West Texas A&M University
FACULTY AND STAFF CONVOCATION
PROGRAM AGENDA

Welcome
Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien

Introduction of New Employees
Dr. Wade Shaffer

I am WT Campaign
Dr. Neal Weaver

SECC
Becky Lopez

Presentation of Staff Awards
Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien and Stephanie Brackett

Presentation of Faculty Magister Optimus Award
Dr. Wade Shaffer and Bill Ambrose

State-of-the-University Address
Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien

Please join us for a reception immediately following in the Grand Lobby of the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien
President/CEO

Dr. Wade Shaffer
Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Gary Barnes
Vice President for Business and Finance

Denese Skinner
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Dan Garcia
Vice President for Enrollment Management

Dr. Neal Weaver
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Michael McBroom
Director of Athletics

Cliff Vanderpool
Director of Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

James Webb
Chief Information Officer
WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES (SINCE AUG. 1, 2011)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

KATIE AHLBOM, secretary, Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences...comes to WTMU with previous experience from Amarillo College and other institutions of higher learning.

DR. JAMES ANDREWS, director of external programming, Office of Academic Affairs...comes to WTMU from Texas State University, where he served as director for several outreach programs such as study abroad, extension and distance learning...developed online courses and faculty-led programs abroad on health and safety-best practices...completed Ph.D. in adult, professional and community education at Texas State University—San Marcos.

HELEN BLACKBURN, Yvonne J. Franklin Chair in Music...long and distinguished career as a performer and teacher of flute...comes to WTMU from positions at Texas Christian University and the University of North Texas...principal flute in the Dallas Opera Orchestra and the Breckinridge Musical Festival Orchestra and a member of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra...graduated from West Texas State University in 1982 and completed a Master of Music degree at Northwestern University.

DR. BILLY BLODGETT, assistant professor of social work...comes to WTMU from the University of Detroit Mercy...earned status of Professor Emeritus after teaching at Northern Michigan University...previously worked for 15 years as psychiatric social worker and administrator in Wichita Falls...earned B.A. at Oral Roberts University, M.S.S.W. from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas.

DR. TIM BOWMAN, assistant professor of history...specialist in border studies...completed his Ph.D. at SMU where he studied under the noted border studies specialists Dr. David Johnson and the late Dr. David Weber...author of two refereed journal articles, a co-edited book and has another, Blood Oranges: Citriculture, Colonialism, and the Origins of Anti-Mexican Racism in the Texas/Mexico Borderlands, 1800-1976, under contract with the Texas A&M University Press.

SANDRA BURRUS, office manager, Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities...raised in Canyon and returned five years ago to be around children, grandchildren and three beautiful great-granddaughters...comes to WTMU from Corpus Christi...background includes customer service, finance and accounting...active at Palo Duro Cowboy Church and enjoys projects at home and with her family.

DR. ZIXIA CAO, assistant professor of marketing...earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University...primary research and teaching areas are advertising, product management and marketing research...work experience includes internships with Digital China Holdings and Pepsi Cola Beverage Company.

KYLA CARPENTER, client services coordinator, Enterprise Center...earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication from WTMU.

JEFFREY CASEBOLT, instructor of sports and exercise sciences...joins WTMU from the private sector with recent experiences as research biomechanist and forensic biomechanist...currently finishing requirements for a Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University.

DONALD CAWLEY, instructor of social work...licensed clinical social worker in Texas...had a private practice in counseling for 16 years in Dallas and on staff at various hospitals including Timberlawn Psychiatric Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center and Children's Medical Center in Dallas...earned his B.A. from Baylor University and M.S.S.W. from the University of Texas...main focus will be the department's West Texas Family and Community Services.

PRISCILLA CORREA, instructor of nursing...received her M.S.N. and B.S.N. from WTMU in 2012...has been a registered nurse for 13 years...served as a clinical assistant in the Department of Nursing during the spring 2012 semester...research interests include probiotics and benefits to health.

DR. BRENDA FIELDS CROSS, instructor of communication disorders...grew up in Groom and received a B.S. in communication disorders in 2003 from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and her Doctorate of Audiology at TTUHSC in 2007...lived in Abilene for five years, where she met Stephen Cross (also a WTMU employee)...they married in 2007...they have one son and are expecting a second son this fall.

KIMBERLY CROWELL, instructor of sports and exercise sciences...joins the University from West Virginia University...experience in exercise psychology, counseling and athletic training.

SHRAVAN DEVKOTA, instructor of nursing...fluent in English, Nepali and Hindi...worked as registered nurse in Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Unit and cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock before joining WTMU...earned her B.S.N. at WTMU and M.S.N. from Lubbock Christian University.

