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Academic Affairs Newsletter
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Academic Affairs

WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR!

I hope the new academic year has started well for everyone! The first day of classes is always much anticipated. Each year our new freshman bring hope and optimism for a brighter future. We also welcomed 34 new faculty colleagues who bring vibrancy and impressive credentials to Arkansas Tech. This newsletter lists all of our new faculty and includes biographical sketches for several new colleagues. Future editions will include additional new faculty introductions. Please join me in welcoming our new colleagues to Tech. I look forward to working together.

As we look ahead for the year, student success remains central to our work. We all have important roles and contributions to help our students and colleagues achieve their goals, and the role of fostering community among our colleagues and students is a significant factor in our efforts. In the near future, look for more information as we begin our search for a new Dean of the Graduate College and quicken our pace toward our 2020-2021 Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation. Thank you for your dedication to Arkansas Tech, our students, and our communities. Your work is inspiring and important. I wish everyone a great 2018-2019 academic year. Please let any of the Academic Affairs Staff or me know how we can assist in helping you move us forward. I wish you a great year!

Sincerely,
Phil Bridgmon
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs



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SAVE THE DATE

- Labor Day Holiday
Monday, September 4
- Last Day to Officially
Withdraw/Drop a Course
with 80% Reduction,
Thursday, September 6
- Deadline for Sabbatical
applications, Monday,
September 17

Green and Gold Cupboard

Personal Hygiene Drive,
September 1-30, 2018

ARKANSAS
TECH
UNIVERSITY



New Faculty 2018-2019

Arts and Humanities

Dr. Jeffrey Bright, Department Head and Professor of Music
 Summer Bruch, Department Head and Associate Professor of Art
 Dr. James Daughters, Instructor of Music/Assistant Band Director
 Dr. Rebecca Goldstein, Assistant Professor of Psychology
 Dr. Kelly Jones, Assistant Professor of History
 Dr. Geoff Kelley, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology
 Dr. Michael Ogu, Fulbright Scholar
 Dr. Michael Wang, Assistant Professor of English

Business

Dr. Ahmed Elkassabgi, Assistant Professor of Finance
 Dr. John Narcum, Assistant Professor of Marketing
 Dr. David Pumphrey, Assistant Professor of Business Data Analytics
 Christina Stolarz, Visiting Instructor of Legal Studies

Education

Dr. Steve Bounds, Professor of Educational Leadership
 Julie Bridges, Visiting Instructor of Curriculum and Instruction
 Dr. Sarah Gordon, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership
 Dr. Tara Hart, Visiting Assistant Professor of College Student Personnel
 Kathleen Myers, Visiting Instructor of Curriculum and Instruction
 Dr. Selena Sasser, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction
 Dr. David Smith, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction

Engineering and Applied Sciences

Dr. Judy Cezeaux, Dean of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Professor of Engineering
 Philip Huff, Instructor of Cybersecurity
 Dr. Randy Kelley, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering
 Lucas Moody, Instructor of Cybersecurity
 Dr. Luay Wahsheh, Department Head and Professor of Computer and Information Science
 Jacob Weidenfeller, Instructor of Electrical Engineering and Lab Director

Library

Charity Park, Assistant Librarian

Natural and Health Sciences

Leslie Michelle Bain, Instructor of Mathematics
 Chantelle Besley, Instructor of Mathematics
 Andrea Denk, Instructor of Mathematics
 Dr. Weijia Jia, Assistant Professor of Statistics
 Dr. Kenneth Ngale, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry
 Dr. Mrigendra Rajput, Assistant Professor of Biology
 Dr. Clement Wong, Assistant Professor of Physics

**Highlighting
New Faculty
Bios Monthly!**

New Faculty Highlighted

Part One

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

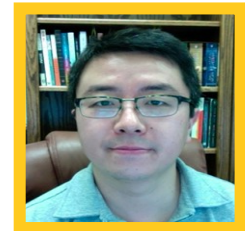
Behavioral Sciences



Dr. Geoff Kelley, originally from CA, I came to Tech from Athens, GA where I completed my Ph.D at the University of GA. I study the social and political dynamics of natural resource use and biodiversity conservation across the greater Big Bend region of the post 9/11 U.S. - Mexico borderlands.

English & World Languages

Michael X. Wang received his Ph.D. in literature from Florida State University and his M.F.A. in fiction from Purdue. His fiction won an AWP intro award and has appeared in *The England Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Prink of the Spindle*, and *Witness*, among others. His story, "Further News of Defeat," was selected as a 2016 notable story of the year by the *Best American Fiction Anthology*, and his chapbook, *A Minor Revolution*, was published by *Day One* and is available on Amazon. Currently, he is in the process of publishing his first novel, tentatively titled *Lost in the Long March*.



History and Political Science



Kelly Houston Jones is a native of Conway County who received her Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas in 2014. Her major research focus right now is the history of slavery in Arkansas. For the past three years, she has held an assistant professor post at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Jones is excited about returning to the river valley to reconnect with family and take part in all the outdoors activities that the area has to offer.

Michael Ihuoma OGU, Ph.D. is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar-in-Residence (2018/2019) in the Department of History and Political Science, Arkansas Tech University. He is originally from Abia State in Nigeria, West Africa, the first of three sons in his family. He received his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Babcock University in Ogun State, Nigeria. All of his teaching career has been at Babcock University, where he began as a Graduate Assistant in 2010, and has continued to rise through the ranks. His research interests are in the areas of international relations; particularly African Security studies, Governance, and Arms Trade and Trafficking. He is married to his friend, Ruby.



Music



Dr. Jim Daughters begins his tenure at Arkansas Tech after teaching 17 years in nearly every role a band conductor may experience. His success spans middle school through university/professional wind band conducting, and is a nationally renowned marching band designer and instructor. Daughters has taught at Xavier University, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and is currently the conductor of the Fillmore Wind Band, Cincinnati's professional wind ensemble. He has twice been nominated and selected as a national semi-finalist for the GRAMMY® Awards National Music Educator of the Year, and has received multiple teacher of the year honors from school and state organizations. His ensembles have performed across the nation, per recorded audition, for several prestigious events such as the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL, and the American Music Celebration at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. At Tech, Dr. Daughters will teach music education courses as well as conducting athletic and concert bands.

(Continued on page 4)



Music Continued



Dr. Jeff Bright is head of the Department of Music and Professor of Music at Arkansas Tech University. Prior to his appointment at ATU, Dr. Bright served on the faculties of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky as well as Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Dr. Bright's primary duties while at WKU included directing all athletic bands as well as the Symphonic Band, coordinating the graduate music program as well as teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in music education. Prior to his appointment at WKU, Dr. Bright held the Director of Bands position at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he was responsible for all band activities as well as teaching low brass applied lessons. His experience spans thirty-one years. High school ensembles under his direction consistently received superior ratings and best in class awards. Dr. Bright has been recognized for his teaching excellence by the Kentucky Music Educators, being chosen as the Third District College/University teacher of the year in 2010 and also by his WKU colleagues

who selected him to receive the Potter College of Arts and Letters Teaching Excellence Award for the 2012-2013 school year.

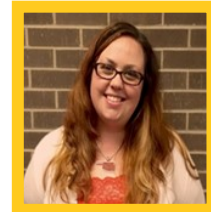
Dr. Bright's creative activities have led to presentations at both national and state National Association for Music Education conventions as well as at College Band Director's National Association athletic band symposiums. In addition, he is a regular contributor to the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series and has published music education research in *Contributions to Music Education*. Dr. Bright continues to maintain an active schedule as an adjudicator and clinician in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Bright holds bachelors and masters degrees in music education from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in music education from the University of Oklahoma. His professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu Bandmasters Fraternity, American School Band Directors Association, College Band Directors National Association, College Music Society, Music Educators National Conference, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Dr. Bright is married to his wife Cindy. They have two daughters Sarah, a speech pathologist with the Rogers Public School District, and Rachel, a creative writing major at Arkansas Tech University.

EDUCATION

Center for Leadership and Learning

Dr. Sarah Gordon holds her Ph.D. in Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics (REMS) from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gordon worked in Student Affairs at Oklahoma State for eight years and spent three years as the Director of University Assessment and Testing at OSU. She was also a faculty member at OSU before coming to Arkansas Tech. Dr. Gordon has taught courses and published work in the areas of program evaluation, research methods, and assessment. Her research interests include perceptions of evaluation and assessment in P-12 and higher education, general education assessment, and diversity as a concept and learning outcome.



College Student Personnel



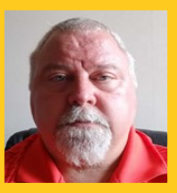
Dr. Tara M. Hart B.S. (Wayne State College – Wayne, Nebraska); M.S. (University of Nebraska-Omaha – Omaha, Nebraska); Ed.D. (Hardin-Simmons University – Abilene, Texas)

Dr. Hart will be teaching counseling and higher education courses in the M.S. program for the College Student Personnel department. She has worked in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management for 18 years in the areas of admissions, residence life, student involvement, student center management, student retention and transition, and dean of students. Her previous teaching experiences includes courses in learning strategies, leadership, social and cultural influences, higher education, and counseling.



ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Mechanical Engineering



Dr. Randy Kelley, Visiting Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering received his Ph.D in Nuclear and Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University. He grew up in Hereford, Texas but has lived all over Texas, Kansas, and Pennsylvania before coming to Arkansas.

NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Mathematics

Leslie Bain is a mother of 3 boys, ages 12, 14 and 16. They are attending Russellville schools. Her youngest son, Jordan, plays trumpet. The middle son, Joshua, plays tuba and attended Arkansas Tech Band Camp this summer. The oldest son, Jonathan, is enrolled at the Arkansas Tech Career Center in the Construction program. Her husband is a 3rd grade teacher at Center Valley Elementary. She recently moved from Poteau, Oklahoma on the southeast border of Arkansas where she taught at Carl Albert State College for the last 11 years. Her family enjoys camping and looking forward to many relaxing days at the lake. She loves math and is passionate about education. She is excited to join Arkansas Tech where student success is a #1 priority.



Green and Gold Cupboard

Personal Hygiene Drive
September 1–30, 2018

*Please help our
Tech Families in Need*

Drop Boxes are located in
Campus Buildings

Most Needed Items

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Dish Soap
- Conditioner
- Hair Care
- Laundry Soap
- Toothpaste
- Face Soap
- Paper Towels
- Tooth Brush
- Body Lotion
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Needs
- Shaving Products
- Cleaning Products