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Academic Affairs Newsletter  
January 11, 2018  
Volume 4, Issue 5

## Get to know your colleagues—Special Professor Edition

# Academic Affairs

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to have joined Arkansas Tech on October 2 as the new Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. You all have graciously welcomed me and been very generous with your time and insights as I learn about our great University from you. The work each of you do every day to foster opportunity for our students and our colleagues is truly humbling. If we maintain our focus on helping others, the full potential of this great university can be realized.

In my short time at Tech, I have been frequently asked two fundamental questions: 1) what are my core beliefs regarding what makes a university successful and 2) what is my vision for the position I hold?

Great universities are most successful when they are able to produce graduates who are knowledgeable in their disciplines, able to solve problems, and positive contributors in a diverse, global community by adding to its civic culture and social capital. The heart of this undertaking is teaching and every employee at Tech teaches someone something every day. To be successful in this role requires a commitment to the wellbeing of our students and colleagues. I have already witnessed this in abundance at Tech, and it is the greatest contributor to the sense of community we share.

I have also seen the power of a simple formula work to promote the success of my colleagues and students: 1) be present; 2) do your best at your assigned role; and 3) work productively with your colleagues. Being present also requires being focused on the work we have to accomplish together on behalf of those we serve. As public servants we are held to higher levels of accountability and scrutiny regarding our contribution to our public mission and public sector values. Doing our best requires us to not only do the parts of our roles that we enjoy, but to also do those duties where we may have to seek out professional development opportunities. Working productively simply means we contribute to the common good rather than undermine. Productive working relationships foster the network of colleagues that accomplish collectively what we are unable to do on our own.

On the matter of my vision for my role, I believe it is best for my vision to coincide with the vision of Tech that was in place when I arrived. Our mission states that we are “a responsive campus community providing opportunities for progressive intellectual development and civic engagement.” Our Strategic Plan further elaborates on four specific goals: 1) human core; 2) academic coherence; 3) operations excellence; and 4) citizens of the region, state, and world. Each goal has a set of specific action items. Through meeting with so many of you early on, I think there is tremendous potential to achieve success in all four goals.

Specifically, Tech is poised to expand student success through a focus on intentional educational experiences and an array of student success initiatives being led by our colleague,  
(cont.)



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### SAVE THE DATE

- Martin Luther King Day  
Monday, January 15
- Classes begin  
Tuesday, January 16
- Last day to withdraw/drop  
courses with full reduction  
Monday, January 22
- Deadline for Professional  
Development Grant  
Applications  
Thursday, February 1
- Deadline for Faculty Re-  
search Grant Applications  
Thursday, February 1
- Last day to withdraw/drop  
courses with 80% reduction  
Monday, February 19

*Please note that this is a special edition of the Academic Affairs newsletter focusing on full professors who chose to participate. We hope this will help you get to know your colleagues. There will be another edition released at the end of the month with our usual features and highlights.*

ARKANSAS  
TECH  
UNIVERSITY



(continued)

Dr. Jason Warnick. It is important that we remain cognizant of the global citizen goal by focusing on diversity and inclusion in all facets of our work to include perspectives, programming and outreach. I believe it is also important that we expand upon our strengths in the arts and humanities, our historical roots in teacher education, our economic development role through outreach in business, and our nation's need to focus on STEM preparedness and the rapid growth of the health sciences. Tech is a learning focused community of teacher scholars who are engaged with our communities to advance our common values and goals that are easily achieved by being present, doing our best, and productively working with our colleagues. Our collective success is really that simple.

Thank you again for the kind welcome and I look forward to a bright future for you, our students, and Tech.



*Phil*

Phillip Bridgmon, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

# Professors

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

### Art



Neal Harrington earned his B.F.A. (drawing and painting) from the University of South Dakota in 1998 and his M.F.A. (printmaking) from Wichita State University in 2001. Harrington's prints have been extensively exhibited all over the nation. He is a two-time recipient of the Arkansas Arts Center's *Delta Award*, as well as multiple other awards from prestigious exhibitions like the *Boston Printmakers Biennial*, *Prints U.S.A.*, and the Arkansas Arts Council's *Small Works on Paper*. Harrington is a full Professor of Art and is a founding member of the *Arkansas Society of Printmakers* of which he currently serves on the board of directors. Neal has worked at Arkansas Tech University since 2001.

David Mudrinich has been a faculty member at Arkansas Tech since 1998. He holds a B.S. in Art Education from Pennsylvania State University and a M.F.A. in Art from the University of Georgia. He teaches all levels of drawing and painting, co-instructs in the orientation and sophomore assessment classes, and also conducts the senior project and exhibition capstone course. He was awarded the Faculty Award of Excellence in Teaching in 2012 and the ATU 2005 Faculty Award of Excellence for Scholarship based on his research in exploring the sense of place within the American landscape. His works have been exhibited regionally and nationally, and he has won 15 exhibition awards to date. Collections of his work include the State of Georgia Art Collection, the William J. Clinton Foundation, Hendrix College, North Georgia College and State University and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas.



Dawn Ward received her B.A. in Journalism from Northeastern State University in 1985; her graduate degrees, an M.A. Studio Art with an emphasis in Printmaking, 1991 and a Ph.D. in Art Education, 1998, are from New York University. Ward has served as Department Head & Professor of Art at Arkansas Tech University since 2012, where she has also been a member of the ATU Professional Development committee, contributed to the K-12 Initiative lecture series, and currently sits on the ATU Museum Advisory Board. She has presented at several universities and conferences, and her edited work, "The Sea is My Brother, The Lost Novel" by Jack Kerouac, was published in November of 2011 by Penguin Classics UK and subsequently printed by De Capo Press in the US and by several other international publishers including editions in France, Italy, Brazil, China, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Czechoslovakia from 2012-2015. Ward is also a practicing artist whose work has been exhibited nationally and regionally.



