

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

FALL 2025



TOGETHER, WE THRIVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear New Mavericks,

I am thrilled to welcome you to UTA and to the Maverick community. As you step into your new role, you're joining a University powered by curiosity, driven by excellence, and grounded in a shared mission to make a difference. What you bring—your knowledge, your creativity, your

drive—will play a vital role in helping us move forward, together.

This year marks UTA's 130th anniversary—a milestone that calls us to reflect not only on how far we've come, but on the bold ideas, hard work, and transformative moments that brought us here. Ours is a legacy of resilience, progress, and lasting impact. Generations of Mavericks have contributed to that story, and now, so will you.

And as we celebrate our rich history this year, we're also looking to the future. Our strategic plan, *UTA 2030: Shared Dreams, Bright Future*, is guiding how we teach, discover, and serve. Shaped by the voices of our faculty, staff, students, and supporters, the plan reflects our shared aspirations and outlines a path to becoming one of the most impactful research universities in the nation.

At UTA, we believe in the power of education to transform lives—and in the power of faculty to lead that transformation. That belief is what brings us together, shaping a community that's centered on connection, creativity, and collaboration. As you begin this new chapter, I encourage you to engage fully in the dynamic academic, entrepreneurial, and cultural life of our campus. You're joining a group that's passionate, forward-thinking, and ready to support you every step of the way.

I'm grateful to have you with us on this journey, and I am so excited to see what you'll accomplish here. Together, we're going to do great things.

Welcome to UTA!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Cowley".

JENNIFER COWLEY, PHD

President

A LETTER FROM THE PROVOST



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the academic community at UTA, I am delighted to welcome you to Maverick Country. We are fortunate that you have chosen to join our vibrant academic community. At UTA, we value innovation, creativity, and curiosity—qualities you bring with you that will undoubtedly enrich our

academic programs and prepare our students for successful careers.

You are joining a supportive and collaborative community of academic professionals committed to excellence. We have curated a comprehensive suite of resources to help you acclimate to UTA and support your ongoing professional growth. Regardless of your role, you will find a wide range of tools and programs designed to help you achieve your goals.

I encourage you to connect with the Division of Faculty Success and the dedicated team working on your behalf. Their website offers a wealth of information about professional development opportunities, faculty resources, and more. You will also find that our faculty and staff are deeply committed to supporting your success. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your peers, college leadership, or campus administrators with any questions or concerns.

I also invite you to explore the Maverick Promise—our institutional commitment to helping students stay enrolled, graduate on time, and enter the workforce prepared to thrive. As you review our student success goals and reflect on our strategic plan, I encourage you to ask yourself, “What is one thing I will commit to doing to play my part in advancing student success?”

Our collective success depends on our ability to collaborate and bring out the best in one another. I am confident that you will make meaningful contributions to our community, our partnerships, and our academic and instructional mission. I look forward to celebrating the impact we will achieve together and seeing how you contribute to this shared commitment to student success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tamara L. Brown'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'T' and 'B'.

TAMARA L. BROWN, PHD

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

UTA GUIDING THEMES

SHARED DREAMS, BRIGHT FUTURE

UTA 2030

The University of Texas at Arlington has launched its new strategic plan, UTA 2030, focusing on our shared dreams and bright future. Together we will realize our strategic plan, ensuring we accomplish big dreams together.



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

At UTA, we are committed to creating a culture that celebrates and values the unique contributions of each individual. We believe that a genuinely supportive environment is one where every person, from employees to students to our partners to beyond, feels engaged and empowered to be their authentic selves.



STUDENT SUCCESS

UTA is committed to delivering exceptional experiences that lead to positive outcomes for our students. The University empowers students from all walks of life to succeed. Emphasizing enriched learning environments and best practices for academic innovation, UTA equips its graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the ever-evolving demands of a rapidly changing world.



ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The University's future successes will be underpinned by the vitality of our renewed and future external relationships. We must foster positive alumni and community engagement, and extend and deepen our partnerships in the community.



FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As a University, we have created and continue to develop ambitious and forward-looking goals as part of our vision for the future. It's imperative to our success that we develop our resource strategies and align our infrastructure plans to achieve our goals.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

UTA is an R-1 doctoral research university that fosters innovation, research, and entrepreneurship to drive societal progress. We are committed to fostering an environment of collaboration and excellence, propelling UTA to the forefront of discovery.

