



RESEARCH PROFILES

PITTSBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY

2025 EDITION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Associate Vice President for Research Strategy and Advancement	2
• Dr. Ram Gupta, Chemistry	
Faculty Research Profiles by College/Department	
○ College of Arts & Sciences	4
• Dr. Chris Bakke, Criminal Justice	
• Dr. Christopher Childers, History	
• Dr. Troy O. Comeau, Communications	
• Dr. John Franklin, English & Modern Languages	
• Dr. Mazeyar Parvinzadeh Gashti, Chemistry	
• Dr. Andrew George, Biology	
• Dr. Anuradha Ghosh, Biology	
• Dr. Amy Hite, Nursing	
• Patrick Howle, Music	
• Dr. Cynthia Huffman, Math/Physics	
• Dr. Alessandro Martins, Chemistry	
• Dr. Alicia Mason, Communications	
• Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke, Social Work	
• Dr. Ramiro Miranda Rios, Music	
• Dr. Grant D. Moss, English & Modern Languages	
• Dr. Reena Berger Natenberg, Music	
• Dr. Dilip K. Paul, Chemistry	
• Dr. Jamie M. Phelps, Biology	
• Dr. Philip W. Rudd, English & Modern Languages	
• Dr. James E. Whitney, Biology	
○ College of Education	24
• Dr. Robin D. Blair, Psychology	
• Dr. David Boffey, Health, Human Performance, and Recreation	
• Dr. Paige Boydston, Psychology	
• Dr. Mark M. Diacopoulos, Teaching & Leadership	
• Dr. David P. Hurford, Center For Reading	
• Dr. John Oppliger, Health, Human Performance, and Recreation	
• Goldie Prelogar-Hernandez, Teaching & Leadership	
• Dr. Laurent Prétôt, Psychology	
• Dr. Tristan J. Ragland, Health, Human Performance, and Recreation	
• Dr. Tatiana Sildus, Teaching & Leadership	
• Dr. Donna Zerr, Teaching & Leadership	
○ Crossland College of Technology	35
• Dr. Tatiana Goris, Technology & Workforce Learning	
• Dr. Trevor Maiserouille, Technology & Workforce Learning	
• Dr. Jeanne H. Norton, Plastics	
• Norman Philipp, Construction	
○ Kelce College of Business	39
• Dr. Alexander D. Binder, Economics	
• Dr. Phillip Frank, Marketing	
• Dr. Paul Grimes, Kelce College of Business	
• Dr. Mark L. Johnson, Business	
• Dr. Keunyoung Kim, Finance	
• Dr. Sang-Heui Lee, Management	
• Dr. Kristen Maceli, Management & Marketing	
• Melissa A. (Lisa) Paterni, Management & Marketing	
• Dr. David Sikolia, Data Science	
• Dr. Judy Smetana, Human Resource Development	
○ Library Services	49
• Jorge A. León	
• Barbara M. Pope	
○ Research + Economic Development	51
• Dr. Mayankkumar Chaudhary, NIMA	
• Dr. Senthil Chenrayan, NIMA	
• Dr. Narsimulu Daulatabad, NIMA	
• Dr. Tim Dawsey, NIMA	
• Wang Lin, NIMA	
• Andrew N. Ouellette, NIMA	
• Felipe Martins de Souza, NIMA	
• Glenn Storey, Research and Sponsored Programs	
• Wesley Streeter, R+ED	



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH STRATEGY AND ADVANCEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I present the Faculty Research Profile Booklet, a curated collection highlighting the diverse scholarly expertise and research interests of our esteemed faculty and staff at Pittsburg State University.

Research is a fundamental pillar of our mission at Pittsburg State, driving discovery, fostering innovation, and delivering solutions to the complex challenges faced by our communities and the global landscape. This booklet features concise overviews of each faculty/staff member's research focus, accompanied by links to their Google Scholar and ResearchGate profiles.

Whether a prospective student, industry partner, academic peer, or potential collaborator, we envision this resource as an invaluable gateway to connect with the thought leaders driving research at our institution.

Our faculty forms the backbone of our research enterprise, continually pushing boundaries, generating new knowledge, and mentoring the next generation of scholars. Their work exemplifies our unwavering commitment to excellence and impactful engagement.

We encourage you to explore the profiles within this booklet, discover areas of mutual interest, and engage with us in fostering meaningful collaborations. Your engagement is vital to our collective success and growth. Thank you for your interest in the vibrant and evolving research ecosystem at Pittsburg State University, where innovation and scholarship flourish.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ram Gupta'.

Warm regards,
Ram Gupta



Faculty Profile

Dr. Ram Gupta

AVP Research Strategy & Advancement | Research + Economic Development

Professor of Chemistry | College of Arts & Sciences

Researcher | National Institute for Materials Advancement

Research focus: Polymers, Energy Production and Storage, Electrocatalysts, Nanomaterials, Green Polymers

Dr. Ram Gupta is a distinguished figure in scientific advancement. Recently recognized by Stanford University to be among the **top 2% of research scientists worldwide**, Dr. Gupta's impactful contributions span critical disciplines addressing present and future societal challenges. With over 500 peer-reviewed journal articles and more than 14,000 citations, he holds a significant h-index of 65 and i10-index of 299, reflecting profound influence in the scientific community. Dr. Gupta has shared his expertise through over 550 presentations at national, international, and regional forums, reaching a global audience.

Committed to mentorship, he guides students across academic levels and has shaped scholarly dialogue with over 120 book chapters and editorial roles in more than 70 books. Dr. Gupta's leadership extends to organizing sessions at prestigious conferences, reinforcing his role as a prominent thought leader. His achievements underscore a career dedicated to scientific excellence and educational enrichment, exemplifying his enduring impact on research and academia.

Dr. Gupta's research encompasses a diverse range of fields, including semiconducting materials and devices, biopolymers, flame-retardant polymers, and green energy production and storage through the use of nanostructured materials and conducting polymers. His expertise extends into electrocatalysts, optoelectronics, and photovoltaic devices, demonstrating his versatility. Dr. Gupta has secured several million dollars in funding for both research and educational initiatives from external agencies, highlighting his ability to attract significant support for his work and underscoring his role in driving forward cutting-edge research.

In addition to his research accomplishments, Dr. Gupta is dedicated to fostering collaboration within the scientific community. His efforts not only advance the field of materials science and chemistry but also promote interdisciplinary partnerships and knowledge exchange. By bridging gaps between different scientific domains and bringing together researchers from various backgrounds, Dr. Gupta enhances the collective understanding and progress in his areas of expertise. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the landscape of materials science and chemistry, establishing him as a leading figure in both research and education. Through his ongoing dedication, Dr. Gupta continues to inspire innovation and excellence in the scientific community.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Chris Bakke

Assistant Instructional Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Youth Violent Crime, TBI in the Military, Biosocial Criminology, Neurocriminology, Crime and Intelligence Analysis.



Dr. Chris Bakke is a combat veteran with 8 years of military service in the US Army infantry and deployments overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Dr. Bakke has also served in law enforcement since 2015 and is a proud Pittsburg State University Alumni ('14). He joined the faculty of Pittsburg State University's School of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences in 2023. Dr. Bakke holds a PhD. in criminal justice with a concentration in intelligence from the University of North Georgia, where his dissertation focused on the crime typologies of juvenile offenders with a history of head injuries. His professional journey includes roles such as a patrol officer for the Pittsburg Police Department, a Child Protection Specialist for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, a Veteran Service Representative for the US Department of Veteran Affairs under the Veterans Benefits Administration, and a Deputy Sheriff for the Crawford County Sheriff's Office.

As a veteran himself, Dr. Bakke is deeply committed to serving those who have served — past, present, and future members of the armed forces. His research is not just a professional endeavor; it's a deeply personal one. He understands the risks and sacrifices service members and criminal justice practitioners take to protect our communities and nation.

Through his work, Dr. Bakke aims to strengthen our justice system and improve services for those who have served. He also focuses on understanding and addressing the psychological effects of TBIs, both for civilians and military personnel, in the hope of contributing to better treatment and care. His ultimate goal is to enhance mental health awareness and improve rehabilitation services throughout the criminal justice system. Dr. Bakke's research interests focus on neurocriminology, specifically traumatic brain injuries and increased aggression, adult and youth violent crime, domestic violence, and mental illness and crime in both the military and civilian populations.

He is driven by a deep-seated commitment to understanding and addressing these complex issues within his community and to serve and support military servicemembers. Dr. Bakke's mission is to improve the mental well-being and safety of his community and servicemembers, stateside and overseas.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Christopher Childers

Dean/Professor | College of Arts and Sciences

Research focus: American History, Political History, Constitutional History, Southern History, Kansas History, Early American Republic



Dr. Christopher Childers is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of history at PSU. A Kansas native, Childers earned his BS in History and BSE in social studies and chemistry as well as a MA in American History from Emporia State University and his Ph.D. in American History at Louisiana State University. Childers is a specialist in the political and constitutional history of the early American republic. Frequently asked to be a presenter and panelist at conferences, he is the recipient of numerous awards, fellowships, grants, and prizes, including having been chosen twice as a participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for university educators. Childers has served as a peer-reviewer for numerous academic publications and has served on the University Press of Kansas Editorial Committee. Childers is a past president of the Kansas Association of Historians and has been active in professional organizations.



More info

Childers's research interests focus on the political and constitutional history of the early American republic (1776-1861). He is the author of three books and numerous articles in peer-reviewed publications. His most recent book, *The Webster-Hayne Debate: Defining Nationhood in the Early American Republic*, tells the story of the Webster-Hayne Debate of 1830 and its meaning to American nationalism in the early 19th century.

His first book, *The Failure of Popular Sovereignty*, studied the development of the idea that citizens of the territories could vote on whether to permit or prohibit slavery in the U.S. territories, and ultimately how it became one of the most divisive elements of American politics in the decade preceding the Civil War. He is also co-author of *The American South: A History, 5th edition*, with William J. Cooper, Jr. and Thomas E. Terrill. Now in its fifth edition, this textbook is well respected as a thorough and accessible overview of Southern history. His latest research has focused on the presidential election of 1820, the last uncontested presidential election in American history.

Childers has written articles for *Civil War History*, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, and numerous edited collections.



Faculty Profile

Dr. Troy O. Comeau

Chair/Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Media Effects, Sports Production

Dr. Troy Comeau was appointed Chair of Communication/English and Modern Languages in June 2023. Since 2003, Dr. Comeau has served as Director of Media Production at Pittsburg State. During his tenure, Communication majors have received awards at both the state and national levels for their work in audio and video production. In 2020, Dr. Comeau's Sports Broadcasting students earned "Best Live Sports Broadcast" in the National Student Production Awards sponsored by College Broadcasters Inc. The following year, Dr. Comeau was awarded the Faculty Best of Competition award from the Broadcast Education Association in the category of "Video Sports Event Direction and Production." Dr. Comeau was honored with the 2013 Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award by the Student Government Association from student nominees of faculty that demonstrate excellence in instruction and service to students on campus. He has also served as a past President of the Broadcast Education Association's Sports Division.



More info

Dr. Comeau's primary research interest lies in the area of media effects, with a particular focus on how sports production influences audiences and societal perceptions. His work investigates the ways in which sports media shapes viewer attitudes, behaviors, and the overall public discourse surrounding athletic events. This includes analyzing the portrayal of athletes, the framing of sports narratives, and the impact of media coverage on fan engagement. By employing various research methodologies, Dr. Comeau seeks to uncover the nuanced relationships between media content and audience reception. In collaboration with his colleague, Dr. Shirley Drew, Dr. Comeau has also been involved in extensive research related to legal contexts, specifically conducting over 15 change of venue studies. These studies focus on media use and its effects on jury selection and trial outcomes for attorneys representing clients accused of violent acts in the state of Kansas. By examining how media coverage can influence public perception and juror bias, their research provides valuable insights for legal practitioners. For example, their findings may suggest strategies for managing media narratives to ensure a fair trial. Through these combined efforts, Dr. Comeau and Dr. Drew contribute significantly to both the fields of media studies and legal research.



Faculty Profile

Dr. John Franklin

Professor of English & Director of English Education |
College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Teacher Training; Young Adult Literature;
Artificial Intelligence in Middle and Secondary Schools

Dr. John Franklin (BA Rice, MA Miami of Ohio, PhD Florida; certified to teach English and economics) began his career at Jones High School in Houston. During that time, he combined his love for literature with a love of travel, spending 12-week summers biking or backpacking to visit the settings of the drama, fiction and poetry he loved to teach: Scotland for Macbeth; London for Dickens; Canterbury for Chaucer; and, the Lake District for Wordsworth. One Fourth of July he ventured further abroad, discovering himself atop the Acropolis in Athens, thinking, “Here I am at the birthplace of democracy on the birthday of the greatest democracy that has ever existed.” He has spent his life since then appreciating and sharing his good fortune. John Franklin (pronoun he) is a Professor of English and Director of English Education at Pittsburg State University in Southeast Kansas where he teaches Literature for Middle and Secondary Schools.

Preparing/training English majors to become middle-and-secondary school Language Arts and English teachers which means that I spend much time in the field, serving as both an observer and a supervisor for interns and student teachers. I am constantly on the empirical lookout for current trends that can “percolate up” from middle and secondary schools to universities. Conversely my more erudite research can “trickle down” from our campus to theirs. I prepare a biannual digital publication: Professor Franklin’s Annotated Bibliography of Young Adult Literature for which I read more than 100 books per year, writing thirty or more pages of notes to share with students and teachers around the world.

I am presently preparing my fourth edition, accessible through Pittsburg State University’s Axe Library’s digital commons. I also research the academic and professional use of artificial intelligence in English and Language Arts classes in middle and secondary schools, where my colleagues are especially concerned about their students’ use of AI to replace writing assignments. To this end I am interested in curriculum design; and in-departmental/district policies to address the implementation and management of artificial intelligence and Chat GPT in classrooms.



More info



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Mazeyar Parvinzadeh Gashti

Assistant Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Advanced Coatings, Composites, Fiber Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry

Dr. Mazeyar Parvinzadeh Gashti is an assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Pittsburg State University in Kansas, USA. He got his PhD in Textile Chemistry and Fiber Science and undertook three postdoctoral positions at the University of Bern (Switzerland), Laval University, and McGill University (Canada) from 2011 to 2016. Since 2018, he has led several funding projects from the US National Science Foundation, "the US Department of Agriculture", "Innovative Solutions Canada Program", "Innovation for Defense Excellence and Security Program (Canada)", "The Industrial Research Assistance Program (Canada)" and "Build in Canada Innovation Program". Since 2019, he has been a member of the Directory Board of the Canadian Institute of Textile Science. He is currently a member of the editorial boards of several international polymer and material journals, with Clarivate citation index. Dr. Gashti's inclusion in Stanford University's World's Top 2% Scientists list for five consecutive years highlights his substantial contributions to the field.

