



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Academic Professional Leadership Program

Class of 2020

Urbana-Champaign



Dr. Sarah Allison is an Associate Director for the Division of Animal Resources (DAR) where she oversees the care and welfare of animals used in research and teaching on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. She is also a Clinical Associate Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and teaches courses in laboratory animal medicine.

Dr. Allison graduated from the University Of Illinois College Of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. She worked in small animal practice and then completed a residency and postdoctoral fellowship in laboratory animal medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She began her career at DAR as an Assistant Director in 2006.

Currently, Dr. Allison shares responsibility for providing high quality animal care for laboratory animals, consulting with researchers on animal model and protocol development, and supporting regulatory compliance. Dr. Allison serves on campus, state, and national committees including the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association's Board of Directors and the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners Legislative Committee. At UIUC, she is a voting member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Dr. Allison is passionate about public policy and advocacy. She was a Public Policy Faculty Fellow for the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. During the fellowship, she learned about the federal legislative process and attended congressional hearings. Dr. Allison is also the founder of DAR Outreach Day where students from the College of Lake Forest learn about humane animal research.



Kelly L. Foster is the Illini Union Guest Services Manager for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In this role, he is responsible for the 24/7 hotel operations and staff. These responsibilities include serving as a leader to the employees on matters of compliance, guest services, public relations, events and marketing. Kelly works closely with university personnel, students and faculty, alumni and members of our community.

Kelly has been employed with the University for 20 years in various capacities. Kelly has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Illinois Springfield.



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John Holton is the Assistant Collections Manager for the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In this role since 2004, he assists with the preservation of the museum's 51,000 artifacts and their use by campus and community groups. John engages with University faculty, staff and students, major campus and museum donors, visiting scholars, and community groups promoting understanding of world cultures and providing platforms for underrepresented communities to share their stories. He also coordinates the museum's Hazard Communications program and assists overseeing projects with Facilities and Services and outside contractors, including energy-conscious efforts to increase building energy efficiency resulting in an estimated savings of \$750,000 over the past

decade.

Serving on the Board of Directors for 40 North/88 West Champaign County Arts Council, John represents UIUC and strengthens ties between the University and the local arts community. He is a contributing member of 40 North's annual *ACE Awards* event that recognizes individual's impact on the community, *UNTITLED* fundraiser, and *MTD ART: Moving Pictures Through Your Neighborhood* program. He is currently working towards increasing community artists' awareness of UIUC's *Art in Architecture* program, promoting upcoming art submission opportunities on campus.

John is also a member of the American Alliance of Museums' (AAM) LGBTQ Professional Network Steering Committee, contributing to their operating guidelines and representing them in AAM initiatives.

He has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a master's in Library and Information Sciences, both from UIUC.



Viveka P. Kudaligama is the Assistant Director of Graduate Programs in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She joined the department in 2014 as the Coordinator of Graduate Programs. In her current position, she manages the daily operations of the on-campus and online Computer Science graduate programs, including admissions, curriculum, PhD examination processes, student evaluations, degree certifications, and academic advising. She also plays a key administrative role in supporting the recent strategic growth of online Computer Science graduate programs. Her mission critical role in the department is currently supported by a five-member team of excellent graduate programs staff. Viveka is dedicated to furthering the educational mission of the Department and committed to improving access and outcomes for student groups currently underrepresented in higher education.

Prior to joining the Department of Computer Science, Viveka served as the Assistant Director for the Asian American Studies Program (now Department) on the Urbana campus. Viveka earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has completed additional graduate work in Higher Education on the Urbana campus. Her personal research interests include higher



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education finance, student outcomes, and internationalization of higher education. Viveka's contributions to the Computer Science graduate programs were recognized with the 2018 Graduate College Excellence Award for Graduate Contacts.



Jong S. Lee, Ph.D., is a Principal Research Scientist of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), Urbana-Champaign campus and co-leads the Innovative Software and Data Analysis group (ISDA) at NCSA. He has worked at NCSA since 2006. He received his M.S. of Urban Planning and Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999 and 2005 respectively. His group pursues research and development to further the state of the art in data curation, data management, as well as visualization/presentation tools and methodologies working with a number of projects across a variety of domains. His research interests focus on designing, developing and operating end-to-end cyber environments supporting research and education communities. He is particularly interested in the role of geographic information sciences and systems in cyber environments for various scientific domains.

