

Academic Affairs

WELCOME TO THE 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR!

Summer 2017 has been an extremely busy summer with numerous activities. Some involved wrapping up things we started in the previous academic year, and others focused on preparing for this new academic year. I would like to thank all those who worked hard to bring a great ending to last academic year and set us in a good position for the coming year. I would like to highlight some of the summer activities and plans for the coming year.

One of the initiatives for the summer was in support of helping freshman students earn back their academic scholarship by taking summer classes at Tech. Fifty-eight students took advantage of the opportunity to take summer classes to earn back the scholarship, with thirty-one students managing to earn back their academic scholarship.

Another initiative, which was a major undertaking by the IT department, was aimed at re-vamping the online application by developing a completely new in-house interface that is student friendly and compatible with mobile devices. The project was started, completed, tested, and deployed during the summer.

Additionally, a coordinated effort aimed at recruitment of new students and retention of current students launched. The effort was a collaboration among various departments on campus, including Admissions, the Advising Center, IMSSO, the College of eTech, Student Accounts, and Financial Aid, intended to reach out to various groups of students.

In terms of student success support, a software package called ADVISE®, which provides a holistic view of a student profile and performance to faculty and advisors, has been integrated into the Banner system. The system is currently available on a limited basis for use by department heads and selected faculty and advisors, but system use will be increased gradually over the academic year. Faculty members interested in gaining access to the ADVISE® package in this initial phase of implementation should contact the Office of Student Success.

For the upcoming year, several important initiatives will be introduced in close coordination with the faculty. First and foremost is making sure that the General Education curriculum is reviewed, evaluated for effectiveness, and remapped to ensure the learning outcomes of General Education are met. This will require full participation of the faculty members teaching general education courses in evaluating the learning outcomes, measuring for consistency, and documenting the results using the Courses, Programs, General Education (CPGE) system. The Office of Assessment is leading this effort.

Another related effort is starting the comprehensive review of all academic programs that do not have specialized accreditation through an accrediting body. This review is being coordinated with departments and will be a multi-year effort that will also require full participation of the faculty.

This fall, online tutoring will be available on Blackboard; appointments can be scheduled by going to <https://tutoring.atu.edu/WGMVC>, or students can “drop in” through Blackboard Instant Messenger. The hours of availability will be Sunday through Thursday, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. In addition, academic courses covered by tutors will be increased to 47, along with three Core Praxis areas. Satellite tutoring will also be expanded to Greek Life and Athletic study halls. The success of these initiatives depend heavily upon faculty encouragement and promotion of tutoring and academic coaching for *all* students, not just those struggling.

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SAVE THE DATE

- Last Day to Officially Withdraw/Drop a Course with 100% Reduction
Tuesday, August 29
- Labor Day Holiday
Monday, September 4
- Deadline for Sabbatical applications
Friday, September 15
- Last Day to Officially Withdraw/Drop a Course with 80% Reduction
Wednesday, September 27



*“The future of the world is in my classroom today.”
- Ivan Welton
Fitzwater*

*DDI Kickoff & IMSSSO
Welcome Back Luau*

Friday, August 25
5:00 PM—8:00 PM
Doc Bryan Courtyard

Resume Review Day

Tuesday, September 5
9:00 AM—4:00 PM
Doc Bryan 153

*Graduate School
Exploration Fair*

Wednesday, September 6
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Young Ballroom

(continued) Amongst all of the data collection, assessment, and new faculty development initiatives, it can be almost impossible not to feel overwhelmed at times. In those times, it is important that we remind ourselves of why we do what we do: we do it for our students. Recruiting students is only a small piece of our overall mission as an institution. We must also work to retain these students by helping them overcome the obstacles they face; the ability to do so rests largely on our willingness to understand and utilize the tools available to those on our campus, such as CRM ADVISE®, DegreeWorks, and MyMajors. We must take the extra time and effort to see each of our students as individuals and keep in mind that every student counts.