A LETTER FROM THE VICE PROVOST FOR FACULTY SUCCESS



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of The University of Texas at Arlington community, I am delighted to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to you! We are excited to have you join our distinguished faculty as we work together to advance UTA's mission of

academic excellence, groundbreaking research, and meaningful community engagement.

You are joining us at a pivotal time in the University's journey. Through our strategic plan, *UTA 2030*, we are pursuing bold goals to elevate UTA as a leading research university known for its commitment to student success, innovation, and societal impact. As a faculty member, your contributions will be essential to realizing these aspirations and shaping the future of higher education.

At UTA, we take pride in cultivating a vibrant and collaborative academic environment. Your expertise and dedication will not only enhance the student experience, but also enrich the research and scholarship that define our institution. You'll find yourself among talented colleagues, motivated students, and robust resources that support growth

and excellence in teaching, discovery, and service.

We encourage you to explore the wide range of opportunities for professional development and campus engagement. As a Maverick, you are now part of a dynamic university community driven by ambition, curiosity, and a shared purpose.

Once again, welcome to The University of Texas at Arlington! If you have any questions or need assistance as you settle in, please feel free to reach out to our team in the Division of Faculty Success at facultysuccess@uta.edu.

We are thrilled to have you with us.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Minerva Cordero'.

MINERVA CORDERO, PHD

Vice Provost for Faculty Success; Professor of Mathematics

DIVISION OF FACULTY SUCCESS

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

- We are here to support you in every step of your career journey at UT Arlington.
- We will help you become familiar with our institutional mission, culture, climate, and University goals.
- We will assist you in your quest for tenure or academic professional promotion and guide you in your professional development.
- Our office will provide mentoring, leadership training, and practical steps to ensure you thrive at UT Arlington.
- We lead efforts to recognize and award faculty who are excelling in research, teaching, service, and dedication to our community.
- As a partner in your endeavors, we will provide a network of resources to connect you to the support that you need at each juncture of your career.



ANN R. HAWKINS, PHD

Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Success,
Professor of History



SHANNA E. BANDA, PHD

Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Success,
Professor of Instruction of Mathematics,
Member of Academy of Distinguished Teachers



NALI KIM, EDD

Director of Faculty Engagement



SAMANTHA B. MOORE, MS

Director of Faculty Management Systems

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MING-HAN LI, DEAN



**BELÉN
BUTRAGUEÑO**

Lecturer, Architecture

PhD, Architecture, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
MArch, Architecture, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

BArch, Architecture, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Butragueño's research concerns the analysis of communication, criticism, and expression processes in architecture, with a focus on the application of new technologies in architectural drawing education. She is the author of educational books, has presented numerous papers at prestigious international and national conferences, and has published research articles in journals.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Fostering students' growth in the early stages of their architectural educations, helping students acquire the necessary graphic skills while developing critical judgment and finding their personal style, combining digital and analog media to enhance students' graphic abilities.



ZAC PORTER

Associate Professor,
Architecture

PhD, Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology
MArch, Architecture, University of North Carolina–Charlotte

BA, Architecture, University of North Carolina–Charlotte

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Architectural history, specifically the history and theory of modern and contemporary architecture. Dr. Porter especially focuses on the designed relationship between architecture and landscape.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Architectural design and architectural history/theory, experimental approaches to architectural representation, and architectural conceptions of landscape.



MALINI ROY

Assistant Professor, Public
Affairs & Planning

PhD, Urban & Regional Sciences, Texas A&M University

MS, Urban & Regional Sciences, Cornell University
BArch, Architecture, Sardar Patel University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Rising climate hazard events and disparate patterns of losses, which are key policy concerns in cities.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Urban morphology, public participation and dispute resolution, and coastal resilience planning.



**NUBRAS
SAMAYEEN**

Assistant Professor,
Architecture

PhD, Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois
Urbana–Champaign

MArch, Architecture, University of Michigan–
Ann Arbor

MUD, Urban Design, University of Michigan–
Ann Arbor

BArch, Architecture, Bangladesh University of
Engineering & Technology

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Samayeen's research is deeply interdisciplinary, informed by coursework in comparative literature, South Asian studies, anthropology, and the fine arts. She has presented her concept of "cellular urbanism" at institutions such as MIT. Her work bridges theory, history, and design, aiming to interpret architecture as a sociopolitical medium. Design initiatives like "Designing Conflict and Recoding Pipes" reflect this integration and have received international recognition.

