



# FACULTY AWARDS

SPRING MEETING OF THE FACULTY AND ASSOCIATES

September 29, 2020

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

### Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment

This award recognizes faculty members for particularly noteworthy research or creative accomplishment during the past three years. This year's award recipients are:

**Todd Castoe**

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Biology

**Yan Wan**

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Electrical Engineering

### Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity

This award recognizes faculty members for achieving a distinguished record of research and scholarship or creative activity over an extended period of time. The winner receives a Research Enhancement Program grant. This year's award recipients are:

**Wei Chen**

*Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Benito Huerta**

*Professor*  
Department of Art and Art History

### Academy of Distinguished Scholars

The Academy of Distinguished Scholars fosters and advocates for the importance of research and creative activity, promotes a sense of community among scholars, and advises on research practices and policies. Each inductee receives a permanent salary increase. This year's inductees are:

**Marion Ball**

*Executive Director, Multi-Interprofessional  
Center for Health Informatics at UTA*  
College of Nursing and Health Innovation

**James Coleman**

*Dr. Richard N. Claytor Professor of Optics  
Distinguished Presidential Professor*  
Department of Electrical Engineering

**Yue Deng**

*Distinguished Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Efstathios I. Meletis**

*Chair and Professor*  
Department of Materials Science  
and Engineering

**Michael Vasilyev**

*Professor*  
Department of Electrical Engineering

### Academy of Distinguished Teachers

This award recognizes tenured faculty for a sustained record of outstanding teaching, personal commitment to students and the learning process, and the ability to motivate and inspire students. Academy members receive a permanent salary increase. This year's inductees are:

**Manfred Cuntz**

*Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Graham Hunt**

*Professor*  
Department of Music

**Mahmut Yasar**

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Economics

**Andrew Milson**

*Professor*  
Department of History

**Melanie Sattler**

*Syed Qasim Endowed Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

### President's Award for Excellence in Teaching

The President's Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes teaching that is inspiring, effective, and innovative. This year's recipients are:

#### Tenured

**Diane Mitschke**

*Associate Professor*  
School of Social Work

**Alicia Rueda-Acedo**

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Modern Languages

#### Untenured

**Ashley Lemke**

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

**Mohsen Shahandashti**

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

### Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

The Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching honors non-tenure track instructors who have demonstrated a record of excellence in teaching, strong personal commitment to students, and the ability to motivate, challenge, and inspire. This year's award recipients are:

**Chris McMurrough**

*Distinguished Senior Lecturer*  
Department of Computer Science  
and Engineering

**Julián Rodríguez**

*Specialist*  
Department of Communication

### Piper Professor Nominee

Each year, the Minnie G. Stevens Piper Foundation awards 10 Texas Piper Professorships for outstanding scholarly and academic achievement, and exemplary service to the University and the community. UTA's nominee will be recognized today with a plaque and an honorarium, and will represent the University in the statewide competition this fall. This year's UTA nominee is:

**James A. Mendoza Alvarez**

*Professor*  
Department of Mathematics

### William S. Ward Endowment Award

This prize was established to honor the life and contributions of UTA faculty member Bill Ward. It recognizes a non-tenure track faculty member who has an exemplary work ethic, loves working with students, and makes a significant impact on enhancing the goals of the University. This year's recipient is:

**Cornelia Winguth**

*Assistant Professor of Instruction*  
Department of Earth and  
Environmental Sciences

### Excellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring Award

This award, sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies, is given to tenured or tenure-track faculty for outstanding mentoring of doctoral students. This year's award recipient is:

**Wendy Casper**

*Professor*  
Department of Management

### President's Award for Transformative Online Education

This award recognizes an individual who is an outstanding instructor in the area of web-based distance education. This teacher has demonstrated excellence in distance education teaching, creating quality interaction with and showing exemplary responsiveness to UTA's digital learners. This year's award recipient is:

#### Shanna Banda

*Associate Professor/Director, Resource Center*  
Department of Mathematics

### Outstanding Academic Advisor

#### ACADEMIC FACULTY ADVISOR AWARD

#### Bijan Shapoorian

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

#### Runner Up

#### Graham Hunt

*Professor*  
Department of Music

#### PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR AWARD

#### Thelma Cabrera

*Academic Advisor II*  
Department of Modern Languages

#### Runners Up

#### Ryan Davis

*Academic Advisor II*  
University Advising Center

#### Elizabeth Webb

*Academic Advisor II*  
College of Nursing and Health Innovation

#### Honorable Mentions

#### Mark Frazier

*Academic Advisor III*  
School of Social Work

#### Nancy Michael

*Senior Lecturer/Advisor*  
Department of Mechanical and  
Aerospace Engineering

### McNair Scholars Program Faculty Mentors

The following faculty served as mentors for undergraduate students in the McNair Scholars Program during summer 2019.

#### Erin Carlson

*Clinical Associate Professor*  
Department of Kinesiology

#### Jandel Crutchfield

*Assistant Professor*  
School of Social Work

#### Brian Dennis

*Professor*  
Department of Mechanical and  
Aerospace Engineering

#### John Garrigus

*Professor*  
Department of History

#### Benjamin Jones

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Physics

#### Jared Kenworthy

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Psychology

#### Peter Kroll

*Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

#### Subhrangsu "Subhra" Mandal

*Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

#### Linda Perrotti

*Professor*  
Department of Psychology

#### Corey Roelke

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Biology

#### Sarah Rose

*Associate Professor*  
Department of History

#### Nancy Scott

*Field Advisor*  
Dallas Zoo

#### Amber Schroeder

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Psychology

#### Shelley Smith

*Professor*  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

### Title V, IDEAS Fellows

The following faculty served as Title V, IDEAS (Innovation, Diversity, Excellence, Access, and Success) Fellows for the 2019-20 academic year.

#### Dennis Chiessa

*Assistant Professor*  
School of Architecture

#### Christopher Conway

*Professor*  
Department of Modern Languages

#### Mary Curtis

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

#### Jaya Davis

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Criminology  
and Criminal Justice

#### Ericka Robinson-Freeman

*Associate Professor in Practice*  
School of Social Work

#### Matthew Fujita

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Biology

#### Robin Macaluso

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

#### Nilakshi "Nila" Veerabathina

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Physics

### Center for Research on Teaching and Learning Excellence

The following faculty served as mentors for junior faculty during the 2019-20 academic year.

#### FACULTY FELLOWS 2020

#### Amy M. Austin

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Modern Languages

#### Thomas Dombrowsky

*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Undergraduate Nursing

#### Subhrangsu "Subhra" Mandal

*Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

#### Melanie Sattler

*Syed Qasim Endowed Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

#### FACULTY MENTORS, NON-TENURED/-TENURED TRACK

#### Amy M. Austin

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Modern Languages

#### Donna Bacchus

*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Graduate Nursing

#### Shanna Banda

*Lecturer, Learning Resource Director*  
Department of Mathematics

#### Elizabeth Diaz

*Senior Lecturer*  
Department of Computer Science  
and Engineering

#### Thomas Dombrowsky

*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Undergraduate Nursing

#### Beverly George

*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Management

**Stephen Gibbs**  
*Senior Lecturer/Director, Engineering Online*  
Department of Electrical Engineering

**Kiva Harper**  
*Assistant Professor in Practice*  
School of Social Work

**Jerry Hubbard**  
*Academic Director, Goolsby Leadership Academy*  
College of Business

**Mohammad Najafi**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

**Nilakshi “Nila” Veerabathina**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Physics

**FACULTY MENTORS,  
TENURED/TENURED TRACK**

**Carla Amaro-Jimenez**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Ann Cavallo**  
*Professor*  
*Director, Center for Research on Teaching  
and Learning Excellence*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Dan Cavanagh**  
*Chair and Professor*  
Department of Music