## Behavioral Sciences



Sean Huss, Professor of Sociology, holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Tennessee, with emphasis areas in Social Psychology and Statistics. He also studied research methods and statistics at the University of Michigan and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill through the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research. Huss is presently in his twelfth year in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Arkansas Tech University. During his time at ATU, Huss has spearheaded multiple initiatives, developed several programs, served on numerous committees, and worked in the Russellville community. Huss is the Founding Advisor and now serves as a co-advisor to “Because We Can.” Huss also developed the M.S. in Applied Sociology program and has served as the Graduate Program Director for the M.S. in Psychology and M.S. in Applied Sociology Programs. Huss has won numerous ATU awards for service, including several RSO Awards for the Campus Kitchen Project, RSO Advisor of the Year, the Student Services Cupola Award, and the Faculty Excellence in Service Award for 2016.

David Ward, Professor of Psychology, joined Arkansas Tech University in the fall of 1999 after a stint as a visiting professor at Illinois State University. He holds the following degrees: B.S. in Zoology from the University of Texas, an M.S. in General Psychology from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Georgia. He has been the thesis or comprehensive exam chairperson for over 15 graduate students and has 9 professional publications and over 30 conference presentations. Highlights of Ward’s service to ATU includes designing both the current and original psychology graduate programs and serving multiple terms in the Faculty Senate, including a term as president of that body. Ward’s current research interests include the integration of social, cognitive and evolutionary psychology viewpoints on attitudes and decision making involving emotional reactions. He has served as Head of the Behavioral Sciences Department since 2015.



Penny Willmering, Professor and Director of Rehabilitation Science, joined the faculty in 1999 after completing her Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Service in 2008. Willmering holds licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (AR) and a certification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. During her tenure at ATU, she obtained and administered a \$375,000 five-year training grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Willmering has also chaired the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling and served as President of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association and as a Commissioner for the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). During her time at ATU, she has served on Faculty Senate, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, Faculty Welfare Committee, Student Affairs Committee, and the Institutional Review Board. Scholarly activities include serving as a co-author for licensure law revisions for Arkansas, co-authoring legislation resulting in raises for public rehabilitation counselors in the state, and serving as a member of the accreditation standards team for CORE. In addition, she has published in the area of undergraduate training, completed a national research study regarding compassion fatigue and service providers, and is currently conducting a study examining the relationship between sense of humor and adaptation to disability.

## Communication & Journalism



Thomas Vaughn received an M.A. in Communication from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in Speech Communication from Indiana University. He serves as a Professor of Communication in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Arkansas Tech University. His primary research and teaching interest is in apocalyptic rhetoric. Other areas of specialization include argumentation and sport communication.



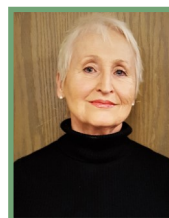


## English & World Languages



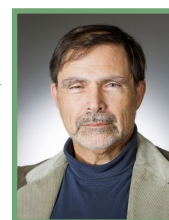
Carl Brucker, Professor of English in the Department of English and World Languages, has been at Arkansas Tech since 1984 and has served as Department Head since 1985. He also serves as Director of the M.A. English, the M.A. TESOL, and the ESL Academy that is operated in collaboration with the University of Arkansas –Fayetteville. He teaches courses in American literature and technical writing. He has published articles on various American authors, but his primary publication is *Arkansas Tech Writing*, the textbook used in all sections of ENGL 2053 Technical Writing. The text was first published in 1989 and is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> edition.

Ursula Chandler, Professor of German, holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, as well as an Arkansas Educator's License in Administration P-12 and German 7-12. In her service at Tech, her proudest accomplishments are the ESL Academy and the creation of the M.A. in TESOL in 2004. She has presented numerous scholarly papers: at Oxford University (UK) on the collaboration of business with higher education in 2007; the International Gothic Conference at the University of Heidelberg (GY) in 2011; and the International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations at the University of Vienna (AU) in 2014, among others. She has served as Faculty Senate President (1999-2000) and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in German, English, and TESOL. Currently, she is completing a textbook with Gabriele Haulmark, *Deutsch für Englischsprecher*, and is working on study and work abroad opportunities for Tech students.



Paola Gemme is Professor of English at Arkansas Tech University, where she teaches American Literature, American Studies, and English as a Second Language teacher education courses. She was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching in 2013. Gemme is the author of *Domesticating Foreign Struggles: The Italian Risorgimento and Antebellum American Identity* (U of Georgia P, 2005). Her current research interests include the development of American Studies in Italy and the intersection of motherhood, disability and academic life.

Stan Lombardo is a native of Buffalo, New York; he attended Amherst High School and earned his B. A. in English at SUNY Buffalo, graduating Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. In 1976, he received his Ph.D. in Medieval Studies from Indiana University (Bloomington), where he was a University Fellow. Between times, he did a hitch in the U. S. Naval Reserve. Lombardo has taught at Arkansas Tech University since 1977 and holds the rank of Professor of English in the Department of English and World Languages. In addition to being a teacher, he is a novelist and screenwriter.



Dana Derrick Ward, Professor of Spanish in the Department of English and World Languages, earned her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a B.A. degree from Hendrix College with additional coursework from the University of Arizona in Guadalajara, Mexico, and El Instituto de Filología in Saltillo, Mexico. Dr. Ward has taught all levels of Spanish at ATU; traveled and taught in Spain; and has given presentations on language, culture, and literature at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the Central State Conference and Arkansas Foreign Language Teachers Association, and the South Central Modern Language Association. She has sponsored the ATU Spanish Club and worked as former Dean of the Spanish Summer Immersion Camps and Weekend Camps with the Arkansas International Languages Program at Arkansas Tech University.

Donna White has a B.A. from Arkansas Tech, an M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. She has been teaching English at ATU since 1999. Along with composition classes, she teaches fun courses like Young Adult Literature, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Graphic Novels, Apocalyptic Literature, and Celtic Studies. She is on the editorial boards of half a dozen scholarly journals and is the

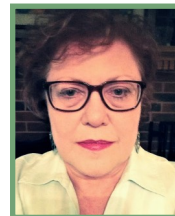






author of twenty scholarly articles and two books: *A Century of Welsh Myth in Children's Literature* and *Dancing with Dragons: Ursula K. LeGuin and the Critics*. She has also co-edited four collections of academic articles: *Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows: A Children's Classic at 100*, *J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan: In and Out of Time*, *Diana Wynne Jones: An Exciting and Exact-ing Wisdom*, and *Posthumanism in Young Adult Fiction: Finding Humanity in a Posthuman World*.