TEACHING INTERESTS: The history and theory of architecture, emphasizing architecture's cultural, social, and political relevance; non-Western architecture, such as Islamic gardens and South Asian art and architecture.



**SHERMEEN
YOUSIF**

Associate Professor,
Architecture

PhD, Architecture, Texas A&M University
MArch, Architecture, Dessau Institute of Architecture

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Yousif's interdisciplinary research explores the intersection of AI, computational design, and performance-based architectural systems. As the founder of Deep-Ecology Design Studio, she led efforts to develop net-zero and resilient architectural solutions using generative AI and environmental simulations. Her work has resulted in new computational frameworks for performance-driven design and has been widely published in peer-reviewed venues. She currently serves on the Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture Board and the *International Journal of Architectural Computing* Editorial Board.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Computational design and AI methods, environmental modeling strategies such as daylight simulation and thermal analysis.



WEI ZHAI

Associate Professor, Public
Affairs & Planning

PhD, Urban & Regional Planning, University of
Florida

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Zhai's research interests center on how to make cities smart and resilient in the face of local and global environmental change. More specifically, his current research agenda is twofold: 1) He leverages emerging big data and responsible AI to re-examine climate resilience in the context of flooding, hurricane, extreme heat, etc.; 2) he is developing and applying data science and AI methods for better sensing human behavior, social equity, and urban dynamics.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Urban sustainability, environmental planning, and urban planning methods.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

HARRY DOMBROSKI, DEAN



PRASAD CHETTI

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

PhD, Information Technology, University of Nebraska–Omaha

MTech, Computer Science & Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

MTech, Geoinformatics & Surveying Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad

BTech, Computer Science & Engineering, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Machine learning, data science, correlation networks, clustering algorithms, and population analysis.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Core theoretical subjects such as theory of computation, compiler design, and operating systems; applied areas such as AI, network security, human-computer interaction, and software engineering; interdisciplinary and project-oriented courses such as data visualization, project management, and advanced database systems.



SUNG HYUN KWON

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

PhD, Information Systems, University of Maryland
MS, Quantitative Management, Duke University
BBA, Finance Engineering, Korea University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Kwon's research leverages rigorous econometric and AI/machine learning methodologies to analyze user engagement and interactions within platform ecosystems like online communities, labor markets, and gaming. He focuses on key themes such as online incivility and platform dynamics. A significant component of his work involves the development and alignment of AI, particularly enhancing human-generated data for large language models in content moderation and assessing AI's broader impact on these digital environments.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Information systems, business analytics, and AI/machine learning, with a commitment to equipping students from diverse backgrounds with practical, data-driven skills.



YUMENG MIAO

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

PhD, Business, University of Wisconsin–Madison
PhD, Management, Xidian University
BS, Management, Xidian University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Creativity in human-AI collaboration, the dark side of AI, and the future of work.



**NAVEENKUMAR
RAMARAJU**

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

PhD, Business Administration, University of Illinois–
Urbana-Champaign

MA, Business Administration, University of Iowa

MS, Data Science, Indiana University–Bloomington

BE, Mechanical Engineering, Anna University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Ramaraju's research interest is in the areas of organizational innovation, gender diversity, mergers and acquisitions, and health care using neuro-linguistic programming, AI, and econometrics.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Introduction to programming (Python), information systems, and business data science.



**DIEGO
VILLALPANDO**

Assistant Professor,
Management

PhD, Management, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

MBA, Management, Minnesota State University–
Mankato

BS, Finance, Minnesota State University–Mankato

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Villalpando's research focuses on unearthing important discoveries in the domains of strategic leadership, corporate governance, and stakeholder strategy.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Strategic management and entrepreneurship.



TENG WANG

Professor, Finance & Real
Estate

PhD, Finance, Erasmus University Rotterdam

MPhil, Finance, Erasmus University Rotterdam

BS, International Economics & Finance, University of
Amsterdam

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Banking and nonbank financial institutions, corporate finance, household finance, financial crises, and law and finance.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Banking research, financial intermediation, credit analysis, and corporate finance.



