

Academic Affairs

A BROAD MODEL FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship plays an important role in how institutions remain current and impact our society. It provides the university community as a whole with opportunities to participate in relevant and timely high impact activities. Personally, I am a strong believer in a broad model for scholarship that captures the variety of intellectual endeavors we engage in on a daily basis in a teaching institution. The broad model is especially relevant in light of the recently approved strategic plan for Arkansas Tech University, which emphasizes “Student Success” and “Academic Excellence” in many of its goals. In 1997, Boyer¹ proposed a reconsideration of scholarship to include four different types:

Scholarship of Discovery: This is the type of scholarship closest aligned with the traditional understanding of scholarship. It is focused on finding new knowledge, the discovery of new information and models, and sharing discoveries through scholarly publications.

Scholarship of Integration: This type of scholarship is focused on working closer to the boundaries of different disciplines and bringing those different disciplines together identifying new trends and integrating existing knowledge in new ways.

Scholarship of Application: This type of scholarship is focused on discovering ways that new knowledge can be used to address societal problems and solving real world problems.

Scholarship of Teaching: This scholarship is focused on the search for innovative approaches and identifying best practices in learning, development of students’ skills and dissemination of knowledge. It emphasizes learning outcomes and relevant teaching practices, and also highlights making teaching and learning discoveries publicly available for others to view, discuss, and provide critical review through presentations, peer-reviewed papers, workshops, and seminars.

I look forward to working with all faculty, staff, administrators, and students as we continue to engage in diverse endeavors encompassing all types of scholarship.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.

References:

1. Boyer, E. L. (1997). *Scholarship reconsidered: Priorities of the professoriate*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass



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SAVE THE DATE

- Family Day and Open House
Saturday, October 1
- Feedback for Vision and Mission
statement drafts due
Saturday, October 1
- Professional Development and
Faculty Research Grant
application deadline
Monday, October 3
- Reception for David S. Smith,
Feral Garden II artist,
Wednesday, October 5
- Deadline for degree audit
Friday, October 7
- Mid-term
Wednesday, October 12
- Mid-term grades due
Saturday, October 15
- Fall Break, Thursday–Friday,
October 20-21



*“Someone’s
sitting in the shade
today because
someone planted
a tree a long
time ago”
-Warren Buffett*

Student Support Services

Student Support Services (SSS) is a TRiO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education with an annual budget of \$220,000, serving 140 students. The mission of the program is to assist and retain eligible students in pursuit of a bachelor's degree and ensure good academic standing of the participants it serves. Participants of the TRiO SSS program are low-income, first-generation college students, and/or students with disabilities.

The ATU SSS program is currently at the maximum 140 student capacity and has several more interested students on a waiting list.

For 2015-2016, SSS student participants received \$574,240.88 in scholarship funds, 27 graduated with bachelor's degrees, and even more are on track to graduate in the 2016-17 academic year.

The SSS graduation rate is 51% for the first cohort year of 2010-2011.

Student Success

LEADERSHIP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

On September 12, 2016, Dr. Beth Giroir enthusiastically embraced her new role as Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Success Initiatives in the Office of Academic Affairs. Dr. Giroir comes to Academic Affairs after several years of working in Student Services, as well as having teaching experience in Professional Studies and the College Student Personnel master's program. Along with Dr. Giroir, several Student Services programs have been moved to Academic Affairs. The Bridge to Excellence Program, the Doc Bryan Tutoring Center (which includes tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic coaching, and several other services) and Norman Career Services join a growing list of student success initiatives in Academic Affairs. Although these changes have only recently been implemented, many services have already been expanded to provide additional services

to students that will help them become successful in their academic endeavors. For example, the capacity for tutoring and supplemental instruction have been expanded and a graduate assistant has been added to help connect with students who display academic success risk factors and who do not keep appointments with their B2E mentors. Please continue to encourage your students to use the services that are offered in these different areas, as these are great ways to provide your students with the additional enhancements they may need for their success and reaching their ultimate goal of graduation. If you have any questions, need additional information regarding the aforementioned services, or if you have a suggestion for additional services we should offer, please contact Dr. Giroir at 964-0583 ext. 2606 or via email at bgiroir@atu.edu

STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTERS

The Student Success Center, located in Doc Bryan, offers several academic resources, all free for students enrolled at Arkansas Tech University. These services include Peer Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Academic Coaching, and Praxis 1 workshops. Students are welcome to make tutoring appointments or walk-in to the Doc Bryan Tutoring Center on Sunday through Thursday (the Fall 2016 tutoring schedule can be found at atu.edu/tutoring/). Faculty may now also request tutoring attendance reports for particular courses through the center's new AccuSQL software that links with Banner. For more information about attendance reporting or the Center's other services, please contact Dr. Elishia Fairfield at student.success@atu.edu.