One of my major research Interests is Fabrication of Biobased Fiber with Electrospinning, Solution Spinning and Melt Extrusion. This is due to the fact that there has been an interest in various industries from petroleum-based fibers toward sustainable, degradable and environmentally friendly fibers. Functional Polymers, Composite, Fibers and Particles for Drug Delivery. Polymers, fibers and particles can be functionalized for bone tissue engineering, cartilage replacement, wound healing, nerve tissue regeneration to name a few. Surface Functionalization of Textiles Using Different Coating Materials. The surface of textiles can be functionalized with water repellents, flame retardants, UV protective agents, thermal shielding materials, electromagnetic shielding coatings, conductive polymers, oil repellents (oleophobic), anti-microbial, stain resistant, anti-static, breathable, temperature regulating, and anti-wrinkle coatings. Developing Sensors for Personal Protection Equipment. This process involves integrating smart technology like wearable sensors into protective gear, allowing for real-time monitoring of environmental conditions and the wearer's health, providing critical alerts to potential hazards. Developing Sensors for Food Packaging. These sensors are being developed to monitor food quality and safety, and to help consumers make informed decisions about what to eat including bio-based sensors, made from natural materials, and use color changes to indicate the food's condition and gas sensors to detect carbon dioxide, humidity, and pH levels.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Andrew George

Associate Professor of Biology | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Spatial ecology, population dynamics, hierarchical models, animal migration, ornithology, herpetology, habitat relationships

Dr. Andrew George is a non-game wildlife biologist with diverse experience leading high-impact conservation projects. His lab uses spatial technologies and innovative quantitative tools to understand and help protect conservation-priority species, including birds, bats, amphibians, and reptiles. His research is largely field-based and collaborative among federal and state agencies and universities. Dr. George has been a research associate with the Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project (MOFEP) since 2014, where he and his grad students are using spatial statistical models to understand how forest management affects migratory songbirds. More recently, Dr. George and colleagues are developing the Kansas Motus Network to study the movement ecology of birds and other migratory animals. Prior to joining the PSU Biology Department in 2016, Dr. George was a post-doc in the Avian Ecology Lab at the University of Missouri. He has previously worked for the USFS Southern Research Station, and in private environmental consulting as an acoustic data analyst.

Dr. George's research addresses basic and applied questions that range from the population to landscape levels. Specifically, his lab uses quantitative approaches to understand the consequences of anthropogenic disturbance on habitat relationships, population dynamics, and predator-prey interactions. MOFEP is a 100-year landscape-scale experiment to determine the effects of forest management on upland hardwood ecosystems. Dr. George and his grad students are working with scientists from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri to understand how songbird communities respond to varying silvicultural practices at multiple spatial and temporal scales.

Their current projects address 1) stand-level forest management effects on bird reproductive success, and 2) dynamic modeling approaches for calibrating bird abundance estimates. Dr. George and his collaborators from Kansas State University and Emporia State University have recently created the Kansas Motus Network, an international network of automated telemetry stations for tracking the movements of migratory animals. Digitally coded signals are detected and logged as tagged animals pass within 10 miles of a receiver station, and the data are uploaded and shared with the global network. In addition to developing the Motus infrastructure in eastern Kansas, Dr. George and his students are using the network to study the migration ecology of two conservation-priority species: Harris's Sparrows and Gray Bats.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Anuradha Ghosh

Associate Professor of Biology | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Food safety, antimicrobial resistance
bioremediation vector-borne disease, metagenomics

Dr. Anuradha Ghosh completed BS in Botany, Zoology, and Chemistry from Presidency University (Kolkata, India), and an MS in Biophysics and Molecular Biology from Rajabazar Science College (Kolkata, India). She then secured a research fellowship to pursue a PhD in Environmental Microbiology and Bacterial Systematics from the Institute of Microbial Technology, CSIR-JNU (Chandigarh, India).

After earning a PhD, she joined the Departments of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology and Entomology as a postdoctoral research associate at Kansas State University, focused on veterinary and clinical microbiology. In 2015, she came to Pitt State as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology. She is now an associate professor with responsibilities including teaching, research, and service. She teaches lower- and upper-level core and electives such as General Microbiology, Epidemiology, Introduction to Bioinformatics, Environmental Health, and more for the Biology major and Public Health minor.

Dr. Ghosh is a microbiologist, with research based on the One Health perspective. Her projects focus on various aspects of gut microbiology, spread of antibiotic resistance in the environment, and molecular diagnostics of food-borne and vector-borne pathogens. Her research lab includes both undergrad and graduate researchers. One long-term project studies spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria (*Enterococcus* and *Acinetobacter*) in a household environment. Another NIGMS-funded project in collaboration with University of Kansas Medical Center aims to characterize the gut microbiome in response to irritable bowel syndrome. Research funded by NSF and KDHE for six years enabled study of the ecological distribution of ticks and tick-borne pathogens in Kansas and Oklahoma. One past project enabled environmental restoration by studying microbial diversity in a local acid mine drainage site, and another was a pilot study to determine lead content in garden soil in Pittsburg. Dr. Ghosh has introduced whole genome sequence analysis and bioinformatics in the undergraduate curriculum. She currently has a KINBRE-CURE (Curriculum-Based Undergraduate Research Experience) project that detects foodborne pathogens using metagenomics analysis in poultry. She has also used metagenomics to characterize the gut microbiota of grey bats in this region to enhance the understanding of potential pathogen spread by these bats and their conservation needs.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Amy Hite

Director/Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Nursing, Forensic Nursing, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Professional Identity in Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Residency.

Dr. Amy Hite has extensive education and clinical practice in rural healthcare. This is evident through her history of service, leadership, mentoring, and organizational skills. Amy enjoys serving on regional, national and international boards. Amy has taught in undergraduate and graduate nursing courses at PSU, since 2004. She was appointed by the Governor to the Board of Directors for the Kansas State Board of Nursing. Amy maintains part-time clinical practice, as an Emergency Department Nurse Practitioner. She was appointed to the AACN Essentials, Domain 9 Work Group, which lead to selection as an AACN Essentials Coach. She has served on the Advisory Board for the International Society for Professional Identity in Nursing, serving as chair for the Advanced Practice Work Group, 2021-2023. Amy has been a member KS Attorney General's Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Board. She is married to Stu Hite and they have two children, Grace and Grant (all alumni or current PSU student).

Dr. Hite has successfully secured five federal HRSA Grants: two for rural Nurse Practitioner Residency and three for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Projects.

She serves as the Project Director for these grants. She has done extensive research in compassion fatigue, burnout and retention of sexual assault nurses. She is actively researching Professional Identity in Nurse Practitioners and will complete her second doctoral degree in Summer 2025. Her DNP Scholarly Project was a feasibility study for a DNP program at PSU. The data was used for approval of the first doctoral degree at PSU. Past research includes Sit-Stand desks for undergrad nursing students, nurse practitioner simulation study for Health Information Technology Scholars.

Dr. Hite is a valued member of the CCNE Academic and Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Accreditation team Evaluator. She has worked with MSN and DNP students on their research projects.



More info

Faculty Profile

Patrick Howle

Instructional Professor of Voice and Opera | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Performance, Competitions, Artistic Development, Current Practices, Mentoring



A versatile artist, **Patrick Howle** has made numerous successful appearances in opera, operetta, musical theater and solo recital performances.

He recently completed a successful recital tour of Hugo Wolf's *Italianisches Liederbuch*, as well as appearing as Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Opera Kansas. Other past roles include, The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, The Father in *Hansel and Gretel*, Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers*. Mr. Howle spent several summer seasons with The Ohio Light Opera, where he performed in over 30 productions and premiered the role of Marat in Robert Ward's new operetta, *A Friend of Napoleon*. In January of 2013, Mr. Howle made his Carnegie Hall recital debut, featuring the songs of composer Francis Poulenc (which was accompanied by the release of a recording of Poulenc's vocal works).

Mr. Howle teaches voice and opera at Pittsburg State University

My research interests are deeply rooted in performance, both my own and that of my students. I am committed to continuing my development as a performer on local, regional, and national stages, ensuring that I stay engaged with high-level artistic opportunities that challenge and refine my skills. At the same time, I want my students to have meaningful performance and competition experiences at these same levels, allowing them to grow as artists and gain valuable exposure in the professional world.

A crucial aspect of my research is staying informed about current performance practices within my field. To achieve this, I prioritize attending operas, musicals, recitals, and other live performances that provide insight into emerging trends, vocal techniques, staging, and artistic interpretation. Experiencing these productions firsthand helps me enhance my own artistry while equipping my students with relevant and up-to-date knowledge.

I also believe it is essential for my students to have similar opportunities to witness and analyze professional performances, as this exposure plays a key role in their artistic development.

Ultimately, my research is a continuous cycle of performing, observing, and mentoring, ensuring that both my students and I remain at the forefront of artistic excellence.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Cynthia Huffman

University Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: History of Math, Ethnomathematics, Computational Commutative Algebra, Undergraduate Mathematics Education

Dr. Cynthia Huffman earned B.S.Ed. and M.S. mathematics degrees from Pittsburg State University and a Ph.D. in mathematics from New Mexico State University. She has held the competitive rank of University Professor at Pittsburg State University since 2013. She has received several teaching, research, and service awards, including most recently the Kappa Mu Epsilon (national mathematics honor society) George Mach Distinguished Service Award (2023) and the PSU College of Arts & Sciences Excellence in Research Award (2024). Dr. Huffman has directed over 70 Masters Research Projects, given over 350 presentations, published Open Educational Resource Materials (over 30 + 1 course), and has over 50 publications. Currently, Dr. Huffman is the Secretary/Treasurer of the History of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), the Chief Editor of the MAA Classroom Resource Materials book series, and on the Council of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics.

In the early part of her career, Professor Huffman's research was in the area of computational commutative algebra. In particular, she developed algorithmic proofs of Suslin's Stability Theorem and the Quillen-Suslin Theorem for multivariate polynomial rings over fields. She also collaborated on some joint research work on applications of these results to problems in digital signal processing.

More recently her research interests have shifted to History of Mathematics as well as Ethnomathematics. She is especially interested in the use of history of mathematics to motivate and enhance student learning. Since 2009, she has participated in international study tours, which have been great educational opportunities to learn firsthand about mathematical topics, especially topics from the history of mathematics. Each trip has led to more research and to presentations at international, national, state, and local meetings, as well as to publications.

Dr. Huffman also conducts research in history of mathematics related to original sources and rare books. This research has included several Latin translation projects. She was awarded a research fellowship at the renowned Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri, as well as a Maddock Research Fellowship at Marsh's Library in Dublin, Ireland.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Alessandro Martins

Assistant Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Biomaterials, Blood Compatibility, Tissue Engineering, Water management, Food Packaging

Dr. Alessandro Martins holds a Bachelor's (2008), Master's (2011), and Ph.D. (2013) in Chemistry, concentrating in Materials and Polymer Chemistry, from the State University of Maringá (UEM), in Maringa, Brazil. In 2013, I joined the Federal University of Technology – Paraná (UTFPR) as an Assistant Professor and spent a year as a Visiting Professor at Colorado State University (CSU) from 2017 to 2018. Recently, I joined the Department of Chemistry at Pittsburg State University. I have supervised 20 undergraduate students and three postdoctoral researchers, published 112 peer-reviewed articles, and coauthored four book chapters. Elsevier/Stanford University recognizes me as among the top 2% of global scientists in the polymer chemistry area. My current research emphasizes sustainable polymer synthesis and biomaterials, including superabsorbent hydrogels for water management, composite hydrogels for PFAS remediation, surface coatings to prevent infections and thrombosis in medical applications, and the development of biodegradable plastics.

My research focuses on developing biomaterials to address challenges in healthcare, the food industry, and the environment. I design biomaterials to tackle critical healthcare issues such as thrombosis and implant-related infections. This includes creating biomaterials with functionalized surface chemistry that prevent thrombosis and bacterial biofilm formation while promoting reendothelialization of blood vessels. In orthopedic applications, I modulate the surface chemistry of biomaterials to enhance implant-bone osseointegration—the anchorage of implants to bone through bone deposition on their surfaces—critical for the success of orthopedic implants. Additionally, my work extends to the synthesis of advanced hydrogels aimed at managing water contamination, particularly addressing PFAS pollution in agricultural irrigation and complex water systems. The objective is to develop novel superabsorbent hydrogels and composites capable of effectively removing pollutants like PFAS, contributing to sustainable agricultural and military practices. In the food industry, my work centers on developing biodegradable and sustainable packaging materials with antimicrobial properties to extend food shelf life while reducing microplastic pollution and its environmental impact. I have also developed drug delivery systems and am interested in studying the release profile and kinetic mechanism of solutes from soft matrices, including nanohydrogels and nanocomposites.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID




ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Alicia Mason

Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Inoculation Theory, Crisis Communication, Health Communication, Medical Tourism, Web Accessibility



Dr. Alicia Mason joined the PSU Department of Communication in Fall of 2009. She is a former broadcaster, who worked with local media outlets KOAM and KKOW in SE Kansas, prior to earning a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Mason's work appears in top academic journals including Communication Monographs, Health Education Journal, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, International Journal of Business Communication, Journal of Emergency Management and Disaster Communications, and Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Insights. Mason is an active member of the National and International Communication Association. She serves as an ad hoc member of several regional and state advisory groups addressing education, agriculture, and public health matters. Mason offers advanced coursework in Corporate, Health, Risk & Crisis Communication. She currently serves as a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Communication, as well as the director of the Pittsburg State University Communication Research Lab & Communication Center.

My research interests center on the application of communication theories particularly inoculation theory, media framing, and stakeholder theory. My work explores how strategic messaging and digital communication frameworks enhance public health outcomes, mitigate misinformation, and influence public perceptions during crises.

A significant portion of my work investigates the role of inoculation theory in fostering resistance to persuasive and deceptive messaging, particularly in health and advertising contexts. This line of inquiry considers vested interests, threat appraisal, and stakeholder involvement in response to public health threats, crises, and disasters. Additional research focuses on health promotion and risk prevention messaging in applied health contexts such as domestic and international medical tourism. I am committed to advancing accessibility and inclusivity within social science research design and methodology. As the founder and developer of Project IRIS®, my teams offer training and development programs to K-12 and higher education institutions that promote the inclusivity of vulnerable populations into educational and community-based research efforts. By applying quantitative, qualitative, social network, and content analysis techniques, I aim to bridge the gap between theory and practice and contribute to the development of interdisciplinary evidence-based strategies that are responsive to contemporary health, environment, and corporate contexts.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



Faculty Profile

Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke

Assistant Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Military, Mental Health, Immigrants, Gun Violence

Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke, an Army combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient, has 12 years of military service, including a combat tour. She was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly as one of 29 members of the Kansas Military Council. Additionally, Dr. Meza served as a reviewer for the CSWE Military Social Work Guide, published in November 2024. She joined the faculty of Pittsburg State University's School of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences in 2022. Dr. Meza holds a Ph.D. in social work from Our Lady of the Lake University, where her dissertation focused on military women who experienced sexual trauma during active duty and sought mental health care within the civilian sector.

