Inquiry: The University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Journal

Volume 22 Article 4

May 2023

Faculty Highlights

Inquiry Editors

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Dr. Geoboo Song

Dr. Geoboo Song teaches courses on policy theories, politics of risk, research methods and data analytics in the political science department at the University of Arkansas. In addition to his role as an associate professor, Dr. Song also serves as the PLSC Vice Chair/Director of Graduate Studies and an Associate Editor for the *Policy Studies Journal* (*PSJ*).

Dr. Song is originally from Gwanju, South Korea, and received both his undergraduate and master's degree in Seoul, South Korea. Dr. Song continued his education in the United States, receiving his PhD at the University of Oklahoma before pursuing scholarly research at UARK.

Dr. Song's current research primarily focuses on working with biomedical engineering students to better understand current efforts to improve the COVID-19 vaccine and works to create a systemic explanation of an individuals' perceptions of the pandemic and their policy preferences when it comes to taking the vaccine.

"I'm one of very few social scientists who have tried to track the process [of the vaccine], and then focus on researching the sort of social and policy implications of that research endeavor," Dr. Song stated.

Dr. Song and his collaborators use data-driven analyses on various pressing policy issues beyond the pandemic- such as climate change, hydraulic fracturing, sustainable energy and more. He emphasizes the importance of undergraduate students in his research and hopes to encourage more diversity in the research program as a whole.

In his free time, Dr. Song tries to take the time to connect with his students. He emphasized the value of the relationships he has developed through his research with both his pupils and peers.

Dr. Robert Coridan

Dr. Robert Coridan teaches both entry-level chemistry and courses specializing in physical chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Arkansas. In addition to these, Dr. Coridan teaches a class on inorganic chemistry for undergraduate students.

Dr. Coridan received his BS in physics and computer science from the Ohio State University and a PhD in physics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Coridan's current research primarily focuses on observing and optimizing different chemical interactions that can be used as a source of power or electricity.

To develop strategies for the optimization of light absorption and catalysis, Dr. Coridan and his students use "self-assembled colloidal solids to create precisely controlled hierarchical structures". These structures can be used to support the chemical synthesis of these materials.

"A lot of people are familiar with solar cells…they see these panels out in the field, and what those are doing is generating electricity while the sun is up. But they aren't doing anything when the sun is down," Dr. Coridan said. "What we're trying to build is essentially the same thing, but instead of it being wired to the grid and producing electricity, it's wired to metals that turn water into hydrogen oxygen, for example."

Dr. Coridan supports the philosophy that undergraduate research is beneficial to both the student and the primary researchers.

"The university has very bright undergraduate students. Many of them are really excited to just do something new," Dr. Coridan said, "They are looking beyond the textbook to see the actual day-to-day and how this stuff really works."

In Dr. Coridan's free time, he enjoys spending time outside with his wife and children.