

2017 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Achievement Award Winners

University of Alabama



Arunava Gupta is a Distinguished University Research Professor of Chemistry and the Center for Materials for Information Technology (MINT) Professor at the University of Alabama. Dr. Gupta is internationally known for his expertise in investigating thin films and nanostructured materials for use in information technology and energy applications. He has remained at the forefront of research on the synthesis, properties and applications of oxide and chalcogenide thin films and nanostructured materials, an area as rich for continuing research as it is for industrial and commercial application. Dr. Gupta's work implements a multidisciplinary approach that integrates aspects of chemistry, materials science, physics and biology. Since joining the Alabama faculty, he has been awarded more than \$6 million in funding from such key sources as the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Defense. Dr. Gupta has authored more than 400 peer-reviewed scientific articles in highly regarded scientific journals and holds 30 U.S. patents. [Read more about Gupta.](#)

University of Arkansas



Brian R. Gallini is a Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development in the School of Law at the University of Arkansas. Before coming to Arkansas, Gallini served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Robert W. Clifford on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, practiced criminal defense in Washington, D.C., and taught at Temple University, among other endeavors. Gallini's scholarship focuses on law enforcement discretion issues in the context of interrogation methods, consent searches and profiling. His expert commentary has been featured in global media outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. In the classroom, Gallini teaches a variety of doctrinal criminal courses. He has developed seminars and taught criminal courses internationally in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Lodz, Poland. Gallini has received the School of Law award for outstanding teaching and the graduation award for hooding. [Read more about Gallini.](#)

Auburn University



James R. Barth is the Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance at Auburn University. Dr. Barth's research focuses on financial institutions and capital markets, both domestic and global, with special emphasis on regulatory issues. He led an international team in advising the People's Bank of China on banking reform. Dr. Barth has also participated in the U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program of the U.S. Department of State in China, India, Russia and Egypt. He was an appointee of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush as Chief Economist of the Office of Thrift Supervision and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Dr. Barth has also directed 20 Ph.D. dissertations, served as an expert witness in legal cases involving financial firms, working with such law firms as Sidley Austin; Gibson Dunn; Davis Polk and Wardwell; and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and

Sullivan. He also serves on the advisory boards of several technology-oriented firms offering financial and health-related services. [Read more about Dr. Barth.](#)

University of Florida



George Christou is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and holds the inaugural Drago Chair of Chemistry at the University of Florida. Dr. Christou's research is in transition metal chemistry and its applications to bioinorganic chemistry and nanoscale magnetic materials. In nanomagnetism, he was a pioneer of the new phenomenon of single-molecule magnetism, the ability of molecules to function as nanoscale magnets, with applications in quantum computing, spintronic, and other 21st century technologies. With quantum physics collaborators, he has co-discovered several new quantum phenomena in molecular magnetism. Dr. Christou's work has led to more than 570 peer-reviewed publications. Recently, he has worked in a variety of other areas, such as supramolecular chemistry applied to magnetic molecules and molecular routes to single-size nanoscale metal oxides for catalysis and related applications. Dr. Christou founded the annual Florida Inorganic and Materials Symposium student meetings, encompassing 14 Florida universities and colleges. He is also an Honorary Professor at the London Centre for Nanotechnology and University College London. [Read more about Dr. Christou.](#)

University of Georgia



Roberto Docampo is a Distinguished Research Professor of Cellular Biology and the Barbara and Sanford Orkin/Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar at the University of Georgia. During his postdoctoral work, Dr. Docampo discovered the first and only example of a biochemical reaction in which two free radicals combine to form a high-energy compound, a mechanism that was later confirmed by structural studies. His lab found that trypanosomes possess a mitochondrial calcium uniporter of similar characteristics to those of the mammalian uniporter, a finding that was fundamental for the recent discovery of the gene encoding this uniporter in mammals. Dr. Docampo has more than 300 peer-reviewed publications in top scientific journals and he is currently the principal investigator of three R01 and one R21 grants from the National Institutes of Health. He also has Brazilian funding for a second laboratory in Campinas, São Paulo. His graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have received many fellowships and awards, and Dr. Docampo has received several teaching and mentoring awards. [Read more about Dr. Docampo.](#)

University of Kentucky



T. John Balk is the William T. Bryan Professor of Materials Engineering at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Balk's research group works to understand structure-property relationships in the behavior of metals, alloys and electronic materials, primarily systems that allow for the study of size effects related to mechanical properties. His group explores the deformation mechanisms that operate in nanoporous noble metals and nanoporous silicon. Dr. Balk and his students were the first to measure tensile properties of nanoporous gold, using a home-built mechanical testing system that enabled unprecedented precision in mechanical

analysis of this material. Dr. Balk has secured funding from a range of sources, including multiple grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation and American Chemical Society (Petroleum Research Fund). He was honored with a CAREER Award from the NSF in 2008. [Read more about Dr. Balk.](#)

Louisiana State University



Susanne C. Brenner is the Nicholson Professor of Mathematics at Louisiana State University, where she also holds a joint appointment at the LSU Center for Computation and Technology. Dr. Brenner's research is in numerical analysis and scientific computing, especially in the design and analysis of finite element methods and their fast solution methods. She has authored more than 100 research articles and is the co-author of the graduate text, *The Mathematical Theory of Finite Element Methods*, that is widely used around the world and has received more than 6,500 citations in Google Scholar. Dr. Brenner is the managing editor of *Mathematics of Computation*, a premier journal in numerical analysis published by the American Mathematical Society. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and she is currently serving on the NSF Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Mathematical Society and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. [Read more about Dr. Brenner.](#)

