Greetings!

I write this letter two days following our Spring 2017 commencement exercises at which more than 500 graduates were awarded their degrees. The Spring 2017 graduation ceremonies brought to a close another historic year at UT Permian Basin. The past year witnessed the retirement announcement of President David Watts after sixteen illustrious years of service and the selection of Dr. Sandra K. Woodley who will start her tenure as president on September 1. Along with Dr. Woodley, this fall we also will welcome a new Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Selina Mireles, who will be joining us from Texas A&M International University.

It has been another exciting year of curricular development for our university. Two proposals, one for Electrical Engineering and another for Chemical Engineering, have been approved by the UT System Board of Regents and are now under consideration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. If approved, both programs tentatively are scheduled to start in Fall 2018. Additionally, during the past spring we initiated our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) decennial review process. Three committees (Leadership, Compliance Certification, and Quality Enhancement) have been appointed and have begun their important work which will continue for the next two years until we submit our self-study in fall of 2019 and obtain reaccreditation in December 2020.

More good news and updates can be found in the pages that follow. The Office of Academic Affairs 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.

I wish you and your families a happy summer!

Dan

Daniel Heimmermann, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently published an article titled "Clinical Judgment Faith Bias: Unexpected Findings for Professional Psychology Research and Practice" in the journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 47*(6), 2016.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently published an article titled "Faith Concepts in Psychology: Three 30 Year Definitional Content Analyses" in the journal *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, in press.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently published an article titled "What Do Clients Want? Assessing Spiritual Needs in Counseling: A Literature Review" in the journal *Spirituality in Clinical Practice, 3*(4), 2016.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Dr. Ann Marie Smith, Assistant Professor of Education, recently published an article titled "Identity and Multiculturalism: Teaching Multiculturalism to Undergraduate College Students" in the *National Forum of Multicultural Issues Journal, 14*(1), 2017.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Child Studies graduate Furaha Engulu recently published an article titled "Spanking, Ethnicity, Gender, and Religion: The Development of a Brief Spanking Scale" in the *International Journal of Scholarly Academic Intellectual Diversity, 19*(1), 2017.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently published an article titled "Paganism and Counseling: The Development of a Clinical Resource" in the journal *Open Theology, 2016*(2), 2016.


Dr. David Betounes and Dr. Mylan Redfern, Professors of Mathematics, recently published (September 2016) the first addition of their calculus book: *Calculus: Concepts & Computation* (Kendall-Hunt, 2016).

Dr. Don Allen, Professor of Biology, was a co-author of a review published in *Current Diabetes Reviews 13*(2): pages 161-174 in 2017. Authors: Grigsby, Jeff G., Donald M. Allen, Ana Ferrigno, Sandeep Vellanki, Cindy Pouw, Whitney Hejny and Andrew T. C. Tsin. Title: "Autocrine and Paracrine Secretion of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor in the Pre-hypoxia Diabetic Retina."


Dr. Jamie Hughes, Associate Professor of Psychology, published an article entitled, "In a moral dilemma choose the one you love: Actions demonstrating impartiality compared to partiality are seen as less moral" in the *British Journal of Social Psychology* (in press).

Dr. Jamie Hughes, Associate Professor of Psychology, published an article entitled, "When cooperation and compromise fail: Distrusting and denigrating the moral character of those who disagree" in the journal *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy* (in press).


Dr. Joanna Hadjicostandi published:

Dr. Hadjicostandi has conducted ethnographic, qualitative research over the summer 2016 on the refugee situation in Greece, with a focus on the case study of the city of Kavala. Her article was submitted:

**Conference Participations**

Dr. Sebahattin Ziyanak, Assistant Professor of Sociology, recently presented a paper entitled “The Causes of Global Poverty: The Rise of Transnational Corporations” Presented at the Race, Gender & Class Conference of the University of New Orleans held March 16- March 18, 2017 in New Orleans, LA

Dr. Sebahattin Ziyanak, Assistant Professor of Sociology, recently presented a paper entitled “The Construction of Turkish Ahiskan Ethnicity between 2004 - 2016” at the Race, Gender & Class Conference of the University of New Orleans held March 16- March 18, 2017 in New Orleans, LA

Dr. Sebahattin . Ziyanak, Assistant Professor of Sociology. recently was a session moderator at Race, Gender & Class Conference of the University of New Orleans, held March 16- March 18, 2017 in New Orleans, LA

Dr. Myra Salcedo, Senior Lecturer of English, recently presented a paper entitled, “‘Logoreligiology;’ ” Grappling with the Persistent Presence of the Rhetoric of Religious Words in the Secular Composition Classroom,” at the 2017 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), held March 15-18 in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently presented a paper titled ”'God in the Bod' Research: A Systematic Review and Content Analysis" at the April 2017 Southwestern Psychological Association Conference in San Antonio, TX. Psychology graduate student Evelena McCutcheon and Counseling graduate student Maribel Benitez were co-authors. Three of his Psychology undergraduate students (Desiree Bowen, Brian Halsell, and Ynez Soriano) also presented posters at this conference.
Conference Participations Continued

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently presented a paper titled "What Do Clinicians Do?: Clinical Judgment of Religion and Spirituality in Counseling - A Literature Review and Content Analysis" and a poster titled "Defining Religiousness, Spirituality, and the Sacred: A Delphi Study" at the April 2017 Mid-Year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Chattanooga, TN.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, recently presented a poster titled "Spirituality as a Character Strength: Empirical Correlates" at the August 2016 American Psychological Association Convention in Denver, CO, as well as three symposia titled "Assessing Spirituality in a Diversified World: Mainstream, Other, and Non-Religious Views," "Addicts, Pagans, and Christians: Spirituality as a Common Character Strength," and "Difficult Discussions: An ECP Perspective."