Mohamed Abdelrahman, Ph.D.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Warnick Named Assistant VP for Student Success

Effective July 1, 2017, Jason Warnick began his new position as Assistant Vice President for Student Success. Warnick has served as chair of the 2015-16 strategic planning committee and still serves as director for the ATU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). He is also the only faculty member in ATU history to win a Faculty Excellence Award in each of the three possible categories, and he was elected Professor of the Year by the student body at the conclusion of the 2012-13 academic year.

Handshake to Replace CAREERlink

Norman Career Services will replace CAREERlink with Handshake as the college recruiting platform. Users will be able to post campus full-time, part-time, and student help positions to ATU students and alumni. In addition, Handshake will allow users to receive invitations to career events. [Signing up](#) is easy and takes less than five minutes.

Instructions to create an account for an ATU department:

All employers (including existing users of CAREERlink) must create an employer account and user account.

Please type in your own “Employer” (aka office name) instead of choosing “ATU Norman Career Services”

If your department is NOT listed, please create your own “Employer”, i.e., ATU Financial Aid. This will allow your office the ability to manage your own profile and positions.

Please start with ATU (then your office name) to ensure consistency throughout Handshake.

If you should have any additional questions, please contact Amanda Johnson, ajohnson94@atu.edu or (479) 880-4520.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Student Support Services (SSS) celebrated 40 participants on the Spring 2017 Dean’s List and 31 graduates with bachelor’s degrees in May. We are proud of our students’ academic accomplishments in reaching their goals.

Of note is SSS alum, Kaitlin Bounds, who lifelong goal has been to represent the USA in world track events. Not only was she highly involved in SSS events and activities, but she



was also a devoted Golden Suns cross-country athlete for Arkansas Tech. Her dedication and drive resulted in her being one of fifty individuals selected to represent the U.S. for the 2017 World Para Athletic Track and Field Championship Team in London this past July. She placed 4th in the world in the Women’s 800m T20 Final and was also recognized by the City of Russellville and Mayor Randy Horton on August 17, 2017 for being a runner who represents Russellville and the United States, and for being an

OSPUI Connection

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES (SPUI)

Congratulations!

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

Tsunemi Yamashita, Professor of Biology, received an additional \$78,204 to support a new budget period on his INBRE Partnerships for Biomedical Research in Arkansas grant, made possible by NIH funding. To date, Yamashita has been awarded \$311,569 on this grant.

Carl Brucker, English and World Languages Department Head, received \$654,850 from the Arkansas Department of Education to continue the ESL Academy.

Beth Morris, Child Welfare Principal Investigator and IV-E Coordinator, received \$314,677 from the University of Arkansas, made possible by the Division of Children and Family Services, to continue the Child Welfare Partnership.

Mostafa Hemmati, Professor of Physics and Director of Undergraduate Research, received \$4,500 from the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium, made possible by NASA, for his research project “Lightning Return Strokes: Wave Speed and Peak Current Relationship.”

Thomas Nupp, Professor of Wildlife Science received \$34,745.28 from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, to continue his project “Status Survey of Endangered Interior Least Tern on the Arkansas River.”

Ms. Jessica Birchler, Coordinator of Advising, Testing and Records, Ozark Campus, received \$259,660 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Department of Workforce Services, made possible by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program) to continue the Career Pathways Initiative.

2017 River Valley Business Expo

The 2017 River Valley Business Expo took place on August 2 at Tucker Coliseum. This year’s theme was Russellville Game Night, and several businesses and organizations from the River Valley area set up game booths and gave away door prizes. Arkansas Tech University was well represented by the College of Business, the Graduate College, the College of eTech, the Office of Admissions, and the ATU Green & Gold.



PENDERGRAFT LIBRARY

Library Earns Grant for WWI Events

The Ross Pendergraft Library is one of 120 organizations in the U.S. selected to receive grant funding from the Library of America in support of educational programming about World War I.