**Andrew Clark**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Communication

**Christoph Csallner**  
*Professor*  
Department of Computer Science  
and Engineering

**Jaya Davis**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Criminology  
and Criminal Justice

**Mathew Fujita**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Biology

**James P. Grover**  
*Professor*  
*Interim Vice President, Research*  
Department of Biology

**Grace Qing Hao**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Finance and Real Estate

**Holly Hungerford-Kresser**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Heather Jacobson**  
*Professor*  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

**Bob Kunovich**  
*Professor*  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

**Robin Macaluso**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Subhrangsu “Subhra” Mandal**  
*Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Maria Martinez-Cosio**  
*Associate Professor*  
*Associate Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs*  
Department of Public Affairs and Planning

**Liliana Perez Nordtvedt**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Management

**David Rakowski**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Finance and Real Estate

**Dan Robinson**  
*Chair and Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Melanie Sattler**  
*Syed Qasim Endowed Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

**Peggy Semingson**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**George Siemens**  
*Professor*  
Department of Psychology

**Jeffrey Witzel**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Linguistics and TESOL

**Jaehoon Yu**  
*Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Weidong Zhou**  
*Professor*  
Department of Engineering Electrical

**Professional Learning Community  
Faculty Fellows**

**LaDonna Aiken**  
*Specialist*  
Department of Communication

**LaShaunn Bold**  
*Associate Professor in Practice*  
School of Social Work

**Grace Brannon**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**Kim Breuer**  
*Assistant Professor in Practice*  
Department of History

**Kenyatta Dawson**  
*Acting Director*  
Office of Undergraduate Research

**Justin Dellinger**  
*Associate Director*  
Professional Learning Community

**Roger Gans**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**Becky Garner**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Kinesiology

**Brian Horton**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**Fajer Jaafari**  
*Adjunct Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Kim Jones**  
*Senior Lecturer*  
Department of Communication

**Ritu Khanduri**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

**Gerard Koffi**  
*Lecturer*  
Department of Mathematics

**Melanie Mason**  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**John Rodriguez**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Criminology  
and Criminal Justice

**Cynthia St. John**  
*Professor of Practice*  
Department of Management

**Soyla Santos**  
*Associate Director*  
Division of Student Success

**Peggy Semingson**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Christy Spivey**  
*Clinical Associate Professor*  
Department of Economics

**Nilakshi “Nila” Veerabathina**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Martin Wallace**  
*Librarian*  
UTA Libraries

**Kendra Wallis**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Material Science and Engineer

**Cynthia Woody**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Educational  
Leadership and Policy Studies

**Mengqi “Monica” Zhan**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**Liwei Zhang**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Mechanical and  
Aerospace Engineering

### Maverick Advantage Faculty Engagement Faculty Fellows

**LaDonna Aiken**  
*Specialist*  
Department of Communication

**Kyrah Brown**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Kinesiology

**Jaime Cantu**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Industrial, Manufacturing  
and Systems Engineering

**Karishma Chatterjee**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**Jerry Hubbard**  
*Director, Goolsby Leadership Academy*  
College of Business

**Pam Johnson**  
*Associate Professor in Practice*  
School of Social Work

**Cindy Kilpatrick**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Linguistics and TESOL

**Joyce Myers**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Josh Nason**  
*Associate Professor*  
School of Architecture