YANAN WANG

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems &
Operations Management

PhD, Management Information Systems, University of Arizona

ME, Computer Science, University of Science & Technology of China

BE, Software Engineering, South China University of Technology

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Wang's current research focuses on trustworthy AI, especially AI security and AI alignment. In his research, he develops novel AI methods to address business and societal challenges.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Technical courses such as data mining, deep learning, and generative AI.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

ANN M.L. CAVALLO, INTERIM DEAN



ERDOGAN KAYA

Assistant Professor, Teacher
& Administrator Preparation

PhD, Curriculum & Instruction, University of
Nevada–Las Vegas

MS, Computer Science, International Black Sea
University

MS, Machine Learning Engineering, George Mason
University

BS, Chemical Engineering, Anadolu University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Computer science, STEM,
AI, and engineering education.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Integrating technology and
computer science methods.



MARICELA LEON

Assistant Professor, Teacher
& Administrator Preparation

PhD, Education, Southern Methodist University
MEd, Bilingual Education, Southern Methodist
University

BA, Economics, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios
Superiores de Monterrey

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Multilingual and
multicultural learners, dual-language programs,
linguistic justice, and STEM education.

TEACHING INTERESTS: STEM, educational
psychology, bilingual education, and quantitative
research methods.



LAUREN WEISBERG

Assistant Professor, Teacher
& Administrator Preparation

PhD, Curriculum & Instruction, University of Florida
MS, Organizational Performance & Workplace
Learning, Boise State University

MAT, Art Education, University of the Arts
BFA, Interior Design, Syracuse University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Weisberg's research
focuses on expanding equitable digital learning
opportunities for K-12 students by 1) empowering
teachers to enact creative, innovative, and critical digital
pedagogies; and 2) making computing and STEM
education more inclusive and engaging.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Preparing K-12 preservice
teachers to design and enact equity-focused curriculum
and to integrate technology in high-quality ways.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

PETER E. CROUCH, DEAN



**JULIA
BITENCOURT**

Assistant Professor;
Industrial, Manufacturing, &
Systems Engineering

PhD, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Auburn University

MS, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Auburn University

BS, Industrial & Systems Engineering, University of Brasilia

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Simulation, digital twin, and data analytics applied to manufacturing environments and smart manufacturing.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Simulation and data analytics.



JAMES FERLEZ

Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

PhD, Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland–College Park

MS, Electrical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University

BS, Electrical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Ferlez's research is focused on understanding the fundamentals of autonomous systems that contain neural network components and providing formal assurances for those systems. His research has both theoretical and practical application-oriented facets, and it draws on various tools, such as control systems, robotics, embedded systems, optimization, machine learning, and formal methods.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Both traditionally electrical engineering-aligned courses in control theory, such as signals and systems, linear and nonlinear systems, optimal control, random processes, and stochastic control; and traditionally computer science-aligned courses, such as machine learning, temporal logic/formal verification, algorithms, and combinatorial optimization.



**YOGESH
FULPAGARE**

Assistant Professor,
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

MTech, Thermal & Fluids Engineering, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University

BTech, Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Fulpagare's future research interests focus on three core pillars: 1) AI-enhanced thermal modeling and smart cooling systems, 2) sustainable and ultra-efficient cooling for data centers and high-performance AI systems, and 3) novel microfluidic and two-phase cooling architectures for extreme-performance electronics. Further, he aims to expand his research horizon in various sustainable cooling applications, such as consumer electronics, telecom, space, and cloud computing.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Thermodynamics, heat transfer, HVAC, computational fluid dynamics, and thermal management of electronic systems.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



XIONG GONG

Professor, Electrical Engineering

PhD, Physics, Nankai University
MS, Material Science & Engineering, Lanzhou University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Semiconductors.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Semiconductors and electronic materials.



SALLY JIA

Assistant Professor,
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

PhD, Mechanical Engineering, UT Austin
MS, Mechanical Engineering, UT Austin
BS, Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Jia's interdisciplinary research lies at the intersection of nanoscale heat transfer, thermal metrology, low-dimensional materials, and next-generation semiconductor technology. Her work addresses fundamental and applied challenges in non-Fourier thermal transport, efficient heat dissipation and energy transport through mixed-dimensional contacts, and adaptive heat flow control, paving the way for breakthroughs in sustainable and high-performance thermal management solutions for advanced microelectronics and energy systems.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Nanoscale heat transfer, material synthesis and characterization, semiconductor theory and fabrication, energy systems, and thermal management in microelectronics.



