantive introductions to translations and edited volumes. He has published four translations, two edited books, and three monographs. In administrative and intellectual work, he cherishes working with teams and has collaborated with thirteen co-writers and co-translators in bringing this work to fruition.



Kristin Stair

Discipline: Agricultural and Extension Education

Title: Department Chair

Department: Department of Agricultural & Extension
Education & Evaluation

135 J. C. Miller Hall

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

225-578-6128

kstair@lsu.edu

Dr. Kristin Stair is a Professor of Agricultural Education and has served as the Department Head of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and Evaluation at Louisiana State University since 2024. She completed her B.S. degree in Agricultural Information Science and Education at Mississippi State University in 2004. She completed her M.S. in Agricultural Education at North Carolina State University in 2006 and while in North Carolina, taught high school agriculture at Jordan High School in Durham, NC, and Southern Nash High School in Bailey, NC. She completed her doctoral work at North Carolina University in 2009 and worked there as a lecturer for a year before she accepted her first faculty position at New Mexico State University as an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education. In 2014, Stair joined the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and Evaluation at Louisiana State University.

As part of her role at LSU, she has served as the Director for the Agricultural Residential College program, as a faculty member in the AEEE department, and taught several undergraduate and graduate courses in the AEEE department. During her time at LSU, she advanced to full professor and served as the undergraduate coordinator of the department and the director of the AEEE agriculture teacher education program. As part of her faculty role, she has also provided professional development workshops and training for agricultural teachers locally and nationally.



Daniel C. Tirone

Discipline: Political Science
Title: Faculty Senate President
Department: Department of Political Science

2225A Patrick F. Taylor Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
225-578-9189
marwa@lsu.edu

Daniel C. Tirone has been a faculty member in the Political Science Department at LSU since 2012. He began his journey into university administration when he joined the Faculty Senate in Fall 2019 and joined the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in the spring of 2022 following his election as Senate Vice President. He was in that role for two years and has been Faculty Senate President since July 2024.

While in leadership he has also served as faculty representative on a number of committees across the campus and the LSU system, including serving as Chair of the Council of Faculty Advisors which brings together faculty from each member campus to advise the Board of Supervisors; participating on the Provost's "Opportunities and Threats Task Force" in the Spring of 2024 to help address the impact of a changing federal funding landscape; and as a member of the President's Student Success Initiative group. In this latter capacity he was tasked with working through the Faculty Senate to help identify and disseminate pedagogical best practices across campus.

In addition to student success, during his time in office he has prioritized matters related to faculty welfare and institutional reform, with a particular focus on updating and improving Senate and University policies. He and his colleagues have also undertaken various initiatives to improve communication between the faculty and numerous administrative units on campus which has allowed for more informed and responsive decision making, leading to increased institutional efficiency and performance.



Shannon Walsh

Discipline: Theatre History

Title: Associate Dean

College: College of Music & Dramatic Arts

323 Music & Dramatic Arts Building

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

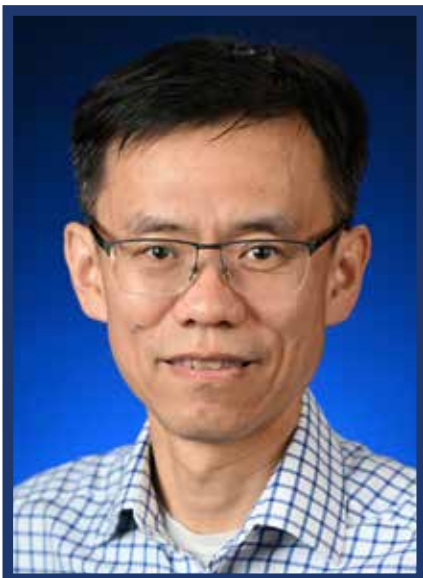
225-578-4174

swalsh@lsu.edu

Dr. Shannon Walsh serves as Associate Dean of Access and Engagement in the College of Music and Dramatic Arts at LSU. In this position she has piloted initiatives focused on enhancing accessibility including ASL interpreted productions, improvements to building accessibility, and serving as the learning management system liaison for the college. Additionally, Walsh launched several engagement programs for faculty, students and staff such as production advocates who support and enhance respectful collaboration in the college's productions and ensembles, the Access and Engagement committee, and the Present Futures program which strives to connect CMDA students to alumni with similar career paths, life experiences, and backgrounds.

Prior to her appointment as Associate Dean, Walsh served as the head of the PhD Program in Theatre. Additionally, she serves as the founding faculty rector for the Visual and Performing Arts Residential College, a living-learning community of first-year musicians, actors, designers, architects, composers, technicians, scholars and arts administrators that fosters lifelong connections through the arts and beyond.

As a scholar she's published books and articles focused on performances in sports and physical fitness. Her edited volume, *Sporting Performances*, was a finalist for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's award for editing. In addition, she serves as series co-editor for Palgrave's *Studies in Theatre and Performance History*, and General Editor for the Routledge *Performance Archive*. She is also an active director and actor in theatre and film at LSU and in Baton Rouge.



Yixin Chen

Discipline: Computer and Information Science
Title: Department Chair
School: School of Engineering

207 Weir Hall
University, MS 38677
662-915-7309
yixin@olemiss.edu

Dr. Yixin Chen serves as Chair of the Department of Computer and Information Science, where he has been a faculty member since 2006. Appointed chair in 2022, he leads departmental efforts in strategic planning, faculty recruitment, curriculum development, and external engagement. Previously, Chen served as graduate program coordinator, overseeing admissions, program assessment, and student advising.

Chen brings over two decades of academic and administrative experience, supported by dual Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and secured substantial research funding from agencies like the National Science Foundation. A dedicated mentor and educator, he has advised numerous graduate students and served on many thesis and dissertation committees.

Chen's administrative philosophy emphasizes transparency, academic excellence, and strategic growth, aligning departmental initiatives with broader institutional goals.



Antonia Eliason

Discipline: Law

Title: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

School: School of Law

481 Chucky Mullins Drive

Oxford, MS 38677

301-675-9982

aeliason@olemiss.edu

Antonia Eliason joined the University of Mississippi School of Law faculty in 2013. As Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, she oversees the day-to-day operations of academic matters at the law school.

Eliason's research focuses on climate change and international economic law, particularly issues relating to climate justice, sustainable development, racial capitalism, and trade facilitation. Her other research interests include space law and the international drug regime.

Eliason received her B.S. in Cell & Molecular Biology and Computer Science from the University of Michigan, her M.A. in European and Eurasian Studies with a concentration in International Economics from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, her J.D. from the University of Michigan, where she was the recipient of a Darrow Scholarship, and her LL.M. in Air and Space Law from the University of Mississippi. She is currently pursuing a PhD in history at the University of Mississippi, researching women convicted of political crimes in Hungary between 1949-1953.



James Reid

Discipline: Mathematics
Title: Department Chair
Department: Department of Mathematics

530 Shreve Oak Circle
Oxford, MS 38655
662-915-7071
mmreid@olemiss.edu

Dr. James Reid is Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Mississippi. He has served as Chair since 2015. Reid earned his B.S. in Physics from Southeastern Louisiana University and his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Louisiana State University. His research focuses on combinatorics and graph theory, with publications in journals such as Discrete Mathematics, the European Journal of Combinatorics, and the Journal of Combinatorial Theory. His research has been supported by the National Security Agency, and he has mentored nine doctoral students in mathematics.

A dedicated and award-winning instructor, Reid has received several honors for teaching excellence from the University of Mississippi and the Mathematical Association of America. He has served as Section Governor of the Mathematical Association of America and directed the American Mathematics Competition for the state of Mississippi.

Reid has presented his work at numerous meetings of the American Mathematical Society and at international conferences, including invited talks at research symposia in China and the United Kingdom. He has organized multiple mathematics conferences, including the Cumberland Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing and sectional meetings of the American Mathematical Society.

Within the university, Reid has served on key committees, including the Committee on Student Success, the General Education Committee, the Undergraduate Council, and the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. His career reflects a sustained commitment to high-impact teaching, research excellence, graduate mentorship, professional service, and academic leadership.



