



WELCOME NEW FACULTY

FALL 2022



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to welcome you to The University of Texas of Arlington! We are all invested in your success and look forward to witnessing the many ways you will enhance the environment of academic learning and discovery on campus.

Since my own arrival earlier this year, I have outlined five strategic areas of focus for the University, which you can read on the opposite page. I believe UT Arlington has the potential to become one of the nation's most inclusive and impactful research universities. We have the passion and the programs to provide access to a college education for ordinary Texans and help them lead extraordinary lives. We owe it to ourselves and the state of Texas to achieve this goal.

As you join the ranks of UTA's outstanding faculty, 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 through sharing your knowledge in the classroom, advancing your scholarly research, or producing creative works, you play a critical role in the progress of our campus, community, and society at large.

As you become productive and successful scholars at your new academic home, please take advantage of all that UTA offers, from networking to interdisciplinary programs to collaborations with colleagues from across campus.

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

Sincerely,



Jennifer Cowley, Ph.D.

President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Welcome to the University of Texas at Arlington! I am excited to have you as the newest members of the UTA faculty. Having recently joined UTA myself, I am impressed with the Maverick spirit of our faculty, students, and staff that resulted in the University recently being

designated as a Texas Tier One institution and reaffirmed with the Carnegie R-1 "Very High Research Activity" classification. Our research excellence is bolstered by our commitment to providing educational access and ensuring student success, with UTA having the third-highest undergraduate diversity index in the nation and being ranked the No. 26 "Top Performer on Social Mobility" (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2022).

As you transition to UTA, know that I am here to support you and your success. I invite you to work closely with faculty in your department and to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by the University, such as workshops for new faculty, resources provided by the Center for Research on Teaching and Learning Excellence, and courses offered through our partnership with the Association of College and University Educators.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing of your successes.

Go Mavs!



Tamara L. Brown, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

STRATEGIC THEMES

President Cowley's five key areas of focus



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Our employees are one of our institution's greatest strengths and assets. For the University to achieve its goals and reflect its commitment to our people, we must invest in our employees.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Today's students face a vastly different, rapidly evolving, and challenging educational landscape. For our students to succeed, we need to focus on helping them graduate and preparing them for success after graduation.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

As an R-1 and Texas Tier One university, much is expected of us. It is critically important that we build upon our University's record of success by investing in our research capabilities and strengthening our high-impact research initiatives.



ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our future successes will be underpinned by the support of our alumni and the vitality of our renewed and future external relationships. We should foster positive alumni and community engagement and create opportunities to connect to the University.



FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

It is imperative to our success that we develop our resource strategies and align our infrastructure plans to achieve our goals. To do so, we will focus developing operational and financial strategies to create effectiveness and efficiency of business functions and processes.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

HARRY DOMBROSKI, DEAN



Saurabh Ambulkar

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

Ph.D., Logistics & Supply Chain, Iowa State University, 2014

M.S., Industrial Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009

B.E., Industrial Engineering, Nagpur University, 2007

Dr. Ambulkar's research primarily looks at how firms can reduce time and cost to recover from supply chain disruptions. He has published in the *Journal of Operations Management*, *International Journal of Production Research*, and *Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management*, and his research has been cited over 800 times. Prior to joining UT Arlington, he held assistant professor positions at Northeastern University and the University of Dayton.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Supply chain risk and disruption management.



Mark Clark

Clinical Associate Professor,
Management

Ph.D., Public Affairs, UT Dallas, 2013

M.A., Interdisciplinary Studies, UT Dallas, 1997

M.B.A., UT Dallas, 1991

M.S., Management & Administrative Sciences,
UT Dallas, 1988

B.A., Economics & Finance, UT Dallas, 1984

Dr. Clark has built or managed centers for innovation and entrepreneurship at two other universities, developed and launched an online master's degree, and established multiple certificate programs involving entrepreneurship and sustainability. Prior to higher education, his work involved marketing and operations management, real estate development and construction management, and the direction and management of corporate citizenship programs.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Strategic innovation, entrepreneurial leadership, and corporate governance citizenship.



Jiaxiu He

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

Ph.D., Biostatistics, University of Southern California, 2013

M.S., Statistics, Electrical & Computer Engineering,
University of Florida, 2008

B.E., Communications Engineering, Fudan University, 2005

Dr. He completed postdoc training at Western University and Northwestern University and worked as an assistant professor at the State University of New York-Buffalo State and a research fellow at the National University of Singapore. He has over a dozen publications, including articles in *American Economic Journal*, *Applied Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Marketing*, and *Decision Support Systems*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Business analytics, sharing economy, social media, machine learning and artificial intelligence, and sustainability.