University of Mississippi



Dale L. Flesher is a Professor of Accountancy, Associate Dean in the Patterson School of Accountancy, and holds the Roland and Sheryl Burns Endowed Chair in Accountancy at the University of Mississippi. Dr. Flesher has authored more than 400 articles for more than 130 journals, including *The Accounting Review*, *Journal of Accountancy*, *Internal Auditor* and *Accounting Historians Journal*. His publications have made an impact on the nation and world. One of Dr. Flesher's books and many articles have been translated into Chinese by a publisher in the Peoples Republic of China, and he was once number one on Amazon's best-seller list in the United Arab Emirates. In 1996, he served on a task force coordinating the centennial celebration of the CPA examination and served on the American Institute of CPAs' (AICPA) 125th anniversary task force. In 2011, Dr. Flesher was selected by the AICPA as the nation's outstanding accounting educator. He also received the 2011 Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award from Ole Miss, which is a lifetime achievement award. [Read more about Dr. Flesher.](#)

Mississippi State University



Janice Chambers is a Giles Distinguished Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at Mississippi State University. Dr. Chambers' research program places a major emphasis on organophosphate neurotoxicant toxicology and has included an investigation of potential neurochemical effects of organophosphate insecticides on development, as well as the metabolism of these insecticides, to better predict how much more vulnerable infants and children may be to adverse effects of insecticides than adults.

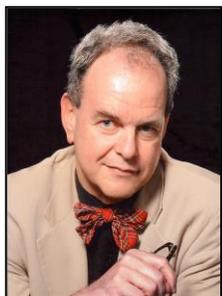
Her research has also assessed the level of insecticide exposure people might experience from using flea collars on their pets. These projects were supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Altogether, Dr. Chambers has been the principal investigator of approximately \$30 million in extramural funding with more than 110 peer-reviewed publications. She has board certification in toxicology from the American Board of Toxicology and the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. [Read more about Dr. Chambers.](#)

University of Missouri



James A. Birchler is the Curators' Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri. Dr. Birchler's research interests include the structure and behavior of chromosomes, centromere epigenetics, heterosis, polyploidy and aneuploidy, using maize as the model organism. His laboratory studies the consequences of dosage sensitive gene regulatory mechanisms in multicellular eukaryotes and their implications for the phenotype and evolutionary processes. Dr. Birchler has served on the editorial boards of *Genetics*, *The Plant Cell*, and *McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology*, among others. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis Academy of Science and the National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Birchler is also an Einstein Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. [Read more about Dr. Birchler.](#)

University of South Carolina



David S. Shields is a Carolina Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Shields' scholarship explores three fields: early American literary culture, American performing arts photography and food studies. He edited the journal *Early American Literature* for a decade, collaborated in writing *A History of the Book in America* and the *Cambridge History of American Literature*, and compiled the now-standard anthology of colonial verse. Dr. Shields also owns one of the premier private collections of stage and cinema still photographs. His book *Still: American Silent Motion Picture Photography* (University of Chicago Press) won the American Popular Culture Association's Ray Browne Award for the best single work on American Popular Culture in 2013. Dr. Shields is currently the Chairman of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation, a nonprofit group whose mission is to preserve and restore the agriculture and cultivars of the American South. [Read more about Dr. Shields.](#)

University of Tennessee



Suzanne Lenhart is a Chancellor's Professor of Mathematics at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Lenhart is an applied mathematician with research publications spanning several areas of biology, including HIV, bioreactors, feral hog dynamics and natural resource management. Her research in infectious disease includes models with animal, human and plant hosts and applications ranging from Johne's disease in dairy cattle to Mosaic disease in cassava plants. Dr. Lenhart has authored more than 180 journal articles and co-authored three books. She is a leader in the field in

cultivating greater participation of underrepresented groups through her work in organizations such as the Association of Women in Science and the Association of Women in Mathematics. She recently started a new student chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) and is leading a group of students in the South East Alliance for Persons with Disabilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. [Read more about Dr. Lenhart.](#)

Texas A&M University



David E. Bergbreiter is a Regents Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M University. Dr. Bergbreiter's current research focuses on exploring new chemistry related to catalysis and polymer chemistry to either effect chemical transformations in greener, more environmentally benign ways, or to more efficiently modify polymers. This often involves creative combinations of the fundamental properties of solvents and polymers. His research has had broad impacts through his 276 publications and the more than 675 presentations he and his students have made at professional meetings, universities or industrial laboratories around the world. Throughout his career, Dr. Bergbreiter has coupled his state-of-the-art research with undergraduate training in his research laboratory, transferring what he has learned to students in teaching laboratories and in the classroom. His awards include the Presidential Professorship for Teaching Excellence Award in 2006 and recognition as a Regent's Professor in 2016. [Read more about Dr. Bergbreiter.](#)

Vanderbilt University



Suzanna Sherry is the Herman O. Loewenstein Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University. Sherry clerked for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and practiced appellate litigation with a boutique firm in Washington D.C. before starting her teaching career. Her scholarship ranges widely in constitutional law and theory, as well as the law of federal courts generally, with a focus on judicial decision making. Sherry's work includes four co-authored books on constitutional theory and judicial decision making, and more than 100 book chapters and journal articles on such topics as judicial activism, federal-court jurisdiction, constitutional history, First Amendment law, federalism and cyberspace law. Her scholarship has been cited by both judges and academics, and her work on judicial activism was the subject of a recent journal symposium. Sherry is the founding editor of *New Voices*, a journal devoted to publishing student work, and she serves on the boards of several other journals in law and political science. [Read more about Sherry.](#)