Amanda Winburn

Discipline: Counselor Education and Supervision
Title: Director of Graduate Studies and Professor
School: School of Education

1210 Westbrook Drive
Oxford, MS 38655
859-749-5639
amwinbur@olemiss.edu

Dr. Amanda Winburn is currently serving as the Director of Graduate Studies and Professor at the University of Mississippi in the School of Education at the University of Mississippi. As Director of Graduate Studies, she provides support to a variety of graduate programs in Counselor Education, Higher Education, Educational Leadership, and Teacher Education. In the position, she also serves as a liaison among graduate students, program faculty, and the college and graduate administrators. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, National Certified School Counselor, Animal Assisted Therapist, and Registered Play Therapist. Winburn teaches graduate courses in School Counseling and Play Therapy to both campus and online students.

Her research interest includes school counseling, school-based play therapy, bullying, and student advocacy. Previous publications have been featured in journals such as Professional School Counseling and the International Journal of Play Therapy.



Kenny V. Anthony

Discipline: Elementary Education
Title: Interim Department Head
Department: Department of Teacher Education
and Leadership

310 Allen Hall, Box 9710
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-4870
kanthony@colled.msstate.edu

Kenneth V. Anthony currently serves as the Interim Department Head in the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership at Mississippi State University. He brings over a decade of experience in higher education and a long record of academic, administrative, and military leadership. His work focuses on program development, faculty mentorship, and building strong, student-centered learning communities.

As former undergraduate coordinator for the elementary education program, Anthony led two major curriculum revisions aligned with accreditation and licensure standards. Now, as interim department head, he has expanded research and instructional support, improved internal communication, and strengthened faculty engagement in governance and assessment. He has published six scholarly works during his interim role, including a state-adopted history textbook, and continues work on two research projects involving community engagement and homeschooling motivations.

Anthony also has a history of professional service. He served as Executive Director and President of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies and is Co-Principal Investigator for Teaching with Primary Sources Mississippi, a Library of Congress-funded program that has provided professional development to over 1,800 educators statewide.

In addition to his academic work, Anthony is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He commands the 154th Regional Training Institute, which trains annually over 1,500 soldiers and, has led units in combat zones and during national emergencies. His leadership, shaped by experience in times of uncertainty, is grounded in adaptability, collaboration, and a mission-focused approach to service.





Christy L. Bratcher

Discipline: Meat Sciences
Title: Department Head and Professor
Department: Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences

335 Wise Center Drive
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-2935
christy.bratcher@msstate.edu

Christy Bratcher is a Professor and Department Head for Animal and Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University. She attended the University of Florida (B.S. and M.S.) and the University of Missouri-Columbia (Ph.D). While an undergraduate student, she worked at the meats laboratory and in her senior year she was offered an opportunity to teach a course. This is where her passion for teaching began, and therefore, she decided to further her education in Meat Science.

Bratcher worked in industry for a short time before returning to academia and spent 11 years at Auburn University teaching meat science courses and conducting research focused on consumer preference for meat products, food safety, quality, value-added products, and systems-level approaches to local meat supplies. In 2017, she became the Director of the Food Systems Institute at Auburn University. In 2019, she moved to Texas Tech University as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs for the Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In 2023, Bratcher returned to the South as the new Department Head for Animal and Dairy Sciences at MSU.

Currently, in addition to leading the department on a day-to-day basis, Bratcher also teaches the Senior Capstone course each semester which provides her the opportunity to interact with graduating students and evaluate the impact of the departmental values through the eyes of the students as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives.



Alicia K. Olivier

Discipline: Pathology
Title: Associate Dean and Professor
College: College of Veterinary Medicine

262 Lee Hall, P.O. Box BQ
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-2167
alicia.olivier@msstate.edu

Dr. Alicia Olivier serves as the Associate Dean for Administration at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. Olivier is dedicated to faculty and staff success, promoting shared governance and leading initiatives for hiring, tenure and promotion, faculty mentorship, and alumni engagement within the college. She is strategically involved in communication and marketing efforts to enhance the visibility of the college's strong veterinary medical teaching program, research program, and diagnostic laboratory system.

Olivier earned her DVM from Mississippi State University and Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Iowa State University. Olivier is a Professor in the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine with a focus on diagnostic and comparative pathology, veterinary student education, pathology residency training, and graduate student mentorship. Her research interests include pulmonary pathology, infectious disease, immunohistochemistry, and image analysis, with 75 peer-reviewed publications and three active grants.

Olivier previously served as the assistant diagnostic laboratory director at the college and service chief of anatomic pathology, supporting students, staff, and faculty. She is a member of the board of directors for the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and has received multiple awards for her contributions to teaching and mentorship.



Andy D. Perkins

Discipline: Computer Science

Title: Department Head

Department: Department of Computer Science
and Engineering

300 Butler Hall

Starkville, MS 39759

662-325-0004

perkins@cse.msstate.edu

Andy Perkins is a professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Mississippi State University and currently serves as interim department head. Perkins also serves as chair of the University Committee on Courses and Curricula, and recently finished three years on the Executive Committee of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate as chair of the Academic Affairs and University Resources Committees. Previous leadership experience includes five years as Associate Department Head, and coordinator of the Graduate Program in Computational Biology, and service on the Board of Directors of the MidSouth Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Society, serving as President during 2013-2014. Perkins was a participant in the Mississippi State University Faculty Leadership Development Program during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Perkins joined the faculty of Mississippi State University in 2008 after earning his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Tennessee. His research is in computational biology, bioinformatics, graph theoretical algorithms, machine learning, and high-performance computing. His work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the US Department of Agriculture, and the US Department of Defense.





Roger Fales

Discipline: Mechanical Engineering
Title: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
and Student Success
College: College of Engineering

416 S 6th Street
Columbia, MO 65284
573-884-1564
falesr@missouri.edu

Dr. Roger Fales is the associate dean for undergraduate education and student success for the College of Engineering at the University of Missouri. As associate dean, Fales leads a team of staff that provide academic advising, recruitment, career services, scholarships, and support for high impact practices such as student organizations and undergraduate research for over 3000 undergraduate students with increasing enrollment and high retention rates. He has led efforts and built a team that implemented a new first-year engineering program with a two-course instructional sequence and a peer mentoring program that engages over 600 engineering students each semester resulting in retention rates that are higher than campuswide average for Mizzou.

His primary research focus is on robust control design and stability of dynamic systems with applications in fluid power, respiratory support and the dynamics of blood oxygen saturation in premature infants. His work resulted in a device that automatically controls the oxygen concentration in air for non-invasive respiratory support for premature infants. The device was successfully tested in a clinical trial completed in 2024.

Fales is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).



Megan Moore

Discipline: French studies/literary criticism
Title: Professor of French & Director of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
School: School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures

120 Arts and Science Building
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-0452
mooremegan@missouri.edu

As Director of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SLLC) at the University of Missouri, Professor Megan Moore has led a profound cultural transformation within a newly merged department. Deploying a collaborative leadership style to achieve her structural vision, she prioritized establishing trust and cohesion across distinct work cultures. With transparency and deep listening as foundational principles, Moore led the School in articulating a new collective identity grounded in inclusivity, shared governance, and academic excellence.

Her most significant accomplishment in this area was the development and passage of new School bylaws, a process that involved skillfully facilitating dialogue across multiple units with divergent histories, power structures, and priorities. Through a series of inclusive town halls, working groups, and open feedback mechanisms, she guided faculty and staff through difficult yet productive conversations, culminating in a unanimously approved governance framework. Central to this transformation was a strategic shift in communication norms: Moore implemented regular, transparent updates; created channels for anonymous feedback; and established equitable, rotating leadership roles to ensure broad participation in decision-making. She also nurtured a culture of belonging, emphasizing equitable workload distribution, recognizing hidden labor, and integrating diversity and inclusion into all aspects of departmental life.

Her leadership has not only stabilized and unified the School but has laid a foundation for sustainable growth and morale and helped the unit's contributions to—rather than its dysfunction within—the larger institution to become seen and valued. Moore's work offers a model for culturally sensitive academic leadership in complex institutional landscapes.



David Schulz

Discipline: Biology/Neuroscience
Title: Professor and Director of the Division of
Biological Sciences
Department: Division of Biological Sciences

105 Tucker Hall
612 Hitt Street
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-8985
schulzd@missouri.edu

For the past five years (2020-2025) Dr. David Schulz has served as the Director of the Division of Biological Sciences and has recently become the Director of the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program at MU. Biological Sciences at MU has over 1100 undergraduate majors, 41 full-time faculty, and currently trains about 60 graduate students and 12 postdocs. In FY25 it generated over \$3m in research expenditures and submitted over \$50m in proposals for external funding.

