New Faculty, 2022-2023

University of Mississippi. Provost

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From the Chancellor

Welcome as the newest members of the talented and dedicated faculty at the University of Mississippi! I’m grateful you’ve joined us and look forward to seeing how you will help us deliver the level of excellence our students need to build legacies of purpose.

We’re committed to helping you grow as an educator, scholar, researcher, creator, and community member. A supportive, vibrant, and respectful work environment that promotes collective success has been the driving force in building our national profile for academics and research. Together, we can make significant contributions to academia and society.

Please reach out if you would like to discuss an opportunity, or simply to meet in person. We’re excited that you’re here and can’t wait to see how you make your mark. Hotty Toddy!

Sincerely,

Glenn F. Boyce, Chancellor

From the Provost

Welcome to the University of Mississippi. We are glad that you are joining our vibrant community of scholars that is committed to educating and serving the citizens of our state, nation, and world. The work you do here will be incredibly meaningful. Quite simply, it changes lives.

We are dedicated to fostering an atmosphere that unleashes your creativity. The University of Mississippi is a better place when you succeed. We are committed to nurturing a culture that respects the dignity of every person. This is fundamental to our community’s values and is critical to fairness, civility, integrity, academic honesty, and academic freedom. We hope that our commitment to these values will benefit you as much as it does us.

We are glad you are here and look forward to the great things you will accomplish as members of our community as we pursue our mission to educate, discover, create, and serve.

Sincerely,

Noel E. Wilkin, Provost
Dr. Acuna received his PhD from the Ohio State University. He specializes in development and labor economics in Latin America.

Dr. Alam received his PhD from the University of South Florida. He specializes in critical media and cultural studies, postcolonial theory, advertising and consumption studies, critical social media and digital culture, and critical youth studies.

Dr. Valle received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in language documentation and description and computational linguistics.

Dr. Augustine received her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She specializes in the rhetoric of health and medicine (mental health rhetoric), gender and sexuality studies, and nonprofit communication.

Mx. Bagley received their MFA from the University of Alabama. Their specialization is stage management.

Dr. Bonifacio received his DPhil from the University of Oxford. He specializes in theoretical high energy physics and gravity.
RAY BROWN  
Art & Art History  
Instructor of Ceramics and Ceramics Technician

Mr. Brown received his MFA from West Virginia University. He specializes in ceramic art and design.

SIXUE CHEN  
Biology  
Chair and Professor of Biology

Dr. Chen received his PhD from East China Normal University and Shanghai Institute of Plant Physiology, CAS. He specializes in systems biology of plant stress response.

BONITA BUNT  
Music  
Assistant Professor of Music and Opera Director

Dr. Bunt received her DMA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She specializes in vocal performance, opera performance, and stage direction.

YU-TING CHIU  
Modern Languages  
Flagship Instructor of Chinese

Ms. Chiu received her MA from National Taiwan Normal University. She specializes in Chinese pedagogy, metadiscourse, and pragmatics.

JOHN CARDEN  
Theatre & Film  
Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre

Mr. Carden received his MFA from New York University. He specializes in musical theatre voice and musical theatre writing.

KENSHA CLARK  
Chemistry  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Clark received her PhD from the University of California, Irvine. She specializes in inorganic and organometallic chemistry.
ROBERT COLBY
History
Assistant Professor of History (Civil War Era)
Dr. Colby received his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He specializes in 19th-century American history.

KRISTA ESCHBACH
Sociology and Anthropology
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Dr. Eschbach received her PhD from Arizona State University. She specializes in the application of archaeological science and ethnohistorical methods to the study of cross-cultural interaction, social transformations, and ceramic technology in the Southeastern United States and Mesoamerica.

ANDREW DONNELLY
English
Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Southern Studies
Dr. Donnelly received his PhD from Harvard University. He specializes in 19th-century American literature and the history of sexuality.

LAUREN FORTENBERRY
Writing and Rhetoric
Instructor of Writing
Ms. Fortenberry received her MPH and MAEd from Virginia Tech. She specializes in public health research and social media writing.

