

**University of Kentucky's
2020 Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium
Academic Leadership Academy Fellows**

Debra A Bourne, MD is a plastic surgeon at the University of Kentucky. Bourne earned her medical degree at Yale School of Medicine. Afterward she completed residency training in plastic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She spent an additional year perusing both basic science and clinical research focusing on the regenerative properties of adipose derived stem cells. She went on to complete a combined Orthopedic and Plastic Surgery Hand and Upper Extremity Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She was then recruited to the University of Kentucky to join the Department of Surgery.

Dr. L. Sebastian Bryson is the current Hardin-Drnevich-Huang Associate Professor of Civil Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Kentucky. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University, his Master of Engineering degree from Howard University and his Bachelor of Science degree from the Florida A and M University/Florida State University College of Engineering. Dr. Bryson's research interest focuses on applied geotechnics and includes field instrumentation and monitoring of constructed facilities, in-situ response of earth structures, performance prediction of supported excavations, in-situ and laboratory testing of soils, and soil improvement and ground modification. Current research projects include landslide geohazard assessment and prediction, deformation-based design methodology, multi-hazard response of infrastructure systems, and geotechnical sustainability. Dr. Bryson teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses in Geotechnical Engineering. Dr. Bryson is a registered professional engineer in the states of Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

Dr. Susan Cantrell joined the faculty in 2003 and is a Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She teaches courses in the graduate literacy programs and undergraduate middle level teacher education program. She began her career as a public school reading and classroom teacher. Dr. Cantrell earned her doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky. She conducts research focused on teachers' professional learning, efficacy development, and instructional change. She is especially interested in how teachers create contexts that engage students who have been underserved in schools, historically.

Currently, Dr. Cantrell is serving as principal investigator on a U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition National Professional Development grant, Partnerships for Learning, Achievement and Classroom Engagement ([Project PLACE](#)). This grant initiative is designed to support classroom teachers' work with English Learners. Her research has been published in a wide range of peer reviewed journals.

Dr. Sylvie Garneau-Tsodikova obtained her Ph.D. in 2003 (Chemistry, University of Alberta). She pursued her postdoctoral studies at Harvard Medical School. In 2006, Sylvie joined the University of Michigan as the Searle Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the College of Pharmacy and Life Sciences Institute. In 2013, she relocated to the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, where she is Professor and Assistant Dean for Research. She published >125 manuscripts. She received numerous research/teaching awards, including NSF CAREER, 2017-2018 AAAS public engagement Leshner Fellowship, and 2019-2020 AAAS IF/THEN ambassador. She gave >80 invited talks and plenary lectures on her work worldwide.

Ahmad Kutkut, DDS, MS, FICOI, DICOI, is an Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky, College of Dentistry, since 2011. In 2010, Dr. Kutkut completed a Master's Degree and a Certificate in Prosthodontics at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. In 2007, Dr. Kutkut completed a two-year certificate program in Implant Dentistry at New York University College of Dentistry Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry. In 2005, Dr. Kutkut completed a certificate of Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program at New York University College of Dentistry. Dr. Kutkut is one of few clinicians worldwide that had been trained in both the surgical and restorative discipline of implant dentistry. Besides lecturing both nationally and internationally, he has published numerous articles and abstracts. Dr. Kutkut is currently Director of Predoctoral Implant Program at UKCD and maintains a practice limited to Implants, Fixed, and Removable Prosthodontics.

Dr. Chris Matocha is most familiar to NRES students who have taken Fundamentals of Soil Science (PLS 366) or interacted with him in his role as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Matocha also teaches Soil Chemistry (PLS 671) and Clay Mineralogy (EES/PLS 741).

Dr. Matocha's research program interrogates coupled processes of reactive nitrogen with iron, manganese, and organic carbon in soil environments. Another research problem is focused on the impact of nitrogen fertilization on minerals in soil under no-till management. With support from the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, he is also part of team utilizing the Gluck rain garden as an outdoor lab for instruction purposes and to answer research questions.

Dr. Rebekah Radtke is the Director of International Programs, Director of Graduate Studies, and an assistant professor in the College of Design at the University of Kentucky. Her research investigates how interior design enables social change by applying boundary-spanning pedagogical approaches rather than discipline-specific processes. Since 2011 her transdisciplinary multi-scalar projects produced better living and learning environments and healthy communities in national and international venues. Her collaborative work, all funded by national entities, include preservation projects in rural China, design-build projects in Brazil, community-activated art interventions in Appalachia, and education-based design initiatives in Lexington, KY.

Dr. Chris Sass is an Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Landscape Architecture. He also holds an appointment in the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Program, advising students and serving on the program's Steering Committee. He teaches courses ranging from LA Design Studios (specializing in site analysis and ecology), Water Management in the Urban Environment, and Urban Forestry Design and Function. In addition, he teaches and coordinates Professional Development courses for Landscape Architecture. His research interests include fluvial geomorphology, urban forest, and social equity to greenspace.