



Welcome Back, Arts and Sciences!

New Colleagues
Tenure and Promotions
Achievements
Future

New Colleagues

Introductions by Chairs

Biology

Chemistry

English

History

Mathematics

Physics

Sociology & Political Science

Department of Biology

- ▶ Dr. Alba Frias-De-Diego
 - ▶ Assistant Professor
- ▶ Dr. James Wood
 - ▶ Assistant Professor

Department of Chemistry

- ▶ Dr. Lac Ha Nguyen
- ▶ Assistant Professor

Department of English

- ▶ Dr. Steven Thomas
 - ▶ Chairperson

Department of History

- ▶ Christian McCall
- ▶ Lecturer

Department of Mathematics

- ▶ Cheryl Swafford
- ▶ Lecturer

Department of Physics

- ▶ Dr. Susheel Pangeni
 - ▶ Lecturer
- ▶ Dr. Kanokporn “Tu” Chattrakun
 - ▶ Lecturer

Department of Sociology & Political Science

- ▶ Dr. Michelle Johns
 - ▶ Lecturer
- ▶ Ron Johnson
 - ▶ Lecturer
- ▶ Diego Taboada
 - ▶ Lecturer



Tenure and Promotions

Promoted to Senior Lecturer

- ▶ Dr. Jonathan Moldenhauer
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
- ▶ Marcus Rogers
 - ▶ Department of Mathematics

Promoted to Senior Instructor

- ▶ Philip Davis
- ▶ Department of History

Promoted to Master Lecturer

- ▶ Dr. Sharon Henry
 - ▶ Department of English
- ▶ Dr. Wendy Smith
 - ▶ Department of Mathematics
- ▶ Dr. Nikki Carter
 - ▶ Department of Biology

Tenured, Promoted to Associate Professor

- ▶ Dr. Erin Hoover
 - ▶ Department of English
- ▶ Dr. Lauren Wright
 - ▶ Department of Sociology & Political Science

Promoted to Professor

- ▶ Dr. Amy Chambers
 - ▶ Department of Mathematics
- ▶ Dr. Kristen Deiter
 - ▶ Department of English
- ▶ Dr. Allen Driggers
 - ▶ Department of History
- ▶ Dr. Adam Holley
 - ▶ Department of Physics
- ▶ Dr. Padmini Veerapen
 - ▶ Department of Mathematics



Awards & Achievements

CAS Awards

- ▶ Dr. Monic Ductan
 - ▶ Department of English
 - ▶ College of Arts and Sciences Award for Research and Scholarly Activity
- ▶ Dr. Kathy Rust
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
 - ▶ College of Arts and Sciences Award for Innovative Teaching
- ▶ Linda Fisk, Department of English
 - ▶ Clerical and Support Staff Award (inaugural)

Campus Awards

- ▶ Dr. Josh Martin
 - ▶ Department of Foreign Languages
 - ▶ 2024-25 Scholastic Research Award (tenure-track)
 - ▶ Office of Research and Economic Development

Campus Awards

- ▶ Dr. Allen Driggers
 - ▶ Department of History
- ▶ Dr. Hannah Kinmonth-Schultz
 - ▶ Department of Biology
- ▶ Excellence in Creative Inquiry - Mentoring Awards
- ▶ Office of Creative Inquiry / QEP

Wings Up 100 Research Achievement Awards

- ▶ Dr. Carla Hurt
- ▶ Dr. Justin Murdock
- ▶ Dr. Bradley Cohen
- ▶ Dr. Amanda Rosenberger
- ▶ Dr. Mark Rogers
 - ▶ Department of Biology
- ▶ Dr. Jesse Carrick
- ▶ Dr. David Dan
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
- ▶ Dr. Amy Chambers
 - ▶ Department of Mathematics
 - ▶ Co-PIs: Janet Coonce, Hannah Kinmonth-Schultz, Wendy Smith
- ▶ Dr. Steve Seiler
 - ▶ Department of Sociology & Political Science

Campus Awards

- ▶ Dr. Gourab Bhattacharya
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
 - ▶ 2025 CITL Tech Trendsetter grant recipient
- ▶ Dr. Kyle Murphy
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
 - ▶ 2025 CITL Tech Trendsetter grant recipient
- ▶ Dr. Muhamed Rajabali (Physics)
 - ▶ Non-Instructional Faculty Grant
- ▶ Dr. Mari Ramler (English)
 - ▶ Non-Instructional Faculty Grant

Campus Grants

- ▶ Dr. Monic Ductan
 - ▶ Rural Re-Imagined Grant
 - ▶ Office of Research & Economic Development
 - ▶ Project: 2025 Appalachian Studies Association Conference
- ▶ Dr. Hannah Kinmonth-Schultz
 - ▶ Rural Re-Imagined Grant
 - ▶ Office of Research & Economic Development
 - ▶ Project: A Bugs World: A Study on Early Successional Habitat in Gardens

Distinctions

- ▶ Dr. William Carroll
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
 - ▶ Distinguished College/University Teacher Award
 - ▶ Tennessee Academy of Science
- ▶ Dr. Bradley Cohen
 - ▶ Department of Biology
 - ▶ Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award
 - ▶ Tennessee Wildlife Foundation

Distinctions

- ▶ Dr. Andreea Cojocaru
 - ▶ Department of Chemistry
 - ▶ Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award
 - ▶ Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
- ▶ Dr. Brad Cook
 - ▶ Department of Biology
 - ▶ Lifetime Achievement Award
 - ▶ TN chapter of the American Fisheries Society, 2025

Distinctions

- ▶ Dr. Monic Ductan
 - ▶ Department of English
 - ▶ Tennessee Book Award for Fiction for *Daughters of Muscadine*
 - ▶ Williams and New Orleans Poetry Prize, 2025
- ▶ Dr. Erin Hoover
 - ▶ Department of English
 - ▶ Artist-in-Residence, Woodstock Byrdclyffe Guild, 2025

Distinctions

- ▶ Dr. Mari Ramler
 - ▶ Department of English
 - ▶ Excellence in Mentorship Award
 - ▶ Rhetoric Society of America
- ▶ Dr. Troy Smith
 - ▶ Department of History
 - ▶ Hector and Susie Black Peace and Reconciliation Award
 - ▶ TTU's Window on the World Symposium

8 New Volumes

- ▶ Dr. Allen Driggers

- ▶ *Glamour and Geology: Women in Petroleum Geology and Popular Culture*. Springer Press.