OZAIR MUGHAL

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Computer Science & Engineering

PhD, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Università degli Studi di Genova
MS, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Hanyang University
BE, Electronic Engineering, NED University of Engineering and Technology

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Applied AI/machine learning and signal processing.

TEACHING INTERESTS: AI, machine learning, data analytics, computer networks, wireless communications, and signal processing.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



MARUF RAHMAN

Professor of Practice;
Industrial, Manufacturing, &
Systems Engineering

PhD, Industrial Engineering, University of Alabama–Huntsville

MS, Engineering Management, University of Tennessee–Chattanooga

ME, Industrial Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology

BS, Chemical Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Lean manufacturing, Six Sigma, engineering management, and AI.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Ergonomics, statistics, engineering management, and health and safety.



TODD ROSENKRANTZ

Senior Lecturer, Computer
Science & Engineering

PhD, Computer Science, UT Arlington

BS, Computer Science, Texas Wesleyan University

TEACHING INTERESTS: Programming languages, constrained devices, and edge computing.



HARRY SHOMER

Assistant Professor,
Computer Science &
Engineering

PhD, Computer Science, Michigan State University
BS, Computer Science, City University of New York–Brooklyn College

RESEARCH INTERESTS: AI and machine learning, with a focus on machine learning on graphs.

TEACHING INTERESTS: AI, machine learning, and data mining.



YAO WANG

Assistant Professor, Civil
Engineering

PhD, Structural Engineering, University of Colorado–
Boulder

MS, Structural Engineering, University of Colorado–
Boulder

BS, Civil Engineering, Taiyuan University of
Technology

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Wang's research interests include constitutive modeling of infrastructure deterioration with environmental factors, low/negative carbon civil engineering material quantification and design, micro- and meso-scale experimental testing and simulation techniques, and physical-AI-driven understanding of infrastructure resilience behaviors.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Mechanics of materials, fracture and damage mechanics, advanced cementitious and concrete materials, experimental design and data analysis in civil engineering, and reinforced concrete design.



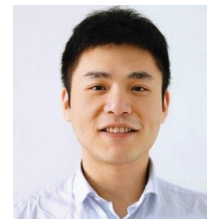
MENG YE

Assistant Professor,
Computer Science &
Engineering

PhD, Computer Science, Rutgers University
ME, Biomedical Engineering, Tsinghua University
BE, Nuclear Science & Engineering, North China
Electric Power University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Ye's research mainly focuses on AI, computer vision, medical image analysis, and medical imaging. His current projects involve 1) computer vision and medical image computing (image segmentation, motion tracking, image registration, image generation, 3D shape modeling, and 4D dynamic analysis); 2) low-level computer vision tasks and inverse problems (image reconstruction, denosing, and super resolution); and 3) medical imaging (MRI pulse sequences).

TEACHING INTERESTS: Deep learning, machine learning, and AI.



TIANQIAO ZHAO

Assistant Professor, Electrical
Engineering

PhD, Electrical Engineering, University of Manchester

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Power systems, AI/
machine learning, cyber-physical systems, and
cybersecurity.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

ELIZABETH T. NEWMAN, DEAN



**DANIELLE
BEVERLY**

Assistant Professor,
Art & Art History

MFA, Film & Video, Columbia College Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Documentary and social justice filmmaking.



KELSEY BINION

Assistant Professor,
Communication

PhD, Health Communication, Indiana University
MA, Applied Communication, Indiana University
BA, Communication & Spanish, DePauw University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Binion is interested in exploring the intersections of women's health, health communication, and patient-provider relationships, with a particular emphasis on reproductive grief. Her work is grounded in qualitative and arts-based research methods to illuminate lived experiences, amplify silenced voices in health care, and support the training of health care providers and community members.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Communication-based courses that emphasize the practical application of classroom knowledge to real-world contexts; and integrating high-impact practices, such as service learning, to help students engage meaningfully with communities and develop skills that extend beyond academic settings.