JULIE R ENSZER
Gender Studies
Instructional Assistant Professor of Gender Studies
Dr. Enszer received her PhD from the University of Maryland. She specializes in 20th-century lesbian print culture and LGBT history.

TIANWEN HAN
Modern Languages
Flagship Instructor of Chinese
Ms. Han received her MA from the East China Normal University. She specializes in teaching Chinese as a foreign language.
JOE JACKSON
Theatre & Film
Instructional Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre Dance

Mr. Jackson received his BFA from the University of Mississippi and his MA from Roosevelt University. He specializes in musical theatre dance and tap and brings over 20 years of professional acting and dance experience to the university.

SOOYEON LEE
Mathematics
Instructional Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Lee received her PhD from the University of Mississippi. She specializes in matroid theory and graph theory.

ANGELA LAGROTTERIA
Gender Studies
Instructional Assistant Professor of Gender Studies

Dr. LaGrotteria received her PhD from Emory University. She specializes in feminist theory and contemporary US literature.

PATRICK LEWIS
Sociology and Anthropology
Croft Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Lewis received his PhD from the University of Chicago. His work draws on linguistic and economic anthropology to study the values driving language activism and education in Turkey, Kurdistan, and beyond.

CHRISTINE LEE
Sociology and Anthropology
Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology

Dr. Lee received her PhD from Arizona State University. She specializes in using bioarchaeological methodologies to study the ethnic and gender identities of the ancient populations found in Central and East Asia.

CHAO LIU
Mathematics
Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Liu received his PhD from Nankai University. He specializes in combinatorial number theory and additive combinatorics.
EMILY MAPLES
Modern Languages
Instructor of Spanish

Ms. Maples received her BA from Millsaps College and her MS from the University of Florida State. She specializes in teaching Spanish as a foreign language.

OBIANUJU NJOKU
Music
Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology

Dr. Njoku received her PhD from Rhodes University, South Africa. Drawing on multi-disciplinary frameworks, her research focuses on music and marginality, cross-cultural perspectives of music, gender politics, and resistance.

BRIDGET MARTIN
Sociology and Anthropology
Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Korean Studies

Dr. Martin received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. She specializes in Korean studies, urban geography, political geography, and critical militarism studies.

JARED PACK
History
Visiting Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Pack received his PhD from the University of Arkansas. He specializes in 20th-century United States history and foreign policy.

HANNAH NAHM
English
Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

Dr. Nahm received her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. She specializes in post-1900 American literatures, particularly African American and Asian American.

RYAN J. PARSONS
Sociology and Anthropology
Assistant Professor of Sociology and Southern Studies

Dr. Parsons received his PhD from Princeton University. He specializes in race, stratification, and community and urban sociology.
Graham Pitts  
*History*  
Croft Assistant Professor of History and International Studies

Dr. Pitts received his PhD from Georgetown University. He specializes in environmental and Middle East history.

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Sean Scanlon  
*History*  
Visiting Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Scanlon received his PhD from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He specializes in 20th-century U.S. history and U.S. foreign relations.

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Kenneth Rich  
*Economics*  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Rich received his PhD from North Carolina State University. He specializes in macroeconomics, monetary economics, and applied time series (macroeconometrics) with a focus on U.S. monetary and fiscal policy evaluation.

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Joshua Schmerge  
*Biology*  
Instructor of Biology

Dr. Schmerge received his PhD from the University of Kansas. He specializes in vertebrate paleontology and teaching human biology.

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Matthew Route  
*Physics and Astronomy*  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics

Dr. Route received his PhD from Pennsylvania State University. He specializes in exoplanet/stellar magnetism, and radio astronomy.

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Amy Schumacher-Rutherford  
*Writing and Rhetoric*  
Instructor of Speech

Ms. Schumacher-Rutherford is finishing her PhD from the University of Kansas. She specializes in political communication, voting behavior, and media effects.
MAURIZIO SCONTRINO
Modern Languages
Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian

Dr. Scontrino received his PhD from the University of Toronto. He specializes in Italian cinema, with a focus on gender theory and the perception and portrayal of masculinity as it relates to Italian film.

DONALD J. SKINNER
Psychology
Instructional Assistant Professor of Gender Studies

Dr. Skinner received his PhD from the University of Mississippi. He specializes in cognitive psychology.

