



**Professional Leave 2024-25  
March 2024**

Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President, reports that she has approved the professional leaves listed below and that there will be no additional costs to the University for this program.

**Carson College of Business**

1. **Sung Ahn**

Department of Finance and Management Science

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: As "big data" are getting more readily available, financial and economic time series data are frequently analyzed in the framework of high dimensional models. The project seeks to develop methods for such data using structure models and latent factors.

2. **Uchila Umesh**

Department of Marketing and International Business

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Research and establish guidelines on when a study is likely to provide the same results when repeated elsewhere. Additionally, network with international universities that have current relationships with WSU and use the lessons from rapid growth economies to expand the curriculum in International Business and Marketing courses.

3. **Hanjiang Zhang**

Department of Finance and Management Science

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Collaborate with the University of Texas at Austin on a research project aiming to understand how retirement investor clientele (i.e., social backgrounds and financial sophistication) affects the defined contribution pension plan investing and its potential impact on the economic inequality in the U.S.

**College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences**

4. **Michael Cleveland**

Department of Human Development

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Advance scholarship of music-listening effects on brain activity. Enhance understanding of brain-imaging tools used to study neural mechanisms and submit a grant proposal to obtain external funding to examine music-invoked changes in brain systems among individuals with alcohol-use disorder

5. **Anand (Ani) Jayakaran**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Unit  
Leave Period Requested: October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025  
Purpose of Leave: This work elucidates stormwater prioritization where population density and growth are high, infrastructural resources are low, and traditional water management systems are still practiced. A rapidly growing city in India, Bengaluru, fits these criteria. This project will inform future water management in places facing conditions seen in Bengaluru today.
  
6. **Jennifer McIntyre**  
School of the Environment  
Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025  
Purpose of Leave: Accelerate progress on funded research, develop new research projects that will help secure new research grants, develop new skills, and expand the visibility of the current research program.
  
7. **Stefano Musacchi**  
Department of Horticulture  
Leave Period Requested: February 1 - June 30, 2025  
Purpose of Leave: Study the effect of different climates on apple cultivars' growth and productive habits. Collaborate with the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa) to study variation in growth and fruiting patterns using the ProHort Ecophysiology Platform (PHEPP) (10 apple genotypes in 3 different environments).
  
8. **Amy Salazar**  
Department of Human Development  
Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025  
Purpose of Leave: Conduct two research trajectories focused on youth with foster care experience. First is a Japan-based pilot study of a postsecondary support intervention and a grant proposal to compile national postsecondary completion estimates. The second involves data and resource mapping focusing on financial capability and future project planning.
  
9. **Raven Weaver**  
Department of Human Development  
Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025  
Purpose of Leave: Lay the groundwork for establishing a research center dedicated to developing innovative lifespan programs and policy to promote healthy aging of Washingtonians and then enhance capacity as a leader to champion lifespan prevention science and disseminate information to the community.
  
10. **Bin Yang**  
Department of Biological Systems Engineering  
Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025  
Purpose of Leave: Travel to the Toulouse Biotechnology Institute in France as a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award Fulbright-Tocqueville recipient. Build leading research and development efforts in the biomass and biofuels field that create important and innovative

solutions to the environmental and energy challenges in the areas of bioeconomy, the global decarbonization, and biofuels and bioproducts production, as well as promote WSU's research to the international professional community.

## College of Arts and Sciences

### 11. **Asaph Cousins**

School of Biological Sciences

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Visit the Jan IngenHousz Institute of Photosynthesis (Wageningen University, Netherlands) to develop high throughput sensors to screen for increased photosynthetic efficiency, and to work at LMU Munich, Plant Biochemistry lab (Munich, Germany) to research energy metabolism in key model plants.

### 12. **Craig Hemmens**

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: Complete a funded study of the Yakima DUI Court to determine if it is effective in reducing DUIs by high-risk repeat offenders; use this research as a springboard to conduct additional funded research on Washington DUI courts.

### 13. **Christine Horne**

Department of Sociology

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Develop a theory that explains norms regulating the responsibilities of individuals, families, organizations, and government towards people who are disabled through birth, accident, illness, or age; and begin to empirically test key theoretical propositions using online vignette experiments.

### 14. **Michael Knoblauch**

School of Biological Sciences

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: Write a book on transport phenomena in plants. Right now, there are no appropriate books available that describe the knowledge gained in this field over the past fifty years.

### 15. **Alexander Li**

Department of Chemistry

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Leverage combined expertise in molecular photoswitching, membrane research, photoswitchable fluorescent protein and unique microscopes to explore photoswitchable molecular probes in biological membranes. This study, combining genetic and synthetic approaches, seeks insights into life-or-death signaling. Findings will inform future research and grants.

16. **Haijun Li**

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Research the copula modeling for queueing/social networks in collaboration with Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada; complete a research monograph on a copula-based multivariate extreme risk theory; and attend several conferences and workshops.

17. **David Marcus**

Department of Psychology

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Conduct validation studies of the Psychopathic Boldness Scale (PBS) that are in development; prepare a grant application to support PBS validation studies with forensic populations. The PBS is part of a larger project to develop an improved self-report psychopathy measure.

18. **Melissa Nicolas**

Department of English

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: The book project, titled *The Chaos is the Beauty: An Autoethnography*, will contribute to the scholarship at the intersections of disability, rhetoric, and feminist studies through an analysis of the author's personal journey as a way to understand the experience of being a woman with disabilities in the academy.

