# THIS IS NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS.

Sam M. Walton
College of Business
Information Systems



TOP TALENT IN TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP ROLES

## MASTERS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Masters Programs in Information Systems (IS) have been growing and evolving rapidly. Currently the programs offered encompass full-time and professional (part-time) Master of Information Systems and Master of Applied Business Analytics programs, as well as certificate programs in Blockchain Enterprise Systems, Business Analytics, and Enterprise Resource Planning. An additional program, Cybersecurity and Data Management, will add certificates in the coming semesters. Soon we will also be introducing several micro-certificate programs and are currently designing a Master of Healthcare Business Analytics program too. Furthermore, many of the Walton College masters programs are using Information Systems certificate courses, including Accounting, Economics, Finance, Marketing, and full-time and Executive Master of Business Administration.

The Information Systems Masters Programs are EPIC (exemplifying Excellence, Professionalism, Innovation, and Collegiality) in our efforts to stay current with course content and in our assurance of learning efforts.

For instance, we've recently moved our full-time masters programs from a fall to a summer start in order to facilitate students' ability to learn about and choose a concentration path early in the program.

Strong corporate partnerships are integral to our IS programs. Companies like Acxiom, Arvest Bank, Charter Communications, Dillard's, IBM, J.B. Hunt, Murphy USA, Nestle, Rockline Industries, SAS, Teradata, Tyson Foods, Walmart, and Wells Fargo generously support our programs as class speakers, data/case study sponsors, products, systems, experiences, and of course students.

Employers appreciate that IS masters program graduates are capable of working with and managing the current information technologies and also have the interpersonal skills to excel in a business environment. Our programs are expanding each year in number of students per class, additional sections of courses, and in faculty team members! Thank you for your part in the success of these endeavors!

## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

### DR. RAJIV SABHERWAL

*Distinguished Professor, Edwin & Karlee Bradberry Endowed Chair, and Chair of the Department of Information Systems. Fellow of IEEE and Fellow of the AIS.*

On June 30, 2021, my second 5-year term as the Information Systems department chair ended. We have accomplished a lot: graduating a multitude of successful students; adding excellent faculty and staff; forming the highly successful Blockchain Center of Excellence; creating and launching multiple new curriculum programs; and conducting and widely publishing exciting research. We — the faculty, staff, and students — have furthered our common vision of being a top-five department in the world with significant global impact and excellence in research, teaching, and industry connections.

I have been requested to serve a third term, and gladly accepted. It is a pleasure to work in this role with this excellent group of colleagues and the strong support received from across the Walton College, the University of Arkansas, and our numerous external partners.
I am excited to continue leading our efforts to advance and disseminate knowledge about information systems while living the EPIC (Excellence, Professionalism, Innovation, and Collegiality) values of the Walton College.
We have already embarked on an exciting new school year, work on multiple initiatives to further enhance our programs, and the search for several new faculty. This newsletter highlights of some of our many areas of excellence and ongoing efforts. I hope you enjoy reading it and continuing with us on our EPIC journey.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

*Assistant Professor in Information and Process Management at Bentley University*

**HAMID NIKKHAH Ph.D. 2020**

"By joining the IS Ph.D. program at Sam Walton College of Business, I recognized how a high-quality research agenda can expand scientific and practical knowledge. Ph.D. seminars in the Information Systems department are taught by world-renowned research faculty and represent world-class research that enhanced my theoretical and analytical understanding. Students can benefit from the collaboration with faculty members in the IS department to ascertain the fundamentals of a cutting-edge research project."

## THIS IS NEW!

We are excited to announce the Fall 2021 kick-off of our newest curriculum through the Information Systems Department: **Data and Cybersecurity Management**. Curriculum for an undergraduate minor and undergraduate certificate, developed in partnership with the School of Law and the School of Engineering, launches this Fall. A graduate degree concentration and a graduate certificate will begin Fall 2022. Both the undergraduate and graduate programs are being implemented to meet the demand for skilled professionals in the fields of cybersecurity, data quality, and data management. Topics courses will cover include cybersecurity fundamentals, network and data security, cybercrime, cyberlaw, data privacy, and privacy law fundamentals. If you are interested in enrolling or in learning more about the program from a company or student perspective please contact Dr. Rhonda Syler at rsyler@walton.uark.edu.