GARRETT SCOTT
Economics
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Scott received his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He specializes in industrial organization, applied microeconomics, and applied econometrics.

SHEILA SUNDAR
English
Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Ms. Sundar received her MFA from Boston University. She specializes in fiction and creative nonfiction, Southern studies, and postcolonial literature.

MARYAM SHAHRTASH
Biology
Instructor of Biology

Dr. Shahrtash received her PhD from the University of Memphis. She specializes in microbial ecology of invasive plants.

VIGNESH SUNDARESAN
Chemistry
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Sundaresan received his PhD from Temple University. He specializes in nano-electrochemistry, optical microscopy and spectroscopy, and nanofabrication.
NORA SYL VANDER  
Sociology and Anthropology  
Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Sylvander received her PhD from the Ohio State University. She specializes in territorial conflicts and the politics of environmental conservation in Latin America.

SUSAN WOOD  
Writing and Rhetoric  
Instructor of Writing

Dr. Wood received her PhD from the University of Mississippi. She specializes in 20th-century American literature and rhetoric and composition.

HENRY THOMPSON  
Economics  
Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Thompson received his PhD from George Mason University. He specializes in law and economics and applied political economy.

LANCE YATES  
Art & Art History  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Printmaking

Mr. Yates received their MFA at Bowling Green State University. They specialize in mixed media art processes, with an emphasis in printmaking.

MICHAEL TUXHORN  
Theatre & Film  
Instructional Assistant Professor of Film Production

Mr. Tuxhorn received their MFA from Loyola Marymount University. They specialize in screenwriting, editing, and narrative film production.

EUN-SIL YOO  
Public Policy Leadership  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Public Policy Leadership

Dr. Yoo received her PhD from the Pennsylvania State University. She specializes in public administration, public/nonprofit management, and collaborative network.
BROOKE GROSS  
**Research & Instruction**  
Research & Instruction Librarian and Assistant Professor  

Mrs. Gross received her MSIS from the University of Tennessee. She specializes in incorporating critical thinking and information literacy into undergraduate student success initiatives.

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ROBERT DURAN  
**Law**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law  

Mr. Duran received his LLM from New York University. He specializes in U.S. federal income tax, with a particular focus on planning for international transactions and investments.

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DANIELLE TOWNSEND  
**Archives and Special Collections**  
Special Collections Librarian (Audio Visual) and Assistant Professor  

Ms. Townsend received her MSLIS from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. She specializes in archiving and preserving, both analog and digital, audio, moving image and photographic materials in the University of Mississippi Libraries Archives and Special Collections holdings.

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TAMMY L. SHAW  
**Law**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice  

Ms. Shaw received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi. She specializes in legal writing and appellate advocacy.

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LARS S. SMITH  
**Law**  
Visiting Professor of Law  

Professor Smith holds the Samuel J. Stallings Chair in Law at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. He received his Juris Doctorate at New England School of Law and his LLM at Franklin Pierce Law Center. Smith teaches in the areas of intellectual property, business, and commercial law.
RONALD COUNTS  
Geology and Geological Engineering  
Associate Professor of Geology and Geological Engineering  

Dr. Counts received his PhD from the University of Cincinnati. He is a licensed professional geologist. His research focuses on understanding how geomorphic process, gradual and abrupt climatic fluctuations, neotectonics, and anthropogenic activities affect paleoenvironmental change and landscape evolution.

JOANNA HARRELSON  
Chemical Engineering  
Assistant Professor of Practice of Chemical Engineering  

Mrs. Harrelson received her BS from the University of Mississippi and her MBA from Louisiana State University. After working nearly a decade at ExxonMobil, she focuses on bringing her industry experience into the classroom.

YI (JASON) HUA  
Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering  
Assistant Professor of Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering  

Dr. Hua received his PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research focuses on using a combination of imaging and modeling tools to study the role of biomechanics in central nervous system disorders, such as glaucoma and traumatic brain injury.

YILI JIANG  
Computer and Information Science  
Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Science  

Dr. Jiang received her PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She specializes in cybersecurity, privacy, and data science.