As the Director of the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program Schulz oversees a PhD program of approximately 32 students as well as coordinate the activities of over 50 faculty in 7 different colleges on the MU campus towards interdisciplinary research ventures and training.

Prior to his time in these Director positions, Schulz served as the Chair of the Neuroscience Working Group, one of three areas of research focus for the system-wide Precision Health Initiative. As Chair, Schulz oversaw a group of 14 faculty from across the UM System that represented the neuroscience research enterprise across four campuses. That role morphed into a more formalized position as the Faculty Research Lead in Neuroscience from 2019-2021 to continue this effort as it transitioned from conceptual work to operationalizing campus-wide investments in neuroscience research.



Michelle Teti

Discipline: Public Health
Title: Professor, Public Health
College: Associate Dean, Honors College

164 McReynolds Hall
Columbia, MO 65203
573-882-5093
tetim@missouri.edu

Michelle Teti is an Associate Dean in the Honors College at the University of Missouri (MU). In this role she supports the cocurricular aspects of the MU Honors educational experience. She supervises the Office of Global and National Fellowships, the Scholarships Advisor, and the MedOpp Advising Office (e.g., support for medical professions students), and helps these offices to support student experiences in research, study abroad, service learning, research, and more.

With a background in public health, Teti focuses specifically on integrating public health and her background in research with these duties. For example, she has helped to build evaluation systems for the offices she supervises, created an Honors service-learning course addressing homelessness, and is helping to administer the Deaton Scholars Program, a student run program in which students identify and address local and global health and development challenges.

Prior to her role in Honors, Teti held administrative roles as the Associate Chair and Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Public Health.



John P. Masly

Discipline: Biological Sciences
Title: Associate Director
School: School of Biological Sciences

730 Van Vleet Oval
Norman, OK 73019
405-325-5611
masly@ou.edu

Dr. John P. Masly is an Associate Director in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS) at the University of Oklahoma. Since he joined the faculty in 2010, Masly has been engaged in substantial and significant administrative service to the department/school, college, university, and his profession including service/leadership on more than 30 committees, ranging from departmental committees to the Campus Tenure and Promotion Committee, the University Budget Council, and several Vice President for Research and Partnerships, University Libraries, and Provost Office committees.

Prior to the formation of the SBS, he served as the Director for Graduate Studies for the Department of Biology. As the inaugural Associate Director for the SBS, Masly was instrumental in the successful creation and early development of the School from the merger of two former academic departments. He led the reorganization of the former undergraduate curricula, which created a unified degree program to serve over 1,600 undergraduate majors. Masly further fostered broad collaboration across faculty of the new School through his leadership of a committee that created the structure for the research enterprise of the SBS, which has become the foundation for several new faculty hires within four thematic research areas.

His laboratory studies the processes by which genes direct development to give rise to the diversity of organismal form, and his work has been supported by funding from agencies including the National Science Foundation and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.



Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn

Discipline: Education
Title: Professor and Department Chair
College: College of Education

820 Van Vleet Oval
Norman, OK 73019
405-325-2425
robstarr@ou.edu

Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn, Ph.D., (Kiowa/Umatilla/Nez Perce/Apache/Assiniboine) is a mother, daughter, partner, auntie, sister, granddaughter and relative to many. She is also a Professor and Department Chair for the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies for the University of Oklahoma. She has worked to engage with local tribal communities in New Mexico, Washington, and Oklahoma. She is passionate about cultivating heartwork that centers Tribal communities needs and supporting Native students in their higher education journey.

She is the current president elect for the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), the organizations first Native American in this role. She has been awarded the Bobby Wright Award for Early Career Contributions to Research in Indigenous Education through the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Special Interest Group for the American Educational Research Association in 2018 and recently received the Exemplary Contributions to Practice-Engaged Research Award from the American Educational Research Association in 2022.

Minthorn is also the co-editor of Indigenous Leadership in Higher Education (Routledge), Reclaiming Indigenous Research in Higher Education (Rutgers University Press), Indigenous Motherhood in the Academy (Rutgers University Press), Unsettling Settler Colonial Education: The Transformational Indigenous Praxis Model (Teachers College Press), and Indigenous Educational Leadership through Community Based Knowledge (University of New Mexico Press). She was in the 1st class of the 40 under 40 for the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development in 2009 and was an Americans for Indian Opportunity Ambassador in their 10th class from 2008-2010.



Anne Pate

Discipline: Public Health
Title: Associate Professor
Department: Public and Community Health Programs

601 Elm Ave, Room 518
Norman, OK 73019
405-325-2528
apate@ou.edu

Dr. Anne Pate currently serves as Director and Associate Professor for the Public and Community Health Programs in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma. In this role, she provides guidance for undergraduate academic programming, including curriculum development, student recruitment and retention, and faculty mentorship. Since assuming this position in 2023, Pate has led and supported initiatives to expand course offerings, grow program enrollment, and develop high impact learning opportunities, including study abroad, undergraduate research, and first year mentorship.

Her approach to academic leadership is informed by over a decade of public health practice as an epidemiologist and nine years as a faculty member at a regional university. She is deeply committed to student-centered education, faculty development, and aligning program goals with institutional priorities and workforce needs. In her administrative capacity, Pate fosters partnerships and collaborations across academic units and campuses to raise the profile of the program and supports comprehensive planning initiatives within the college.

Committed to excellence and innovation, Pate has also played a key role in integrating emerging tools and technologies—such as artificial intelligence—into the classroom and program management. Her leadership is characterized by a collaborative, data-informed style and a long-term vision to build programs that foster student success, community impact, and sustainable growth.



Kevin Sauer

Discipline: Allied Health

Title: Chair

Department: Department of Nutritional Sciences

1200 N. Stonewall, Suite 3061

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

785-317-6094

kevin-sauer@ouhsc.edu

Dr. Kevin Sauer is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. With over 30 years of experience spanning higher education, administration, and national professional leadership, Sauer is a respected figure in nutrition, dietetics and health sciences.

Before joining OUHS in 2024, Sauer served as a Professor at Kansas State University, where he co-directed the national Center for Food Safety Research in Child Nutrition Programs. His administrative experience also includes leading food and nutrition services across various systems, with responsibility for complex clinical, operational, and multi-site functions.

Sauer's national leadership highlights include serving as President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (2021–2022), where he led key strategic initiatives, and as Chair of the Commission on Dietetic Registration, shaping national credentialing and ethics standards for the profession.

An award-winning educator, Sauer has seamlessly integrated his administrative and leadership experience into the classroom. He has received multiple honors for excellence in teaching, particularly in the areas of management, leadership, and administrative systems. His dynamic, evidence-based instruction prepares future professionals to lead with passion, competence and integrity.



Angela C. Baum

Discipline: Early Childhood Education
Title: Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
College: College of Education

820 Main Street, Wardlaw College
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-3075
bauma@mailbox.sc.edu

Angela C. Baum, Ph.D. has held several key administrative roles at the University of South Carolina. Since July 2021, she has served as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Education and was named Senior Associate Dean in 2024. In this role, Baum oversees the college's academic programs and initiatives.

Prior to this, Baum was the Associate Department Chair for the Department of Instruction and Teacher Education from 2017-2021, managing various departmental operations and supporting faculty development. Baum also coordinated the Early Childhood Program within the same department from 2015-2017, ensuring the program's alignment with educational standards and fostering a collaborative environment for faculty and students. Her leadership extends nationally, serving as the President of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators from 2017-2019.

In addition to her administrative roles, Baum has contributed significantly to various committees and advisory boards, including the Provost's Advisory Council on Interdisciplinary Studies, the CarolinaTIP Advisory Board, and the South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association Board of Directors. Since coming to USC, Baum has served as the Principal Investigator of several grants and contracts totaling over 16 million dollars in funding.



Heather Heckman

Discipline: Communication Arts (Film Studies)
Title: Associate Dean for Information Resources
and Technologies
Department: University Libraries

1322 Greene Street
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-1400
heckmanh@mailbox.sc.edu

Heather Heckman is a library and archives administrator with over a decade of experience at the University of South Carolina. As Associate Dean for Information Resources and Technologies in USC Libraries, she leads the Library & Information Technology, Digital Research Services & Collections, Acquisitions, Cataloging, and Collections Management units.

She began her career in film archiving and quickly found herself engaged in critical IT infrastructure conversations on campus (digitizing film generates large storage footprints).

