FACULTY
RESEARCH
DAY
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

March 31, 2016
Bryant Conference Center
The University of Alabama
The University of Alabama  
Faculty Research Day  
President’s Faculty Research Award Ceremony

**Opening Remarks** ................................................................. 4:00 PM

Dr. Carl Pinkert  
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

**Welcome**

Dr. Stuart Bell  
President

**Keynote Address**

Dr. David Francko  
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at The University of Alabama

**President’s Faculty Research Award Presentations**

Dr. Graham McDougall  
Chair, Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

**Concluding Remarks**

Dr. Carl Pinkert  
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

**Reception** ................................................................. 5:30 PM
Dr. David A. Francko is a Professor of Biological Sciences, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at The University of Alabama (UA). Prior to this, Dr. Francko held faculty and administrative positions at Miami University (Ohio) and Oklahoma State University.

A respected figure at UA, Dr. Francko has overseen transformational growth in graduate enrollment and programming in his role as Graduate School Dean.

Dr. Francko has also maintained an impressive research agenda. Trained as a botanical limnologist, Dr. Francko has published over 60 papers and articles on aquatic botany, wetland plant biology, and experimental horticulture, and is the PI or Co-PI on over $4 million in extramural grant funding.

His work challenges the conventional wisdom about where plants will grow and thrive. As he says “plants don’t read the Plant Hardiness Zone information on their nursery tags” but instead will grow wherever their needs are being met. His research led to the commercial release of FreezePrufTM, a spray to enhance cold tolerance. His book Palms Won’t Grow Here and Other Myths: Warm-Climate Plants for Cooler Areas was praised in the N.Y. Times and other leading media. He has appeared on Martha Stewart Living, The Victory Garden, NPR Science Friday, and numerous other national television and radio gardening programs. His work also has been featured in the journals Fine Gardening, Palms, Southeastern Palms, and Midwest Living.

Dr. Francko was born in Cleveland, OH. He received his B.S. (1974) and M.S. (1977) in Biology from Kent State University, and then attended Michigan State University where he earned his Ph.D. in Botany (1980). He also completed a postdoctoral position at the Kellogg Biological Station in Michigan. He will retire from UA in summer 2016 and relocate back to southwest Ohio to be near family. He will continue to be active as Dean Emeritus, working on student recruiting and alumni relations for The University of Alabama in the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky region while also continuing his botanical projects.
Karen Burgess, MD, (University of Alabama School of Medicine) is a clinical associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences. She is a pediatrician and has more than 10 years of experience. Dr. Burgess is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the American Association of Physician Leadership, the Academic Pediatric Association, and the American Telemedicine Association.

Burgess graduated from The University of Alabama with a BS in chemistry and earned her MD degree at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. She completed residency training at University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Children's Hospital of Alabama. She is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Burgess obtained certification as a clinical trial investigator and served as a principal investigator on numerous industry sponsored, pediatric clinical trials. She served as vice-chair of the University's Medical IRB for several years. Her research interests focus on improving healthcare delivery and quality for children, incorporating a variety of topics such as access to care, obesity, and teen driving behaviors. Her specific research interests are in pediatric obesity and telemedicine.

Dr. Burgess has had numerous administrative responsibilities. As President of Capstone Health Services Foundation, Burgess participated in managing the multi-specialty, clinical practice of University Medical Center for several years. She is currently the Medical Director for Alabama Community Care/MedNet West which is responsible for improving quality of healthcare for the over 60,000 Medicaid recipients in the West Alabama region. She is a board member of the West Alabama Aids Outreach organization.

With funding made possible from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Dr. Burgess and Beth Smith, CRNP, are conducting a school-based asthma education program via telemedicine for rural schools in Alabama. Dr. Burgess plans to expand the project to develop telemedicine clinics in rural areas to improve access to healthcare for those populations.

Jeffrey Carver, Ph.D., (University of Maryland) earned his B.S. in Computer Science from Louisiana State University in 1997. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Alabama and a member of the Software Engineering Research Group. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE Computer Society and a Senior Member of the ACM.

Dr. Carver's research focuses on understanding and improving the software engineering process for all types of software ranging from traditional Business/IT software to Open-source software, to Scientific software. His specific interests include empirical software engineering, software quality, software engineering for computational science and engineering, human factors in software engineering and software process improvement. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Security Agency, and the Department of Defense.
Kristi Crowe-White, Ph.D., RD, (University of Maine) is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management at the University of Alabama. She received her PhD in Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Maine where she held a graduate fellowship with the National Science Foundation. Her dietetic training was completed at the University of Alabama-Birmingham where she developed key collaborations in clinical nutrition research.

