



# NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

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2025 | New Faculty Profiles



CENTER FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*



OFFICE OF THE  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

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# Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture



Dayton Clark

Architecture



**Terry Clinefelter**

**Construction Science**

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Construction education and using active learning classrooms and hands-on to enhance student engagement to improve learning outcomes.  
Barriers to non-traditional students.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Experiential learning strategies and support diverse learners in achieving academic and professional success.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy raising my two young daughters with my wife, we share a passion for remodeling buildings as a hobby and are currently restoring a 100-year-old bar with the help of the girls.





Austin Lightle

Architecture



Donovan Linsey

Architecture

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Beginning design pedagogy with a particular focus on how the act of making in an early design education informs design thinking for students engaging in a direct experience with materiality.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Phenomenology, making and craft, haptic learning, and curriculum development.

## **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy taking long walks outdoors, going on spontaneous road trips, and playing golf. I also have interests in music. I play the electric bass and was heavily involved in musical theatre when I was younger.



Wei Liu

Architecture

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Sustainable urbanism, resilient urban design, the built environment & climate change, and community engagement

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Public health, environmental science, geography, sociology, humanities, and AI

### **Personal Interests:**

Swimming, playing golf, and cooking





**Amber N. Wiley**

Planning, Landscape  
Architecture, and  
Design

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Social aspects of design, historical narratives, collective memory, preservation policy and practice, African diasporic cultural heritage

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Bringing solutions to Oklahoma communities through cross-disciplinary partnerships, and giving students real world experience in advocacy, planning, and creative problem solving

### **Personal Interests:**

Traveling (visited 39 states + DC, 21 countries), live music, art, cocktails. Murder mysteries and procedural dramas

# Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences



## Kirstin Aguilar

Modern Languages,  
Literatures, and  
Linguistics

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

My academic heart beats for combining Spanish speaking cultures with the language acquisition.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Excited to collaborate with the Education Department to create innovative Spanish curricula.

### **Personal Interests:**

Outside work I dedicate myself to raising my three beautiful children, traveling, exercising, and chasing Oklahoma's best taco shop.



Francis Baffour-  
Awuah Jr.

Mathematics



**Karen Baker**

**Mathematics**

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Education for underprepared or underserved populations, sport psychology, wellness education

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Psychology, Sociology, Health & Wellness, Athletics

## **Personal Interests:**

Family, Faith, Friends, Volleyball, KC Chiefs, Travel, and of course, great food/beverages!





Jordan V. Barrett

Mathematics



Naim Bautista

Biological Sciences



**Anat Belasen**

**Biological Sciences**

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Ecology and evolution of wildlife disease, amphibian chytridiomycosis (the “frog pandemic,” immunogenetics, ancient/historical DNA, conservation genomics, One Health

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Public Health and social justice, environmental health, local community engagement and partnerships in Oklahoma, research/engagement in the tropics especially Brazil

**Personal Interests:**

I love going on outdoor adventures (hiking, biking, mushroom foraging...), gardening, spending time with my pets (dog Mochi and cat Knish), reading fiction, and linoleum block printing.



## Yesenia Blanco

Modern Languages,  
Literatures, and  
Linguistics

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Modern Iberia, Revolutionary Politics, Critical Pedagogy, Heritage Languages, Project-Based Learning

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Pedagogical Collaborations

### **Personal Interests:**

I am learning to play the guitar. I enjoy playing tennis. I am interested in the healing power of plants.



Jackson Burzynski

Physics and Astronomy





**Andre Luiz  
Campelo dos  
Santos**  
Biological Sciences

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Ancient DNA, artificial intelligence for investigating biological data, data science, human evolutionary history, and medical genetics.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Machine learning algorithms for analyzing biological data, evolutionary medicine and medical genetics, and archaeological and indigenous genomics.

### **Personal Interests:**

I like to spend time with my wife, toddler, and cat. I also enjoy playing drums, watching TV series, going to the gym, listening to music, and reading.



Paule Carbonnel

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics



# Reinaldo (Rei) Cortes - Quantip

Modern Languages,  
Literatures, and  
Linguistics

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Learning Spanish as a second language

Intercultural Communication

Political Communication

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Pedagogical and research associations

## **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy walking and exploring places with my family (museums, towns, cities).

Reading (biographies, news, and articles related to my academic and research interests).



