

New Leadership Team Seminar Series 2022-23

Participant Bios

Incoming Faculty Leaders:



JAMES N. BRYAN

Associate Dean of BBA Undergraduate Program

Cox School of Business

Jim Bryan has been at SMU for over 22 years and is the Associate Dean for BBA Programs in the Cox School of Business. He started his career at SMU in the Office of Undergraduate Admission. He has served the Cox School as the Director of BBA Admission and was named the Associate Dean for BBA Programs in 2014. As the Associate Dean he oversees BBA Admission/Scholarships, Academic Advising, and BBA Career Services. He also serves on the BBA Policy committee which oversees the curriculum and administrative aspects of the Cox undergraduate program. Jim received his B.A. from Southwestern University in 2000, a Masters in Liberal Arts from Dedman College in 2006, and a J.D. from the Dedman School of Law in 2011.



MELISSA CHESSHER

Chair, Division of Journalism

Meadows School of the Arts

Melissa Chessher possesses more than 20 years of experience in the magazine field as both a writer and an editor. She worked on the launch of *Real Simple*, the largest magazine launch in Time Inc. history, and *Gusto*, a healthy living magazine for Latin American women. She has written for more than a dozen national consumer publications, including *Self*, *Health*, *Glamour*, *Allure*, *Marie Claire*, *Fitness*, *Men's Health* and *Parents* magazines. Her writing covers a wide range of topics – from travel narratives to deeply reported health features, personal essays and culture articles on food, wine, art and architecture. A special report for *Self* magazine on the workplace challenges faced by women undergoing breast cancer treatment was part of a package that earned a National Magazine Award for personal service from the American Society of Magazine Editors. In 2016, *Folio* magazine named Chessher one of its Top Women in Media.

Before joining SMU, Chessher served as a chair, professor and interim associate dean at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. At SU, she earned several teaching awards, including the Newhouse School's Senior Class Award for Teaching Excellence, the Empire State Scholastic Press Association's Advisor of the Year and the Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professorship for Teaching Excellence, the university's highest teaching honor. She frequently teaches courses devoted to magazine article writing and to the creation of multimedia projects. Articles, websites and podcasts created in these classes have earned students national awards from Hearst, Broadcast Educators Association, the Online News Association, the Society of Professional Journalists and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

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THOMAS KECK

Director, Division of Music

Meadows School of the Arts

Thomas Keck comes to SMU Meadows School of the Arts from Utah Valley University, where he served as Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Bands. As Chair, Keck oversaw ten degree programs, nearly 300 music majors, and 75 faculty-staff colleagues in a NASM accredited, all-Steinway School. Keck raised the department's completion rate to exceed the university's benchmark for 2025 by 2021. Keck assembled a diverse faculty with 71% of the full-time hires during his leadership coming from under-represented populations.

In addition to his terminal degree in conducting, Keck holds a master's degree in higher education administration with a cognate in fundraising leadership and has credentials in diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as anti-racist pedagogy. As a conductor, Keck received acclaim for his 2018-19 season programming, *inclUTion*, which exclusively featured under-represented composers, performers, and conductors. Keck has participated in numerous commissions of new works for wind band from prominent and aspiring composers, and is published in repertoire, rehearsal techniques, and marching band textbooks. Keck has twenty-two years of teaching experience at the universities of Miami, Georgia, New Hampshire, and Ball State. Keck has twice received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence and was included in the 20th annual SBO Magazine 50 Directors Who Make a Difference. Keck has conducted at regional conferences of the CBDNA and NAFME and presented clinics for several state music conferences. He has appeared with university and high school ensembles throughout the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Haiti, Mexico, Canada, Europe, and China.



DAVID LEE

Assistant Vice President for Curricular Operations and Strategy

Office of the Provost

Dr. David Lee is Assistant Vice President for Curricular Operations and Strategy in the Office of the Provost. He holds baccalaureate degrees in business and anthropology from Trent University in Canada, a Ph.D. in anthropology, and an MBA in Strategy and Management from SMU.

Dr. Lee is responsible for strategic and financial planning, operations, and administration for SMU Abroad, and SMU Intersessions, and the SMU-in-Taos campus in New Mexico.

