



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE

CHATTANOOGA

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION
& PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

AWARDS
2024

Bridges Beyond the Classroom

Outstanding Teaching/Advising Award

Jason Gordon



Dr. Gordon fosters a positive and impactful learning environment. He has implemented innovative teaching strategies, incorporated student feedback, and participated in professional development opportunities to stay abreast of the latest pedagogical advancements. Dr. Gordon recently added a certification for the Behavior Management class that will help Hamilton County Schools in the implementation of their 7-Year plan.

Dr. Gordon possesses remarkable advising skills as evidenced by his ability to guide students toward academic success. He goes above and beyond to provide meaningful support and mentorship. Dr. Gordon was recently nominated and awarded a faculty award by Delta Zeta sorority. He was chosen as faculty support by the Outstanding Senior Award winner.

Dr. Gordon consistently demonstrates a passion for education, a commitment to student success, and a willingness to go above and beyond in teaching and advising roles for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the School of Education.

Outstanding Research/Scholarship Award

Jenny Hogg



Dr. Hogg is an active scholar as demonstrated by her extensive publications, presentations, and grant applications. She demonstrates a collaborative approach at UTC and with regional partners at Emory Sports Performance and Research Center. These collaborations have benefited students in the graduate Athletic Training Program and have brought grant funding to UTC. During the 2023-2024 school year Dr. Hogg authored or co-authored seven full manuscripts, with an additional four under 2nd review and one under 1st review. Dr. Hogg has also represented UTC on the national level by presenting at the “Pediatric Research in Sports Medicine Annual Meeting” in Anaheim, California.

Outstanding Service/Outreach Award

Barry Kamrath

Dr. Barry Kamrath has served on the Graduate Council since 2014. In 2021, he was named chairperson of the Council. Dr. Kamrath has served for nine years on the Best Practices Committee, a subcommittee of the Graduate Council and was named chair in 2020. Additionally, Dr. Kamrath recently accepted a position as chairperson of the new, ad hoc Graduate School Awards Committee that seeks to establish appropriate awards, processes, and procedures for recognizing outstanding graduate student scholarship, faculty commitment, and community partnerships/mentoring. In addition to serving on the Graduate Council and the Best Practices Committee, and Chairing the Graduate School Awards Committee, Dr. Kamrath is serving his third term as a member of the Faculty Senate, and he has been an active member of the Faculty Handbook Committee since 2020.

Dr. Kamrath has demonstrated his commitment to serving the needs of the university, prospective students, and the community through his work to establish a new Graduate Certificate in School Athletic Program Leadership. During the process, Dr. Kamrath established working relationships with UTC Athletic administrators, local school athletic leaders, and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). As part of the new program, two new courses have been developed by Dr. Kamrath (EDAS 5510 Athletic Program Leadership and Planning; EDAS 5520 Management of Athletic Programs).

Dr. Kamrath has also served as a mentor through the *Take 12 Mentoring Program: Changing Chattanooga One Positive Relationship at a Time*. The Chattanooga U.S. Army Recruiting Office recently recognized Dr. Kamrath's work as a mentor by awarding him their Company Coin for his service and commitment.



Outstanding Grantsmanship Award

Krysta Murillo



Dr. Murillo has served as the program director and principal investigator for the Diversity in Teaching (DIT), Each One, Reach One (EORO) grant program since 2021. The program has provided 12 scholars with financial support, academic coaching, and professional development. The final cohort graduated Spring 2023. She successfully submitted a new DIT grant proposal for 2023-2025. However, the disbursement is on hold pending further review due to the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to reverse affirmative action.

Dr. Murillo also serves as co-principal investigator to the National Science Foundation (NSF): International Research Experience for Students (IRES) collaborative research project with Dr. Loren Hayes, UTC professor of Biology. This research study explores climate change on the degu population in Chile. The work generated research findings that led to the creation of a board game teaching students about the survival habits of degus and the importance of collaboration for survival of these mammals.