Julia K. Daine

English



Linda Eikmeier  
Endersby

Library and  
Information Studies

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Technology in museums; history of science and technology; history of museums; museum collections/collecting

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

History of technology; technology and society

## **Personal Interests:**

I have an amazing cat, Tribble; I spend a lot of time reading and hanging out in nature; travelling with my family is my favorite thing to do (but not my cat's favorite thing)





**Francesco  
Gerali**

History of Science,  
Technology, and  
Medicine

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Science, Technology, and Engineering History.  
Geosciences, Oil & Gas, and Energy.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Research, teaching, publishing, conference, mentoring, advising activities related to energy - with a focus on Oil & Gas - in the past centuries.

### **Personal Interests:**

Indoor rowing, motorcycle, rare books, and cooking.



Lisa Green

Health and Exercise  
Science



Tyler Han

Social Work



John Harpham

Classics and Letters

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

I am an intellectual historian and an historian of political thought: my first book is about to appear, titled *The Intellectual Origins of American Slavery*.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Political Science, History, Philosophy, Law, and English. My department is interdisciplinary, so I would love to collaborate with colleagues in all the related disciplines.

### **Personal Interests:**

Movies, books, magazines, wine, bourbon, sports—all the usual stuff.



**Jason T. Harris**

**Library and  
Information Studies**

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Memorializing and interpreting the past in public settings, public memory, public history, and the evolution of institutional administration of museums.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Pedagogical partnerships exploring comparative learning in formal/informal learning environments, leisure studies and the role of museums as public spaces.

### **Personal Interests:**

I am a museum nerd! I love to fish, travel with my kids, and enjoy outdoor chuck wagon cooking at museums and festivals.





Anjumala Herath

Biological Sciences



Melissa Inglis

Sociology



**Morgan P.  
Johnston**  
Biological Sciences

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

I'm a neuroscience lecturer. For my Ph.D., I studied sex differences in stress and learning using a rat model. I view myself as a behavioral neuroscientist, although I used quite a few molecular techniques to examine dopamine and corticotropin releasing factor.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

I'm really interested in getting involved in pedagogical research. Examining and publishing on how students learn and what we, as professors, can do to enhance their learning experience would be really exciting for me.

## **Personal Interests:**

I have 4 cats that I accidentally acquired because they begged me for a home and I couldn't say no. I'm also on a mission to master all of the "old people" hobbies. So far, I have conquered crochet, knitting, quilting, ships in a bottle, embroidery, and cross-stitch. I'm also very passionate about science communication and making neuroscience accessible to the public. I do some in-person outreach events, but I'm mostly sharing science on social media through my TikTok and YouTube (@AskANeuroscientist).



Ching Han Kao

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics



Paul Ketchum

Sociology



JeongJin Kim

Psychology

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Person-situation interactions, job performance, within-person research, job boredom, disability/neurodiversity at work, artificial intelligence at work

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

I'm open to any collaborations that generally overlap with my interests.

## **Personal Interests:**

I love playing drums, reading, watching stuff (YouTube, Netflix, etc.), and coffee.





Jinyung J. Kim

Social Work

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Child welfare, foster care, child maltreatment, trauma, violence, child well-being, addictive behaviors, substance use

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Intergenerational cycle of trauma, trauma-informed approach, translational research

### **Personal Interests:**

Dog-person, reading, music, Youtube/Netflix, travelling (occasionally)



Patrick Ho Lam Lai

Social Work

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Productive and social engagement in later life; cross-cultural gerontology; ageism; Asian health disparities; workplace equity; psychotherapy; and lifespan approaches.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Aging, cultural adaptation of mental health interventions, community-based research, and telehealth with diverse populations.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy singing, exploring nature, taking road trips, traveling, and reflecting on life and the world. I am originally from Hong Kong, so feel free to ask me about it.



Hyemin Lee

Health and Exercise  
Science



**Sangwon Lee**

Social Work

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

I study weather-related disasters like extreme heat and tornadoes, focusing on their impact on underserved communities, including people with disabilities and public transit users. I'm also interested in contributing to Indigenous research.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

I seek to work with experts in public health, geography, meteorology, urban planning, architecture, information science, and Indigenous studies to advance equity in disaster resilience and mobility.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy baking, gardening, visiting local markets, and exploring museums and galleries.



**Tim Levine**  
Communication

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Deception, interpersonal communication, persuasion, culture, communication competence, experimental social science.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Very broad. I hope to connect with the law school, the business school, the sciences, the social sciences, and philosophy.

