

A stylized globe is positioned on the left side of the slide, showing the continents of North and South America in a light orange color against a light blue background. The globe is partially cut off by the right edge of the frame.

# WELCOME NEW FACULTY

FALL 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

## A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

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Dear Colleagues:

The University of Texas at Arlington recently celebrated the addition of the Texas Tier One designation to its Carnegie R-1 status—both validations that our campus is home to an incredible group of thinkers, inventors, creators, and influencers. As you join the ranks of UTA's outstanding faculty at one of the nation's foremost public urban research universities, I encourage you to remain aware of your incredible ability to change the lives of your students and make the world a better place. Whether it is by educating the minds and hearts of your students, sharing your knowledge, advancing your scholarly research, or producing creative works, you play a critical role in the progress of our campus, community, and society.

As a senior higher education institution, we are in a unique position to shape a future that was unexpectedly shaken and redirected with the pandemic. I have every confidence that our community of scholars will teach, research, and innovate with newfound insight as we celebrate a return to in-person classes, collaborate with purpose and vigor, and create a world far better than previously imagined.

Let me know if I can be of service to you, and welcome to The University of Texas at Arlington!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teik C. Lim".

**Teik C. Lim, Ph.D.**

Interim President

## A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



I am pleased to welcome you to The University of Texas at Arlington! You have become part of a university with a strong commitment to diversity, respect, inclusion, and learning.

Please know that we are invested in your success and look forward to the many ways in which you will enhance the academic learning and discovery environment at UTA.

We strive to uphold the highest standards of academic achievement at UTA, so we offer a great many resources, programs, and opportunities to our faculty. As you become productive and successful scholars at your new academic home, please take advantage of all that UTA offers, from networking to interdisciplinary interactions to collaborations with colleagues from across campus.

Best wishes for a smooth transition to UTA, and thank you for joining us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pranesh B. Aswath".

**Pranesh B. Aswath, Ph.D.**

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

## FIVE GUIDING THEMES

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The *Strategic Plan 2025: Bold Solutions | Global Impact* is driven by five overarching themes that guide UTA on a path to unprecedented excellence.



### HEALTH AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

UTA focuses on health and the human condition through an understanding of complex interactions. We explore health management within physical, mental, emotional, and social contexts.



### DATA-DRIVEN DISCOVERY

UTA focuses on interdisciplinary research that integrates big data from multiple fields to advance data science and analytics, enabling new discoveries, propelling research, and developing new technologies of benefit to society.



### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

UTA addresses critical issues that affect our planet, including climate change, energy, water, disasters, and pollution. By analyzing global population dynamics, we will develop an understanding of our world—and solutions for its challenges through a range of avenues across disciplines.



### CULTURE AND SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATIONS

UTA encourages the open-ended exploration of the complex interactions that constitute the diversity of human experience: cultural and artistic expressions, social environment, and the physical world.



### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

UTA fosters interrelationships between natural, built, economic, cultural, and social environments on community sustainability and works with community partners to implement ideas to improve livability of cities, the Metroplex, the state, and beyond.

# COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MARIA MARTINEZ-COSIO, INTERIM DEAN



## David Abraham

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Public Affairs  
& Planning

Ph.D. Urban Planning & Environmental Policy,  
Texas Southern University  
M.C.P., Texas Southern University  
B.F.A., Texas Southern University

Dr. Abraham is a scholar of urban and environmental planning and policy, specializing in sustainability planning and performance measurement. His research focuses on developing sustainability strategies for the enhancement of communities and cities. He also has expertise with developing consensus-building techniques for public participation/community engagement. He has published an edited volume on *Best Practices for Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals in North American Cities*.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Sustainable development planning, resilience and community planning, community development performance metrics, food insecurity planning, health and well-being impacts from the built environment, urban forestry sustainability strategies, and applied GIS for urban development solutions.



## Letora Anderson

Assistant Professor, Department  
of Landscape Architecture

M.A. Community Development, University of  
New Hampshire  
M.A. Landscape Architecture, University of  
Colorado-Denver  
B.A. Landscape Architecture, Louisiana  
State University

Anderson is a practicing landscape architect and planner with a professional background in park master planning, comprehensive planning, and urban design. Her approach seeks to provide equitable and sustainable design solutions within the built environment. Her teaching focuses on providing a practical understanding of design processes, sound knowledge of complex environmental and social systems, and cultivation of students' interests, talents, and unique experiences.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Landscape architectural approaches that foster environmental reconnection, equitable engagement, and cultural landscape development in minority neighborhoods; and issues of displacement in low-to-moderate-income communities living in historically disinvested neighborhoods.

# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

HARRY DOMBROSKI, DEAN



## Ramya Aroul

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Finance  
& Real Estate

Ph.D. Finance & Real Estate, UT Arlington  
M.S. Real Estate, UT Arlington  
M.B.A., ICFAI University  
M.S. Engineering Technology, Birla Institute of  
Technology & Science

Dr. Aroul's research interests focus on financial distress and valuation in asset markets, sentiment in real estate markets, sustainability in residential real estate markets, and endogeneity and simultaneity issues in hedonic valuation. Her teaching interests are financial modeling, corporate finance, and real estate.