### NEW VISITING PROFESSORS

Yanran Liu received her Ph.D. in Computer Information Systems at the Center for Digital Innovation in Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. Her expertise lies in digital innovation, bots, digital business strategy, and digital transformation of retailers to omnichannel retailing. She received the AIS Doctoral Student Service Award in 2019 and the Best Reviewer Award for ICIS in 2020.

Venkata Kameshwar Prasad Mallampalli (Kamesh) received his PhD from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia in information systems and operations and has a 13-year professional career in the telecom and IT industries. His research interests lie in legacy systems, digital innovation strategy, and process analytics.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### STEVE NOLAN

5-year Walton College Information Systems Department Instructor Steve Nolan reports that his ISYS 2103 students' first questions are "How many tests do we have? Can we use our notes for the exams?" But the business students from all concentrations soon find out this is not that kind of class! The Business Information Systems course presents the fundamentals of business information systems topics and frameworks essential to today's business graduate's ability to envision how business decisions are enabled and empowered by information systems and technology.

As the 3-year course coordinator of the ISYS 2103 sections and as an innovative-thinker, Nolan uses a hands-on curriculum that stimulates thought-provoking outcomes.

One of the first class experiences is a team "game" using a deck of playing cards to envision business processes, challenges, changes, and outcomes. The course learning and skills build from there. Nolan's students tend to enjoy the course so much that several of them regularly agree to pay-it-back as Student Scholars for the course instructors in the semesters after they have completed the course.

In addition to a fun personality and an excellent teaching mindset, Steve Nolan has two bachelor degrees in information systems and management, a masters in information systems from UofA, 4 years of industry experience with Quality Health Network, and 2 years of experience with Student Affairs at the UofA.

## AWARDS & HONORS

- Dr. Carole Shook was selected as a Co-Director of the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center in April 2021
- Dr. Varun Grover received the 2021 Walton College Faculty Excellence in Research Award

- Dr. Zach Steelman received the 2021 Walton College Rising Scholar Excellence in Research Award
- Professor Beverly Hodges received the 2021 Walton College Lecturer Excellence in Teaching Award

- Dr. Paul Cronan was Walton College nominee for the 2021 University-wide Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award
- Sr. Managing Director of the BCoE Kathryn Carlisle received the 2021 Walton College Staff Innovator Award

# BCoE INITIATIVE

## KATHRYN CARLISLE

*Senior Managing Director*
*Blockchain Center of Excellence*

The Blockchain Center of Excellence launched the Women in Blockchain Initiative in Spring 2021, a new content series to highlight female blockchain leaders and use-cases that support and promote women.

Dr. Mary Lacity, Executive Director of the Blockchain Center reported, "We hope that students will see the possibilities for their careers by celebrating the women who are leading the way. The Women in Blockchain Initiative is part of a broader diversity, equity and inclusion initiative in the Walton College and across the University of Arkansas."

## Women in Blockchain Initiative

The initiative was kicked-off with a video spotlight series that is now featured on the center's website and published on the Women in Blockchain playlist on the Walton College YouTube page. Content and interviews will be continually added throughout the next year for individual leaders and use-cases.

Current spotlights include blockchain professionals in areas ranging from secure U.S. government nuclear codes storage to financial inclusion for women working on and owning farms in Africa. The initiative will expand to include more workshops, partnerships and different forms of recognition. If there is a female blockchain professional or use-case that you would like to nominate, please email blockchain@uark.edu.

# BLOCKCHAIN AT A GLANCE

The Blockchain Center of Excellence (BCoE) creates significant impact in the spheres of business, academia, and society by fulfilling the Center's mission to make the Sam M. Walton College of Business a premiere academic leader in research and education of blockchain-enabled technologies and digital ecosystems.

We believe that future professionals with skills and knowledge in blockchain-enabled technologies and digital ecosystems will transform businesses and society into more efficient, sustainable, and profitable networks.

