AOEC Directory

Robert Burns

Associate Dean and Professor
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Communications Committee
Term: 2013-2017

Dr. Burns serves as Associate Dean for Agriculture, Natural Resources & Community Economic Development Extension programs at the University of Tennessee. In this position Robert works with a team of Extension faculty in the seven academic departments within the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture as well as Extension specialists in the Soil, Plant and Pest Center and the Center for Profitable Agriculture and agricultural Extension agents in 95 county Extension offices to deliver educational programs across the state of Tennessee. Prior to serving in this position, Robert served as a Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University, and led the Iowa State university Agricultural Waste Management Team. Under Robert’s leadership, this team conducted applied research and Extension programming focused on air emissions monitoring and mitigation, manure and nutrient management and anaerobic digestion. Dr. Burns holds a BS in Agricultural Engineering, MS in Environmental Engineering, and PhD in Civil Engineering from The University of Tennessee and is a registered professional engineer.

Michelle Christian

Assistant Professor
Sociology
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1115 Volunteer Boulevard, Knoxville TN 37996
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Faculty Awards & Recognition Committee
Term: 2015-2019

Michelle Christian is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology. She received her PhD in 2011 from Duke University. Her research focus is on the global political economy, labor, and racial stratification. She has conducted fieldwork in Africa, Latin America and the United States. Her scholarship has always included a public component, including working with the International Labor Organization, the UK Department for International Development, the World Bank, and labor unions. She also is active in community social justice work in Knoxville and on UT’s campus particularly around labor and homeless rights.

11/2/2016
Thomas K. Davis

Professor
School of Architecture
1935 Cherokee Boulevard, Knoxville, TN 37919
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tkdavis@utk.edu

Nominations & Membership
Term: 2016-2018

Professor T. K. Davis holds Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degrees from Cornell University. He is a past recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship in Architecture in Italy, as well as the National institute of Architectural Education Traveling Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. His teaching focuses on urban design and theory, as applied in service-learning outreach engagement with civic design issues and opportunities in Greater Nashville. From 2004-2008, he was posted by the University as Design Director at the Nashville Civic Design Center, our partnership "think tank" organization. In 2013, he received an Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Collaborative Practice Award, as well as a C. Peter McGrath Community Outreach Exemplary Program Award, one of six nationally. Davis was co-recipient, with his spouse Marleen K. Davis, of the American Institute of Architecture Tennessee Society's 2016 Samuel Morgan Lifetime Achievement Award for Contributions to Architecture in the Public Realm.

Susan Lynne Hamilton

Associate Professor and Director
UTIA Gardens
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865-974-7324
sueham@utk.edu

Communications Committee
Term: 2015-2019

Dr. Sue Hamilton is director of the University of Tennessee Gardens which serve as a living laboratory for students, a platform for research, and as a hub for Extension programing. Under Hamilton’s leadership, the Gardens have been named the State Botanical Gardens of Tennessee and a network of UT Garden locations have been established statewide with sites in Knoxville, Crossville, and Jackson. Also an associate professor of horticulture in the UT Plant Sciences department, Hamilton is the founding director of the Public Horticulture Program for undergraduate and graduate studies. She teaches courses in Public Garden Mgt. & Operations, Plant & Garden Photography, and oversees Botanical Garden Practicums and Internships. Dr. Sue co-hosts a weekly talk radio show, “Garden Talk” and has co-authored the book “The Best Garden Plants for Tennessee”. She was the recipient of the 2002 UT Chancellor’s Honors Women of Achievement Award, the 2005 UTIA William T. Miles Memorial Award for Community Service, and the 2001 Gamma Sigma Delta Delta Teaching Award.
Ashleigh Huffman
Assistant Professor and Director
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Nominations and Membership Committee
Term: 2014-2018

As an international sports consultant and Assistant Director at the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society, Dr. Ashleigh Huffman is committed to using sport as a tool for development and peace. For more than ten years, Huffman has worked on sports projects with women, girls, refugees, and persons with disabilities in post-conflict and post-disaster communities all over the globe.

Through her work, Huffman has led sports programs in eleven countries on four continents and has worked with 300+ women and girls from fifty countries on short-term US-based exchanges. Huffman is interested in understanding the intersections of sport and service-learning, empowerment, community development, and peace-building, both in practice and in research.

When she’s not writing or researching for the center, Huffman is in the local community working with UT students leading after-school programs through her Service-Learning: Sport for Community Development course, or in the classroom with student-athletes teaching Sport for Social Change.

Joe Jarret
Lecturer
Political Science
1001 McClung Tower, Knoxville, TN 37996
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jjarret@utk.edu

Promotion & Tenure Engaged Scholarship
Language Implementation Task Force
Term: 2017-2018

Joe Jarret is an attorney and a federal and state mediator who has been practicing law and alternative dispute resolution for over 24 years. He has practiced law before the Tennessee Supreme Court, and lower state and federal courts and before the Florida Governor’s Cabinet. He has served three different government entities as chief legal counsel the most recent being Knox County, Tennessee and has represented business clients in state and federal court. Joe is a full-time lecturer for the University of Tennessee, Department of Political Science. He is a former active duty United States Army Armored Cavalry Officer and former United States Air Force Special Agent with service overseas.

