

# Academic Affairs

## COMMITMENT COUNTS

Since joining Arkansas Tech, I have been making regular visits to departments in an effort to better understand Tech's culture and the needs of the various departments. During a recent visit, I was asked by a faculty member what at Tech impressed me the most. What I have observed over the past few months pointed to a palpable theme at Tech, a quality which helped ATU become the great institution it is today and the quality we are building on to achieve our strategic goals. This quality is the *commitment* among all stakeholders to the future of this institution and for making it the best it can be. Focusing on academic affairs, the commitment of the faculty and academic staff to the success of our students is very clear. This commitment stems from a deep understanding of what higher education can do for individual students, their families and for the region and state.

Each one of us at Tech has personal stories that transcend the barriers of culture and time, demonstrating how education has changed the life of someone close. For me personally, it is the story of my father, the son of a farmer who had never gone to school and became among the first in the village to ever attend college. Despite all odds, he became a professor of economics. For over 40 years, he has been making a difference in the lives of not only his family, but also those of countless undergraduate and graduate students. At Tech, we have a chance to help write more of these life-changing stories for our students, many of whom rely solely on us and our commitment to them.

One of the programs that has reflected the commitment of the faculty and staff is the Bridge to Excellence (B2E) program. The B2E program is a voluntary program that aims at supporting the freshman cohort through informal mentoring of the students. In an effort to enhance the program, we are currently focused on reaching out early to the admitted students to establish an early connection even prior to arriving on campus. This is especially important since surveys show that many students who drop out in the first few weeks of their academic life cite the feeling of not belonging. The B2E program is one of the tools that can be used to help students establish a connection, and faculty willing to volunteer for the program are highly appreciated (<https://www.atu.edu/b2e/index.php>).

Faculty members, especially those teaching freshman classes, play a significant role in helping students make a smooth transition to college life. Many times students are not aware of the resources available to help them cope with academic, personal or financial challenges. Early academic assessment by the faculty member can help students realize they are falling behind and take corrective action early in the semester. Students may not realize the availability of a tutoring center (<http://www.atu.edu/tutoring/>), where they can receive academic help as well as coaching on approaches to time management and productive study habits. Faculty members are encouraged to coordinate with [Elishia Fairfield](#), the center director, for tutoring or academic coaching needs for their classes. Faculty are also encouraged to refer students to the Academic Early Warning program (<https://www.atu.edu/advising/earlywarning.php>), which is based out of the Academic Advising Center, for issues such as attendance, poor grades, missed assignments or exams. Early referrals may make all the difference in the student's ability to recover from missteps.

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### SAVE THE DATE

- Early registration  
March 27—May 2
- Deadline for Professional Development Grant Applications, April 17
- Last Day to Drop with a “W”  
April 21
- Leadership Minor Kick-Off Rally, March 30
- Faculty Professional Development Activities  
May 10—11

## Career Services Events

Benefits: The Salary You Forget  
Wednesday, April 5  
4:00 PM—5:00 PM  
Doc Bryan 242

Resume Review: EAM Majors  
Friday, April 7  
9:00 AM—5:00 PM  
Doc Bryan 153

Emergency Management Career  
Fair  
Thursday, April 12  
10:00 AM—12:30 PM  
Young Ballroom

## Tutoring Services

The Doc Bryan Tutoring Center has twice the number of tutoring visits it had last year at this time.

In order to serve even more students, the Office of Student Success began offering math and science tutoring in the library on Sundays and Thursdays from 5:00 PM—9:00 PM.

*“An investment in knowledge pays the best dividends.”  
- Benjamin Franklin*



(continued) Faculty may advise students who are unsure about their major to use a tool provided by ATU for free (<https://atu.mymajors.com/quiz/>). This tool helps students match their skills and interests to potential majors. Faculty advisors can help students monitor and optimize their progress towards their degree through the utilization of DegreeWorks (<https://www.atu.edu/registrar/degreeworks.php>).

The university has invested in many tools and resources to support student success. However, the primary component of student success will always be the individuals at Tech who take a personal interest in each and every student and who recognize that commitment counts.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.