Dr. Emily A. Farris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, as lead author in collaboration with M. Toglia, recently presented a poster entitled, “Enhancing memory for positively valenced pictures,” at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society held November 17-20, 2016 in Boston, MA.

Dr. Emily A. Farris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, in collaboration with graduate student A. Serrano, recently presented a paper entitled “Examining the relationship between attachment styles and risky sexual behaviors,” at the Annual Convention of the Southwestern Psychological Association held March 31 – April 2, 2017 in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Jamie Hughes, Associate Professor of Psychology, and her student Metha Moul presented a paper entitled, "Meta-perceptions of the police: An investigation of the influence of meta-dehumanization on police cooperation and support" at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology held in January 2017 in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Hadjicostandi presented in the following conferences:
“Constructing Online Pedagogical Spaces: Bringing Sociology and the Sociological Imagination to MOOCs”.
With R. Manning and Smitha Radhakrishnan, Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, March 17-20

“Social Activism and gender-based student engagement through online classes” ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna, Austria, July 10-14, 2016


Other Accomplishments


Dr. Marianne Woods, Associate Professor of Art, was awarded the Charles A. and Linda E. Sorber Fellowship in Art (this was awarded in late November, 2016).

Dr. Rebecca Babcock, Associate Professor of English, was named the Chair of Research for the Global Listening Centre.

Dr. Salcedo has been named to the Midland County Library Literacy Board’s project for the Sept. 15-17, 2017 Permian Basin Writer’s Workshop to be conducted during Literacy Week at Midland College. She was named the Library Foundation Board's Public Relations Chairperson.

Dr. Dian Jordan, Senior Lecturer for Sociology, accepted the Oklahoma Governor’s appointment to the Board of Trustees for Southeastern Oklahoma State University-McCurtain County Campus. Governor Fallin made the appointment on 05/01/2017 during the legislative session in Oklahoma City, OK. Jordan began her pursuit of higher education at the facility during its first year of operation in the early 1980s.

Dr. Myra Salcedo recently presented the Professional Writing Workshop “The 'Write' Angle in Professional Writing” to caseworkers at the Permian Basin Communities Centers held April 19, 2017 in Odessa, TX.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and three senior co-authors recently received $300,000 to research and write a book, *Measures of Religiosity* (2nd edition), as part of a 3-year, $1.65 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Dr. Kevin Harris, Assistant Professor of Psychology, also chaired two discussions titled "Defining Religiousness, Spirituality, and Faith: The Current Status of the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality" and "The True Names Initiative: Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Theatre, Therapy, Theology, and Social Responsibility" at the August 2016 American Psychological Association Convention in Denver, CO.

Dr. Todd Richardson, Professor of English, is serving as President of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, an international author society.

Juli Ratheal, PI/ Project Director, Chris Hiatt and Warren Koepp are the CoPIs/CoDirectors. And, Dr Yolanda Salgado is a CoPI, received funding for another year for the mathematics teacher quality grant from the THECB. Bringing the award up from 500k to 947,000. We have 60 math teachers from Presidio, Marfa, Midland, and Ector County ISD participating. The time period is 2/2016-2/2018.


Dr. Ahmed Kamel, Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering, recently submitted a paper entitled “Ionic Strength and Drag Reduction; Causes and Effect,” to the Journal of Fluids Engineering.

Conference Participations

Dr. Carol Sullivan, Associate Professor of Accounting, recently presented a paper (with Narita Holmes as co-author) entitled, “Using Internal Audit Service Projects for Experiential Learning” at the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences Conference held March 24-25, 2017 in Las Vegas, NV.

Dr. Ahmed Kamel, Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering, recently presented a paper entitled, “Radial Jet Drilling: A Technical Review,” at the 20th Middle East Oil & Gas Show and Conference held March 6-9, 2017 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr. Ahmed Kamel, Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering, recently presented a paper entitled “Comparative Analysis between Turbulent Friction Factor Correlations for Non-Newtonian Fluids in Straight Tubing,” at the 2016 University of Texas System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UT LSAMP) Research Conference held Sep. 15-17, 2016 in El Paso, TX, USA.

Dr. Ahmed Kamel, Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering, recently presented a paper entitled “Effects of Salinity on Drag Reduction Characteristics of Polymers in Circular Pipes,” at the UTPB Undergraduate Research Day held in April 21, 2017 in Odessa, TX, USA.