## Neshat Beheshti

Assistant Professor of  
Practice, Department of  
Information Systems &  
Operations Management

Ph.D. Information Technology Management,  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Dr. Beheshti's research interests include statistical analytics, social media analytics, machine learning, and Bayesian analytics. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Marketing Letters* and *Econometric Reviews*.



## Chandrani Chatterjee

Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Department of Accounting

Ph.D. Business Administration, University of Iowa  
M.Com., Indira Gandhi National Open University  
M.B.A. Accounting & Finance, Xavier Institute of  
Social Service  
B.Com. Accounts, St. Xavier's College

Dr. Chatterjee recently completed her coursework at the University of Iowa with a concentration in accounting and finance.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** The implementation of accounting standards, operating leases, real effects IFRS and U.S. GAAP divergence, debt contracting value of accounting information, and voluntary disclosures.



### Antonia Gkerghi

Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Department of Economics

Ph.D. Applied Economics, Texas Tech University  
M.A. Economics, Texas Tech University  
M.S. Energy Management, University of Stirling  
B.S. Economic & Regional Development, Panteion  
University of Athens

Dr. Gkerghi previously was an instructor at Texas Tech University in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, where she most recently taught courses on agribusiness marketing and agricultural and applied economics. Her core expertise is applied microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, quasi-experimental methods, and natural and resource economics.



### Courtney Hart

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Management

Ph.D. Business Administration, University  
of Kentucky  
B.B.A. Finance, Howard University

Dr. Hart is a longtime Houstonian whose research focuses on the symbolic and substantial activities organizations engage in to enhance their reputations, specifically relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Social networks, impression management, corporate communications, competitive dynamics, and diversity socialization.



### J. Daniel Martinez Garcia

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Marketing

Ph.D. Marketing, University of Arizona  
M.B.A., UT El Paso  
B.S. Electrical & Computer Engineering, UT El Paso

Dr. Martinez Garcia is a quantitative modeler interested in tackling marketing strategy questions. His current research combines his substantial interest in brand sociopolitical activism with his contextual interest in the music industry's emerging digital market. His current research looks at the antecedents and consequences of corporate political activities in the marketplace, as well as the drivers of news coverage in mainstream media. Some of his research work is situated in the entertainment industry—more specifically, the U.S. music industry, where he has secured data partnerships with major music industry data analytics companies.

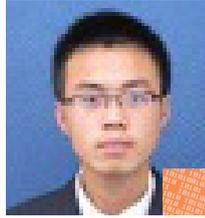


### **Qiang Ruan**

Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of Information Systems & Operations Management

Ph.D. Management Science, UT Arlington  
M.Acct., University of Case Western Reserve  
B.M., Sun Yat Sen University

Dr. Ruan's research interests include business analytics, text analytics, citation analysis, social network analytics, and data science.



### **Xianghua "Jason" Wu**

Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of Information Systems & Operations Management

Ph.D. Management Science, UT Arlington  
M.Econ., Zhejiang University  
B.S. Information & Computing Science  
(Applied Mathematics), Huaqiao University

Dr. Wu's research passion is to study behaviors in business and economics environments. His first research interest focuses on exploring behavioral factors in strategic decision-making in procurement, supply chains, and video games. His second research interest is exploring behaviors in strategic interactions of artificial intelligent agents in economic and supply-chain games.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

TERESA TABER DOUGHTY, DEAN



### Elsa Camargo

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Educational  
Leadership & Policy Studies

Ph.D. Higher Education, Virginia Tech  
M.A. Hispanic Studies, University of Illinois–Chicago  
B.A. English & Spanish, University of Illinois–Chicago

Prior to coming to UTA, Dr. Camargo was an assistant professor of higher education at the University of Arkansas for three years. While there, she also served as Junior Research Fellow at the Office for Diversity and Inclusion. Her research areas of expertise are in diversity and inclusion, organizational culture, and faculty. Currently, Camargo is researching the experiences of Latinx college students in the Nuevo South. Her research has appeared in academic journals including the *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, *Journal of Education and Training Studies*, and *Gender Transformation in the Academy*.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** College access and success for minority students and career advancement of underrepresented faculty in higher education.



### Anne Daly-Lesch

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Curriculum  
& Instruction

Ph.D. Language & Literacy Education, UT Austin  
M.Ed. Language & Literacy Education, UT Austin  
B.A. Spanish & Sociology, Luther College

Prior to earning her doctorate at UT Austin, Dr. Daly-Lesch was a certified reading specialist in Texas and a classroom teacher for seven years. Her current research examines how two elementary in-service teachers enact antiracist pedagogy by talking about race and racism with their students when teaching reading. In both research and teaching, she draws on critical theories of race and discourse to use literacy as a tool to combat oppression and realize greater racial justice in U.S. schools and classrooms. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Literacy Research*, *Teaching and Teacher Education*, *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*, and *Texas Education Review*. She is active in professional organizations including the Literacy Research Association and the National Council of Teachers of English, as well as in her community.