As a food chemist and dietitian, her research focuses on the impact of bioactive food compounds on reducing oxidative and inflammatory stress as mechanisms underpinning cardio-metabolic diseases. Her current research is funded by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the American Heart Association. As a junior faculty, she has authored three peer-reviewed manuscripts per year since her hire in 2010 and has received external grant funding totaling over half a million dollars. As a result of this body of research, she has co-authored the *Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Position Paper on Functional Foods*. She holds service and leadership positions within the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and is an active member of the Institute of Food Technologists where she serves as a Food Science Ambassador and Media Spokesperson. In addition to external service, she is the chair of the University of Alabama’s Institutional Biological Safety Committee and the academic advisor of the Food Science Club.

She actively engages students in research through graduate and undergraduate research mentorship as well as through classroom instruction in food science and functional foods. As a female scientist in a STEM discipline, she believes training students on the influence of food-first interventions to reduce cardio-metabolic disease risk is paramount to reducing the burden of these diseases on future generations.

Claudia Mewes, Ph.D., (University of Kaiserslautern) is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alabama. She is also a faculty member of the interdisciplinary Center for Materials for Information Technology (MINT). Her research is in the field of theoretical condensed matter physics, with a focus on magnetic materials. She recently received a CAREER award from the National Science Foundation for her research in spintronics, which aims to use the spin and charge of electrons to develop highly functional and energy-efficient devices. Mewes’s research combines different theories and simulation tools to close the gap between materials design and device performance with the ultimate goal of finding new materials that work best in confined environments.

Dr. Mewes has started the outreach program “Girls in Sciences” which aims to bring hands-on-activities related to Dr. Mewes’s research to local elementary, middle and high schools with the long term goal to increase the number of female students in physics and STEM related areas. Dr. Mewes is the faculty advisor of the local chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and the co-founder of the “UA Women in Physics and Astronomy Club” which organizes professional and social events to encourage women to pursue a career in a STEM related field. In addition she is the local arrangements chair of the 2016 IEEE International Conference on Microwave Magnetics, to be held at the University of Alabama. Dr. Mewes has a B.S. in Physics, and Mathematics (1998) and an M.S. in Physics (2000), both from The University of Kaiserslautern - Germany. She graduated from the University of Kaiserslautern-Germany in 2004 with a Ph.D. in Physics.
Jason Edward Black, Ph.D., (University of Maryland) is an associate professor of rhetoric and public discourse in the Department of Communication Studies and an affiliate professor in the Department of Gender & Race Studies at The University of Alabama.

His research program is located at the juncture of rhetorical studies and social change, with an emphasis on American Indian resistance, LGBTQ community discourses, and Black liberation. His work in these areas has appeared in the Quarterly Journal of Speech; Rhetoric & Public Affairs; Southern Communication Journal; Western Journal of Communication; American Indian Quarterly; American Indian Culture and Research Journal; Communication Quarterly; Enculturation: A Journal of Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture; Advances in the History of Rhetoric; Kenneth Burke Journal; Journal of Media and Cultural Politics; and numerous book chapters.

Black is the author of American Indians and the Rhetoric of Removal and Allotment (University Press of Mississippi). He is also co-editor, with Charles E. Morris, III, of An Archive of Hope: Harvey Milk’s Speeches and Writings (University of California Press, 2013) and co-editor, with Greg Goodale, of Arguments about Animal Ethics (Lexington Books, 2010). Black is currently working on two books: the first is a University of Illinois Press contracted project (w/ Andrew Billings) on the politics of the Native American mascot, and the second is a sequel to the Harvey Milk anthology (w/Charles E. Morris, III).


Nirmala Erevelles, Ph.D., (Syracuse University) is Professor of Social and Cultural Studies in Education at the University of Alabama. Her teaching and research interests lie in the areas of disability studies, critical race theory, transnational feminism, sociology of education, and postcolonial studies. Specifically, her research focuses on the unruly, messy, unpredictable and taboo body – a habitual outcast in educational (and social) contexts. Dr. Erevelles asks: Why do some bodies matter more than others? In raising this question “why,” the tenor of her scholarship shifts from description to explanation to highlight the implications exploitative social/economic arrangements have for making bodies matter (or not) in particular historical and material contexts. Erevelles argues that disability as a central critical analytic can have transformative potential in addressing issues as varied as inclusive schooling, critical/radical pedagogies/curricula, HIV/AIDS education, facilitated communication, school violence, multicultural education, and the sex curriculum. Her insistence on an intersectional analysis foregrounds the dialectical relationship between disability and the other constructs of difference, namely race, class, gender, and sexuality and its brutal implications for (disabled) students in U. S. public schools and (disabled) citizens in transnational contexts. Additionally, transforming her theoretical leanings to committed praxis, she deploys the lens of disability studies to urge her students to think harder, deeper, and more courageously outside the confines of normative modes of education and social theory that only seek to discipline bodies rather than empower them.


