



SEC Academic Leadership Development Program Liaisons

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University of Alabama - Liaison



Jennifer D. Greer

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Dr. Jennifer D. Greer is Associate Provost for Administration at the University of Alabama. She previously was Interim Dean of the College of Communication and Information Sciences and Chair of the Department of Journalism at UA. She has worked in higher education administration for more than 15 years, serving as a graduate director, department chair, associate dean or interim dean before joining the Office for Academic Affairs. Dr. Greer also has taught journalism and mass communication courses, including news writing, reporting, digital journalism, research methods and media ethics at Alabama, the University of Nevada and the University of Florida. She has won four college-wide teaching awards and a university-wide award for excellence in academic advising. Dr. Greer served as Executive Director of UA's Knight Fellowship in Community Journalism for two years, working in conjunction with *The Anniston (Ala.) Star*.

Dr. Greer researches media credibility, online news delivery, media effects, and sport and gender issues, and she has published numerous journal articles, book chapters and an edited book, *Media Issues*. She serves on the editorial boards of several of the field's leading research journals. Before entering academia, Dr. Greer worked for *The Kansas City Star* as a business reporter and was managing editor of *The Gainesville (Fla.) Sun's* first online edition. She earned Bachelor's degrees in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Missouri, a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Kansas, and a Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Florida. In 2012-13, Dr. Greer was a fellow in the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program.

University of Arkansas - Liaison



Ro Di Brezzo

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

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Dr. Ro Di Brezzo is Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and University Professor of Exercise Science at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Di Brezzo's career at Arkansas started in 1983, when she came on as Assistant Professor of Physical Education. Since then, she has served as Program Chair and Interim Department Head of the Department of Kinesiology, Director of the Human Performance Laboratory, and Co-Director of the Office for Studies on Aging. In 1992, Dr. Di Brezzo co-founded the Teaching and Faculty Support Center. From 2012-2013, she served as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

As a biomechanic, Dr. Di Brezzo's research expertise includes performance variables for women. She has twice been awarded the Research Award from the Southern Academy of Women in Physical Activity, Sport and Health, and has been nationally recognized for her contributions to science by the American College of Sports Medicine and was named a Fellow of the organization in 2012. Dr. Di Brezzo has received many teaching and research awards from the College of Education and Health Professions. These awards include the Outstanding Mentor Award (2011), awarded by the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, the Academic Excellence Award, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (2008), and the Baum Faculty Outstanding Teaching Award (1999).

Auburn University - Liaison



Andrew (Andy) Gillespie

Assistant Provost for International Programs

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Dr. Andrew (Andy) Gillespie is Assistant Provost for International Programs at Auburn University and serves as Director of the International Students and Scholars Services Office, the Office of Study Abroad and the English as a Second Language Office. His additional responsibilities include international alumni development, international student recruiting and admissions, development of international campuses and on-campus curriculum internationalization. Dr. Gillespie is also a Professor of Natural Resources in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Dr. Gillespie came to Auburn in 2010, after 20 years at Purdue University on the faculty in the College of Agriculture and in academic administration, overseeing international programming and strategic planning as associate dean. A Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Gillespie was trained as a soil chemist and plant physiologist and his research is in food and fiber production systems of indigenous peoples and their relation to temperate and tropical production systems in developed countries.

University of Florida - Liaison



Chris J. Hass

Associate Provost for Academic & Faculty Affairs

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Dr. Chris J. Hass was named Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs at the University of Florida in 2018. In this role he serves as a member of the provost's administrative team managing the tenure and promotion process, providing leadership for university-level faculty development efforts, managing faculty personnel issues, including policy and processes, and serving as the Office of the Provost's representative for university governance.

Dr. Hass is currently Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, and he has an extensive record of service on the UF Faculty Senate, where he currently serves as a senator. He is a member of the Faculty Senate Academic Policy Counsel, has served as a member and Chair of the Faculty Senate Welfare Council, and was a member of the SCORS Committee.

Dr. Hass is a graduate of the University of Florida, and before returning to UF in 2006 he held academic positions at Columbia University and Georgia Institute of Technology. He has taught courses in biomechanics, neuroscience, research methods and motor control while his research focuses on understanding the complex interplay between the nervous system and the musculoskeletal system during whole body movements such as walking and standing balance. He has held leadership positions in the American Society of Biomechanics and the American College of Sports Medicine.

University of Georgia - Liaison



Margaret (Meg) A. Amstutz

Associate Provost for Academic Programs

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Dr. Margaret (Meg) A. Amstutz is Associate Provost for Academic Programs at the University of Georgia, and from July 2017 to July 2018 she served as Interim President of the College of Coastal Georgia, a state college within the University System of Georgia with more than 3600 students and a mission is to provide an affordable and accessible education for students from the Golden Isles region and beyond.