KASEM KHALIL  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering  

Dr. Khalil received his PhD from the Center of Advanced Computer Studies (CACS), University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His research interests include electronics, very-large-scale integration (VLSI), microelectronics, reconfigurable hardware, self-healing hardware system, machine learning, hardware accelerators, network-on-chip, artificial intelligence, intelligent hardware system, and the Internet of Things.
THAI LE  
*Computer and Information Science*  
Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Science

Dr. Le received his PhD from the Pennsylvania State University. He specializes in data science and machine learning, especially in the area of trustworthy computing for natural language processing.

MIRELA Ovreiu  
*Biomedical Engineering*  
Instructional Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Ovreiu received her PhD from the Cleveland State University. She specializes in digital signal processing of biological signals, with a particular focus on detecting and forecasting cardiovascular events from analysis of electrocardiograms.

DAMIAN STODDARD  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Stoddard received his PhD from the University of Mississippi. He specializes in dynamics experimental mechanics and experimentation. His research focuses on dynamic behavior of materials, crash worthiness, ballistics, and improving armor designs for blast and impact hazard mitigation.

SONGTAO XIE  
*Chemical Engineering*  
Instructional Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering

Dr. Xie received his PhD from Case Western Reserve University. He teaches undergraduate chemical engineering courses using both lecture and active learning methods.

ALINA M. HARGES  
*Teacher Education*  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Teacher Education

Dr. Harges received her PhD from the University of Mississippi. She has 18 years of K-12 teaching experience and specializes in elementary and special education.

RODNEY HURT  
*Teacher Education*  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Special Education

Mr. Hurt has over 20 years of experience working in the field of education, including past experiences teaching, providing behavioral intervention and support, and serving in multiple administrative roles. He is currently working to complete his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.
TY MCNAMEE  
*Higher Education*
Assistant Professor of Higher Education

Dr. McNamee received his EdD from Teachers College, Columbia University. He specializes in the intersectionality of rurality, social class, and higher education.

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ERIKA SCHMIT  
*Leadership and Counselor Education*
Associate Professor of Counselor Education

Dr. Schmit received her doctorate from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She specializes in clinical mental health counseling, inpatient treatment, and adolescent populations.

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BRENT POWELL  
*Leadership and Counselor Education*
Clinical Assistant Professor of Counselor Education

Dr. Powell received his doctorate from the University of Mississippi. He has worked in a variety of clinical settings including community mental health agencies, college counseling centers, and residential treatment centers.

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SHUSHAN VARDANYAN  
*Teacher Education*
Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education

Dr. Vardanyan received her PhD from the University of Alabama - Birmingham. She has taught early childhood students both in the United States and in the United Arab Emirates.

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KENNETH PULLEY  
*Leadership and Counselor Education*
Clinical Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Dr. Pulley received his Doctor of Education degree from Delta State University. He most recently served as Deputy Superintendent for the Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School District where he managed day-to-day operations.
SURESH BANDARI  
Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery  
Research Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery

Dr. Bandari received his PhD from Kakatiya University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He specializes in hot melt extrusion and 3D printing techniques for improved oral and topical drug delivery.

REBECCA HEATH  
Pharmacy Practice  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Heath received her PharmD from Campbell University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford in Murfreesboro, TN, and a PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. She specializes in serving geriatric patients in the ambulatory care setting.

TRESSA MCMORRIS  
Pharmacy Practice  
Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. McMorris received her PharmD from Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Oklahoma State University Medical Center and a PGY2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. She specializes in adult internal medicine.

CAROLANNE WARTMAN  
Pharmacy Practice  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Wartman received her PharmD from Purdue University. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Michigan and a PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at Eskenazi Health/Purdue University. She specializes in psychiatric pharmacy.
WILL ASH
Management
Adjunct Instructor

Mr. Ash leads Cisco’s cybersecurity (“Cisco Secure”) sales team serving U.S. Public Sector customers. This team is focused on helping United States governments and schools power security resilience to protect the integrity of their mission amidst unpredictable change.

ANTHONY CAMBAS
Management
Adjunct Instructor

Mr. Cambas received his Master of International Customs Law and Administration from the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at the University of Canberra, Australia, and a Master of Agriculture in International Agriculture from Oklahoma State University. He specializes in international trade (Customs and Border Management, Trade Facilitation, and export assistance).