### Cory T. Forbes

Chair and Fenton Wayne  
Robnett Endowed Professor  
of Science Education,  
Department of Curriculum  
& Instruction

Director, STEM Education Research Collaboratorium  
& Resource Center

Ph.D. Science Education, University of Michigan  
M.S. Natural Resources, University of Michigan  
M.S. Science Education, University of Kansas  
B.S. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University  
of Kansas

Dr. Forbes' teaching and research focus on STEM education in K-12 and undergraduate STEM contexts. He directs multiple externally funded projects involving STEM curriculum development, assessment design and testing, professional development for K-12 STEM teachers, and classroom-based research on STEM teaching and learning that are based in regional, national, and international partnerships with education researchers, STEM faculty, K-12 teachers, and stakeholders. Forbes is a National Association of Research in Science Teaching Early Career Research awardee and Fulbright Faculty Scholar.



### Hugh Kellam

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Department of Curriculum  
& Instruction

Ph.D. Education-Teaching, Learning & Evaluation,  
University of Ottawa  
M.A. Education, University of Ottawa  
B.Ed. Teacher Education & Professional Development,  
University of Ottawa

Dr. Kellam has developed and delivered numerous courses in program planning, online learning design, and educational technology at the University of Ottawa and Georgian College. He also has over 20 years of experience managing instructional design teams and working as an online learning consultant for workplace, university, and secondary school educational applications. He has recently authored three ebooks introducing the P.I.E. model for the design of inclusive and engaging online learning environments.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Online and mobile learning, virtual communities of practice, open education resources, inclusive learning environments, and program evaluation.



### Taylor M. Kessner

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Curriculum  
& Instruction

Ph.D. Learning, Literacies, & Technologies, Arizona  
State University  
M.A. Educational Leadership & Policy, University  
of Michigan  
B.A. Secondary Social Studies Education, Western  
Michigan University

Dr. Kessner is a social studies teacher educator, learning scientist, and games scholar. His research focuses on the design of social studies-themed (video)games and simulations as participatory practice spaces in which learners develop fluency with the disciplinary knowledge, skills, and concepts of the social studies as tools for taking informed civic action.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Simulations, (video)games, civic preparation, democratic education, and design.



### Wideline Seraphin

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Curriculum  
& Instruction

Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction, Pennsylvania State  
University  
M.A. African American & African Diaspora Studies,  
Indiana University-Bloomington  
B.A. English, Rollins College

Dr. Seraphin was a 2020 Curriculum Inquiry Writing Fellow who recently worked at the Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership at the University of Memphis. Her work explores race, gender, immigrant status, and language diversity and how they shape the literate lives of Black children in the United States. She is also the co-founder of Community Narratives in Focus, an interdisciplinary narrative inquiry and digital narrative archive centering historically excluded students.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Black transnational girlhood, critical literacies, Black geographies, and anti-racist teacher education.

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

PETER CROUCH, DEAN



## Abeer Almughrabi

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of Civil Engineering

Ph.D. Urban Planning & Public Policy, UT Arlington  
M.S. Urban Planning, University of Arizona  
B.A. Translation, Applied Science University

Dr. Almughrabi joined UTA as a postdoc and an adjunct assistant professor in 2018. As a Ph.D. student, she worked as a researcher and a project manager at the Institute of Urban Studies. She managed different projects in the DFW region and was a member of the director's executive committee. In addition, she worked as a researcher and a public participation manager on the North Texas Regional Housing Assessment. Almughrabi is an urban planning management specialist with over 10 years of experience both in the U.S. and Jordan. She was also an assistant dean at the Engineering College at Applied Science University.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Transportation planning and equity, environmental and land use planning, renewable energy, economic development, resilient cities, and sustainable infrastructure planning and management.



## Nelson R. Gómez-Torres

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of Civil Engineering

Ph.D. Civil Engineering, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez  
M.E. Civil Engineering, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez  
B.S. Civil Engineering, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez

Before joining UTA, Dr. Gómez-Torres served as the director of civil and industrial engineering programs at Ana G. Mendez University. He is also a former board member of the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions. He published research related to data gathering and renewable energy, but is interested in studying stakeholder management on large infrastructure projects. He was recipient of the National Science Foundation's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship related to intelligent diagnostics for aging civil infrastructure.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Stakeholder management, civil engineering relationship with social sciences, and driverless vehicle policy.



