



Endowed Chairs, Deanship, and Professorships



NAU
NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

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From the Provost



Karen Pugliesi

Executive Vice President and Provost

The heart of NAU is our faculty—distinguished scholars who transform students' lives and advance the boundaries of human knowledge.

Through their teaching, research, and mentorship, these exceptional individuals shape the next generation of leaders while addressing society's more pressing challenges.

Endowed faculty positions represent the highest academic honor we can bestow upon our most distinguished professors. These prestigious appointments provide critical resources to support breakthrough discoveries and innovative teaching. By endowing a faculty position, you create a permanent legacy of excellence that influences education, research, and society for generations to come.

In the following pages, you'll meet our remarkable faculty members and learn more about how your investment transforms lives through education, discovery, and engagement with Arizona communities.

— Karen Pugliesi



A photograph of two women, one Black and one white, looking at a book together. The Black woman on the left is smiling and wearing a patterned sweater and a necklace with a cross. The white woman on the right is pointing at the book. The image has a blue tint.

COLLEGE OF Arts and Letters

Scott Jarvis, PhD

*Stoller-Grabe Endowed Distinguished
Professorship in Applied Linguistics and
Teaching English as a Second Language*

Department of English

Scott Jarvis joined NAU in fall 2023 and instantly became an integral part of the English department. His efforts to build the university's reputation, visibility, and impact include organizing the Second Language Research Forum, a 2025 conference bringing the field's top scholars to NAU.

A prolific author, Jarvis has published six books and over 60 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He also provides linguistic expertise to law enforcement and legal professionals in Arizona and other states. His research concentrations include crosslinguistic influence, lexical diversity, and forensic linguistics. Within forensics, he studies how non-native speakers comprehend the Miranda warning; he also works with confessions as linguistic evidence and the comprehensibility of jury instructions.

Jarvis is passionate about providing job training and graduate funding to his students, tasks made possible by donors and external grants. His students enjoy research, conference, and publication co-authorship opportunities; teaching and professional service; and a cutting-edge education in applied linguistics.



“ Donor support has given me the necessary resources to conduct critical linguistic analyses for associates in the legal community. This work has a direct impact, especially for people with limited English proficiency.”



Björn Krondorfer, PhD

*Regents' Professor and Director,
Martin-Springer Institute; Endowed
Professorship in Religious Studies*

Department of Comparative Cultural Studies

Since his arrival at NAU in 2012, **Björn Krondorfer** has achieved international recognition for his work at the Martin-Springer Institute. As a specialist in religion, gender, culture, and (post-)Holocaust and reconciliation studies, Krondorfer works directly with NAU students while engaging the local community, collaborating with Arizona teachers, and organizing international symposia.

Highlights from his exhibits, which have traveled worldwide, include *A Complicated Life in Complicated Times: Gino Parin and the Holocaust*; *Echoes of Loss: Artistic Responses to Trauma*; and *Through the Eyes of Youth: Life and Death in the Bedzin Ghetto*. Krondorfer was also instrumental in creating NAU's permanent Berlin Wall exhibit.

An author and editor of several books, Krondorfer has held guest faculty positions at Freie University in Berlin, the University of the Free State in South Africa, and Vrije University in Amsterdam. In 2023, he joined an advisory group to assist with planning the Arizona Jewish Historical Society's future Hilton Family Holocaust Education Center in Phoenix.

“*I am most proud of moving the institute to regional, national, and international recognition while working with NAU students on multi-semester public humanities projects.*”

College of Arts and Letters



Silvan Negruțiu, DMA

Michael and Karen Kitt Endowed Professor in Piano; Director of Piano Studies

Kitt School of Music

In demand as a performer, clinician, adjudicator, and speaker, transcendental pianist **Silvan Negruțiu** appears frequently as an artist-teacher at international music festivals across Europe, America, and Asia. Negruțiu embraces rare piano literature, the exploration of innovative music pedagogy, and the advancement of arts entrepreneurship in higher education.



Julie Piering, PhD

*Interim Dean, College of Arts and Letters;
Richard A. Wood Philosophy Professorship*

Department of Philosophy

Julie Piering is the assistant director of the Institute for Public and Professional Ethics in Leadership at NAU and is founder of the Arizona High School Ethics Bowl. Piering's role in the Wood professorship elevates both her research and the department's reputation. According to Piering, her guiding principle is contributing to the fullness of life for NAU students and community members.



Eric Lenz, DMA

Michael and Karen Kitt Endowed Directorship

Kitt School of Music

Since joining NAU in 2021, **Eric Lenz** has charted new paths for music in Arizona. He was instrumental in developing the new Kitt School of Music and has helped NAU students achieve local, national, and international recognition. With experience performing worldwide, Lenz has premiered compositions in various ensembles and chamber music festivals.