JINGSHU LUO
Finance
Assistant Professor of Finance

Dr. Luo received her PhD from Temple University. Her research and teaching interests include corporate risk management, insurance economics, and corporate finance.

CYNTHIA MAUPIN
Management
Assistant Professor of Management

Dr. Maupin received her PhD from the University of Georgia. She specializes in leadership, teams, and network analysis methods.

JOHN MAYO
Management
Adjunct Instructor

Mr. Mayo received his JD from the University of Mississippi. He is a partner at Mayo Mallette, PLLC. His current law practice focuses on real estate, probate, general litigation, business law, and governmental advising.
LEIGH HOLLEY
Accelerated BSN, Oxford
Assistant Dean

Dr. Holley received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Abilene Christian University. Her specialties include nursing leadership and education with a particular focus on advanced simulation techniques and NCLEX preparation.

LATOYA FLINT
Accountancy
Assistant Professor of Accountancy

Dr. Flint received her PhD from the University of Mississippi, MS from the University of Notre Dame, and BS from the University of Alabama. She specializes in auditor judgement and decision-making.

PATTerson SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

BETHANY BRUMLEY
Accountancy
Assistant Professor of Accountancy

Dr. Brumley received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a Certified Public Accountant with practitioner experience in auditing and specializes in archival auditing research.

JOSHUA SIMER
Accountancy
Clinical Assistant Professor of Accountancy

Dr. Simer received his PhD from the University of Mississippi. He specializes in taxation, specifically focusing on taxpayer behavior, tax policy, and tax history.

ASHLEY B. STEWART
Accountancy
Clinical Assistant Professor of Accountancy

Dr. Stewart received her PhD from the University of Mississippi. She is a CPA licensed in Mississippi, and her research is focused on individual income tax compliance.
RUAA AL JUBOORI  
*Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management*  
Assistant Professor of Public Health and Data Analytics Statistician

Dr. Al Juboori received her PhD from Saint Louis University, School of Medicine. Before joining Saint Louis University, she completed a Master of Public Health from Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine. Her passion is to use data and evidence-based science to achieve better health outcomes. More specifically, her research interest is around health disparities, chronic diseases, Rural/Urban disparities, trauma, and mental health, as well as using geospatial techniques to assist decision-making for better health outcomes.

KEITH A. ANDERSON  
*Social Work*  
Professor and Chair

Dr. Anderson received his PhD from the University of Kentucky. He specializes in caregiving for older adults, quality of life in later life, and gerontological social work.

SUSAN P. WEHRING  
*Athletic Training*  
Instructor of Athletic Training

Dr. Wehring received her EdD from the University of Missouri- Columbia. She specializes in curriculum, assessment, accreditation, and administration.

BRENNAN K. BERG  
*Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management*  
Associate Professor and Program Director – Sport and Recreation Administration

Dr. Berg received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He focuses on sport policy for his research.
VANESSA CHARLOT  
Assistant Professor of Creative Media  

Ms. Charlot received her MEd from Concordia University. She specializes in documentary photography, photojournalism, and filmmaking, with a particular focus on the intersectionality of race, politics, culture, and sexual/gender expression.

CHANG-WON CHOI  
Integrated Marketing Communications  
Assistant Professor of Integrated Marketing Communications  

Dr. Choi received his PhD from the University of South Carolina. He specializes in digital advertising strategy and computational research methods.

BITT MOON  
Integrated Marketing Communications  
Visiting Professor of Integrated Marketing Communications  

Dr. Moon received her PhD from Indiana University Bloomington. She specializes in public relations strategy, with a particular focus on information sharing and information withholding in reputation management.
The University of Mississippi is a community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence in intellectual inquiry and personal character in an open and diverse environment. As a voluntary member of this community:

I believe in respect for the dignity of each person.

I believe in fairness and civility.

I believe in personal and professional integrity.

I believe in academic honesty.

I believe in academic freedom.

I believe in good stewardship of our resources.

I pledge to uphold these values and encourage others to follow my example.