### **Personal Interests:**

I'm a foodie, really like sushi, and pour-over coffee. Currently, I am three-quarters through the Leaphorn and Chee book series and just starting Oblivion Remastered.



John-Oliver  
MacLellan

Mathematics





Danielle Manapat

Psychology

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Interpretable machine learning, decision trees, missing data, and longitudinal modeling

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Public health, criminal justice, and data science

### **Personal Interests:**

Keeping up with my baseball-obsessed toddler and 7mo baby. My Oklahoma goals are to buy a horse and chase a storm.



Ruoyun Mao

Economics

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Macroeconomics; Monetary and fiscal policy;  
Incomplete information; Applied time series.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Public finance and public policy; financial  
economics; Data science and machine learning  
applications.

## **Personal Interests:**

Tennis, hiking, travel



Patricia Martins  
Marcos

History of Science,  
Technology and  
Medicine



Duncan  
McCollum

Psychology



## Andre Moncrieff

Biological Sciences and  
Sam Noble Oklahoma  
Museum of Natural  
History

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Evolution and population genomics of birds, biogeography of the Amazon Basin, museum curation and databasing, open-source data.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Software development, bioinformatics, geological processes around rivers.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy playing violin, running, birding, hiking, and camping. Looking forward to exploring Oklahoma!



Victoria Mooers

Economics





**Sam R. Moore**

Health & Exercise  
Science

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Applied sport science, female physiology, female athlete health, safety, and performance, women in sport

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Biomedical Engineering, Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Computer Science, Psychology, Women's & Gender Studies

### **Personal Interests:**

Hanging out with my best girl Dio (3 year old Mastiff), watching women's sports, playing in local sports leagues, and exercising.



Alex Mramor

Mathematics

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Geometric analysis –this is a field of mathematics at the intersection of geometry and analysis.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

In my work I primarily focus on the mean curvature flow, which has some applications in biology, materials science, etc.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy hiking and camping and like to get at least one big trip in per year. My wife and I are looking forward to sharing our enthusiasm with our baby daughter Aurora.



David Naistat

Chemistry/Biochemistry



Jason Opheim

English



Joshua C. Pankau

Mathematics



Miguel Peinado

Mathematics

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Mathematical logic and foundations.  
Completions of bounded lattices.

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Quantum computing and teaching.

**Personal Interests:**

WWE and NFL fan. I love dogs, video games and board games.



## Daniel Raso- Llarás

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Contemporary Latin American and Iberian literature and cultural studies; dystopian fiction, cyberpunk, and speculative narratives; communication theory, world history, and political violence; translation and interpreting pedagogy; Spanish for the professions (medical and legal); applied linguistics with a focus on gamification, scaffolded learning, and intercultural competence.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Business and legal studies (for professional Spanish applications); medical and health sciences (for medical Spanish and interpreting); computer science and digital humanities (AI in language learning); environmental studies and bioethics; history and political science; education and linguistics (language pedagogy); arts and media studies (film and cultural narratives).

### **Personal Interests:**

Wine tasting, courtroom dramas, environmental issues, tennis, chess, and calisthenics; avid traveler; music and film with psychological depth or dreamlike aesthetics; I am a lifelong language learner, fluent in Portuguese and Spanish; enthusiastic about mentoring and cultural exchange.





**Fernando Recaj**

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

My research is focused on second language pronunciation acquisition. I am also interested in cultural studies related to Spain

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

I would like to collaborate with other colleagues who research second language acquisition and intercultural studies

### **Personal Interests:**

I love sports, especially soccer, basketball, and pickleball. I also love hiking, cinema, and fine arts



April P.  
Richardson

Mathematics



Jenice A. Roberts

Mathematics



Isis Pamela  
Rodriguez Lopez

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics



Valerie Senkowski

Health and Exercise  
Science



# Gustavo Silva de Miranda

Biological Sciences and  
Sam Noble Oklahoma  
Museum of Natural  
History

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Ecology & evolution, systematics, biogeography, molecular biology, and bioinformatics of non-model organisms (especially invertebrates). Some of the main topics of my research include sexual selection and morphological evolution.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Intersection between AI tools and natural history museum collection, Computer Science and education, small-scale imaging and microscopy.

## **Personal Interests:**

I love being outdoors - hiking, swimming, and traveling are some of my favorite activities. I also enjoy reading and eating a good Latin American food.



