SECAcademic Leadership Development Program
SEC ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

VISION STATEMENT
The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program vision is to introduce faculty and early career administrators to the broad landscape of university administration in order to enhance their understanding of the challenges and complexities of academic leadership.

MISSION STATEMENT
The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program mission is to identify, develop, prepare, and advance faculty and early career administrators from within the Southeastern Conference.

GOALS
The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program goal is to be proactive in preparing faculty and early career administrators for high-level service in academia by providing for the following learning opportunities during the SEC-wide workshops and/or campus programming activities:

- Stimulating academic leaders to think critically about the future of the academy.
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of academic leadership in the 21st century.
- Embracing the strength inherent in creating diverse and inclusive academic communities.
- Developing the managerial and organizational skills required to lead complex, diverse and inclusive organizations.
- Improving the general leadership skills and abilities of academic leaders.

MANTRA
“Becoming a leader, being a leader”

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2021-22 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program Fellows
Dr. Angela D. Benson is Head of the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Technology Studies and a Professor at the University of Alabama. She oversees curricular offerings that span five disciplines and include 15 graduate degree programs and three graduate certificate programs. Dr. Benson’s research explores the role of culture in technology-mediated learning spaces, and her academic portfolio includes more than 100 publications and paper presentations and an award-winning book. From January 2019 through June 2020, Dr. Benson was as Fulbright Scholar and Professor of Educational Technology in the Faculty of Education at the University of Namibia in southern Africa.

Dr. Benson entered academia after serving 13 years as a research and systems engineer in the telecommunications industry. She holds undergraduate degrees in Mathematics (Spelman College) and Industrial Engineering (Georgia Institute of Technology); master’s degrees in Operations Research (Georgia Tech) and Human Resource Development (Georgia State University); and a doctorate in Instructional Technology (University of Georgia).
Dr. Lou Marino is Chair of the Department of Management and a Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management at the University of Alabama. As chair, he works with more than 30 direct reports across four disciplines, including Human Resources/Organizational Behavior, Strategy/Entrepreneurship/Innovation, Communications and Health Care Analytics. Dr. Marino has budgetary, scheduling, administrative and leadership responsibilities for the department, and he guides strategy development and execution with processes that ensure faculty governance, while helping colleagues identify and achieve individual career goals.

Before being named chair, Dr. Marino served as area coordinator for the strategy/entrepreneurship/innovation group, and as the department’s doctoral program coordinator. He has also served on numerous committees at the college and university levels. Dr. Marino’s research focuses on how entrepreneurial firms respond to environmental uncertainty and how a firm’s entrepreneurial orientation impacts the nature and efficacy of its response. He earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University.
Dr. Delores M. Robinson is Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences and a Professor at the University of Alabama. She was named department chair in 2020, and was previously the graduate program director for six years, from 2012-2018. She earned her B.A. in Geology from Guilford College, her M.S. in Geology from Vanderbilt University and her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.

As a researcher, Dr. Robinson specializes in understanding how mountains are built. She has studied the Himalayan Mountains and the Tibetan Plateau in Nepal, India and China. Currently, she is finishing work in the mountains of Pakistan. Dr. Robinson is the author or co-author of more than 40 articles on the evolution of the Himalaya. She is a fellow of the Geological Society of America and was spotlighted by the Earth Science Women’s Network.
Dr. Melissa J. Wilmarth is Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Human Environmental Sciences and an Associate Professor at the University of Alabama. As assistant dean, she is responsible for all functions related to student affairs, including the Office of Student Services. She earned her B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences Educational Services from Iowa State University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Housing and Consumer Economics from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Wilmarth investigates the economic well-being of families and economic hardship, with particular attention to stress and relationship outcomes. She is a member of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the American Council of Consumer Interests. She is an associate editor of the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*. Dr. Wilmarth received the *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal* Emerging Scholar award and the American Council on Consumer Interests Richard L.D. Morse Early-Career award.
Dr. Sandra D. Eksioglu chairs the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Department of Industrial Engineering and is the Hefley Professor in Logistics and Entrepreneurship at the University of Arkansas. She is also a member of the College of Engineering Research Council. Dr. Eksioglu earned her Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Florida.

Her expertise is in the areas of operations research, network optimization and algorithmic development. She is an active member and has held several leadership positions in the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), and the American Society for Engineering Education, including, chairing INFORMS Doctoral Students Colloquium and INFORMS Combined Colloquia. Dr. Eksioglu is also past chair of the Women in Engineering Education Division of the American Society for Engineering Education.
Dr. Lia M. Uribe is Associate Chair of the Department of Music and an Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas. She is also principal bassoonist of the Symphony Orchestra of Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra. Originally from Colombia, Dr. Uribe holds degrees from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and the University of Kansas.

Her research is centered in Latin American, Latinx and historically marginalized music and composers. She directs the Refl eXions Music Series, a celebration of music, musicians and audiences that fosters creative justice and diversity through opportunities to reflect, learn, grow, change and teach. Dr. Uribe was a fellow in the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Leadership Institute, and she was recently selected as a fellow for the Global Leaders Program, a year-long executive development training in social innovation through the arts. Since 2018, Dr. Uribe has worked as a facilitator for Artist INC, a Mid-America Arts Alliance professional development program for artists.
Dr. Chase Bringardner is Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance and a Professor at Auburn University. He is incoming President of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education and serves on a number of college and university committees, including the Faculty Salary and Wellness and Strategic Planning Committees. He also co-facilitates a leadership series for department heads and chairs across the university.

Dr. Bringardner’s research interests are in popular entertainments (such as medicine shows and musical theatre); regional identity construction; and intersections of race, gender and class in popular performance forms. His current book length project details the socio-cultural history of the Fabulous Fox Theatre in Atlanta and both its complicated relationship with the city and its role in larger narratives of regional and national theatrical/performance histories. Additionally, Dr. Bringardner has directed and acted in many musicals at Auburn and beyond, including MR. BURNS: A POST ELECTRIC PLAY, BIG FISH, ASSASSINS, 9 to 5, CABARET and HAIR.
Dr. Jeff Reese is Head of the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation and Counseling and a Professor at Auburn University. He earned his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas A&M University and is a licensed psychologist. His research interests are psychotherapy process/outcome, psychotherapy supervision and training and telepsychology.