Prior to joining PSU, she worked for the Veterans Benefits Administration at Fort Snelling, MN, supporting veterans and their families, and she also has extensive experience in child welfare and court interpreting in Kansas.

Dr. Meza's research interests are shaped by her 12 years of military service, her experiences as the daughter of immigrant parents, and the profound impact of losing her brother to gun violence.

Her work focuses on intimate partner violence, military sexual trauma, and developing best-practice mental health interventions for service members transitioning to civilian life. Military sexual trauma is particularly significant to Dr. Meza, who seeks to improve access to effective, compassionate mental health care for veterans impacted by this often-overlooked issue.

Her personal loss drives her commitment to gun violence prevention, and she is dedicated to preparing future social workers to address gun violence in their communities. This involves integrating awareness and preventative strategies into social work education to equip students with practical tools for supporting affected individuals and families.

Dr. Meza is also committed to advancing research on undocumented immigrants and refugees residing in the United States, with a focus on understanding their unique challenges and advocating for policies that promote safety, stability, and opportunities for these often marginalized groups. Her work aims to bridge gaps in mental health, social support, and community resources for vulnerable populations, drawing from both her professional expertise and lived experiences.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Ramiro Miranda Rios

Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Orchestral Conducting, Latin American Music, Paraguayan Music, Music Theory, Violin Pedagogy, Viola Pedagogy, Musician Injury Prevention, Music Composition, Music Arrangement

Dr. Ramiro Miranda Rios teaches upper strings, conducting, and conducts the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra at Pittsburg State University. He is a frequent conductor and string instructor at summer music camps. Additionally, he has conducted honor middle and high school orchestras in Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas, as well as in his native Paraguay. As a violinist, Miranda has given solo and chamber music recitals in the United States, Latin America, Europe, and China. He has shared the stage with internationally acclaimed classical guitarist Berta Rojas, and he is a member of the Jopara Ensemble, performing music from Paraguay. Miranda has attended the prestigious European American Musical Alliance's Nadia Boulanger Institute at the historic Schola Cantorum in Paris, and holds a Bachelor of Music in violin performance at Pittsburg State University, two Master's degrees from Illinois State University, and a Doctoral in Musical Arts in orchestral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

My research and creative interests are wide-ranging and include several areas of expertise: orchestral conducting and teaching, string performance and teaching, music theory, arranging, and composition, commissioning new works, and introducing Latin American music to a wider audience. As a conductor, I investigate different pedagogical approaches to the craft, by attending conferences, masterclasses, workshops, as well as rehearsal and live performances of professional orchestras.

I am also interested in the current trends in orchestral programming and related practices for student, community, and professional orchestras. As a professional string player and teacher, I review numerous materials on pedagogy, on injury prevention, and many other topics such as tone production and skill acquisition. I am also active as an orchestral musician, chamber musician, soloist, and orchestral conductor. I study the pedagogy of music theory, and I compose and arrange music that is heavily influenced by the Paraguayan guarania and polka, the Argentinian chamamé and tango, the Brazilian choro, just to name a few Latin American musical genres. These endeavors are connected to my performing efforts. Lastly, as a performer, I seek out opportunities to perform new music, and this leads to collaborations with living composers, as well as commissions of new works.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Grant D. Moss

Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Proficiency, Guerra Civil Española, Seal of Biliteracy, K-20 Articulation

Dr. Grant D. Moss is a Professor of Spanish at Pittsburg State University. He earned his PhD from The Ohio State University, his Master's degree from the University of Salamanca (Spain), and undergraduate degrees from the University of Utah. His recent completion of his TESOL graduate certificate from Pittsburg State has also allowed him to teach English courses in China and Paraguay.

He is the author of three books: *Speak the Way you Write and Write the Way you Speak: A Guide to Effective Communication*, *A Translation of Miguel Hernández: pasiones, cárceles y muerte de un poeta (Miguel Hernández: Passions, Imprisonments, and Death of a Poet)* by José Luis Ferris, and *Political Poetry in the Wake of the Second Spanish Republic: Rafael Alberti, Pablo Neruda, and Nicolás Guillén*. He has published articles in *Foreign Language Annals*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *The Language Educator*, *C. L. R. James Journal*, *Letras Hispanas*, and *Anales de Literatura Chilena*.

Grant D Moss's work analyzes impacts of political and aesthetic commitment during and after the Second Spanish Republic (1931-1939) on intellectuals, particularly intellectuals of the Americas. Up to this point he has focused on intellectuals from the Spanish-speaking Americas, but a forthcoming project sheds light on well-known authors from all of the Americas. He has translated a biography written by José Luis Ferris about the Spanish poet, Miguel Hernández. Moss published another text about how to create through writing similar to how we create in spoken language if we recognize that our goal is to communicate.

Moss's World Language Professional Life Survey (WLPLS) determined the K-20 World Language (WL) profession's familiarity with both the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages and with the Can-Do Statements. The survey examined WL teachers' level of formal training, WL instructors' core beliefs about their pedagogical objectives, and possible connections between their training and their core beliefs. Also, he has recently examined how the Modern Languages program at Pittsburg State University has expanded its Retro-credit program to award additional college credit to incoming students who have a Seal of Biliteracy (SoBL); he has also explored how Modern Language faculty award the Global SoBL to graduating seniors who reach desired levels of proficiency.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Reena Berger Natenberg

Professor | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Piano, Piano Recital, Piano Pedagogy, Piano Technique, Piano Masterclass, Piano Competition, Piano Repertoire, Piano Performance

Pianist **Dr. Reena Berger Natenberg** made her Carnegie Hall recital debut in January 2013. Additionally, she has performed as soloist and collaborator throughout North America, South America, Asia, and Europe. The most recent concert tours have taken her to Canada, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador and Mexico. A recipient of numerous awards, Reena Natenberg was educated at the McGill Conservatory of Music, Tel-Aviv University, The New England Conservatory of Music and Université de Montréal.

A noted pedagogue, Dr. Natenberg has presented master classes throughout the world. Natenberg's students have been prize winners of numerous competitions and many teach at reputed universities and conservatories in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Natenberg received the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award from Pittsburg State University's College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Natenberg regularly serves as a jury member at regional, national and international piano competitions.

Having started piano lessons at the age of four, I always loved music and knew that I would have a career as a musician and pianist. From a young age, I enjoyed performing and would listen and learn from the recordings of the great pianists. I would research techniques for mentally preparing for my performances and would love to read about how the great classical pianists would approach a musical score and prepare for their performances.

Although I appreciate the piano pieces from all the periods of classical music and am constantly researching repertoire to perform, 95. I feel the most artistically and musically comfortable playing the piano works of Beethoven, Schumann and Rachmaninoff.

I love to attend concerts and masterclasses of other pianists and musicians and have studied all over the world. I have always been fascinated by the different ways to interpret the works of the great masters and knowing about the different schools of piano playing. I have a keen interest in the field of piano pedagogy, I regularly attend conferences where I gravitate to the sessions regarding effective piano repertoire for students and inspiring ways of communicating with students and preparing them for careers in music.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Dilip K. Paul

Professor of Chemistry | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Catalysis, Surfaces, FTIR/MS studies, nanomaterials, XPS



Dr. Dilip K. Paul completed his Ph.D. at Auburn University working on research projects related to catalysis which includes studies of molecules on surfaces focusing on the synthesis and decomposition of chemicals of interest.

This surface chemistry research studies continued during his postdoctoral research at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was also exposed to the routine use of ultra-high vacuum systems for doing FT-IR, GC/MS, and temperature programmed desorption studies using a variety of adsorbates including simulants of chemical warfare. In addition, his studies also involve photochemical reactions where the surface reactions can be initiated by high surface area semiconducting nanomaterials.

As he continues his research work at the University of Saint Mary (as the Chair), and later on at Pittsburg State University, he was able to secure funds from the Department of Education and National Science Foundation, office of Naval Research, to carry out research in the field of surface chemistry.

Fundamental studies of chemical reactions on surfaces including adsorption, desorption, catalytic reactions, temperature programmed desorption on surfaces using FTIR, TPD/MS, and GC/MS. My research also involves studies on electrode surfaces for electrochemical sensor using fundamental electrochemistry and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. These studies provide a great deal of information on the composition of oxide, hydroxide, and oxyhydroxide species on electrode surfaces following electrochemical treatment. Another aspect of these studies study focuses on corrosion treatment of metal surfaces and how corrosion inhibitor interacts with surfaces to prevent further corrosion.

In addition, we heavily studied on research projects involving catalytic and photocatalytic reaction kinetics on various surfaces using FTIR/MS spectroscopy. These studies involve CH activation reactions including hydrogen evolution reactions on N-doped surfaces. Furthermore, our interests involve wide range of chemical/photochemical reactions e.g. hydrogenation, hydration, oxidation and reduction reactions using a host of high surface area metal oxides and nanomaterials. These studies allow us to explore the adsorption/desorption kinetics along with the mechanism of surface reactions.

Understanding of the acid-base properties of different oxide surfaces using ultra-high vacuum FTIR studies in presence of different probe molecules such as ammonia, carbon monoxide, pyridine, and carbon dioxide gas is also of interest.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Jamie M. Phelps

Assistant Instructional Professor of Biology | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Phenotypic plasticity, invertebrate ecology, Lepidoptera, intraspecific variation

Dr. Jamie M. Phelps joined the Pittsburg State University Biology Department in fall 2024. She started the year out at Louisiana State University, finishing her PhD in Biological Sciences in August of 2024 under the guidance of Dr. Morgan Kelly. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she double-majored in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Biology with a minor in Political Science. She is originally from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and has thoroughly enjoyed exploring the diverse natural spaces in each area she's lived. At Pitt State, she is teaching Environmental Life Science and General Biology as well as coordinating the Environmental Life Science labs. She is also teaching a topics course on US science policy. She is excited to bring her passion for biology and science education to Pitt State.

Dr. Phelps is an evolutionary ecologist with a broad range of research interests, particularly in questions addressing the how's and why's of the maintenance and origin of traits in arthropods. Additionally, she is very interested in ethno-ecology – how different human communities interact with their environments and the traditional ecological knowledge passed down in these communities and how these practices interact with biodiversity. Her dissertation research explored drivers of phenotypic variation in marine and terrestrial arthropods including physiological and morphological responses to environmental cues using laboratory trials and natural history collections. She would like to have a research group at Pitt State addressing community and organismal level questions regarding the ecology and evolution of insects, butterflies in particular.

She hopes to mentor undergraduate students and potentially master's students in conducting biological research. Some of her planned research includes investigating patterns of ecological succession and assemblages in urban areas, exploring mimicry in butterflies, testing the thermal melanism hypothesis in king snakes using citizen science, and assessing the impact of reclaimed mine lands on butterfly populations.

She is also excited to be part of the ASTER-LASMP mentorship group to provide research opportunities for students from underrepresented groups in STEM.



ORCID



Google Scholar

Faculty Profile

Dr. Philip W. Rudd

Professor of English and Modern Languages | College of
Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Discourse Analysis, Ecolinguistics,
Language Contact, Sheng, and Youth Languages



Dr. Philip W. Rudd, PhD is Professor of English and Modern Languages at Pittsburg State University, Kansas. He earned a B.S. in Secondary Education and M.A. in English from Southeast Missouri State University. From 1987 to 1991, he volunteered as a Peace Corps teacher in a rural secondary school in Kenya. He worked as a private contract teacher in Saudi Arabia from 1994 to 1998 and taught at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals from 1998 to 2000. In 2000, he began a doctoral program in Applied Linguistics at Ball State University. In 2005, he won a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship, the largest grant provided by the Department of Education for doctoral research overseas, through which he returned to Kenya, collected data and wrote a dissertation on Sheng, Nairobi's urban vernacular. For the academic year 2017-2018, he was a US Fulbright Scholar at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rudd is passionate about language. His work experience has strongly influenced his research interests. Realizing as a young student that his native dialect from the Ozarks, discovering as a Peace Corps volunteer that rural African languages in Kenya, and noting as a university lecturer that regional Arabic dialects along the Persian Gulf all are stigmatized, he learned well the power and obloquy of language ideology, propelling him to seek and win a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, write a dissertation on Nairobi's urban vernacular, and earn his PhD in Applied Linguistics. As with Huddie Ledbetter, he feels those "Bourgeois Blues", and being a micro-brew-loving linguist, he enjoys the odd IPA (pardon the pun). He is a 2017-2018 Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant recipient to Kenya.

His current project investigates how the vocabulary and grammar of Sheng changed over past decades and how speakers employ Sheng to construct identity in Kenya. Additionally, Schneider's (2007) dynamic model of how an underlying process of identity reconstruction occurs in postcolonial dialects around the globe applies to the developmental scenario of Sheng. This model proposes that postcolonial identity is a parameter of negotiation, a social construct in which sociopsychological identity reconfigurations reflect sociolinguistic realities that have linguistic ramifications, such as language variability and dialect birth.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID




ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. James E. Whitney

Associate Professor of Biology | College of Arts & Sciences

Research focus: Pollution, stream fish, freshwater mussels, nonnative species, conservation



Dr. James E. Whitney is an associate professor in the Department of Biology at Pittsburg State University, where he has conducted research since 2016. He has acquired \$613,505 in external funding to address ecological questions pertinent to the conservation of stream fishes and aquatic macroinvertebrates imperiled by pollution, nonnative species, land cover change, and other anthropogenic stressors.

Major arenas of study included rivers in eastern Kansas, the San Juan River in the Four-Corners Region, and the Gila River in southwestern New Mexico.

Prior to Pitt State, he was a postdoctoral research associate in the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Missouri, a PhD student at Kansas State University, and a master's student at K-State during 2008-2010. His interest in aquatic ecology was cultivated at Emporia State University where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 2007.

The overarching goal of Dr. Whitney's research program is to apply ecological and statistical theory to understand processes affecting aquatic ecosystems in an era of global change. He is especially interested in identifying the consequences of anthropogenic stressors facing imperiled organisms in riverine landscapes, including nonnative species, global warming, pollution, and land cover change. Collaboration with government agencies (e.g., Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Land Management) has and will continue to be an important part of this research program, because it helps ensure science is translated to policy.