## Erick Christopher Jones Jr.

Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, & Systems Engineering

Ph.D. Operations Research & Industrial Engineering, UT Austin  
M.S. Operations Research & Industrial Engineering, UT Austin  
B.S. Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University

Dr. Jones—a National GEM Consortium fellow; National Science Foundation Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems Scholar Program trainee; and Department of Energy Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship recipient—pursues research that can enhance quality of life by improving access to sustainable resources and economic opportunities, particularly where a lack of physical infrastructure or resources presents a major obstacle. Recently, he has worked with the Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute, Los Alamos National Labs, and the Houston Health Department.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Macro energy systems, microgrids, energy poverty, internet of things, smart infrastructure, AI in OR, multi-systems optimization modeling, and general systems modeling.



### Jacob Luber

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Computer  
Science & Engineering

Ph.D. Biomedical Informatics, Harvard University  
B.S. Computer Science, Trinity University

Dr. Luber's research builds computational tools and frameworks that at massive scale allow for cancer imaging data to be 1) contextualized in the oncology clinic to improve patient outcomes and 2) leveraged at the bench to augment drug-discovery efforts. He conducted postdoctoral research at the Cancer Data Science Laboratory at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. His research has appeared on NPR Science Friday and has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *CNN*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *ArsTechnica*, *Forbes*, *Der Spiegel*, *PBS*, and *The Guardian*.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Building search engines for petabyte scale cancer imaging, building deep-learning tools that are relevant in the oncology clinic and for drug-discovery efforts at the bench, and studying how the microbiome contributes to patient response to cancer immunotherapy.



### Yijing Xie

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Electrical  
Engineering

Ph.D. Control Theory & Engineering, Shanghai Jiao  
Tong University  
B.E. Automation, Wuhan University

Dr. Xie's research focuses on control theory and applications, including multi-agent systems, event-triggered control, learning control, and their applications in cyber-physical systems and smart grids. Her work has appeared in premier journals in the field, such as *Automatica*; *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics*; *Systems*; *Systems & Control Letters*; and *International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control*. She received the IEEE International Conference on Control & Automation Best Student Paper Award in 2017 and the Lillian Gilbreth Postdoctoral Fellowship from Purdue Engineering in 2020.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Reinforcement learning, multi-agent systems, event-triggered control, distributed optimization, and smart grids.

# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DAN CAVANAGH, INTERIM DEAN



## Trenton Barnes

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Art & Art History

Ph.D. History of Art & Architecture, Harvard University  
M.A. History of Art & Architecture, Harvard University  
B.A. Art History, Columbia University

Dr. Barnes is a scholar of the Indigenous Americas whose research and teaching concern the art and architectural history of the ancient Central Mexican and Maya cultures. His book *Emptiness and the Production of Bodies in the Architecture of Teotihuacan, Mexico* is the first architectural history of the ceremonial center of the largest city of American antiquity. His research has been supported by Dumbarton Oaks, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and several institutes of Harvard. He previously served as a postdoctoral research associate and lecturer at Princeton University.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Teotihuacan and later Central Mexican city-states, the Maya, architecture, embodied artistic and social practices, intercultural exchange, and the formation of complex ancient societies.



## Megan Fitzmaurice

Visiting Assistant  
Professor, Department of  
Communication

Ph.D. Communication, University of Maryland  
M.A. Communication Studies, University of Georgia  
B.A. Communication Studies, Cal Poly  
State University

Dr. Fitzmaurice is the sequence coordinator for the Department of Communication's philanthropy major. She has worked with local and global nonprofits in Fort Worth, Washington, D.C., and Afghanistan as a project manager, trainer, and consultant. Her academic research on historical nonprofits has appeared in *Feminist Media Studies*, *The Southern Journal of Communication*, and *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. She teaches courses in professional and technical communication, fundraising and development, and nonprofit management.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Historical nonprofits, public memory, social activism, public address, and anti-racist rhetoric.



## Ji Nang Kim

Lecturer, Department  
of English

Ph.D. English, Texas A&M University  
M.A. English, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies  
B.A. English, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies  
B.A. French, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Dr. Kim has well over a decade of teaching experience within and outside the United States. For the past five years, she taught for Houston Baptist University. Her most recent publication is a forthcoming essay about integrating Korean Sijo poetry into English literature courses, and she will be presenting a paper on trauma, postcolonialism, and transnationalism at the upcoming convention of the Modern Language Association.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Asian and Asian American literature, postcolonial literature and culture, global literature, trauma studies, ecofeminism, and technical writing.



### Hannah Leffler

Senior Lecturer,  
Department of Music

D.M.A. Flute Performance, University of North Texas  
M.M. Flute Performance, University of Northern Iowa  
B.M. Flute Performance, Oklahoma City University

Dr. Leffler will teach undergraduate and graduate flute majors as well as performance and orchestral excerpts classes for flute. She has previously taught music theory and music appreciation at UTA and El Centro College. In the summers, Leffler teaches at the Lutheran Summer Music Academy at Valparaiso University.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Flute performance, traditional Brazilian flute music and performance methods, and music theory.