His current research is focused on investigating the process of routine outcome monitoring and the use of technology to provide psychological services for underserved populations. He is as an associate editor of The Counseling Psychologist, and is a member of the American Psychological Association. He is named on a patent and has numerous publications and grants to his credit. Student-centered in his approach to teaching and in his leadership of the department, Dr. Reese has received multiple teaching and mentoring awards throughout his career.
Dr. Paul H. Walz is Head of the Department of Pathobiology and a Professor at Auburn University. He currently serves the College of Veterinary Medicine in leadership roles that include Director of the Equine Source Plasma Program and Coordinator of Animal Health Research for the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. Walz earned his D.V.M. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University, and he is board certified in large animal medicine. His research focus is viral diseases of cattle, where he investigates vaccine development, virus ecology and evolution, and diagnostic assay development. He has been a member of the Auburn faculty since 2004, and he has numerous publications and awards.
Dr. Gillian Lord is Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies and a Professor at the University of Florida. She served for 12 years as Director of the Spanish Language Program before being appointed chair of the department, and she is also Associate Chief Marshal for University Commencements. Dr. Lord earned her Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics from Pennsylvania State University, and her research focuses on the teaching and learning of Spanish as a second/foreign language, with an emphasis on the sound system (e.g., pronunciation) of second language speakers of Spanish.

She is active in her profession, having held leadership roles in a number of organizations, such as Spanish Section Head for the American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators and President of the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium. At Florida, Dr. Lord has won departmental and college-level Teacher of the Year Awards, the UF Service-Learning Faculty of the Year Award and the UF Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award.
Dr. Michele V. Manuel is Chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Rolf E. Hummel Professor of Electronic Materials at the University of Florida. She also leads the Nuclear Engineering Program. As department chair, Dr. Manuel provides leadership to ensure shared governance amongst the faculty while also overseeing a professional staff. She is responsible for the department’s academic reputation and its global standing and stature, in addition to managing departmental resources and budgets.

Dr. Manuel earned her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University, and she worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and General Motors Corporation (GM) before joining the UF faculty in 2008. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the NASA Early Career Faculty Award and the American Society of Metals Bradley Stoughton Award for Young Teachers.
Dr. Jody Clay-Warner is Associate Director of the Owens Institute for Behavioral Research and the Meigs Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia. Her previous administrative appointments include Head of the Department of Sociology, Director of the Criminal Justice Studies Program and Graduate Coordinator for the department.

Dr. Clay-Warner earned her Ph.D. from Emory University, and in her research she utilizes experimental and survey methods to examine responses to injustice and criminal victimization. She is currently co-editor of *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and she has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of State. Dr. Clay-Warner has served as a UGA Women’s Leadership Fellow, and she has received awards for her teaching and scholarship, including the Southern Sociological Society’s Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award, the American Society of Criminology’s Lifetime Achievement Teaching Award and the UGA Owens Creative Research Award.
Dr. Edward A. Delgado-Romero is Associate Dean for Faculty and Staff Services in the Mary Frances Early College of Education and a Professor at the University of Georgia. He is a licensed psychologist and founder of a psychological clinic for Spanish speakers in Athens, Ga. As associate dean, Dr. Delgado-Romero is responsible for the human resource functions for faculty and staff, overseeing the tenure and promotion process, annual evaluations and hiring, while also organizing ongoing professional development.

Dr. Delgado-Romero earned his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame, and his research and practice expertise are in multicultural psychology, specifically working with Latinx populations. He is the founder, past president and elder of the National Latinx Psychological Association. He also founded and was as an associate editor of the *Journal of Latinx Psychology*. Dr. Delgado-Romero has won several local and national distinctions, including the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award, the UGA Engaged Scholar Award and the Early Career Award for Psychology in the Public Interest from the American Psychological Association.
Dr. Ramaraja Ramasamy is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assessment in the College of Engineering and a Professor of Biochemical Engineering at the University of Georgia. He previously served as the inaugural Chair of the School of Chemical, Materials and Biomedical Engineering. As associate dean, Dr. Ramasamy works with the faculty and three school chairs to evolve and enhance the student experience. He is responsible for academic processes including curriculum changes, the high-demand major application process, promotion and tenure and third-year review. He also leads the implementation and maintenance of assessment processes associated with accreditation.

Dr. Ramasamy earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, and his research interests are in electrochemical energy, biological electrochemistry and bionanocomposite materials. He has more than 170 scholarly publications and conference papers, and he has mentored both graduate students and post-doctoral researchers. Dr. Ramasamy is an active member of the Electrochemical Society and Institute of Biological Engineering.
Elizabeth Weeks is Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and the Charles H. Kirbo Chair in Law at the University of Georgia. As associate provost, she oversees faculty appointments, promotion and tenure and special appointments across 18 schools and colleges and five campuses. Weeks also supervises a comprehensive suite of faculty professional and leadership development programs while serving on various university committees on faculty recruitment, diversity, accreditation and mentoring. She previously served as Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Law.

Weeks earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia, and her research focuses on health care financing and regulation, and public health law. She is the author of multiple books, articles and publications, including *Healthism: Health Status Discrimination and the Law* and *The Law of American Health Care*. Her work has been recognized widely, including the Health Law Scholar Award from the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics. Weeks previously participated in UGA’s Women’s Leadership Fellows Program.
Dr. DeShana G. Collett is Vice Chair of the University Senate Council, Course Director for Clinical Methods and Patient Evaluation Management and a Professor in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky. While previously serving as Director of Admissions and Recruitment, she was instrumental in developing a holistic review process that resulted in improved recruitment and retention strategies and efforts. Additionally, in her previous role as Director of Accreditation, she effectively led and established a foundational structure that has become essential in the systematic evaluation review process of program outcomes.

Dr. Collett earned her Ph.D. from Kentucky, and she has more than 18 years of clinical experience in family medicine, with a specific interest in women’s health. Her research interest is in health and healthcare disparities, with a focus on the areas of clinical integration of genomics and diversity in precision medicine. Dr. Collett was a 2016 Fellow for the Bluegrass Consortium Academic Leadership Academy and is currently participating in the 2021 Women’s Executive Leadership Development Program.
Dr. Sarah Lyon is Associate Dean of Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and a Professor at the University of Kentucky. Prior to this appointment, she was Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and the developer and Director of Careers Beyond the Professoriate. Within the Department of Anthropology, Dr. Lyon has been Director of Graduate Studies and was a long-term member of the department chair’s advisory committee.