COLLEGE OF Education



Nic Clement, EdD

Ernest W. McFarland Citizen's Chair in Education

Department of Educational Leadership

An experienced superintendent, **Nic Clement** has helped over 20 school districts and nonprofits develop strategic plans in Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Texas, and Honduras. Since 2014, he has conducted over 25 superintendent searches in Arizona. Clement has also authored three books, with royalties going to the Legendary Teacher Day Foundation.



Ron Gray, PhD

Chair; J. Lawrence Walkup Distinguished Professorship

Department of STEM Education

Ron Gray's work focuses on science teacher education, utilizing a practice-based approach resulting in new high school curricula centered around the model-based inquiry framework. This represents a significant shift toward fostering epistemic agency among students. Gray is also the new co-editor of *Science Education*, the leading journal in his field.



Rose Marie Ylimaki, PhD

*Del and Jewell Lewis Endowed
Chair in Educational Leadership*

Department of Educational Leadership

Rose Marie Ylimaki is a co-leader of the largest and longest-standing study of educational leadership in the world. Along with collaborator Dr. Qing Gu of University College London, Ylimaki leads teams in 24 nation-states as they study principals of successful schools—many of which are in underserved communities—using comparative mixed methods such as surveys and interviews.

The impacts of her research include top-tier publications, school development projects in various nation-states, and a UNESCO Gem Report on leadership featuring seven successful principals worldwide, one of whom was from Arizona.

Ylimaki's research has attracted new doctoral students to the Educational Leadership program at NAU. In fall 2024, she recruited and financially supported four new doctoral students who are interested in studying successful schools and principals as part of their dissertation research. All four of the doctoral students were from historically underserved communities, and Ylimaki plans to continue expanding her program's impact in the future.

“ Donor support has significantly elevated my research and scholarship with funds to attend professional meetings, conduct empirical study in Arizona schools, and serve schools in need of improved academic outcomes and community partnerships.”



A man and a woman are in a field, possibly near a body of water, collecting water samples. The man, wearing glasses and a dark shirt, is holding a branch of a tree and pouring water into a white container. The woman, wearing a light-colored shirt, is also holding a branch. The background shows a body of water and trees. The entire image has a blue tint.

COLLEGE OF THE Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences

Duan Biggs, PhD

*The Charles Olajos and Ted Goslow
Chair for Southwestern Environmental
Science and Policy*

School of Earth and Sustainability

The Olajos-Goslow chair was funded to effect real-world conservation impact. As an enthusiastic naturalist and founder of the Resilient Conservation Lab, **Duan Biggs** is uniquely suited for the position. Born in Namibia, Biggs grew up in South Africa's Kruger National Park. He has worked ever since at the interface of science and conservation.

In collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund, the Luc Hoffmann Institute, and others, Biggs is responding to Africa's illegal wildlife trade crisis. Since 2018, he has been leading the creation of the first global standard for human-wildlife coexistence, laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and inclusive conflict mitigation strategy.

Biggs has adjunct appointments at the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science and the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Queensland; the Griffith University Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security; and the School of Public Leadership and the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology at Stellenbosch University.



“ I have leveraged the funding of the chair to support and lead a process of bringing people together to transcend polarised conflicts on the conservation and management of iconic wildlife.”

College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences



Pete Fulé, PhD

Regents' Professor; Charles O. and Mary Minor Endowed Professorship in Forestry
School of Forestry

Pete Fulé's, '90, '96, research lies at the intersection of forests, wildfire, climate, and people. He was instrumental in developing the Ecological Restoration Institute at NAU and helping to expand tree-ring research techniques for wildfires and climate research. His students have gone on to make a difference for ecosystems and communities across the world.



Catherine Gehring, PhD

Regents' Professor; John and Pit Lucking Family Professorship
Professorship in CEFNS

Department of Biological Sciences

Catherine Gehring, '91, has advised more than two dozen graduate students and provided hands-on lab experience for over 150 undergraduates. Her research has addressed basic science questions while including applied research aimed at restoring ecosystems afflicted with fires, droughts, and invasive species.



Bruce Hungate, PhD

Regents' Professor and Director
Frances B. McAllister Chair in Community, Culture, and Environment

Department of Biological Sciences

Bruce Hungate studies how microorganisms affect the world. He assisted with building NAU's first greenhouse gas budget, creating the Climate Science and Solutions graduate program, and establishing the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society. His graduates work in state and federal agencies, at national labs, in the private sector, and at institutions around the world.