### Xavier Medina Vidal

Associate Professor,  
Department of Political  
Science

Associate Director, Center for  
Mexican American Studies

Ph.D. Political Science, University of  
California–Riverside  
M.A. Political Science, University of New Mexico  
B.A. Economics & Spanish, University of New Mexico

Dr. Medina Vidal specializes in Latino political behavior. He directed the 2018 Mexican Vote from Abroad Survey, the only national study of Mexicans in the U.S. examining transnational attitudes, orientations, and electoral behavior, and teaches courses in Mexican, Mexican American, and Latino politics. A former state legislative fiscal analyst and HSI alum, Medina Vidal seeks to connect UTA students to public policymaking and public service opportunities and to contribute to campuswide efforts to serve the Latino community.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Mexican American and Latino transnational political behavior, Mexican electoral and legislative politics, Latino political thought, and North American integration.



### Loryn O'Donnell

Senior Lecturer, Department  
of Art & Art History

M.Des., Florence Design Academy  
B.A. Liberal Arts, Thomas Aquinas College

O'Donnell is a graphic designer, digital illustrator, brand strategist, and president of Dallas-based Nucleon Design Group. International design exposure gained during her master's education in Italy has framed the perspective that she used to develop and launch over 80 brands nationwide. She is the president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, a professional association for design with 20,000-plus worldwide members, and has served on the organization's board of directors since 2013.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** The psychology of design, the language of color, and design for good.



**Alberto Ortiz-Díaz**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of History

Ph.D. History, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
M.A. History, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
M.A. History, UT Austin  
B.A. Historical Studies, Stockton University

Dr. Ortiz-Díaz joined UT Arlington following his appointment as an assistant professor at the University of Iowa. In addition to his many grants and fellowships in the United States, he has recently worked as a visiting researcher at the University of Puerto Rico–Río Piedras.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic, as well as medical humanities, enslavement, incarceration, health, and culture.



**Scott Osborne**

Visiting Associate Professor,  
Department of Theatre Arts  
& Dance

M.F.A. Theatrical Design, Southern  
Methodist University  
B.F.A. Performance & Directing, University  
of North Texas

Dr. Osborne has been a guest director/designer and lecturer at UT Dallas and UNT and taught design and technical theater at Dallas College. His scenic and costume design work has been seen at regional theaters across DFW, New York, and the Prague Quadrennial. His film and television credits include set designer for PBS's *Barney & Friends* and TNT's *Dallas* (2012) and art direction for NBC's *Salvation*. He is a member of U.S.I.T.T. and I.A.T.S.E. local 484 stage designers & technicians union.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Sustainable design and construction methodology, object/movement-based theater, and musical cabaret and vaudeville performance.



**Donald C. Shorter Jr.**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Theatre Arts  
& Dance

M.F.A. Dance, New York University  
B.S. Liberal Studies, West Chester University

Shorter Jr. is an interdisciplinary artist with two decades of professional dance and theater experience. They were a principal dancer with the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company and have appeared in Broadway national tours such as *La Cage Aux Folles*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Hairspray*. They have also worked regionally at Theater Under the Stars, the MUNY, and Gateway Playhouse. As a solo artist, their works have been performed at the Pompidu Centre, Provincetown Theater, Criterion Channel, Bam Cinema, Houston Contemporary Arts Museum, and the 92nd Street Y.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Gender performance, LGBTQIA inclusion in theater and dance, and dance cinema.



### Vinicio Sinta

Assistant Professor,  
Department of  
Communication

Ph.D. Journalism, UT Austin  
M.S. Communication, Tecnológico de Monterrey  
B.A. Social Communication, Universidad  
Regiomontana

Dr. Sinta's scholarship explores U.S. Latinx and professional identity, with a focus on the experiences of Latinx media workers active in American news media and other creative fields. Based primarily on oral history, his work has followed the antecedents and formation of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists as a professional advocacy organization.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Latinx media studies, professional identity, oral history, ethnic media, Spanish-language media, and journalism studies.



### Natalia Trigo-Acuña

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Modern  
Languages

Ph.D. Creative Writing in Spanish, University  
of Houston

M.A. Ibero-American Literature,  
Ibero-American University  
B.A. Communication Studies,  
Ibero-American University

Dr. Trigo-Acuña's expertise is in immigration literature, border literature, and multilingual writing. She studies the impact fictional genres (such as speculative fiction) have in history and the way in which technology is often brought to bear on bodies of color. She was awarded the prestigious International Aura Estrada Prize for literature in 2019 and is a fellow artist at the Ucross and Art Omi Foundations.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Speculative fiction, border literature, immigration literature, and creative writing.



### Brian Whitmore

Assistant Professor  
of Practice, Charles T.  
McDowell Center for  
Global Studies

M.A. Political Science, Villanova University  
B.A. Politics, St. Joseph's University

Whitmore is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center and is founder and host of *The Power Vertical* podcast. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament and has briefed officials in various national governments and NATO on Russian affairs. His work has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, and elsewhere. He has appeared as an expert commentator on U.S. and international media, including the BBC World Service, NPR, Public Radio International, and CNN. He has written extensively on the interface between Russian domestic politics and foreign policy, the international relations of the post-Soviet space, and Russian malign influence operations in the West.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Russian politics and foreign policy and the politics of the post-Soviet space, with an emphasis on Ukraine and Georgia.

# COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION

ELIZABETH MERWIN, DEAN



**Stephanie Campbell**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N. Education, Texas Woman's University  
B.S.N., UT Arlington

With more than 14 years of experience as an RN, Campbell has previously worked in a variety of roles, including burn intensive care unit staff nurse and critical care and trauma nurse internship clinical instructor. She served for many years as the program manager at Parkland Regional Burn Center, coordinating programs such as quality improvement, burn prevention, community burn care education, the burn registry, and burn survivor aftercare. Her experience in critical care, quality improvement, and community outreach has led to many invitations as a guest speaker for local, regional, and national conferences.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Psychological safety during nursing simulation, fidelity in simulation design, and clinical reasoning during simulation.



**Lori Camperlengo**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N. Nursing Informatics, Texas Tech University  
Health Sciences Center  
B.S.N., UT Arlington

Camperlengo has over 25 years of experience as a registered nurse in the DFW area working with students, faculty, interprofessional providers, and health care systems. Most recently, she has assisted Tarrant County Public Health with its COVID-19 pandemic response efforts across the community.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Simulation, human factors, health care design, EHR integration and UX, and nursing history.



**Agnes Titilayo  
Deleawe**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N., UT Arlington  
B.S.N., Texas Woman's University

Deleawe is a certified nurse educator with more than 14 years of experience as a registered nurse in various clinical settings, including medical-surgical, community health, public health, primary care, and nursing education. She is known for her diligence and dedication to impact the future of nursing through facilitating learning and helping her students to develop critical thinking and judgment that enhance nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes.

**RESEARCH INTEREST:** Health education, promotion, and disease prevention.



**Ann L. Eckhardt**

Associate Chair for Clinical Education, Clinical Associate Professor, Graduate Nursing

Ph.D. Nursing, University of Illinois–Chicago  
B.S.N., Illinois Wesleyan University

Before joining UTA, Dr. Eckhardt was the Deloris Helsley Ascher Endowed Associate Professor of Nursing at Illinois Wesleyan University and served as the School of Nursing internship coordinator. Her research focuses on cardiovascular disease symptomatology with a specific focus on fatigue as a symptom. She has completed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research. Her research, including her dissertation, has been supported by grant funding from both extramural and intramural sources. Eckhardt was also the associate editor and now a co-author of *Jarvis Physical Examination and Health Assessment*. She presents regularly at conferences and serves as an adjunct lecturer at Tokyo Medical Dental University.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Cardiovascular disease symptomatology, fatigue, perceived control, and health assessment.



**Lacy Foster**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing

D.N.P. Advanced Practice Nursing & Nursing Education, Samford University

Dr. Foster has been a registered nurse for 11 years, a family nurse practitioner for five years, and is a certified diabetes educator. Her specialties as a nurse practitioner include family medicine, endocrinology, and diabetes education. As a registered nurse, her specialties included critical care and progressive care.



**Amara Holobaugh**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N. Education, Western Governors University  
B.S.N., Western Governors University

The entirety of Holobaugh's eight-year nursing career has been in pediatric hematology and oncology, with experience coming from Texas Children's Hospital and Cook Children's Hospital, where she works currently. In 2019 she was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and is currently a member of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses.



**Mahal Kita Hurst**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N., UT Arlington  
B.S.N., Texas Tech University

Hurst has over 15 years of health care experience between military psychiatry and pediatric nursing. She has worked in numerous capacities at Children’s Health, from acute to critical care to psychiatry to rehabilitation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked bedside with COVID-positive patients, served as a charge nurse, and administered vaccines to staff members, patients, and the community. She is a certified pediatric nurse and member of the Society of Pediatric Nurses. She is passionate about pediatric nursing, lactation services, and student mental health and wellness initiatives.



**Chueh-Lung  
“Laura” Hwang**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Kinesiology

Ph.D. Exercise Physiology, University of Florida  
M.S. Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy, National  
Taiwan University  
B.S. Physical Therapy, National Taiwan University

Dr. Hwang is a cardiopulmonary physical therapist and research scientist focusing on cardiovascular exercise physiology in humans. During her postdoctoral training in vascular biology at the University of Illinois–Chicago, she investigated the molecular mechanisms underlying vascular dysfunction associated with unhealthy diet and alcohol use. Her ultimate goals are to enhance human health by addressing problems that lie at the intersection of cardiovascular physiology, physical therapy, and alcohol-related health across the lifespan. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, American Heart Association, and American College of Sports Medicine Foundation.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Cardiovascular responses to exercise, diet, and alcohol in humans.



**Karen Pierce Liddy**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N. Nursing Education, Walden University

Liddy has 18 years of experience in pediatrics that includes emergency department, acute care services, clinical education, and administrative supervision. She graduated with honors. While at Children’s Health, she received the Clinical Nurse Achievement Award.



**Zhaoli Liu**

Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

Ph.D. Biochemistry, University of  
Alabama–Birmingham  
M.S.N., Texas Woman's University  
B.S. Chemistry, Liaocheng University

Dr. Liu has had training in both biomedical science and nursing with years of experience in translational cancer research, including breast cancer and pediatric glioma. Her current research focuses on cancer prevention and control, especially palliative symptom management related to cancer and its treatments, as well as health outcomes among cancer survivors. As a certified family nurse practitioner, she joined Envision Healthcare and has been practicing nursing for more than eight years in a variety of health care settings, including acute care, skilled nursing facility, and community health.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Cancer prevention, survivorship, palliative symptom management, quality of life, and health outcomes.



**Jade Pierce**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N., UT Arlington  
B.S.N, UT Arlington

Over her nursing career, Pierce has gained experience in adult medical-surgical, pediatric hematology-oncology, and travel nursing throughout the United States. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. She will be joining the College of Nursing and Health Innovation's Nursing Foundations Team starting fall 2021.



**Lisa Prince**

Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N. Nursing Education, Western Governors  
University

Prince is an Army veteran with over 20 years in nursing. She specializes in cardiovascular intensive care unit and medical intensive care unit.



**Crystal M. Rahman**  
Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N., Western Governors University  
B.S.N., UT Arlington  
B.A. Biology, UT Arlington

Rahman has taught for the Undergraduate Nursing program for the last year and has now transitioned to full-time faculty. She is a certified medical-surgical registered nurse and has nursing experience in various areas, including medical-surgical, emergency room, women's services, and education. In 2018 she was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, an international honor society for nurses. Currently, she is working on her Doctor of Nursing at Baylor University with a specialty as a family nurse practitioner.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Bullying and suicide among adolescents, nursing education, and nursing retention and burnout.



**Amy Rossing**  
Clinical Assistant Professor,  
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S.N., Sacred Heart University  
B.S.N., Texas Christian University

Rossing has more than 19 years of experience in obstetric and critical care nursing. She volunteers for the Red Cross as a disaster relief nurse and works with triage and emergency management teams. She has traveled on most of the continents, following her interests in cultural/medical anthropology, and lived in Russia for a brief time studying innovative technology.

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

MORTEZA KHALEDI, DEAN



## Erin Bowen

A. Dale Thompson Endowed  
Professor of Leadership,  
Department of Psychology

Ph.D. Industrial/Organizational Psychology,  
Saint Louis University

M.S. (Research) Industrial/Organizational Psychology,  
Saint Louis University

B.A. Psychology, University of Oklahoma

With a research and practice career focused on applying psychological science to the aviation industry, Dr. Bowen's expertise is relied on by research and industry partners and news outlets. Recent media appearances include *Good Morning America*, *Meet the Press*, *The Washington Post*, *Forbes*, National Public Radio, and others. She is a member of the Aviation Safety, Security, and Emergency Management Committee of the Transportation Research Board (part of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine) and the executive council for the Federal Aviation Administration Center of Excellence in Technical Training and Human Performance.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Leadership in high-consequence industries, organizational culture, decision-making, and human error.



## Janet C. Buckner

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Biology

Ph.D. Biology, University of California–Los Angeles  
B.S. Zoology, State University of New York–Oswego

Before joining UTA, Dr. Buckner was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at Iowa State University and a postdoctoral researcher at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science. Her research aims to understand how biodiversity is generated, maintained, and lost through time by integrating genomics and paleontology to trace the molecular systematics, macroevolution, and evolutionary ecology of living and extinct birds and mammals.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Biodiversity, biogeography, phylogenomics, ancient DNA, fossil record, extinction, MHC evolution, adaptive genetics, trait evolution, primates, and anseriformes



## Raquel Castillo-Fernandez

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Physics

Ph.D. Physics, Autonomous University of Barcelona  
M.S. High-Energy Physics, Autonomous University  
of Barcelona

B.S. Physics, University of Barcelona

Dr. Castillo-Fernandez's expertise is in particle physics, in particular using neutrinos to understand some of the most pressing questions about the universe. Before joining UTA, she was a postdoctoral researcher with the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Her work produced the first particle identification and detector calibration in a large liquid argon detector and provided an insight into nuclear short-range physics for heavy nucleus. As a graduate student, her work reduced by 25% the uncertainties in neutrino oscillation measurements in the T2K experiment in Japan. This work was part of the analysis awarded the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics in 2016. She also measured one of the most challenging neutrino-nucleus interaction processes that is a major uncertainty in neutrino oscillation physics, neutrino induced-single pion production.