Deborah Wilson, Professor of English and Director of the MLA program, lived her life in Louisiana and Mississippi until moving to the northern region of Arkansas in the fall of 1992 to be an assistant professor of English at Arkansas Tech University. Before coming to ATU, she earned a Bachelor's degree at Louisiana Tech University, taught public school in Mississippi for 10 years, and earned a Master's degree at Mississippi College and a Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. Wilson was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching in 2004. This 26th year at ATU proves that the goal of her life is to be a teacher, that the interaction with students in the classroom is God's gift to prove that that goal is indeed the greatest gift.



Sam McGuire Worley, Professor in the Department of English and World Languages, has been at Arkansas Tech since 1997, where he teaches courses in American Literature and American Studies. He is the author of the book *Emerson, Thoreau, and the Role of the Cultural Critic* (SUNY 2000) and numerous essays. His research and teaching over the last seventeen years has placed particular emphasis on both American slavery and the American Civil Rights Movement.

## History & Political Science



David Blanks is Professor of History and Department Head of History and Political Science. A medievalist by training, whose early work focused on cross-cultural encounters in the Mediterranean and monasticism, Blanks now works on more broadly theoretical issues. Recently he has published "Towards A Theory of Big History" ; "Europeans Before Europe: Modernity and the Myth of the Other" in *Early Modern Constructions of Europe* ; "Cosmic Evolution in the Cradle of Civilization" in *From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology*; and "Scientific History and the Muslim Worldview" in *Our Place In The Cosmos: Big History and Universal Consciousness*, a special edition of the *International Journal for the Transformation of Con-sciousness*. Before moving to Arkansas, Professor Blanks worked at the American University in Cairo from

1992 to 2015.

Thomas DeBlack, Professor of History, is a 1969 graduate of Nashville (Arkansas) High School and holds a B.A. from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas; an M.S.E. from Ouachita Baptist University; and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. DeBlack taught in the public schools in Arkansas for twelve years. He is a past president of the Arkansas Historical Association and the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers and currently serves on the board of the Arkansas Humanities Council. He is co-author of *Arkansas: A Narrative History*, which was named the winner of the Arkansas Library Association's Arkansiana Prize, and author of *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas 1861-1874*, which was named the first winner of the Butler-Rommel Arkansas History Literary Prize. He recently published a history of the first hundred years of Arkansas Tech entitled *A Century Forward: The Centennial History of Arkansas Tech University*. DeBlack was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Scholarship in 2002.



Peter Dykema was born and raised in western Michigan. Over the years, he has also lived in Tucson, Arizona; southern Germany; and, of course, the Arkansas River Valley. He holds degrees from Hope College, Western Theological Seminary, and the University of Arizona. As a historian of early modern Europe, his special interest focuses on the Late Middle Ages and the Reformation in Germany. He received the Faculty Award of Excellence for Teaching in 2008, and he had a short (yet undefeated) career in competitive hot-dog eating.



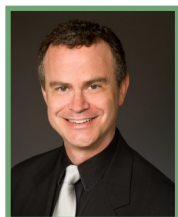
Jeff Mitchell, Professor of Philosophy, began teaching at Tech in the fall of 1994. He received his B.A. from Whitman College and his doctorate from Vanderbilt University; his research interests include ethics, psychoanalysis, and sociology. He is the author of *Individualism and Moral Character: Karen Horney's Depth Psychology* (Transaction Publishers, 2014). Mitchell is a past president of the Arkansas Conference of the American Association of University Professors, and he remains active in the AAUP. In his spare time, he enjoys pursuing his late-born hobby of mathematics.

H. Micheal Tarver, Professor of History, joined the Arkansas Tech faculty in 2002. He has served as both head of the Department of History and Political Science and as Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. Included among Tarver's awards are the ATU Faculty Award of Excellence for Scholarship, a Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award by the U.S. Department of State, and a J. William Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to Venezuela. Since his arrival at ATU, Tarver has completed several publications, including the revised and expanded edition of *The History of Venezuela* (2018) and *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of the Daily Life of Women: How They Lived from Ancient Times to the Present* (2019). Prior to joining Arkansas Tech, Tarver served on the faculty at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. Tarver earned both his Bachelor of General Studies in Natural Sciences and his Master of Arts in History from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He completed his Ph.D. in Latin American History from Bowling Green State University.



Jeff Woods is a Professor of History and Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at Arkansas Tech University. He is the author of two books, *Richard Russell, Southern Nationalism, and American Foreign Policy* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007) and *Black Struggle, Red Scare: Segregation and Anticomunism in the South, 1948-1968* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2004). Woods was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Scholarship in 2009. He is currently a full time administrator but continues to teach, research, and write about American diplomatic and political history.

## Music



Timothy Smith, Professor of Music, received a Bachelor of Music degree from St. Olaf College and his doctoral degree in piano at Indiana University-Bloomington. He currently teaches piano, music theory, and ear training. He is a former faculty member at Luther College as well as Lutheran Summer Music and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Smith has collaborated with hundreds of musicians throughout his career; his most recent collaboration, in October 2017, was with the New York Classical Players, performing Beethoven's *Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58*. He has been the official pianist for the *D'Angelo Competition in Strings* at Mercyhurst College and has recorded a CD, *Collage*, with trombonist Will Kimball on the Tantara label as well as the Suzuki cello repertoire with renowned cellist Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi. In 2011, he was awarded Arkansas Tech's Faculty Award of Excellence for Scholarship/Creative Activity, as well as the Arkansas State Music Teachers Association's Teacher of the Year Award. Smith is active in ASMTA and the Russellville Music Club; his interests also extend into the theatre, where he has had leading roles in both amateur and professional venues.

Philip Parker teaches percussion, music theory, and composition at Arkansas Tech University. He was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Scholarship in 2010. As a composer, he has been widely commissioned and has published numerous compositions for a variety of media, many of which have been commercially recorded. Major performance venues include the Kennedy Center, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the International Clarinet Society, the International Trumpet Guild, the International Double Reed Society, the National Flute Association, Music Educators national Conference, and the College Band Directors National Association Convention. Awards for his music include two winning compositions in the National Flute Association's New Music Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the College Orchestra Directors Association international contest, and recipient of a chamber music commission from the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. Additional awards include Honorable Mention for MTNA Distinguished Composer 2013, an Arkansas Arts Council Fellowship, Composer-in-Residence with the Fort Smith Symphony, and two-time recipient of Arkansas Tech's Excellence in Scholarship award. Parker was also a timpanist for 27 years with the Ft. Smith Symphony and is active as a percussion adjudicator and clinician.