Dr. Lee also has more than 15 years of conducted archaeological field research experience focused on Pre-classic and Classic Maya civilization in Belize and Guatemala. From 2001 to 2005 he also served as Strategic Planning consultant to the Belize Government/InterAmerican Development Bank Tourism Development Program, leading research and co-authoring 10-year strategy for the development and preservation of the country's archaeological resources.

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LIN-LIN LIPSMEYER

Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning

Simmons School of Education & Human Development

Dr. Lin Lin Lipsmeyer is Professor and Department Chair of Teaching and Learning in the SMU's Simmons School of Education & Human Development. Prior to coming to SMU, Lin was Professor of Learning Technologies and Director of the Texas Center for Educational Technology at the University of North Texas. Lin received her doctorate in Instructional Technology and Media from Teachers College Columbia University.

Dr. Lin Lipsmeyer has conducted interdisciplinary research in learning sciences, cognition, and innovative technologies. Her research has resulted in over 110 scholarly publications including journal articles, books, and book chapters. In addition, she has been PI, Co-PI, or researcher on numerous NSF and foundation grants bridging learning sciences, artificial intelligence, and STEAM learning. Lin also serves as the Development Editor-in-Chief of one of the top journals in education and educational research, the *Educational Technology Research and Development* (ETR&D, <https://www.springer.com/journal/11423>).



JASON NANCE

Dean of Dedman Law School

Dedman School of Law

Jason P. Nance is the Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. He received his B.A., *cum laude* with University Honors with Honors Thesis, from Brigham Young University in 1996, his M.A. in 2000 and Ph.D. in 2002 from The Ohio State University, and his J.D. in 2006 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he was Articles

Editor and Associate Editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*.

Prior to joining SMU, Dean Nance was a member of the law faculty at the University of Florida Levin College of Law from 2011 to 2022. He most recently served as Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development. Previously at UF Law, he served as Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, as an Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Relations, and as an Associate Director for Education and Law at the Center on Children and Families. As Professor of Law, he taught education law, torts and remedies. He also oversaw the continued development and implementation of the Introduction to Lawyering and the Legal Profession Program, which was designed to help first-year law students develop key competencies to become effective lawyers. Prior to joining UF Law, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Villanova University School of Law and a Visiting Assistant Professor of Applied Statistics at The Ohio State University's College of Education and Human Ecology.

Dean Nance clerked for the Honorable Kent A. Jordan in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the United States District Court for the District of Delaware after graduating from law school. Following his clerkships, he was a litigation associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate,

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Meagher & Flom LLP in Wilmington, Delaware, from 2007 to 2011, focusing on corporate and securities law.

Dean Nance began his career in education as a public middle school math teacher in Houston, Texas. He also taught GED and ESL courses to adults at a community college on nights and weekends. After three years, he began to prepare for a career in education administration, intending to become a school principal, but developed an interest in education policy and law through his graduate studies, ultimately earning a Ph.D. in education policy and administration before completing his law degree.

Dean Nance's scholarship explores the intersection between law, education policy and the criminal justice system using empirical and legal methodologies. His research has been cited extensively by courts, party and amicus briefs, law journals, books, treatises, and social science journals and featured in numerous national media outlets. He served as the reporter for the American Bar Association's Joint Task Force on Reversing the School-to-Prison Pipeline, where he co-authored a report and proposed resolutions that were adopted by the ABA to help dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline nationwide.



DAYNA OSCHERWITZ

Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

Office of the Provost

Effective January 2022, Professor Dayna Oscherwitz became Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness. In this position she oversees issues of Institutional Effectiveness for academic and support units of the university. That includes assessment of student learning in the University Curriculum and academic program outcomes. Also included in her portfolio are state authorization and compliance issues related to SMU's accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

She received her Ph.D. in French and Francophone Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and joined the SMU faculty in 2002. She served as chair in Dedman College's Department of World Languages and Literatures from 2015 – 2019 before transitioning into the role of Assistant Provost for General Education from 2019 – 2021. As Assistant Provost, she was responsible for the University's undergraduate general education curriculum and served as chair of the university's Council on General Education. She also served as president of the Faculty Senate for the 2018 – 2019 academic year.

Professor Oscherwitz has authored and/or co-authored four books with another, *Globalization, Terror, and the Francophone African Urban Film*, currently in progress and has published nearly 20 journal articles and book chapters. Her scholarly contributions extend to book and film reviews as well as French-to-English translations.