In 2019, she accepted an Associate Dean appointment with responsibility for technology in the Libraries, including support for research data, scholarly communications and open access. In 2023, she added the departments that support general collections to her portfolio. Her team decides how to allocate the Libraries' multi-million dollar materials budget, determining which resources USC will acquire and maintain subscription access to.

Heckman holds a PhD and MA in Film Studies and an MA in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on technological change in the film industry, with recent work applying quantitative historical methods to media history.



Aidyn Iachini

Discipline: Social Work
Title: Professor and Associate Dean for Research
and Faculty
College: College of Social Work

1512 Pendleton St., Hamilton College 332
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-2373
iachini@mailbox.sc.edu

Aidyn L. Iachini (PhD, MSW, LSW) is a Professor and the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty in the College of Social Work (COSW) at the University of South Carolina (USC). Prior to this, she served as the Interim Associate Dean for Research and Faculty for two years.

Iachini was a USC Pipeline for Academic Leadership Fellow in 2017. She was selected as a Society for Social Work and Research Fellow in 2020, and a Distinguished Fellow in the National Academies of Practice in Social Work in 2023.



Qian Wang

Discipline: Chemistry
Title: Department Chair
Department: Department of Chemistry
and Biochemistry

631 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-8436
wang263@mailbox.sc.edu

Professor Qian Wang received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, in 1992 and 1997, respectively. After completing postdoctoral training at the University of Lausanne and The Scripps Research Institute, he joined the University of South Carolina in 2003 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2008, Full Professor in 2011, and currently holds the title of Carolina Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. Since 2023, he has served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Wang's research focuses on bioconjugation chemistry, biomedical chemistry, and biomaterials. He has supervised more than 100 doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows, delivered over 180 invited talks, published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, and secured over \$15 million in federal funding. His numerous awards include the NSF CAREER Award (2008), Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (2008), Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award (2008), CAPA Distinguished Junior Faculty Award (2008), NSF American Competitiveness Fellow Award (2009), Robert L. Sumwalt Professorship (2009), South Carolina Governor's Young Scientist Award (2009), USC Rising Star Award (2010), election as AAAS Fellow (2012), South Carolina Chemist Award (2016), USC Russell Research Award (2017), ACS Memphis Section Southern Chemist Award (2018), and the USC Board of Trustees Professorship Award (2024).



Michael Danquah

Discipline: Chemical Engineering
Title: Associate Dean
College: College of Engineering

863 Neyland Drive
Zeanah Engineering Complex_04_458E
Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-0536
mdanquah@utk.edu

Dr. Michael Danquah is the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the Tickle College of Engineering and a Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He earned his BSc in Chemical Engineering from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana, and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Monash University, Australia. He is a Chartered Scientist, Chartered Professional Engineer, and a Fellow of both the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC).

As Associate Dean, Danquah has led several strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing academic and co-curricular programs, improving student retention and graduation rates, and preparing students for workforce readiness. His leadership has involved launching new academic departments and interdisciplinary programs, driving successful accreditation processes, strengthening industry partnerships, and creating inclusive, student-focused learning environments. He is especially passionate about developing tailored, application-based engineering curricula that align with emerging industry needs.

Danquah's research focuses on integrating biomolecular engineering and nanoscience to develop advanced biopharmaceuticals, biosensors, targeted drug delivery systems, and environmental bioremediation solutions. His work is internationally recognized, with over 320 peer-reviewed publications, scholarly books and chapters, and conference contributions, accumulating more than 20,000 citations. He has served as a consultant to several biotech and biomedical companies and mentored many research students and postdocs. He is a recipient of the prestigious Joseph N. Cannon Award of Excellence in Chemical Engineering from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE).





Jud Laughter

Discipline: Theory & Practice in Teacher Education
Title: Director of Faculty Affairs
College: College of Education, Health, and
Human Sciences

1126 Volunteer Boulevard
Bailey Education Complex_04_A418
Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-8385
jlaught3@utk.edu

Judson Laughter is Professor of English Education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He taught middle school English before earning a PhD in Teaching and Learning from Vanderbilt University and has been a teacher educator at UT for over 16 years.

Laughter's research engages theories for racism critique in the preparation of teachers and develops fugitive/abolitionist pedagogies, with recent work expanding into public health. His research has been published in the Journal of Teacher Education, Urban Education, and Educational Researcher.

He serves as Director of Faculty Affairs for the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and as President-Elect of the University Faculty Senate. He is a fellow for the Initiative for Race Research and Justice at Vanderbilt University and a fellow of Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Cohort 6 at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Outside of academic responsibilities, Laughter likes to spend time exploring off-trail swimming holes in the Smokies and sitting around a campfire with friends. He enjoys cycling, crossword puzzles, and whisk(e)y, but not simultaneously. He has won the Listener Limerick Challenge on Wait Wait Don't Tell Me but has not yet been chosen to play the NPR Sunday Puzzle on air despite regularly submitting answers since the postcard days.



Brendan McConville

Discipline: Music
Title: Associate Dean
College: College of Music

1741 Volunteer Boulevard
Music Center_01_117
Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-3241
bmconvi@utk.edu

Dr. Brendan McConville is Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs in the Natalie L. Haslam College of Music (NLH COM) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), where he oversees faculty affairs, budgeting, curriculum, advising, student success, and strategic planning. Previously, as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in UTK's College of Arts and Sciences, he managed programming for over 9,500 undergraduate and graduate students, supervised online degree offerings, and led student-success initiatives.

Under his leadership, NLH COM introduced innovative degree programs, minors, and certificate programs, expanded online education, and established curricular partnerships with three UT colleges and Mississippi State Community College. He actively promotes student and faculty mental health resources, workload transparency and efficiency, and equitable access and opportunity.

McConville has participated in multiple leadership programs, including UTK's Chancellor's Leadership Academy, the Provost's Leadership Acceleration and Development for Rising Stars (LEAPS) program, and he will represent UTK in the 2025–26 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program. He has chaired or served on numerous university committees, including task forces on transfers, artificial intelligence, tenure-track faculty, and curriculum.

A noted music theorist and composer, his research is published in esteemed academic journals, and he co-developed music theory applications for iOS and Android. His compositions have been internationally recognized; he was a Fulbright Scholar, an American Academy of Rome Fellow, and his music has been recognized by both The American Prize and Global Music Awards. McConville earned his PhD from Rutgers University and studied at Peabody Conservatory and Johns Hopkins University. His interests include travel, financial analysis, and fitness.



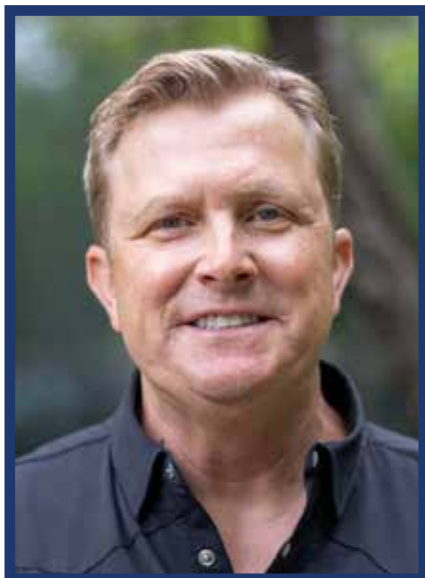
Christopher McNulty

Discipline: Art
Title: Director and Professor
School: School of Art

1715 Volunteer Blvd
213 Art + Architecture
Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-3407
cmcult1@utk.edu

Christopher McNulty is a visual artist who creates sculptural objects, video, and works on paper. His work has explored the limitations of human thought and performance, and the tensions that exist between our ideals and everyday lives. His current work explores how environmental space penetrates the body, creating relationships among individuals, species, and objects. He has exhibited work in galleries and museums throughout the U.S., including the Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Rochester Art Center, and Saltworks Gallery in Atlanta. His diverse art practice has been featured in many publications including Art Papers, Sculpture, New American Paintings, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, and The Week.

McNulty has received many grants and awards including the International Sculpture Center Outstanding Educator Award, Hemera Foundation Fellowship, Alabama State Council on the Arts Grant, Madison CitiARTS grant, and Rowland Fellowship. He has completed artist residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Marble House Project, the Hambidge Center, and the Vermont Studio Center. A dual citizen of France and the US, McNulty holds an MFA degree from the University of Wisconsin and is currently a Professor and Director of the School of Art at the University of Tennessee.