Joe earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Troy University, West Germany campus; his Masters in Public Administration degree from Central Michigan University; his Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University College of Law; and is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies at UT.
Dr. Kit has a history of personal involvement with outreach activities including teaching Governor’s School for Engineering, organizing a workshop for high school science teachers, helping with FIRST Robotics Kick-Off, organizing tours and demonstrations for Engineers’ Day, presenting to middle and high school students in ASM Materials Camp, and coordinating student research poster competitions with local chapters of ASM and SPE. In his current role as Director of the Engineering Honors Program, he has a goal to maintain and develop outreach and engagement opportunities for Engineering Honors students. These students must satisfy two breadth requirements out of five categories which include service learning, entrepreneurship, and research.
Sarah Lowe

Associate Professor
School of Art
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865-974-3208
slowe@utk.edu

Faculty Development Task Force—Chair
Term: 2014-2018

Sarah Lowe is an Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the School of Art at the University of Tennessee. Her current work focuses on the development of mobile platforms designed to interpret sites of cultural heritage, building upon a career of researching and developing digital content for the cultural heritage sector. She has extensive experience working with cultural institutions including The National Park Service, The United States Holocaust Museum, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. In 2012/13 she was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Oslo, Norway, researching the design of educational technologies in relation to learning theory. Her professional clients have included WGBH Boston, Annenburg Media, The Highlander Center, The Beck Cultural Center (East Tennessee’s largest repository of African-American history), Panther Creek State Park and the W.E.B. DuBois Center at Harvard University. Sarah received her Masters of Graphic Design from North Carolina State University.

Thura R Mack

Professor, Coordinator
Community Learning Services & Diversity Programs
152 John C Hodges Library
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865-974-6381
tmack@utk.edu

Faculty Development Task Force
Term: 2013-2017

As Coordinator of Community Learning Services and Diversity Programs, Thura Mack provides outreach and instruction to schools in Knoxville and the surrounding community. In the role of Community Learning Services, Thura teaches information literacy and library research skills to university-bound students such as Project GRAD which brings local inner-city high school students to campus for a week-long immersion in college life and coursework. The annual Big Orange STEM Saturday (BOSS) event, co-founded by Thura Mack, provides a research seminar and hands-on activities for middle and high school students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) career fields. Her research interests are evident in the many biographical essays, reviews, and scholarly research projects she has spearheaded.
Lisa Reyes Mason

Assistant Professor
College of Social Work
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Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee
Term: 2016-2017

Lisa Reyes Mason is Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work. Her research centers on environmental change, social justice, and community engagement. An applied social scientist with a PhD in social work, Lisa’s work is transdisciplinary by nature. She collaborates regularly with engineers and geographers and is passionate about working with community members to understand their experiences, priorities, and ideas for change. Lisa’s current projects examine socially responsive storm water management; access and response to severe weather warnings; and public preferences for neighborhood-level environmental data. Her current work focuses on urban communities in the U.S. Prior research examined seasonal water insecurity in northern Philippines. Lisa received her PhD and MSW from the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, and her BA from the University of Pennsylvania.

Bharat Mehra

Associate Professor
School of Information Sciences
454 Communications Bldg.
1345 Circle Park Dr., Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-5917
bmehra@utk.edu

Promotions and Tenure Implementation Task Force
Term: 2016-2017

Dr. Mehra’s research examines diversity and intercultural communication, social justice in library and information science (LIS), critical and cross-cultural studies, and community informatics or the use of information and communication technologies to empower minority and underserved populations to make meaningful changes in their everyday lives. He has collaborated with various racial/ethnic groups, international communities, sexual minorities, rural librarians, small businesses, and others, to represent their experiences and perspectives in shaping the design and development of community-based information systems and services. Dr. Mehra primarily teaches courses on public library management, collection development, resources and services for adults (fiction and non-fiction), diversity services in libraries, grant development for information professionals, and information representation and organization.
Laurie Meschke

Associate Professor
Public Health
1914 Andy Holt Ave., HPER 390, Knoxville, TN 37996
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llmeschke@utk.edu

Communications Committee—Chair
AOEC Secretary
Term: 2014-2018

My academic outreach and engagement is integrated in my research, teaching, and service. My graduate courses -- community health assessment and program development -- rooted in community service learning in the teaching. Past projects have provided data for research manuscripts. Most recently, in collaboration with Great School Partnership and Knox County Schools, we are working with 5th to 8th grade youth to advocate for enhanced public health in the East Knoxville community. Our current efforts have focused on safety and community pride. In addition I have used community participatory action methodology in much of my research, including question formulation, data collection, and dissemination.