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Professor Oscherwitz has also provided untold service through a broad range of committees, such as SMU in Four, the Emergency Operations Council (EOC), Education Abroad, Athletics Council and the President's Commission on the Status of Women.



JOE PHUA

Chair, Temerlin Advertising Institute

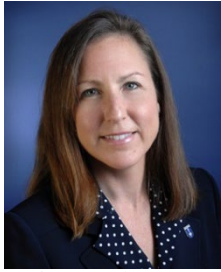
Meadows School of the Arts

Dr. Joe Phua is a professor and the Endowed Distinguished Chair of the Temerlin Advertising Institute at SMU. He earned his Ph.D. in 2011 from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California (USC). Dr. Phua's research examines the uses and effects of emerging communication technologies on advertising and branding outcomes, as well as in health communication and sports marketing contexts. His research has been published in top journals like the *Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Advertising*, *Journal of Advertising Research*, *Journal of Health Communication*, *Computers in Human Behavior*, *Telematics and Informatics*, *Journal of Consumer Behavior*, *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, and *Journal of Brand Management*, among others.

Dr. Phua has served as PI or co-PI on over \$4.5 million in external research funding from sources including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Academy of Advertising (AAA). He has also won several Top Research Paper awards, including at the annual meetings of the International Communication Association (ICA), National Communication Association (NCA), American Academy of Advertising (AAA) and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), and the 2012 Dissertation of the Year award from the ICA and NCA's Health Communication Divisions. His research has been featured in major media outlets including National Public Radio (NPR), ABC News, Men's Health and Newsweek. Dr. Phua currently serves as Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Advertising*, and *Journal of Current Issues and Research in Advertising*, and on the editorial review boards of the *Journal of Advertising* and *Journal of Interactive Advertising*. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Phua worked at MTV Networks, Viacom, Paramount Pictures and the Interpublic Group (IPG) in Los Angeles, California.

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ROBIN POSTON

Dean of the Moody School and Associate Provost for Graduate Education

Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Dr. Robin Poston is Dean of the Moody Graduate School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education at SMU, which is home to over 5,700 graduate students studying in more than 45 graduate programs. She is a member of the Cox Business School faculty in the Information Technology and Operations Management Department. Prior to joining SMU, from 2014-2022 she served as the Chair of the Business Information and Technology Department then Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Memphis, where she received the Memphis Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Poston is also the prior Director and currently a Research Fellow with the System Testing Excellence Program at the FedEx Institute of Technology at The University of Memphis. She routinely speaks about advances and innovations in software testing at events attended by hundreds of academic and industry professionals, including IEEE's International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering and meetings supported by the International Test and Evaluation Association.

She has served as an Associate Editor for two highly ranked journals, the European Journal of Information Systems and Decision Sciences Journal, both of which provide critical views on technology, development, implementation, strategy, management, and policy for information systems to a global audience. Dr. Poston's current research focuses on understanding the alignment within the IT unit among developers and testers, client managers' responsibilities, and agile development and testing. She has published articles in publications such as Management Information Systems Quarterly, Journal of Management Information Systems, Decision Sciences Journal, Communications of the ACM, IEEE Computer, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Information Systems Management, and in major international conference proceedings.

Dr. Poston has over 20 years of experience in the information systems field working for KPMG Consulting, Educational Computer Corporation, Meta Group Research, and Convergys, and consulting with several Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. Today, she works with organizations such as the Department of Homeland Security and Air Force Institute of Technology and has conducted projects and educational programs for the Defense Information Systems Agency of the Department of Defense, FedEx Corporation, First Tennessee Bank, St. Jude/ALSAC, and others. Dr. Poston received her bachelor's degree in Computer Science from The University of Pennsylvania (1987), master's degree in Accounting from The University of Central Florida (1992), and Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from Michigan State University (2003).

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KATHLEEN SMITS

Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Lyle School of Engineering

Kathleen M. Smits has joined SMU's Lyle School of Engineering as chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Solomon Professor for Global Development. Water, energy and the environment are common themes of her research, specifically land/atmosphere interactions, greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure and the integration of sustainable environmental remediation and local knowledge.