A cultural anthropologist whose work is situated at the juncture of development studies, economic anthropology and food studies, Dr. Lyon’s research centers on a multi-faceted exploration of how alternative food networks, such as fair trade, work to create and sustain diverse economies and social justice in the United States and Latin America. She earned her Ph.D. from Emory University and currently serves on the editorial boards of three scholarly journals. Dr. Lyon also regularly serves as a consultant for non-governmental organizations and impact investment funds working to address economic and gender inequities within smallholder farming communities in Latin America.
Dr. Carrie B. Oser is Associate Director of the Center for Health Equity Transformation and Associate Director of the Substance Use Priority Research Area within the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Kentucky. The DiSilvestro Endowed Professor in Sociology, Dr. Oser previously served as Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences and as associate department chair.

Dr. Oser earned her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, and she leads interdisciplinary teams in conducting rigorous, high-impact research to improve the lives of individuals with substance use disorders and to promote health equity. She has been continuously funded for more than 15 years by the National Institutes of Health and published 120 peer-reviewed articles while mentoring more than 50 graduate students and early career investigators. Dr. Oser has provided congressional testimony and advised policy makers on best practices related to substance use disorder treatment, and her work has been featured in newspapers and on National Public Radio.
Dr. Kenneth M. Tyler is Associate Dean of Inclusion and Internationalization in the College of Education and a Professor at the University of Kentucky. He is also currently completing a fourth and final year as Chair of the Educational, School and Counseling Psychology Department. Previously, Dr. Tyler served as Director of Graduate Studies, the teaching assistantship coordinator, and he chaired the educational psychology graduate program.

Dr. Tyler earned his Ph.D. from Howard University, and his research interests include culture and cognitive development; race and racism; identity development; school-based and community-based learning and socialization processes; and African American student achievement. He has received several awards, including the inaugural Office of the Provost Inclusive Excellence Faculty Award and the Outstanding Leadership and Student Enhancement Award from the National Leadership Honor Society Omicron Delta Kappa. Dr. Tyler has authored, co-authored and published more than 45 empirical and conceptual papers focusing on the achievement related factors among students of color, and he has published one book examining race, identity and Black men.
Dr. Keena Arbuthnot is Associate Vice President of Research and Economic Development (Humanities, Social Sciences and Allied Fields), Special Advisor to the President on COVID-19 Response and the Joan Pender McManus Distinguished Professor of Education at Louisiana State University. As special advisor, she has successfully spearheaded LSU’s efforts to implement policies and procedures necessary to keep the campus safe and healthy during the global pandemic. Dr. Arbuthnot earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, specializing in Psychometrics, Applied Statistics and Program Evaluation.

Dr. Arbuthnot is well known for her work in the field of education, and she has published numerous articles and publications, as well as two books, *Filling in the Blanks: Understanding the Black-White Achievement Gap* and *Global Perspectives on Educational Testing: Examining Fairness, High-Stakes and Policy Reform*. She has contributed to grant proposals totaling more than $90 million and currently serves on the GRE Technical Advisory Committee and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Advisory Panel.
Dr. Jennifer Baumgartner chairs the LSU Learning and Teaching Collaborative, is faculty chair of the Communication Across the Curriculum Program and is an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at Louisiana State University. She also leads and serves on a number of committees, such as the Faculty Instruction Committee and the Technology Uber Group.

Dr. Baumgartner earned her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her expertise is in the development of learners, scholarship of teaching and socio-emotional well-being of teachers, along with her commitment to faculty development. She has experience directing early child development laboratory schools and teaches critical perspectives in early childhood education, child development and stress in education courses. Dr. Baumgartner’s research focuses on instructional practices and teacher stress, and she has been published in the *Journal of Health Psychology, Early Child Development and Care* and *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education.*
Dr. Lori L. Martin is Associate Dean in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, serves as LSU’s Faculty Athletics Representative and is a Professor of both Sociology and African and African American Studies at Louisiana State University. While at LSU, she has been called upon to lead in a number of capacities, including serving twice as Interim Director of the African and African American Studies Program and as Director of both Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology.

Dr. Martin earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University at Albany, State University of New York. Her research interests surround race and ethnicity; Africana demography; wealth inequality and asset poverty; and race and sports. She is the author of several scholarly works, and her most recent publications include Big Box Schools, White Sports Black Sports and South Baton Rouge. Dr. Martin teaches race relations, sociology of sport, introductory sociology and African Americans in sport courses.
Dr. Kehui (Kevin) Xu is Interim Director of the Coastal Studies Institute and an Associate Professor at Louisiana State University. The Coastal Studies Institute helps enhance LSU research and education efforts in coastal regions and shelf seas around the world. Dr. Xu is a geological oceanographer whose research focuses on coastal restoration; sediment management; and coastal processes.

Dr. Xu earned his Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary, and he holds the James P. Morgan Distinguished Professorship at LSU. He chairs the Education and Knowledge Transfer of Community Surface Dynamics Modeling System, a community of more than 2,000 people from 75 countries. Dr. Xu received the LSU Alumni Association Faculty Excellence Award, the LSU Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Phi Kappa Phi Non-Tenured Professor Award. He also serves as associate editor of *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, a highly-respected, international, multidisciplinary journal.
Nancy Maria Balach is Chair of the Department of Music and Professor at the University of Mississippi. She is also a member of the faculty in the university’s Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. Balach serves on the Artist Series Committee, College of Liberal Arts Research Award Committee and the Honors College Admissions and Scholarship Committees. She is also Chief Executive Officer/Artist Director of the Living Music Resource.

Balach earned her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, and she has performed with opera companies and symphony orchestras around the United States. Balach has recorded leading roles for Albany Records, Newport Classic, New World Records, VOX Classics and the Operetta Archives labels. She has also taught courses in applied voice, pedagogy, diction, as well as special courses focused on interdisciplinary projects, community partnerships, educational outreach and music entrepreneurship. Balach currently serves as Governor for the Mississippi District of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.
Dr. Kendall Bowlin is Coordinator of the Doctoral Graduate Program in the Patterson School of Accountancy and an Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi. He also chairs the school’s Doctoral Program Committee and its Strategic Planning Committee. He spent four years in private practice before joining the academy.