Lars Johnson

Assistant Professor,
Management

Ph.D., Industrial & Organizational Psychology,
University of Houston, 2017

M.A., Industrial & Organizational Psychology,
University of Houston 2015

M.Ed., Educational Administration, Lamar University,
2009

B.A., Psychology, Tougaloo College, 2007

Prior to pursuing an academic career, Dr. Johnson worked as a high school teacher and department chair and obtained principal certification in Irving, Texas. He leverages this work and leadership experience to inform his teaching, research, and community engagement efforts.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Leadership, employee well-being, diversity, and inclusion.



Anna-Lisa Leefer

Clinical Associate Professor,
Management

Ph.D., Leadership Studies, Dallas Baptist University,
2021

M.A., Performance Management, Dallas Baptist
University, 2013

B.A., Government, Harvard University, 1992

Dr. Leefer's career in corporate America spans two decades over multiple industries, including telecommunications, high-tech, and business services. Her most recent roles focused on succession planning, creating learning content for first-time managers, and global performance management. Leefer's decade in mergers and acquisitions provided opportunities to work in Canada, the UK, Europe, and across the United States with Fortune 500 organizations including Xerox, Nokia, and Cisco.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Mindset theory, leadership, leadership development, and coaching.



Mohammad Murad

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

Ph.D., Information Systems, UT Arlington, 2022

M.B.A., Enterprise Resource Planning, Lamar
University, 2016

M.B.A., Strategic & International Management,
University of Dhaka, 2010

B.B.A., Management, University of Dhaka, 2008

Dr. Murad's research investigates topics at the interface of technology and health care, with a focus on health behaviors and health outcomes.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: mHealth, artificial intelligence, social media, and social network analytics.



**Atieno Anne
Ndede-Amadi**

Adjunct Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

Ph.D., Management Information Systems,
UT Arlington, 2001

M.S., Information Systems, UT Arlington, 1995

B.B.A., Accounting, UT Arlington, 1983

Dr. Ndede-Amadi previously served as dean of the School of Business and Management Studies at Technical University of Kenya and vice chancellor of Great Lakes University of Kisumu. She has written a number of books, including *Challenges of the Digital Age: An MIS Analysis Framework—The Case Study of a Retail Store Chain* and *Business Process Outsourcing: A Practitioner's Handbook*

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Strategic alignment with IT, business process redesign, business process outsourcing, entrepreneurship development, business incubation as a strategy for industrial development, gendered perspectives of IT education, and information systems education.



Matthew Sargent

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Accounting

Ph.D., Business Administration, University of Dallas,
2022

M. of Accounting, Drake University, 2006

B.S., Information Technology, American
Intercontinental University, 2004

Dr. Sargent served as a part-time faculty member at UTA since 2016. He has published research articles on critical thinking and organizational agility in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Accounting Education* and *Organization Development Journal*. He also has over 25 years of business operations, leadership, and technical experience with companies such as Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo, and Capital One.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: The impact of critical thinking, reflective judgment, cognitive development, and data analytics in accounting education, and the impact of fraud within business environments.



Ashish Sedai

Assistant Professor,
Economics

Ph.D., Economics, Colorado State University, 2022
M.A., Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2015
B.A., Economics, University of Delhi, 2010

Dr. Sedai worked as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Delhi from 2012-17. He is a research affiliate at the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis at Australian National University and is a consultant for research in developing economies at the Asian Development Bank Institute. He received the Warren Samuel prize from the Association for Social Economics for his research on gendered effects of piped water in India. His research has been published in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Economics of Ageing*, and *Economic and Political Weekly*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Labor, public, and welfare economics; applied micro and macroeconomics; and development and gender economics.



Hanbo Shim

Assistant Professor,
Management

Ph.D., Industrial Relations & Human Resources,
Rutgers University, 2022

M.S., Industrial Relations & Human Resources,
Rutgers University, 2019

M.S., Human Resource Management, Rutgers
University, 2016

B.A., Economics & Mathematics, University of
Illinois–Urbana-Champaign, 2012

Dr. Shim conducts research and teaches topics in human resources (HR). He also studies employee emotions and workplace relationships as key predictors of higher job performance. His research and teaching have been acknowledged by Best Student Convention Paper Award (HR Division) at the Academy of Management in 2020 and the Innovative Teaching Award (HR Division) in 2022.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Individual job performance changes over time, compensation, employee emotions, and social networks.



Trang Thai

Assistant Professor, Finance
& Real Estate

Ph.D., Finance, UT Arlington, 2017

M.A., Accounting & Finance, Leeds University, 2005

B.A., Banking & Finance, Banking Institute of
Vietnam, 2002

Prior to joining UTA, Dr. Thai was an assistant professor of finance at the State University of New York–Brockport, alongside other student-focused roles (finance club adviser, academic adviser, undergraduate research mentor, scholarship committee member, etc.). She also has industry experience, having worked in retail banking and data analysis.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Corporate governance, financial developments, emerging markets, behavioral finance, sustainability, and multidisciplinary topics.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

TERESA TABER DOUGHTY, DEAN



Maria Delgado

Assistant Professor,
Educational Leadership &
Policy Studies

Ph.D., Educational Leadership & Policy Studies,
UT Arlington, 2017

M.Ed., Higher Education, University of North Texas,
2010

B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies, UT Arlington, 2008

Dr. Delgado has over 15 years of experience in community college administration. Prior to coming to UTA, she was a full-time administrator at Tarrant County College–Southeast, where she led the supplemental instruction program and Hispanic-serving initiatives. She also served as coordinator of academic programs and adjunct faculty at Dallas College–North Lake. Her research has been published in *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Student access, women of color in leadership, and experiences of Latinx populations in Hispanic-serving institutions.