JENNIFER DODSON, medical assistant, WTMU Health Partners Clinic...attended Vista College and received a degree in medical assisting.

BETH GARCIA, instructor of education...earned a B.A. and an M.Ed. from WTMU...currently finishing her doctorate in language and literacy, ESL/bilingual studies at Texas Tech University...taught English and reading in the Hereford Independent School District...research is focused on motivating struggling adolescents.

NANCY GARCIA, coordinator of student success initiatives, Advising Services...grew up in Booker...enrolled at WTMU in 2006 and was part of the College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) and the University Success Academy (USA) Program...served as a peer leader for the First-Year Experience Programs and as a President’s Ambassador...received bachelor's degree in 2009 from WTMU and a master's from Texas Tech University in 2011.

DR. JANET HINDMAN, assistant professor of education...comes to WTMU from Highland Park Independent School District where she was assistant superintendent of academic programs and services...earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from WTMU and a doctorate from Texas Tech University...research looks at democracy and values and improving teaching strategies.

AARON HUNT, instructor of education...served as assistant principal at Westover Park Junior High before coming to WTMU...earned a B.A. from Texas Tech University and a M.Ed. from WTMU...currently working on a doctoral degree in educational leadership...will teach and coordinate NCATE accreditation efforts for the department.

CHRIS JOHNSON, instructor of history...received a master's degree in history from WTMU...has compiled an outstanding teaching record as a part-time instructor during the past three years.

ALYSSA PALSER, student orientation coordinator, First Year Experience...earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Wayland Baptist University in December 2011...joined the WTMU family in April.

AMY PAJEWSKI, reference librarian, Cornette Library...received her B.A. in English from Millersville University and M.S.L.S. from Clarion University of Pennsylvania...comes to WTMU from Lancaster City, Penn...has published poetry in various literary journals and enjoys coffee, photography and long walks in Palo Duro Canyon.

DR. DAVID PARKER, professor and director of Commercial Core Library, Graduate School and Research...returning to WTMU after two years as a research leader at the USDA ARS Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb...previously was a professor in WTMU's agriculture department...earned a bachelor's degree at New Mexico State, a master's at University of Wyoming and a Ph.D. from University of Nebraska...he also is a registered professional engineer.

DR. HENRY PODUTHASE, assistant professor of social work...holds master's degrees in economics (M.A.) and social work (M.S.W.) and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Utah where he served as an assistant professor of social work...spent five years as an assistant professor of social work at Maran College in Kuttikkanam, India...involved in community development programs in India and the United States...scholarly interests include family relationships, poverty, international social work and multiculturalism.

CHERI POLLREIZ, administrative services coordinator, Enterprise Center...comes to WTMU from Albuquerque, N.M...has extensive experience in the accounting field.

LOUISE WADE, instructor of nursing...comes to WTMU from Northwest Texas Healthcare Systems, where she was a trauma coordinator and registrar...certified as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner...member of the International Association of Forensic Nurses...received her B.S.N. and M.S.N. from WTMU.

SEAN PULLEN, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities...grew up in League City...joins WTMU from Abilene Christian University, where he was director of choral activities for three years...also directed the choral program at Clear Creek High School in League City...choirs have performed at the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Choral Directors Association and the American Choral Directors Association...an accomplished singer...earned Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of Houston, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, Calif.

MATT REGAN, reference librarian, Cornette Library...a native of Iowa...earned a B.A. from the University of Iowa, an M.A. from DePaul University and his M.L.I.S. from Dominican University...moved to the Texas Panhandle from the Chicago area...enjoys reading, cooking, fishing, spending time with friends and talking about himself in the third person.

MELISSA SABIN, administrative assistant I, Dean's Office, Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities...native of Mississippi and moved here 6 years ago...has two daughters and two granddaughters...comes to WTMU from the Amarillo Police Department so she could finish her degree...loves camping, hiking and being outdoors.

RITA SMITH, administrative secretary, Department of Music...lives in Canyon for 18 years and raised two wonderful children here...son and daughter-in-law also live in Canyon...son teaches at Canyon High School and is the summer youth intern at University Church of Christ while daughter-in-law begins teaching in the fall...daughter is a senior at WTMU...she enjoys listening to music, camping, hiking and reading.

SARAH STONE, library assistant I, Cornette Library...earned a B.A. in English from WT in 2011...mother to 8-year-old son, Inigo...enjoys reading, pop culture nostalgia and learning to play tiny musical instruments.