19. **Donna Potts**

Department of English

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Complete a book on Irish Literature and Trauma, to submit to publishing; and co-edit *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*. Travel to the University of Galway and BITS-Pilani in Goa, India.

20. **Sarah Roley**

School of the Environment

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 15, 2024

Purpose of Leave: To review a paper on free-living nitrogen fixation that synthesizes ten years of work on the topic. Visualize the next phase of research by reading, discussing, planning, and writing a proposal.

21. **Julie Stagers**

Department of English

Leave Period Requested: August 19, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: To develop a new research stream in public rhetorics and demagoguery, and to develop expertise in adult online learning and new media production skills, resulting in two articles, an archive of teaching materials for professional writing, and an OER textbook.

22. **Mary Stohr**

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: This project is a process and outcome evaluation of the Yakima DUI Court; Research funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Assess adherence to national standards, recidivism rates, levels of social support, and harm reduction.

23. **Yuan Wang**

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Collaborate with colleagues at Colorado State University to develop Bayesian machine learning methods for robust causal inference in high-dimensional setting.

Concurrently, work with UC Irvine on Bayesian non-parametric clustering analysis for subgroup pattern recognition.

24. **Patricia Wilde**

Department of English

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Investigate rhetorics of addiction, examining how college students with substance use disorders navigate the demands of higher education while in recovery. In addition to using rhetorical theory to analyze how addiction is stigmatized, to use case study research to learn more about this neglected group.

**College of Education**

25. **Joy Egbert**

Department of Teaching and Learning

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Fulbright award to Moldova to teach, work with students and teachers around technology use, and collect data to support the model of task engagement.

26. **Molly Kelton**

Department of Teaching and Learning

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Research how museums, aquaria, and formal-informal partnerships can support critical data literacy about health justice. Collaborations with Eugene Science Center (Oregon) and the Southern California Extreme Heat Research Hub (University of California San Diego) will produce partnerships, educational programs/exhibits, three journal submissions, and a federal grant proposal.

**27. Simon Licen**

Department of Educational Leadership and Sport Management

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: To develop a book about the growing field of sport broadcasting in collaboration with a top media professional from Europe. While located in Pullman and Slovenia, draft the manuscript and interview media professionals worldwide whose insight will provide content for the book.

**Libraries**

**28. Robert Schimelpfenig**

Libraries

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - June 30, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Archiving electronic correspondence is complex and challenging. Established tools and workflows work for larger institutions, but smaller archival repositories struggle with implementation. This study will evaluate recommended practices within a small archive to determine possible solutions and best practices.

**Edward R. Murrow College of Communications**

**29. Porismita Borah**

Department of Strategic Communication

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: Collaborate with researchers from the University of Chile on a project being prepared for a grant submission related to misinformation and disinformation.

**Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture**

**30. Jan Boll**

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Project development for place-based, socio-ecological systems study across the Transect of the Americas (Ecuador, Chile); develop a proposal for the Chapman conference in collaboration with the University of Cuenca, Ecuador.

**31. Kuen-Ren (Roland) Chen**

School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: Advance microneedle technology for ocular drug delivery through an interdisciplinary collaboration with colleagues at the University of Michigan. The proposed work includes studying biomechanical interactions between microneedles and ocular tissues and developing animal experiment protocols.

32. **Julia Day**

School of Design and Construction

Leave Period Requested: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Immersive learning in the field of neurology and the brain; specifically how the nervous system processes stimuli from interior environments, both under "normal" health conditions and under those in which the nervous system has been compromised, such as in neurodegenerative diseases. Learn more about neurology and the brain to better understand the intersection between neuroscience, health, and interactions with the built environment.

33. **Phil Gruen**

School of Design and Construction

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Complete *Constructing WSU*, the first book about WSU's built environment (WSU Press); edit and write 45 Oregon-based entries for SAH Archipedia (online encyclopedia for the Society of Architectural Historians); and draft the 2026 Columbia Plateau conference field guide (Vernacular Architecture Forum).

34. **Thomas Jobson**

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Leave Period Requested: August 16, 2024 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Conduct research on measuring volatile organic compound emission factors for green waste and food waste composting using a mobile laboratory at pilot scale plants.

35. **Heping Liu**

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: Analyze pilot data to study how wildfires impact the carbon cycle over dryland ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest under climate change. This collaboration is expected to lead to publications, research proposals/grants, and further collaborations.

36. **Charles Pezeshki**

School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Leave Period Requested: August 16 - December 31, 2024

Purpose of Leave: Develop a roadmap for a mechanical engineering department to utilize new artificial intelligence technologies, focused on ChatGPT-4 and Grok-X in their undergraduate curriculum.

37. **Hua Tan**

School of Engineering and Computer Science

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Investigate the jetting dynamics associated with bubble bursting in space using the combination of cutting-edge modeling and state-of-the-art experiments; Bridge key knowledge gaps, promising transformative impacts on space technology innovation and broader applications in microfluidic phenomena.

38. **Jinwen Zhang**

School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Leave Period Requested: January 1 - May 15, 2025

Purpose of Leave: Collaborate with the University of Auckland (New Zealand) to promote circular economy for plastics; Develop the frameworks for two trans-disciplinary research proposals.