Specific projects he has coordinated during his time at Pitt State include "Performing Contemporary Redspot Chub Surveys in KS, MO, and OK in Support of Future Propagation and Repatriation Efforts" (\$119,192), "Spatiotemporal Changes in the Imperiled and Diverse Mussel Assemblage of the Spring River in Response to Known and Emerging Pollutants" (\$104,674), "Inventory and Monitoring of Fish Species Population along the Gila River, NM" (\$10,000), "San Juan River Backwater Resource Availability Applied to Endangered Fish Management and Recovery" (\$256,699), and "Comparison of Neosho Madtom Population Density between the Neosho-Cottonwood and Spring Rivers; Does Changing Water Quality and Food Availability Explain Density Differences?" (\$97,739).



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Robin D. Blair

Director of Clinical Psychology/Department Chair |
College of Education

Research focus: Cross-Cultural Trauma, Vicarious Trauma,
Coping

Dr. Robin Blair, PhD, is the Chair of the Psychology and Counseling Department at Pittsburg State University, where she also serves as the Director of the Clinical Psychology master's program. After completing her BS (2003) and MS (2004) in Psychology at PSU, Dr. Blair pursued her MA (2008) in Psychology, MA (2009) in Theology, and PhD (2011) in Clinical Psychology at Fuller in Pasadena, CA.

She has a passion for improving access to quality mental health professionals in the Four States area and trains future helpers for the community. She brings her varied teaching and clinical experience with enthusiasm into the classroom to create an inviting space for students to explore and apply psychological concepts. With a background in trauma research, and an attachment-oriented approach to therapy, Dr. Blair has worked in community mental health, private practice, the non-profit sector, and now within her role at the university, to bring psychology to all.

Since her time as a graduate student, Dr. Blair has been interested in studying the effects of vicarious trauma and coping on individuals serving in supportive roles (teachers, house parents, social workers, mental health counselors, volunteers, etc.) in both domestic and international settings. From teachers in El Salvador to mental health counselors in Cambodia to Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers in the United States, Dr. Blair is committed to supporting those serving vulnerable populations. Specifically, Dr. Blair has explored cross-cultural experiences of trauma and coping, and provided trauma-informed trainings in Haiti, Cambodia, Thailand, and the Philippines. Currently she is partnering with a local CASA chapter to identify ways to aid volunteers who advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Dr. Blair utilizes qualitative analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of her research participants so that she can provide nuanced and practical feedback to organizations about effective strategies to “help the helpers.” Just as airline attendants instruct passengers to first place oxygen masks on themselves before assisting others, helpers need to be cared for so they can effectively care for others. Dr. Blair is passionate about contributing to a culture of care.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. David Boffey

Assistant Professor of Exercise Science | College of Education

Research focus: Sport Performance, Strength and Conditioning, Strength, Power, Speed, Hypertrophy, Weight Loss, Body Composition



Dr. David Boffey is an Assistant Professor in the Exercise Science program and serves as the Director of the Human Performance Laboratory. Dr. Boffey also oversees the Human Performance/Strength and Conditioning emphasis. Dr. Boffey teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in strength & conditioning, kinesiology, biomechanics, fitness and research. He holds a BA from the University of California Santa Cruz, an MA in Kinesiology from Sonoma State University, and a PhD in Exercise Physiology from the University of Central Florida. Prior to his career at Pitt State, Dr. Boffey had a career as a personal trainer, strength coach, and fitness director.

Dr. Boffey has published peer-reviewed publications in journals such as The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research and Military Medicine, and presented at state and national conferences. Dr. Boffey is a certified strength coach and personal trainer through the National Strength and Conditioning Association and the American College of Sports Medicine, respectively.

Dr. Boffey's main research interests are strength, power and speed testing and training, including velocity-based training, for athletes. In particular, he investigates two areas with impactful practical applications: 1) The relationships between sport performance, field tests, and laboratory tests; 2) The effect of different training programs on both testing variables and sport performance. He has conducted and published research on these topics with various men's and women's sports, ROTC cadets, and trained populations.

Dr. Boffey's most recent studies have involved mentoring Graduate and Undergraduate Exercise Science students and collaborating with Pitt State Strength and Conditioning. Under his mentorship, students conducted a study with the Football team, examining the effect of visual kinematic feedback on physical and physiological aspects of training. Students also worked closely with the Softball team to determine whether a bilateral or unilateral lower body eight-week program would lead to greater outcomes in strength, speed, change of direction and body composition. Dr. Boffey's other research interests are methods of training for hypertrophy, weight loss and body composition. In addition, Dr. Boffey has worked with the ROTC population and maintains an active interest in tactical strength and conditioning research.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Paige Boydston

Assistant Professor, Behavior Emphasis Program Director |
College of Education

Research focus: Autism, Behavior Analysis, Training, Early Intervention

Dr. Paige Boydston, an assistant professor in psychology and counseling at Pittsburg State University, is committed to advancing the field of behavior analysis through teaching, research, and mentorship. With a PhD in psychology focused on behavior analysis from Southern Illinois University (and as an alum of PSU), she has dedicated her career to teaching and supervising graduate interns. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she actively engages in research, building towards increasing access to intervention in rural and underserved areas and training students as scientist-practitioners. Boydston has authored publications in behavioral journals and obtained grant funding for various research initiatives. Most recently, she received a grant through K-INBRE which has provided funds for an interdisciplinary student training model and parent support and training for families impacted by autism. Boydston believes in the importance of bridging academia and practical application, as well as integrating educational experiences into community supports and services.

Current research interests fall into three broad categories, including increasing student training opportunities and techniques, enhancing early intervention services for children with autism, and ensuring high-quality internship opportunities for graduate students working towards professional roles in behavior analysis. All research activities are also dual purpose: increasing community supports and resources related and embedding hands-on opportunities for students into their educational activities. My research lab provides an interdisciplinary training model for students interested in human service professions (e.g., behavior analysis, psychology, special education), with the focus on evaluating student and consumer satisfaction. As a long-term outcome, the lab is also evaluating the use of parent training procedures in group and individual settings, as well as face-to-face via telehealth. Current, active student research projects include a variety of evaluations of individual components of intensive behavioral interventions. For example, evaluating mastery criteria on skill maintenance and increasing provider fluency and productivity when delivering interventions services. Furthermore, my research activities also involve evaluating supervision practices in behavior analysis and common preferred supervisor qualities, barriers to supervisory practices, and so forth. The overarching connection across all projects relates to high-quality education, experience, and supervision for undergraduate and graduate students in applied settings.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Mark M. Diacopoulos

Associate Professor/Director of Assessment | College of Education

Research focus: Teacher Education, Education Technology, Social Studies, Self Study, Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Mark Diacopoulos is the Director of Assessment and Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Leadership at Pittsburg State University in Kansas where he teaches curriculum and methods classes while exploring his pedagogy of teacher education through topics such as, social studies preservice education, teacher candidate dispositions, educational technology including mobile and online learning, and the ever-evolving identities of teachers and teacher-educators.

Mark is now in his 30th year as an educator. Mark began his career teaching secondary history and humanities in England, before moving to the United States where he taught middle school social studies and civics, high school US and World History, several years as a technology specialist, and finally as a central office curriculum specialist. His doctorate is in curriculum and instruction. Mark describes himself as an emerging scholar, Dad, Arsenal fan, sometime travel soccer coach, and semi-retired broken Aikidoka. Not always in that order.

My research interests center on the pedagogy of teacher education and the development of supportive frameworks for teacher candidates. I am particularly focused on the supervision and guidance of teacher candidates, exploring how social-emotional learning (SEL) can be seamlessly integrated into curricula to better prepare educators for holistic teaching. Additionally, I investigate the evolving roles of educational technology, especially as it pertains to social studies preservice education and the shaping of teacher candidate dispositions. This leads me to examine the identity development of teacher educators and the self-reflective practices they employ, such as self-study in teacher education practices (S-STEP) and autoethnography, to foster growth and improvement. My methodological approaches emphasize qualitative research, and I leverage autoethnography to deepen insights into the professional journey of educators. I am also interested in how communities of practice and third spaces create valuable opportunities for interaction, reflection, and professional development among educators. These “third spaces” serve as collaborative environments where theory meets practice, enhancing identity formation and knowledge sharing for teacher candidates and educators alike. Through these lenses, I aim to contribute to a more comprehensive and dynamic approach to teacher education that meets the diverse needs of today’s learners and educators.



ORCID



Google Scholar



Faculty Profile

Dr. David P. Hurford

Executive Director | College of Education

Research focus: Dyslexia, Reading Failure, Reading Failure Prevention, Curricula Development, Special Education Law

David P. Hurford, Ph.D. is the executive director of the Center for Reading and is the founder and manager of the Center for the Assessment and Remediation of Reading Difficulties (CARRD, Inc.) a nonprofit dedicated to assisting individuals with dyslexia to become competent readers. He has been publishing on identifying and remediating reading difficulties and related topics since the late 1980s. He has authored reading curricula designed to prevent reading difficulties in kindergarten (*Secret Codes*) and first grade (*Advanced Codes*). The Center for Reading and CARRD, Inc. use his identification and remediation strategies to provide high-quality and accurate assessments and successful interventions for children and adults who have dyslexia and reading difficulties.

He contributed to the writing of the Kansas Blueprint on Literacy (SB 438) which was passed into law last April. He is the co-executive editor of *Perspectives on Language and Literacy* and serves as a reviewer on other peer-reviewed journals.

My initial research involved examining variables that would allow for the differentiation of struggling readers from good readers. This work led to highly accurate identification strategies culminating in the development of the Dyslexia Evaluation Tool (DET). The DET is standardized (2,500 children), has very good psychometric properties, and is used at the Center for Reading as part of our comprehensive evaluation. The evaluation research led to research and development of intervention tools to prevent reading failure (*Secret Codes* curricular series) and remediate deficient skills so that appropriate reading would result.

The goal of my research efforts is to help at-risk children, and struggling readers of all ages to become competent readers. My research interests include dyslexia, reading difficulties, attentional difficulties including ADHD, educational research, statistics, and special education law. To this end, I developed the DET, the Brief Assessment of Reading for Kindergarteners (BARK) to determine risk status for pre-kindergarten/kindergarten, intervention tools (one-on-one, in-person, and online, Intensive Weeklong Interventions), educational materials (*I Have Dyslexia* children's books and *Dyslexia* for teachers, and the *Dyslexia and Reading Difficulties* volumes for educators, parents, and students), and in-service training materials to help teachers, administrators, and support personnel understand issues related to the Science of Reading with particular focus on *Structured Literacy*.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. John Oppliger

Professor | College of Education

Research focus: Special Populations, Physical Activity, Management, Kinesiology

Dr. John Oppliger has earned degrees from various institutions. He obtained his associate degree from Garden City Community College, followed by a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University.

Dr. Oppliger continued his education by earning a master's degree from Pittsburg State University, and culminated in a Doctorate from the University of New Mexico.

John has dedicated a significant portion of his career to Pittsburg State University, where he had served as a faculty member for a decade, contributed as the department chair for twenty years, and took on the responsibilities of interim dean for one year. Before returning to PSU, he enriched his teaching experience at another university as well as several years of teaching and coaching in K-12 education. Outside of his professional life, John is happily married, enjoys the company of his grown children, and finds joy in fishing and traveling to new destinations.

Before transitioning into an administrative role, Dr. Oppliger was deeply engaged in research investigations that significantly contributed to the field of kinesiology. His early published research studies focused on physical activity for individuals with disabilities, shedding light on important aspects of inclusivity and accessibility in fitness. Additionally, he conducted assessments of motor dysfunction in special populations, which helped to develop better intervention strategies and support systems for those in need. Over the past two decades, while he has participated in a few research studies, his scholarly endeavors have largely shifted towards professional presentations. These presentations primarily explore critical issues related to K-12 physical activity, emphasizing the importance of fostering active lifestyles among young students.

Furthermore, John has focused on higher education topics, particularly in the areas of management, policy, and programming within kinesiology. Through his work, he has aimed to influence educational practices and policies that promote health and wellness, ensuring that both students and educators are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed. Dr. Oppliger has dedicated his career to advancing research in his field and has remained committed to improving physical education and activity for all individuals.



More info



Faculty Profile

Goldie Prelogar-Hernandez

Associate Instructional Professor | College of Education

Research focus: Financial Counseling, Personal Finance, Psychology of Financial Planning, LGBTQ, Financial Education

Goldie Prelogar-Hernandez, Ed.S., is a Certified Personal and Family Financial Educator (CPFFE) and Associate Instructional Professor for the Family & Consumer Sciences program in the Department of Teaching and Leadership at Pittsburg State University. She has a BS in Family & Consumer Sciences, a MS in Career & Technical Education and an Ed.S. in Workforce Development & Education. In addition to undergraduate instruction in family financial planning and resource management, she is a member of the Board for the Kansas Association of Family & Consumer Sciences. When not teaching, Goldie conducts teacher training for Financial Literacy educators throughout the state of Kansas. Her research interests include understanding the financial wellbeing and concerns of marginalized populations and queer representation in financial professions. Through her multifaceted contributions, Goldie remains committed to advancing financial education and inclusivity within academic and professional spheres. When not working, Goldie enjoys spending time with her partner and their five children.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID

My research focuses on understanding and/or addressing financial disparities within marginalized groups. I'm especially interested in examining the financial experiences of sexual and gender diverse (SGD) populations. I aim to examine the financial status and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals. Queer folks experience intersecting factors such as discrimination, legal obstacles, and social stigmatization that impact economic stability and mental health. By examining these complexities, I hope to shed light on the systemic factors that lead to financial disparities, including higher levels of debt, income inequality, and barriers to accessing financial resources for queer individuals. I am committed to gaining a deeper understanding of how queer individuals navigate financial spaces and manage financial experiences in a world often structured by heteronormative and CIS normative standards. I'm committed to improving LGBTQ+ inclusivity and competency within financial counseling and therapy fields. Many SGD individuals face unique challenges, such as difficulty accessing affirming financial advice and support, limited pathways to financial literacy, and a lack of tailored financial guidance that reflects their unique life experiences. By conducting research on these issues, I seek to develop best practices and strategies for financial professionals to better serve LGBTQ+ clients, addressing disparities in service quality and ensuring that SGD clients have the tools and support needed for financial empowerment and well-being.



Faculty Profile

Laurent Prétôt, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Experimental Psychology |
College of Education

Research focus: Animal Behavior, Comparative Cognition, Developmental Psychology, Decision Making, Social Dilemmas.