- ▶ Dr. Kristen Deiter

- ▶ *Reading Richard III and the Tower of London*. Routledge.

- ▶ Dr. Mike Gunter (co-author)

- ▶ *Forgotten Exile: The Deportation of Azerbaijanis by the Armenians in the Caucasus during the Twentieth Century*. Brill Publishers.
 - ▶ *Abdullah Ocalan and the Making of the PKK: A Political Biography*. Routledge.

8 New Volumes

- ▶ Dr. Helen Hunt, editor
 - ▶ *Fortune's Foot-ball, or the Adventures of Mercutio* by James Butler, 1797-1998. Early American Reprints.
- ▶ Dr. Kristen Pickering
 - ▶ *Environmental Preservation and the Grey Cliffs Conflict*. Utah State University Press.
- ▶ Andrew Smith, co-author
 - ▶ *Not Knowing*. Bookbaby.
- ▶ Dr. Troy Smith
 - ▶ *Shaolin Brew: Race, Comics, and the Evolution of the Superhero*. University Press of Mississippi.

Successful Conference

- ▶ Successful Appalachian Studies Association Conference
March 2025
 - ▶ Conference Chair, Monic Ductan
 - ▶ Program Chair, Erin Hoover
 - ▶ Numerous faculty and students

Successful Program Review

- ▶ Department of Earth Sciences
 - ▶ Bachelor of Science in Geosciences
- ▶ *Good luck this year!*
 - ▶ Biology
 - ▶ BS, MA
 - ▶ WFS BS
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ MS
 - ▶ English
 - ▶ BA

Upcoming

- ▶ Facilities Plans
 - ▶ New Life Sciences building – THEC recommendation
 - ▶ Replacement for Matthews/Daniel/Crawford - THEC recommendation
 - ▶ Greenhouse near the baseball fields
- ▶ College Budget Overview
 - ▶ Tuesday, September 23, 11:00
- ▶ Hosted event: 100 Years Since the Scopes Trial
 - ▶ Contact Lauren Michel

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Strategic Directions and Leadership

Shared Governance

- ▶ Dr. Michael Allen
 - ▶ Department of Mathematics
 - ▶ Faculty Trustee, TTU Board of Trustees
- ▶ Dr. Mustafa Rajabali
 - ▶ Department of Physics
 - ▶ Past President, Faculty Senate
- ▶ Many Faculty Senators

Leadership Transitions

- ▶ Dr. Steven Thomas
 - ▶ Chair, Department of English
- ▶ Dr. Peter Li
 - ▶ Interim Chair, Department of Earth Sciences
- ▶ Dr. Lauren Wright
 - ▶ Interim Chair, Department of Sociology and Political Science

CAS Leadership

- ▶ Daren Snider, Dean
- ▶ Allan Mills, Associate Dean
- ▶ Jeannette Luna, Assistant Dean

- ▶ Deborah Allen, Director SSC

- ▶ Amy Jo Carpenter, Administrative Assistant
- ▶ Vickie Mayberry, Financial Associate

CAS Leadership

▶ **College Council**

▶ **Department Chairs**

- ▶ Input on strategic directions, policies
- ▶ Alignment of best practices
- ▶ Cross-departmental issues (e.g., facilities, advising, shared programs, etc.)

▶ **College Leadership Team**

▶ **Department leadership**

- ▶ Enhancing communication
- ▶ Information on policy changes, initiatives
- ▶ Highlighting best practices
- ▶ Aligning with college / campus direction

Growth Engagement Team (GET)

- ▶ **Shape growth strategy, insights to college/departments, stakeholders, workforce and market demand.**

- ▶ Gourab Bhattacharya – Assistant Professor, Earth Sciences
- ▶ Shelley Brown – Master Instructor, Sociology and Political Science
- ▶ Amanda Carroll – Master Lecturer, Chemistry
- ▶ Brad Cohen – Associate Professor, Biology
- ▶ Allen Driggers – Professor, History
- ▶ Brandi Kriebel – Lecturer, English
- ▶ Steve Robinson – Professor, Physics (*ex officio*)
- ▶ Deborah Allen – Staff, Student Success Center (*ex officio*)

Impacts in 2025-2026

- ▶ Gen Ed curricular changes
- ▶ AI initiatives
- ▶ DFW rates

CAS Focus Areas

- ▶ Growth
 - ▶ **Retention** – *keep what we have*
 - ▶ **Pipeline** – *draw new students*
 - ▶ **Innovative offerings** – *serve constituencies*
- ▶ Research
 - ▶ Expanding the **culture of scholarship**
 - ▶ Developing **opportunities** – *research, grants*
 - ▶ **Grad programs** – *serve constituencies*
- ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ **Messaging / advocacy** – *tell our story*
 - ▶ **Collaborations** – *within and beyond CAS*
 - ▶ Cultivating **external resources**

Goals for 2025-2026

- ▶ **Reduce DFW rates by 50%**
- ▶ **100 more students in fall 2026**
- ▶ **Grant activations \$7M**



Wings Up!

Have a great semester!