Dr. Amstutz's career in the university system began in 1997 in the Office of the President of the University of Georgia, where she served for 16 years — 10 as Assistant to the President and six as Chief of Staff. As Chief of Staff she oversaw the Office of the President as well as the Office of Legal Affairs, the Office of Internal Auditing and the Equal Opportunity Office. After her service to the president, Dr. Amstutz was named Associate Provost for Academic Programs, providing oversight for a variety of academic programs and initiatives, including Commencement.

She holds an academic appointment at Georgia as adjunct Assistant Professor of English. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Centre College and earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in English and American Literature, respectively, from Washington University in St. Louis. While in St. Louis, Dr. Amstutz worked with the Missouri Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

University of Kentucky - Liaison



G.T. Lineberry

Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement

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Dr. G.T. Lineberry is Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement and Professor of Mining Engineering at the University of Kentucky. As Associate Provost he is responsible for all matters relating to the full span of the career of UK faculty members. He has been on the mining engineering faculty at Kentucky for more than 30 years after earning and a Ph.D. in Mining Engineering from West Virginia University in 1982.

In his career Dr. Lineberry has worked internships, a summer appointment, and a sabbatical with Consol, the Army Research Institute, and the former U.S. Bureau of Mines, respectively. His research interests are in engineering education, mine excavating and bulk materials handling, and occupational health and safety. He has authored or co-authored approximately 70 journal articles, conference papers, books, book chapters, and government documents and has given more than 140 conference presentations, seminars and invited lectures.

Dr. Lineberry is a recipient of the Stefanko Best Paper Award (Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) Coal Division), the Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America (PCMIA) Educational Excellence Award, a Life Member of SME, was instrumental in establishing the cooperative engineering programs in Paducah and the joint engineering programs in Bowling Green, and he is a three-time winner of the UK Departmental Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Teacher award, most recently in 2013. He is the founder of Mu Nu Gamma, an honorary society for mining engineering students.

Louisiana State University - Liaison



Jane Cassidy

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

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Dr. Jane Cassidy is Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Louisiana State University and holds the Roy and Margaret Gianelloni Alumni Professorship in Music. Dr. Cassidy's responsibilities include serving as chief deputy for the Executive Vice President and Provost, and advising the Provost on matters such as general campus administration, promotion and tenure, faculty development, academic space utilization, academic policy, Board of Supervisors/Board of Regents relations and budgetary issues. She also oversees the LSU Rural Life Museum, LSU Museum of Art, LSU Press and *The Southern Review*. Previously, Dr. Cassidy served as the Director of the School of Music and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. Her field of expertise is music education, having taught courses in elementary music education, music in special education, psychology of music, measurement and evaluation, and supervision of student teachers.

Dr. Cassidy's research interests center around musical development of infants and children, music education for children with special needs and teacher effectiveness. Most notably, her research with critically premature infants elicited cross discipline interest from the music therapy and medical communities for its impact on establishing protocol for presentation of music in the NICU. She has published extensively in music education and music therapy journals, has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Research in Music Education* and the *Journal of Music Therapy*, and served as Chair of the Music Education Research Council of the National Association for Music Education. In 1999, she was awarded a Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching, research and service at LSU; and in spring of 2005, she held an endowed professorship at the University of Alabama.

University of Mississippi - Liaison



Donna Strum

Associate Provost

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Dr. Donna Strum graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy in 1995 and earned her Ph.D. in Pharmacy Administration there in 1999. After spending nine years in the Division of Pharmaceutical Evaluation and Policy at the University of Arkansas College of Pharmacy, she returned to the University of Mississippi in 2008 to serve as Chair and Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Administration. In 2017, she was named Associate Provost where she assists with a wide array of administrative matters related to the academic budget, classroom space, student retention and human resources.

In 2016, Dr. Strum received the Faculty Instructional Innovation Award from the School of Pharmacy after having taught pharmacy management, medication safety and quality, research methods and social behavioral theory. Overall, her research interests lie in the practice of community pharmacy and improving the quality of medication use. She has published more than 100 book chapters and articles and is a Fellow in the American Pharmacists Association. She was an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2014-15 cohort.

Mississippi State University - Liaison



Peter L. Ryan

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

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Dr. Peter L. Ryan has served as the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs at Mississippi State University since May 2011. His responsibilities include management of international academic agreements and study abroad policies, coordination of the self-study review process for academic departments and supervision of new faculty development. Dr. Ryan received his Ph.D. from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada.

Dr. Ryan is a Professor in the Departments of Animal and Dairy Sciences and Pathology and Population Medicine. He has served as Coordinator of the Animal Physiology Graduate Program since 2000. His research is in the area of reproductive physiology with a major focus on uterine pathogenesis and pre-term delivery using domestic animals as models for the human condition. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, and other public and private sources.

Dr. Ryan is Co-Director of the Facilities for Organismal and Cellular Imaging that utilizes bioluminescent, fluorescent, ultrasound and digital thermal imaging technologies to investigate physiological events in living systems. In August 2009, he joined the Office of the Provost as the Associate Vice President Intern for Academic Affairs and was appointed Interim Associate Provost in April 2010.