EMILY EUBANKS

Assistant Professor, Music

PhD, Musicology, Florida State University
MM, Musicology, Florida State University
MM, Performance, Oklahoma City University
BM, Performance, Oklahoma Baptist University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Eubanks' research centers women's contributions to music history in the 19th and 20th centuries. She believes that understanding how women have built supportive and influential music networks, subverted gender expectations, and navigated their specific contexts can help us understand the important roles they have played in shaping music cultures of the past and present. She aims to uncover the ways women contributed to musical life, particularly as amateur musicians.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Examining music, history, and culture while highlighting diverse contributors, including women and historically excluded groups; and emphasizing the social structures that shape musical experiences and power dynamics.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



ADAM JOHNSON

Assistant Professor,
Sociology & Anthropology

PhD, Anthropology, UT San Antonio
MA, Anthropology, University of North Carolina–Charlotte
BA, Anthropology/Philosophy, East Carolina University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Johnson's research focuses on human-animal relationships, sustainable conservation, and biophilic design. He explores ways to foster ethical interactions with wildlife, promote community-based conservation efforts, and integrate nature into built environments to enhance well-being. His work aims to advance sustainability by balancing human needs with environmental responsibility.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Developing students as critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and engaged global citizens; and connecting theoretical concepts to real-world challenges.



ANDREA KAY

Assistant Professor,
Sociology & Anthropology

PhD, Environmental Science, University of Lausanne
MS, GIS & Spatial Analysis in Archaeology, University College London
BA, Anthropology, University of Rhode Island

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Kay is an archaeologist who focuses on the study of human-environment interactions. Her research examines human-environment interactions from the Holocene to Anthropocene using a suite of interdisciplinary methods, including archaeological excavation, archaeobotanical identification, large-scale data synthesis, land-use reconstruction and modeling, and GIS analyses.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Intro to archaeology and archaeology in practice, GIS for archaeology, and human-environment-climate interactions.



STEPHANIE KINZINGER

Assistant Professor, English

PhD, English & Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill
MA, English, University of Virginia
BA, English, University of California–Berkeley

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Video game studies, English, and American literature.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



JENNIFER LAPRADE

Associate Professor,
Criminology & Criminal
Justice

PhD, Criminology & Criminal Justice, UT Dallas
MA, Political Science & Constitutional Law, UT Dallas
BA, Political Science, UT Dallas

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Courts, sentencing, and capital punishment.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Criminological theory, mock trial, corrections, criminal procedures, and research methods.



ALICE NELSON

Assistant Professor, Theatre
Arts & Dance

MFA, Ensemble-Based Physical Theatre, Dell'Arte
International School of Physical Theatre
BEd, Secondary Education, University of Calgary
BA, Dramatic Arts, University of Lethbridge

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Nelson's interest is in drama education and applied theater; specifically, how we can use drama as a tool for social justice and social change in schools and communities. She's especially interested in how this is done through collective creation, using physical theater (mask, puppetry, clown, movement, shadow performance) and improvisation.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Drama in education and communities, applied theater approaches, improvisation, and theater for young audiences.



MATTHEW NOWLIN

Associate Professor, Political
Science

PhD, Political Science, University of Oklahoma
MA, Political Science, University of Central Oklahoma
BA, Psychology, University of Central Oklahoma

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Policymaking processes, belief systems, policy learning, and public opinion, with a specific focus on energy and environmental policy and politics.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Public policy, public opinion, research methods, U.S. government, and energy and environmental policy.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



ALAINA SPIERS

Assistant Professor,
Communication

PhD, Communication, Texas A&M University
MA, Mass Communication, University of Houston
BA, Integrated Communication, University of Houston

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Spiers specializes in research on stigmatized health issues, with a focus on creating actionable patient- and provider-facing materials, ranging from handouts to workshops to full-scale health campaigns. Her work bridges public relations and health communication, particularly for misunderstood or underrecognized conditions and medical specialties. She is deeply committed to collaborative research, often co-creating with patients, and integrates health policy advocacy into her campaigns to drive meaningful change.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Foundational subjects like group communication and business/technical communication; specialized topics like social media campaigns and clinical health communication.



TAYLOR TAPPAN

Assistant Professor, History &
Geography

PhD, Geography, University of Kansas
MA, Geography, University of Kansas
BA, Geography & Spanish, University of Kansas

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Latin American geography, Indigenous land rights, forest conservation, land use/land cover change, and GIS and remote sensing.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Geography of Latin America, GIS, physical geography, human geography, and world regional geography.