## BUSINESS

### Management & Marketing



Stephen Jones, Associate Dean of Business and Professor of Management, received his B.S. in Education from Pittsburg State University, his M.A. in Spanish from the University of Missouri—Columbia, his M.B.A. from Missouri State University, and his Ph.D. in Organization Theory and Policy from the University of North Texas. Jones previously served as the chair of the Department of Business at Michigan Christian College (now Rochester College) and taught at the College of the Ozarks and Missouri State University. He began his career at ATU as an Assistant Professor of Management in 2005 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011 and to Associate Dean of Business in 2012.

Kevin Mason has M.B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Marketing from the University of Arkansas and is currently a Professor of Marketing in his thirtieth year at Arkansas Tech University. Mason's has taught numerous courses at ATU; however, his favorite classes are Consumer Behavior and Sports Marketing. To date, Mason's journal publications total twenty-five, and he has twenty-nine published proceedings. His primary research interest is to examine how consumers process marketing information to formulate product evaluations. His work has been published in several journals, including the *Journal for the Academy of Marketing Science (JAMS)*, *Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, and the *Journal of Foodservice Business Research*.



Kim Troboy, Professor of Management Information Systems, holds a Ph.D. in Business Computer Information Systems from the University of North Texas, an M.B.A. from the University of Arkansas, and a B.S. in Computer Science with a Math option from Arkansas Tech University. She has published numerous papers in journals and conference proceedings on information systems topics, as well as assessment of student learning in technology, communication, moral reasoning, and critical thinking. She has also served on many College of Business and University committees. Troboy previously taught in the Computer and Information Science Department at ATU for seven years in the 1980s. While working on her doctorate at the University of North Texas, she worked as a teaching fellow in the Business Computer Information Systems Department, a research associate for the Information Systems Research Center, and the lab manager for the Computer Audit Specialist program.

Jack E. Tucci, Ph.D., worked sixteen years in the technology sector in the oil industry prior to coming to academe. He served as an operations manager in West Texas and was responsible for the early adoption of PCs and main-frame interactions for large database manipulations for product volume systems. Tucci has consulted for several Fortune 50 companies involving restructuring, resource allocation, and financial analysis. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1996 in Strategic Management and Organizational Theory, Tucci has served as Division Chair, Dean, and VPAA for several institutions. He has primarily taught undergraduate and graduate strategy and entrepreneurship and emphasizes technology usage as a means of gaining a sustainable competitive advantage. Tucci currently serves as the William M. Lemley Endowed Chair within the College of Business at Arkansas Tech University.



## EDUCATION



Linda Bean, Professor of Business and Interim Dean for the College of Education, joined Arkansas Tech University in the summer of 2000. She holds the following degrees: B.S. in Business Education from Arkansas Tech University, M.S.E. in Business Education from the University of Central Arkansas, and Ed.D. in Occupational and Adult Education with emphasis in Teacher Education from Oklahoma State University. She serves as the Interim Dean of Education and Program Director for Business Education. Bean has 19 years of secondary education experience and 26 years of experience in higher education from Auburn University, University of Central Arkansas, and (cont.)





currently Arkansas Tech University. She has served in leadership roles in several professional organizations, including ABEA, Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education, and Arkansas Association for Teacher Education.

## Curriculum & Instruction



Tim Carter, Professor and Department Head of Curriculum and Instruction, joined the Arkansas Tech University faculty in 1998 as an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction. He holds the following degrees: B.S., Arkansas Tech University (1989); M.Ed., Arkansas Tech University (1994); and Ph.D., University of Georgia (1998). He has taught in higher education for 22 years, including 19 years at Arkansas Tech. Prior to this, Carter taught for five years as a public school science teacher. Prior to his administrative appointment, he served as the Executive Secretary for the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators for 13 years and as the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (formerly NCATE) Coordinator for the College of Education and the Assessment Chair for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for approximately 10 years. He also served as the Summer Math Institute Project Director and has served on a variety of committees on the university campus, including the University Curriculum Committee, the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Board, the Faculty Welfare Committee, and various university search committees among other committee participation. He has worked with Arkansas public education cooperatives and the Arkansas Department of Education to improve and assist with assessment efforts at the state and university levels, as well as serving as an evaluator for a number of state and nationally-funded grants. In addition, Carter has served as a consultant, scholar, and trainer in various educational and industry training settings in how to better instruct and assess younger generation learners.

David Bell, Director of Educator Licensure and Support Services and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, joined the ATU faculty in 1988 as the Head of Elementary Education. Over time, he became the Head of Curriculum and Instruction and served in that capacity for a number of years. Most recently, he serves as the Director of Teacher Licensure and Support Services and professor of Curriculum and Instruction. Before that, he was the Director of Teacher Education at Arkansas College (now Lyon College) in Batesville and led them to their successful accreditation of their elementary education program by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). He also served as the Placement Director for Teacher Education at Henderson State University. Bell has a B.S. from Arkansas Tech University and an M.Ed. and Ed. D. from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Professionally, he has been active in the Association of Teacher Educators, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the International Reading Association, the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, and the Mid-South Educational Research Association. For a number of years, he also served as team chair for NCATE. He has a number of presentations and publications around his research interests of teacher education, accreditation, online teaching, early childhood education, and literacy.



Jackie Paxton, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction, holds a Doctorate in Special Education from the University of Arkansas and Master and Bachelor degrees from the University of Central Arkansas. His teaching career includes teaching special education in the Ft. Smith public schools, and working as a consultant for children with emotional and behavior problems at the Guy Fenter Education Cooperative. His higher education teaching career began as an Assistant/Associate Professor for Arkansas Tech at the University Center in Ft. Smith from 1991 to 2003. He then worked as an Associate Professor for UAFS from 2003 to 2005. Jackie began working on the ATU Russellville campus in 2005. He recently had two books published: *31 Fun Ways to Increase Your Child's Attention Span*, which was briefly a #1 Kindle best seller in Education books in August 2006, and the *Handy Dandy Quick Reference Teacher Guide for Working with Children with Academic and Behavior Problems*. Paxton is currently working on a book relating to Sensory Processing Disorder.