Dr. Bowlin earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, and his primary teaching and research interests are in auditing. His research focuses on the strategic aspects of interactions between auditors and client managers. He is particularly interested in the ways in which institutional features of the audit environment affect the auditor’s ability to anticipate and respond to the manager’s possible tendencies toward financial misreporting. He joined the school of accountancy in 2008.
Dr. Adam E. Smith is Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering and an Associate Professor of both Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Mississippi. He also serves as the Academic Director of General Engineering. Dr. Smith earned his Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Southern Mississippi.

He completed his postdoctoral training at Virginia Tech, and his research focuses on utilizing controlled radical polymerization techniques to synthesize stimuli-responsive block copolymers for applications in drug and gene delivery, low energy separations and ultrathin films. Dr. Smith’s research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the ACS Petroleum Research Fund and the Mississippi Space Grant Consortium.
Dr. Marquita Smith is Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs in the School of Journalism and New Media and an Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi. She manages two graduate programs in the school, with 130 students enrolled in either the journalism or the integrated marketing communications program, which is offered both residentially and online.

Dr. Smith earned her Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas, and her research centers on diversity and media. Before joining the academy, she spent 16 years as a journalist in newsrooms around the southeast. She is also a Fulbright Scholar who lived and worked in Ghana and Liberia. As a Knight International Journalism Fellow, Dr. Smith created a judicial and justice reporting network in Liberia which continues to operate. In addition, she is a former chair of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication’s Commission on the Status of Minorities.
Dr. Ashli E. Brown is Associate Vice President of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine and a Professor at Mississippi State University. She previously served as Interim Head of the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion.

As associate vice president, Dr. Brown helps advance Mississippi State’s national reputation as a leader in agriculture and natural resource teaching, research and service. The National Science Foundation ranks MSU in the Top 5 percent nationally for agricultural research. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of South Florida, and her research focuses on the use of analytical techniques to improve conservation efforts, food safety and regulatory science. Dr. Brown has received the American Chemical Society, AGRO Division, National New Investigator Award and the Mississippi State Pride Award. She is also a Credentialed Officer with the Food and Drug Administration.
Dr. Shahram Rahimi is Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and a Professor at Mississippi State University. He is a leader in the area of artificial and computational intelligence, and he regularly consults with the U.S. State Department and the Department of Defense.

Dr. Rahimi earned his Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi, and he has more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and a several patents or pending patents to his credit. His intelligent algorithm for patient flow optimization and hospital staffing is used in more than 1,000 emergency departments across the nation, and it was named a Top 10 AI technology for healthcare by HealthTech magazine. He has organized more than 15 conferences and workshops and served as editor in chief of two leading journals, while sitting on the editorial board of several others.
Dr. Rebecca Robichaux-Davis is President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate and a Professor at Mississippi State University. Previous administrative appoints include chairing the Charter and By-laws Committee of the faculty senate, the College of Education’s Barry F. Box Curriculum Council and the university Graduate Council. As the elementary education graduate coordinator, the elementary education faculty developed and received approval to offer the undergraduate degree program online, and it has since become nationally ranked.

Dr. Robichaux-Davis earned her Ph.D. from Auburn University, and she has been a member of the Mississippi State faculty since 2007. Her research interests focus on the mathematical content knowledge of pre-service and in-service mathematics teachers and their beliefs about mathematics. She has authored numerous articles in the *Journal of Educational Research and Policy* and *Teaching Children Mathematics*, among others. She is currently an associate editor of the National Council of Mathematics’ journal, *Mathematics Teacher: Learning and Teaching PK-12.*
Dr. Kathleen Sherman-Morris is Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences and a Professor at Mississippi State University. Prior to this recent appointment, she was an administrative faculty fellow for the college and spent seven years as Director of Distance Learning programs in the Department of Geosciences.

Dr. Sherman-Morris earned her Ph.D. from Florida State University, and her research focuses primarily on the communication of weather information, risk perception and individual-level responses to extreme weather events. She has chaired the Board on Societal Impacts for the American Meteorological Society and the advisory panel for the COMET program of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. She is an associate editor of *The Southeastern Geographer* and *Weather, Climate and Society*. Dr. Sherman-Morris has also served as a member of the National Weather Association’s board of directors and is currently president-elect for the organization.
Dr. Jamie Arndt is Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives in the College of Arts and Science and a Professor at the University of Missouri. He focuses on graduate training, faculty development, fostering inclusive cultures and helping synergistic research development. This spring he will conclude his tenure as Chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences, where he oversaw matters related to faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students. In addition, he has served on numerous department, college and university task forces and committees.

Dr. Arndt earned his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and his research interests are in aggression, prejudice, stereotypes, political judgments, consumer motivations, parental and interpersonal attachment and the psychological landscape of nostalgia. As chair, he led efforts to establish the Missouri Center for Addiction Research and Engagement, the Cognitive Neuroscience Systems Core Facility and a departmental inclusion, diversity and equity initiative. Dr. Arndt previously participated in the UM system Manual Pacheco Leadership Development Program and has since served as a co-facilitator/discussant for a number of system sessions.
Lynda Kraxberger is Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Administration in the School of Journalism and a Professor at the University of Missouri. She oversees advising services, curriculum development, recruitment and retention as well as teaching and learning for more than 2,000 students. She has organized school-wide diversity and inclusion workshops and recently completed workplace integrity training with the Power Shift Project, which seeks to improve the quality and future of journalism by improving the diversity, equity and culture of news organizations.

Kraxberger’s current work focuses on assessment, curriculum and teaching and learning strategies to advance the mission of journalism in democratic societies. Her early career as a news producer in major television markets shaped her interest in visual storytelling, and for three decades she has coached students in television reporting and producing, and later multi-platform and multimedia storytelling. Kraxberger has received the Faculty Alumni Award for Excellence and the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.
Dr. Anthony D. Ross is Chair of the Department of Management and the Leggett & Platt Distinguished Professor of Supply Chain Management at the University of Missouri. As chair, he manages a $5 million budget and supervises/coaches and shares governance with 30 faculty colleagues. He also interfaces with a 15-member industry advisory board, and he has developed a deep understanding of program-building, internal and external relationship-building and industry engagement.