Smits will teach courses in environmental clean-up in developing communities, contaminant transport modeling, water resources and other topics that align with furthering research in these areas. As the Solomon Professor for Global Development, Smits will be affiliated as a Senior Fellow with the Hunter and Stephanie Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity at the Lyle School of Engineering at SMU.

“Dr. Smits is an internationally recognized expert on thermal and fluid transport through soils and into the atmosphere,” said Paul Krueger, dean ad interim, Lyle School of Engineering. “She brings with her a wealth of experience from several different academic institutions and service in the U.S. Air Force. She has a passion and drive for continuing to elevate our Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.”

Smits is a member of the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Engineering Education and the Society of American Military Engineers. She is the recipient of numerous awards, honors and recognitions including the NSF Faculty Career Award and outstanding educator awards and fellowships from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Colorado School of Mines.

Over her career, Smits has published more than 70 peer-reviewed technical publications and served in a number of editorship roles, most notably as co-editor and science communication editor of *Vadose Zone Journal* and associate editor of the *Journal of Hydrology*. She has been invited to speak at more than 150 engagements, including industry and regulatory workshops on oil and gas leak detection and international engineering education symposiums.

Smits also has held several previous prominent positions in academia and the armed forces, most recently as professor of civil engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington, and as associate director of Environmental Engineering at the United States Air Force Academy. She is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S Air Force Reserves.

Smits received her B.S. degree in environmental engineering from the United States Air Force Academy in 1999, her M.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000, and her Ph.D. degree in environmental science and engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 2010.

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Interim Faculty Leaders:



BISHOP MCKEE

Dean, Perkins School of Theology, *ad interim*

Perkins School of Theology

Bishop Michael McKee (M.Th. '78) will become dean of SMU's Perkins School of Theology *ad interim* effective Jan. 1, 2023 and will serve until a permanent dean has been named.

Following his ordination in 1979 as an elder in The United Methodist Church, he pastored several churches in the Fort Worth area. Bishop McKee has served as episcopal leader of the North Texas Annual Conference since his election by the South Central Jurisdiction in 2012, and he will retire from that position on January 1, 2023.

He is currently president of the Board of the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) of The United Methodist Church and serves as the Bishop of the United Methodist Mission in Honduras. McKee also serves on the Boards of Trustees of Texas Methodist Foundation, Methodist Health System, Dallas, and is past chair of the Executive Board of Perkins School of Theology. During his interim deanship, Bishop McKee will step down as a member of SMU's Board of Trustees.

In 2017, Bishop McKee was honored with the Perkins Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Bishop McKee was appointed to serve Perkins as Bishop in Residence beginning in 2023 – participating fully in the life of the school but focused heavily on leadership development with students and alums and providing a pastoral presence to the entire Perkins community. As interim dean, he will have the opportunity to provide similar leadership and will further strengthen SMU's ties with donors, congregations and institutions within the North Texas region as well as nationally.



SUKU NAIR

Interim VPR-CIO, *ad interim*

Lyle School of Engineering

Dr. Sukumaran Nair is a Southern Methodist University Distinguished Professor and the founding director of the AT&T Center for Virtualization at SMU. Along with these roles, he has a history of involvement across departments and programs. Namely, he is the

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founder of the Cyber Security program at SMU, and he was the Chair of the Computer Science and Engineering Department from 2008 until 2016.

Dr. Nair has joined the Hunt Institute as a Fellow, accompanied by his prowess in computer engineering and cyber security. At the SMU AT&T Center for Virtualization, researchers from across the University conduct interdisciplinary research to address technical, economic and social issues related to virtualization of all elements of the pervasive digital infrastructure.

When asked about his motivation to do impactful work, Dr. Nair responded, “We are excited to join hands with the Hunt Institute in empowering rural development through technology.”

His research interests include software-centric telecommunication networks, software-defined networks, virtualization technologies, trustworthy AI, and cyber security. He has published extensively in the area of high assurance computing and networking. His research has been supported through funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Security Agency (NSA), National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), Office of Naval Research (ONR), and various industry leaders including Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, CAE, IBM, AT&T, and Google. Some of his recent awards include the Dallas 500 award and CIO/CTO award for Outstanding Tech Advocate from the D CEO magazine, SMU Ford Research Fellowship, IBM faculty award, and the Distinguished University Citizen award.

He received his B.S. from the University of Kerala, India in 1984, his M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1988 and 1990, respectively.