**Shane DuBay**  
Lecturer, Department  
of Biology

Ph.D. Evolutionary Biology, University of Chicago  
M.S. Biology, University of New Mexico  
B.S. Biology, Mercer University

Dr. DuBay is an evolutionary ecologist and environmental scientist. He works at the interface of science and society, integrating animal ecology and environmental history to understand the consequences of environmental change on the world around us. Before joining UTA, he was a fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows at the University of Michigan.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Ecology and evolutionary biology, natural history, urban ecology, animal behavior, and environmental health and justice.



**Tracy L. Greer**  
Nancy P. & John G. Penson  
Endowed Professorship in  
Clinical Health Psychology,  
Department of Psychology

Ph.D. Cognition & Neuroscience, UT Dallas  
M.S. Clinical Sciences, UT Southwestern  
Medical Center  
M.S. Applied Cognition & Neuroscience, UT Dallas  
B.A. Psychology, UT Austin

Dr. Greer comes to UTA from UT Southwestern Medical Center, where she was associate professor of psychiatry and scientific director for the Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care. Her work focuses on pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments for depression and stimulant use disorders, with an emphasis on targeted treatments for cognitive and functional impairments.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Exercise and health-related interventions to improve mental health; cognitive and functional outcomes associated with psychiatric conditions; and the effects of health behaviors and conditions on cognition, mental health, and well-being.



**Theodora Koromila**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Biology

Ph.D. Human Genetics, University of Athens  
B.S./M.S. Biotechnology & Molecular Genetics,  
University of Ioannina

Dr. Koromila's Ph.D. work was incorporated in the largest osteoporosis genome-wide association study at the time, in collaboration with the Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands. After earning her Ph.D., she decided to switch to developmental biology. She developed new quantitative live imaging approaches in embryos to visualize transcription together with chromatin accessibility assays at the California Institute of Technology.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Combining genetics, genomics, and quantitative imaging to study how changes in gene expression can drive cell identity over time.



**Alicia Rogers**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Biology

Ph.D. Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, California  
Institute of Technology  
B.S. Bioinformatics, Baylor University

Dr. Rogers is a molecular biologist and bioinformatician interested in understanding the regulatory mechanisms that promote genome stability and homeostasis through small RNA pathways. Her lab uses *C. elegans* to investigate the impact of misregulation of small RNA pathways on gene expression and physiological processes such as fertility and development. Before joining UTA, she completed an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Southern California and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship at the California Institute of Technology.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Gene regulation, small RNAs, chromatin, and epigenetics.



**Ricardo  
Sánchez-Murillo**

Associate Professor,  
Department of Earth &  
Environmental Sciences

Ph.D. Water Resources, University of Idaho  
M.S. Water Resources, University of Idaho  
B.S. Environmental Chemistry, National University  
of Costa Rica

Before joining UTA, Dr. Sánchez-Murillo served as the coordinator of the Stable Isotopes Research Group and Water Resources Management Laboratory at the National University of Costa Rica, where he earned the World Academy of Sciences award for the advancement of science in developing countries in 2018. He is interested in a) tropical cyclones and paleoclimate; b) key drivers controlling water stable isotope variations in tropical landscapes of Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico region; c) groundwater and surface water connectivity in arid urban environments; and d) linking tropical and temperate hydrogeological research.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Environmental tracer hydrogeology, urban hydrology, tropical cyclones and paleoclimate, and hydrological responses in arid and tropical ecosystems under a changing climate.

# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SCOTT D. RYAN, DEAN



**Marcela Nava**

Assistant Professor,  
School of Social Work

Ph.D. Public Policy & Political Economy, UT Dallas  
M.P.P., UT Dallas  
M.S.W., UT Arlington  
B.S.W., Texas Christian University

Dr. Nava's areas of expertise and research include health policy, community-engaged participatory research and practice approaches, and interdisciplinary collaborations to reduce health disparities, with a focus on women's health and immigrant communities. She recently served as a health policy research scholar through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities translational health disparities scholar, and a presidential scholar for the Academy Health Institute on Advocacy and Public Policy. Her scholarship, research, and teaching are informed by years of direct social work practice, nonprofit program management, community health collaborations, and public policy advocacy.



**Christian E. Vazquez**

Assistant Professor,  
School of Social Work

Ph.D. Social Work, UT Austin  
M.S.W., University of Michigan  
B.A. Sociology, University of California–Santa Barbara

Dr. Vazquez's research is grounded in his practice experience as a child welfare worker and hospital administrator. His work aims to reduce health disparities, particularly among Latinx populations, both at the community and population level. He received several research and fellowship awards during his doctoral program from institutions such as the NCAA, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the UT Austin Graduate School.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Health disparities, Latinx populations, childhood obesity, program evaluation, culturally appropriate research methods, and child and family health.



The University of Texas at Arlington community is committed to the advancement of knowledge and the pursuit of excellence. Realization of this commitment requires awareness and active participation by every member of the community. We achieve the goals of the University when we instill, nurture, and practice these six Principles of Community.



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AT ARLINGTON

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