Dr. Ross earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University, and he conducts research and consults in the areas of inventory management, logistics network design, supply chain optimization, supply management and lean processes within manufacturing and service industry supply chains. He has designed and directed study abroad programs in supply chain management and faculty development in international business study abroad programs for faculty of color. Dr. Ross has also directed doctoral programs, delivered executive education programs and collaborated across academic disciplines.
Dr. Enid Schatz is Chair of the Department of Public Health and a Professor at the University of Missouri. She has led campus-wide research related to COVID-19, was on the university COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing and Quarantining Task Force, and she taught a system-wide course on interdisciplinary perspectives on COVID-19.

Dr. Schatz earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and she completed a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Western Cape, in Cape Town, South Africa. Her research focuses on the social and structural impacts of the HIV epidemic on older Africans, and on the health and well-being of older Africans living with HIV. Since 2016, she has coached for the National Center of Faculty Development and Diversity, and in 2020-21 she provided coaching to underrepresented faculty at Missouri who were part of the Huddle, which brings together junior faculty so they can meet with, learn from, and develop a sense of community by interacting with senior faculty.
Dr. Juan M. Caicedo is Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Professor at the University of South Carolina. As chair, he led an extensive revision of the undergraduate civil engineering curriculum and is leading efforts to improve facilities while coordinating the department’s COVID-19 pandemic response. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and has served as a chair of several committees for the Engineering Mechanics Institute.

Dr. Caicedo received his Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, and his research interests include structural dynamics and uncertainty quantification. Recently, he has focused on the use of structural vibrations to identify falls and estimate gait parameters, with the goal of expanding independent living among older adults. Dr. Caicedo is also passionate about engineering education and involving undergraduate students in research. He has hosted two National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates sites and helped create a framework to foster critical thinking in engineering.
Dr. Coretta Jenerette is Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in the College of Nursing and a Professor at the University of South Carolina. In this role, she leads the college in achieving inclusive excellence, while helping create a vision that reflects a diverse, safe learning environment in all aspects of the college’s teaching, research, practice and service mission. Additionally, Dr. Jenerette identifies and supports initiatives to enhance the recruitment, retention and success of underrepresented groups in the college community.

On the university level, Dr. Jenerette is incoming co-chair of the Council of Academic Diversity Officers, who work collectively with institutional leadership to advance and support its equity, inclusion and diversity efforts. Dr. Jenerette earned her Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina and is a certified nurse educator. She was recently inducted as a Fellow in the Academy of Nursing Education.
Dr. Tammi L. Richardson is Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and a Professor at the University of South Carolina. In her role as chair, her responsibilities include oversight of the research, teaching and service activities of the faculty, along with general departmental operations. Before being named chair, she served as associate chair for nearly three years.

Dr. Richardson earned her Ph.D. in Oceanography from Dalhousie University in Canada, and her research focuses on phytoplankton, the microscopic algae that form the base of food webs in aquatic ecosystems. She was named a University of South Carolina Breakthrough Rising Star of Research, and she serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Plankton Research* and is an associate editor of *Limnology and Oceanography-Methods*. Dr. Richardson received a Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award and recently completed the university's Pipeline for Academic Leaders Program.
Dr. Jane Roberts is Chair of the Department of Psychology and a Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina. She leads a team of approximately 50 staff and faculty by using a strengths-based shared governance approach designed to build a supportive climate, advance undergraduate and graduate education, enhance faculty scholarship and provide effective multi-level mentorship. Her department has added a graduate specialization in Quantitative Psychology, integrated graduate programming into a single Ph.D., streamlined undergraduate research training and expanded career exploration as well as advanced faculty diversity through a cluster hire.

Dr. Roberts earned her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her research seeks to identify early markers of autism, anxiety and AD/HD in high risk populations by using a multi-method approach that integrates cognitive, behavioral and physiological markers of health and impairment across the infant and preschool developmental periods. She recently chaired a National Institutes of Health study section and received a Rising Star Research Award.
Dr. Heidi Goodrich-Blair is Head of the Department of Microbiology and the David and Sandra White Professor at the University of Tennessee. As department head, she is responsible for a robust research and teaching enterprise, and with two others she oversees the College of Arts and Sciences Biology Division, which includes general biology instruction and related support units such as the business office, facilities services and greenhouses.

Dr. Goodrich-Blair has served on numerous college and university committees, including the Oak Ridge Institute steering committee and the vice chancellor for research search committee. In addition, she is a member of two task forces engaged to assist with planning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Goodrich-Blair earned her Ph.D. from the University at Albany, State University of New York in Molecular Biology, and her research interests are molecular mechanisms of bacteria-animal mutualism and pathogenesis.
Dr. Mary Lehman Held is Director of the Master of Science in Social Work Program at the Nashville campus and an Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee. She has chaired the College of Social Work Faculty Governance and Departmental Review Committees and served as a board member with the Tennessee Interprofessional Practice and Education Consortium.

Dr. Held earned her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Texas, and she has established community-based partnerships across Tennessee for collaboration on her research agenda, which centers on mental health, resilience and service provision with Latinx immigrants in the southern United States. She routinely trains social service providers on understanding immigrant trauma and resilience, in addition to applying a trauma-informed lens to service provision. As a licensed clinical social worker, Dr. Held also conducts pro bono mental health assessments for families facing deportation and asylum hearings.
Dr. Mitsunori Misawa is Associate Head of the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling and an Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee. He also serves as co-Coordinator of the Master of Science in Educational Psychology Program and Coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Research Methods in Education. In addition, he has chaired or co-chaired the Chancellor’s Commission for LGBT People since 2018.

Dr. Misawa earned his Ph.D. in Adult Education from the University of Georgia, and his research is centered on social justice and encompasses the positionality and intersectionality of race, gender and sexual orientation; adult bullying in academic, workplace and community settings; and social and academic policy research and evaluation. His scholarship has been widely published and is well recognized by national and international scholarly communities.
Dr. Elisabeth E. Schussler is President-Elect of the Faculty Senate and a Professor at the University of Tennessee. She is also Associate Head of Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Previous administrative appointments include serving as Director of Biology Teaching and Learning for the Division of Biology, where she managed all aspects of the 100- and 200-level courses common to the three biology departments, and supervised faculty and staff. Prior to her first appointment in academia, she was education director at two informal science education centers in Georgia and South Carolina.