V. Carole Smith is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a B.M.Ed., Masters in Music Education, Masters in Educational Leadership, and a Ph.D. in Teacher Education with a concentration in Middle Level Education. Smith worked with Tucson Public Schools as a Music Teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal for Student Activities, and Assistant Principal for Student Services. She was also an Assistant Superintendent in the Littleton Public Schools. Prior to joining the faculty at Arkansas Tech, she was an Assistant Professor at University of Arkansas in Monticello. Smith joined the Arkansas Tech Faculty in the College of Education as a teacher in the Middle Level Education Program. In addition, she started the Collegiate Middle Level Association and is the advisor for the organization. She was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching in 2010. This year, Smith wrote the SPA (Special Program Assessment) for the Arkansas Tech Middle Level Program, and in August was informed that the program has been nationally accredited again. Smith belongs to the Association for Teacher Educators, Association for Middle Level Education, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the state affiliates. Smith also belongs to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity for Women. On Arkansas Tech's campus, she is a member of The Black Faculty and Staff Association.

Lynn Walsh, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, earned her B.S. in Education from Indiana University, her M.A. in Education at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City, and her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Baylor University. Walsh joined ATU as a faculty member in 2010. Her current research interests include the use and benefits of flipped instruction in the classroom and the use of classroom simulations (Live Teach Avatars) with preservice teachers. Walsh is a member of the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators, the International Literacy Association, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Middle School Association, and Kappa Delta Pi.



## Health & Physical Education

Shelia L. Jackson came to the Department of Health and Physical Education at Arkansas Tech University the fall of 1998. Previously, she was at the University of Central Arkansas, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of Puget Sound, and Crossett Senior High School. She received her B.S.E. at Southern Arkansas University, her M.Ed. at the University of Arkansas, and her Ph.D. at Texas Woman's University. Since coming to Tech, she has developed and/or taught over twenty courses, from folk and square dance to graduate research design and statistics. Jackson has served on almost every committee on campus and chaired the Curriculum Committee (2002-03) and the Faculty Senate (2006-07). She received the ATU Excellence Award in Service in 2010 and the Arkansas Association for Health and Physical Education Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. Currently, she's conducting research related to increasing the physical activity of children, but she's published and presented research in the areas of measurement and evaluation, motor learning, motor development, sport psychology, biomechanics, and adapted physical education.



Rockie Pederson, Professor of Health and Physical Education, holds a B.S.E. and M.S.E. in Health and Physical Education from Henderson State University and a Ph.D. in Kinesiology from Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas. She joined Arkansas Tech University in 2011 after teaching at The University of Texas at El Paso. She is the co-author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and a consistent presenter at state, regional, and national conferences. Her primary areas of teaching are secondary physical education pedagogy, motor learning, and student teaching mentoring. Pederson is the co-author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and a consistent presenter at state, regional, and national conferences. She has received the UT Regents Outstanding Teaching Award for Contingent Faculty; the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) University Physical Educator of the Year; and the Arkansas Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPERD) Higher Educator of the Year awards.



### *College Student Personnel*

Susan Underwood currently serves as a Professor in the Department of College Student Personnel at ATU. She has extensive experience in higher education, both in administrative and faculty roles, at six universities ranging in size from 6,000 to over 35,000 students. She has taught at the undergraduate, master, and doctoral levels and has chaired and/or served on numerous doctoral dissertation committees. Underwood developed the curriculum for two graduate programs in higher education, one each at the doctoral and master's levels. She developed, gained university approval to teach, and oversaw the offering of the first credit-bearing college success course to be offered at Arkansas Tech University. She was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for Service in 2013. Underwood holds a B.S. in Health Care Administration and a Master's of Education in College Student Personnel from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with a minor in Counseling Psychology is from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

### *Center for Leadership and Learning*

John Freeman has 38 years of experience as an educator, including 20 years in higher education. After receiving his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Research Methodology from Louisiana State University in 1997, he began his higher education career at the University of Alabama where he received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and became the Founding Director of the University of Alabama Superintendent's Academy. After 8 1/2 years, he moved to The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga as Department Head of Graduate Studies, where he oversaw a department with 13 graduate programs in all areas of education and where he was tenured and promoted to full professor. After 9 years at UTC, Freeman arrived at Arkansas Tech University in January 2015 to assume the position of Director of the newly created Ed.D. Program in School Leadership. His primary research interests are leadership preparation, school effects, and mixed methods research methodology and has published in national and international journals and made numerous presentations at national research conferences. Since arriving at ATU, Freeman has overseen the startup of the Ed.D. program here, which to date has graduated 13 doctoral students from its first cohort, with an additional 34 students admitted into the next two cohorts.



## ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

### *Agriculture*



Malcolm R. Rainey (Mack), Professor of Animal Science and Department Head of Agriculture, joined Arkansas Tech University in 2010. He advises students and organizations, manages the department and its budgets, and supervises the operation of the Red Hill Outdoor Learning Laboratories. His primary areas of teaching are animal science, reproductive physiology, nutrition, and management. His professional experience includes working as a Livestock Specialist at Clemson University; Professor of Animal Science at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; and Swine Specialist for Premium Pork, a subsidiary of Lykes Meat Group. He also successfully operated a private consulting company for ten years. Rainey is a member of the American Society of Animal Scientist, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association, and Arkansas Pork Producers Association. He regularly organizes workshops and presentations for local 4-H and FFA organizations and serves as a resource for 4-H leaders and Agriculture Educators. Rainey has a doctorate in Animal Physiology from Mississippi State University. He was the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Advisor of the Year 2011-2012 and Agriculture Department Faculty Member of the Year 2010 – 2011.



## Computer & Information Science

David Hoelzeman, Professor of Computer and Information Science, has a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Louisiana State University. Hoelzeman has been at Arkansas Tech University for 18 years and has served as Department Head since 2014. He has been involved with the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest since 1998 and served as the Mid-Central Regional Contest Director in 2013 and 2014. Hoelzeman is on the Regional Board of the Midsouth Region of the Consortium for Computing Science in Colleges as webmaster.