In 2020 Dr. Murillo served as co-PI on the initial Grow Your Own (GYO) grant project and assumed the role of PI when the previous PI left UTC. She worked alongside SOE faculty and staff to support selected educational assistant GYO candidates in Hamilton and Marion County Schools. The candidates were awarded full tuition, textbook costs, and exam costs to complete their bachelor's degree and certification in Elem Education K-5/ESL PreK-12. The final candidates for the initial award completed the program requirements in May 2024.

Outstanding Clinical Instruction Award

Captain Skylar Phillips



Captain Phillips has served as an invaluable partner for the Social Work Program at UTC for the past five years. Captain Phillips has promoted student development and growth through the utilization of social work interns at the Chattanooga Fire Department (CFD) through our Connect Program. Students have worked alongside Captain Phillips and his fire cadets to reimagine the role of fire departments in the Chattanooga area. He has supported the CFD Connect Program for several years while balancing his full-time job as a training officer for the fire department. He is an active participant in student development and has served as a mentor, leader, and motivator to many of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Captain Phillips consistently displays a commitment to the care of vulnerable citizens in the community through his engagement in the Connect Program. He serves as an ally to students, the university, and the profession of Social Work.

Outstanding Clinical Partner Award

Siskin Rehabilitation Hospital

Siskin Rehabilitation Hospital has been in partnership with the UTC Occupational Therapy (OT) program since its inception. Annually, the inpatient and outpatient OT teams at Siskin Hospital accept 1 - 3 first year OT students and 2 - 4 Level II students for fieldwork experience. Additionally, Siskin accepts students for their doctoral capstone projects. This semester OT had a student completing their capstone out of state. Mid-semester the student recognized they needed support back in Chattanooga. Siskin accepted the student and in less than a week the student was back in Chattanooga. The therapists on staff at the hospital are committed to educating and developing our students into exceptional entry level clinicians.

Siskin's clinicians frequently share their passion as guest speakers on campus. Siskin is willing to share their expertise and collaborate with our faculty to ensure the educational plan meets the needs of the students. The hospital has even opened their doors to our students, hosting some classes in their building.

OT appreciates the time sacrifices of many the individuals at Siskin in support of our students and programs.

Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award Eric Bearden

Eric Bearden has over 20 years of professional experience in the field of architecture. He has been an adjunct in Interior Architecture and Design (IARC) for two years. Eric brings a unique blend of expertise and passion to the classroom, inspiring students and enriching their educational journey that extends beyond the classroom. He possesses a deep understanding of design principles, spatial dynamics, and construction techniques. Knowledge of these principles made the perfect fit for teaching the first-year studio, *Volume, Space, and Form*. Eric is dedicated to mentorship and guidance. As a professor he provides individualized support, offering feedback with our *Senior Thesis Project*. He is an invaluable asset to the Interior Architecture and Design program.



Outstanding Special Service Award Brittney Holder

Brittney Holder joined the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies in July 2022 as Director of Development.

In her first year, she generated \$1.155 million and supported the college in raising \$3.242 million in total for FY23. This was a 447% increase from the previous fiscal year (highest on record since FY14) and surpassed all other colleges fundraising totals at UTC for FY23.

This past year (FY24), Brittney secured an \$8 million gift, the single largest individual gift in School of Nursing history, from the Kennedy Foundation to name the Dorothy and Jim Kennedy Health Sciences Building.



Elizabeth Dalton Award Jennifer Lynberg

Elizabeth Dalton was a professor at UTC for 12 years following a 30-year career as a teacher and administrator. At UTC, she was named Alumni Distinguished Service Professor. She was an alumna of the University of Chattanooga and founding sponsor of Kappa Delta Pi at UTC. She died in 1996. This award is given to a faculty member(s) who has demonstrated outstanding effort in the areas of teaching, research, and service.

Dr. Jennifer Lynberg, one of this year's recipients, has distinguished herself in many ways since her arrival at UTC. In addition to collaborating with her SOE colleagues on several projects, she is the director of the Governor's School for Prospective Teachers, is engaged with the SOE RLC RISE, and is also the faculty chairperson for the Teaching and Learning Future Ready Institute at Tyner High School.