# Student Success

## CAREER SERVICES SPOTLIGHTS STUDENTS

Norman Career Services will be spotlighting students over the summer who have internships/jobs. One student will be spotlighted each week with #applyingTECH as the hashtag. Submissions for this should be sent to [career.services@atu.edu](mailto:career.services@atu.edu) and should include the student's full name, the company he or she will be working for, a short description of the job, and an appropriate photo. Spotlights will be posted on Twitter @ATUCareers and on the [Arkansas Tech University—Career Services page](#). All submissions should be turned in no later than April 21.

# Student Support Services

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Support Services (SSS) is proud of the success their students have achieved at Arkansas Tech. SSS is funded to serve 140 first-generation, low income and/or disabled students at ATU. Below are some of the students' accomplishments, as well as information about some exciting upcoming SSS events:

Forty-eight SSS participants made the Dean's List for Fall 2016; eighty-one SSS students have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher.

Since October 2010 when the TRIO SSS program began, 115 students graduated with Bachelor's degrees from ATU. This spring semester will have an additional 33 students graduating.

SSS participants received \$649,973.14 in scholarship funds for the 2016-17 school year. This was an increase of \$75, 732.16 from the \$574,240.88 in scholarship funds received in 2015-16. These amounts do not include grants or loans.

SSS has some fun professional development and cultural enrichment opportunities planned for our students, such as a spring etiquette dinner, a critical thinking/team building workshop at an escape room, and a trip to see the Russian Ballet's presentation of *Sleeping Beauty*.

## IMSSO

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS/EVENTS

On Friday, February 24, International and Multicultural Student Services (IMSSO) volunteered at the River Valley Shelter for Battered Women and Children Resale Shop as part of their monthly program to reach out to the greater Russellville community. Twenty-seven students volunteered their time.



On Wednesday, March 8, IMSSO sponsored the Light the Night event at the Hindsman Bell Tower. Students enjoyed an evening of free food, entertainment, and a celebration of different international cultures. Attendees were asked to bring a canned food item to be donated to River Valley Food 4 Kids.

On Monday, March 27, IMSSO sponsored the Holi Festival, a Hindu festival of colors that marks the beginning of Spring! Students celebrated by getting messy, throwing colored powder on each other.



## MARCOMM/Academic Affairs Create New Internships

University Marketing and Communication (MARCOMM) at Arkansas Tech University has partnered with the Office of Academic Affairs to create new academic advertising, promotion and marketing internships for ATU students. The internships are designed to provide sophomores and juniors in good academic standing with access to professional experiences related to careers in public relations, new media, social media, web development, graphic design, advertising, and marketing. The Office of Academic Affairs will provide funding to cover the tuition for internship hours taken by students as part of the program.

Five students have been awarded this spring's Academic Advertising, Promotion and Marketing Internship: Sydney Hinkle, Jenner Robertson, Seth Walker, Gregory Braden, and Holly Ridenour. The students will work alongside MARCOMM staff members on projects designed to increase awareness of the university and its academic programs.

## Collaborative Solutions Symposium

On Tuesday, March 7, Collaborative Solutions presented a symposium on climate change at Doc Bryan Student Services Center Lecture Hall. Collaborative Solutions is a new interdisciplinary course at ATU; Caroline Hackerott is teaching the initial offering of the course. The topic for this semester, climate change, was selected through a focus group of ATU students who expressed an interest in the interdisciplinary class. Dr. Kathleen Miller, an economist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and Casey Camp-Horinek, a member of the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma, served as keynote speakers.

## Senior Honors & Student Research Symposium

The 2017 Arkansas Tech University Senior Honors and Student Research Symposium took place on Wednesday, March 15, in Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. Faculty-student research teams from Arkansas Tech, Arkansas two-year and four-year colleges and universities, and area high schools were able to participate and present their research findings in the poster session of the symposium.

Undergraduate Research Winners:

**First Place:** Eduardo Mayen for: A robust model-free optimal controls algorithm for high atmospheric turbulence intensity applications

**Second Place:** Jordan Labrecque for: Bond length and bond valence relationship of chromium oxides, chromium sulfides, molybdenum oxides and molybdenum sulfides

**Third Place:** Justin Barrett and David Williams for: Photocatalytic sterilization of aqueous solutions

The Senior Honors class was a small one, and they voted not to have judging of their presentations.