Matthew S. Eastin

Discipline: Advertising and Public Relations
Title: Director, Stan Richards School of Advertising
and Public Relations
College: Moody College of Communication

10400 Hansa Dr.
Austin, TX 78739
512-471-4860
matt.eastin@utexas.edu

Dr. Matthew S. Eastin is the Director of the Stan Richards School of Advertising & Public Relations. He served as the Director of PhD Studies at the Stan Richards School from 2017-2025. In 2021, he founded the Social Engagement and Media Influence (SEMI) Research Group, an innovative platform for mentoring graduate students in media, advertising, and consumer behavior research. As Co-Director (2022-2025) of the Nelson Center for Brand & Demand Analytics, Eastin has been actively involved in engaging both undergraduate and graduate students in data analytics and research processes.

Eastin is a leading researcher in the fields of advertising and media studies with a focus on social cognitive approaches to consumer behavior, information processing, and emerging technology adoption and engagement. Making significant contributions to various fields, including advertising, consumer behavior, media, information science, psychology, and communication, Eastin's work addresses critical societal issues such as media consumption and psychological well-being, consumer privacy perceptions, and the impact of immersive technologies like mixed and virtual reality, as well as AI engagement.

In addition to his academic focused research, Eastin has worked with several companies within the executive education program at McCombs Business School, and with organizations such as Lerma, Texas Department of Transportation, and with the Nelson Center where he is constantly working to stay connected with industry trends relevant to analytics and media engagement.



Karol Murlak

Discipline: Design

Title: Professor and Chair

Department: Department of Design, College
of Fine Arts

2501 Wichita St., MC D1400

Austin, TX 78712

512-471-5446

karol.murlak@austin.utexas.edu

Karol Murlak is a designer, researcher, educator, and academic leader. He serves as a professor and chair of the Department of Design at the University of Texas at Austin, and as an associate professor at SWPS University in Warsaw. With over 20 years of experience in leadership, academia, and business, he has worked with institutions and companies across Europe and America, including the Pratt Institute, where he earned the title of full professor.

Murlak specializes in materials and materiality. Working both as an independent consultant and as a co-leader of various design teams, he has developed over fifty projects involving innovative materials, products, furniture, exhibitions, and public installations. His work spans a wide range of scales and complexities—from patented technologies like expanding wood and therapeutic devices for patients with spinal conditions to musical installations displayed in some of the world's busiest public spaces.

He has designed for clients such as Martinelli Luce and the Museum of Food and Drink in Brooklyn. His projects have been exhibited in cities including New York; Washington, DC; London; Milan; Berlin; Brussels; Frankfurt; Dresden; Budapest; Prague; Bucharest; Sofia; Ljubljana; Warsaw; São Paulo; Brasília; Rio de Janeiro; and Toyama. He has received several prestigious design awards and honors, including the Design by... Competition, the Sanitec Koło Prize, and the Design Competition for the City of Łódź.

Interdisciplinary research teams he has co-led have received multi-million-dollar research and development grants from the National Science Foundation and the European Research Council. His scholarly articles have been published in journals such as *Craft Research* and *European Journal of Wood and Wood Products*.

He earned a degree in Spatial Design from Falmouth College of Art in the United Kingdom. He also holds a doctoral degree in design and a master's degree in interior architecture, both from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland.





Lauren J. Webb

Discipline: Chemistry
Title: Professor; Associate Dean
College: College of Natural Sciences

120 Inner Campus Drive, MC A5300
Austin, TX 78712
512-471-9361
lwebb@cm.utexas.edu

Lauren Webb received her A.B in Chemistry (Music minor) from Bowdoin College in 2000 and her PhD in chemistry at the California Institute of Technology as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow. She was then a NIH Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Chemistry Department at Stanford University before starting her independent career at UT-Austin in 2008.

Her research interests are centered around understanding and manipulating the mechanisms of interaction, organization, and self-assembly of biological macromolecules that lead to the complex and emergent properties of living systems.

After years of service to graduate students at UT-Austin, she became Associate Dean for Graduate Education in the College of Natural Sciences in 2024. She serves approximately 5500 graduate students and postdocs across a wide variety of disciplines and programs and is works to improve professional development opportunities and quality of life for graduate students across the college.



Tiffany A. Whittaker

Discipline: Educational Psychology
Title: Professor; Department Chair
Department: Department of Educational Psychology

1912 Speedway, SZB 5.708G, Mail Code: D5800
Austin, TX 78712
512-471-2749
t.whittaker@austin.utexas.edu

Dr. Tiffany A. Whittaker is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin. Whittaker has served as Department Chair for three years (one year as interim). Prior to her role as Department Chair, she served as the Area Chair for the Quantitative Methods program and the Graduate Advisor for the Department of Educational Psychology.



Stefanie Harris

Discipline: Global Languages and Cultures
Title: Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and
Professor of German and Global Studies
College: College of Arts & Sciences

TAMU 4215
College Station, TX 77843
979-862-4442
stefanieharris@tamu.edu

Stefanie Harris is Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of German and Global Studies at Texas A&M University. Previously, she served as Head of the Department of International Studies (2018-2022) and inaugural Head of the Department of Global Languages and Cultures (2022-2024). Her broad capacity to manage the dynamics of change toward the foundation of new, thriving academic units has had a pronounced impact on faculty and students, while advancing the mission of the university and college.

Harris is a specialist in 20th and 21st century German literature and film, with a research focus on image-text interactions and the introduction of new media as inflection points that influence the socio-cultural landscape. She has published widely on German literature, film, and photography, and she is the author of *Mediating Modernity: German Literature and the "New" Media, 1895-1930* (Penn State University Press). Harris has been awarded over \$2.5 million in funding from federal grants in support of student-training in designated critical languages. She teaches a broad range of courses in German language, literature, and culture, film studies, and global media, and she has led twelve study abroad trips for undergraduates to Germany.

She has served on the Faculty Senate, as well as on numerous college- and university-level committees, with a particular focus on global engagement, undergraduate curriculum, and university-governance.



Jason Huntley

Discipline: Microbiology/Infectious Diseases
Title: Professor of Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development
College: Vashisht College of Medicine

8441 John Sharp Parkway, Clinical Building 1
Suite 2515
College Station, TX 77807
979-436-9561
jason.huntley@tamu.edu

Jason F. Huntley, PhD, is the Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development at the Texas A&M University Naresh K. Vashisht College of Medicine. His office is responsible for all aspects of the faculty lifecycle, from recruitment to promotion and tenure to retirement. With a statewide education model, including clinical sites in Houston, Dallas, Austin-area, and Bryan/College Station, Huntley helps support over 2500 affiliate faculty across Texas.

Huntley came to Texas A&M in 2024 after 14 years at the University of Toledo, where he was a tenured Professor of microbiology and, since 2022, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Development. In the latter role, Huntley was responsible for similar faculty support and development activities, including junior and mid-career faculty mentoring programs, a new Academy of Mentors, and advocacy for shared governance. At the University of Toledo, Huntley co-chaired a university-wide committee that developed the university's 2023-2028 strategic plan.

Nationally, Huntley has served on National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections, has co-chaired national conferences for the American Society for Microbiology, and has served/is serving on organizing committees for national and international scientific conferences.



Fadi T. Khasawneh

Discipline: Pharmaceutical Sciences/Pharmacology

Title: Professor and Head of Department of
Pharmaceutical Science

Department: Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Rangel College of Pharmacy

1010 West Avenue B

Kingsville, TX 78363

361-221-0755

fkhasawneh@tamu.edu

Dr. Fadi T. Khasawneh is the Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Rangel College of Pharmacy at Texas A&M University. As Head, he is responsible for overseeing the recruitment, retention, and development of faculty, as well as balancing the teaching, research and service mission of the department. And more recently, he oversaw the development of a B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences program, which is the first of its kind in Texas. Khasawneh is serving on a host of University Committees including the Department Head Council Steering Committee, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Externally, he had previously served as Chair of the Biological Sciences Section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and Chair of the Division of Cardiovascular Pharmacology of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

Khasawneh received his B.S. in Pharmacy from Jordan University of Science and Technology, and his Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. His research program focuses on the study of platelet biology and signaling mechanisms including in the context of novel tobacco products and exposures. Khasawneh's work in these areas has been supported by several funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. He is also a dedicated educator and has received several teaching awards throughout his career in academia.