Carole R Myers

Associate Professor
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Promotion & Progress Engaged Scholarship
Language Resolution Task Force —Chair
AOEC Past Chair
Term: 2013-2017

Bio unavailable
David Patterson

Endowed Professor and Director
College of Social Work
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AOEC Chair
Term: 2014-2018

Cindy Raines

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craines1@utk.edu

Nominations & Membership Committee—Chair
Term: 2013-2017

David A. Patterson, Ph.D., M.S.W., is the Cooper-Herron Endowed Professor of Mental Health Research and Practice in the College of Social Work at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is the founding Director of the Doctor of Social Work (DSW) in clinical practice and leadership program, having served in the position since 2010. Dr. Patterson has been the PI/Director of the HUD and locally funded Knoxville Homeless Management Information System (KnoxHMIS), a community outreach research endeavor of the College of Social Work. He is a past-President of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Faculty Senate and a recent member of the UT System-wide University Faculty Council. Dr. Patterson is the current chair of the UT-Office of Research and Engagement sponsored Academic Outreach and Engagement Council. He was the 2013 recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Academic Outreach.

Cindy Raines brings to UT over 40 years of practitioner and academic marketing experience across a variety of industries. Her areas of expertise include integrated marketing communications, communication and presentation skills, strategic planning, media relations, imaging and positioning, new product launches, and packaging development.

Raines has won numerous industry awards for creative excellence, including a PRSA Best of Show for national media relations. She has been invited to be listed in or join the Top Professional: International Top-100 magazine, International Women’s Leadership Association, Woman of Outstanding Leadership in Education, International Who’s Who of Professional & Business Women Hall of Fame, Who’s Who in North American Education, and National Association of Professional Women, among others.

Her résumé is distinguished by holding senior-level positions within marketing agencies and corporations in which she increased brand revenue by as much as 64% and contribution over 350%.

Since 1995, Raines has taught undergraduate, graduate, executive education, and custom courses at UT. She earned the 2007 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Executive Education and was the Haslam College’s director of communications for over 11 years.

Raines currently serves on the campus’s Faculty Senate and chairs the nominations committee for its Academic Outreach and Engagement Council.
As a Student Success Librarian, Assistant Professor Anna Sandelli works to provide vision in implementing and expanding instruction, engagement programs, and support services to enhance undergraduates’ knowledge of and interaction with the UT Libraries. She contributes to the University’s work to provide core student support and promote retention and graduation by assisting varied student populations in learning the tools of scholarship while navigating life at a four-year research institution. Her role includes serving as the Libraries’ liaison to transfer students, the Office of Service Learning, and the Dean of Libraries’ Student Advisory Committee. As a member of the Libraries’ Learning, Research & Engagement Department, Anna also provides research assistance and participates in instruction, programming, and service initiatives designed for both General Education coursework and upper-division undergraduate students. Anna holds a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and an M.S. in Library Science, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include transfer student experiences, librarian-faculty collaboration, and library assessment.

Laura Stephenson serves as UT Extension Assistant Dean with primary responsibility for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension programs. UT Extension FCS programs are a vital link connecting the resources of the university to citizens in all 95 counties in the state. FCS faculty work with Extension agents to teach financial, health, nutrition and human development skills to families and individuals in local communities. Stephenson has had a 25+ year career in engaged scholarship at the University of Kentucky and University of Tennessee at local, regional and state levels. Her educational background includes Home Economics, Vocational Education, Public Health and Gerontology. Her research focused on community-based participatory approach to analyze challenges and opportunities for rural older adult’s physical activity while aging in place.
Elizabeth Strand
Clinical Associate Professor, Director Veterinary Social Work
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Communications Committee
Term: 2015-2019

Elizabeth B. Strand, Ph.D., LCSW, clinical associate “All Creatures Great and Small” endowed professor holds a joint appointment between the College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Social Work, and is the Founding Director of Veterinary Social Work (VSW) program. Her interest areas include the link between human and animal violence, animals in family systems, the scholarly and practice development of veterinary social work as a sub-specialty of social work practice, communication skills, conflict resolution, and stress management in animal related environments. Her professional and service mission is to encourage the humane treatment of both people and animals and to care for those professionals who care for animals.

James (Jim) Wansley
Professor, Clayton Homes Chair of Excellence
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jwansley@utk.edu
Nominations and Membership Committee
Term: 2017-2017

Professor Wansley is the Clayton Homes Chair of Excellence in Finance at The University of Tennessee. He served as Finance Department Head from 1995-2015. He is the Director of the Aerospace and Defense Executive MBA program at The Univeristy of Tennessee. He teaches in the Executive MBA Program for Strategic Leadership and the Aerospace & Defense Executive MBA program. He helped develop and taught in the Air Force Better Business Deals/Industry Insight Program for program managers. He worked for several years as a consultant with a global transportation consulting firm. He earned his B.A. from Emory University, his M.B.A. from the University of Georgia and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. Professor Wansley is the author of more than two dozen publications and research papers that have appeared in journals including the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, the Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Financial Services Research, and Financial Management.
## AOEC Committee Members

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<th>Committee</th>
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