LIZ TROSPER

Assistant Professor, Art & Art
History

MFA, Art & Technology, UT Dallas
MFA, Public Administration, University of North Texas
MPA, Public Administration, Texas Woman's University
BA, Government, Texas Women's University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Trosper is a new media painter experimenting with digitality and materiality to discuss theoretical and philosophical concerns relevant to contemporary life. Her research agenda aims to change the discourse of painting from one of exclusivity to that of inclusivity. She does this using a praxis-led approach to probe the intersection of painting with other media, especially technology, and the new ways this changes painting and studio practice. She also explores the role of the painter as a cultural worker through exhibitions, writing, and programmatic constructs.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Thinking about materials, techniques, form, content, and conceptual competence; researching artists and their processes.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION

TANYA SUDIA, INTERIM DEAN



DAVID ANDREWS

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Nursing

MS, Nursing Administration, UT Arlington
BS, Nursing, UTA

TEACHING INTERESTS: Critical care.



JENNIFER BAKER

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Nursing

MS, Nursing Education, UT Arlington
MS, Social Work, Washington University–St. Louis
BS, Nursing, UT Arlington

TEACHING INTERESTS: Nursing clinicals.



VICKY GARCIA

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Nursing

MS, Nursing Education, UT Arlington
BS, Nursing, UT Austin

TEACHING INTERESTS: Pediatrics.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH INNOVATION



TIFFANY JETER

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Nursing

MS, Nursing, Azusa Pacific University
BS, Nursing, Azusa Pacific University

TEACHING INTERESTS: Pediatric emergency care.



KIMBERLY ORTIZ

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Nursing

MS, Nursing Education, UT Arlington
BS, Nursing, UT Arlington

TEACHING INTERESTS: Critical care and complex needs.



KAY SPEARMAN

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Nursing

MS, Nursing Leadership & Management, Western
Governor's University
BS, Nursing, Western Governor's University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Women's health, pregnancy complications, labor and delivery, and pre-eclampsia.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Women's health, labor and delivery, and nursing.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

MORTEZA G. KHALEDI, DEAN



TATHEER AJANI

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Mathematics

PhD, Mathematics, UT Arlington
MS, Mathematics, UT Arlington
BS, Mathematics, UT Arlington

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Homological algebra techniques, uses of the Tor functor in general, and Tor-persistence of modules over polynomial and regular rings.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Improving freshmen-level math courses to increase numeracy, using group work to help verbal and critical thinking skills, and preparing non-math majors to reduce math anxiety.



JENNIFER DIAS

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Psychology

PhD, Educational Psychology, East Texas A&M University
MS, Psychology, East Texas A&M University
MEd, Guidance & Counseling, Tarleton State University
BS, Psychology, Tarleton State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Much of Dr. Dias' research has focused on memory, particularly eyewitness identification, which was the topic of both her dissertation and one of her master's theses. She is also interested in personality, sports psychology, and health and wellness. She has seen up close how much psychology impacts performance, motivation, and overall well-being. She loves sharing real-world experiences with students and helping them see how psychology shows up in everyday life.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Introduction to psychology; cognitive, social, sports, and personality psychology.



LOÏC FORT

Assistant Professor, Biology

PhD, Cancer Biology, University of Glasgow
MS, Molecular Cell Biology & Pathology, University Claude Bernard Lyon I
BS, Genetics and Biology of the Cell, University Claude Bernard Lyon I

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Cell and developmental biology, stem cells, mechanobiology, cytoskeleton, cell death, synthetic biology, cell migration, and organoids.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Biology and development.



**GENEVIEVE
GODFREY**

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Biology

PhD, Biology, Baylor University
BA, Zoology, Connecticut College

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Introductory biology,
anatomy, and physiology.



**STEPHANIE
MCMAHON**

Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Biology

PhD, Genetics and Genomics, Texas A&M University
BS, Microbiology, Colorado State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Human genetics,
population genetics, leukemia, and microbiome.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Biology and microbiology.