*“When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favor.”*  
- Elon Musk

### *Congratulations!*

The Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives congratulates the following people for securing external funding to support their programs:

**Jessica Pipkins, ATU – Ozark Johnson County Adult Ed Instructor**

Received \$734 from the Johnson County Community Foundation for GED Testing.

**Geoffrey Ecker, Assistant Professor of Biology**

Received \$60,000 from the Environmental Defense Fund to perform research on nitrogen management products and decision support tools.

**Luke Heffley, Education Counselor**

Received \$1,200 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to provide World War I educational programs at the ATU library.

# OSPUI Connection

## OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES (OSPUI)

### *Call for 2017 Proposal Assistance Summer Support (PASS) Applications*

The Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives (OSPUI) is pleased to announce availability of funds for summer support for faculty to develop proposals with the potential to secure external funding for student success initiatives, high-impact learning experiences, professional development and community engagement opportunities, or scholarly and creative activities.

We seek applications that will target securing external resources from federal, state, or private funding sources. If you are interested in participating in this program but need assistance finding an appropriate funding source, please contact OSPUI at [ospui@atu.edu](mailto:ospui@atu.edu) or 479-880-4327. Summer support is limited to \$3,000 per proposal and one proposal per faculty member.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Full time faculty, regardless of tenure status.
- Proposed projects should be original and within the scope of the targeted program with the applicant the PI of the proposed project.
- Only one application for summer funding is allowed for each faculty member.
- Multiple Co-PI support is allowed and will share the \$3,000 stipend.

#### **Application Format:**

- Faculty name
- Full Department and College name
- External program(s) targeted for funding
- Description of the proposed project (500 words)
- A departmental letter of recommendation

#### **Application Submission Date:**

Requests for summer support must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2017**. Proposals should be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment in MS Word, addressed to Rick Massengale at [ospui@atu.edu](mailto:ospui@atu.edu). If you have any questions regarding this Call for Proposals, or need assistance with the application itself, please call the Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives at 479-880-4327. Awardees will be notified via email by Friday, May 5, 2017.

#### **Proposal Writing:**

Awardees will be invited to attend a proposal development workshop in early June. OSPUI also has proposal writing tips on their [website](#) and is happy to meet with faculty one-on-one to assist with the writing process.

#### **Award Information:**

Proposals will be reviewed by the deans, and their recommendations will be submitted to the Associate Vice President for Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives. All awards will be based on the potential for securing external funding and developing a sustainable research program. All university policies and procedures will apply. The complete draft (including a budget and budget justification) will be due to OSPUI by Friday, August 4, 2017. It can be emailed to [ospui@atu.edu](mailto:ospui@atu.edu) or hand delivered to Administration 207.

The \$3,000 will not be paid until the complete draft is reviewed and approved by the deans and OSPUI for acceptability.



# College Highlights

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

### *Department/Faculty Accomplishments*

Neal Harrington had work accepted in two exhibitions: *Texas National 2017*, juried (1 work), juror Mr. Benito Huerta, SFA Art Galleries, Nacogdoches, TX, April 8–June 10 and *2017 At the Walker*, juried (1 work), juror Ms. Kim Casebeer, The Walker Art Gallery, Garnett, KS, April 3–May 28.

In addition, Harrington and his wife, Tammy, have been selected as River Valley Arts Center Visual Artists of the Year. They will be honored during an event on Thursday, April 13, at the Lake Point Conference Center. More information can be found [here](#).

Michael Rogers served as commentator/moderator for ATU Collaborative Solutions : Responding to Problems of Climate Change Symposium on Tuesday, March 7.

Emily Hoffman published an essay, “Support Your Local Daughter: Celebrating *Mary Tyler Moore’s* Glimpse at Maternal Anxiety,” in the new special issue of *Flow*, an online TV and media journal published by the University of Texas.

Gabriel Adkins hosted the Team Me Up (TMU) TIPDA and TECHnically Speaking Forensics Tournaments February 25-26 on the ATU campus.

Anthony Caton submitted a \$1.5 million Convergent Newsroom proposal that was tentatively approved and forwarded to the Vice President of Development. Caton was also named to the Campus Master Plan Committee.