Current representative projects include Center for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning (Co-PI, NIST funded), NSF CIF21 DIBBs – Brown Dog (Co-PI), Ergo: Seismic Risk Assessment Systems, Great Lakes to Gulf Virtual Observatory, GeoStreaming Data Platform, and DataWolf – Scientific Workflow System. Through these projects, he and his group are collaborating with diverse scientific domains such as hazard management, hazard risk assessment, agricultural food market system, environmental engineering, water management, CFD (Computation Fluid Dynamics) simulation, sensor web, etc.



Dr. Julia Makela, PhD, NCC has worked for the University of Illinois since 2005. She currently serves as the Associate Director for Assessment and Research at The Career Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. With nearly 20 years of experience in career development and higher education, she specializes in facilitating practitioner-engaged program assessments that gather evidence to inform and continually enhance student programs and services. She shares resources and builds communities to communicate the value of career services and higher education degrees.

In addition to her work with The Career Center, Julia has led *Illini Success*, the Urbana campus graduate outcomes survey initiative, since its establishment in 2014. This project is a collaboration between the Office of the Provost, The Career Center, the Division of Management Information, and the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, with essential support provided by the Council of Undergraduate Deans, the Career Services Council, the Office of the Registrar, the Institutional Review Board, and many more. Julia has also served on numerous assessment committees across campus including the Student Affairs Assessment Committee (2013–present, Chair 2016–2019), Chancellor's Senior Survey Committee (2015–present), Council for Learning Outcomes Assessment (2017–present), Committee on Student Learning Outcomes (2015), and Campus-wide Assessment Working Group (2014–2017).



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Julia earned a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Illinois, a M.S. in counseling from Florida State University, and a B.S. in computer science from Cornell University. She is a Fellow of the National Career Development Association (NCDA) and a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC).



Kimberly Otchere serves as Assistant Director for Social Justice and Leadership Education (SJLE) in University Housing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her work with SJLE over the past seven years has included advising identity-centered student groups, fundraising for residential programming, supervision of the Multicultural Advocate program, and facilitating inclusion related training and development. Kim also serves on the leadership team for the Chancellor's Committee on Race, Ethnicity, and Intersectionality, as well as the Black Faculty and Academic Professional Alliance, and many others, which aim to create space and equitable policies and practices for underrepresented and underserved students, faculty, and staff. Such work on and off campus have yielded awards such as the Lorraine "Cathy" Acevedo Award and Central Illinois' Forty Under 40.

Her teaching and published work include a focus on campus social change movements, ally behavior, as well as dynamics of diversity and inclusion in curriculum and instruction. Through her doctoral studies in Human Resource Development and Professional MBA, she hopes to elevate the discourse and strategic planning that shapes the inclusive practices of organizational leaders.

As a first-generation college student and child of working-class servant leaders, she is passionate about leading social change work. With a baccalaureate and master's degree in Social Work, she uses her educational training to develop more equitable and inclusive campus communities. Kimberly's training in Intergroup Dialogue facilitation has framed her leadership in meaningful perspective taking. Embracing eclectic means to create inclusive collegiate communities, Kim is a scholarly practitioner.



Doug Wolters is the Senior Director of Operations for the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). After graduating Bronze Tablet with bachelor's and master's degrees in Architecture from the University of Illinois, Doug spent the first six years of his career as an architect in private practice. Doug joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007, where he served as a Capital Construction Project Manager for Facilities and Services. In this role, he was responsible for the successful delivery of large capital projects including the new Electrical and Computer Engineering Building, the Memorial Stadium Renovation, and the Huff Hall North Addition.

In 2012, Doug moved to the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES). In his current role, he directs all aspects of facilities management for the college. His work encompasses strategic planning, capital project development and construction, building



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maintenance, and day-to-day facilities operations for approximately 80 buildings, totaling over 1.5 million square feet.

In 2018, Doug's work in the College of ACES was recognized as he received the Professional Staff Award for Excellence in Innovation and Creativity. Additionally, in 2019, Doug was acknowledged by the College as his team was awarded the Team Award for Excellence for their work on the Turner Hall Renovation project.