Jani Ingram, PhD

Regents' Professor; Dr. Don Gilbert Endowed
Chair in Analytical Chemistry

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

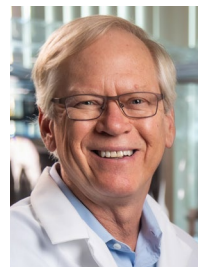
As a member of the Navajo Nation, **Jani Ingram** investigates environmental contaminants with respect to their impact on health for at-risk populations. She is the principal investigator of the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention and director of the Bridges to Baccalaureate program.

Ingram's work earned her an international reputation for environmental research in Tribal communities. She has built a network of collaborators from a variety of institutions to address important Native American environmental health-related issues. Donor support allows for additional projects with old and new Indigenous communities, as well as increased opportunities for students to contribute.

An involved mentor, Ingram works with students at the middle school, high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels. She is enthusiastic about assisting students from underserved populations in developing leadership skills and achieving success in their chosen fields.



“ I have unique insights from an intersectional position that includes both Indigenous and scientific perspectives. As a result, my research approach is distinctive, which draws students who may not have considered chemistry as a career.”



Paul Keim, PhD

Regents' Professor, Microbiology and Executive Director, Pathogen & Microbiome Institute; E. Raymond and Ruth Reed Cowden Chair

Department of Biological Sciences

Paul Keim, '77, '13, has trained over 1,000 students—mostly undergraduates whom he paid with extramural funding—in the science of molecular genetics, evolution, and ecology. Famous for his genomic analyses in the 2001 Anthrax attacks, Keim holds the first patent ever issued to an NAU faculty member and has published over 500 papers.



Christine Regalla, PhD

Ernest Duebendorfer and Charles Barnes Structural Geology Professorship

School of Earth and Sustainability

Christine Regalla is a structural geologist in the School of Earth and Sustainability. Her research focuses on the geologic histories of faults that produce earthquakes, including the paleoseismic histories of faults in Arizona, California, Cascadia, and Japan.



Sara Souther, PhD

Resolution Copper Emory Oak Restoration Project Endowed Professorship

School of Earth and Sustainability

Because undergraduate research shaped **Sara Souther's** career trajectory, she sees hands-on experience as a crucial part of higher education. Her interests include local and Indigenous resource management and conservation, and restoration of ecosystems in the southwest. She has authored or co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications.





COLLEGE OF Health and Human Services



Julie Baldwin, PhD

*Regents' Professor; The NARBHA Institute Vice President for NAU Health;
Executive Director, Center for Health Equity Research*

Department of Health Sciences

An inductee of the National Academy of Medicine, a Johns Hopkins alumna, and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, **Julie Baldwin** is the creator of NAU's Center for Health Equity Research. Her applied research has earned millions of dollars in funding and contributed to addressing health inequities in many communities.

Monica Linger, PhD

Del and Karen Steinbronn Professorship

**Department of Physical Therapy
and Athletic Training**

Since joining NAU in 2014, **Monica Linger** has primarily researched concussion disclosure and injury prevention in sports medicine, specifically within a health equity framework. These have also led her to a scientific investigation of physical literacy—or the ability, confidence, and desire to be physically active for life.

Serving as director of the Technical Assistance Group Service Center through the Center for Health Equity Research, Linger has made numerous state, regional, and national presentations; authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications; and earned several federally funded grants. She also serves on the editorial boards of three athletic training journals.

Seeing her students become licensed healthcare professionals who go on to serve as clinical preceptors across the country fills Linger with pride. Her recent physical literacy project provided hands-on research, funding, and presentation experience for eight graduate students over two years.



“ Inactivity is a growing public health concern. Lower physical literacy is directly associated with lower cardiovascular fitness and increased obesity. We are working on interventions to promote increased confidence and desire to remain active.”



COLLEGE OF Social and Behavioral Sciences

Juliette Roddy, PhD

*The NARBHA Institute James Wurgler MD Chair
of Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health*

**Department of Criminology
and Criminal Justice**

An enrolled member of the SSM Ojibwe Tribe, **Juliette Roddy**, '89, offers her subject matter expertise to both national institutions and community organizations. With a focus on substance use, recovery, incarceration, and re-entry, her research helped the Center for Health Equity and Research earn a Culturally Centered Addiction Research certificate in 2020.

Roddy's work with the Arizona Department of Corrections has facilitated Inside Out instruction in Winslow. She collaborates with Working Alternatives, Inc., a re-entry facility in Flagstaff, to offer programming to returning citizens. As the Wurgler Chair, she co-leads an annual summit with Arizona's leadership on assisting Tribal citizens with re-entry.