Ron Smith

Chemistry/Biochemistry





**Nikolay  
Tkachenko**

Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Computational photochemistry; computational materials design; quantum computing for chemistry; catalysis; molecular simulations

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Collaborations with experimentalists on quantum information science; photochemistry and surface science; catalysis and materials modeling

### **Personal Interests:**

Beyond the lab, I enjoy hiking, playing hockey, and solving puzzles.



Emily Upczak

Film and Media Studies



Jose Velasquez  
Gago

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics



Yan Yan

Modern Languages,  
Literatures and  
Linguistics



Yuanyuan Yang

Social Work

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Data science for wealth and health equity, child behavioral and mental health, program evaluation and social policy analysis

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Data science for social challenges and AI ethics

**Personal Interests:**

I love gardening and hiking



Christina Zipay

English

# College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences





**Tyler M. Bell**

**Meteorology and  
Aviation**

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Atmospheric boundary layer, uncrewed systems, remote sensing, retrieval development, aviation weather

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Uncrewed systems development, counter UAS, airborne observing systems

**Personal Interests:**

I enjoy cycling, paddle sports, cooking, camping, and fishing.



Austin Harris

Meteorology



**Trey Olen Lee  
(right)**

**Geography and  
Environmental  
Sustainability**

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

- 3D mapping of terrestrial/underwater cave systems using photogrammetry/LiDAR
- Extended reality (XR) for spatial learning inside and outside of the classroom

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

- Gamification in science education

## **Personal Interests:**

I have a French Bulldog, Apollo. He loves long walks across campus and helping me teach outdoor lab activities. When I'm not spoiling him, I love to be out in nature scuba diving or caving.



**Gloria Nsangi  
Nakyagaba**

Geography and  
Environmental  
Sustainability

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Interaction of people and urban environments;  
critical infrastructure studies including waste,  
water, sanitation, energy; food systems and  
sustainability

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

WASH infrastructure, Global South studies,  
Urban studies

### **Personal Interests:**

In my free time, I love to dance and soccer



Chris Samsury

Meteorology

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Private sector meteorology, hurricanes, broadcast meteorology, extreme weather, social science and communication.

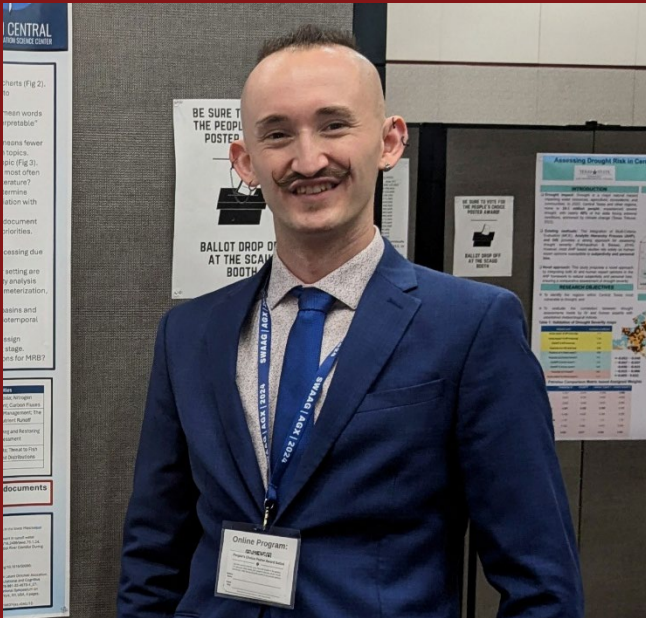
## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Journalism, communications, education, environmental resilience, OU Career Center.

## **Personal Interests:**

Collegiate athletics, NASCAR, Disney, student mentoring, family time, fine arts, Legos, jigsaw puzzles.





Jay Wimhurst

Geography and  
Environmental  
Sustainability

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Geospatial analysis of text data; machine learning applications to environmental problems; renewable energy and climate change; portfolio-based learning.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DISC).  
Natural Language Processing (LIS).

## **Personal Interests:**

I'm a drag performer of over seven years; I create cosplays from scratch; I'm the biggest Star Trek fan you'll ever meet (DS9 fans hmu!).

# Michael F. Price College of Business





Jeremy Bentley

Accounting

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Performance measurement, reporting, and manipulation.