Dr. Laurent Prétôt received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Science in Biology of Parasites and Behavioral Ecology from the University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland. He completed a Ph.D. in Psychology, Cognitive Science emphasis, at the Language Research Center of Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA. His dissertation focused on the cognitive and ecological factors influencing decision-making behaviors across animal taxa, with a focus on fish and primates. He pursued his academic career as a Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Cooperation Lab of Boston College, Chestnut Hill, USA, where he conducted research on children's cooperative decision-making in social dilemmas. He joined the Department of Psychology & Counseling of Pittsburg State University as a Professor of Experimental Psychology in 2020. At PSU, Dr. Prétôt mentors students in research and teaches various undergraduate and graduate courses in psychology. He is a K-INBRE and NSF ASTER-LSAMP mentor.

Dr. Prétôt's research program examines the psychological mechanisms underlying decision-making behavior from both comparative and developmental perspectives. His comparative work explores the influence of species' ecology on their ability to solve cognitive problems.

His findings so far indicate that ecology rather than brain size better equips species to be sensitive to cues when solving natural dilemmas. For his research, Dr. Prétôt partners with Sea Life Kansas City Aquarium and PSU's Nature Reach Program. His developmental work complements his comparative research by investigating the factors influencing children's cooperative behavior in social dilemmas through a game-theory lens. Along with his active role in research and mentorship, Dr. Prétôt is the co-founder and co-lead of two newly established big team science networks: *ManyFishes*, a multi-site collaborative research project dedicated to comparing cognitive and behavioral abilities in fishes, and *ManyManys*, a large-scale collaboration on comparative cognition and behavior across animal taxa. These collaborations rely on open science principles by bringing together teams of international researchers and trainees from diverse backgrounds and expertise across all career levels.

Recently, Dr. Prétôt has started a new research program in animal welfare in which he implements cognitive enrichment techniques to promote fishes' wellbeing in captive settings.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Tristan J. Ragland

Assistant Professor | College of Education

Research focus: Obesity, Resistance Training, Glucose Metabolism



Dr. Tristan Ragland is an Assistant Professor of Exercise Science, in the department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation at Pittsburg State University. He has a Bachelor of Science in Human Performance Management from Weber State University, Master of Science in Sports Nutrition and Exercise Science from Marywood University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Exercise Physiology from Florida State University. Dr. Ragland has also worked at Rutgers University as a postdoctoral fellow researching the interactions of exercise training and type 2 diabetic medications. Dr. Ragland has worked in the exercise field as a personal trainer and fitness manager for approximately six years. Dr. Ragland enjoys interacting with students and sharing his knowledge of exercise and nutrition with likeminded individuals to improve their lives and the lives of the community. His overall goal is to bring greater research experience to students, so they can understand and delineate information to community members assisting in improving overall health.

Dr. Ragland's research has focused on understanding obesity, along with its related comorbidities, (such as insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, vascular dysfunction, etc) and how exercise and nutrition can be used to mitigate these health challenges. This is an important field of study with approximately two-thirds of the population carrying excess body fat which increases the risk of health disparities. Dr. Ragland has investigated the differences in fat breakdown in the fat layer just below the skin, muscle quality (strength as well as intramuscular fat percentage), and circulating hormones in female endurance athletes of different body fatness using microdialysis, ultrasound imaging, blood chemistry analysis, body composition, and fitness testing.

Dr. Ragland's research focuses on improving health outcomes through exercise and nutrition interventions even when weight loss is not achieved. His future research will investigate the ability of exercise to improve metabolic processes and glucose metabolism in individuals with obesity, metabolic syndrome, and type 2 diabetes. He plans to focus on the effect of resistance training in these populations as this is a relatively untapped area in obesity research. He is also interested in investigating the effects of evening compared to morning resistance training on sleeping glucose metabolism in individuals with elevated fasting glucose levels.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Tatiana Sildus

Professor/TESOL/Second Language Acquisition |
College of Education

Research focus: Language & Cognition, Cognitive Factors in Second Language Acquisition, Cooperative Learning, Language Assessment, International & Comparative Education

Dr. Tatiana Sildus is a professor at the Department of Teaching and Leadership at the College of Education, Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. Dr. Sildus earned a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Second Language Acquisition. She is the lead instructor and advisor for the graduate Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program, including the Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction with TESOL emphasis and the graduate TESOL certificate.

With extensive teaching experience at both K-12 and university levels, she is a strong advocate for engagement, critical thinking, and creativity in the classroom. Dr. Sildus believes that strategies effective for English Language Learners ultimately benefit all students. She aims to prepare educators for the global classroom with meaningful learning experiences for every student. Dr. Sildus has participated in several international projects, including Fulbright Specialist appointments in Serbia and Brazil. She is also active in professional organizations.

Dr. Sildus has dedicated her career to advancing TESOL and teacher education, significantly impacting the field through her contributions to various national projects and initiatives. Notably, she has been involved in the ELPA 21 English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century, the Language Proficiency Standards Setting Study, and the Oral Proficiency Evaluation for the Seal of Biliteracy. Her research interests encompass language and cognition regarding memory and second language acquisition, the structural approach to cooperative learning, and interactive teaching methodologies. Additionally, she focuses on second- and foreign language assessment and international and comparative education. Dr. Sildus has also authored two second-grade student textbooks for English Language Learners with Santillana and contributed a chapter to a book designed for educators of ELLs. In addition to her national and international peer-reviewed publications, she has edited two professional refereed volumes, showcasing her expertise. As a frequent presenter at national and international conferences, Dr. Sildus has delivered fifteen presentations across various countries, including those in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Her extensive work underscores her commitment to enhancing language education and supporting English Language Learners globally, showcasing her dedication and desire to grow the field in which she works.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID




ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Donna Zerr

Assistant Professor | College of Education

Research focus: Social-Emotional Learning, Mentorship, Trauma-Informed Teaching, Teacher Transitions, Educational Leadership



Dr. Donna Zerr is an Assistant Professor at Pittsburg State University in the Teaching and Leadership Department. With an extensive background in education, she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses, supervises interns and student teachers, advises students academically, and actively serves on departmental and university committees. Dr. Zerr earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in school counseling from Fort Hays State University, followed by an education specialist degree from Pittsburg State University. She completed her doctorate in educational leadership at Kansas State University. Before transitioning to higher education, Dr. Zerr dedicated over thirty years to K-12 education, serving as a teacher, school counselor, and high school principal. Her wide experience informs her teaching and research, which focuses on mentorship, high school dropouts, social-emotional learning and trauma-informed teaching practices. She seeks to connect theory and practice to foster inclusive, supportive learning environments for educators and students.

My research interests join mentorship, social-emotional learning (SEL), and trauma-informed teaching practices, with a focus on improving educational experiences for diverse populations. Throughout my career, I have investigated critical topics such as high school dropouts, imposter syndrome, and engagement strategies, aiming to bridge gaps in student support and teacher preparedness. Currently, I am interested in exploring how mentorship and SEL can empower both students and educators, fostering resilience and a sense of belonging in learning communities. Trauma-informed teaching has become increasingly vital, and I want to learn more about research that equips educators with the tools to address the complex needs of their students.

Looking ahead, I aim to broaden my scholarship to global contexts, specifically examining teaching practices in China and cross-cultural applications of effective pedagogy.

Additionally, I am interested in supporting adjunct faculty by researching strategies to enhance their professional development and integration into academic institutions. Another key area of focus is the transition from K-12 teaching to higher education, as many educators navigate this shift with limited guidance.

As a fairly new researcher, I hope my work can contribute to insights that promote equity, engagement, and well-being within education systems, both K-12 and higher education.



More info



ORCID



Google Scholar



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Tatiana Goris

Associate Professor | Crossland College of Technology

Research focus: Workforce Development, Adult Learners, Wireless Technology, STEM Education

Dr. Tatiana Goris is an Associate Professor and the graduate academic advisor for the Master of Science in Technology program at the School of Technology and Workforce Learning at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS. She has a strong focus on teaching, with extensive experience in post-secondary education, particularly in technology and workforce development. Dr. Goris is dedicated to fostering the growth of adult learners, guiding them to succeed in high-tech industries. As a Fulbright Scholar, she brings a global perspective to her teaching and is actively involved in professional engineering societies. Dr. Goris earned her PhD in Technology from Purdue University in 2012, specializing in Engineering and Technology Education. She also holds a degree in Electronics Engineering, specializing in semiconductor production, from the Taganrog Institute of Technology, Southern Federal University in Russia (1999). Her teaching approach is shaped by both her practical experience and academic expertise, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for her students.

My research interests revolve around understanding the intersection of technology, education, and mental health in today's rapidly evolving society. I am particularly focused on the impact of wireless technologies on mental health, exploring how the increasing integration of mobile and connected devices may influence wellbeing. Additionally, I am keen on investigating the social impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI), especially in shaping public perception and societal structures. Workforce preparation for high-tech industries is another core focus, as I examine how education systems can better equip individuals with the skills required for success in the rapidly changing job market.

In the realm of education, my work delves into contemporary challenges in U.S. advanced manufacturing, particularly how educational institutions can address the skills gap. I am also interested in the effectiveness of STEM education at post-secondary levels and its role in preparing the next generation of innovators. Theories of cognitive conceptual changes and mental models guide my investigation into how individuals, particularly adult learners, develop new understandings in STEM disciplines, often overcoming misconceptions along the way. Finally, I explore research methodologies in engineering education and broader theories of learning, seeking to improve teaching strategies and outcomes in the evolving landscape of education.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Trevor Maiserouille, Ed.D.

Assistant Instructional Professor | Crossland College of Technology

Research focus: Technology and Engineering Education, Career and Technical Education, Technology Management, Student Organizations, Curriculum Development



Dr. Trevor Maiserouille holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Technology and Engineering Education/Career and Technical Education from Pittsburg State University. He also holds a Doctor of Education in Adult and Lifelong Learning degree from the University of Arkansas. He previously taught as a Career and Technical Education teacher in K-12 schools primarily teaching courses in Woodworking, Construction, Engineering, and Manufacturing. He has taught courses at the collegiate level in Technology Management, Construction, Computer Aided Drafting, Computer Aided Manufacturing, Technology and Society, and Research Methods in Technology. He is the advisor for Epsilon Pi Tau as well as the co-advisor for the Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association (TEECA) for students. He is certified in Lean Six Sigma and Six Sigma. Dr. Maiserouille teaches courses for several programs including the undergraduate Technology and Engineering Education, Industrial Distribution, and Technology Management programs as well as the Master of Science in Technology graduate program.

Dr. Maiserouille's current research interest within Technology and Engineering Education are in recruitment and retention of teachers, program analysis of teacher education programs, and curriculum development. Regarding recruitment and retention his focus has been in reviewing effective strategies as well as innovative programs. His latest research includes using artificial intelligence in teacher education program analysis and teacher job analysis within the United States. Other active research includes 3D printing applications in developing molds for material processing and project development in woodworking. He also examines different teaching strategies for maximum engagement in students. Additionally, Dr. Maiserouille is passionate about student and professional organizations for Technology and Engineering Education for both secondary and post-secondary levels. These organizations include the Technology Student Association (TSA), SkillsUSA, and TECCA. He is interested in the benefits of these programs in developing lifelong learning for students and their retention efforts. His goal is to bridge the gap between academia and industry in helping students understand the importance of these organizations. For professional organizations, Dr. Maiserouille researches the historical aspects of these organizations and the impact they have had on the profession. He looks at what directions these organizations are following and researches new policy involved within these organizations.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Jeanne H. Norton

Professor | Crossland College of Technology

Research focus: Thermoplastics, Bioplastics, Recycling, Sustainability, Circularity

Dr. Jeanne H. Norton earned her Chemistry BA in 1999 from Ripon College. She subsequently earned her MS (2002) and PhD (2007) in Polymer Science & Engineering from The University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Norton took a position as a post-doctoral research associate from 2007 to 2011 in the Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University. In 2011, she began her work at Pittsburg State University as a Research Associate at the Kansas Polymer Research Center. She was also an Instructor in Plastics Engineering Technology (2013). She accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Plastics in the Department of Engineering Technology (2013). She earned tenure (2018), promotion to Associate Professor (2018), and promotion to Professor (2024). Dr. Norton received the PSU College of Technology Excellence in Scholarship Award (2023) and was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Standard & Technology (2022, Award No.: 60NANB22D137).

Single-use plastics have become a significant environmental concern. To reduce the amount of plastic that is landfilled or polluting natural resources, viable solutions to traditional plastics products must be developed. Our research focuses on determining thermoplastic formulations, compounding conditions, and manufacturing conditions that increase the degree to which postconsumer and/or bioplastics can be incorporated into plastic parts with desirable properties.

Research Objectives:

- To determine the feasibility of replacing traditional thermoplastics with sustainable alternatives via commercially-available bioplastics and experimental polymer blends.
- To process sustainable thermoplastics including, biodegradable plastics, bio-based thermoplastics, discarded ocean plastic, waste post-consumer packaging, and experimental sustainable additives.
- To optimize process conditions of sustainable thermoplastics using traditional processing methods including: twin-screw and single-screw extrusion, injection molding, and blown and cast film.
- To identify process parameters most affected by sustainable materials and propose industrially-relevant solutions.
- To evaluate resulting parts from sustainable thermoplastics for material performance compared to parts made from petrochemically-based thermoplastics.

Parts are analyzed for the following: mechanical properties (tensile modulus, flexural modulus, yield strength, tensile elongation, and impact strength); thermal properties (glass transition temperature, crystallization temperature, melting temperature, onset of degradation, and overall thermal stability); and rheological properties (melt flow index).



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Norman Philipp

Professor | Crossland College of Technology

Research focus: STEM Education, Industry-Education Engagement, Hands-on Learning, Technology Education, Global Educational Engagement

Norman Philipp is an educator, licensed practicing engineer in Kansas, and advocate for STEM innovation with over a decade of experience at Pittsburg State University (PSU). A graduate of the University of Nebraska, the University of Kansas, and PSU, Norman combines practical industry experience with a passion for education. He has developed initiatives like the "Adventures in Robotics" workshops, funded by the Kansas Space Grant, to provide hands-on STEM learning opportunities for teachers and students. His efforts focus on creating equitable access to technology education, fostering curiosity, and building future-ready skills. Norman also developed and coordinated the Korean (GNU) Innovation Engineering, Project Management & Design Program and Korean (GNU) Four-Week American Industry Internship & Cooperative Experience. Norman's experience spans teaching non-traditional and at-risk learners, managing curriculum development, and leading interdisciplinary projects. Through service and leadership, he seeks to create lasting impacts in education, preparing students and educators to thrive in a technology-driven world.