Roddy is a dedicated leader who received the 2024 Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Award: Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award. She serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of Native Americans for Community Action in Flagstaff and chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Council for Coconino County.



“ I am most proud of my efforts supporting the re-entry of Tribal citizens and the initiation of teaching within the Winslow prison complex. Donors support the exploration of research in the Flagstaff community.”

Honors COLLEGE

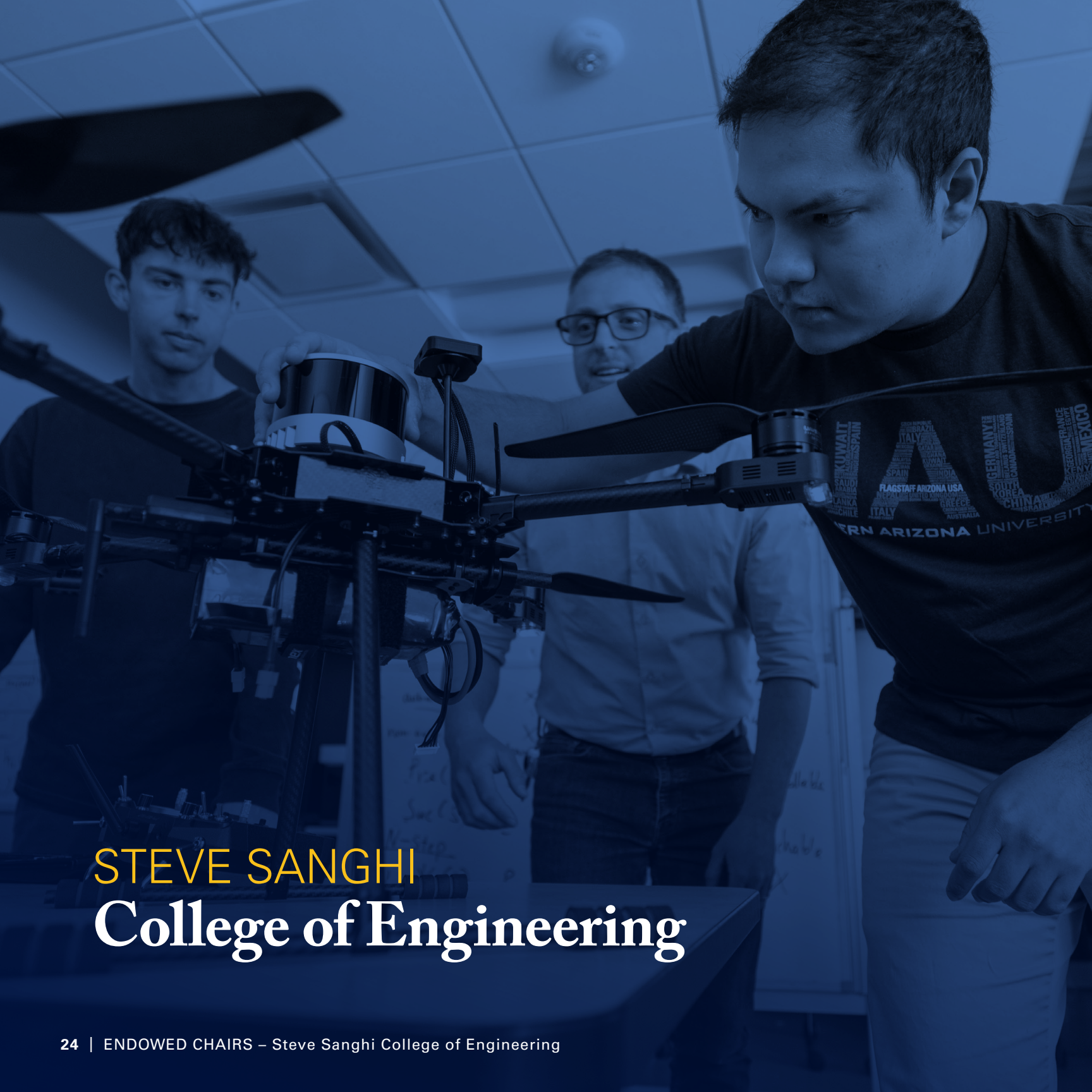


Morgan Vigil-Hayes, PhD

Wolf Gumberman Professorship in Honors

School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems

As assistant professor of computer science, **Morgan Vigil-Hayes** conducts research spanning network and data analytics, people- and community-centric network design, information technology and society, and networks in resource-limited contexts. She teaches courses in the Honors College on computer networks, network analysis, and mobile networks.