Dr. Schussler earned her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, and her research program is focused on the dynamics between instructor practices and student perceptions of those practices in introductory biology classes. She also leads a national network focused on improving graduate student teaching professional development. Her own teaching focuses on introductory organismal and ecological biology, and theory and practice of biology teaching for graduate students.
Dr. Karen Kirkland is Associate Head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering and a Professor at Texas A&M University. She has chaired a federally-administered peer review panel, several professional society committees, a technical division and numerous departmental committees. She has served as associate department head since 2015.

Dr. Kirkland earned her Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, and her research focuses on reactor safety and fundamental thermal hydraulics. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in reactor safety, reactor engineering and capstone senior design. She also developed a graduate-level course in severe accident analysis and made significant curriculum changes to the nuclear engineering capstone design courses. In 2016, Dr. Kirkland was appointed to the United States Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee, and she received the rank of American Nuclear Society Fellow in 2020.
Dr. Lucas M. Macri is Associate Dean for Undergraduate and International Programs in the College of Science and a Professor at Texas A&M University. He led the development of Texas A&M’s graduate program in Astronomy, which was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. Macri earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University, and his research focuses on measuring the expansion rate of the universe to better determine its composition and evolution, and to search for electromagnetic counterparts to gravitational-wave events. Prior to arriving at Texas A&M, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Science Foundation’s National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory. Dr. Macri received a 2014 Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching at the college level and regularly participates in education and public outreach activities on campus and across the state of Texas.
Dr. Fredrick M. Nafukho is Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Education and Human Development and a Professor at Texas A&M University. He is responsible for helping more than 230 faculty in four academic disciplines. Dr. Nafukho earned his Ph.D. in Leadership and Human Resource Development from Louisiana State University, and his research focuses on educational policy analysis within international and comparative education, investment in human capital development, emotional intelligence and leadership development and e-learning.

Dr. Nafukho has served as a consultant with the United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, along with being lead consultant for 15 Southern African Development Community countries on a Four Sector Open and Distance Learning Research Project. He has authored, co-authored/edited more than 100 books, book chapters and refereed journal articles, and his awards include a Fulbright Scholarship and the Outstanding New Faculty Award in the college.
Dr. Tiffany A. Radcliff is Associate Dean for Research in the School of Public Health and a Professor at Texas A&M University. As associate dean, she is responsible for promoting research, building productive collaborations and managing a research office that serves researchers housed in six centers, six programs and four academic departments.

Dr. Radcliff earned her Ph.D. in Health Services Research, Policy and Administration from the University of Minnesota. Her research expertise is in health economics and health services research, including secondary data analysis and use of novel methodology to improve measurement of care processes, access and outcomes for vulnerable populations such as older adults, veterans and rural residents. She teaches graduate courses in health economics and research methodology. Dr. Radcliff received a 2021 Chancellor’s Enhancing Development and Generating Excellence in Scholarship award from Texas A&M, and she serves on a variety of boards, committees and advisory groups.
Dr. Elizabeth Catania is Director of Undergraduate Studies and Independent Studies for the Neuroscience Program in the College of Arts and Sciences and an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University. She is also Vice Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. As program director, she oversees the largest undergraduate research program at the university with more than 300 undergraduate majors that require students to complete research and take courses across five schools. As the principle executive officer of the J.B. Johnston Club for Evolutionary Neuroscience, she stewarded the society and organized yearly meetings.

Dr. Catania earned her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt, and her research focuses on the development of brain circuitry related to social and emotional function, and her teaching centers on nervous system development and endocrinology. She serves on the editorial board of *Brain, Behavior and Evolution*, and she is participating in the Learning Assistant Program at Vanderbilt.
Dr. Duane G. Watson is Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Peabody College of Education and Human Development and the Frank W. Mayborn Professor of Psychology and Human Development at Vanderbilt University. He is also chair of the Psychonomic Society governing board and a co-founder and board member of the SPARK Society, a scientific organization dedicated to increasing the number of historically marginalized researchers in the brain and cognitive sciences.

Dr. Watson earned his Ph.D. in Cognitive Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he is a psycholinguist who studies the cognitive mechanisms that underlie speech, reading and communication in children and adults. His research has been funded by both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Watson is an associate editor of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition.
Dr. Hee Yun Lee is Associate Dean for Research in the School of Social Work at the University of Alabama. She leads the Office of Social Work Research, where she promotes faculty and staff grant applications, research scholarships, and post-award management. Dr. Lee is a behavioral health scientist, and her primary research areas include health disparities, rural health, opioid prevention, treatment and recovery, and technology-driven intervention development using randomized controlled trial. She uses mobile applications, wearable devices/sensors, and social media as intervention mediums to change health behaviors, predominantly among underserved populations. She has developed five different apps and web-based applications to promote positive health behavior changes.

Dr. Rebekah Smith is Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Mississippi. She was on the faculty at the University of Texas at San Antonio and served as Chair of the Faculty Senate, a member of the University of Texas System Faculty Advisory Council, and department chair. Dr. Smith’s research on cognitive aging, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, focuses primarily on prospective memory. She has served on several editorial boards including as an associate editor for the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition.

Dr. Hollie Raynor is Interim Assistant Dean of Research in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee. She is also a registered dietitian and licensed psychologist. Dr. Raynor conducts research in lifestyle interventions for pediatric and adult weight management, and she has served as a member of the National Committee for Clinical Guidelines for Obesity for the American Psychological Association and as a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Prediabetes Evidence Analysis Library Committee.

Dr. Jeannette Mancilla-Martinez is Associate Dean of Graduate Education for Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College of Education and Human Development. Her research focuses on advancing students’ language and reading comprehension outcomes, including those of students from Spanish-speaking, low-income homes. In 2017, she was appointed to the National Assessment of Education Progress Standing Committee on Reading. Recently, she received the American Educational Research Association’s 2019 Early Career Award, which was established to honor an individual with a distinguished program of cumulative educational research, in any field of scholarly inquiry.
SEC Academic Leadership Development Program Liaisons
Dr. Lesley Williams Reid is the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Alabama. In this role, Dr. Reid is responsible for developing and implementing policies that impact faculty; promoting best practices in faculty recruitment, hiring, and retention; facilitating faculty training and professional development; providing guidance to faculty on retention, tenure, and promotion processes; assisting the resolution of faculty concerns; and a wide range of other faculty support services within the Office of Academic Affairs.