SPUI Connection

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES (SPUI)

We are available to support all faculty endeavors, including research projects and collaboration ideas. Please give us a call if you need help in finding external funding sources, proposal writing, or creating a budget for your project. We are also here to help connect you with working partners both within the university, industry and the community at large. No idea is too small and there is no minimum funding amount required for us to help. For more information please contact Tiffany Henry (thenry1@atu.edu; 880-4327) or Greg Crouch (gcrouch@atu.edu; 880-4329).

Upcoming research opportunities:

NEH: Collaborative Research

Proposal Due: December 7, 2016

Interested Parties: **Humanities faculty**

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants>

NSF: Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources

Proposal Track #2 Due Date: January 11, 2017 - Development and Implementation

Tiers for Engaged Student Learning & Institution and Community Transformation

Interested Parties: **STEM faculty, Education faculty**

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505082

NSF: Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program

Proposal Due Date: April 20, 2017

Interested Parties: **STEM faculty**

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257

NSF: Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Proposal Due: September 5, 2017

Interested Parties: **STEM faculty, Education faculty**

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5733

Congratulations!

Public Safety Chief Josh McMillian received a \$17,656 equipment grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Grants, Gifts, and Sponsored Research Committee

Do you have an idea for a project but aren't sure where to start? Come meet with the Grants, Gifts, and Sponsored Research Committee (GGSRC) and discuss your idea with representatives from the Budget Office, Advancement, and SPUI. We are a one-stop shop to answer your questions or point you in the best direction to get the resources you need to help make your project a success. We meet every Thursday at 1:00pm in the Administration Building, Room 103. Contact Tiffany for more information.

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College Highlights

NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Leslie Krohn is a Nursing instructor at our Ozark campus and in a DNP program in Nursing at the University of Missouri with a focus on dean's level leadership in academia. Jeff Robertson is helping mentor her this semester as part of her residency program. A special thank you to the Deans' Council for their inclusion of Leslie as a guest.

Newt Hilliard has been awarded an Arkansas-INBRE Pilot project grant entitled "Ht. neapolitanus as a nonpathogenic model for a unique acid tolerance response". The ~\$50,000 grant will run for the 2016-2017 academic year and support investigation of regulatory periplasmic elements of microbial metabolism.

Jeff Robertson has been accepted into the Peer Review Corps for the Higher Learning Commission and will attend their annual training in October.

John Jackson was recently published in association with the American Fisheries Society Symposium in Bethesda Maryland. The publication, entitled "The lower Mississippi River floodplain ecosystem: current status and future potential", will appear in the book he also co-edited entitled "Fisheries resources, environment, and conservation in the Mississippi and Yangtze (Changjiang) River basins".

Tonya Mays, MSHI, RHIA, CCS, was elected as President-Elect of the Arkansas Health Information Management Association. With this responsibility, she will chair the Nominating Committee and serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee for Arkansas. On the national level, Ms. Mays was appointed to the House of Delegates Leadership Task Force and will represent our state at the national convention in Baltimore, MD.

Charlie Gagen and Mariusz Gajewski both participated in the new Summer grant initiative from Academic Affairs. Dr. Gagen created a proposal suitable for submission to NSF entitled "New REU Site: Aquatic Ecology: Connections in the Natural State." Dr. Gajewski will be submitting his proposal entitled, "Cancer Cells Growth Inhibition by Targeting xC-obl," to Arkansas INBRE for funding.

Bruce Tedford co-authored a paper entitled "Common Denominators of Swainson's Warbler Breeding Habitat in Bottomland Hardwood Forest in the White River Watershed in Southeastern Arkansas" which is published in the Southeastern Naturalist journal.

Doug Barron is teaching an environmental science course as an ATU Mobile Fellow with the iPad Expeditionary Force this semester along with Susan Self, Jennifer Coleman, Shaana Escobar and Shelly Daily who are also teaching with iPads in all courses involving the entire incoming level 1 Nursing student cohort.