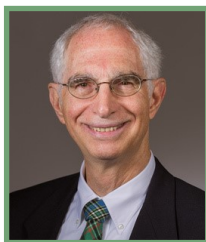
David Middleton, Professor of Computer and Information Science, earned a Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honours in Computer Science from the University of Sydney. The films created by he and a colleague in the Honours year Computer Graphics course won an award at that year's International South-East Asian Computer Graphics Conference. Middleton earned his Doctorate at UNC Chapel Hill designing software and hardware algorithms for a fine-grained massively-parallel computer. Some of the most enjoyable years were spent as a post-doc within the NASA Langley Research Center. Middleton arrived at Tech in 1998 and has developed and taught well over twenty courses in the Computer and Information Science Department.



Nobuyuki Nezu, Professor of Computer and Information Science, has been teaching at Tech since January 2001. Before joining ATU, he was an assistant professor of computer science at University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Nezu holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Oklahoma State University. He is an elected member of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society. He also serves as an editorial board member for International Journal on Cloud Computing: Services and Architecture. Nezu's major interests include parallel and distributed processing and theory of computation.

## Electrical Engineering

Patricia Buford is a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Arkansas Tech University. Prior to her academic career, she worked 10 years in the electric utility industry and maintains her Professional Engineering License. Her Ph.D. research was in the area of biomedical mathematical modeling. Buford taught many electrical engineering courses and was involved in student undergraduate research while serving as Electrical Engineering Department Head and Associate Dean of Engineering. Currently she is a full time administrator with interests in higher education and K-12 STEM opportunities, assessment, student success, and academic integrity.



E. Carl Greco, Interim Department Head and Professor of Electrical Engineering, received his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Louisiana Tech and his Masters and Doctorate in Electrical Engineering from Rice University. He was then selected for a NIH post-doctoral fellowship to study biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California. He has held several faculty positions since completion of the post-doctoral fellowship, including Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the graduate biomedical engineering program at University of Miami where he received a Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NIH) young investigator award. He then became an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at a newly formed Masters program of Biomedical Engineering at Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, followed by an Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, School of Medicine, Creighton

University. Greco's research pertains to biomedical systems and signal analysis. He participated in several ASEE Faculty Summer Fellowships including the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base and, most recently, several summers at Neurosciences Group NASA/JSC. He has published 9 articles in the biomedical literature and a similar number of symposium presentations concerning engineering education topics at ASEE regional and national meetings. Greco has been a reviewer for the ASEE national meeting for the last several years and was elected and served as chair of the ASEE Midwest section. He has also served several years as the secretary/treasurer for the Arkansas River Valley Section of the IEEE and has participated as a paper judge in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium for the last 10 years. He has been a member of several campus committees, include the Faculty Senate and Faculty Welfare Committees.



## Mechanical Engineering



Bruce Chehroudi, Department Head and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and Post-Doctoral Fellow (Princeton University), an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering (Southern Methodist University), an M.S. in Economics (Swiss Finance Institute), and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (Sharif University). He is a senior member of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Propellant & Combustion Committee and an Associate Fellow of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Chehroudi has held the positions of Interim Head for Electrical Engineering at ATU, President and CEO of Advanced Technology, Principal Scientist and Group Leader at Engineering Research Corporation, Chief Scientist at Raytheon STX, Visiting Technologist at Ford's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Development center, and tenured Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Kettering University and University of Illinois; he has also served as a Senior Research Staff/Research Fellow at Princeton University. Chehroudi directed numerous interdisciplinary projects and won many merit and leadership awards by such prestigious organizations as the Society of Automotive Engineers *Arch. T. Colwell Merit Award* and *Ralph R. Teetor Award*. He has been a consultant with many organizations, such as Ford, GM, and Honda R&D, and he acts as a reviewer for many scientific and engineering journals and publishers. He has delivered over 200 presentations, over 20 technical reports, five 600-plus-page monographs, two book chapters, and has more than 150 publications with extensive experience in both scientific and management areas and intensive trainings in finance and financial engineering.

Wayne Helmer is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He has over 40 years teaching in engineering education. Current courses are Introduction to Mechanical Engineering, Heat Transfer, Mechanical Design Project, Thermal Systems Lab, HVAC and Energy Management. He has worked for General Electric, NASA – Marshall, and the USDA Forest Service. He is a member of ASME and ASHRAE. He is a registered Professional Engineer and a Certified Energy Manager. He is a recipient of the E. K Campbell award from ASHRAE. Current Professional development is in Energy Management, HVAC Systems and 3-D printing.



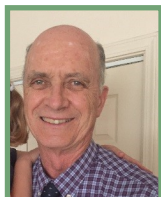
John Krohn received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville in 1981. He continued his studies at UAF and completed his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1983. He was admitted to the doctoral program at Texas A&M University in 1983 and completed his Ph.D. with a major in Nuclear Engineering in 1992. While at Texas A&M, Krohn was employed at the Nuclear Science Center where he held a variety of positions, beginning as a Technical Services engineer and holding the titles of Assistant Director and Manager of Technical Services at the time of his departure. Krohn came to ATU in the Fall semester, 1991, as an Assistant Professor of Engineering. While at Tech, he has served as Department Head for Engineering and later Mechanical Engineering from 1996 until 2011. He helped develop and served as the first Director of Tech Honors and is currently Professor of Mechanical Engineering. During his time at Arkansas Tech, he has authored or co-authored several papers and presentations primarily focused on engineering education. He led the initial development of the B.S.E.E. and B.S.M.E. programs, has developed three undergraduate and three graduate courses, and served on several university standing and ad hoc committees. His main area of interest is in energy issues including nuclear and alternative/renewal energy systems.

## NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### Biology

Eric Lovely, Professor of Biology, received his Ph.D. in Zoology from University of New Hampshire in 1999. He then spent the next nine months traveling through Asia and Africa, informally studying and experiencing the effects of parasites, coral reefs, and world religions. He taught Environmental Science and Chemistry at University of Southern Maine and Biology at University of New England before accepting a position as Assistant Professor of Biology at ATU in 2002. He was promoted to Professor of Biology in 2016 and took on the role of Biology Program Director. He has served on numerous committees, including serving as the President of the Faculty Senate in 2013-2014. He also served on the Presidential Search Committee that led to the hiring of Dr. Robin Bowen and has served on the Curriculum Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. Lovely studies invertebrates and has published articles on sea spiders, teaching evolution, zooplankton in Lake Dardanelle, and the butterflies and moths of Arkansas.