My research interests are centered on advancing engineering education through hands-on learning, diversity initiatives, and the development of professional identity in STEM fields, focusing on creating and implementing educational programs that bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world practice. This includes my work with the Kansas NASA Space Grant, specifically the "Adventures in Robotics" programs, which aim to foster diversity, equality, and inclusion in STEM by providing robotics education to underrepresented groups. In addition to designing workshops for both students and teachers, I am deeply committed to promoting the professional identity development of women in architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC). Through the NSF CAREER program, I have collaborated with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to enhance undergraduate education for women in AEC fields, integrating research and education to address barriers to their success. I am passionate about global engagement and have led programs through the National Institute for International Education (NIIED), particularly the Korean (GNU) Innovation Engineering and Project Management programs. These programs provide students with exposure to American industry practices, enriching their academic and professional development. My research aims to provide opportunities and develop innovative educational practices that integrate hands-on experiences, foster inclusivity, and support the professional growth of underrepresented groups in engineering and STEM disciplines.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Alexander D. Binder

Faculty Chair/Associate Professor of Economics |

Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Economics, Catholic, welfare, sports, education, micropolitan, heterodox, monetary

Dr. Alexander Binder received his PhD in Economics and Social Science from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2016 after completing his dissertation on Catholic Social Teaching and U.S. Welfare policy. He grew up in Hays, KS, and received his BA in Economics from Benedictine College (KS) in 2010. He taught for two years at Franklin & Marshall College (PA) before joining the faculty at Pittsburg State in 2016. Dr. Binder was promoted to Associate Professor and became Faculty Chair of the Kelce College of Business in 2022. He has published peer-reviewed articles in the Journal of Sports Economics, Applied Economics Letters, the College Student Journal, and the American Economist among others. Dr. Binder has served on the Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, Institutional Review Board, and in a number of other capacities for the College and University. He and his wife, Ali, have four sons and are proud to be Gorillas.

Dr. Alexander Binder has wide-ranging research interests in the field of economics and related fields. Catholic economics and the relationship between economics and religion was his first interest and remains a primary interest. His interdisciplinary dissertation analyzed the body of thought known as Catholic Social Teaching, the competing perspectives within, and their views on welfare policy with a particular econometric investigation of welfare dependency in the United States. Sports economics is probably his second love. Dr. Binder has published a couple of articles on horse racing and female jockeys and has a working paper on college football TV ratings. Dr. Binder has also published a couple of articles on higher education and remains interested in research that informs high quality teaching practices to better serve his students in the classroom. As a homegrown Kansan, he is also interested in research that benefits Pittsburg, the state of Kansas, and the four states region.

He is currently researching the economic impact of micropolitan areas in the state of Kansas, their relative contributions to economic growth, and the challenges they face relative to metropolitan areas. Finally, Dr. Binder enjoys reading about and researching alternative theories in economics collectively known as heterodox economics, especially with regard to monetary theory and monetary policy.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Phillip Frank

Associate Professor | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Youth Marketing, Prosocial Behavior, International Marketing, Neuromarketing



Dr. Phillip Frank was born in North Carolina and attended Appalachian State University for his undergraduate studies where he majored in Marketing with a minor in accounting. Dr. Frank completed his MBA in International Marketing at High Point University and received a PhD of Consumer Behavior in Apparel and Retail Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While in school, Dr. Frank also worked in industry. He has 5+ years of experience in managing marketing campaigns for multinational brands including Champion, Hanes, Ralph Lauren, and Reynolds America. During his nearly 10 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Frank worked with numerous external partners on research projects, class assignments and curriculum development. Working to connect students with external stakeholders to ensure adequate preparation of students for their professions are hallmarks of Dr. Frank's approach to learning. Dr. Frank currently lives in Pittsburg, Kansas with his wife and daughter

I generally view my research as falling into one of two pipelines. The first is youth marketing. Here, I investigate how attitudes, beliefs and behaviors are developed among young people in various cultural settings. Initially focused on Eastern cultures and the impact of Western media on their youth's experiences, this line of research has expanded to include cultures around the World. This has led to also looking at how we teach these skills and prepare younger people for career pursuits. Pedagogical investigations into different teaching approaches and learning objectives have provided several research articles. I also investigate how prosocial behaviors may be promoted to this younger audience. Some of these include empathy, socially conscious consumption, and political engagement. I utilize various marketing methodologies to investigate these phenomena including quantitative, qualitative and neuromarketing methods. The second area of research is in historical research in marketing. I investigate historical evidence to communicate past applications of marketing and other business practices. I look at how these historical efforts are felt today in the area of brand equity and consumer practices. I also present these historical investigations as a snapshot of their respective time periods and how they provide evidence of societal attitudes and behaviors.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. Paul Grimes

Dean/Professor | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Economic Education, Labor Economics, Public Policy, Sports Economics



Dr. Paul Grimes currently serves as the Dean of the Kelce College of Business at Pittsburg State University, where he earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in economics. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Grimes served 25 years as a faculty member and administrator within the College of Business at Mississippi State University, now serving as Emeritus Professor of Economics. Dr. Grimes has authored over one hundred scholarly research publications and coauthor of the bestselling Economics of Social Issues textbook. In 2005, he received the Henry H. Villard Award presented by the National Council on Economic Education. In 2010, the Southern Economic Association presented him with the Kenneth G. Elzinga Distinguished Teaching Award. He is a past president of the National Association of Economic Educators and served ten years as the Editor-in-Chief of The American Economist, the academic journal published by Omicron Delta Epsilon, the International Honor Society in Economics.

As a microeconomist, I have an eclectic interest in many research topics. These topics fall within four broad sub-fields: economic education, labor economics, public policy, and sports economics. A review of my publication record reveals that many of my research projects cross the boundaries of more than one of these areas and also include issues explored by psychologists and sociologists. For each of my primary search sub-fields, I provide below selected example topics to demonstrate the breadth of the research areas I have explored in the past:

Economic Education:

- Evaluations of student learning in response to pedagogical innovation
- Psychological aspects of student cognition and affective responses
 - Locus of Control
 - Metacognition
 - Stress and self-efficacy
- Program assessments
- Student dishonesty

Labor Economics:

- Financial literacy and labor market outcomes
- Teacher unionization and student learning
- Occupational mobility
- Labor force participation rates

Public Policy

- Public school efficiency and competition
- Educational mandates and student learning
- Impact of rent control laws on homelessness
- Truth-in-sentencing laws and inmate population growth
- Impact of minimum wage laws on youth crime
- Employment effects of federal anti-discrimination laws

Sports Economics

- Female jockeys in thoroughbred racing
 - Racing success rates
 - Gender and betting odds
- Impact of NCAA sanctions on alumni giving and student enrollment
- Enrollment effects of intercollegiate sports success



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Mark L. Johnson

Professor of Human Resource Development | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Employee development, training design, training improvement, supervisor development, improving training impact

Mark L. Johnson, Ed.D., University Professor in Human Resource Development, holds degrees in Business Management and Workforce Development. He has served on 5 national educational boards including President of the Association for Career and Technical Education T&I Division. His awards include PSU Outstanding Faculty, College of Technology Excellence in Teaching, National Career and Technical Educator of the Year, Pittsburg Area Chamber Volunteer of the Year, and the Spirit of Pittsburg Award.

Since 2014, he has taught nearly 4,000 industry trainers across the US and Canada. He has served as Secretary of the Kansas Apprenticeship Council since 2022. He holds a black belt in Innovation Engineering, ATD's Master Trainer Certification, and is a Distinguished Toastmaster. He is the author of two books, "Powerful Presentations that Connect", by Kendall Hunt Publishing and his newest book "Training Design Simplified: Breaking Tradition" which was released by Manuscripts Press in March of 2025.



More info



ORCID

My research interests are in improving the way we prepare America's workforce. I can help companies rethink their training strategies and help them both improve their workforce skills AND help them see a greater ROI on their training investment dollars.

This includes better preparing those that train the workers, as well as helping supervisors change their role from being just a boss, to a coach and mentor so they too can improve employee skills.

My new book, "Training Design Simplified: Breaking Tradition", became available for purchase on AMAZON in March 2025 and is aimed at CEOs, HR and Training Directors, and Training Instructors and addresses these issues.

With my vast experience in Training Design, I can help them establish a training system that can assist companies improve the rate of learning of employees, helping them learn the skills needed to perform work at a much faster rate.

I can help establish improved methods of tracking performance and calculating rate of return on training effectiveness and can also assist in improving employee retention and job performance. I can assist those that present information and training be much more engaging and increase audience understanding.

Faculty Profile

Dr. Keunyoung Kim

Assistant Professor of Finance | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Corporate Finance, Corporate Governance, Board Connections, Corporate Social Responsibility, Family Firms

Dr. Keunyoung Kim is an Assistant Professor of Finance at Kelce College of Business. She earned her Ph.D. in Finance from Texas Tech University in 2021, an M.S. in Finance from Texas A&M University, as well as an M.A. in Economics and a B.S. in Statistics from Ewha Women's University in South Korea.

Dr. Kim has diverse experience in private and public sectors, having worked at Samsung and the Korea Development Institute (KDI). Before joining PSU, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of New Orleans, where she taught doctoral seminars and undergraduate courses. Her research focuses on corporate finance and corporate governance, with publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at international conferences. She also serves as a reviewer for academic journals. She teaches business finance, investments, and financial strategy. Passionate about interdisciplinary learning, she strives to equip students with financial skills that enhance both their critical thinking and decision-making in everyday life

Dr. Kim's research centers on corporate finance, corporate governance, and corporate social responsibility (CSR), with a particular focus on how boards of directors influence firm performance and decision-making. She examines how governance structures shape financial strategies, risk management, and long-term value creation. Additionally, she explores the impact of board composition and corporate reputation on CSR engagement, assessing how these factors contribute to sustainable corporate practices.

Her work further investigates the effectiveness of board structures in driving financial performance, sustainability, and responsible investment. Specifically, she analyzes how board characteristics—such as director busyness, political affiliations, and industry expertise—shape strategic decision-making and ethical leadership. Moreover, she studies governance dynamics within business group-affiliated firms, particularly in CEO selection, succession planning, and the long-term strategic alignment of leadership with corporate objectives.

Committed to an interdisciplinary approach, Dr. Kim collaborates with scholars in accounting, management, and law to incorporate diverse perspectives into corporate governance research. Her current projects, inspired by both past experiences and emerging global trends, integrate theoretical and practical insights. By bridging academic research with real-world applications, she aims to deepen the understanding of how firms can achieve sustainable growth while maintaining financial strength, ethical integrity, and long-term stakeholder value.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Sang-Heui Lee

Professor of Management | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Supply Chain Management, Enterprise Information Systems, Africa

Dr. Sang Heui Lee is a Professor of Management. He teaches courses in Supply Chain Management, Operations Management, and Quality Management. His research interests focus on international logistics, open-source enterprise information systems, and institutional environmental performance. He is the Editor of the Journal of Managerial Issues (JMI) and a Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP). Dr. Lee travels to African countries for research, teaching, and consulting. Sang Lee holds a B.E. from the Incheon National University and an M.A. from the University of Colorado Denver, both in Computer Science, as well as a Ph.D. in Operations Management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before joining academia, he worked as a Software Engineer for IT companies, including MCI WorldCom and Eastman Kodak Company. Dr. Lee is a certified lay speaker of the United Methodist Church, an amateur saxophonist, and a motorcycle rider. He is a husband and father of four.

My research interest resides in the intersection of supply chain management, enterprise information systems, and small- and medium-sized enterprises. This is the abstract of my recent study published in Service Business, the International Journal: The availability of low-cost Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) has made personal characteristics important in understanding technology adoption. This study examines how positive psychological capital (PsyCap) affects adoption of enterprise information system (EIS) using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Data from 329 users was analyzed using structural equation modeling, finding perceived ease of use and usefulness influenced adoption intentions. Users with high PsyCap are more likely to adopt if they perceive the system as useful, while those with low PsyCap are not influenced by perceived ease of use or usefulness. Understanding personal characteristics like PsyCap is important in promoting EIS adoption. This effort may explain one of the critical issues in EIS implementation – despite the lengthy period and large amount of investment, the failure rate is about 70% researchers have found. User's resistance of using new EIS has been identified as a main reason for the high failure rate. Understanding the personal trait regardless of types or levels of EIS as a moderating variable will lead to better employee training and performance with the new EIS.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Dr. Kristen Maceli

Professor | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Marketing, Retail Sales, College Town, Workforce, Employee Training

Dr. Kristen Maceli received a B.S. degree from Kansas University, an M.B.A. from Pittsburg State University, and a Ph.D. from Kansas University. My primary areas of research are marketing, education, the changing workforce, changing management issues, and experiential learning. I began teaching at PSU in 2001 and have been faculty since 2008 in management and marketing. I also teach Strategic Management and Leadership and Behavioral Management in the MBA program.

Articles receiving awards:

- Baack, D.E., Maceli, K. (2014) "An Application of Leadership and Management Concepts to Sales Management."
- Baack, D. E., Maceli, K. M. (2012) "Attaining and Retaining College Students: The Impact of Environmental and Social Factors."
- Maceli, K. M., Fogliasso, C. E., Baack, D. E. (2011). "Differences of Students' Satisfaction with College Professors: The Impact of Student Gender on Satisfaction."
- Maceli, K. (2011). "Changes in the Development Process of Mobile Phone Applications Bring Opportunities for Developers and More Options to Consumers."



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

My primary areas of interest currently are Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) in D2 athletics, changes in the workforce, the impact of different modalities on employee training, and retail sales in college towns.

- We are trying to start a program for student athletes to work with marketing students to create digital content. Student athletes currently are introduced to the app Open Doorz by the Athletic Department. However, they do not receive assistance with creating content and identifying opportunities. The content could benefit the marketing students by giving them tangible samples of their work to show to potential employers. It could help the athletes and marketing students better understand personal branding. After implementation of the program, we would like to write a case analysis of our program.
- We would also like to explore the impact of modality on employee training, as many college graduates are being trained at home for their upcoming positions. We would like to investigate how modality impacts the effectiveness of training, including the differences and challenges of communicating corporate culture virtually.
- We would like to explore what impacts retail sales in college towns. What makes college towns unique? What drives purchases? What types of purchases are most prevalent? How do students impact the retail environment?

Faculty Profile

Melissa A. (Lisa) Paterni

Assistant Instructional Professor/Executive-in-Residence |
Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Motivation, Employee Satisfaction, Strategic Decision Making, Employee Engagement, Stakeholder Engagement



Lisa Paterni has served as the Assistant Instructional Professor/Executive-in-Residence since January 2024, whose teaching responsibilities include Introduction to Business, Business Professionalism, Project Management, Business Strategy, and Strategic Management. Before joining PSU full-time, she served as an adjunct lecturer since 2006.