ATU Hosts Meeting to Discuss New Science Standards

The Arkansas Tech University STEM Institute along with the Arkansas Department of Education hosted a meeting for ATU science faculty to address the new Arkansas Science Standards for K-12 and the Arkansas High School science courses on Thursday, September 22. Some area K-12 administrators and teachers participated in the meeting. Presenters included Michele Snyder and Cathy Mackey (ADE), Stephen Brodie (UAFS STEM Education Center), Cindy Bunch (ATU STEM Institute) and Jim Musser (ATU Physical Sciences).

Additionally, Dr. Jim Musser has been serving for the past two years on a team of Arkansas science educators on behalf of the Arkansas Department of Education writing the Arkansas Science Standards for grades 9-12 and creating Arkansas High School science courses. He is currently working with ADE giving presentations to various stakeholders about the standards and the courses.



GRADUATE COLLEGE

Development Grant Opportunity for Graduate Students

The Graduate College has funds available for graduate students to apply for professional development and/or scholarly activity support. Grant applications are reviewed and awarded by the Graduate College, with a maximum award of \$250. Following the September 1 review cycle, over \$600 was awarded to graduate students in Emergency Management, Teaching English as a Second Language, and College Student Personnel to support their professional development and research interests. The deadline for the next review cycle will be November 1. Please contact Dr. Chris Giroir (cgiroir@atu.edu) for more information.

Out of State Tuition Waivers

The Graduate College recently gained approval to begin awarding a limited number of “Out of State” tuition reduction waivers for graduate students in specified graduate programs (Engineering, Information Technology, and Emergency Management and Homeland Security). Promotion of the competitive process was launched through the Graduate College’s social media, at recruitment fairs, and through the recruiting efforts of the International and Multicultural Student Services Office.

eTECH

Faculty Selected for Leadership Arkansas

Tennille Lasker-Scott, Assistant Professor of Professional Studies, was selected to participate in the Leadership Arkansas program, sponsored by the Arkansas State Chamber Foundation, Inc. The nine-month program is designed to present the opportunities and challenges of Arkansas to this uniquely diverse group of leaders. Over the course of the program, the participants will explore the following topics: Arkansas’s workforce; government and military; energy, natural resources and industrial development; economic development, infrastructure and agriculture; education; regional development; and leadership and planning. Dr. Lasker-Scott joined the Arkansas Tech faculty in Fall 2015.

BUSINESS

College to Career Conference

The College to Career conference hosted by the College of Business will be held Thursday November 10 from 9:30am-1:00pm in various locations and will involve ATU alumni David Bartlett (Simmons Bank) as the keynote speaker and panelists of recent graduates in the COB programs talking with students.

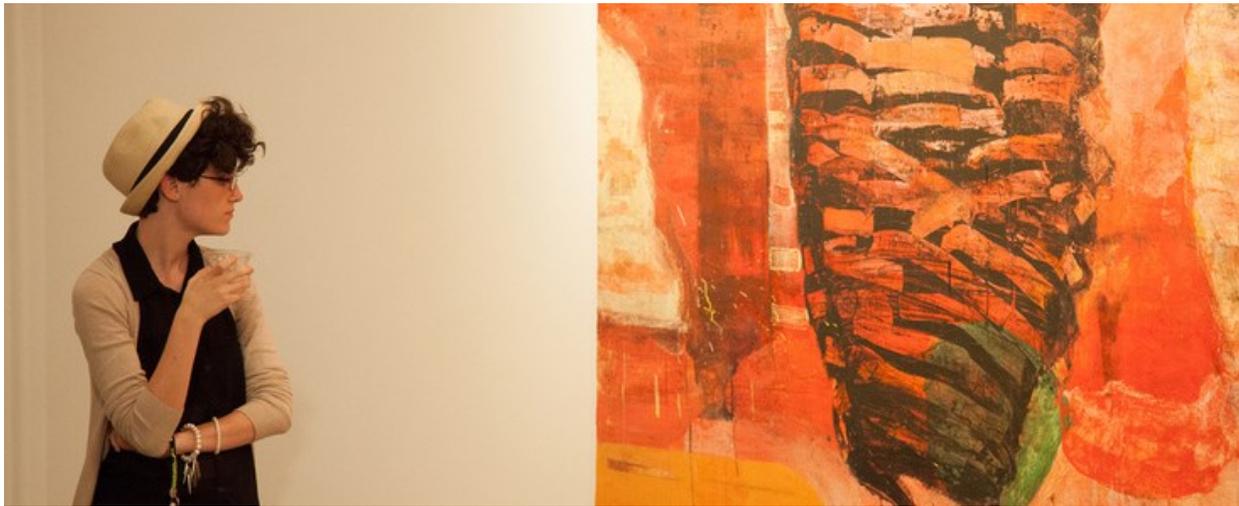
Meet the Firms

“Meet the Firms” was held at the Lake Point Conference Center on September 20 and involved Junior and Senior accounting students meeting in groups with a dozen firms around the region, looking for new hires.

Graduate student of the month

The Graduate Student Council has selected Kaleen Colling, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in English, for outstanding leadership. She is very active with her role as a graduate assistant in the Department of English, and is also active in the local community.





ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Faculty Accomplishments

Neal Harrington will present works at the Northern National Art Competition, juried (1 work), Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI, September 26 – November 4. His work will also be a part of the 2016 Pacific States Biennial North American Printmaking exhibition, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Campus Center Gallery.

David Mudrinich will be showing works at the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum, RAM ANNUAL INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION: The Art of Transcendence, July 8 - October 16, 2016.

David Eshelman worked with Ardith Morris, Jena Harris, Thomas Pennington and others to organize September Shakespeare event. His musical, Little War in Little Rock, was featured in the Arkansas New Play Festival in Fayetteville. Union Equity actors from NYC participated in the production. His work “Bathing in Liminality: Soaking Up History in Hot Springs, Arkansas,” was accepted for publication in the fall 2017 issue of Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism and “Teaching Audio Playwriting: Pedagogy of Drama Podcasting,” was accepted for publication in Teaching Artist Journal “Butch Gardens: Tumblr Plays and Online Personae,” was accepted for publication in Liminalites.

Micheal Tarver’s work entitled “The Spanish Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia, ed. with Emily Slape, 2 volumes (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016)” was recently published. Upon completion of this project, Dr. Tarver immediately announced the launching of a new ABC-CLIO, 4-volume historical encyclopedia, Daily Lives of Women in World History.

Michael Rogers’ paper on Hannah Arendt and John Dewey entitled “Countering the Inherent Authoritarian Tendencies of Government: A Model of Civic Cultivation for Public Administration” is slated to be published in an upcoming special edition of Administrative Theory and Practice.

Norman Art Gallery Exhibit: Feral Garden II by David S. Smith

The Norman Art Gallery will display the work of David S. Smith, a sculpture exhibit entitled Feral Garden II. The exhibit will be available to the campus and community October 3 through 28, with a reception for the artist on Wednesday, October 5 at 2:30pm in the Norman Art Gallery. Mr. Smith will be present at the reception to speak about his work and answer questions.

David Scott Smith is predominantly a sculptor and a mold-maker who is currently intrigued by how translucent porcelain and light articulate the form and surface of familiar objects. His work relies heavily on his personal interest in objects and textures found in nature or combined with elements of nature. He is able to find abundant beauty while exploring ideas of excess and consumption. Smith’s sense of humor was cultivated while working, as a youth, with his father in their family taxidermy shop, and he enjoys utilizing this humor throughout his work.

For more information about the Norman Art Gallery, including the 2016-17 schedule, please visit atu.edu/art/gallery.php

Broadcast Journalism Students Enter the Field

Eleven Broadcast Journalism majors successfully completed summer internships at AETN-TV (PBS) in Conway, KATV (ABC) IN Little Rock and KTHV (CBS) in Little Rock.

Daniela Montgomery (Journalism/Broadcast) began working as a senior evening news producer at KING-5-TV (NBC) in Seattle, Washington.

Xin Chen (Journalism/Broadcast) began working this week as an evening news video editor at KATV (ABC) in Little Rock.

John Gilliam (Journalism/Broadcast/MMJR) is now a news producer and videographer at WBFF-TV (FOX) in Baltimore, Maryland.



ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

D3: Deleting the Digital Divide – The Arkansas Computer Science Education Leadership Summit 3.0, sponsored by the Arkansas STEM Coalition, Computer Science Teachers' Association, ATU's STEM Institute and the Arkansas Department of Education, will be held on Thursday, October 20 hosted by Arkansas Tech University and the Computer and Information Science Department.

Caroline Hackerott will be accompanying the ATU student members of the International Association of Emergency Managers to the Annual IAEM Conference October 16-19 and ATU students and faculty will lead the Dardanelle Disaster Preparedness Expo on October 25.

Carl Greco and Jim Reasoner of the Electrical Engineering Department presented the paper: Edward Carl Greco, Daniel W. Bullock and James D. Reasoner. "Affordable Experiential Learning System for Electric Circuits Laboratory." ASEE Midwest Conference, Manhattan, KS, 2016. Dr. Greco also served as the chair-elect/awards chair for American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Midwest section through September 30, and on October 1, he will take over as the chair of the section for a year. The Midwest Section includes universities in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Muhammad Khan is pursuing research on structural health monitoring of piping networks using acoustic signals. His research paper on "An Acoustics Based Approach to Mitigate Sewer System Overflows" has been accepted at the 2016 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technologies Conference (GHTC-2016) to be held in Seattle, Washington from October 13 – 16, 2016.

Bruce Chehroudi was an invited to speak this August at the Army Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, giving a three-day lecture on liquid atomization, sprays and fuel injection and acting as a consultant to one the project related to combustion engines.

Monty Smith, Robert Fithen and Jim Reasoner will present a paper entitled "A Proposed Hardware in the Loop Gimbal Platform that Supports an Applied Graduate Controls Course" at the American Institute of Aeronautic and Astronautic (AIAA) conference in January 2017 in Grapevine, TX.

Turaj Ashuri co-authored a paper entitled "Integrated Layout and Support Structure Optimization for Offshore Wind Farm Design", which will be published in the Journal of Physics.

EDUCATION

The College of Education will be "Celebrating 90 Years of Excellence" as part of the October 29 Homecoming festivities. A Ribbon Cutting on the third floor of Crabaugh will be at 12:30pm for the new Paperless Classroom, Student Support Services, and Partnership Offices. At 1:00pm, a 90th Anniversary Group photo of Education Alumni, Faculty, and Students will be taken outside Crabaugh Hall. Celebration Cake will be served at the Party at the Plaza immediately following the picture at Centennial Plaza.

Alene Bynum, Russellville School District Superintendent, and Eric James, Chief Educational Investigator at the Arkansas Department of Education, both presented to ATU education majors during the month of September.

Emergency Management Programs Receive National Acclaim

Emergency Management Degree Program Guide (EMDPG), an online resource for individuals researching educational options in emergency management and homeland security rated the Master of Science in Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arkansas Tech as the best online emergency management master degree in the United States for 2016-17.

Arkansas Tech is ranked No. 2 on the list of top 10 online Emergency Management Bachelor Degrees for 2016-17.

"True joy comes when you inspire, encourage, and guide someone else on a path that benefits him or her" - Zig Ziglar





Announcements

OPEN HOUSE ON FAMILY DAY

Family Day will be Saturday, October 1 on the Arkansas Tech campus. Events will include a Jazz Brunch, Open House, and Party at the Plaza. For a full schedule, please visit atu.edu/parents/familyday.php

Tech Open House is a preview day that gives high school juniors, seniors, transfer and undeclared ATU students the chance to gather information about the academic programs and student life offerings at Arkansas Tech. Registration is not required for students to attend. Open House runs from 10:00am until 12:00pm in the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. Faculty and staff who are participating in Open House should arrive no later than 9:30am.

A new event has also been added to the day. Admissions and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will host Diversity Focus following Open House. Prospective students attending Diversity Focus were required to register in advance. Diversity Focus runs from 12:00pm until 3:00pm in the W.O. Young Ballroom and aims to create a campus environment and culture that celebrates inclusiveness and multiculturalism.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT DRAFTS

The Board of Trustees has drafted new mission and vision statements for the university, in conjunction with the newly adopted strategic plan. We encourage faculty and staff to submit feedback on these drafts online (atu.edu/strategicplanning) or by email (strategicplanning@atu.edu) by or before October 1.

Proposed Vision Statement:

Arkansas Tech University: where students succeed, innovation thrives, and communities flourish

Proposed Mission Statement:

Arkansas Tech University is dedicated to student success, access, and excellence as a responsive campus community providing opportunities for progressive intellectual development and civic engagement. Embracing and expanding upon its technological traditions, Tech inspires and empowers members of the community to achieve their goals while striving for the betterment of Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

Family Day

Saturday, October 1