Joel Leader

Visiting Assistant Professor;
Co-Coordinator, Online
Principal Certification
Program

Ph.D., Educational Leadership, University of North
Texas, 2022

M.Ed., Secondary Education, University of North
Texas, 2009

B.S., Secondary Education, University of Kansas, 2006

Dr. Leader spent much of his career in the K-12 setting, both as a classroom teacher and administrator. Prior to UTA, he was an adjunct professor in the Department of Teacher Education & Administration at the University of North Texas. His research focuses on school accountability and how school and district leaders collaborate with their stakeholders to design an accountability system that meets the needs, values, and goals of the community.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: School accountability, school law, federal and state education policy, equity-minded school reform, and school-stakeholder relations.



Michelle L. Leverette

Visiting Assistant Professor;
Co-Coordinator, Online
Principal Certification &
Accelerated Online M.Ed.
Programs

Ed.D., Professional Leadership, University of Houston,
2021

M.A., Teaching, Austin College, 1998

B.A., Communication Arts, Austin College, 1996

In her 24 years as a K-12 educator, Dr. Leverette has served as a teacher in elementary and secondary levels, designed science curriculum, pioneered robotics and STEM programming, designed and coordinated district Academic UIL programming, designed online gifted and talented programming, and supported underserved student populations. She was recently recognized as Arlington ISD's Teacher of the Year. Outside of education, she leads and serves nonprofit organizations benefiting DFW communities.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

PETER CROUCH, DEAN



Jimmie Davis

Assistant Professor of Practice, Computer Science & Engineering

M.S., Software Engineering, Southern Methodist University

B.S., Computer Science, McMurry University

Davis has decades of experience in the aerospace and defense industry focused on systems and software engineering. He has worked as an individual contributor, a technical lead, and a technical expert on a wide variety of software intensive systems. Over the past five years, he has served UTA as an adjunct professor in computer science and engineering.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Software engineering methodologies and software tests.



Marnim Galib

Lecturer, Computer Science & Engineering

Ph.D., Computer Science, UT Arlington, 2022

B.S., Computer Science, Islamic University of Technology, 2014

Dr. Galib joined UTA as a Ph.D. student in 2016. During his studies, he extensively worked on semi-automatic hand pose estimation, drowsiness detection, and assessing cognitive skills in children through performance in physical and computer-based tasks. He also taught multiple courses as a student instructor.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Computer vision, machine learning, neural networks, data mining, and artificial intelligence.



Soumaya Gharsallaoui

Lecturer, Computer Science & Engineering

Ph.D., Computer Science, University of Quebec–Trois Rivieres, 2016

Dr. Gharsallaoui is an active member in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association for Computing Machinery.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and evolutionary optimization methods in NLP.



Vijay Gopal

Assistant Professor,
Mechanical & Aerospace
Engineering

Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering, UT Arlington, 2020
M.S., Aerospace Engineering, UT Arlington, 2015
B.E., Telecommunication Engineering, Visvesvaraya
Technological University, 2012

Dr. Gopal is an assistant professor at the Aerodynamics Research Center in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department. His expertise and research interests involve hypersonic aerothermodynamics, supersonic vortex dynamics, plasma discharge, electromagnetism, and advanced laser-based diagnostics for high-speed and high enthalpy flows. He has focused so far on analytical and experimental investigation of supersonic vortex dynamics and femto-second laser-based diagnostics for arc-jet flows.



Dianqi Han

Assistant Professor,
Computer Science &
Engineering

Ph.D., Computer Engineering, Arizona State
University, 2022
M.S., Electrical & Computer Engineering, University
of California–Davis, 2015
B.E., Information Security, University of Science &
Technology of China, 2010

Dr. Han's research aims to address challenging security and privacy issues in heterogeneous networked systems through theoretical and experimental studies. He has published many papers in top conferences and journals, including the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Computer and Communications Security, ACM International Conference on Mobile Computing and Networking, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference on Computer Communications.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Cyber-physical systems, Internet of Things, wireless security, mobile security, and machine learning.