- How measuring performance distorts behavior.
- Performance evaluation biases.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Performance evaluations in other disciplines.  
E.g., education, medicine

## **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy woodworking, biking to work, and cheering on my five children at sporting events.



Nathan Black

Management and  
International Business



Ashley Caballero

Business  
Communication



Mandy Chan

Finance

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Corporate Finance and Governance, innovation

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Applied innovation and technologies in corporate setting, including data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence

### **Personal Interests:**

Gardening fanatic!

Enjoy hosting cultural themed house party



Laura Daly

Marketing and Supply  
Chain Management



Cassidy Doucet

Business  
Communications

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Organizational communication, health communication, interprofessional teams, resilience, decision-making, family caregivers

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Interprofessional communication, patient-centered communication, team-based healthcare, decision-making

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy spending time with my family, gardening, and being on the water. I'm a proud mom of two girls and two rescue dogs.



Jennifer Hamilton

Management and  
International Business





**Jon "Luke"  
Harris**

**Management  
Information Systems**

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

IT/Cybersecurity Education and workforce development; Capture the Flag (CTF) competitions and gamified learning; Cyber risk management and compliance; Integration of AI in IT/Cyber.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Gamified learning, cybersecurity and business IT pedagogy, AI in education, interdisciplinary tech ethics, cyber law and policy.

## **Personal Interests:**

I love spending time with my family in the outdoors. I love photography, art, hiking, skateboarding, comic book collecting, and cybersecurity CTF competitions.



Trevon Holt

Management  
Information Systems



Mihai Ion

Finance

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Stock return predictability, corporate investment, R&D, economic policy uncertainty

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Machine learning, R&D valuation for drug development

## **Personal Interests:**

Programming, billiards, soccer, basketball



Zi TingTing Jia

Finance



Kirk Alan Jones

Finance

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Real-world learning environments that mirror the expectations and challenges of students' first professional finance roles.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Academic advising, PCOB student organizations (particularly finance), and career services

### **Personal Interests:**

I have three (and soon to be four) young grandkids, so it is important that I stay current on the latest trends, such as Paw Patrol, Blippi, and Ms. Rachel.



**Susan Journey**

Accounting

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Judgment and Decision Making; Tax Professionals; Tax Compliance; Reliability/Credibility of the Financial Statements; Nonprofessional Investors

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Love learning about how humans use information (breadth/depth) to make decisions in a variety of contexts and pedagogical methods

**Personal Interests:**

Travel, photography, movies, and sports fanatic



Kamal Lamsal

Management  
Information Systems



Yaron Levi

Finance





Shavin Malhotra

Management and  
International Business



R. William 'Bill'  
Snyder

Accounting



Hitesha Yadav

Management  
Information Systems



James Thomas  
Young

Finance

# Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy



Prue Smith  
Viscomi

Petroleum and  
Geological Engineering

# Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education



Marie Kirkpatrick

Educational  
Psychology

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Educator training, autism spectrum disorder, positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS), interventions for students with disabilities, & play and social communication for children with autism

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Elementary education, early childhood education

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy spending time with my husband and 7-year-old daughter exploring Norman and OK. I also love reading, working out on Peloton, and all things Taylor Swift!



# Gallogly College of Engineering



**Arif Abdullah**

Aerospace and  
Mechanical  
Engineering

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Carbon fiber composite manufacturing and characterization, Multifunctional composites

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Composites in civil infrastructure, Polymer chemistry, AI in manufacturing

**Personal Interests:**

Reading, Biking, Hiking



**Ramesh Babu  
Jangala**

**Aerospace and  
Mechanical  
Engineering**

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Computational mechanics, nonlocal theories, fatigue and fracture modeling, short-crack growth, corrosion-fatigue in structural systems, surrogate modeling for materials behavior, uncertainty quantification, and digital twin frameworks.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Collaborations across aerospace, mechanical, civil, environmental, and materials engineering, as well as applied mathematics and data science—particularly in areas involving structural integrity, digital twins, predictive modeling, and uncertainty quantification for advanced aerospace and infrastructure systems.

## **Personal Interests:**

Poetry writing and public recitation, cinematic dance, fitness and running, cooking, and fashion modeling.



Xiaodong Chen

Civil Engineering and  
Environmental Science



Rupa  
Haldavnekar

Electrical and  
Computer Engineering



Russell Kenney

Electrical and  
Computer Engineering



**Abby Lehto**

Engineering Pathways

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Professional Skill Development, Universal Design for Learning, Collaborative Problem Solving, Peer-to Peer Teaching

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Professional Skill Development for Industry Preparedness

### **Personal Interests:**

In my spare time I play ice hockey. I also enjoy reading (for fun!) and outdoor activities like kayaking and paddleboarding.



Tiantian Li  
“Olivia”

Engineering Pathways

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Systems thinking (how to encourage students to be systems thinkers), ambiguity management in wicked problems, problem scoping, socio-technical awareness

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Effective teaching pedagogies of systems thinking. Psychometric instrument development and validation.

### **Personal Interests:**

Chasing after my cat, Oatmilk, to show her how much I love her. I also love hiking, cooking, and reading all sorts of books.





Ze Shi 'Zane' Li

Computer Science



Yuye Ling

Electrical and  
Computer  
Engineering

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Developing high-performance **optical imaging and visualization** platforms by integrating advanced computational techniques.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Clinical applications of optical imaging and AR/VR

### **Personal Interests:**

Used to play basketball and track & field at college. Love movies and soccer.



Ziming Liu

Computer Science

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Human-centered AI in healthcare; integrating psychological and clinical insights into computational models for language, interaction, and adaptive decision-making.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Clinical neuroscience, psychiatry, neuropsychology, speech pathology, geriatric medicine, digital mental health, public health, cognitive assessment, neurorehabilitation.

## **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy time outdoors like, camping, hiking, and climbing when I can. CrossFit keeps me grounded, and I like cooking well-made meals at the end of the day.



Sean Mackay

Computer Science

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Computer Science Education, particularly with supporting students through problem generation utilizing AI

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Anyone in other disciplines working on higher education issues.

### **Personal Interests:**

- Going on hikes and spending time in nature
- Movies, video games, and music



Fatima Merchant

Engineering Dean



# Bulent Ozpolat

Biomedical  
Engineering

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Identification of novel molecular cancer targets  
& Development of cancer targeted Therapeutics/  
Immunotherapeutics/ Nanotherapeutics/  
microRNA therapeutics

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Genetics, Cancer biology, Molecular Imaging,  
Advance microscopy Mathematics, Deep learning  
and AI, Bioinformatics

## **Personal Interests:**

Sailing, Traveling Different countries and  
Exploring other Cultures, Walking in nature,  
Watching NBA games ( Go Thunder !!)



Egawati Panjei

Computer Science

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

- Data Science
- Machine Learning
- Data Stream Mining
- Database Management Systems

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Any areas that use data science

## **Personal Interests:**

- Exploring national parks
- Cooking and tasting international cuisine
- Snorkeling and island hopping in Indonesia



**Ali Reza Pedram**

Computer Science

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Autonomous systems, machine learning for robotics, AI and generative models, and decision-making under uncertainty.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

ML for aerospace and mechanical systems, AI for intelligent transportation, cognitive science for human-AI interaction, and stochastic systems in finance.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy hiking, traveling, and reading poetry and literature, as well as works in sociology.





Felipe Perez

Engineering Pathways

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Sustainable energy production, molecular simulations of oil systems, physics and engineering teaching

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Pedagogical partnerships (physics and engineering teaching), problem-based learning, energy transition challenge

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy drinking a good Colombian coffee and reading a good book



Shishir Shah

Computer Science



Ali Shirazi

Civil Engineering and  
Environmental Science



Ryan Stoddard

Engineering Dean



Yanqing Su

Aerospace and  
Mechanical Engineering



Tri Vu

Biomedical  
Engineering

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Photoacoustic and ultrasound imaging for clinical applications, including organ transplantation and cancer diagnostics.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Medical and clinical collaborations, any bio-engineering partnerships; also open to other opportunities (geology, materials, chemistry, etc.)

## **Personal Interests:**

I love running, playing videos, and watching sports (football, soccer, baseball, etc.)



Chang Wang

Biomedical  
Engineering

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Drug discovery and delivery, lipid-mRNA nanoparticles, targeted protein degradation, immune cell engineering.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

AI-guided lipid development and RNA engineering, immunotherapy

### **Personal Interests:**

Sports, traveling



Lin Wang

Biomedical Engineering





Mingyi Zhang

Aerospace and  
Mechanical Engineering



Jian Zhao

Biomedical Engineering

# Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts



Sara Brians

Musical Theatre



Emily Brown

Visual Arts



# Justin Cook

Music

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Commissioning new works for solo and chamber trombone. Recording solo albums. Researching performance anxiety.

