Greetings!

On behalf of the Office of the Provost, it is my great pleasure to bring to you this Fall 2015 edition of the Academic Affairs Digest!

This has been another historic year for The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB). This past fall semester witnessed UTPB’s enrollment exceed 6,100 students. Of course, the highlight of the fall semester took place this past December 19 with the graduation of nearly 400 new alumni. Other noteworthy events of the semester include:

The UTPB Nursing Program, which graduated its second cohort of Nursing students this month, received national accreditation from Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College of Business and Engineering received support from the University of Texas System to develop and offer competency based programs in Petroleum Technology and Petroleum Engineering. Meanwhile, a College of Arts and Sciences faculty member (Joanna Hadjicostandi) developed and taught UTPB’s first Massively Open Online Course (MOOC), Introduction to Sociology, which enrolled over 10,500 students from around the world. College of Education faculty and staff (Frank Hernandez and Susan Lara) were awarded a $2.6 million grant, “Linking & Advancing Student Success Opportunities (LASSO),” by the US Department of Education—Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program.

UTPB faculty and staff have launched a number of important student success initiatives that will continue into the new year and beyond. First, we have secured support for the development of our Falconconnect student success App that a team of UTPB staff and faculty conceived. Secondly, we have entered into an agreement with a third-party company, the Education Advisory Board, to employ its Student Success Collaborative platform. The Student Success Collaborative combines technology, research, and predictive analytics to assist institutions improve their retention and graduation rates.

Finally, I would like to welcome to the UTPB family, Mr. Ed Kerestly, formerly of Abilene Christian University, who has assumed the directorship of the Office of Financial Aid.

More good news and information can be found in the pages that follow. As always, the Office of Provost is pleased to bring you this digest which highlights the dedicated work of our faculty and staff. I hope you find it informative and useful in your work.

Finally, on behalf of the Office of the Provost, I wish you and your family a joyous holiday and new year.

Sincerely,

Dan
Daniel Heimmermann, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
College of Arts and Sciences

Literature and Languages

DR. ANTONIO MORENO, Assistant Professor of Spanish, recently presented a paper entitled, “Fragmentos de un viaje en curso,” at the Festival de Literatura at University of Copenhaguen held September 22-October 2, 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

DR. REBECCA BABCOCK, Associate Professor of English, published a paper, “Rhetorical argument, folk linguistics, and content-oriented discourse analysis: A follow-up study,” in the journal Ampersand (2) 2015. Dr. Babcock was also listed in Contemporary Authors published by Gale Group.

MR. CLARK MORELAND, Lecturer of English, and KARIME RODRIGUEZ, an undergraduate art major, recently published an article entitled, “‘Never Bet the Devil Your Head’: Fuseli’s The Nightmare and Collapsing Masculinity in Poe’s ‘The Black Cat,’” in The Edgar Allan Poe Review 16(2), Autumn 2015.

Math and Computer Science


DRS. RATHEAL-BURNETT, HIATT, and KOEPP conducted the first workshop with regional Mathematics Teachers on November 7, 2015 in a collaborate project entitled the “West Texas Mathematics Collaborative.” Approximately 50 teachers participated from 6 districts. The workshops will continue through the end of July and could serve as many as 80 teachers. The workshops are funded under the P.L. 107-110, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part B and the grants were written by the UTPB Ingenuity Center for the districts. The competitive TEA grant was called the 2015-2016 Professional Development Partnerships for Advanced Math and Science Courses. The collective total for the grants were approximately $350,000.

Biology

DR. KIMBERLY LITTLE, Assistant Professor of Biology, recently co-authored an article entitled, “A review of the Leon Springs pupfish (Cyprinodon bovinus) long-term conservation strategy and response to habitat restoration,” in Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems (in press).
DR. EMILY A. FARRIS, Assistant Professor of Psychology, along with her co-authors Drs. Timothy Odegard and Michael Toglia, recently presented a poster entitled, “Verbatim processing enhances memory for emotionally valenced pictures,” at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society held November 19-21, 2015 in Chicago, IL.

DR. JAMIE HUGHES, Assistant Professor of Psychology recently published two peer-reviewed articles entitled, “Introducing the date and acquaintance rape avoidance scale,” and “Support for the domain specificity of implicit beliefs about persons, intelligence, and morality” in Violence and Victims and in Personality and Individual Differences, respectively. Both articles are in press.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

DR. KEVIN A. HARRIS, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and his wife Nicole (a middle school English teacher) recently chaperoned a group of 20 8th grade students and 10 adults from a Title I school in Midland, TX on a 12-day trip to London, Paris, Normandy, Brittany, and Amsterdam in June of 2015.

Social Sciences

DR. MICHELLE E. PENCE, Assistant Professor of Communication, recently published an article entitled, “Listening Competence in Initial Interactions II: Applying Trait Centrality to Discover the Relative Placement of Listening Competence Among Implicit Theories,” in Communication Studies, 66 (5), 2015.