Dr. Erevelles has twice been finalist for the Last Lecture Award (2009, 2015) at the University of Alabama. She was also awarded the Nelly Rose McCrory Faculty Excellence Award for Exemplary Research in the College of Education in April 2015.
Richard Hatfield, Ph.D., (University of Florida) is the EY Professor of Accounting in the Culverhouse School of Accountancy at The University of Alabama, the director of the Garner Research Center and a CPA in the state of Texas. He received a B.B.A. and M.S. Accounting from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D. from The University of Florida. Professor Hatfield’s primary research interests have been in the area of experimental auditing and tax and he is ranked the 4th (2nd in last 6 years) most productive experimental accounting professor in the BYU ranking based on publications in the top accounting journals. This past August, he received the American Accounting Association Wildman’s Medal for research having the largest impact in practice over the previous five years. His research has been sighted by regulatory organizations like the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and incorporated into international accounting firms’ methodology and training. Dr. Hatfield has been invited to present his research over 60 times in the last 15 years, including presentations in: Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Norway, The Netherlands and Singapore.

Dr. Hatfield spends a great deal of time working with the American Accounting Association (AAA), serving on various committees, including the co-chair of the committee for the annual Auditing meeting. He serves as a mentor for new students and faculty, having given multiple presentations at the Auditing Doctoral Consortium, the ABO Doctoral Consortium, the AIS New Faculty and Doctoral Consortium, the University of New South Wales Faculty Research Day and the AAA New Faculty Consortium. In addition, he will be the incoming president of the Auditing Section of the American Accounting Association next year. Dr. Hatfield is currently the senior editor of Behavioral Research in Accounting, a past editor for Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory, and on the editorial board of Contemporary Accounting Research and Accounting, Organizations and Society.

Michele Montgomery, Ph.D., MPH, RN, (University of Alabama at Birmingham) is an Assistant Professor in the Capstone College of Nursing at the University of Alabama. She teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs and serves on dissertation committees for students in the EdD Nurse Educator program. Her research interests involve utilizing community-based participatory research to assess risk factors and health outcomes in preschool children and their parents.

Since arriving at The University of Alabama, Dr. Montgomery has built relationships with the Tuscaloosa Pre-K Initiative, as well as the Head Start program and the Board of Education in Pickens County. These partnerships have been the foundation of her current research focused on assessing cardiovascular risk factors in preschool children and their parents. Dr. Montgomery received RGC funding in 2015 to assess overweight and obesity and associated risk factors in preschool children in Pickens County and has conducted similar data collection in the Tuscaloosa Pre-K Initiative. She also received funding from the Division of Community Affairs to assess community readiness for and attitudes to health promotion and disease prevention among residents of Pickens County. She has published in the areas of preschool child health, childhood cancer survivorship, community engagement, health promotion, and clinical simulation. Dr. Montgomery was awarded the Outstanding Junior Faculty Scholar for the Capstone College of Nursing in 2015.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Montgomery received her BA in Communications from The University of Alabama, and she received her BSN and PhD in Nursing, as well as her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. During her doctoral program she completed two fellowships focused on child health and adolescent health, and she was awarded Dean’s Award for Outstanding Graduate Student and the Sigma Theta Tau Rising Star of Scholarship and Research Award.Public Health in Epidemiology, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. During her doctoral program she completed two fellowships focused on child health and adolescent health, and she was awarded Dean’s Award for Outstanding Graduate Student and the Sigma Theta Tau Rising Star of Scholarship and Research Award.
Hyunjin Noh, Ph.D., (University of Wisconsin-Madison) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama School of Social Work with research interests in health disparities in end-of-life care, aging and healthcare service utilization, end-of-life care decision-making among minority patients and families, and qualitative methods. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was a graduate research assistant for projects focusing on the psychosocial needs of terminally ill elders and on cancer disparities in rural communities. Her dissertation research, funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Population Health Dissertation Grant, examined terminally ill African American elders’ decision-making to receive hospice care.

Since joining UA, she has conducted a qualitative study, funded by the University of Alabama Research Grant Committee, exploring the hospice care staff’s communications with terminally ill minority patients and their families during hospice admissions visits. She is currently conducting a pilot study, Understanding Perceptions of Advance Care Planning by Race and Health Status, that is funded by the Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research Health Disparities Research Pilot Grant. Through this study, she aims to explore community-dwelling elders’ understanding of life-sustaining treatments and their educational needs for end-of-life care planning.