Galen Newman

Discipline: Landscape Architecture and
Urban Planning

Title: Professor and Department Head

Department: Department of Landscape Architecture
and Urban Planning/College of
Architecture

3347 TAMU, Langford A311
College Station, TX 77843
979-862-4320
gnewman@tamu.edu

Dr. Galen D. Newman, FASLA, FCELA, is Professor and Head in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP) at Texas A&M University as well as the Youngblood Endowed Professor of Residential Land Development. In LAUP, he formerly served as Associate Department Head, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Program, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning Program, Director of the Center for Housing and Urban Development, Associate Director of the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, and Community Resilience Lead for the institute for Sustainable Communities.

Newman's research interests include community resilience, urban regeneration, land use science, spatial analytics, and built environment performance. His work has been published in many high-quality peer-reviewed outlets (over 135 journal articles) and has been funded through numerous internal and external funding sources including the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences totaling over 73 million. He has also won many national and international awards/recognitions for his research, teaching, and leadership.



Tyler W. Barrett

Discipline: Emergency Medicine

Title: Associate Chief Medical Officer for Compliance
and Professor of Emergency Medicine

Department: Department of Emergency Medicine and
Office of Compliance and Corporate
Integrity

1512 Ferguson Ave

Nashville, TN 37212

615-403-1199

tyler.barrett@vanderbilt.edu

Dr. Tyler W. Barrett is a Professor of Emergency Medicine and the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Compliance at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He previously served as the Executive Medical Director, Medical Director, Quality & Patient Safety Director, and Director of the Clinical Operations Division for the Department of Emergency Medicine. Barrett attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor majoring in Psychology as a Natural Science. He matriculated to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine followed by an emergency medicine residency at UCLA. In 2005, he was recruited back to Vanderbilt. He subsequently completed a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation from Vanderbilt University and a Certification in Healthcare Change Management from the Tennessee Medical Association John Ingram Institute for Physician Leadership Lab.

His clinical goals focus on optimizing efficient and appropriate patient care, patient safety and quality improvement, opioid stewardship, and reimbursement-related issues. Barrett has been an NIH-funded researcher and authored more than 115 peer-reviewed original research investigations and reviews. His research goals are to improve the emergency department (ED) treatment of patients with opioid use disorder, increase the use of non-opioid analgesia, and risk stratification of ED patients with atrial fibrillation. Barrett's contributions have been recognized with selection as a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and a Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society.

Barrett serves as Chair of the Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate for the 2025-26 academic year and is focused on supporting community wellness by increasing resources for faculty and students, in a time of great change.



Catherine Gavin Loss

Discipline: History of Education
Title: Associate Provost for Academic Affairs;
Associate Professor of the Practice
College: Peabody College of Education and
Human Development

230 Appleton Place, PMB 414
Nashville, TN 37203
615-322-6619
catherine.g.loss@vanderbilt.edu

Catherine Gavin Loss serves as the associate provost for academic affairs at Vanderbilt University. Prior to taking her role as associate provost, Gavin Loss served for five years as senior associate dean for academic affairs and professional education at Vanderbilt's Peabody College of Education and Human Development. In that role she oversaw academic programs and services, professional degree admissions, curriculum planning and new program development, digital education, and strategic academic initiatives and special projects.

She is an associate professor of the practice in Peabody College's Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations, where she previously served as associate department chair and director of the Master of Public Policy and Ed.D. programs. Her scholarly and teaching interests include the history of education, the history of childhood, and education politics and policy. Gavin Loss has received a number of honors for her contributions to the Vanderbilt community and its students, including the Peabody College Distinguished Faculty Citizenship Award and the Mentoring Award from the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.

Gavin Loss holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. from Purdue University. She joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 2008.



Pengfei Li

Discipline: Asian Studies
Title: Vice Chair of Faculty Senate
College: College of Arts and Science

2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37240
615-322-2616
pengfei.li@vanderbilt.edu

Pengfei Li serves as Vice Chair of the Vanderbilt Faculty Senate, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Asian Studies, and Chair of the Language Pedagogy Advisory Committee of the Vanderbilt Center for Languages. In these roles, he is committed to supporting students, faculty, and the broader university community through thoughtful collaboration and open communication.

As Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate, Li contributes to the work of the Executive Committee, which helps facilitate communication between faculty and university leadership. In this role, he also serves as the liaison between subcommittees and the EC, working to ensure that faculty voices are heard across the institution.

As Director of Undergraduate Studies, Li works closely with students on academic advising, course planning, and degree progress, while partnering with colleagues to maintain a curriculum that reflects both departmental goals and student needs. His approach emphasizes clarity, accessibility, and sustained dialogue with students and faculty alike.

In his capacity as Chair of the Language Pedagogy Advisory Committee of the Vanderbilt Center for Languages, Li convenes regular meetings with other committee members to discuss shared challenges and goals in language instruction. The committee supports the development of innovative teaching initiatives, encourages cross-departmental collaboration, and helps promote inclusive and effective language pedagogy. He sees this work as a vital part of enhancing the visibility and impact of language teaching at Vanderbilt, and as a way to build a stronger, more connected teaching community.



Nilanjan Sarkar

Discipline: Mechanical Engineering
Title: Vice Dean, School of Engineering
School: School of Engineering

5513 Nevil Pointe
Brentwood, TN 37027
615-403-7440
nilanjan.sarkar@vanderbilt.edu

Nilanjan Sarkar is the David K. Wilson Professor of Engineering and a professor of Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, and Electrical and Computer Engineering at Vanderbilt University. He currently serves as Vice Dean and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the School of Engineering, and as Deputy Director for Technology at the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation.

Sarkar received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics from the University of Pennsylvania, specializing in robotics. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Queen's University in Canada, he began his academic career at the University of Hawaii. He joined Vanderbilt University in 2000, where he has since held joint appointments across multiple departments and served six years as Chair of Mechanical Engineering.

His research focuses on human-robot and human-computer interaction, virtual and augmented reality, affective computing, dynamics, and control. A key theme in his work is the development of intelligent assistive systems to support both neurotypical and neurodiverse populations. His research has been supported by NSF, NIH, DOD, NASA, and other funding agencies.

Sarkar is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.



2025-26

Southeastern Conference

**Academic Leadership
Development Program
Liaisons**



Lesley Reid

Title: Senior Associate Provost for Academic and Administrative Affairs

Box 870114
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
205-348-6304
lwreid@ua.edu

Dr. Lesley Williams Reid is the Senior Associate Provost for Academic and Administrative Affairs at the University of Alabama. In this role, Reid oversees core areas of academic administration including the university registrar, institutional effectiveness, academic program review, and academic space management. She is also responsible for developing and implementing policies and managing compliance within the Office for Academic Affairs.

Prior to serving in this role, Reid was the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs between 2021 and 2025 and served as the Interim Dean of the School of Social Work between 2019 and 2021. Reid joined the University of Alabama faculty in 2014 as Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to coming to the University of Alabama, she served on faculty in the Department of Sociology at Georgia State University from 2000 to 2014. Reid earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in Sociology from Tulane University and her bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University.

Reid is a criminologist whose research focuses on broad structural conditions that make places more or less safe, with a focus on immigration, ethnicity, housing, employment, and corrections. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and been published broadly. She teaches courses in social research methods and statistics.



Anna Zajicek

Title: Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

422 Administration Building
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-5149
azajicek@uark.edu

Dr. Anna Zajicek is Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Arkansas, having been appointed to the permanent position in 2023. She also coordinates social justice specialization for the Public Policy Ph.D. program. Previously, she served as Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology and Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Zajicek joined the faculty at Arkansas in 1994, and her research interests include social inequality - intersections of gender, race/ethnicity, and class - gender/race and STEM disciplines, institutional transformation, and social policy. She chaired the Gender Studies Steering Committee in the College of Arts and Sciences, and she was a Faculty Research Associate in the Office for Institutional Diversity and Education. She also served as a Senior Inclusion Fellow with the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

She has been nominated for several honors and awards, including the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, a University of Arkansas Extraordinary Woman, and Outstanding Advisor Nominee. In 2018, she received the University of Arkansas Graduate School Outstanding Mentor Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Nolan Award for Contributions to Graduate Education. Zajicek was an SEC ALDP fellow in the inaugural 2008-09 cohort.