Lisa is currently chairing the Graduate Curricula and Assurance of Learning Committee and is a member of the Commencement and Outstanding Senior Committees. For almost thirty years Paterni worked at Pitsco Education, LLC. For the last fifteen years (until June 2024), she was the president of the global organization that sells and develops hands-on, STEM education products and services, Paterni directed the strategic vision of the company, developed relationships with key industry partners, and oversaw day-to-day activities to ensure the business was conducted The Pitsco Way. A three-time graduate of Pittsburg State University, Paterni received her BBA with a major in accounting in 1986 and her MBA in 1996. She completed a Master of Science in Teaching in May 2011.

Areas of interest include motivation theories, which include what motivates employees and successful strategies for motivation. Employees have more of a voice today than ever before and high-performing employees are valuable assets. How do organizations balance recruitment and retention with organizational goals? Another area of interest is employee goal setting and ownership of goals, which creates an environment to inspire ownership and accountability for personal, department, and organizational goals. Employee satisfaction is an additional area of interest in developing a culture and environment that inspires employees to perform their best work and partake in corporate social responsibility. Employee engagement and retention strategies are the fourth area of interest. Defining the expectations of the current workforce and developing strategies for curbing the revolving door and loss of knowledge that organizations experience has gained importance for leaders. Strategic decision-making and establishing business strategies regarding how organizations determine the appropriate strategies to implement to achieve long-term goals, and what are the processes and tools used are of interest. The final area of interest is stakeholder engagement. This includes developing a culture of partnerships with the various stakeholders of an organization so that all parties benefit from the relationship. I am open to other areas of research.



More info



ORCID



ResearchGate

Faculty Profile

Dr. David Sikolia

Assistant Professor | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Information Security; ISP Compliance Intention; Psychological Empowerment; Grounded Theory Methodology; Design Science Research



Dr. David Sikolia is an Assistant Professor of Data Science and Information Systems (DSIS) at the Kelce College of Business, Pittsburg State University. He received his PhD in Management Science and Information Systems from Oklahoma State University. His research explores various facets of information assurance and security, with a particular emphasis on employing Grounded Theory Methodology to inform and expand the body of knowledge in his field. Recent research interests include Blockchain technology and its applications. He is also interested in Agentic AI systems and their impact on organizational processes. Dr. Sikolia's work has appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including the *Pacific Asia Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems*, the *Journal of Cybersecurity Education, Research and Practice*, and *AIS Transactions on Replication Research*. Through his research and teaching, he continues to contribute to the advancement of data science, information systems, and cybersecurity.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate

My research interests encompass a variety of interdisciplinary areas, concentrating on information systems and their practical and theoretical applications. My primary research investigates how organizations can mitigate risks related to employee non-compliance with information security policies. Utilizing a grounded theory approach, I developed a theoretical model that explains compliance behaviors across various organizations, including private IT firms, government agencies, and universities. Future work will refine compliance constructs, create predictive tools for evaluating employee behavior, and explore customized interventions for different user groups, such as IT workers, managers, and developers. Recently, I have developed an interest in Agentic AI systems, particularly in assessing their impact on organizational processes through Agent-Based modeling. Agentic AI refers to an artificial intelligence (AI) capable of performing tasks with minimal human intervention. Additionally, I am interested in blockchain technology and its applications, focusing on its potential to transform various industries through decentralized and secure systems. My methodological expertise includes Agent-Based Modeling, design science research, qualitative methods, and quantitative approaches, allowing me to comprehensively address complex research questions. Through these research areas, I aim to bridge theoretical gaps and provide practical solutions, enhancing knowledge in information systems while promoting organizational efficiency, security, and sustainability.

Faculty Profile

Dr. Judy Smetana

Associate Professor | Kelce College of Business

Research focus: Organization Development, Leadership Coaching, Ethics in Coaching, Organization Archetypes, Human Potential, Knowledge Transfer

Dr. Judy Smetana is an Associate Professor and HRD Program Coordinator in the Kelce College of Business. She teaches Leadership, Organization Development and Change, Evidence-Based Leadership Coaching, Behavioral Assessments for HRD Professionals, Research Methods for HRD Professionals, and Human Resource Management. Professionally, she worked in human resources for 20+ years both nationally and internationally. In May 2007, she started her own consulting practice jbscoaching.com, focusing on coaching individuals and consulting with organizations on the human resource function, leadership development and training. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Resources Development focusing on Organizational Performance and Change from Colorado State University, an MBA from Webster University, and a Magister from the University of Vienna/Austria in History and Slavic Studies. She holds a PCC (Professionally Certified Coach) with over 750+ hours of coaching and her SHRM-SCP credentials. She is a certified administrator for the PMAI instrument, a certified facilitator for the Immunity to Change and Dare to Lead processes.

As a scholar-practitioner, Judy Smetana has spent 25+ years experiencing and researching the human resource aspect of organizations. As such, she has seen how organizations and the individuals in them continue to strive to achieve results yet often miss the mark.

Individuals do not use their full potential, and organizations fail to help them do so. For this reason, one of her research focus areas is on coaching, leadership development and how these may be effective in helping to preserve both organizational learning and knowledge transfer.

Additionally, organizational learning is a strong motivator. Understanding how it may be used to challenge and retain the workforce both for today and in the future is another pertinent factor.

Another research interest includes the understanding of organizational culture. The culture of an organization is represented by its narrative along with its actors or archetypes. These archetypes are based on patterned behaviors that tell the story of an organization. Change cannot occur until the story is understood.

A final area includes ethics in coaching. As the coaching profession continues to grow, so does the dialogue of the role ethics should play in both the education of coaches and the execution of coaching.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Jorge A. León

Learning and Outreach Librarian & Professor |
Library Services

Research focus: Library Learning Commons, Information & Digital Literacy, First-Year Programming

Jorge A. León is the Learning Outreach Librarian at the Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University. Originally a Florida native, he received his Bachelor's in Political Science and his MLIS from Florida State University. At FSU, Jorge developed a track record providing instructional services to first-generation students. He also spent time developing user studies that assisted in the developing an Undergraduate Learning Commons. This assisted as he moved to co-managing the science library as it underwent major renovations to develop a science learning commons. Core to Jorge's role at PSU, is teaching information and digital literacy skills. He develops content for first-year students, creates card games to teach misinformation concepts, and provides workshops on AI and emerging technologies. With his outreach role, Jorge focuses on connecting the library and campus life. An emphasize on student-centered programming and student-created content, empowers students to be active partners in changing the library space.

Jorge's research and instruction interests intersect when it comes to identifying best practices and implementing ways to teach information and digital literacy concepts. In 2014, Jorge started researching ways to engage and teach first-year students on topics about misinformation and developing digital critical thinking skills. This led to the creation of a unique current-news card game that gamifies critical thinking skills and source identification. Jorge continuous to update cards regularly and has travelled to state conferences to present on the concepts and game methods used. He continuous to evolve the lectures on misinformation and integrates literacy concepts on emerging technologies. He is currently invested in AI literacy and modifying content to teach digital and AI literacy together. With this approach he is working on educating individuals on responsible use of AI tools and how to be critical consumers. Beyond instruction practices Jorge focuses on connecting the library to the campus and community. He works to develop student-centered programming and showcases student-created content, making students active partners in evolving the library space. Both at FSU and PSU, Jorge has worked on developing Learning Commons, where academic partners and a vibrant space enrich the user's experience while in the space.



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Faculty Profile

Barbara M. Pope

Professor and Reference/Periodicals Librarian |
Library Services

Research focus: Serials, Journals, Open Access, Predatory Open Access Journals, Databases, Accessibility, Academic Libraries, Altmetrics

Barbara M. Pope, M.A.L.S., has been the Reference/Periodicals Librarian and Professor at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS, USA, since 2005. She manages online periodicals, databases, LibGuides, and does periodicals collection development and management. She is the liaison to the School of Nursing, where she consults with students and faculty, and does library instruction and collection development of resources to support the nursing program. She strives to make library services and resources accessible and inclusive for all learners. Professor Pope is conscious of the effect that access to resources has on learning and student success, and she strives to improve that access daily. Previously, she worked at St. Louis College of Pharmacy, St. Louis, MO, Pratt Community College, Pratt, KS, and Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO. Professor Pope attained a B.A. in English at Drury College, Springfield, MO in 1993 and a M.A.L.S. at University of Missouri-Columbia in 1995.

Professor Pope's scholarship is derived from problems or situations she encountered in her work as an academic librarian. She has published articles and presented to faculty and staff at PSU Professional Development Day and at state and national conferences on a variety of topics. Pope's research interests over the years have included open access, journals, rightsizing, collection development, weeding, the Big Deal, accessibility of library resources and services, and supporting tenure and promotion with altmetrics, among others. She has previously presented on publishing in open access journals that use best practices in order to encourage researchers to publish open access and avoid the trap of predatory open access journals. In addition, she has also presented and published about how to enhance research in an academic library by utilizing publisher usage data for journals not currently available in the library's discovery layer and responding to the need for access by creating access to them. Professor Pope is conscious of the effect that improved access to needed resources has on discovery and scholarship of students and faculty. In 2021, she presented a poster in a national, online conference about supporting tenure and promotion with data about scholarship citations, downloads, and journal rankings.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Dr. Mayankkumar Chaudhary

Research Scientist | National Institute for Materials
Advancement

Research focus: Bio-Polymers, NIPU, Sustainability,
Polyurethanes

Dr. Mayankkumar Chaudhary earned his PhD in Material Science from Sankalchand Patel University, India, in 2023, specializing in cracking catalysts, and an MS in Polymer Chemistry from Pittsburg State University, USA. As a research scientist at the National Institutes for Materials Advancements, he focuses on developing sustainable bio-based polymeric materials for adhesives, coatings, and packaging. He has published 12 research papers in high-impact journals, with 8 additional articles under review, and authored 13 book chapters for renowned publishers and 2 self-authored books (28 chapters). Dr. Chaudhary mentored over 70 graduate students during his doctoral studies and supervised 7 polymer chemistry students through their thesis projects, demonstrating his commitment to education and mentorship. His research has been presented at various national and international conferences. With expertise in bio-based polyurethanes and non-isocyanate polyesters, Dr. Chaudhary is dedicated to advancing sustainable materials that minimize environmental impact while addressing global challenges.

Dr. Mayankkumar Chaudhary is dedicated to advancing polymer science, strongly emphasizing sustainability and innovation. His primary research interests are developing bio-based polymeric materials for diverse applications, including adhesives, coatings, foams, and packaging solutions. A significant focus of his work is synthesizing bio-based polyurethanes derived from renewable resources such as vegetable oils and other biomass, aiming to reduce dependence on petrochemical-based materials. Additionally, he explores non-isocyanate-based polyurethanes and polyesters, pioneering safer, eco-friendly alternatives that minimize the use of hazardous petrochemical precursors. Dr. Chaudhary's research extends to designing bio-based wood adhesives, high-performance coatings, and polyurethane foams tailored for various industries. By integrating principles of green chemistry, he emphasizes creating innovative, eco-friendly materials with reduced environmental impact while ensuring superior mechanical and thermal properties. His projects employ advanced techniques like thiol-ene click chemistry and molecular design, enhancing material functionality and versatility. In addition, Dr. Chaudhary is also interested in the field of recycling polyethylene terephthalate to develop sustainable materials. Driven by a mission to promote sustainability in polymer science, Dr. Chaudhary envisions bio-based materials playing a transformative role in reducing the chemical industry's environmental footprint. Through collaborative efforts and groundbreaking research, he aims to contribute to a global shift toward sustainable materials and solutions, fostering a greener, more sustainable future.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Dr. Senthil Chenrayan

Research Scientist | National Institute for Materials
Advancement

Research focus: Li/Na-Metal Battery, Li-S/Na-S Battery, Solid-Polymer/State Battery, Li/Na-ion Battery, Inorganic Materials

Dr. Senthil Chenrayan is a Research Scientist in National Institute for Materials Advancement at Pittsburg State University, United States. He received Ph.D in Chemistry from the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India for his seminal work on the development of functional anode materials for Li-ion batteries. Prior to doctoral program, he did research on the mechanistic understanding of spinel and layered cathode materials for Li-ion batteries in CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute. After Ph.D, he spent 6 years in South Korea at multiple positions, Post-Doc and Group Leader in Kyung Hee University, Senior Researcher and Research Professor in Gyeongsang National University focusing on leading industrial battery problems; Li-ion, Li-metal, Li-S, and dry electrodes. To his credit, he holds 4 patents and have published more than 50 peer-reviewed research articles as lead and corresponding roles in journals Nature Communications, Energy Storage Materials, ACS Nano, Nano Energy, Small, Chemical Engineering Journal, Coordination Chemistry Reviews.

Dr. Chenrayan's research goals are oriented towards the development of sustainable and affordable energy (UN Sustainable Development Goals) with a focus on next-generation high energy density batteries. Broadly, his research interests focus on the synthesis of inorganic and polymeric materials, fundamental understanding on their properties, and storage electrochemistry in the high energy density batteries, which include Li/Na metal, Li-S/Na-S, solid-state lithium, and solid-polymer batteries. Materials of interest are single-atom, quantum materials, carbon, hetero-atom doped carbon, biomass-derived carbon, metal oxides/sulfides, mixed metal oxides/sulfides, dichalcogenides, nitride based compounds, and lithiated transition metal oxides/phosphates. Aligned to fundamental science and understanding on materials electrochemistry, he works on bridging the lab findings to technological innovations through scaling up lab-proven coin-cell battery to prototype pouch battery.

Area of research interests are:

- Li-metal battery: Li protection; Metal-electrolyte (liquid) interface chemistry, artificial(restructured) SEI.
- Li-sulfur battery: Sulfur kinetics & polysulfide shuttle in lean system; Single-atom electrocatalysis.
- Solid-state/-polymer battery: Solid electrolyte-electrode interphase; ion migration and diffusion.
- Li/Na-ion battery: Fast-charging anode materials and surface engineering, degradation, and failure analyses in Li-, Ni-rich & disordered cathodes.

Inorganic & polymer materials syntheses; In situ X-ray and sensitive mode battery study; Ah-level pouch cell.



More info



Google Scholar





Research Profile

Dr. Narsimulu Daulatabad

Research Scientist | National Institute for Materials
Advancement

Research focus: Li/Na/Zn Batteries, All Solid-State Batteries

Dr. Narsimulu Daulatabad is currently working as a Research Scientist at the National Institute of Materials Advancement, Pittsburg State University. He received his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics from Pondicherry University, India, in 2018. After receiving his Ph.D., he worked as a Research Associate Dr, at the Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India. He has developed low-cost anode materials for Lithium/Sodium-Ion Batteries and cathode materials for aqueous Zinc-Ion Batteries during his post-doctoral studies at Kyung Hee University, South Korea from 2018 to 2022. Also, He has developed sulfide solid electrolytes for all-solid-state batteries during his post-doctoral studies at the University of Ulsan, South Korea from April 2023 to July 2024. He has published 54 research articles in high impact international peer-reviewed journals. He has served as a potential reviewer for more than 40 publications including *Chemical Engineering Journal*, *Journal of Power Sources*, *Acta Materialia*, *Applied Surface Science*, etc.