A traveling exhibition that provides an overview of America’s role in WWI will be on display at the library from September 5–25. In addition, there will be a series of five live presentations, all of which begin at 7:00 PM in RPL 300 South:

Thursday, September 7: “World War I and Arkansas”

Thursday, September 14: “Propaganda and Persuasion”

Thursday, September 28: “Ozarks to the Argonne Forest”

Thursday, October 19: “WWI and America: Told by the Americans Who Live It”

Thursday, November 9: All Veterans Appreciation Event, Discussion Panel on Veterans’ Issues

ADJUNCT FACULTY DINNER

The annual Adjunct Faculty Dinner was held at Lake Point Conference Center on Tuesday, August 8th. There were roughly 110 adjuncts in attendance. The adjuncts were greeted by department heads, deans, Dr. Abdelrahman, and Dr. and Mr. Bowen. Also in attendance were the longest serving ATU adjuncts, Mindy Hudson (27 years) and Jim Stroud (26 years). Don Lee and Jennifer McNeely were elected to the Committee on Adjunct Support.



Committee on Adjunct Support



Mindy Hudson, Dr. Bowen, Jim Stroud



Lee Cabell and Denise Sery

NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

New Faculty Orientation was held on Monday, August 14th through Tuesday, August 15th. New Faculty Orientation is designed to provide information to help new faculty better understand the institution, its vision and values, and its policies and procedures. Fellowship with campus administrators and other new faculty, a campus tour and other events help prepare faculty for their new work environment.



Getting ready for Orientation!



Dr. Abdelrahman's Welcome



New Faculty Orientation

FRESHMAN CONVOCATION

The 4th Annual Freshman Convocation took place at Tucker Coliseum on Tuesday, August 22. Approximately 1,500 ATU freshmen were in attendance. Freshman Convocation is one in a series of events designed to acquaint incoming students with the university. An entire "Welcome Week" of social and orientation events were designed to make new students feel welcome as part of the ATU community.





College Highlights

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Department/Faculty Accomplishments

The English Education for Teacher Licensure program was recently review by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The report shows that the English Education program was granted national recognition for 5–7 years without any conditions. Per the report, “The program will be listed as Nationally Recognized through the semester of the next CAEP accreditation decision on websites and/or other publications of the SPA and CAEP.”

Peter Dykema and H. Michael Tarver, both professors of history, are among a selected group of Advanced Placement (AP) teachers and college faculty members from around the world chosen to evaluate and score the free-response sections of the College Board’s AP exams. Dykema and Tarver will participate in the annual AP reading in world history.

Justin Moss (Psychology) co-authored the following: LaCosse, J., Ainsworth, S. E., Shepherd, M. A., Ent, M., Klein, K. M., Holland-Carter, L. A., Moss, J. H., Licht, M. & Licht, B. (2017). An Active-Learning Approach to Fostering Understanding of Research Methods in Large Classes. *Teaching of Psychology*, 44(2), 1–7.

Jason Ulspurger led a commodity drive with AKD (sociology honor students) and other students in the department. They collected over 4,000 items for Arkansas Hospice to use in art therapy packs given to children who have suffered a recent loss.

Emily Hoffman’s article “Do they know it’s Christmastime at all? *Mad Men* and the dangers of seasonal nostalgia” was published in the *Journal of Popular Television*.

Professors Jason and Kristen Ulspurger published “Community, Regional Identity, and Civic Agriculture: A Structural Ritualization Analysis of Rural Online Farmers’ Market Sellers” in the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* 32(1):1-27.

Michael Rogers was selected as the 2017 recipient of the Political Science Education Section Best American Political Science Association Conference Paper Award for “The History of Civic Education in Political Science” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 1-4 September 2016.

On May 4, 2017, Jason Ulspurger, Associate Professor of Sociology, and a group of students representing his juvenile justice system course received recognition from the Arkansas Supreme Court for their outstanding work helping to identify resources in Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties to be used in a state juvenile justice reform initiative.

Upcoming Events

Arkansas Society of Printmakers show, “Printastic!”
August 21–October 24
Norman Art Gallery

Tech Television Broadcast Schedule

Monday Sports
Live 4:00-4:15, Replays 5, 6, 7

Tuesday Evening News
Live 4:00-4:15, Replays 5, 6, 7

Wednesday Evening News
Live 4:00-4:15, Replays 5, 6, 7

Harris Selected as New Director of Choirs

Christopher H. Harris has been selected to serve as the next director of choirs at Arkansas Tech University. Harris will assume his new role beginning with the 2017-18 academic year. He is a conductor and choral composer whose choirs have received numerous sweepstakes awards in state competition and invitations to perform with the Bay Area Chorus and as a demonstration group at the Texas Choral Directors Association Convention. More information about Harris can be found [here](#).