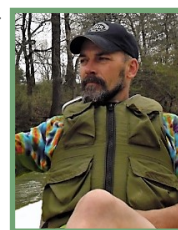
Scott Kirkconnell, Professor of Biology, received his B.A. from the University of Illinois and both his M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University. After working as a research associate for Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, Kirkconnell joined ATU in 1981. He was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching in 2011. His research interests include a search for antibiotic-enhancing microorganisms, effects of exercise and other behavioral adjustments on cognitive functioning, and microbial catabolism of methane and antibiotic-enhancement by bacteria. Kirkconnell retired from ATU in December 2017.

Bruce Tedford, Professor of Biology, received his Ph.D. in Endocrinology/Physiology from Louisiana State University in 1995. He has worked as a Research Associate at the Brain Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles; a Research Associate III and Instructor of Veterinary Toxicology at L.S.U. School of Veterinary Medicine; a Lecturer at the Dept. of Biology, Southeastern Louisiana University; and Assistant Professor of Biology at Baton Rouge Community College. Tedford started as an Assistant Professor of Biological Science at ATU in 2001 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007 and Professor in 2016. He also served as the Biology Department Program Director and is currently serving on the Faculty Senate and Pre-Med Committee. Tedford developed Physiological Ecology (BIOL 3174) as an alternative to Human Physiology and has also mentored several students in directed research projects. While at Tech, he has published five research articles, created/revised/contributed to four laboratory texts, and helped actualize Biology's BIOMED option. Current research interests include circadian rhythm/hormonal influences on growth and avian torpor, as well as a continued interest in the physiology of avian olfaction. Tedford maintains memberships in the Ornithological Societies of North America, as well as the Arkansas Academy of Sciences.



Tsunemi Yamashita, Professor of Biology, received his B.A. from Hendrix College and his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. He won the Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarship in 2014. His background with scorpions and their evolution has directed him into research to understand the variation and action of toxin proteins. Yamashita's previous work has focused upon the ecology and population variation in the North American scorpion, *Centruroides vittatus*.

Charles J. Gagen, Professor of Fisheries Science, earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1983 from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology from Penn State University studying the effects of acid rain on stream-dwelling fishes. His professional career began at Arkansas Tech University as an Assistant Professor of Fisheries Science, where he primarily taught zoology, ecology, ichthyology, and limnology. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1995 and Full Professor in 2003. He also served as Director of the FW Program from 1994 to 1998 when he became Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and served through 2015. Gagen won the Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarship in 1999. His research focuses on determining the effects of environmental variables on fish populations and communities, especially responses of upland stream fishes to low streamflow. He has administered many federal research grants (totaling several hundred thousand dollars) to characterize AR fish communities in wade-able streams, document tendencies of road crossings to adversely affect fish movement, and assess how movement and mortality affect population dynamics of stream-dwelling fishes. Gagen has been active in the American Fisheries Society and the Arkansas Chapter, in particular.



John Jackson, Professor of Fisheries Science, began his Arkansas Tech University career as an Assistant Professor of Fisheries Science in 2003. Since then, he has been promoted to Associate and Full Professor, served as the Fisheries and Wildlife Science Program Director, and now serves as the Head of the Department of Biological Sciences. Jackson received his B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Michigan State University and his M.S. (Wildlife Ecology) and Ph.D. (Fisheries Management) from Mississippi State University. Jackson is active with the American Fisheries Society and served as the Southern Division President in 2014. His research interests involve studying floodplain river ecosystems, evaluating supplemental stocking, and answering questions to improve management of Arkansas' fisheries resources. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, bee keeping, and canoeing.





Chris Kellner, Professor of Wildlife Science, has been at Arkansas Tech since the fall of 1990 when he joined the faculty in biological sciences to develop and teach a non-majors laboratory for Introduction to Biological Sciences. Since then, he has developed and/or taught ten courses in biological sciences. In 2000, Kellner joined the faculty of the Fisheries and Wildlife program to help develop the graduate program in Fisheries and Wildlife Science. He has supported that program by maintaining an active research lab that focusses on avian and reptilian ecology. His current research focuses on the effects of different thermal environments on the ecology of prairie lizards. His most recent publication included 3 student co-authors and describes a technique for using digital photography and unique patterns of scale morphology to identify individual lizards (Kellner et al. 2017; Herpetological Review, 48(4), 766–769).

Herpetological Review, 48(4), 766–769).

Tom Nupp, Professor of Wildlife Science and Director of the Fisheries and Wildlife Program, started as an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Science at ATU in 1997 after receiving his Ph.D. at Purdue University. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2003 and Professor in 2008; in 2016, he took on the role of Fisheries and Wildlife Science Program Director. Nupp has initiated several research projects working with both undergraduate and graduate students, and the research grants he has worked on have collectively amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, used primarily to fund undergraduate and graduate student research projects. Nupp has a strong interest in GIS, and many of his research projects involve the examination of spatial arrangements of habitats and animals. He has served the Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society as Secretary/Treasurer (2008-2010), President (2012-2014), and Past-president (2015-2016).



Joe Stoeckel, Professor of Fisheries, earned his B.S. and M.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University—Carbondale and his Ph.D. in Fisheries Science from Virginia Tech University. His research interests include freshwater fisheries management, propagation of commercial and rare species, biology of freshwater mussels, and reproductive biology of fishes. Stoeckel holds professional memberships in the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the Arkansas Chapter of AFS, the World Aquaculture Society, and Sigma Xi.

Melinda Wilkins currently serves as Professor and Program Director of the graduate program in Health Informatics and undergraduate program in Health Information Management at ATU and has taught at the collegiate level for almost 30 years. Her area of interest lies in health informatics, data analytics, and health information management. Change management in the implementation of health information technology is of particular research interest. Wilkins holds a Ph.D. in Organization and Management with a specialization in Information Technology from Capella University. She holds a Master's of Education in the area of Agency Counseling and a B.S. in Medical Record Administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She has served as the Chair of the Board for the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM), as well as a consultant for Arkansas' health information exchange efforts. She is a past president of the Arkansas Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and has served in many different roles on this Board. She has attained Fellow status with AHIMA and was presented with the Triumph Award in Leadership by this national association. Wilkins was most recently elected as a Director on the AHIMA Board of Directors, to serve in this role through 2020.