David Eshelman helped coordinate publicity and had a co-starring role in the spring 2017 ATU Theatre musical, *the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, which opened in February at the Techionery. Eshelman also organized and publicized auditions for *Yearning and Returning: New Plays by Arkansas Tech Playwrights* and was invited to an all-expenses paid talk on Canadian theatre as part of Canada Days at the University of Missouri in March.

Virginia Jones presented a paper, “Mircea Eliade’s Sacred and Profane: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Santa Fe Opera House,” at the 18th Southwest Popular Culture Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in February. Alexis Johnson and undergraduate student Kirsten Dunn also presented their paper, “Exploration of Lived Experiences for Girls Who Game: A Collaborative Autoethnography,” at the conference.

### *Arkansas Radio Theatre*

April 1—*Henry V, Episode 1*

April 8—*Henry V, Episode 2*

April 15—*The Cherry Orchard*

April 22—“*Blue and Green*” and *Other Colors*

April 29—*The Cherry Orchard*

Saturdays at 7:00 PM  
on KXRJ 91.9 FM

### *Interdisciplinary Research Series Presentation*

“The Other Warriors in Vietnam” by Jeff Woods  
Wednesday, April 5  
12:00 PM—1:00 PM  
Brown Building 134

### *Senior Art Exhibition*

The Norman Art Gallery will host the Fine Arts Senior Exhibition, beginning on Saturday, April 1, and running through Wednesday, April 12, from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM. A reception will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 6:30—8:00 PM.



ARTS & HUMANITIES (CONTINUED)

### Student Accomplishments

*The Arka Tech*, ATU's student newspaper, won five awards during the 2017 Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC) in February. The Arka Tech staff won the third-place award for best opinion-editorial writing. Amber Quaid earned sixth place in best news graphic designer and eighth place in best newspaper page layout designer. Karen Ricketts won a sixth-place award for best special event reporter/editor, and Claudia Young finished third in an on-site competition for news photography.

Nine Arkansas Tech art students recently won several American Advertising (ADDY) Awards in Fort Smith on Saturday, February 18. The winners included Aaron Gilkey (gold), Lexie Wood (gold), Brady Condren (silver), Amanda McCormick (silver), Kimaly Ballard (bronze), Shara Smith (bronze), Deondra Swanigan (bronze), Carlee Williams (bronze), and Colleen Wooten (bronze).

Senior History major Chelsea Batson was presented with the best in show award on Friday, March 17, for her entry in the 2017 Art and Architecture Exhibit hosted by the Arkansas Tech Museum. Her watercolor of the Stroupe Building will be purchased by the museum and become part of its permanent collection. Tara Webb, a junior Graphic Design major, and Melissa Mayner, a junior Art Education major, received honorable mention awards.

The Arkansas Tech University Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed a pair of collaborative concerts with high school bands from within the region during the first weekend in March.

### APSA 44th Annual Meeting

The Arkansas Tech Department of History and Political Science hosted the 44th Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Political Science Association (APSA). Christopher Housenick, Assistant Professor of Political Science, served as Program Chair for the conference, which was held March 3-4.

Michael Rogers, who serves as APSA Secretary/Treasurer, worked as both Arkansas Politics & State Politics Chair and Political Theory Chair. Rogers also participated in two roundtable discussions: "How Pedagogy and Sequencing Affect Civic Literacy and Engagement: A Study of Political Science General Education Courses" and "Political Theory Roundtable—The Possibility of Democracy in Communicative Capitalism."

Brendan Toner, who worked as Public Administration and Public Policy Chair, participated in two discussions: "Fantasy vs. Reality: Examining State Legislation Involving Fantasy Sports" and "Undergraduate Panel on Racial Diversity in State Government," where he served as Chair and Discussant.

Congressman Steve Womack, a 1979 graduate of Arkansas Tech University, was also among the speakers at the meeting. Womack was elected to represent Arkansas' Third Congressional District in 2010 and currently sits on the House Appropriations and House Budget committees.