University of Missouri - Liaison



Matthew Martens

Associate Provost

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Dr. Matthew Martens is the Associate Provost for Academic Programs at the University of Missouri (MU). In this role, his responsibilities include overseeing the academic program review process, coordinating new degree proposals, and serving as the university's accreditation liaison officer. Prior administrative appointments include serving as an Associate Division Director and Division Director within the Missouri College of Education. In his Division Director position, Dr. Martens oversaw three academic departments and two engagement units, which encompassed approximately 1000 students, 100 staff, 60 faculty, and an annual budget of approximately \$9.5 million.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Boston College in 1995, a master of arts degree from the University of North Carolina in 1997, and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 2002. His primary research interest is in the area of health psychology, particularly addictive behaviors. He has been either a principal or co-investigator on multiple federally and foundation-funded studies examining the efficacy of brief motivational interventions at reducing at-risk alcohol use and harmful gambling behaviors. He has more than 125 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters to his credit. Dr. Martens was an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2014-15 cohort.

University of South Carolina - Liaison



Cheryl Addy

Vice Provost

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Dr. Cheryl Addy is Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of South Carolina. Her responsibilities include oversight of faculty affairs and direction of faculty leadership development opportunities and grant programs. Prior to this appointment, she chaired and served on numerous university committees and councils, including the Graduate Council, Space Reservation Policy Task Force, Carolina Core (general education) Committee, Academic Program Liaisons Committee and Interprofessional Education for the Health Sciences Steering Committee.

Dr. Addy is a Professor of Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health and served in various administrative positions, including graduate program director and chair at the department level, and most recently, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the school level. She has more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Journal of the American Public Health Association* and *Epidemiology*. Dr. Addy's more recent activities include several randomized trials to evaluate interventions to increase physical activity behaviors and to improve nutrition behaviors in diverse populations ranging from preschool children to older adults. She is also active with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and is a trained accreditation site visit Chair for the Council on Education for Public Health.

University of Tennessee - Liaison



Matthew T. Theriot

Associate Provost

Faculty Development & Strategic Initiatives

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Dr. Matthew T. Theriot is Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Strategic Initiatives at the University of Tennessee, having also served as Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning Innovation. As Associate Provost, he facilitates processes related to the recruitment, retention, evaluation, promotion and professional development of all faculty, both tenure-track and non-tenure-track.

Dr. Theriot earned his Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Science in Social Work at the University of Texas and his Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. As a Professor of Social Work, his research focuses primarily on school violence and school security with secondary interests in social work education and mental health. Prior to his career in higher education, Dr. Theriot worked as a school social worker, child welfare worker and mobile crisis counselor.

Since arriving at Tennessee in 2003, Dr. Theriot has served as director of the College of Social Work's undergraduate program from 2006 to 2013 and then served for three years as director of the college's Ph.D. program. He has chaired the university's Undergraduate Council and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and led the development of the campus' Quality Enhancement Plan, *Experience Learning*. Dr. Theriot also served on the board of directors for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for schools of social work. He currently serves on CSWE's Commission on Educational Policy and was an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2010-11 cohort.

Texas A&M University - Liaison



Blanca Lupiani

Associate Provost & Dean of Faculties

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Dr. Blanca Lupiani is Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties at Texas A&M University, having been named to the position in March 2019 after serving as Executive Associate Dean of Faculties since 2016. She earned her Ph.D. in 1994, as a Fulbright Scholar, from the University of Maryland, College Park, and subsequently did post-docs at the Agriculture Research Service in Beltsville, MD, and East Lansing, MI and at Michigan State University. Dr. Lupiani joined Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor in 2002 and is currently a full Professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology.

Dr. Lupiani's research focuses on investigating molecular mechanisms of virus pathogenesis and better understanding the ecology and evolution of avian influenza viruses. Her research has resulted in more than 70 peer reviewed publications and has been funded by grants from federal and state agencies, as well as private foundations. Dr. Lupiani's research has led to the development of vaccines to control leukemia in chickens for which two U.S. patents have been granted. She serves on the editorial board of the journal *Avian Diseases*, has been on the guest editorial board of a number of special issues, and has served as a reviewer for numerous national and international scientific journals and funding agencies. Dr. Lupiani was an SEC ALDP fellow in the 2012-13 cohort.

Vanderbilt University - Liaison



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Dr. John M. Sloop is Associate Provost for Education Development and Technologies and Professor of Communication at Vanderbilt University, having previously served as Associate Provost for Digital Learning. Dr. Sloop earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Appalachian State University, Master of Arts degree from the University of Georgia and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He has served as Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Science, as well as Chair of the Department of Communication Studies. Dr. Sloop came to Vanderbilt in 1995 after three years at Drake University.

Dr. Sloop teaches courses in media theory and criticism, rhetorical/cultural criticism and theory, and gender studies. He has published numerous research articles and book chapters, three books, two edited volumes and has served as editor of the journal *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*. Dr. Sloop also serves on the Board of the Belcourt Theatre, a local nonprofit film center in Nashville.