ANITA QUINTANA

Associate Professor, Biology

PhD, Biomedical Sciences, University of New Mexico
BS, Microbiology, New Mexico State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Quintana's research focuses on understanding the underlying cause of birth defects. Her work seeks to identify the genetic basis of birth defects that disrupt brain and craniofacial development. She is most interested in genetic disorders of metabolism that alter the body's ability to process vitamin B12 or synthesize cholesterol. Birth defects in this category are detrimental and can lead to serious clinical issues including cleft lip/palate, intellectual disability, and seizure. She hopes that by studying how metabolism regulates brain and facial development, she can help to prevent birth defects or provide better treatment options for patients in the future.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Introductory biology,
gene regulation, advanced scientific writing, and
developmental neurobiology.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE



**STEVEN
WEISBERG**

Assistant Professor,
Psychology

PhD, Psychology, Temple University
BA, Psychology, College of William & Mary

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Cognitive neuroscience
and psychology.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Biology and development.



ZHONGHUA XU

Associate Professor, Physics

PhD, Space Physics, Utah State University
BS, Space Physics, Peking University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Solar wind–
magnetosphere–ionosphere coupling, interhemispheric
asymmetries in geospace, space weather impacts
and geomagnetically induced currents, autonomous
geospace instrumentation, multi-scale data analysis
(wavelet, satellite/ground-based integration), and
collaborative polar research and international
observatory networks.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Space physics, space
weather, electromagnetism, data analysis and
visualization, and geoscience instrumentation.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

KIRK A. FOSTER, DEAN



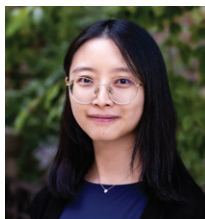
AARON BURGESS

Assistant Professor of
Practice, Social Work

PhD, Social Welfare, Florida International University
MS, Social Work/Community Action & Social Policy,
University of Maryland
BS, Social Work, Shepherd University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Spiritual trauma and
forced migration.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Social work theory and
practice.



YUN CHEN

Assistant Professor,
Social Work

PhD, Social Work & Anthropology, University of
Michigan–Ann Arbor
MA, Social Service Administration, University of
Chicago
LLB, Social Work, Xiamen University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Chen's research
explores how social work practitioners define and enact
their expertise, ethics, and politics within institutional
contexts, particularly when working with marginalized
groups. Focusing on drug addiction services, she
examines how social workers can either reinforce or
challenge systemic power structures. This research aims
to promote reflexivity in social work and develop more
ethical, effective models of practice and collaboration.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Social welfare policies
and programs, international social work, substance use
services, qualitative and participatory research methods,
social work theory, and critical theories in health care.



CAROL LEE

Assistant Professor,
Social Work

PhD, Social Work, University of Illinois–Urbana-
Champaign
MS, Social Work, University of Chicago
BS, Sociology/Education, State University of New
York–Albany

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Lee's research employs
an interdisciplinary approach to promote health
equity concerning substance use, the consequences of
substance use, and substance use interventions among
marginalized adolescents and young adults. Her main
area of research focuses on better understanding the risk
and protective factors associated with risky substance
use and substance use disorders at individual, relational,
community, and societal levels among marginalized
youth.

TEACHING INTERESTS: The integration of an
intersectional perspective, community-engaged
approaches, and innovative empirical methods to
combat oppressive policies and practices.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



KATHRYN SOHNE

Assistant Professor of
Practice, Social Work

PhD, Family Studies, Texas Woman's University
MS, Social Work, UT Arlington
BA, Sociology, Ouachita Baptist University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Parent and adolescent communication, social fluency, impact of mental health professionals in educational settings, mental health, and emerging adults.

TEACHING INTERESTS: Family development and communication, adolescence, social work micro-practice, school social work, and qualitative research methods.

WE ALSO WELCOME...

SYED ABUMUSAB

Assistant Professor, Philosophy & Humanities

MARIA ALBRECHT

Clinical Professor, Marketing

LARRY BRYANT

Visiting Assistant Professor, Teacher & Administrator Preparation

BO FANG

Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering

PRASANNA GOWDA

Professor of Research, Smart Agriculture Research Center

SILAS HUFF

Visiting Assistant Professor, Music

DILRUBA SHARMIN MOUTUSI

Clinical Assistant Professor, Finance & Real Estate

MOHAMMAD HASSAN MURAD

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Mathematics

TE'A RILEY

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Mathematics

IVAN TOLEDO

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Mathematics

FARSHID TORABIAN

Assistant Professor of Practice, Landscape Architecture

AMY TRICK

Assistant Professor, Architecture

GUIHONG WAN

Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering

DON WILATHGAMUWA

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Mathematics

XI ZHU

Associate Professor, Bioengineering

NOTES



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit uta.edu/titleix.