She is a UAB MHRC’s Health Disparities Research Training Program trainee and a Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research scholar since 2013. She is also a co-convener of the Hospice, Palliative and End-of-Life Care Interest Group at the Gerontological Society of America.
Lindley Shedd, MIS, (Indiana University) is an associate professor in the University Libraries at the University of Alabama and has been with the University since 2008. She is the Media Services Coordinator for The University of Alabama Libraries Sanford Media Center, an active student media production support center serving more than 15,000 students each year across all Colleges and Schools. She is responsible for the leadership and day-to-day management of the Center and provides guidance and technical assistance to faculty and students for media assignment creation, production, and evaluation.

Lindley’s research interests lie in educational technology development, the evolving nature of academic libraries, and copyright and fair use in education. Her current book, *Audio Recorders to Zucchini Seeds: Building a Library of Things*, will be out from Libraries Unlimited in the fall of 2016. Lindley is also activity involved in the leadership and development of national education technology organizations and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Consortium of College and University Media Centers this spring.

Merinda Simmons Ph.D., (The University of Alabama) is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama. In addition to a large-enrollment introduction to the study of religion, Dr. Simmons teaches courses on critical theory (especially in studies of gender, race, and literature) and on religion in the American South. Her research interests are related to how rhetorics of authenticity become negotiated and leveraged to gain (or withhold) legitimacy for various groups. She is the author of *Changing the Subject: Writing Women across the African Diaspora*, (Ohio State University Press, 2014). Her other books include the volumes *The Trouble with Post-Blackness* (co-edited with Houston A. Baker, Jr., Columbia University Press, 2015) and *Race and Displacement: Nation, Migration, and Identity in the Twenty-First Century* (co-edited with Maha Marouan, University of Alabama Press, 2013).

Her next single-authored monograph (in progress and tentatively entitled *Selling Slave Religion: Theorizing Experience in the American South*) is based on grant-funded research related to the category “slave religion”—popularized in the then-burgeoning field of African American Studies in the 1960s and 70s and still invoked by scholars today—and its limitations for describing slave communities in the region now known as the American South. She is also currently at work on two co-authored books. The first, with James A. Crank, is entitled *Race and New Modernisms* and is in preparation for Brill Academic’s series *New Modernisms*. The second, with Craig Martin, is entitled *Theorizing Gender and Religion*.

Dr. Simmons is a member of the collaborative research group Culture on the Edge, and she is an Associate Editor for the Bulletin for the Study of Religion. She is a member of the Executive Council for the North American Association for the Study of Religion, and she serves on the editorial board for two book series: *Culture on the Edge: Studies in Identity Formation* (Equinox) and *Critiquing Religion: Discourse, Culture, Power* (Bloomsbury). She is also the editor of the book series *Concepts in the Study of Religion: Critical Primers for Equinox Publishing*. 
Janek Wasserman, Ph.D., (Washington University) is Assistant Professor of Modern German and Central European History at the University of Alabama. He received his Ph.D. in European history from Washington University in St. Louis. He was a recipient of the Richard Plaschka-Stipendium from the Österreichisches Austauschdienst. He was also a Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies Fellow for 2014-2015.

His research interests focus on European intellectual history, Central European history, and the history of economics. His first book, Black Vienna: The Radical Right in the Red City, 1918-1938 appeared with Cornell University Press in 2014. It looked at intellectual and political debates between leading Austrian thinkers in the tumultuous years between the world wars. He has also published articles on this subject in Central European History and Modern Intellectual History. His current book project, Marginal Revolutionaries: Austrian Economics from Coffeehouse to Tea Party, is contracted with Princeton University Press. It will offer the first comprehensive and transatlantic history of Austrian economic thought from its Viennese inception in the late nineteenth century to its present popularity among libertarians.

Wasserman offers undergraduate courses on German history, the Holocaust, and the history of Fascism. At the graduate level, he has taught on nationalism, historical methods, and the philosophy of history. He is the faculty adviser for the history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, and the Crimson Secular Student Alliance.

Ronald J. Krotoszynski, Jr., J.D., (Duke University) is the John S. Stone Chair, Director of Faculty Research, and Professor of Law at the University of Alabama School of Law. Professor Krotoszynski earned his B.A. and M.A. from Emory University and J.D. and LL.M. from Duke University where he was articles editor for the Duke Law Journal and selected for Order of the Coif. Following graduation from law school, he clerked for the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Before embarking on his academic career, he practiced law as an associate with Covington & Burling, in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Alabama School of Law, Professor Krotoszynski served on the law faculties at the Washington and Lee University School of Law and the Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He also has taught as a visiting professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law, William and Mary School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Florida State University School of Law, Seattle University School of Law.

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