Dr. Narsimulu is mainly focusing on the development of low-cost electrode materials for battery applications including Lithium (Li), Sodium (Na) and Zinc (Zn) -Ion Batteries. He has developed different kinds of nanomaterials including one (1D) dimensional, two (2D) dimensional, and three (3D) anodes for Li and Na-Ion batteries. He has developed binder free materials, carbon/metal oxide-based composites as a anode for the fabrication of high capacity and longlife Li/Na-Ion Batteries. Also, he has developed manganese and vanadium-based cathode materials for ultra-fast charging Zn-Ion batteries, which are mainly useful for electric vehicle applications. The developed Zn-Ion batteries can be able to charge within a few minutes and long last for more than 5000 cycles. Also, he has developed safe and high energy density sulfide solid electrolytes such as Li₃PS₄, Li₇P₃S₁₁ and Li₆PS₅Cl for high energy density and safer all-solidstate Li-Ion Batteries. He has expertise in various synthesis routes including hydrothermal, microwave, electrospinning oil-bath and combustion for the preparation of various kinds of nanomaterials with porous architecture. Also, he has expertise in planetary ball-milling and wet chemical synthesis routes for the preparation of solid electrolytes. Currently, he is focusing on developing the cathode materials for safe, low-cost and high-energy-density Zn-Ion and ZincSulfur batteries.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Dr. Tim Dawsey

Executive Director | National Institute for Materials Advancement

Research focus: Circular Economy; Agricultural Plastics

Dr. Tim Dawsey has dedicated his career to polymer science. With a PhD in polymer chemistry from the University of Southern Mississippi and over 40 years of experience in the plastics industry, his expertise spans research, development, and business applications. Following his industry career, he served as Dean of the College of Technology at Pittsburg State University (PSU) and later transitioned to his current role as PSU's Executive Director for the Advancement of Science and Technology. Tim now leads the National Institute for Materials Advancement (NIMA), built upon the foundation of the Kansas Polymer Research Center and its 25-year legacy of developing bio-based polymers from vegetable oils. NIMA focuses on developing sustainable polymer technologies derived from agricultural resources. By partnering with polymer producers, packaging manufacturers, and leading research institutions, He strives to foster innovation that will address environmental challenges and create new opportunities in agricultural plastics, supporting a circular economy within the farming and ranching sectors.

Tim's research interests are driven by the urgent need for sustainable materials and the economic potential of the Midwest's agricultural resources. His focus is on applied research that utilizes agricultural products, byproducts, and waste to create value-added materials. This research has the potential to address environmental concerns associated with traditional plastics while generating economic growth and jobs in the region. At the National Institute for Materials Advancement (NIMA), he actively promotes the development and commercialization of biobased polymer technologies. These efforts target solutions for current challenges in agricultural plastics and explore new opportunities for sustainable materials to benefit farming and ranching practices. His work builds on NIMA's 25-year history of developing novel bio-based polymers from vegetable oils. By collaborating with polymer producers, packaging manufacturers, and leading polymer research institutions, NIMA fosters innovation and accelerates the transition towards a circular economy in the plastics industry. This collaborative approach ensures that research findings translate into practical solutions that benefit both the environment and the agricultural sector. Ultimately, he envisions a future where the Midwest serves as a hub for sustainable materials manufacturing, driven by the abundance of renewable agricultural resources and a commitment to responsible innovation development.



More info



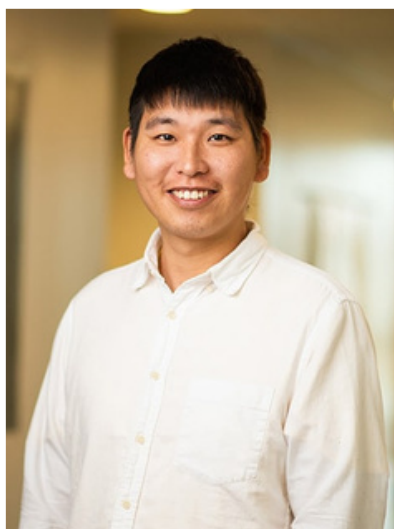
Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Wang Lin

Chemist/Lab Manager | National Institute for Materials Advancement

Research focus: Supercapacitors, Water Electrolysis Catalysts, Fuel Cells, Lithium–Sulfur Batteries, Electrochemistry

Wang Lin joined NIMA in 2022 after earning two Master's degrees in Chemistry and Material Science from Pittsburgh State University. His research centers on clean energy production and storage, particularly in areas such as fuel cells, lithium-sulfur batteries, supercapacitors, and water electrolysis catalysts. With more than thirty academic papers published, Lin has made some contributions to the advancement of energy storage technologies. Beyond his individual research, Lin plays an essential role in supporting colleagues and student researchers at NIMA, fostering a collaborative and innovative atmosphere. He is committed to promoting teamwork and helping others reach their research goals. In addition to his research and mentorship, Lin also manages NIMA's high school internship program during the summer. This program offers young people the chance to gain valuable hands-on experience in research, providing them with insights into scientific practices and encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Wang Lin's research primarily focuses on electrochemistry, with an emphasis on developing efficient methods for converting and storing energy from renewable sources like solar and wind power. One of his key areas of interest is supercapacitors, which offer high charge/discharge efficiency, fast charging capabilities, and long lifespans. Lin aims to develop low-cost electrode materials with high energy storage densities. His work includes investigating carbon materials with high porosity and surface area, as well as transition metal compounds and composites, all of which exhibit good electrochemical performance as supercapacitor electrodes. Another significant area of Lin's research is the development of cost-effective and efficient water electrolysis catalysts for green hydrogen production. He focuses on transition metal compounds, alloys, and their mixtures, which show promising electrochemical properties and can potentially replace the expensive platinum-based catalysts used in current commercial applications.

Lin is also deeply interested in lithium-sulfur batteries due to their high theoretical energy density. His research explores the use of low-cost, bio-derived carbon materials, such as those derived from maple leaves and hemp, to enhance the performance of lithium-sulfur batteries. These materials help overcome the limitations of these batteries, such as poor conductivity and instability, offering a more sustainable and cost-effective approach to energy storage solutions.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Andrew N. Ouellette

Student Research Manager | National Institute for Materials Advancement

Research focus: Supercapacitor, Bio-waste, Thin Film, Composites, Polymer

Andrew Ouellette is a researcher at the National Institute for Materials Advancement, specializing in electroactive materials, bio-based composites, and environmentally sustainable practices. He holds an MA in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of Kansas, where he developed expertise in X-ray crystallography and NMR. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, his research focuses on advancing materials science to meet future energy demands through the development of thin film technologies. With over a decade of experience in higher education, Andrew has mentored numerous students, emphasizing the integration of real-world applications into academic settings. His work also extends to community involvement, serving on the City of Pittsburg's Sustainability Advisory Committee and as a board member of Southeast Kansas Recycling. Passionate about green technology and sustainability, Andrew is committed to making a meaningful impact through innovative research and the advancement of environmentally responsible practices.

Andrew Ouellette's research centers on the development of advanced materials for energy storage, conversion, and sustainability. At the National Institute for Materials Advancement, he studies electroactive materials, including carbon-based composites, polymers, and doped metal oxides, to optimize their electrochemical performance and long-term stability. His work explores the impact of grain boundary engineering, heteroatom doping, and crystallite size on material properties, focusing on applications in supercapacitors, batteries, HER, OER, and renewable energy systems. He is also exploring novel fabrication techniques for thin films and composite materials to improve their durability, efficiency, and scalability. Andrew actively investigates eco-friendly sources, such as Osage orange-derived carbon, for high-rate capacitors and thermoelectric thin films for energy harvesting. His research emphasizes sustainable approaches that reduce environmental impact while enhancing material performance and fostering resource-efficient manufacturing processes. His interdisciplinary approach combines expertise in biochemistry, physics, and polymer science to tackle pressing challenges in energy sustainability. Andrew's work highlights collaboration with diverse teams to foster innovation and translate cutting-edge research into scalable solutions. By integrating green technologies and sustainable practices, he aims to address global energy challenges and contribute to the development of a cleaner, more sustainable future.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Felipe Martins de Souza

Analytical Services Manager | National Institute for Materials Advancement

Research focus: Polymers, Flame-Retardants, Supercapacitors, Batteries, Fuel Cells

Felipe M. de Souza received his Master's degree in Polymer Chemistry from Pittsburg State University. He has experience in different industrial sectors such as quality control, lab management in agriculture, cleaning products, and expertise in polymer chemistry and electroactive materials. He worked as an industrial manager where he oversaw manufacturing, production, process optimization, selling, supply control, and managed a team. Felipe's main fields include the development of polymers with high bio-based content. Some examples are polyurethanes with flame-retardant properties, coatings for protection against oxidation, and adhesives. Another area of research is based on the synthesis of electroactive materials that can be utilized in energy storage devices such as supercapacitors and batteries or energy generation such as water-splitting fuel cells. He is currently engaged in research and development at NIMA by managing internal and external analysis, publishing manuscripts, articles, book chapters, and reviews, along with guiding students.

My research interest is focused on the development of monomers derived from natural sources such as vegetable oils (soybean, corn, and castor oils) and essential oils like carvone and myrcene derived from bay leaf, dill, and spearmint. They can be chemically converted into monomers through several processes such as thiol-ene coupling or epoxidation. Through that, hydroxyl or other moieties can be introduced in their chemical structure allowing their use to make polyurethanes and polyesters. Polyurethanes can be made into foams, coatings, or adhesives.

Polyesters can be obtained as flexible films and coatings. Furthermore, flame-retardant components can be added to make them resistant to fire, promoting a decrease in smoke and fire release. This makes the materials more sustainable and safer. Another research interest is focused on the development of electroactive materials that include graphene, conducting polymers, and transition metal derivatives. They can be synthesized through methods such as hydrothermal, microwave-assisted, and freeze-drying, among other approaches. This can yield different electrochemical properties that can make them suitable for energy storage devices that present either high power density (supercapacitors) or high energy density (batteries). Also, these electroactive materials can find applications for water-splitting fuel cells for the generation of energy.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Glenn Storey

Director for Pre-Award Services | Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Research focus: Tudor England, Shakespeare, Grant Writing, Grant Management

Glenn Storey is a graduate of Pittsburg State University, with undergraduate degrees in history and English and a master's degree in English (literature). He taught composition and research writing at PSU for ten years before moving into his role as director for pre-award services in the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs.

As part of his teaching duties, Glenn had the opportunity to teach for three weeks in Paraguay in 2019. While there, he was able to fish on the Paraguay River, catching dorado and piranha. Glenn is currently pursuing a master's degree in research administration from the University of Central Florida so that he can continue to grow professionally. He is a husband and father to five children, and he has two grandchildren. In his spare time, he takes in as many live sporting events as he can, following his beloved St. Louis Cardinals or Michigan Wolverines.

While his master's degree is in English (literature), Glenn's passion is in history, particularly Tudor Era English history. He has visited England twice with both trips taking Glenn to all parts of the country, especially to places that the Tudors inhabited/visited. From a literary perspective, Glenn is mostly interested in Shakespeare and authors of the late Elizabethan Era.

While not his primary focus, Glenn has been published in *The Midwest Quarterly* for his work on Alexander Pope's mock-epic poem *The Rape of the Lock*. Lately, Glenn has been looking at Sherlock Holmes, a beloved British character with deeply American roots. Another avenue of research interest for Glenn is grant writing and management. He has over five years of experience in writing and submitting grants and is constantly looking for ways to improve his skills in that area. Through webinars, conferences, and workshops, Glenn stays abreast of the latest trends and ways in which to craft grants.

As a student working toward a master's in research administration, Glenn researches ways in which to develop and manage grants. By attending national and regional conferences, he is able to see what works for similarly sized universities and how to enact procedures/policies that will help in growing the research enterprise at PSU.



More info



Google Scholar



ORCID



ResearchGate



Research Profile

Wesley Streeter

Associate Vice President Operations & Outreach |
Research + Economic Development

Research focus: K-12, STEM, Technical Education

Wesley Streeter is the Associate Vice President for Operations and Outreach at Pittsburg State University, overseeing the small business development center, PSU's downtown business district, K-12 education outreach, the Center for Reading, and the Workforce Development Testing Center. He holds a B.S. in Engineering Technology, an M.S. in Technology Education, and a Post-Master's Certification in Administration, all from PSU.

With over 20 years in K-12/higher education, Wes taught technology, woodworking, engineering, and entrepreneurial courses before serving as an elementary Dean of Students and a Jr./Sr. high school principal. His leadership spans education, higher education administration, and industry, helping to secure over \$20 million in grants for workforce development, STEM education, and economic growth in Kansas.

He pioneered student-run manufacturing programs that connect academia with industry, creating career pathways for students. Wes and his wife, Brooklyn, live in Pittsburg with their two daughters, Addilyn and Audrina.

Wesley Streeter's research interests delve into the crucial role that K-12 education plays in cultivating essential problem-solving skills and fostering collaboration among students. He believes that these competencies are vital for preparing young learners for both academic achievements and successful careers in an increasingly complex world. His focus is particularly directed towards hands-on learning models that seamlessly integrate STEM education with entrepreneurship and technical skills, highlighting the importance of real-world problem-solving and effective teamwork in the learning process.

In his research, Wesley examines the impact of various innovative educational programs, including student-run manufacturing initiatives, career and technical education (CTE), and partnerships with industry leaders. These programs are instrumental in developing students' critical thinking abilities and their capacity to work collaboratively in diverse teams. Furthermore, he investigates how strategic leadership within educational institutions can create environments conducive to collaboration among students, educators, and industry professionals. This collaboration is essential for bridging the gap between classroom learning and the skills demanded by the workforce. By advancing innovative, experience-based learning approaches, Wesley's research aims to significantly enhance student engagement, adaptability, and overall readiness for a rapidly evolving economy, ultimately contributing to a more skilled and versatile future workforce.

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROFILES

2025 EDITION

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

213 Russ Hall
research@pittstate.edu



Carnegie Foundation
for the Advancement of Teaching

Pittsburg State University is **one of only 33 universities** in the nation to earn two classifications of excellence by the Carnegie Foundation:

- Opportunity College & University designation
- Research College & University designation