MS. MARIANNE WOODS, Associate Professor of Art, was recently invited to write entries for nine artists, Rosa Bonheur, Dorothy Brett, Catharine Carter Crutcher, Blanche Chloe Grant, Florence Elliot White McClung, Alice Geneva (Gene) Glasier Kloss, Nicolai Ivanovich Fechin, Veryl Goodnight, and Catherine Lee, for a Collections Catalog that the Museum of the SW is publishing with the University of Oklahoma press.

MS. NANCY HART, Associate Professor of Art was awarded two Artist Residencies this summer. The first being a ARNA Artist Residency Fellowship from June-July 2015, in Harlosa, Sweden. The second at La Macina Di San Cresci from July-August Greve in Chianti, Italy. Ms. Hart also had several exhibitions as well:

- Fall Exhibition.” MAA. Midland College Gallery. Midland, TX. October 22-November 13, 2015
- “17th Annual Collage, Digital & Mixed Media Juried Online International Art Exhibition,” Upstream People Gallery. Omaha, NE. June 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015

NURSING

DR. DOROTHY JACKSON, Director of Nursing, received the President’s Award for the Black Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Award’s Banquet on Saturday, November 14, 2015. This award is of the highest distinction for the chamber and goes to a person who has had high impact of community service, and economic diversification. MR. LEO MARTINEZ, Assistant Director of Admissions was also a recipient of an award.

UTPB’S NURSING PROGRAM has recently achieved national accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE for 5 years extending to December 31, 2020. The accreditation action is effective as of February 4, 2015.

DR. AHMED KAMEL, Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering, recently presented several papers. These included the following titles: “Statistical Significance and Hypothesis for Friction Factor Correlations of non-Newtonian Crude Oils in Pipelines,” “A Comparative Analysis of Rheological and Flow Behavior among Clean Polmeric and Surfactant Based Fluids,” and “Rheological and Flow Characteristics of Clean Fracturing Fluids.” The papers were presented at various conferences.


DR. ESSAM IBRAHIM, Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering, successfully accomplished a $69,506 grant for a UTPB Nuclear Energy Education program. The grant is supported by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dr. Ibrahim was also elected by the Board of Governors of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME as an ASME Fellow. The grade of Fellow is reserved for members who contributed significantly to the Engineering profession.

DR. ESSAM IBRAHIM also has had several articles published. These titles include: “An Experimental Investigation of the Performance of a Collison Nebulizer Generating H1N1 Influenza Aerosols,” in Biotechnology and Biotechnological Equipment, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp492-500 and “Statistical Significance and Hypothesis for Friction Factor Correlations of Non-Newtonian Crude Oils in Pipelines”

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

DR. ESSAM IBRAHIM, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, has recently received funding as the Principal Investigator (PI) of an external research grant entitled. “Integrated Research and Education Developmental Activities for the Mechanical Engineering-Nuclear Track Students and Faculty at UTPB,” $169,506, for the period of 9/30/2015 – 9/30/2018, from Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Grant # NRC-HQ-13-G-27-0001-B. Dr. Ibrahim also recently won an internal research grant entitled, “A Comprehensive Model of Fuel Injection and Atomization in Gas Turbines,” $2,500 ($2,000 for student and $500 for supplies) for the period of 2/2/2015-4/30/2015 from University of Texas – Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UT-LSAMP) to work as a Research Adviser for the undergraduate student Rachel Harris. Results of the research project were presented at 2015 University of Texas System – Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UT-LSAMP) Student Research Conference, April 30, 2015, UTPB, Odessa, TX.

Ms. Narita Holmes, Lecturer of Accounting, and Dr. Carol Sullivan, Associate Professor of Accounting, presented research entitled, “Using Internal Audit Service Projects for Experiential Learning” at the American Accounting Association National Conference held August 2-5 in Chicago, IL. The project was also nominated for the AICPA’s Mark Chain Teaching Innovation award.

Dr. Carol Sullivan, Associate Professor of Accounting, recently published an article entitled, “CPA Pass Rates in Texas: A 10-Year Analysis” in the Journal of Business and Accounting, 8 (1), 2015.

Dr. Lloyd Taylor III, Associate Professor of Management, Bina Sharma B. Parajuli, MBA Graduate Student, and Krista W. Hailey, MBA Graduate Student recently published an article entitled, “Goldratt’s Theory Applied to the Problems Associate with the Distribution of Micro Finance Services to the Poor of Rural Nepal,” in the Global Education Journal, December 15, 2015.

Dr. Taylor along with Audra Mead, MBA Graduate Student, recently published an article entitled, “Goldratt’s Theory Applied to the Problems Associated with Commercial Underwriting in Financial Institutions,” in the Global Education Journal.