Her energy and enthusiasm for her role and her active involvement with so many different groups contribute not only to the efforts to recruit and encourage new education majors, but also to enhance the opportunities prospective educators can access as they investigate the options they may pursue. She regularly presents at several conferences (local, state, and national) and collaborates on articles related to her field of expertise. She is active in SOE, CHEPS, UTC, and professional organizations and contributes not only through her membership but also through her leadership. She is collegial, professional, and dedicated, tributes that reveal her commitment to SOE, her profession, and her students.



Elizabeth Dalton Award Jessica Taylor

Dr. Jessica Taylor has worked diligently to make continuous improvements to the Leadership and Professional Practice (EdD) program. She regularly makes herself available to the participants in the program, even though it is generally delivered asynchronously online. Dr. Taylor carries a full teaching load, teaching classes in both LEAD doctoral programs, while maintaining a solid research agenda and remaining highly engaged in leadership of the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education Grand Challenges research program.



Dean Stinnett Award Beth Crawford

The *Roy Stinnett* Award is named for a former faculty member and athletic coach who later served as dean of the College of Education and Applied Professional Studies (now CHEPS) until his death in 1994. This Award is given to a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the College through some effort that has made a significant difference for the College during the academic year. Dr. Beth Crawford has a long and impressive work history at UTC. She has served in a number of leadership roles, including that of Director of Continuing Education prior to transitioning into that of a faculty member in the LEAD/LEAP programs. Most recently she was named Department Head of Leadership and Learning, a program that has experienced significant growth and which has become a separate department in the college. She is also the president-elect of Faculty Senate and has been selected as the Education, Research, and Service Committee member on the UT Board of Trustees.



CHEPS Above & Beyond Award Amanda Hardin



Dr. Amanda Hardin has worked hard to review and revise both her courses and program courses in light of NASP accreditation standards and the upcoming review of the School Psychology program. She did so while revising and reviving a program from initial hires to meeting new accreditation standards.

She is engaged in a rigorous scholarly agenda that includes peer-reviewed presentations and articles, and she has several other projects underway that expand her research interests. Her research not only benefits the institution, profession, and Chattanooga area, but she has worked with TASP to expand the number of school psychologists in this region and serves as a NASP site visitor. She is working with TASP to expand the footprint of school psychologists in the Chattanooga area. Additionally, she serves as a NASP site visitor. Her work on state level grants is invaluable. Her scholarly efforts include articles accepted, presentations at appropriate conferences (e.g. the Chattanooga Autism Conference), and NASP accreditation tasks.

Her clinical work has continued, which has paved the way to a strategic research partnership that benefits program students, the institution, and children placed in specialized education at an area charter school.

Her students note her expertise and ongoing engagement in the profession and an important and valuable aspect of her knowledge. She is also the advisor for the School Psychology Student Association.

Outstanding Department Contribution Award

Nancy Fell



Dr. Fell assumed responsibility for working to help both PT and OT this past year. As she assisted in preparing for an OT accreditation visit, she immersed herself in the requirements and worked closely with OT faculty to ensure they were prepared and had addressed all components of this important review.

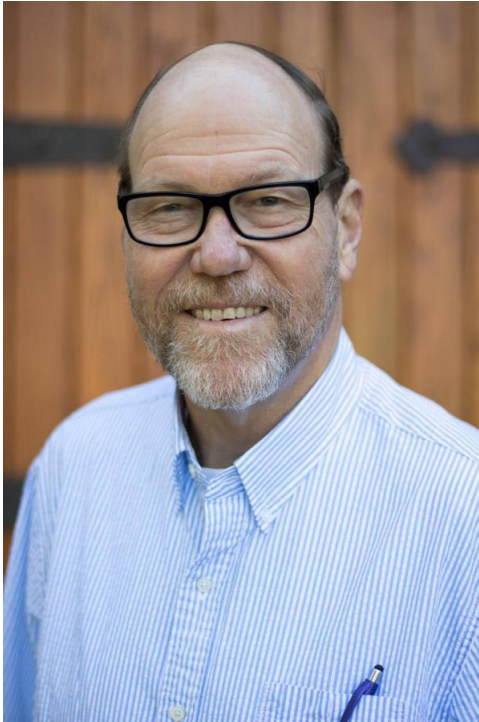
Prior to the visit. Dr. Fell invested her own time and effort to create a solid plan that work to assist OT in this visit. She also collaborated with the department and the consultant who provided guidance and suggestions about the best way to approach the required elements.