*A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”
- Henry Brooks Adams*

ASBTDC Training

Please note, all ATU workshops held on campus are free of charge to ATU Staff, Faculty and Students if seating is available. There is a ATU no-charge option on each event’s registration page. If the option is not visible, that means there are no ATU seats left.

5 Legal Issues All Business Owners Should Know

Wednesday, September 20
10:00 AM—12:00 PM

Passion to Profits: Starting a Woman-Owned Business

Thursday, September 21
5:30 PM—8:00 PM

QuickBooks Desktop for Beginners

Thursday, September 28
8:30 AM—12:00 PM

You may register for a workshop by calling 479.356.2067 or by visiting <http://asbtcd.org/training/russellville-events>.

EDUCATION

NTL Students Awarded Grants for Projects

The following grants were developed and submitted by NTL students during the spring 2017 semester as part of the requirements of the course entitled Resource Acquisition and the Role of the Master Teacher, taught by Ellen Treadway.

NTL student Matthew Sweeney co-wrote and submitted a grant with Robert Pruitt, Crawford Elementary physical education teacher, for a Blue & You Mini-Grant of \$1,000.00. Grant Title: Crawford Water Project. Project: Water bottle fountain for students and adults installed at Crawford Elementary School in Russellville.

NTL student and long-term substitute teacher Natasha Martin applied for and was granted funding for classroom listening center equipment for use by foreign language teachers and students at Greenwood High School. She was funded \$1,000.00 through a Greenwood School District education fund.

NTL student Alison Dickey wrote two grants with Dallas Jensen, a teacher in the Harrison School District. Project 1: Classroom stand-up desks award from StandupKids.org for \$5,000. Project 2: Classroom flex seating equipment from DonorsChoose.org for \$863.

ASCD Conference Presentations

COE Faculty participated in the 2017 ASCD Conference program by leading sessions that dealt with the following topics in which Arkansas school administrators took part: (1) *Auditory Processing Disorders in Preschool and Elementary Children: You Make my Head Hurt!* and (2) *Sensory Processing Disorders in Preschool and Elementary Children*

COE faculty presenters included: Timothy W. Leggett, Jackie Paxton, David Bell, Debra Murphy, and Latasha Holt-Bocksnick. More than 500 participants attended the 2017 ASCD Conference. Mary Gunter serves as Executive Director for Arkansas ASCD.

Education Stakeholders Seminar Series

For the past three years, V. Carole Smith, Curriculum and Instruction Professor, and Ellen Treadway, Assistant Professor for the Center for Leadership and Learning (CLL), have co-planned two introductory graduate courses that all NTL students take their first summer session in the program. These courses are School Organization and Leadership and Communication, Advocacy, and Policy Development for the Master Teacher, both of which are taught at the CLL. This year, as in the past two years, education stakeholders have been invited to speak to the students. These people, all of whom are partners in teacher education or former NTL students, represent a variety of roles. This esteemed group includes: Christopher Trombly, ATU Assistant Professor of Education Leadership; Alene Bynum, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Russellville School District; AJ Herrlein, NTL graduate and math teacher at Kimmons Junior High in Fort Smith; and John David Keeling, Dardanelle Middle School principal.

Bean Named AACTE Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year



ATU’s own Linda Bean has been named the 2017 Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) post-secondary teacher of the year. Bean received the award during the Arkansas ACTE Conference, which began on Sunday, July 30, in Hot Springs. Bean will be considered as a finalist for the 2018 ACTE Region IV title, the winner of which will be announced at the 2018 Region IV conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April 2018. For more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards, visit <https://www.acteonline.org/awards>.



ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

ATU Hosts 2017 CASE Institute

Over thirteen states were represented at the 2017 Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Institute at ATU in July. Teachers could engage in one of two tracks at the two-week institute, including Principles of Agricultural Science - Plant or CASE Agricultural Power and Technology.

Upon completion of the institute, participants earned three hours of graduate credit.