STEVE SANGHI
College of Engineering

Charles Chadwell

Steve Sanghi Distinguished Deanship
Steve Sanghi College of Engineering

Charles Chadwell brings over 21 years of experience as an educator and leader in higher education to his role at NAU. With his passion for furthering student success, Dean Chadwell promotes and supports high-impact student learning outcome practices. His approach to student success is focused on identifying curricular and institutional barriers and addressing them directly with a “meet-the-students-where-they-are” mentality.

The work Chadwell is leading in math readiness will have a positive impact on student success by reducing rates at which students drop or fail their courses. His promotion of engineering leadership development through club activities, undergraduate research, and career readiness is changing the way upper-division students think and solve problems.

Chadwell’s commitment to collaborating with alumni networks, creating corporate partnerships, and nurturing a productive research environment all combine to provide students with a competitive skillset for employment after graduation. His support for effective academic leadership fosters a culture of inclusive excellence and a robust community.



“ The eminent scholars endowment, funded by the Steve Sanghi named gift, provides flexibility in our state-constrained environment to advance the strategic initiatives of improving social mobility, expanding access, and elevating excellence.”



THE W. A. FRANKE College of Business



Brian Boyd, PhD

Ralph M. Bilby Endowed Chair

Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems Management

A prolific and influential scholar, **Brian Boyd** rests on the laurels of service, research, and teaching. Boyd has developed entrepreneurship coursework and is also interested in strategic leadership, corporate governance, and research methods. His other roles include workshop presenter, conference panelist, visiting faculty, and journal editor.

The W.A. Franke College of Business



Jeremy Brees, PhD

The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment

Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems Management

Jeremy Brees studies accountability in the workplace, focusing on management and leadership. He has 10 years of industry experience in B2B and B2C sales and was a human resources business partner in Silicon Valley. He takes pride in having a lasting positive impact on his students.



Jap Efendi, PhD

The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowed Professorship in Accounting

Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting

A financial accounting specialist, **Jap Efendi** is published in top accounting and finance journals and presented his research in the US, Europe, Australia, and Asia. He also helped develop NAU's MBA in Healthcare. Efendi's research helps him stay current on the changing business world and how it affects his students.



Ryan Fitch, PhD

Marley Professorship of Business

Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting

Proud family man **Ryan Fitch**, '15, orients himself to the environment we inhabit. He studies natural resources in the greater Flagstaff area that provide a vast array of benefits to nearby communities. His research helps Arizona resident students receive an applied education about their home state that they can leverage into sustainable local employment.



Joseph Little, PhD

*The W. A. Franke College
of Business Endowment*

**Department of Economics,
Finance, and Accounting**

Joseph Little's specialty is applied environmental economics. After completing his PhD, he built an interdisciplinary research program at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. The research addressed critical challenges facing communities in Arctic regions. Now, he is building a research program that can benefit Flagstaff and Northern Arizona.

At NAU, Little has worked on funded projects with several talented graduate students. Their efforts have advanced multiple research initiatives of practical benefit to their respective communities. Little has found a place where individuals who care about their work can enhance the lives of their fellow community members.

The research Little is conducting now wouldn't be possible without the support and generosity of donors who are committed to the well-being of our community. Their contributions are a visible symbol of dedication to our students, our community, and NAU.

“ I focus on applied research because of the practical benefits. The goal is to show students learning paths that promote their growth as individuals while also building social capital in the communities where they live and serve.”

The W. A. Franke College of Business



Farooq Malik, PhD

The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment

Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting

With research interests that include financial econometrics, energy finance, volatility, and risk management, **Farooq Malik** has numerous publications in top-tier economics and finance journals. He has also been funded by the National Science Foundation. Malik frequently brings his interdisciplinary research findings to the classroom so he can share practical implications with his students.



Charn McAllister, PhD

The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment

Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems Management

Charn McAllister's research focuses on interpersonal mistreatment, political skill, and workplace stress. His first book, *Political Skill at Work*, was published in 2021. Before academia, McAllister earned his commission as an Army officer at the United States Military Academy. In the classroom, he teaches about how to be an authentic, ethical, and servant-focused leader.



Susan Williams, PhD

The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment

Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems Management

NAU's business analytics programs would not look the same without **Susan Williams**. She has made significant contributions to curriculum development in the W. A. Franke College of Business, creating courses and degree programs in business analytics and management. Published many times over, Williams provides NAU students with a robust education in highly sought-after skills.



Learn more about inspiring faculty members and the impactful work they do at NAU by visiting nau.edu/faculty.

