

Faculty Affairs Monthly

2/19/2025



Professional Development Opportunities at your own pace

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Welcome New Department Head



Congratulations to Dr. Paul DeLaune, new department head of the Crop Soil and Environmental Sciences unit in the college of Agricultural Food and Life Science. DeLaune comes to Arkansas having served as interim director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at San Angelo. He has a long tenure within the Texas A&M AgriLife system, having joined as assistant professor in September 2007 at Vernon, Texas, where his current research program remains headquartered. As department head, he oversees all three of the land-grant components: research and extension through the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and teaching through the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring - DEADLINE February 28th!

The Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring will be awarded to the department or academic unit on campus that best displays excellence in onboarding and mentoring of early-career and mid-career faculty, including tenure track and non-tenure track faculty. The winning department will receive \$8,000 and a trophy. The unit's name will be placed on a university plaque housed in that department for a year. The Award is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office for Faculty Affairs.

Eligibility

All academic tenure-home units are eligible to apply for the award. The winner will not be eligible for the following two academic years.

Applications will be assessed on the following two criteria

How does your department demonstrate its sustained commitment to excellence in new faculty onboarding and mentoring of early-career and mid-career faculty?

How does your department demonstrate commitment to the professional development of faculty mentors and mentees?

The application deadline is February 28, 2025 by 5 pm. For more information or to apply please click [here](#).

College of Education and Health Professions December Reception



Anna Zajicek, Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs, greatly enjoyed participating in the end-of-year COHEP reception in December. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the College's significant success in advancing impactful research and to recognize its outstanding researchers. Their contributions—whether through publishing work that shapes academic fields, securing substantial external funding, or producing influential scholarship worthy of national recognition—are truly commendable. Thank you, COHEP, for the invitation!!

TFSC Co-Director Applications Now Open

Are you passionate about teaching and student learning? Do you relish working with a team of innovative pedagogical leaders on campus? Co-directing the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center may be your destiny!

Directors serve staggered three-year terms, and Richard Cassady of the Department of Industrial Engineering will finish his term as co-director this summer. Hope Ballentine of the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing and Edward Holland of the Department of Geosciences will continue their service. The TFSC and the Office for Faculty Affairs seek a dynamic individual who models teaching excellence and effective leadership to join the team. Any tenured or non-tenure track full-time faculty member is eligible to apply. The directorship comes with extra compensation or a course buyout package and summer funds.

To complete this application, please be prepared to upload a letter of application, your CV and a letter of support from your department chair/head. Your letter

should state why you are interested in co-leading the Teaching and Faculty Support Center, what unique experiences or talents you would bring to this leadership role and a statement of how you would contribute to broadening faculty engagement and fostering a holistic approach to faculty support with emphasis on teaching excellence. [Applications](#) are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 21.

Please Nominate an Outstanding Faculty Mentor

To assist the Office for Faculty Affairs with promoting excellence in mentoring and recognizing outstanding faculty mentors, we encourage non-tenure track, pre-tenure, and mid-career faculty members on our campus to consider acknowledging their faculty mentors. Outstanding mentors assist their mentees with building excellence in teaching, research, and/or service while encouraging a healthy balance of work and home life. They cultivate faculty career advancement and belonging. Outstanding mentors assist mentees in building their professional networks, advocate for their mentees, and create avenues for mentee recognition. They demonstrate commitment to fostering mentees' professional development and promote mutually beneficial mentoring relationships. For more information on the nomination process or to nominate please visit our [website](#).

2025 Research Camp Recap



The 2025 Research Camp was held in the E.J. Ball Courtroom on January 8, 2025. Over 60 faculty participated in a day long event with workshops ranging from strategic grant planning, effective mentoring, and research security and risks, just to name a few.

The camp was co-sponsored by the Division of Research & Innovation and the Office for Faculty Affairs.

UA ENGAGE -- Empower. Lead. Transform. **Women in STEM at the U of A**

The University of Arkansas is proud to be a NSF ADVANCE campus and Faculty Affairs plays a key role in the programming and initiation of UA ENGAGE activities. We are honored to recognize the excellent women researchers in our STEM departments. For more information on UA ENGAGE, visit the [website](#).

Keep an eye on the Office of Faculty Affairs social media pages to stay up to date. Links to our Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube pages are below.

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