### Center for Service Learning Faculty Fellows

**Shanna Banda**  
*Lecturer/Director, Learning Resource*  
Department of Mathematics

**Grace Brannon**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Communication

**LeeAnn Burke**  
*Assistant Professor in Practice*  
Department of Science/UTeach Arlington

**Dennis Chiessa**  
*Assistant Professor*  
School of Architecture

**Saltanat Childress**  
*Assistant Professor*  
School of Social Work

**Steven Gellman**  
*Associate Professor of Practice*  
College of Science

**Shawn Gieser**  
*Senior Lecturer*  
Department of Computer Science  
and Engineering

**Brandie Green**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*  
Department of Kinesiology

**Na-li Kim**  
*Adjunct Professor*  
Department of Linguistics and TESOL

**Tiffany Kindratt**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Kinesiology

**Laura Phipps**  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
Department of Kinesiology

**Kathleen Smits**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Civil Engineering

**Jiwon Suh**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Public Affairs and Planning

### Faculty Development Leave 2020-21

**Gaik Ambartsoumian**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Mathematics

**Patryk Babiracki**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of History

**Jinny Choi**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Modern Languages

**Rasika Dias**  
*Professor*  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Grace Qing Hao**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Finance and Real Estate

**Sedrick E. Huckaby**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Art and Art History

**Song Jiang**  
*Professor*  
Department of Computer Science  
and Engineering

**Ali R. Koymen**  
*Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Christopher Kribs**  
*Professor*  
Department of Mathematics

**Thomas R. Marshall**  
*Professor*  
Department of Political Science

**David Rakowski**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Finance and Real Estate

**Eusebius Small**  
*Associate Professor*  
School of Social Work

**Matthew Walsh**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Biology

**Jaehoon Yu**  
*Professor*  
Department of Physics

**Yi Zhang**  
*Associate Professor*  
Department of Education Leadership  
and Policy Studies

**Jennifer Jie Zhang**  
*Professor*  
Department of Information Systems  
and Operations Management

## Research Enhancement Program Grants for 2020-2021

<p><b>William Beksi (PI)</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Computer Science and Engineering</p>	<p>“Vision-Based Collision Avoidance for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles”</p>	<p><b>Laura Mydlarz</b>  <i>Professor</i>            Department of Biology</p>	<p>“Upside-down but moving in the right direction: Developing the upside-down jellyfish as a model for coral disease”</p>
<p><b>Animesh Chakravarthy (Co-PI)</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>            Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering</p>		<p><b>Li Wang</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Mathematics</p>	<p>“Robust Large-Scale Graph Structure Learning”</p>
<p><b>Godfred Boateng</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Kinesiology</p>	<p>“Household Energy Insecurity, Health, and Sustainable Livelihood in Colombia”</p>	<p><b>Shuo “Linda” Wang</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering</p>	<p>“Optimal Cancer Therapeutic Treatment on the Dynamic Structure of Tumor Tissue under Tumor Heterogeneity”</p>
<p><b>Dennis Chiessa</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            School of Architecture</p>	<p>“Housing the Working Class, Catalog of Existing Housing Typologies within the North Side of Fort Worth &amp; Informed Speculations on Future Housing”</p>	<p><b>Emma Yiran Yang (PI)</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Industrial Engineering, Manufacturing Systems</p>	<p>“Recycling Multicolor &amp; Multimaterial Thermoplastic Wastes from 3D Printing”</p>
<p><b>Genevieve Graaf</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            School of Social Work</p>	<p>“Assessing the Texas YES Waiver for Youth with SED: Variation in Behavioral Health Costs and Utilization across Texas”</p>	<p><b>Yi Hong (Co-PI)</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>            Department of Bioengineering</p>	
<p><b>Hyesun Jeong (PI)</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            School of Architecture</p>	<p>“Sustainable Main Streets as Catalysts for Urban Development in the Context of Urban Sprawl: Comparative Analysis of Food, Retail, &amp; Transit Model on DFW Area”</p>		
<p><b>Kathryn “Kate” Holiday (Co-PI)</b>  <i>Professor</i>            School of Architecture</p>			
<p><b>Candace Joswick</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>“Using the Project ECHO Model to Disseminate Research-Based Early Childhood Mathematics Education Professional Development to Rural Texas Educators”</p>		
<p><b>Tiffany Kindratt (PI)</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Kinesiology</p>	<p>“The prevalence of patient and family-centered care among children with health conditions in the United States”</p>		
<p><b>Grace Brannon (Co-PI)</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>            Department of Communication</p>			