Chicago



Clare Delaney is the Director of Student Services of the Office of Academic Programs for the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has progressively moved through the College of Nursing as she has previously served as the Director of Student Affairs, Director of Admissions and Student Affairs and Associate Director of Admissions. Her current role consists of overseeing the recruitment and admissions and the student affairs teams for the College. Along with faculty and staff, she coordinates the holistic admissions process for the undergraduate and three graduate programs across six campuses. She has a strong commitment to student services, heading advising for undergraduate students and coordinating orientation and commencement activities. Clare actively collaborates with colleagues in the health sciences colleges and campus wide in efforts to improve the student experience at UIC.

Originally from the northwest suburbs of Illinois, Clare has lived in Chicago since completing her BA in Public Policy from DePaul University. She enjoys exploring the city with her dachshund mix Harold.



Michael Diaz is the Executive Associate Director and Title IX Coordinator at the Office for Access and Equity where he leads and manages the investigation of employee, student and third-party complaints regarding violations of state and federal laws, agency regulations and/or University policies related to discrimination, harassment, equal opportunity and access and disability accommodations. In this role, Michael provides individual and institutional remedies related to University policies. This is Michael's second stint with OAE; in 2002–2005, he held the position of Civil Rights Analyst and Investigator.

Prior to joining OAE, Michael served as Deputy General Counsel to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Banking where he worked with regulators, and elected and appointed officials overseeing the successful management of the State's commercial and mortgage banking industries. In this capacity, Michael supervised Division attorneys and legal staff, and drafted legislation, interpreted statutory mandate and developed policy considerations for affected parties.

Michael also served as Principal with the law firm of Monteagudo, Lopez & Diaz, Attorneys and Counsel where he practiced in the areas of Business and Municipal Law. His career arch includes working for the Ford



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Motor Company as a Legislative Analyst and Fannie Mae as the Midwest Manager for Government and Industry Relations.

Michael received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's in Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and received his Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School Chicago. Michael is currently pursuing his Ed.D. at UIUC in Educational Policy and Organizational Leadership.

Today, Michael sits on the Board of Directors of Prevention First, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preventing teen drug use throughout the State of Illinois, where he serves as Vice Chair. He is also an auxiliary board member with National Public Radio Illinois. His civic service includes service on the Latino Advisory Council for the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer, Vice President of Region IX of the National Hispanic Bar Association, and chair of the Local Government Committee for the Chicago Bar Association.



Sharon Feldman, MPH is the Associate Director of Global Health Policy Research Initiatives at the UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy, Health Policy Center. Sharon is inspired by UIC's mission to "*create knowledge that transforms our views of the world.*" Knowledge created through research is an essential component of any university, and the majority of Sharon's tenure at UIC has been directed toward fostering an environment in which research excellence flourishes. To achieve this, she has shaped a unique position in which she combines her institutional administrative knowledge with her social science research expertise. Sharon's ability to unite these two capabilities has enabled researchers to achieve their scientific aims in a nurturing environment that adheres to legal and ethical requirements, and offers an array of expertise outside of their own. She has

endeavored to learn things that may not seem critical to research, but without which, the projects she supports would not be as successful.

She is most proud of having launched a behemoth grant she also now manages. The complex scope of the project's design requires the oversight of 14+ sub-awards in low-income countries; 20+ contracts; visas for international staff; an annual budget of \$4-6M (which includes \$350K for travel), and more. Sharon believes "it takes a village" to do research, and *her village* includes colleagues at every level from multiple offices across campus.

Additionally, Sharon established an on-going campaign for the Institute for Health Research and Policy to donate food to UIC's food pantry. Since August 2018, she has galvanized a group of volunteers who share her vision. Together, they designed a highly creative campaign, which has yielded over 500 individual items donated to-date.



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Jacquelyn Jancius is the Director for the Conflict of Interest Office at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She holds a Master's degree in International Human Rights Law. Prior to joining UIC, she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Romania consulting on institutional development. Jacquelyn has spent 13 years at UIC working in the Office of Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR) to manage conflict of interest. The OVCR oversees conflict of commitment and interest of academic staff and research investigators for the university's 16 colleges, including seven health science colleges, and the UI Health System. Recently, Jacquelyn has assumed new responsibilities for compliance oversight on sexual misconduct in research. In this role, she has been leading the development of new policy and procedures with the Office of Access and Equity.

