

Born in 1963 and raised in Ocean City, New Jersey, Alan DeSantis earned his B.A. at James Madison University, VA (1982-86), his M.A. at the University of Alabama (1986-88), and his Ph.D. at Indiana University (1988-1993).

He began his academic career in 1993 as an assistant professor in the Department of Communication and has served on the College of Communication & Information's faculty for 21 years.

An award-winning teacher, Alan specializes in teaching qualitative methods, media, and culture course at undergraduate and graduate levels. He has won *Great Teacher Award* (3 times), the *Distinguished Professor Award* (2 times), the Alumni Association's *Outstanding Teacher* award.

As a researcher, Professor DeSantis focuses primarily on issues of identity and at-risk behavior on college campuses. His book (2007), *Inside Greek U*, investigates the social construction of gender in America's Greek system. Most recently, he has examined the illegal use of ADHD stimulants on college campuses. His research on campus drug use has been featured on NPR, CNN, NBC's Today's Show, and CBS's "60 Minutes."

Alan also participates in a range of campus service activities, including *Faculty Senator* (2011-2014). As *Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA* (2005-2009), Alan helped oversee the academic integrity of all of UK's 22 athletic programs and championed student athlete rights and welfare. Recently, Alan became the first director of the CiConnect *Living and Learning Program*.

Alan lives with his two children—James (14), Abigail (18), who will begin UK in the Fall, and one big yellow dog (Gus).