The BCoE was established by Governor Asa Hutchinson in August 2018 and currently operates with 12 Executive Advisory Board Members, including Accenture, ArcBest, EY, FedEx, FIS, Golden State Foods, IBM, J.B. Hunt, McKesson, Microsoft, Tyson, and Walmart. Board members participate in all activities of the center, including our annual Blockchain for Business Conference, hackathon, workshops, classroom lecturers, and research papers.
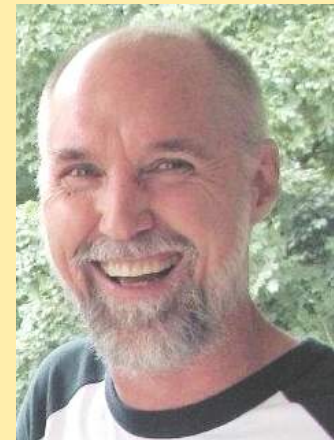
# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS...

## DR. TOM JONES

Dr. Tom Jones retired in December 2013 after 36½ years with the University of Arkansas. His initial appointment in July 1977 was as an assistant professor in the IS Department, then named Data Processing and Quantitative Analysis. He is remembered as the professor of an IS/quantitative analysis course that was known as the class everybody was afraid of; yet all would say they learned much.

In 2006, Jones received the ultimate faculty recognition when he was appointed as a University Professor. Jones held various officer positions of four organizations, including President of each: Decision Sciences Institute (DSI), Southwest DSI (SWDSI), Federation of Business Disciplines, and Arkansas Swimming. In 2008, Jones was presented the SWDSI Outstanding Educator Award for his over-30-year record of excellence in teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in three distinct areas: statistics, production and operations management, and management science operations research.

Dr. Jones is a Fellow of DSI, he received the DSI Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award, the SWDSI Distinguished Service Award, the United States Swimming Phillips 66 Outstanding Service Award, and was elected to the Arkansas Swimming Hall of Fame. In 2014, he received the SWDSI Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize his exemplary record of continual, outstanding professional commitment, leadership, and service contributions to SWDSI, as well as longevity over an entire career.

Since retirement, Dr. Jones can be found doing anything his wife, Susan, permits him to do, which includes spending as much time as possible with their 3 grandkids. Also, he is always on the lookout for more Lincoln Logs!

# PUBLICATIONS

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- Bina, S., **Mullins, J. K**., Petter, S. (2021). Examining Game-based Approaches in Human Resources Recruitment and Selection: A Literature Review and Research Agenda.(vol. 54, pp. 1325-1344). New York, NY: *Proceedings of the 54th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-54)*.
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# EVENTS

**UPCOMING**

## PAST

- 2021 RZRBlock Virtual Hackathon Competition, March 5th - April 2nd, 2021
- National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Aspiration in Computing (AiC) Award Ceremony, April 6, 2021
- Women in IT 2021 Virtual Conference, April 7, 2021
- BCoE Executive Advisory Board Meeting, August 17, 2021

- Enterprise Systems Advisory Council Meeting and Student Networking Event, September 27, 2021
- WCOB Career Fair, September 28, 2021
- Blockchain for Business Conference, October 8, 2021
- NCWIT AiC Award Ceremony, April 12, 2022
- Women in IT Virtual Conference, April 13, 2022
- Information System Department of Walton College will host ICIS (International Conference on Information Systems) in Nashville, TN, December 2025.

## WOMEN IN IT 2021 CONFERENCE

On April 7, 2021, Walton College Executive Education and the Walton College Department of Information Systems hosted the first VIRTUAL Women in IT Conference entitled, "Hack the Journey." The conference was designed to help participants "get where you are going technically, professionally, and personally and make connections and build a community." 361 professionals attended the 2 keynote sessions and 16 breakout sessions. Erika Amoako-Agyei, Helena Gadison, and Mary Lacity are just a few of the speakers featured in the conference.

Conference content can still be requested by emailing **ExecEd@Walton.uark.edu**. Save the date for **the 2022 Women in IT Conference: April 13, 2022**!

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

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Be epic.