Prior to serving in this role, Dr. Reid was the Interim Dean of the School of Social Work between 2019 and 2021. Dr. Reid joined the University of Alabama faculty in 2014 as Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to coming to the University of Alabama, she served on faculty in the Department of Sociology at Georgia State University from 2000 to 2014. Dr. Reid earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in Sociology from Tulane University and her bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University.

Dr. Reid is a criminologist whose research focuses on broad structural conditions that make places more or less safe, with a focus on immigration, ethnicity, housing, employment, and corrections. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and been published broadly. She teaches courses in social research methods and statistics.
Dr. Anna Zajicek is Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Arkansas, having been appointed to the position in 2022. She also coordinates social justice specialization for the Public Policy Ph.D. program. Previously, she served as Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology and Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Zajicek joined the faculty at Arkansas in 1994, and her research interests include social inequality (intersections of gender, race/ethnicity, and class), gender/race and STEM disciplines, institutional transformation, and social policy. She chaired the Gender Studies Steering Committee in the College of Arts and Sciences, and she was a Faculty Research Associate in the Office for Institutional Diversity and Education. She also served as a Senior Inclusion Fellow with the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

She has been nominated for several honors and awards, including the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, a University of Arkansas Extraordinary Woman, and Outstanding Advisor Nominee. In 2018, she received the University of Arkansas Graduate School Outstanding Mentor Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Nolan Award for Contributions to Graduate Education. Dr. Zajicek was an SEC ALDP fellow in the inaugural 2008-09 cohort.
Dr. Andrew (Andy) Gillespie is Assistant Provost for International Programs at Auburn University and serves as the Senior International Officer, overseeing programs in international student and scholars services, study abroad, internationalizing the curriculum, international alumni, international student insurance, instruction in non-traditional languages, strategic partnerships overseas, and internationalizing recruitment, development, research and outreach. His additional responsibilities include international alumni development, international student recruiting and admissions, development of international campuses and on-campus curriculum internationalization. Dr. Gillespie is also a Professor of Natural Resources in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. He received a joint B.S. from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Syracuse University, an M.S. from the University of New Hampshire, and his Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Dr. Gillespie came to Auburn in 2010, after 20 years at Purdue University on the faculty in the College of Agriculture and in academic administration, overseeing international programming and strategic planning as associate dean. A Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Gillespie was trained as a soil chemist and plant physiologist, and his research is in food and fiber production systems of indigenous peoples and their relation to temperate and tropical production systems in developed countries.
Dr. Chris J. Hass is Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs at the University of Florida. In this role, he serves as a member of the provost’s administrative team, managing the tenure and promotion process, providing leadership for university-level faculty development efforts, managing faculty personnel issues, including policy and processes, and serving as the Office of the Provost’s representative for university governance.

Dr. Hass is a graduate of the University of Florida, and before returning to UF he held academic positions at Columbia University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a Professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology and faculty within the Fixel Center for Neurological Diseases. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the American Society of Biomechanics. Dr. Hass has authored more than 150 peer reviewed publications. He has held leadership positions in the American Society of Biomechanics and the American College of Sports Medicine.
Dr. Sarah F. Covert is Interim Associate Provost for Academic Programs at the University of Georgia, having been appointed to the position in 2022. In this role, she leads the Office of Academic Programs, which oversees faculty recognition awards originating in the Provost’s Office and works with campus units on lecture series and visiting speakers. In addition, she oversees leadership programs such as the Women’s Leadership Fellows Program and Current Administrators Training.

Dr. Covert has served in a number of leadership roles on campus, most recently as Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs from 2015 to 2020, and was a faculty member in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources for nearly 30 years.

Dr. Covert’s research focused on the molecular genetics of fungal pathogens of plants, and she taught courses on tree physiology, forest health, research skills, and professional development. She was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2007. Dr. Covert was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at UGA from 2009 to 2014. As such, she oversaw the school’s instructional programs and student services, while also serving as its Promotion and Tenure Unit Head. Dr. Covert was an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2013-14 cohort.
Dr. Sue E. Nokes is Acting Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement at the University of Kentucky, having been appointed to the position in 2022. Previously she served as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Facilities in the College of Engineering and Chair of the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering department from 2011-2017. Dr. Nokes has been a member of the faculty at Kentucky since 1995 in a primarily research/teaching position.

She has received several teaching awards, including the Provost’s teaching award in 2012. Dr. Nokes has published more than 60 peer reviewed articles and four book chapters and has received more than $10 million in funding from sources including the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and industrial support.

Dr. Nokes’ research involves mathematical modeling of biological systems, specifically the microbial conversion of biomass into chemicals and fuels. Dr. Nokes holds one patent. She is a long-time member of ASABE, the national professional society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and served as the society’s President in 2019-2020.
Dr. Jane Cassidy is Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Louisiana State University and holds the Roy and Margaret Gianelloni Alumni Professorship in Music. She recently served as Interim Vice President for the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, and was LSU’s SEC ALDP liaison from 2011-2020.

Dr. Cassidy’s responsibilities include serving as Chief Deputy for the Executive Vice President and Provost, advising the provost on matters such as general campus administration, university policy, promotion and tenure, faculty development, academic space utilization, and budgetary issues. Serving as the institutional liaison to SACSCOC, LSU’s accrediting agency, Dr. Cassidy has oversight of LSU’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness. The LSU Rural Life Museum, LSU Museum of Art, LSU Press and The Southern Review also report to her. Previously, Dr. Cassidy served as Director of the School of Music and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. Her field of expertise is music education, having taught courses in elementary music education, music in special education, psychology of music, measurement and evaluation, and supervision of student teachers.