Andrew Gillespie

Title: Assistant Provost for International Programs

227 Foy Hall
Auburn, AL 36849
334-844-5009
arg0014@auburn.edu

Dr. Andrew (Andy) Gillespie is Assistant Provost for International Programs at Auburn University and serves as the Senior International Officer, overseeing programs in international student and scholars services, study abroad, internationalizing the curriculum, international alumni, international student insurance, instruction in non-traditional languages, strategic partnerships overseas, and internationalizing recruitment, development, research and outreach. His additional responsibilities include international alumni development, international student recruiting and admissions, development of international campuses and on-campus curriculum internationalization. Gillespie is also a Professor of Natural Resources in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Gillespie came to Auburn in 2010 after 20 years at Purdue University on the faculty in the College of Agriculture and in academic administration, overseeing international programming and strategic planning as associate dean. A Fulbright Scholar, Gillespie was trained as a soil chemist and plant physiologist, and his research is in food and fiber production systems of indigenous peoples and their relation to temperate and tropical production systems in developed countries.

He received a joint B.S. from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Syracuse University, a M.S. from the University of New Hampshire, and his Ph.D. from Purdue University.



Chris Flowers Hass

Title: Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs

PO Box 113175
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-4792
cjhass@aa.ufl.edu

Dr. Chris Flowers Hass is Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs at the University of Florida. In this role, he serves as a member of the provost's administrative team, managing the tenure and promotion process, providing leadership for university-level faculty development efforts, managing faculty personnel issues, including policy and processes, and serving as the Office of the Provost's representative for university governance.

Hass is a graduate of the University of Florida, and before returning to UF he held academic positions at Columbia University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a Professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology and faculty within the Fixel Center for Neurological Diseases. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the American Society of Biomechanics. Hass has authored more than 150 peer reviewed publications. He has held leadership positions in the American Society of Biomechanics and the American College of Sports Medicine.



Elizabeth Weeks

Title: Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and
Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs

225 New College
Athens, GA 30602
706-542-0415
weeksleo@uga.edu

Elizabeth Weeks is Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Georgia, in which role she has served since July 2020. She also holds the Charles H. Kirbo Chair in Law and previously served as Associate Dean for Faculty Development for the University of Georgia School of Law.

Weeks is a native of Athens, Georgia, and came home to UGA in 2011 from the University of Kansas School of Law, where she began her tenure-track career. She specializes in torts and health care law, and is co-author of *The Law of American Health Care* (Aspen Publishing, 3d ed. 2023) and *Healthism: Health Status Discrimination and the Law* (Cambridge University Press 2019), among numerous other articles and publications focusing on health care financing and regulation, health care reform, and public health law. Her work has been recognized by American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics Health Law Scholar Award; University of Kansas Meredith Docking Faculty Scholar Award; and University of Kansas School of Law Howard M. and Susan Immel Award for Teaching Excellence. She has served in various leadership roles for the Association of American Law Schools for Sections on torts, health law, and associate deans.

Weeks has participated in several leadership and advocacy training programs, including the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program; University System of Georgia's Executive Leadership Institute, UGA Women's Leadership Fellows program; and UGA Public Service and Outreach Fellows program. She also was selected for the Public Health Leadership Academy, through UGA's College of Public Health and J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, and the inaugural class of Advocacy Fellows for the Sunflower Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. As Associate Provost, she oversees a comprehensive suite of faculty and leadership development programs for UGA.

Weeks earned her B.A. from Columbia University and J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law. She previously worked as a psychiatric social worker in Chicago, Illinois; judicial law clerk in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Austin, Texas; and practiced law in the health industry group of Vinson & Elkins, LLP in Houston, Texas.





S. Rebecca Thomas

Title: Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement

410 Administration Drive
Lexington, KY 40506
859-218-2109
rebecca.thomas@uky.edu

Dr. S. Rebecca Thomas serves as the Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement at the University of Kentucky. In this role, she has oversight of faculty development and faculty career progression including hiring, orientation, tenure and promotion processes, leaves and sabbaticals, and retirement. She also collaborates with the other members of the Office of the Provost on developing, implementing, and maintaining university-wide regulations and policies, and other projects.

Thomas served as a computer science faculty member for 22 years in several institutions, most of that time at Bard College in New York. Research interests include multi-agent systems and natural language processing. She became Dean of the College at Bard College in 2015 and has since served two other institutions as chief academic officer, most recently five years as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky where she launched the Bingham Center for Teaching Excellence and relaunched the Center for Entrepreneurship.



Jane Cassidy

Title: Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

156 Thomas Boyd Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
225-578-7662
jcassid@lsu.edu

Dr. Jane Cassidy is Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Louisiana State University and holds the Roy and Margaret Gianelloni Alumni Professorship in Music. She recently served as Interim Vice President for the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, and has been LSU's SEC ALDP liaison since 2011.

Cassidy's responsibilities include serving as Chief Deputy for the Executive Vice President and Provost, advising the provost on matters such as general campus administration, university policy, promotion and tenure, faculty development, academic space utilization, and budgetary issues. Serving as the institutional liaison to SACSCOC, LSU's accrediting agency, Cassidy has oversight of LSU's Office of Institutional Effectiveness. The LSU Rural Life Museum, LSU Museum of Art, LSU Press and The Southern Review also report to her. Previously, Cassidy served as Director of the School of Music and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. Her field of expertise is music education, having taught courses in elementary music education, music in special education, psychology of music, measurement and evaluation, and supervision of student teachers.

Cassidy's research interests center around musical development of infants and children, music education for children with special needs and teacher effectiveness. Most notably, her research with critically premature infants elicited cross discipline interest from the music therapy and medical communities for its impact on establishing protocol for presentation of music in the NICU. She has published extensively in music education and music therapy journals, has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Research in Music Education and the Journal of Music Therapy, and served as Chair of the Music Education Research Council of the National Association for Music Education. In 1999, she was awarded a Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching, research and service at LSU; and in spring of 2005, she held an endowed professorship at the University of Alabama.





Virginia Rougon

Title: Associate Provost

150 Lyceum
University, MS 38677
662-915-1198
vlrougon@olemiss.edu

Virginia (Ginny) Rougon is Associate Provost and Professor of Art at the University of Mississippi. In the provost's office, she assists with an array of administrative matters related to academic building spaces, faculty sabbaticals, monthly chair/dean/director workshops, new faculty orientation, student scholarships and human resources. She is also a part of the Sally McDonald Barksdale Honors College where she serves on the Admissions Committee, Scholarship Committee, and is a member of the Honors Council. She has held several positions across campus including Chair of the Department of Art & Art History.

Rougon earned her M.F.A. in Graphic Design from the Savannah College of Art & Design, and she is a designer, artist and educator with years of experience teaching graphic design, letterpress and the creative process. She has been awarded several grants, international exhibitions, workshops and was an Artist in Residence in Marnay-sur-Seine, France. Rougon was named the university's Faculty Advisor of the Year and the NACADA Southeast Regional Faculty Advisor of the Year. Rougon was an SEC ALDP fellow with the 2014-15 cohort.



Peter L. Ryan

Title: Executive Vice Provost

262 Lee Hall
Post Office Box BQ
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-0730
ryan@provost.msstate.edu

Dr. Peter L. Ryan is Executive Vice Provost at Mississippi State University where his responsibilities include management of international academic agreements and study abroad policies, coordination of the self-study review process for academic departments and supervision of new faculty development. Ryan earned his Ph.D. from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada.

Ryan is a Professor in the Departments of Animal and Dairy Sciences and Pathology and Population Medicine. He has served as Coordinator of the Animal Physiology Graduate Program from 2000 to 2012. His research is in the area of reproductive physiology with a major focus on uterine pathogenesis and pre-term delivery using domestic animals as models for the human condition. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other public and private sources.

Ryan is Co-Director of the Facilities for Organismal and Cellular Imaging that utilizes bioluminescent, fluorescent, ultrasound and digital thermal imaging technologies to investigate physiological events in living systems. In August 2009, he joined the Office of the Provost as the Associate Vice President Intern for Academic Affairs and was appointed Associate Provost in April 2011, and served as the Dean of the Graduate School from 2018 to 2024.



Candace Kuby

Title: Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs &
Professor of Learning, Teaching and Curriculum

114 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-2965
kubyc@missouri.edu

Candace Kuby is the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Missouri. In this role, Kuby manages faculty recruitment, hiring, salary and workload adjustment, and the faculty promotion and tenure process. She leads the university's HLC accreditation efforts, serves as liaison to Faculty Council, serves as the academic liaison to the SEC, and coordinates efforts to study faculty satisfaction.

Kuby supports faculty success and development, including building new programs that support faculty and coordinating existing faculty development efforts across campus. She manages internal and external honorific faculty awards processes and leads efforts to plan campus faculty recognition events. Lastly, she supports department chairs and runs the Provost Leadership Program.