Bhanu Jain

Senior Lecturer, Computer
Science

Ph.D., Computer Science, UT Arlington, 2021
M.S., Computer Science & Engineering, UT Arlington,
2017
B.T., Computer Science, Institute of Engineering &
Technology, 2000

Dr. Jain has worked in several multi-national software development companies, startups, and ed-tech companies. At UTA, her Ph.D. research focused on developing and improving deep-learning and machine-learning methods to increase prediction accuracy and decrease bias using large, socially relevant datasets. She has published three papers.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Artificial intelligence, machine learning, expedited learning, and increasing retention.



Catherine Kilmain

Professor of Instruction,
Mechanical & Aerospace
Engineering

Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1997

M.S., Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1995

B.S., Aerospace Engineering, Syracuse University, 1993

Dr. Kilmain has spent close to 20 years in the aerospace industry working in various technical and leadership roles. She has been an adjunct professor at UTA for over four years and has volunteered countless hours to STEM events and workshops that encourage middle school students to pursue careers in math and science.



MD Hasanuzzaman Noor

Senior Lecturer, Computer
Science & Engineering

Ph.D., Computer Science & Engineering,
UT Arlington, 2021

B.S., Computer Science & Engineering, Chittagong
University of Engineering & Technology, 2014

Dr. Moor has taught courses on distributed systems and the design and analysis of algorithms. He has worked on projects involving DIQL, DIABLO, and SQLgen, the former of which received the Best Paper Award at the 2018 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' BigData Congress.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Distributed systems and big data.



Anam Sahoo

Professor of Practice,
Computer Science &
Engineering

Ph.D., Computer Science, UT Arlington, 2019
Executive M.B.A., UT Dallas, 2009

M.S., Computer Science & Automation, Indian
Institute of Science, 1994

B.S., Electronics & Telecommunication, Veer Surendra
Sai University of Technology, 1986

Dr. Sahoo has taught various software and computer science courses at UTA for last five years and has over three decades of industry experience in telecommunications, auto-piloting embedded systems, and defense technologies. He has a background in building and implementing processes that increase efficiency, reduce down time, and allow for peak operations across multiple divisions. He previous worked at Alcatel-Lucent, Tellabs, Cisco Systems, AT&T Bell Laboratories, and the Defense R&D Organization, among others.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



Zhe Yin

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Civil Engineering

Ph.D., Civil Engineering, UT Austin, 2022
M.S., Construction Law & Dispute Resolution, British
University in Dubai & King's College London, 2015
B.S., Civil Engineering, Al Hosn University, 2011
B.A., English, Heilongjiang University, 2006

Dr. Yin was a graduate research assistant at the
Construction Industry Institute between 2017 and 2022.
He is a registered professional engineer in Texas and
holds several professional credentials.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Capital efficiency improvement
and business-project collaboration in early project
phases in heavy industrial construction; benchmarking
and performance assessment of capital projects in the
construction industry.



Yichen Zhang

Assistant Professor, Electrical
Engineering

Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Tennessee–
Knoxville, 2018
M.S., Electrical Engineering, Xi'an Jiaotong University,
2012
B.S., Electrical Engineering, Northwestern Polytechnical
University, 2010

Before joining UTA, Dr. Zhang was an energy systems
scientist at Argonne National Laboratory, where he led
several Department of Energy projects on grid resilience
and restoration. He received the Best Reviewer Award from
the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE)
Transactions on Power Systems and *Transactions on Smart
Grid* and an Outstanding Research Assistant Award from the
University of Tennessee. He is co-chair of the IEEE Power
and Energy Society Task Force on Flexible Grid-Interactive
Efficient Buildings to Enhance Electric Service Resilience.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Power system dynamics and control,
power electronics, renewable integration, inverter-based
resources, microgrids, and nonlinear and cyber-physical
systems.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DAN CAVANAGH, INTERIM DEAN



Molly Cummins

Assistant Professor,
Communication

Ph.D., Communication Studies, Southern Illinois University, 2014

M.A., Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University, 2010

Dr. Cummins has extensive public speaking teaching experience and currently serves as the introductory course coordinator for public speaking in the Department of Communication. Her research converges into feminist, critical, and rhetorical studies and has recently appeared in *Communication Education* and *Journal of Autoethnography*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Critical communication pedagogy, critical race theory, and motherhood studies.



Lisalee D. Egbert

Assistant Professor, Modern
Languages

Ph.D., Reading Education, Texas Woman's University, 2005

M.A., Special Education, California State University, 1995

B.S., Liberal Studies, California State University, 1991

Dr. Egbert's research intermingles early elementary and special education (specifically deaf education) with a focus on bilingual-bicultural (American Sign Language/English) education as it relates to early literacy. Her work explores the inter-development of language, literacy, and cognition within the framework of social justice and equality. She contributed to an eBook, *Native Americans in Texas: A Look at Four Texas Tribes Before the European Arrival*. Previously, she taught at California State University and McDaniel College and was a researcher at Stanford University.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Understanding and assistance for the deaf, theoretical framework research for literacy, and language development acquisition.



Alma Garza

Assistant Professor,
Sociology & Anthropology

Ph.D., Sociology, University of California–Irvine, 2020
M.A., Social Science, University of California–Irvine, 2015

M.S., Sociology, Oklahoma State University, 2013

B.A., Government, UT Austin, 2006

B.B.A., Marketing, UT Austin, 2006

Dr. Garza assesses issues at the intersection of race and ethnicity, social class, and culture to understand how school and family junctures influence student academic opportunities and cultural orientations. She is a former fellow of the Ford Foundation and has published research in journals such as *Social Problems*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, and *Sociological Perspectives*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Intersection of race and ethnicity, experience of Latino and first-generation college students, and context of group inequality.



Christi Guillon

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Criminology & Criminal Justice

Ph.D., Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, 2002

M.S., Criminal Justice, University of North Carolina–Charlotte, 1996

B.S., Criminal Justice, University of South Dakota, 1994

Dr. Guillon is a recognized national leader in police reform. Her research examines various areas of police reform and accountability to identify and address at-risk behavior and assist in organizational transformation through leadership, supervision, and accountability. She has also worked on several different federal and state research grants related to policing and prosecution. Her recent work has appeared in *Police Quarterly*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and *Policing: An International Journal*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Policing; police leadership and supervision, transparency, and accountability; and police reform and organizational transformation.



Leah Mazur

Assistant Professor,
Theatre Arts & Dance

M.F.A., Scenography, University of Kansas, 2017

B.A., Theater Design, Cameron University, 2013

Mazur is a freelance scenographer and former resident scenographer and assistant professor of theater, film, and media studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Her credits include costume designs, scenic designs, and lighting designs for a large number of productions at theaters in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; Kansas City; and other cities.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Immersive performance, gender and political theater, theater for social change, trauma representation in performance and design, gender identity and costume design, devised performance, site-specific scenic design and performance, installation and exhibit design, and augmented and virtual reality in live performance art.



Joe Moore

Visiting Assisting Professor,
Music

D.M., Percussion Performance, Louisiana State University, 2014

M.M., Percussion Performance University of South Carolina, 2011

B.M., Percussion Performance, University of Central Florida, 2009

Dr. Moore has served on the music faculties of the University of Louisiana–Monroe, Benedict College, UT Rio Grande Valley, and UT Brownsville. As a soloist and chamber musician, he performs as a member of the Omojo Percussion Duo, the Ninkasi Percussion Group, and Dead Resonance. His has performed at New Music on the Bayou, the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy, and the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. His compositions have been performed across the U.S., South America, Europe, and Asia.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: New music, music composition, and percussion pedagogy.



James Sandy
Assistant Professor, History

Ph.D., History, Texas Tech University, 2016
M.A., History, Texas Tech University, 2011
B.A., History, Texas Tech University, 2009

Dr. Sandy recently converted from a non-tenure-track position onto the tenure track at UTA. He studied American military and cultural history at Texas Tech University in addition to strategic studies. He teaches a wide array of courses, ranging from the American wars in Vietnam to the history of 20th-century American culture. His upcoming debut book, *A War All Our Own*, focuses on the nexus between American martial culture, special warfare, and the American ranger tradition.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Vietnam war, American culture, and special warfare.



COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION

ELIZABETH MERWIN, DEAN



Joanne Grimes

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S., Nursing, Liberty University, 2019
B.S., Nursing, UT Arlington, 2013

Grimes has 11 years of experience as a registered nurse and three years serving as adjunct clinical faculty at UT Arlington. She spent three years in a critical access hospital caring for pediatrics and adults in the medical/surgical setting and five years in various settings caring for the military and veteran populations. She is a member of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses and of Sigma Theta Tau Professional Nursing Association. In June of 2022 she joined the UTA B.S.N. Rural Health Development Team.



Helah Hassan

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S., Nursing, Spring Arbor University, 2016
B.S., Nursing, D'Youville College, 2010

Helah is a board certified nurse practitioner with more than 14 years of experience in various clinical settings, including critical care, oncology, primary care, public health, and integrative medicine. She is passionate about health and wellness and educating patients to play an active role in their own healing. She volunteers at health fairs in various communities, where patients are screened for diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, depression, etc. She has a passion for coaching, educating, and mentoring future health care professionals.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Health education, lifestyle medicine, and disease prevention.



Fataumata Jallow

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S., Nursing, UT Arlington, 2018
B.S., Nursing, Texas Women's University, 2013

Jallow is certified in medical-surgical, family nurse practitioner, and gerontological nursing. Her experience ranges from medical-surgical, gastroenterology pre-op, nursing education, and home health care for older adults. She is a recipient of the Deerbrook Charitable Trust scholarship and is currently a third-year Ph.D. student. She presently works with Yan Xiao and Kathryn Daniel on the Partnership in Resilience for Medication Safety study while working on her dissertation.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Medication safety among community-dwelling older adults.



Jaci SuLynn Mester
Clinical Assistant Professor,
Center for Rural Health and
Nursing

D.N.P., UT Arlington, 2020
M.S., Nursing, UT Arlington, 2018
B.S., Nursing, UT Arlington, 2016

Dr. Mester has been a nurse for 34 years. Her clinical years were spent in intensive care, open heart, and ER units, while for the past 15 she was chief nursing officer at a rural Texas hospital. She is a past recipient of Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, National Rural Health Association, and Texas Hospital Association Leadership yearlong leadership fellowship programs. She is currently an active fellow in the Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellowship. In her final year of doctoral studies, she was chosen for the John and Louise Shira Fellowship Scholarship.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Rural health care advocacy issues and rural health policy.



Mark Meyer
Clinical Assistant Professor,
Graduate Nursing

Ph.D., Nursing, UT Health Science Center–San Antonio, 2008
M.S., Nursing, University of the Incarnate Word, 2001
B.S., Nursing, University of Utah, 1990
B.S., Economics, University of Utah, 1984

Dr. Meyer has worked in the field of nursing since 1990, most recently as dean of nursing at Brookhaven College. He has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels in nursing education, including in family nurse practitioner graduate programs. He is a board-certified family nurse practitioner and works part time in a family practice clinic. He received a postmaster's certificate in family nurse practice from UT Arlington in 2014.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Sexually transmitted disease prevention and simulation in nursing education.



Bill Palmer
Clinical Assistant Professor,
Undergraduate Nursing

M.S., Nursing, UT Arlington, 2012
B.S., Nursing, UT El Paso, 1997

Palmer has been a nurse for 25 years and teaching in the health care field for over 15. He began in mental health nursing and home health pediatric services. He enjoys teaching future nurses and seeing them succeed.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Mental health, pain management, and the integration of the two.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

MORTEZA KHALEDI, DEAN



Kathleen Ahles

Assistant Professor, Biology

Ph.D., Microbiology & Chemistry, Oklahoma State University, 2018

B.S., Biology & Chemistry, Oral Roberts University, 2011

With over a decade in collegiate science education, Dr. Ahles has a passion for decreasing racial and socioeconomic disparities in student success. In her recent time at Tarrant County College, she developed a detailed, interactive curriculum for an anatomy and physiology course available to all enrolled students for free. By enhancing the transparency and accessibility of this course, she helped students of all backgrounds become substantially more engaged and successful in what was a traditionally inequitable course.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Pedagogical tools for increasing student learning and interactive learning.



Joseph Buonomo

Assistant Professor,
Chemistry & Biochemistry

Ph.D., Medicinal Chemistry, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, 2018

B.S., Chemistry, University of Rochester, 2013

During his undergraduate studies, Dr. Buonomo performed research to apply nickel-catalyzed reductive coupling reactions to novel substrates. He focused on the development of methods to enable medicinal chemistry and design therapeutics for drug-resistant bacterial pathogens as a National Science Foundation fellow. At Stanford University, he applied chemoselective reactions to probe the interactions of infectious agents such as *M. tuberculosis* and the innate immune system as a National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein F32 Postdoctoral fellow.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Creation of novel chemoselective reactions and technologies with specific applications in protein bioconjugation, proteomics, bioorthogonal chemistry, and affinity-based diagnostics.



Ida Klang

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Biology

Ph.D., Medicine Karolinska Institute, 2014

Prior to joining UTA, Dr. Klang was an assistant professor of instruction at UT Dallas. Her research focus for her Ph.D. was the biology of aging, particularly examining the role of metal accumulation in protein aggregation. Prior to moving to Texas, she was a full-time lecturer at California State University–East Bay, where she also served on the curriculum design committee.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Aging, protein aggregation, and curriculum design and development.



Allison Martin
Lecturer, Biology

M.S., Biology, California State University–Sacramento, 2017

B.S., Biology, UT Austin, 2009

Martin's expertise is in pedagogy and biology education research. An alumnus of the UTeach program at UT Austin, she is certified to teach all sciences in grades 8-12 in Texas. She previously taught high school science using innovative methods, including project-based learning. Her research has influenced curriculum changes at other institutions.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Impacts of authentic research experiences on undergraduate biology students' knowledge, skills, and dispositions; student anxiety in biology classes; and science literacy and acceptance among non-STEM major students.



Michelle Martin-Raugh
Assistant Professor,
Psychology

Ph.D., Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Rice University, 2013

M.A., Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Rice University, 2011

B.A., Psychology & Hispanic Studies, Rice University, 2008

Dr. Martin-Raugh has several active programs of research that have resulted in over 30 publications and several externally funded grants from organizations such as the Army Research Institute and the International Society for Technology and Education. She conducted research for Educational Testing Service and served as editor of a special issue of the *Journal of Intelligence* on collective intelligence. She also holds a patent for automatically scoring video interviews.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Advances in situational judgment test, the development and use of technology-enabled personnel and training tools, and collaborative endeavors and negotiation.