Jacquelyn has been a member of the UIC Chancellor Committee on the Status of Women since 2007. She has served as co-chair of the academic professionals sub-committee; co-chair of the CCSW; and later again served as co-chair of the staff concerns sub-committee. She also served on the UIC Sustainability Strategic Thinking Advisory Committee where she co-chaired the systems use sub-committee.



Brian Roessler is the Executive Assistant Dean for Student Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of Dean Tantillo's leadership team. In his role, he oversees college-based undergraduate recruitment, admissions, new student yield, new student orientation, academic advising, career development, degree certification, and undergraduate student administrative policies and procedures. LAS is UIC's largest undergraduate college serving over 10,100 undergraduate students on UIC's diverse urban campus.

Within the last 14 years of his service in LAS Student Academic Affairs, staffing has increased from 26 to 70 professionals in support of the UIC's historic undergraduate enrollment and LAS's new initiatives in assigned advising, recruitment, first-year seminars, and career guidance and internships. Brian's focus is to support both students and the outstanding staff that works with and for students.

To this end, he has restructured student support services and implemented several new initiatives—paperless record keeping, the use of web-based appointment software and, most important, data-driven strength-based intrusive advising. An active campus collaborator, Brian serves on many committees and task forces and is the current Chair of the Provost's Committee of Associate and Assistant Deans.



Monica Tith is the Associate Dean for Administration in the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has served in various positions within the College since 1996, including administrative roles in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department and the Energy Resources Center.

In her current role, she serves as the fiscal officer for the college and leads a team of business managers and human resources staff who handle all aspects of financial administration and HR processes. Monica holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and a Master of Business Administration degree, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is an active member of the Society of Research Administrators and the National Council of University Research Administrators.

In her free time, Monica loves to spend time hiking and fishing with her sons, Michael (19) and David (16).



Annette Wright has spent her career supporting students as they achieve their academic goals. A double alumna of the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and a Masters of Education degree from the College of Education, she has spent the last 25 years advocating for and supporting students.

A student affairs generalist, Annette has held several positions within the Division of Student Affairs, including Recruiter, Academic Advisor, Coordinator of Advising, Associate Director of Student Organizations, Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Student Veterans Affairs and Associate Dean of Students. In each of these positions, she has been able to develop programs and services that have improved the experiences of students at UIC.

Highlights of her career includes developing local, national and federal partnerships to benefit student veterans. Under her leadership, UIC received the designation of a Military Friendly institution in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. In 2014, UIC opened the Cisar Student Veterans Center, a space designed to serve as a hub for the student veteran community.

In addition to her work with students, Annette has served on several UIC committees including Chair, Black History Month Committee, 2005–2010; Chancellor’s Committee of Students with Disabilities 2012–2014; Chair, Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee, 2017–present; the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Blacks, 2018–present; and Lead–Student Success Initiative–Supporting Students in Need, 2019.



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Springfield



Katherine (Kathy) Battee-Freeman is Director of the Career Development Center at the University of Illinois at Springfield where she leads a team that assists students/alumni with identifying, pursuing, and obtaining professional goals. Before joining UIS in 2017, she worked in UIC Career Services. Kathy has 20+ years of experience in career counseling and development, program management, and training and supervision of staff at multiple levels. Kathy serves as Program Co-Vice President for the American Association of University Women–Springfield, IL branch and Co-Chair for the Midwest Association of Colleges and Employer Mentor Program.

She is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and the National Career Development Association (NCDA) and served in leadership roles in both organizations. She also facilitated programs at the NCDA Global

Career Development Conference in 2007, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Kathy is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Board Certified Counselor, Board Certified–TeleMental Health Provider, MBTI Certified Practitioner, Strong Certified Practitioner, and an AAUW Salary Negotiation Workshop Facilitator. She is also trained in Gallup’s strengths-based coaching. Her background includes an Ed.M. in Human Resources Education from UIUC; an M.A. in Community Counseling, with a focus in Career Counseling, from Loyola University Chicago; and a B.A. in Applied Psychology and Communication from UIC.