The accreditation visit, conducted in April 2024, was a resounding success and noted many of the areas in which the program had not only met, but had exceeded the expectations of ACOTE. The end result was a strong report with no recommendations for improvement.

Congratulations goes to the OT faculty, to Dr. Hackathorne, and to Dr. Fell for their investment in the OT program and in preparation for the recent accreditation visit. Clearly this was a successful process and a result that merits this recognition of Dr. Fell with the Award for Outstanding Department Contribution.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lucien Ellington



Dr. Lucien Ellington was a UC Foundation Professor of Education and the director of the Asia Program and the Center for Reflective Citizenship. He held advanced degrees in history, economic education, and education. He was awarded an Asian Studies Development Fellowship by the East-West Center and two short term fellowships at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal. He was a senior fellow with the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Dr. Ellington served as a presenter/consultant for more than 100 teacher institutes on East Asia, economic education, and history education throughout the United States. He co-directed 13 study tours of East Asian countries for schoolteachers. He served as vice-chair for the Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence. Dr. Ellington was founding editor of Education About Asia and authored five books on Japan and Asia-related topics. He also edited or co-edited over 20 books. He coauthored two national studies of social studies teachers.

Dr. Ellington also appeared on public affairs television programs, public forums and talk radio programs locally and nationally to discuss educational reform and Asia related education. His work was featured on CNN.com and C-Span.

Before joining UTC, Dr. Ellington was a teacher and administrator in three public school systems and a professor at Delta State University. He was the recipient of over two million dollars of externally funded grants while a member of UTC's faculty.

Congratulations Dr. Andrew Bailey



The University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award is presented annually to two UTC teachers to recognize faculty members' commitment to UTC students during their educational journey. Dr. Andrew Bailey was selected for the University of Tennessee Alumni Association 2024 Outstanding Teacher Award. He has demonstrated excellent competence in UTC's Department of Health and Human Performance with the highest professional integrity and standards. Nominees can communicate and motivate students and Dr. Bailey has been willing to engage outside the classroom in what he calls "real-world project(s)."

Congratulations Dr. Cathy Scott



Dr. Cathy Scott, an associate professor of Social Work and the Bachelor of Social Work program director, has been selected as a Gerontological Society of America Fellow—an honor bestowed upon those who demonstrate exceptional commitment to aging issues through research, teaching and service.

Congratulations Dr. Shellie Acocello



Dr. Shellie Acocello, associate professor of Health and Human Performance and Athletic Training program director, has been named Secretary for the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Association beginning August 2024.

Congratulations Dr. Elizabeth Hathaway



UC Foundation Associate Professor Liz Hathaway was selected to the 2023-2024 All-Southern Conference Faculty and Staff Team through vital contributions to service, campus life, teaching, and research. Hathaway joined representatives from each of the 10 member schools in the conference.

Established in 2016, the President's Awards annually recognize faculty and staff who contribute to the University's mission. These awards are the highest honor an employee can receive from the university. Dr. Hathaway was a 2024 "Excel In All We Do" nominee.

Dr. Hathaway is a professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, and for the last two years has served as a faculty in residence at West Campus Housing. She also serves CHEPS residential college as the Healthy Eating and Active Living Through HHP RLC coordinator.

Hathaway has more than 30 published articles and 40 presentations. She is associate Editor for the American College of Sports Medicine's Health & Fitness Journal.



Congratulations Dr. Marisa Colston
NATA Professional Responsibility in Athletic Training Committee Distinction Award

Congratulations Dr. Karissa Peyer
American College of Sports Medicine Fellow



Congratulations Emma Sampson
Chancellor's Blue Ribbon Award

Congratulations Professor Gary Wilkerson
Jerry Robertson Educator Award





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Thank you for all you do!

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