Daniela Palmer
Assistant Professor, Biology

Ph.D., Evolutionary Biology, University of Chicago, 2018

B.S., Mathematical & Scientific Computation, University of California–Davis, 2012

Dr. Palmer is an evolutionary biologist whose research focuses on sex differences and genome evolution. Her research integrates genomic techniques with organismal biology to understand sex-related biodiversity. Before joining UTA, she was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of Sheffield and a presidential postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State University.

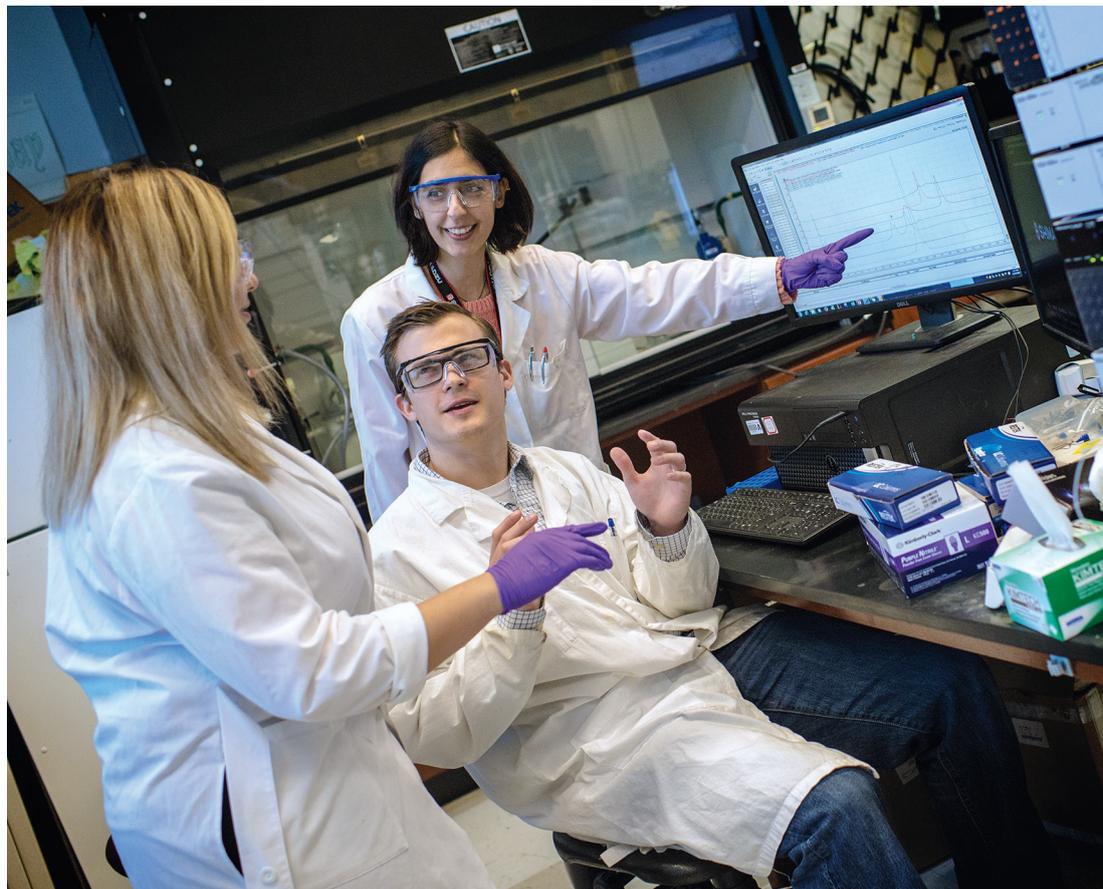
RESEARCH INTERESTS: Sex chromosome evolution, genomics, population genetics, and biodiversity.



Kyle Turner
Visiting Lecturer,
Mathematics

Ph.D., Mathematics, UT Arlington, 2022
B.S., Mathematics, University of Tulsa, 2018

Dr. Turner focuses on freshmen and entry-level mathematics courses, as well as mathematics education courses for future teachers. He has published articles in *Problems, Resources, and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies*, *Proceedings of the 48th Annual Meeting of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning*, and others. His research in particular focuses on the transition to college-level mathematics in calculus and pre-calculus courses. In examining this transition, he looks at the self-regulation strategies students use to adapt to challenges experienced during their first semester of college mathematics.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SCOTT D. RYAN, DEAN



Hui Huang

Associate Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Social Work, University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign, 2013

M.S.W., Child Welfare, University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign, 2011

M.S., Statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2010

M.A., Social Work, Xiamen University, 2007

B.A., Social Work, Xiamen University, 2004

Dr. Huang's research focuses on developing and evaluating macro-level interventions in child welfare and public health, with the purpose of building evidence-based policy and program. She has conducted funded projects on the evaluations of public health programs aiming to reduce health disparities and multidisciplinary programs serving adolescents involved with child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Former foster youth, substance-using parents in the child welfare system, and measurement development.



Poco Kernsmith

Professor, Social Work

Ph.D., Social Welfare, University of California–Los Angeles, 2002

M.P.H., Wayne State University, 2020

M.S.W., University of Michigan, 1995

B.A., Psychology & Women's Studies, University of California–Santa Barbara, 1994

Dr. Kernsmith's research focuses on the etiology and prevention of perpetration of violence among peers, in families, and intimate relationships. Her current work involves the analysis of school policy to create inclusive, trauma-informed environments to prevent and respond to violence or threats of violence in middle and high schools. She was a faculty member at Wayne State University for 20 years.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Community-level violence prevention programs and policies, trauma-informed schools, sexuality and sexual development, hate-motivated violence and white nationalism, and sexual and gender minority youth.



Yangjin Park

Assistant Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Social Work, New York University, 2022

M.S.W., Soongsil University, 2017

B.A., Business, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, 2015

Dr. Park's research benefited from using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. His work aims to reduce violence and trauma among vulnerable families. He received the Diane Greenstein Award from New York University and Fragile Families Summer Research Fellowship from Columbia University.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Violence and trauma, risk and resilience, mental health, and family therapy.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Kelli Rogers

Assistant Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Social Work, UT Arlington, 2020
M.S.W., Texas A&M University–Commerce, 2010
B.S.W., Texas Woman’s University, 2007

Dr. Rogers is dedicated to advancing educational equity and economic opportunity for marginalized youth and their families. She is a licensed master social worker with more than 12 years of direct and clinical practice with children and families in a variety of settings. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Education and Social Policy*, *School Social Work*, *Children and Schools*, and *Journal of Multicultural Education*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Advancing racial equity in public and higher education, social work practice in schools, intersection of child welfare and education, disproportionality and disparities in child welfare, social policy for children and families, culturally responsive practice, and community practice social work.



Christine Spadola

Assistant Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Social Welfare, Florida International University
2015
M.S., Counseling Psychology, Florida International
University 2008

Dr. Spadola previously served as an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University, where she received the 2022 Scholar of the Year award. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She has conducted several community-based sleep research projects, including adapting yoga and behavioral sleep interventions for use in low-income communities. Spadola is a licensed mental health counselor with nearly 20 years of clinical and behavioral research experience.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Sleep health, mental health promotion, substance misuse, and mind/body interventions.



Tiara Thomas

Assistant Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Educational Leadership & Policy Studies,
UT Arlington, 2021
M.S.W., University of Maryland–Baltimore, 2011
B.S.W., Rutgers University, 2010

Dr. Thomas has been employed at UTA since 2015 in various positions, including adjunct professor, advisor, and coordinator. Her social work practice experience is primarily in children and families with the New Jersey Department of Child Protection and Permanency and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Social work education, faculty preparedness, and managing controversial conversations in the classroom.



Joyce White
Assistant Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Management in Organizational Leadership,
University of Phoenix, 2019
M.S.W., Washington University–St. Louis, 2005

Dr. White has held a variety of senior- and executive-level positions, such as grants manager and project director in the Dallas County Criminal Justice Division and vice president of compliance and administrative director at the Dallas Housing Authority. She was also the founder and executive director for the Family and Leadership Empowerment Network, director of community information and outcome management at the United Way of Greater St. Louis, and project director at the Father's Support Center in St. Louis. Additionally, she served as adjunct faculty at University of Phoenix for 10 years.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Community, administrative, and organizational leadership.



Bethany Wood
Assistant Professor,
Social Work

Ph.D., Social Work, UT Austin, 2022
M.S.W., Brigham Young University, 2018
B.S., Sociology, Brigham Young University, 2016

Dr. Wood is a poverty researcher, examining poverty at both the individual and neighborhood levels as social determinant of mental health. During her years of clinical practice, she managed Cyber-Seniors, a program for older adults living in Section 8 Housing in Salt Lake City, and later served as the principal investigator for the Utah Cyber-Seniors study. Her work has been published in journals such as the *International Journal of Public Health and Environmental Research*. She also received awards such as the University of Texas Graduate School's Continuing Fellowship.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Poverty and mental health, social determinants of health, low-income neighborhoods, neighborhood and built environment, and advanced statistical methodologies.



Additional New Faculty*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Richard Berard Jr., Clinical Associate Professor, Finance & Real Estate

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Hugh Kellam, Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Huyuna Choi, Lecturer, Modern Languages

Martin Gallagher, Senior Lecturer, Philosophy & Humanities

Amy Hatch, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Music

Jordan Kirby, Assistant Professor of Practice, Theatre Arts & Dance

Christina Roach, Lecturer, Communication

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION

Marianne Doan, Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing

Thanayai Lambert, Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing

Laurel Pilkington, Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

John Adams, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Psychology

**Faculty chose not to submit photos and/or biographies for publication.*



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