Dr. Bill Price, Dean of the College of Business and Engineering, had several articles published recently in the PB Oil and Gas Magazine. Among these titles were the following: “Motivation Theory, Part 1,” “Motivation Theory, Part 2,” and Strategic Goals. He also published “Recruiting Sources and Applications,” “Why Can’t I have a Raise?” and “Little White Lies in the Marketplace.”

Dr. Michele Harmon, Lecturer, recently presented, at the Texas Association of School Personnel’s state conference on, “Motivating and Retaining the Millennial Teacher in the 21st Century”, held July 15-17, 2015 in Austin, Texas. Dr. Harmon also presented at the National Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies national conference on, “How to Motivate and Retain the Millennial in the Workforce”, held in April, 2015 in Ft. Worth, Texas.
CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

DR. JESSICA GARRETT, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, recently presented a paper entitled, “Leadership Practices of Women in the Superintendency” at the NCPEA Summer Conference held August 4-7 2015.

PUBLICATIONS

DR. JESSICA GARRETT, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, recently published an article entitled “Leadership Practices of Texas Female Superintendents,” in Advancing Women in Leadership Journal. In press.


DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ along with JON MCPHETRES and JOANNE MARSHALL, published an article called “Teaching about sexual orientation in an Educational Leadership Preparation program,” in the Journal of Critical Thought & Praxis. 4(2) article 4.

DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ and two other scholars recently published an article called “Mujeres in the office: Latina school leaders.” in the Journal of Latinos and Education (14) 3 171-18.

DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ wrote the Afterword in the Erosion of Youth in Urban Schools: The Politics of Environmental and Food Justice in the School to Prison Pipeline.

DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ along with CORI MANTEL-BROMLEY and BEN RILEY published a blog called, “Preparing Effective Teachers for Everyone Community.” (February 2015).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ, Dean of the College of Education, was awarded a grant called “Development of the Clinical Faculty Academy” by Still Water foundation. The Grant amount is $25,200.

DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ and DR. SUSAN LARA were awarded a grant called “Linking & Advancing Student Success Opportunities (LASSO)” by the US Department of Education—Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. The Grant amount is $2,624,300 million over five years.

DR. KARA ROSENBLATT, Assistant Professor, Special Education and MS. LINDSEY BALDERAZ, Sr. Lecturer, Special Education received an Academic Partnership Award Grant for Distance Education Research, titled “Project UnTIE: Unplugging Technology, Increasing Engagement.”
John Ben Shepperd Institute

**DR. ROBERT BREScia**, Executive Director of the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute, recently published a book entitled *The Americanism of John Ben Shepperd*.

The Institute also hosted a variety of events throughout the year. Among them were the following:

On August 24, Alex Sheen spoke gave a lecture on the topic of “The Power of a Leader’s Promise.”

On September 30th, JBS hosted a Distinguished Lecturer series which included special speakers, Geraldo Rivera and Jackie Cruz who spoke on the topic “Our Hispanic Heritage: A Story of Achievement and Americanism.”

On October 19th, JBS hosted a special 100th Birthday party for the institute’s namesake, John Ben Shepperd. Also as a part of the Distinguished Lecturer series, JBS hosted former First Lady Laura Bush. The title of her presentation was “The Power of Early Literacy: Foundations of Learning.”

J. Conrad Dunagan Library

As a part of the Guest Author Presentations which included author lecture, audience Q&A, book signings, free refreshments and admission the Library hosted UTPB Athletic Director Steve Aicinena, author of “*From The Mountains, To The Valley, To The Promised Land: The Journey of Luz Luna*” on Thursday, April 9. The series also included UTPB alumnus M. Elayne Hunt, author of “*Dreams Fulfilled: One Family’s Quiet Triumph Over Adversity*” on October 8

The library also participated in Banned Books Week, September 27 - October 3, 2015. annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA), it highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community – librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. Our lovely display on the first floor included such novels as “*Twilight*, “*Mockingjay*, “*Diary of A Wimpy Kid*, “*Lord of the Rings*, “*Harry Potter*” and “*Teaching Banned Books.*”

The Library is now lending HP laptops to current students with university ID. The loan period is 3 days, with renewals available. For more information please inquire at the Library Services front desk.

New Dunagan Library reading room. (rm. 140) Also ideal for quiet study so come in and relax. Moved out and weeded VHS tapes to re-assign this area.

Cardozier collection (coming soon): Thanks to the cooperative efforts of Mrs. V. Ray Cardozier and Dr. William A. Watts, the Library will soon be housing a collection of the second UTPB President, Dr. V. Ray Cardozier, who served our institution from 1974 to 1982 and went on to be professor emeritus of higher education administration at the University of Texas at Austin. Presenting 36 books sponsored and donated by Dr. and Mrs. Cardozier from Louisiana State University Press, where Dr. Cardozier graduated in 1947. Titles include “*Delta Empire,* “*Granbury’s Texas Brigade,*” and more. These books will reside in a glass display case on the 1st floor and then be moved up to Archives at a later time.