Before Kuby's roles in the Office of the Provost, she served as Department Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum and the Director of Qualitative Inquiry for the College of Education and Human Development. Prior to becoming a faculty member, Kuby taught primary grades in public U.S. schools and preschoolers in Japan. Kuby's research centers on pedagogies as relational in two ways: 1) the coming-to-be and the pedagogies of literacies when young children work with artistic and digital tools, and 2) approaches to and pedagogies of qualitative inquiry. She has published twelve books and edited journal volumes and numerous book chapters and articles in journals including Qualitative Inquiry; International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education; Journal of Early Childhood Literacy; and Journal of Literacy Research. Kuby has secured approximately \$3.3 million dollars of internal and external funding to support her work.

Honors for Kuby's teaching and research include the Outstanding College Teaching Award (University of Missouri, College of Education & Human Development, 2020), the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research & Creative Activity in the Behavioral & Social Sciences (University of Missouri, 2020), the Isabelle Lyda Research Professorship (University of Missouri, College of Education & Human Development, 2015 to 2017), and the Emerging Scholar Award, American Educational Research Association, Critical Perspectives in Early Childhood Education Special Interest Group (2015). Kuby co-hosted two webinar series: Post philosophies and the doing of inquiry and Doing higher education differently: In conversation with Neuroatypicality produced in partnership with the University of the Western Cape and Ghent University.



Sarah Ellis

Title: Vice Provost for Faculty

660 Parrington Oval, Room 104
Norman, OK 73019
405-325-6553
sjr@ou.edu

Sarah Ellis is the Vice Provost for Faculty and a Professor of Music Theory at the University of Oklahoma. As Vice Provost she is responsible for the aspects of Academic Affairs that impact faculty including overseeing the annual evaluation and tenure and promotion processes, managing chair and director development initiatives, and contributing to faculty hiring policy and practice. In addition, she is the Provost's office Liaison to Chairs, Directors, and Associate Deans as well as the Faculty Senate.

As a researcher, her interests have centered on the creation of meaning within musical works. Much of her work has focused on understanding the hermeneutics of Dmitri Shostakovich's repertoire through his manipulation of post-Beethovenian semiotic space. Her book, *Composing the Modern Subject: Four String Quartets by Dmitri Shostakovich* (Ashgate, 2008), focusses on his Sixth through Ninth Quartets. In addition, she has published articles on the use of pre-existing music in Classic Hollywood films.



Jennifer Ng

Title: Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Osborne Administration Building
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-2808
jcng@mailbox.sc.edu

In 2025, Dr. Jennifer Ng joined the University of South Carolina as Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. Prior to that, she spent 21 years at the University of Kansas where she was a professor and chair of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the School of Education and Human Sciences. She also held several senior leadership positions including Interim Vice Provost Diversity and Equity and Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Mentoring.

Throughout Jennifer's faculty career, she has explored how the social contexts of schooling affect educators' work in urban, rural, K-12, and higher education settings. Her scholarship reflects her commitments to interdisciplinary and community-engaged research, and she has been recognized for her teaching and service to the university and state of Kansas. Additionally, she was an invited member of the American Association of University's (AAU) Racial Equity Advisory Committee, a certified coach in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity's (NCFDD) Faculty Success Program, and the inaugural Associate Director for Faculty Development with the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA).

Before her career in higher education, Jennifer was a middle school English teacher in Houston, Texas. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Iowa and her doctorate in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



Veerle Keppens

Title: Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

517 Andy Holt Tower; 1331 Circle Park
Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-9784
vkeppens@utk.edu

Dr. Veerle Keppens is Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Keppens oversees and facilitates processes related to the recruitment, retention, evaluation, promotion, and professional development of all faculty, both tenure-track and non-tenure-track, with attention to promoting faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her responsibilities include oversight of: searching and hiring; annual performance and retention reviews; tenure and/or promotion; faculty development leaves and modified duty assignments.

Keppens' duties also include facilitating faculty development through Teaching Learning Innovation, the UTK Leadership Program, and the SEC Academic Leadership Program. Her office also supports department heads and school directors through learning and networking events, and oversees revisions to the Faculty Handbook. She works closely with the Faculty Senate and the UTK Commissions, and addresses faculty grievances and issues related to academic freedom.

She earned her bachelor's degree (1989) and Ph.D. (1995) in Physics from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). She joined the faculty in the materials science and engineering department at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2003. She served as the associate dean for faculty affairs from August 2012 till October 2016. In 2015, she became department head of Materials Science and Engineering, a position she held until 2024, when she assumed the position of vice provost.



Tasha Beretvas

Title: Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

110 Inner Campus Drive, Ste. 201
STOP G1000
Austin, TX 78712
512-471-4363
tberetvas@austin.utexas.edu

Tasha Beretvas is the senior vice provost (SVP) for faculty affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. In her senior vice provost role, Beretvas is responsible for institutional programs, policies and processes for everything related to faculty from hiring to retiring. Beretvas's SVP portfolio includes faculty development and faculty leadership development, faculty review, handling of faculty misconduct, and faculty H/R.

Beretvas earned a B.S. in Mathematics and Psychology from Duke University. She holds a PhD and master's degree in Measurement, Statistics and Research Design from the University of Washington in Seattle. She joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin in 2000 after completing her doctoral training. She is now the John L. and Elizabeth G. Hill Centennial professor of quantitative methods in the educational psychology department and holds a courtesy appointment in the psychiatry department. Before becoming an SVP, Beretvas served as the associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Education. Beretvas is a member of the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology and the Society for Multivariate Experimental Psychology. She has served as co-editor of the Research Synthesis Methods journal and Associate Editor for both the Journal of School Psychology and Journal of Educational Psychology. Beretvas' research and teaching focus on evaluation and innovation of meta-analysis methods. She has received multiple teaching awards and is committed to making statistics accessible to applied social and behavioral science researchers.



Heather Lench

Title: Senior Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs

4235 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
979-845-4274
hlench@tamu.edu

Dr. Heather Lench is Senior Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs at Texas A&M University, named to the newly created position in March 2022. As the senior associate vice president, she helps support faculty across their careers at the university. She has experience in strategic planning and initiatives, faculty hiring and retention, evaluation processes, mentoring programs, and data informed decision making. Lench has previously served as department head and associate head, among other administrative roles.

Lench is a Professor in Psychological and Brain Sciences, and her research focuses on how emotions and intuitions powerfully impact people's thinking and behavior. She has more than 70 publications, and she has received both federal and foundation support. Lench has been highlighted in outlets including NPR, BBC, and Wired. She received the American Psychological Association New Investigator Award, and she is currently a Society of Personality and Social Psychology fellow.

Lench earned her undergraduate degree from Florida State University, a master's from California State University, Fresno, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine.



Alan E. Wiseman

Title: Associate Provost of Strategic Projects;
Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of
Political Economy

Department of Political Science, PMB 0505
230 Appleton Place
Nashville TN 37203-5721
615-322-6241
alan.wiseman@vanderbilt.edu

Dr. Alan Wiseman is the Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Political Economy, and Professor of Political Science and Law at Vanderbilt University, where he serves as Associate Provost of Strategic Projects. Prior to taking his role as Associate Provost, he served as Chair of the Department of Political Science for six years.

Wiseman has research and teaching interests in American political institutions and positive political economy, focusing on legislative politics, regulation and bureaucratic policy making, and business-government relations. He is the co-author of *Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Congress: The Lawmakers*, and the author of *The Internet Economy: Access, Taxes, and Market Structure*; and he has published more than 30 scholarly articles in prominent peer-reviewed disciplinary outlets. He has received numerous research and teaching awards at Vanderbilt University, including the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award, the Robert H. Birkby Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from the Department of Political Science, and the Jeffery Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from the College of Arts and Science.

Wiseman is the co-director of the Center for Effective Lawmaking (www.thelawmakers.org), which is a joint research, education, and outreach initiative between Vanderbilt University and the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia that seeks to advance the generation, communication and use of new knowledge about the effectiveness of individual lawmakers and U.S. legislative institutions.

Wiseman holds a Ph.D in Business (Political Economics) and an M.A. in Political Science from Stanford University. He earned a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in History and Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the Vanderbilt University faculty in 2010, Wiseman served on the faculty at the Ohio State University, where he directed the undergraduate public policy minor in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He has also been a visiting faculty member at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University; and before entering the academy he was a visiting economic scholar with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.