Kathy also enjoys doing arts and crafts including crocheting, making jewelry and greeting cards, sewing, painting, decoupage, and upcycling. Many of her creations are gifted to family and friends or donated to charity and a few are sold through her small business.



Emily Boles has worked as a Computer-Assisted Instruction Specialist for the UIS Center for Online Learning, Research and Service for thirteen years. She is passionate about the access and opportunities that high quality online learning affords non-traditional students, and advocates for the accessibility of online course materials. Emily provides leadership in faculty development, LMS implementation, instructional media, course development, and teaching support. As interim director of the Illinois Online Network, Emily managed the yearlong transition of the unit to UIS and led the development and implementation of a CRM and

registration/payment system.

She is an active leader on campus through serving on the Academic Professional Advisory Committee (APAC) and representing APs on Campus Senate. Currently, Emily serves as UIS APAC Chair, as well as chair of the University Professional Personnel Advisory Committee. She presents regularly at national conferences and serves on the Steering Committee for the Faculty Summer Institute. Emily's research interests include



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alternative credentialing, quality measurement in online courses, and digital literacies. Emily was awarded the UIS Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award in 2013.

Outside of work, Emily enjoys hiking with her husband and two children, gardening, and crafting. She serves on the Board of Directors for Tri-City Education Foundation and as a Trustee for the Village of Mechanicsburg. Emily earned a BA in English from Illinois College and has completed coursework for an MA in English at UIS. She completed the intensive Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning at Penn State and the ION Master Online Teacher certification.

System Offices



Laura Barnett is the Senior Associate Director of Training and Performance Improvement within University Payroll & Benefits (UPB). She joined UPB in 2004 after working on the UI-Integrate project. In her current role, she oversees learning and development for UPB staff as well as payroll-related training for college and department staff.

Prior to joining the University of Illinois System, Laura worked for United Airlines as a project coordinator. She also has several years of experience managing software support call centers in the healthcare industry.

Laura received her Bachelors of Art from Beloit College and graduated from Second City's Improvisation and RewireU programs. She is currently pursuing a green belt certification in Lean Six Sigma.



Cynthia Cobb is the Director of Portfolio and Process Management Office for Administrative Information Technology Services. Cynthia leads the strategic planning and implementation process for enterprise IT. She is also accountable for enterprise IT project and portfolio management, business process improvement, and records and information management.

Cynthia graduated with a MLS from the University of Illinois in 1995. Her first job was with Indiana State University's academic computing department, where she was tasked with setting up their campus-wide computer training program, creating a web publishing service, and gracefully retiring gopher. Post ISU and gopher, Cynthia focused on implementing project management processes and building high performing teams for companies in Illinois and Indiana.

Since then, Cynthia has returned to the University of Illinois, this time as an employee of AITS. Cynthia's primary interests are organizational culture, building resilient teams, and strategic planning and implementation. In addition to her MLS, Cynthia has a master's in English. She also holds certifications as a PMP and as a PfMP (one of 700 internationally) and is a SCUP certified strategic planner.



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Dan Szajna is the Director of System Purchasing and Support Services (System Purchasing). System Purchasing oversees the purchasing activities for system-level offices. Dan is also responsible for the oversight of data analytics and other support services provided to University purchasing offices. System Purchasing is a division within the Office of Business and Financial Services (OBFS).

Dan's experience in the University's purchasing processes dates back to August of 2010, when he started in Urbana Purchasing. Since then, Dan has held positions with increased levels of responsibilities in Strategic Procurement and Procurement Services. Dan has been instrumental in transitioning Strategic Procurement into System Purchasing and has led a number of new policy initiatives. In addition, Dan has managed the procurements for a number of complex purchases at the University.

Prior to joining the University, Dan spent over three years at the Illinois Department of Central Management Services in the Bureau of Strategic Sourcing and Procurement. In this position, Dan led procurements for services made available to all State agencies. Dan also served as the State Purchasing Officer for the Illinois Finance Authority. During this time, Dan was a member on the Senate Bill 51 (Public Act 96-0795) implementation team and served as the subcommittee chairperson for procurement communication reporting.

Dan also brings with him over six years of experience in supplier diversity programs from the Chicago Transit Authority. He graduated from Western Illinois University in 2000 and is a Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO).