

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Welcome Back!

On behalf of everyone in Academic Affairs, I want to wish you a successful and fulfilling new academic year. These are exciting times with the campus gearing up to begin the implementation of the strategic plan. I appreciate all of the efforts that went into the creation of this plan and I ask for your help in making it a reality.

As we begin, we need to remember that the most important resource necessary for making the strategic plan a success is our human capital (faculty, staff, students, and alumni), a resource in which Tech is rich. When I hear alumni and students describe Tech as a wonderful place to be, they are describing an experience that is reflective of your dedication and enthusiasm. At Tech, we are blessed with the challenge to serve many students whose support system for success in college is limited and you rise to this challenge every day. When you placed student success as a central focus of the strategic plan, you raised the stakes to do even more with the limited resources we have and I am thrilled to be part of the team as we tackle this challenge together.

I look forward to us working collaboratively to improve all aspects of the students' experience at Tech. One of the most important pillars for enhancing such experience is for all of us, as faculty and staff, to provide a support system for students through informative advising and mentoring. This goes beyond class scheduling to touch on career paths and societal impacts of what we teach. Advising and mentoring may occur in every interaction with a student we have, whether during office hours, the hallways or the classrooms.

Finding innovative ways to teach and engage students, to update the curricula, and to introduce new, timely programs are always fulfilling challenges which require us to be observant, understanding, and entrepreneurial. Fear of failure should not hold us back. Collaborative efforts and thinking outside the box combined with systemic analysis and inclusive discussions can produce wonders. Thank you for all your efforts in making Tech a place synonymous with innovation and student success.



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Departmental Updates

College of Business

“Meet the Firms” Event

The Accounting program’s “Meet the Firms” event is a way for accounting students and local accounting firms to network with each other for potential student employment. This year, the event will be at Lake Point Conference Center on Tuesday, September 20th. A light dinner starts at 5:30pm for representatives and then students will visit with firms from 6:15-8:00pm. Accounting firms may register at <http://www.atu.edu/business/meetfirms.php>

College of Education

Avatars

The Avatars are coming to the College of Education in September at Crabaugh and the Center for Leadership and Learning. The use of technology to provide teaching simulations for the preparation of teachers has been under development for the past ten years funded by the Gates Foundation through the University of Central Florida. The use of the avatars provide teacher preparation programs with a technology to provide interactive teaching simulations for use in the classroom. Students in the MAT (Master of Art, Teaching) and the MTL (Master of Education, Teaching, Learning and Leadership) non-traditional teachers programs will experience this technology in their classes.

College of E-Tech

BPS Student Saves Millions

Jacob Garrett has worked at AT&T since 1999 in various positions and is currently a Senior Technical Process and Quality Manager. For his Capstone project (Fall 2015), he researched and developed a recognition program that would give incentives to AT&T employees that meet the objectives for productivity. He projected that the program, entitled “You Achieve”, would pay for itself by having more employees meet the objectives which would help in meeting the overall company’s goals and objectives. His Capstone Project proposal was adopted by AT&T and the savings for the first quarter of 2016 was \$67.4 million and projected to be a savings of over \$178 million at the end of 2016!

Office of Information Systems

Beware of Phishing Emails!

Phishing attacks are on the rise. Please scrutinize all emails. If you have any questions concerning the possibility of an email being a phishing scheme or to report any suspicious email contact the Campus Support Center at 479-968-0646 or campussupport@atu.edu. For additional information visit the following sites:

General Information: <https://ois.atu.edu/information-security/phishing/>

Be Aware: <https://ois.atu.edu/category/data-security-awareness/>

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

New Faculty Academy

Starting this academic year, incoming tenure-track faculty members are included in a pilot program called the New Faculty Academy. While the majority of this program will focus on innovative pedagogy, the topics of leadership, service, grant writing and scholarship will also be included. The weekly meetings will be led by a rotating selection of ATU faculty, administrators and staff. This type of programming will be expanded in the near future for established faculty members and adjunct faculty. More information will be included in future CETL newsletters.

Upcoming Events:

September 14, 3pm-5pm, Young Ballroom: Tenure and Promotion Workshop

·3pm-4pm will feature Dr. Jeff Woods discussing the tenure and promotion process.

·4pm-5pm will be a drop-in event allowing faculty to see the portfolios of faculty who received tenure and/or promotion in the 2015-2016 academic year.

September 29, 1pm-3pm, Doc Bryan Room 242: Student Services Fair

·This will be a drop-in event allowing faculty to learn about the wide variety of programs offered by Student Services and explore how these can be utilized in their teaching practice.

International and Multicultural Student Services

International Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner

The IMSSO staff would like to cordially invite all international faculty and staff to join us for our 2nd annual International Education Week Appreciation Dinner. Please join us at the Lake Point Conference Center at 6:00 pm, November 14 for dinner and good company!

Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives

Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives (OSPUI)

The Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives (OSPUI) has been created to assist the faculty and staff with grant and research opportunities and academic/industry partnerships. The office is comprised of Dr. Rick Massengale (Associate Vice President for Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives), Greg Crouch (Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, Pre-Award) and Tiffany Henry (Coordinator of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives). Located in Administration 207, the office strives to be a useful resource to help find project funding sources, assist with grant writing and proposal submission, and support collaboration efforts both within the university and the greater community. For more information, please contact Greg at 880-4329 (gcrouch@atu.edu) or Tiffany at 880-4327 (thenry1@atu.edu).

Introducing Our New Faculty

The following faculty members will join Arkansas Tech University for the 2016-17 academic year:

- Dr. Turaj Ashuri, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering - tashuri@atu.edu
- Dr. Douglas Barron, Assistant Professor of Biology - dbarron@atu.edu
- Dr. Bruce Chehroudi, Department Head and Professor of Mechanical Engineering - bchehroudi@atu.edu
- Lisa DuBose, Visiting Instructor of Nursing - ldubose@atu.edu
- Dr. Marilyn Duran, Associate Professor of Nursing - mduran1@atu.edu
- Dr. Geoffrey Ecker, Assistant Professor of Biology - gecker@atu.edu
- Dr. Fatima Ferguson, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction (spring, 2016) - fferguson@atu.edu
- Dr. Jacob Grosskopf, Assistant Professor of Geology - jgrosskopf@atu.edu
- Dr. Caroline Hackerott, Assistant Professor of Emergency Management (spring, 2016) - chackerott@atu.edu
- Holli Hall, Visiting Instructor of Biology - hhall@atu.edu
- Dr. Martha (Nan) Harrell, Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Science - mharrell3@atu.edu
- Gabriele Haulmark, Visiting Instructor of German - ghaulmark@atu.edu
- Latasha Holt-Bocksnick, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction (spring, 2016) - lholtbocksnick@atu.edu
- Dr. Muhammad Khan, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering - mkhan3@atu.edu
- Jessica Mongeon, Visiting Assistant Professor of Art - jmongeon@atu.edu
- Dr. Justin Moss, Assistant Professor of Psychology - jmoss12@atu.edu
- Dr. Jeanine Myers, Department Head and Associate Professor of Mathematics - jmyers32@atu.edu
- Dr. Catherine Nichols, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership - cnichols14@atu.edu
- Dr. Terry Nichols, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership - tnichols5@atu.edu
- Dr. John O'Connor, Associate Professor of Health and Physical Education - joconnor1@atu.edu
- Dr. Thomas J. (TJ) Perry, Assistant Professor of Music - tperry7@atu.edu

Introducing Our New Faculty

- Dr. Kevin Schoelz, Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics - kschoelz@atu.edu
- Dustin Simpson, Assistant Professor of Art - dsimpson5@atu.edu
- Dr. Michael Smith, Visiting Assistant Professor of History - msmith145@atu.edu
- Dr. Anita Arwen Taylor, Assistant Professor of English - ataylor52@atu.edu
- Jordan Thibodeaux, Assistant Professor of Psychology - jthibodeaux@atu.edu
- Dr. Jorista van der Merwe, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Science (spring, 2016) - jvandermerwe@atu.edu
- John Walker, Visiting Instructor of Agriculture - jwalker46@atu.edu
- Daniel Warwick, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology - dwarwick@atu.edu
- Dr. Melinda Wilkins, Director, Health Information Management and Professor of Health Informatics - mwilkins@atu.edu
- Matthew Young, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering - myoung@atu.edu

The VPAA Wants to Hear from You!

The Vice President for Academic Affairs invites you to send your ideas, thoughts and comments to <http://www.atu.edu/academics/feedback.php> . Any ideas submitted are completely anonymous unless the submitter chooses to provide an email address.

Response to Feedback from VPAA:

In response to an inquiry about the degree in Chemistry Education: The Arkansas Department of Education changed the licensure requirements from a single licensure in physical science and earth science education to two separate licensures in chemistry education and physics education. In response, Arkansas Tech University took a letter of notification in fall, 2015, to our Board of Trustees and to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in which we split the physical science education licensure into two licensures: Chemistry and Physics. Therefore, even though this looks like a “new” degree, this was really a reorganization of an existing licensure into two licensures in order to meet ADE requirements.