## Mathematics



John Watson, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in mathematics from the University of Arkansas; he earned his Ed.D. from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Spanish from Arkansas Tech. Watson joined ATU in 1978 as faculty member; he then went on to serve as Department Head of Mathematics, Dean of what is now the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Watson was promoted to Distinguished Professor of Mathematics by the Board of Trustees in 2014 and returned to teaching in 2015. He received the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the Mathematical Association of America Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in 2000 and was presented a Certificate of Meritorious Service by the MAA in 2010. In

addition to teaching duties, he is currently serving as the interim director of the ATU STEM Institute. As a lasting legacy to Arkansas Tech, Watson and his wife, Trudy, are providing an endowment for the annual “John and Trudy Watson Classical Guitar Concert Series.”



## Nursing



Rebecca Burris earned a B.S.N. and an M.S.N. from Northwestern State University Louisiana and a Ph.D. in Nursing Science from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She joined the nursing faculty in 1991 and has served as the department head since 1999. She teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has served on the Education Committee of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and is a Program Evaluator and an Evaluation Review Panel Member for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Her research interests are smoking in adolescents and nursing education. Her dissertation research earned her the distinction of American Nurses Foundation Scholar. Before joining academia, Burris practiced nursing in labor and delivery and women's health.

Cheryl Smith Monfee completed her B.S.N. from The University of South Alabama, her M.S.N. from The University of Southern Mississippi, and her Ph.D. from UAMS. Her research on chronic sorrow among female victims of child abuse has been published in *The Journal of Addictions Nursing* and *The Journal of Pediatric Nursing*. She has been a member of the faculty at ATU since 1992 and currently teaches in all three nursing programs: the undergraduate pre-licensure program, the R.N. to B.S.N. program, and the M.S.N. program, focusing on nursing leadership and management and nursing theory.



Jennifer Helms, Ph.D., R.N. is Professor and Graduate Program Director for the Department of Nursing. She holds a B.S.N. from Harding University, M.S.N. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Past research interests were the use of complementary and alternative therapies for pain. Current research interests include long-term professional goals of B.S.N. students and resulting the impact on the nursing shortage, as well as public policy related to K-12 education standards and their impact on preparation for college level STEM majors.

## Physical Sciences

Anwar A. Bhuiyan received his B.Sc. (Hons.) degree and M.Sc. degree in 1983 and 1986 respectively from Dhaka University (Bangladesh). He obtained his M.S. degree in 1994 from University of Louisiana at Monroe and a Ph.D. degree in 1999 from Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI). His interest in solar photocatalyst and resonance Raman spectroscopy led him to a postdoctoral position at the University of California-Riverside. Bhuiyan joined the faculty at Arkansas Tech University in August 2001 after spending two years doing postdoctoral research. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2007 and promoted to Professor in 2013. Bhuiyan's research deals with the development and spectroscopic characterization of solar photocatalysts and the development of new methods for the determination of pesticide residues from environmental samples. He has published 22 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles in prestigious and well reputed journals. Bhuiyan and his students made more than 50 scientific presentations in different professional meetings. He has written 35 proposals during his tenure at Arkansas Tech, and all of them have been funded. In recognition of his excellent performance in teaching and research, he obtained Professor of the Year Award (2008-2009) by the Central Arkansas Section of the American Chemical Society and the Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarly Activities (2008) of Arkansas Tech University.





Franklin D. Hardcastle was awarded a B.S. in Chemistry from Montana State University in 1983, an M.S. in Physical/Analytical Chemistry from the University of Utah in 1985, and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Lehigh University in 1990. Hardcastle was employed at Exxon Research & Engineering Company in 1985 – 1987 working on the characterization of metal oxide heterogeneous catalysts using Raman spectroscopy, laser-induced desorption, and UHV techniques. He was employed by Sandia National Laboratories in 1990 – 1992 as a postdoctoral appointee working on structure/property relationships for ceramic and glass materials., lead zirconate titanates (PZT), and heterogeneous catalysts for coal liquefaction. In 1992 – 1994, he worked as an advanced scientist at TPL, Inc. (advanced materials company) winning phase I and II SBIR's covering projects such as plasma and chemical surface treatments for graphite fiber composites, dielectrics, advanced pyrotechnic formulations and energetic materials, and sol-gel abrasion coatings. From 1994 to 1998, he was a senior scientist at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory) working on stress corrosion cracking, thermo-photovoltaics and optical films using Raman and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopies. Hardcastle has been teaching chemistry at ATU since 1998; his research interests include developing bond valence-length correlations, Raman spectroscopy, and catalysis.



Mostafa Hemmati, Professor of Physics and Director of Undergraduate Research since 2001, earned his B.S. in Physics from the University of Meshad and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Oklahoma. He taught at South Oklahoma City Junior College before joining the ATU faculty in 1983. He served as the department head of Physical Sciences from 1996–2001 and has served on the Promotion and Tenure Committee and as chair of the committees for the Mathematics Department Academic Program Review and the Industrial Electronic Technology Academic Program Review. Hemmati also developed a lab for the Advance Atomic and Nuclear Physics course and served as President and Treasurer of the Arkansas-Oklahoma-Kansas section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, President of the Arkansas Academy of Science, and editor of the *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science*. Hemmati has won Faculty Excellence Awards in both Scholarship and Service at ATU.

Jeff Robertson, Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences, Interim Dean of the Graduate College, Professor of Astrophysics, and Director of the Astronomical Observatory, earned B.S. degrees in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Kansas; he then went on to earn his M.S. in Astronomy from San Diego State University and his Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Indiana University. Robertson joined the ATU faculty in 1997 as an assistant professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002 and Professor in 2008. He served as the department head of Physical Sciences from 2005–2011 and took on the role of Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences in 2011. He was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching in 2003. Robertson has served as the President of the Arkansas Academy of Science and currently serves as an HLC peer reviewer. His research pursuits include automation of astronomical observatories, interacting binary stars, and hazardous asteroids.



***Please note that the submissions forms for the 2017 Academic Accomplishments booklet will open on Monday, February 5th and will remain open until Wednesday, February 28th.***