Dr. Cassidy’s research interests center around musical development of infants and children, music education for children with special needs and teacher effectiveness. Most notably, her research with critically premature infants elicited cross discipline interest from the music therapy and medical communities for its impact on establishing protocol for presentation of music in the NICU. She has published extensively in music education and music therapy journals, has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Research in Music Education* and the *Journal of Music Therapy*, and served as Chair of the Music Education Research Council of the National Association for Music Education. In 1999, she was awarded a Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching, research and service at LSU; and in spring of 2005, she held an endowed professorship at the University of Alabama.
Virginia (Ginny) Rougon Chavis is Associate Provost and a Professor of Art at the University of Mississippi. In the provost’s office, she assists with an array of administrative matters related to the academic budget, classroom space, student retention and human resources. She is also a part of the Sally McDonald Barksdale Honors College where she serves on the Admissions Committee, Scholarship Committee, and is a member of the Honors Council. Previously, she served as Chair of the Department of Art and History for seven years.

Chavis earned her M.F.A. in Graphic Design from the Savannah College of Art & Design, and she is a designer, artist and educator with years of experience teaching graphic design, letterpress and the creative process. She presents her letterpress and mixed-media works nationally and internationally, as well as working with clients who commission for design work. She has been awarded several grants, exhibitions, workshops and was an Artist in Residence in Marnay-sur-Seine, France. Chavis was named the university’s Faculty Advisor of the Year and the NACADA Southeast Regional Faculty Advisor of the Year. Chavis was also an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2014-15 cohort.
Dr. Peter L. Ryan is Executive Vice Provost at Mississippi State University where his responsibilities include management of international academic agreements and study abroad policies, coordination of the self-study review process for academic departments and supervision of new faculty development. Dr. Ryan earned his Ph.D. from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada, and he is also Dean of the Graduate School.

Dr. Ryan is a Professor in the Departments of Animal and Dairy Sciences and Pathology and Population Medicine. He has served as Coordinator of the Animal Physiology Graduate Program since 2000. His research is in the area of reproductive physiology with a major focus on uterine pathogenesis and pre-term delivery using domestic animals as models for the human condition. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other public and private sources.

Dr. Ryan is co-Director of the Facilities for Organismal and Cellular Imaging that utilizes bioluminescent, fluorescent, ultrasound and digital thermal imaging technologies to investigate physiological events in living systems. In August 2009, he joined the Office of the Provost as the Associate Vice President Intern for Academic Affairs and was appointed Interim Associate Provost in April 2010.
Dr. Matthew P. Martens is Senior Vice Provost at the University of Missouri. In this role, he oversees policies and processes related to academic programs, supervises several units within the Office of the Provost and provides direct assistance to the provost by supporting the review and evaluation of deans, representing the provost in meetings or at events, and triaging meeting requests. Prior administrative appointments include serving as Associate Division Dean and Division Director in the College of Education at Missouri.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston College in 1995, a Master of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina in 1997, and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 2002. His primary research interest is in the area of health psychology, particularly addictive behaviors. He has been either a principal or co-investigator on multiple federally and foundation-funded studies examining the efficacy of brief motivational interventions at reducing at-risk alcohol use and harmful gambling behaviors. Dr. Martens was an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2014-15 cohort.
Dr. Cheryl Addy is Vice Provost and Dean of Faculty at the University of South Carolina. Her responsibilities include oversight of faculty affairs and direction of faculty leadership development opportunities and grant programs. Prior to this appointment, she chaired and served on numerous university committees and councils, including the Graduate Council, Space Reservation Policy Task Force, Carolina Core (general education) Committee, Academic Program Liaisons Committee and Interprofessional Education for the Health Sciences Steering Committee.

Dr. Addy is a Professor of Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health and has served in various administrative positions, including graduate program director and chair at the department level, and most recently, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the school level. She has more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Journal of the American Public Health Association and Epidemiology. Dr. Addy’s more recent activities include several randomized trials to evaluate interventions to increase physical activity behaviors and to improve nutrition behaviors in diverse populations ranging from preschool children to older adults. She is also active within the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and is a trained accreditation site visit chair for the Council on Education for Public Health.
Dr. Diane Kelly is Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and a Professor at the University of Tennessee where she oversees recruitment, retention, evaluation and professional development of all faculty. Prior to serving in the office of the provost, she was Director at the School of Information Sciences, and she guided the school through creation of a new bachelor’s degree in information sciences.

Dr. Kelly earned her Ph.D. from Rutgers University, and she has received several awards for both her research and teaching, including the ASIST Research Award, British Computer Society’s IRSG Karen Spärck Jones Award, Best JASIST Paper of the Decade (2000s) and the ASIST/Thomson Reuters Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award. Dr. Kelly is chair-elect of the iSchools organization, past chair of the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group in Information Retrieval (SIGIR), co-editor in chief of *Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval* and associate editor of *ACM Transactions on Information Systems*. 
Dr. Heather Lench is Senior Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs at Texas A&M University, named to the newly created position in March 2022. As the senior associate vice president, she helps support faculty across their careers at the university. She has experience in strategic planning and initiatives, faculty hiring and retention, evaluation processes, mentoring programs, and data informed decision making. Dr. Lench has previously served as department head and associate head, among other administrative roles.

Dr. Lench is a Professor in Psychological and Brain Sciences, and her research focuses on how emotions and intuitions powerfully impact people’s thinking and behavior. She has more than 70 publications, and she has received both federal and foundation support. Dr. Lench has been highlighted in outlets including NPR, BBC, and Wired. She received the American Psychological Association New Investigator Award, and she is currently a Society of Personality and Social Psychology fellow. Dr. Lench earned her undergraduate degree from Florida State University, a master’s from California State University, Fresno, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine.
Jermaine Soto is Director of Faculty Development, and he leads the Vanderbilt University Office of Faculty Affairs’ efforts in promoting data-driven and holistic initiatives to improve faculty recruitment and development. In the new position, Soto curates the most impactful resources that support the faculty lifecycle and career pathways. Specific areas within his portfolio include leading and guiding all faculty and academic leadership development initiatives, leading all internal faculty awards processes and guiding the university in its inclusive faculty search efforts.

Soto works closely with the Office of Inclusive Excellence and the Office of Research to support their faculty development programs while convening various committees, working groups and advisory groups to outline the best approaches to meeting faculty development needs. Previously he was Director of Operations for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Soto holds an undergraduate degree in English from Cornell University and a master’s degree in Cultural Foundations of Education from Syracuse University. He is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Cultural Foundations of Education at Syracuse. He has been a lecturer, researcher and facilitator for the Intergroup Dialogue Program. He also served as a consultant for the New York State Migrant Education Program, where he developed a series of training modules on self-advocacy.
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