Student Accomplishments

Five ATU Agriculture students were selected for scholarships from The Poultry Federation: Isaiah Currie, Caleb Sherrill, Grant Tarvin, Tatum Tarvin, and David Wahrmond. The Poultry Federation gave \$131,000 in scholarships for the 2017–2018 academic year to graduate and undergraduate students majoring in poultry related studies at Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma universities. For a full list of winners, click [here](#).



Arkansas Tech University Emergency Management student Amanda Condon recently traveled to Washington, D.C., where she was awarded the Dream Award from Scholarship America. As part of her experience, Condon visited the White House, networked with other 2017 Dream Award recipients, met with education policy makers, and received a U.S. flag from Congressman John Ratcliffe.

Grant Application Deadlines

Professional Development Grant Application Deadline

Monday, October 2

Faculty Research Grant Application Deadline

Monday, October 2

Student Interdisciplinary Research Grant Application Deadline

Monday, October 2

Williamson Dinner Kick Off

Arkansas Tech University Dinners will kick off on Thursday, September 21 at 6:00 PM. To reserve your seat, call 479.968.0378.

NATURAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

Faculty Accomplishments

Shaana Escobar, Assistant Professor of Nursing at ATU, was recently honored by the Arkansas Center for Learning, Inc. as one of the “Top 40 Nurse Leaders Under 40.”

Effective July 1, Tonya Mays, Visiting Instructor of Health Information Management, was elected as President of the Arkansas Health Information Management Association (ArHIMA). Sarah Daniel, Visiting Assistant Professor of Health Information Management, was elected to serve as the President-Elect.

Robertson Chairs NCAD Meeting

Jeff Robertson chaired the 71st Annual National Conference of Academic Deans (NCAD), which took place on July 13–14 at the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center. The NCAD meeting included speakers from universities across the country, including ATU’s own Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, who participated in a CAO panel discussion entitled “What Does a CAO Really Want?” Several ATU deans and associate deans attended the event, including Jeff Woods, Mary Gunter, Hanna Norton, Linda Bean, and Chris Giroir.



*“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.”
- Zig Ziglar*





Announcements

ATU NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Arkansas Tech University has been named one of the 10 fastest-growing institutions in its category in the United States for a fifth consecutive year by the *2017 Almanac of Higher Education*, which is published by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. ATU achieved the distinction of the ninth fastest-growing public, master degree granting university in the country with 76.2 percent growth in enrollment during the 10-year span utilized for the listing.

ATU LEADS STATE IN STUDENTS' SOCIAL MOBILITY

ATU is the number one option in Arkansas for students seeking an opportunity to improve their economic standing for third consecutive year. Based on 2016 data, ATU has a Social Mobility Index (SMI) score of 51.64 to rank among the top 7 percent of the 931 institutions across the U.S. included in the survey. ATU has increased its national SMI ranking from 93rd in 2014 to 61st in 2016.

ATU DEVELOPING NEW DEGREES

The ATU Board of Trustees recently approved a letter of intent calling for the creation of a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and criminology with a proposed implementation date of June 2018. The Board also approved a letter of intent for a new Master of Education degree in K-12 literacy with a proposed start date of spring 2018.

UPDATE SESSIONS FOR STAFF MEMBERS

Dr. Bowen and the ATU Executive Council will present a beginning of the academic year update for staff members on the Russellville campus on Friday, August 25. The first session will be from 10:00–11:30 AM in the Young Ballroom, followed by a duplicate session from 1:30–3:00 PM that afternoon. It is only necessary to attend one session. All staff are strongly encouraged to attend.

BRIDGMON RECOMMENDED FOR ASSOCIATE VPAA



Dr. Phillip B. Bridgmon was approved for the role of Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs when the ATU Board of Trustees met on Thursday, August 17. Bridgmon will succeed Dr. David Underwood, who retired from the position on June 30. Bridgmon has served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, since 2012.

WARNICK NAMED APPLE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

Jason Warnick was recently selected to be a participant in the Apple Distinguished Educator class of 2017. According to the Apple website, the Apple Distinguished Educators program was created in 1994 to recognize educators from around the world “who are using Apple technology to transform teaching and learning.”