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Finding ways to intersect musical and visual arts or dance.

## **Personal Interests:**

Hanging out with my wife and 2 children (9 and 5). Watching sports.



Cory Alexandar  
Doran

Music



Jennifer Ezell

Drama

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Performance Pedagogy, Interdisciplinary Fine Arts, History and Drama/Theatre, Tennessee Williams and Southern Gothic, Women in Theatre History

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Live performance and resilience/recovery (I am co-founder of HOPE: Plays about Recovery)  
Applied Theatre and Community-Engaged Arts  
Movement, Dance, and Theatre

### **Personal Interests:**

I have two kids and two dogs that keep me busy. I love studying neuroscience in my spare time, and I love Sci-Fi and dystopian literature and shows. I'm also a big fan of musicals and *Criminal Minds*.





Paul Feller-  
Simmons

Music

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Early-modern music; Jewish identity; cultural transfer; community formation; manuscript culture and transmission; urban soundscapes

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Jewish studies, history, sociology, anthropology, religious studies

### **Personal Interests:**

Early printed book collection, walking cities



Christopher  
Freihofer

Drama



Jabarie Glass

Music



**Jessica Kinsey**

**Arts Management &  
Entrepreneurship**

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Design Sprints for Non-Profits, How Staff Empowerment Leads to Audience Engagement, Strategic Planning with a Sense of Belonging

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Intersections with the Arts, Improve in Leadership, Advocacy & Cultural Policy, Community Engagement & Creative Placemaking

## **Personal Interests:**

I'm an elder millennial that jumped on the bandwagon of birding! As of July, I'm up to 128 species for my "Little Year."



Gaye LeBlanc

Music



Brandy Lee

Dance

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Integration of the Living Systems philosophy in ballet pedagogy; motion capture for film and digital media; dance as embodied oral tradition; and Electric Propulsion

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

I'd love to collaborate with colleagues/students from AFAM; Aerospace; English; French; CMP; and Philosophy.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy biking, kayaking, pilates, cooking, the beach, DC Go-Go and road trips.



Eric Shannon

Music



Tyler Tucker

Music



# David L. Boren College of International Studies



Vahid Abedini

International and Area  
Studies



Moritz S.  
Graefrath

International Studies

## **Academic & Research Interests:**

Great power politics, U.S. grand strategy, transatlantic relations, European security, and global governance

## **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Social science concepts, boardgames in the classroom, public scholarship

## **Personal Interests:**

All things Tolkien (my dog is named Strider), soccer (my team is Fiorentina), and video games (especially EA FC).

# Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication



Tobi Ogundiran

Journalism and Mass  
Communication

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Speculative fiction; folklore and comparative mythology; writing the short story and novel' storytelling as a function of culture & identity.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Various futurisms; comparative mythology and literature.

### **Personal Interests:**

I enjoy making music (playing the piano,guitar), painting/drawing and reading.



Jiun-Yi Tsai

Journalism

College of Law



Noah Chauvin

Law





Brittany Deitch

Law



Michael Smith

Law

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Constitutional interpretation, state constitutional law, criminal law, court reform, legal history, weird laws

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Political science, history (state, American, & legal), physics (just a bit), communication & rhetoric, maybe philosophy down the road

### **Personal Interests:**

Hiking, walking, critters, watches, antique knick-knacks



Jessica Tueller

Law

### **Academic & Research Interests:**

Family law, contracts, international law, and gender, sexuality, and the law.

### **Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

Sociology, history, and feminist theory.

### **Personal Interests:**

Pugs, British panel shows, Normal Gossip, indie concerts, and old movies. Likely to join a book club and a community choir.

# College of Professional And Continuing Studies (PACS)

# Expository Writing

# Honor's College



**Paul Gilmore**

Honors College and  
English

**Academic & Research Interests:**

Nineteenth-century US literature and culture, with an emphasis on science and literature

**Desired Interdisciplinary Collaborations:**

As Dean of the Honors College, I'm focused on interdisciplinary collaborations of all kinds that benefit undergraduate students, especially interdisciplinary research opportunities.

**Personal Interests:**

My wife and I have two dogs and two college-age daughters. I like hiking, music, reading.

OU Polytechnical Institute





Brian W.  
Rossman

University Libraries