Other Accomplishments

Dr. Carol Sullivan, Associate Professor of Accounting, recently moderated and participated on a panel with the topic, “MAcc Program Delivered on Campus, Online and Hybrid: Experiences from the Field” at the Accounting Programs Leadership Group Conference held February 10-11, 2017 in Phoenix, AZ.
JBS Leadership Institute

Publications

Dr. Robert Brescia, Executive Director of the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute (“JBS”), recently published a book entitled “Destination Greatness: Creating a New Americanism”, highlighting important perspectives, beliefs, and practices necessary to the success of the next generation of American leaders.

Conference Participations

JBS hosted the 32nd annual Texas Leadership Forum in Austin, Texas, February 2-3, 2017

Lectures

On April 27, 2017, Terry Crews spoke at a JBS Distinguished Lecture entitled “Humor in Leadership: An Evening with Terry Crews.”

Course/Classroom Development

JBS is continuing the process of developing a new leadership training course based on realistic simulations of crisis moments from history. This course will be based in a custom-built classroom, the Crisis Leadership and Learning Center (“CLLC”), currently under construction, but will also be available from remote locations.

Teaching/Course Development

As part of JBS’s efforts to contribute to the success of UTPB, JBS Associate Director Clay Finley is teaching LEAD 1301, Introduction to Leadership, to a class of students from UTPB’s Early College High School, and simultaneously developing the curriculum from a mix of preexisting and new materials.

CEED

Presentations

Dr Bob Trentham presented a paper titled “Wolf Flat Field: Depositional Facies and Diagenetic Overprint of a Palo Duro Basin lower Cisco Shelf Margin, Motley County, Texas.” at the Abilene Geological Society on March 16, 2017. This was an invited paper based on the thesis completed by one of our students last summer.

Dr Bob Trentham, along with Steve Melzer and Dr David Vance, presented a day-long Seminar and Core Workshop titled “San Andres: the New Frontier, Horizontals, Residual Oil, and Core Workshop” on March 2, 2017 to ~150 geoscientists in Midland. More than ½ the audience had come from other cities to attend the workshop.
Dr. Jeannine Hurst, Associate Professor of Education, recently published an article entitled, “Teaching Writing in Preservice Teacher Education: Tips from the Classroom for Successful Hands-on Learning,” in *Focus on Colleges, Universities and Schools*, 11(1), 2017.

**Conference Participations**

Dr. Yolanda Salgado, Associate Professor of Education, recently presented a paper entitled, “Social Media and ELL’s: Technology as a Resource,” at the National Association for Bilingual Education conference held February 22-25, 2017, in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Maria Avalos, Assistant Professor of Education, recently presented a paper entitled, “Cyberbullying Victimization and Mental Health Outcomes of English Language Learners,” at the National Association for Bilingual Education conference held February 22-25, 2017, in Dallas, TX.

**Other Accomplishments**

Beth Meyerson, Director of First 5 Permian Basin in the College of Education, was recently awarded a grant of $250,000 per year for four years, by the Abell-Hanger Foundation.

Dr. Roy Hurst, Professor of Education and Interim Dean of the College of Education, recently participated in a convening of invited Education Deans to explore school turnaround initiatives, hosted by the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors on April 6th in Austin, TX.
Falcon Research and Educational Opportunity

The Falcon Research & Educational Opportunities (FREO) Award is funded through the Office of the Senior Associate Vice President for Student Services. The award is designed to encourage students to get involved in research and educational opportunities (conferences) to enhance their university experience.

Conference Participations

The UTPB Accounting Association recently attended the 15th Annual Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals (IMA) Student Leadership Conference held November 10-12, 2016 in Detroit, MI

Cassidy Taylor, American Chemical Society- Student Chapter, recently presented a paper entitled, “UTPB Chemistry Club: Promoting Chemistry in West Texas,” at the 253rd ACS National Meeting held April 2-6, 2017 in San Francisco, CA

Joseph Seibert recently attended the AEA Conference held January 6-8, 2017 in Chicago, IL

Hao-Yun Peng recently presented a paper entitled, “Metallic nanoparticle production by CVS probiotic,” at the 253rd ACS National Meeting held April 2-6, 2017 in San Francisco, CA

Jason Snitker recently presented a paper entitled, “Controlled Nanoparticle Morphology Transitions Induced by High-Pressure Ice-Segregation,” at the 253rd ACS National Meeting held April 2-6, 2017 in San Francisco, CA

Jordan McDonald recently presented a paper entitled, “Energetic and Structural Analysis of Metallo-Heterofullerene Derivatives of C20:C19M (M=3d transition metals),” at the 253rd ACS National Meeting held April 2-6, 2017 in San Francisco, CA

Lesley Felix recently presented a paper entitled, “Microwave Assisted Metal Nanoparticle Synthesis” at the 253rd ACS National Meeting held April 2-6, 2017 in San Francisco, CA

Russel Maharaj recently presented a paper entitled, “Novel Characterization of Silver & Gold Nanoparticles Utilizing a Laser System,” at the 253rd ACS National Meeting held April 2-6, 2017 in San Francisco, CA

Clarissa McMillar recently presented a paper entitled, “Studying the Traveling Salesman Problem,” at the Joint Mathematics Meeting on January 4-7, 2017 in Atlanta, GA