### ATU Hosts IPDA Nationals

The 2017 International Public Debate Association (IPDA) National Debate Tournament and Convention took place on the ATU campus March 23 –26. more than 400 college and university students, representing 35 institutions of higher learning, participated in the competition. The 2017 IPDA National Debate Tournament and Convention was hosted by the Arkansas Tech University debate and forensics team. Gabriel Adkins, Associate Professor of Communication, serves as the team's advisor.

#### Theatre Event

*Yearning and Returning*  
New Plays by Arkansas Tech playwrights

April 6–8 at 8:00 PM  
Techionery Theatre

#### Communication & Journalism Student Accomplishments

Kelsey McClure (Broadcast Journalism, 2017) is negotiating with THV11 (CBS Little Rock) to become an evening news producer there.

Emily Stone (Broadcast Journalism, 2015) was named associate evening news producer at KY3-TV (NBC) in Springfield, Missouri.



## EDUCATION

### *Faculty Accomplishments*

Linda Bean was named the Arkansas Marketing Division Postsecondary Teacher of the Year by Arkansas Association of Marketing Education Teachers. This was awarded to faculty who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students, and dedication to the improvement of Career Technical Education in their university and community. Bean also served as a judge for the 71st DECA State Conference held in Little Rock, March 5-6 at the Double Tree Hotel.

Latasha Holt-Bocksnick, Debra Murphy, and Lynn Walsh participated in the Arkansas Department of Education Dyslexia Conference held in Hot Springs on March 6-7. #RISEArkansas was the acronym for Reading Initiative for Student Excellence.

### *Curriculum Materials Center Launched*

In collaboration with the ATU College of Education, the Pendergraft Library has launched the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC) to support the research and projects of ATU students who will soon become K-12 teachers. The collection had originally been housed on the second floor of Crabaugh Hall, but was consolidated into the Pendergraft Library collection during the summer of 2016 to allow for additional office space for the College of Education. The Library was able to provide a 1,000-square foot space for the collection, as well as offer much greater visibility and hours of accessibility to the collection.

The CMC collection presently includes over 6,000 juvenile and young adult books, educational media, and other instructional tools. This spring, ATU librarians are using funds from the W.G. and V.A. Davis Library Grant to add an additional \$5,000 worth of books and teaching tools to the collection. CMC resources are available to all library users, but are specifically useful to ATU education students who are learning to develop curriculum plans and who are engaged in student-teaching.



### *COE Holds Kick-Off Rally for New Minor*

Thursday, March 30, is the Kick-Off Rally for the new College of Education Leadership Studies Minor. The event will be held in Doc Bryan 242 from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM; light refreshments will be served. This event provides a chance for individuals to learn more about the new minor, talk to faculty and staff, and find out how this option can help meet professional goals. For more information, visit [www.atu.edu/education](http://www.atu.edu/education) or contact Linda Bean, Associate Dean for the College of Education and Program Coordinator, at 479.880.4401 or [lbean@atu.edu](mailto:lbean@atu.edu).

### *Entrepreneurial Conference*

The Arkansas Tech Small Business and Technology Development Center will present an entrepreneurial conference on Thursday, April 13 at the Doc Bryan Lecture Hall. Four successful entrepreneurs will give TED-style presentations discussing how they turned their passions into businesses and the lessons they learned along the way. The event is free; however, seating is limited, so registration is required no later than April 12. You may register by calling (479) 356-2067 or by visiting <http://asbtcd.org/training/russellville-events>.

### *Plant Sale*

Students from the ATU Department of Agriculture will put their spring semester work on display during a plant sale at the Arkansas Tech Greenhouses on April 14-15. Proceeds from the sale will be used by the ATU Department of Agriculture to purchase greenhouse plants and supplies.



## Office of Information Systems (OIS)

The Office of Information Systems (OIS) has implemented a new solution to provide single sign-on functionality from One Tech to Argos. The Argos link on the Employee page within One-Tech will now automatically authenticate the user into the Argos system. If single sign-on does not work for you, please contact the Campus Support Center at (479) 968-0646 or e-mail [campussupport@atu.edu](mailto:campussupport@atu.edu).

OIS would like to remind you that, with tax season upon us, many phishing e-mails are circulating, trying to trick people into giving up their tax information. Never reply to an e-mail or click on a link in an e-mail that requests you to send or input your personal information. If you receive an e-mail with a web link, always type the address in your web browser. This way, you know you are getting to the correct site. If you are in doubt about a request made in an e-mail, contact the company and verify the information requested.



## ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

### Faculty/Department Accomplishments

Turaj Ashuri, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, has been selected as a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Multidisciplinary Design Optimization Technical Committee.

Matthew Young is working with Ben Keisling and Aaron Rackley on a presentation, “Development of an Aerial Robot and Associated Control System for Autonomous Hovering,” and with Garrett Griffith, Alyssa Anderson, and Kelsey Marcum on a presentation, “Rubik’s Cube Robot,” that will be presented at the 18th Annual Student Research Symposium to be held at ATU. Young is also working with Griffith on a presentation, “Rubik’s Cube Solver,” that will also be presented at the symposium.

The Department of Agriculture recently received \$5,000 toward the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Institute. ATU will host two CASE institutes in July for agriculture educators who wish to implement science and math into their classroom culture. For more information, visit [www.atu.edu/case](http://www.atu.edu/case).

Ashuri and researchers from Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, developed a novel multi-objective controls strategy to redirect aerodynamic wakes in large wind farms to maximize energy production and minimize structural loads. The [result of this research](#) is published in the prestigious *Journal of Energy*. It is expected that this technique would save millions of dollars in the wake losses of wind farms around the world. It contributes to the goal of mitigating global warming by providing cheaper renewable energies.

Bruce Chehroudi, Mechanical Engineering Department Head and Electrical Engineering Interim Head, has been working on nanotechnology-based research with the University of Salento in Italy. The research centers around an idea that Chehroudi originally patented three years ago. The outcome of the research is an invited paper, “Multiwalled Carbon Nanotubes (MWCNTS) Bonded with Iron Particles as Ignition Agents for Air-Fuel Mixtures,” in a special issue of the *Fuel Journal* by Elsevier entitled “[Dual-Fuel and Fuel Additives: Combustion Experimentation and Modeling for Internal Combustion Engines.](#)”

### Student Accomplishments

On February 25, students from the ATU Department of Agriculture attended the 2017 Arkansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and Collegiate Conference in Little Rock. This event offered a variety of sessions intended to help attendees improve their farms and prepare for careers in agriculture. ATU students had the opportunity to tour Delta Plastics and see how they make PolyPipe for crop irrigation. Kisia Weeks also competed in the Arkansas Collegiate Discussion Meet, where she represented Arkansas Tech among six other universities to discuss an agricultural issue.

On February 8, the Arkansas Tech Department of Agriculture took four students to the Arkansas State University Agribusiness Conference, which focused on the agricultural economy; agriculture and trade policy; and trends in issues in credit, farmland, and commodity markets.

On March 14–15, the ATU Agriculture Department took thirteen women to the Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference in Little Rock. Attendees had the opportunity to network with other women in agriculture and learn more about good farm practices and how to advocate for agriculture.



## eTECH

### *Faculty Accomplishments*

Jeff Aulgur presented “Can written Freirian dialogues enhance the asynchronous learning environment?” at the 2017 Adult Higher Education Alliance Conference, March 9-10, in Orlando, Florida.

Jeremy Schwehm, Jennifer Saxton, and Annette Stuckey presented “Promoting engagement and community in online courses: It’s all about the writing” at the 2017 Higher Education Alliance Conference as well.

Rene Couture, Assistant Professor of College Student Personnel, and Jeremy Schwehm, Assistant Professor of Professional Studies, presented their paper, “False consensus and FERPA,” at the NASPA Annual Conference, March 11-15, in San Antonio, Texas.

### *eTech Plans Outreach Event*

On Tuesday, April 4, the ATU College of eTech will host a Yell County Education Fair from 1:00–7:00 PM at the Dardanelle Area Chamber of Commerce, located at the Dardanelle Area Chamber of Commerce. Members of the Yell County community and beyond seeking more information about online education opportunities available through Arkansas Tech will have an opportunity to meet with faculty and staff. Admission will be free and open to the public.

## GRADUATE COLLEGE

### *Graduate Student Symposium*

Graduate students can participate in a poster or oral presentation session where they highlight their research and/or scholarly activity. The poster session will be held in Young Ballroom on Wednesday, April 5 from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, and the oral presentations will be that evening from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM in McEver Hall. Students wanting to present at either or both sessions need to submit an application by visiting the graduate college website. Applications will be accepted until March 17.

### *Graduate Student Appreciation Week*

The Graduate Student Council will be celebrating graduate students the first week of April. Be on the look-out for more information about the fun-filled week of activities on The Link, Graduate College website, and social media pages for the GSC.

## NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### *Faculty Accomplishments*

Doug Barron and Eric Lovely recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Health to conduct surveillance of mosquitoes across Arkansas. This grant was facilitated by the Office of Sponsored Programs and University Initiatives (OSPUI). Barron also received a \$2,494 ATU Professional Development Grant to attend the Ecological Society of American Conference in Portland, Oregon, in August.

Rajib Choudhury and undergraduate student Kassandra Cendejas had their paper, “Predicting Conformations and Orientations of Guests within a Water Soluble Host: A Molecular Docking Approach,” published in the [Journal of Inclusion Phenomena and Macrocyclic Chemistry](#).

### *February Graduate Student of the Month*

Corey Pintado, a CSP graduate, was selected for outstanding leadership by the Graduate Student Council. In his current role as a GA, he is teaching a pilot for the CSP1013 classes this semester where the class is using tablets for textbooks and to submit all assignments. He has structured his teaching, incorporating more technology, to meet the needs of his students.

### *Interdisciplinary Research Series Presentation*

“Using Proteomics to Investigate Public Health Issues and Discussing the Arkansas INBRE Program”  
by Dr. Alen J. Tackett, UAMS  
Friday, March 31  
12:00 PM–1:00 PM  
Brown Building 134



# Announcements

## GUEST SPEAKER: DR. LINDA LEAVELL

On Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 PM in Witherspoon 126, Dr. Linda Leavell will discuss the process of writing narrative nonfiction and read from her work. Leavell is the author of the critically acclaimed *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013). *Holding on Upside Down* was the winner of the prestigious PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography, winner of the Plutarch Award for best biography of 2013, and winner of the Modernist Studies Association book award. After teaching for twenty-four years at Oklahoma State University, she retired from academia in 2010 and now resides in Fayetteville.

## DR. KEEGAN NICHOLS SELECTED FOR VP FOR STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Keegan Nichols, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, has been selected as the next Vice President for Student Services at Arkansas Tech University. Nichols will take office on June 26, 2017. She will provide leadership for ATU's programs in campus life, diversity and inclusion, public safety, residence life, student conduct, student wellness, and veteran services.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SERIES CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

All faculty and graduate students are encouraged to submit research projects to be considered for presentation at future unassigned MRS sessions via e-mail to [Michael Rogers](mailto:Michael.Rogers@atu.edu). The deadline for Fall 2017 proposals is Friday, April 28 at 5:00 PM. Each session will have only one research project presented. Projects can be either individual or collaborative, and interdisciplinary research is encouraged. Research projects may be of either a qualitative or quantitative nature, or both. For more information, see <http://www.atu.edu/irs/index.php>.

## EMPLOYEE TRAINING/SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

ATU has partnered with the software company Haven to provide employee training and important skills to address sexual assault prevention. All employees are required to complete an online training course designed to promote a greater awareness of sexual assault, stalking, intimate partner violence and sexual harassment. Section 1 of this course is to be completed by March 31; the deadline for completing Part 2 is May 31.

## ETECH OFFERS CERTIFICATION COURSE

The College of eTech will offer a course during summer 2017 for full-time ATU faculty members interested in becoming certified to teach online courses. Application deadline for the summer 2017 eTech certification course is Friday, March 31, at 5:00 PM. The course will be limited to 18 participants. Previous online teaching experience is not required. For more details, visit [www.atu.edu/etech/faculty-apply.php](http://www.atu.edu/etech/faculty-apply.php). You may also contact Hanna Norton, Dean of the College of eTech, at [hnorton@atu.edu](mailto:hnorton@atu.edu).



*Deadline for  
Professional  
Development  
Grant  
Applications,  
April 17*