ALEXIS WHITSON, retention counselor, Department of Nursing...involved in remediation and tutoring of at-risk nursing students through a TEC Grant...registered nurse since 2005...earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at WTMU and currently enrolled in the University's R.N.-M.S.N. program.
ATHLETICS

KARA JONES, athletic ticket manager... native of Boys Ranch... began as a student worker at the First United Bank Center in 2008... as a student she served as president of S.A.G.E., and was named WTAMU's Woman of the Year and Formal Queen... graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Sport and Exercise Sciences in 2010... will receive her master's degree in Sport Management in August.

COURTNEY LEE, director of Student Athletic Services... native of Arlington... was a three-year starting guard for the Lady Buffs, playing in 114 games, scoring 1,246 points... ranks seventh in career free-throw percentage and third in the single-season 3-point field goal percentage... received Lone Star Conference honors... earned a bachelor's degree at WTAMU in 2009 and a master's degree in 2011.

BRENT SEALs, assistant athletic media relations director... grew up in Canyon... primary duties involve the media relations and publicity efforts of the Lady Buff volleyball team, Buff basketball team and Lady Buff softball team... also helps with game-day operations of all sports.

HEATHER TREEECE, assistant athletic trainer... Amarillo native who spent the 2011 season as assistant athletic trainer for the Amarillo Venom... contracted out with Parker Sports Medicine to help with coverage of the Claude High School football team... responsible for men's and women's cross country and track and field teams... graduate of Oklahoma State University in 2009 and earned a master's degree from WTAMU.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

ROBERT ALEXANDER, air conditioning/refrigeration mechanic I... Physical Plant... graduate of Canyon High School and WTAMU... lives in Canyon with wife Sarah and daughter Katelyn... expecting new addition to the family in October.

PAUL BROWN, police patrol corporal, University Police Department... native Texan... has more than 17 years of experience at municipal police agencies... earned a Master Peace Officer Award from TOLEOSE.

ROBERT BYRD, police patrol sergeant, University Police Department... native Texan from Canyon... joined UPD after retiring from DPS after 30 years... earned a Master Peace Officer Award from TOLEOSE.

CLINTON CHAMBERS, delivery person, Purchasing and Inventory Services... married to the love of his life for 10 years... serves as youth minister at his church... when not working with youth, he enjoys fishing, camping and hiking.

KENNY CHANDLER, custodian II, Physical Plant... spent 13 years as a supervisor at the City of Grand Prairie Airport and 10 years with the City of Canyon Waste Water Treatment... lives in Happy and works at Centennial Hall... enjoys playing the guitar.

ZANE CHIANTARELLO, plumber/plumber assistant, Physical Plant... a 2010 graduate of Dalhart High School... worked with his grandfather in Dalhart before moving to Canyon... he likes to spend time with his wife and daughter and enjoys football, basketball, skateboarding and movies.

MARGARITA COOPER, custodian II, Physical Plant... born in Chihuahua, Mexico... moved to El Paso and met husband Brian... their son attended WTAMU and Margarita and her husband decided Canyon was the place to move... enjoys working at WTAMU.

STEPHEN CROSS, project manager... grew up in Coleman... served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1997-2007... currently studying for a degree in accounting at WTAMU... he and wife Brenda have one son and are expecting a second son in October... enjoys woodworking and spending time with family.

ANDREW DUDLEY, custodian II, Physical Plant... grew up in Hart... graduated from WTAMU in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems.

ELISE DUFFY, travel coordinator, Accounting and Business Office... originally from Hannibal, Mo... previously worked in a university setting for three years before coming to WTAMU... enjoys free time being active and preferably outdoors.

CARLY DUNLOP, textbook receiving clerk, University Bookstore... earned a bachelor's degree in art history and another in liberal arts at Central New Mexico Community College... earned her bachelor's degree in art history with a minor in history at WTAMU in December 2011.

BRIAN FORDHAM, custodian II, Physical Plant... works on the custodial crew at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum... wife Connie works at Comanche Lanes... they have six children... Tyler is a graphic artist in San Diego, California... a music teacher at Wolfin Elementary School, and Hannah works in the business department at Texas Tech... hobbies include gardening, swimming and playing the banjo.

MIKE FROST, groundskeeper I, Physical Plant... father was in the Air Force and moved Mike and the family to Amarillo in 1963... had almost 10 years of grounds work experience before coming to WTAMU... enjoys music, fishing, hunting and working outdoors.

DANIEL HAMMITT, custodian II, Physical Plant... married with six children... concentrating on family now but plans to attend school for either HVAC or a degree in computer technology.

GARY HARBISON, custodian II, Physical Plant... began work at Jones Hall during finals and move-in week and learned about overflowing trash cans and hauling totes... has since learned work is not always so hectic... glad to be back in the Panhandle... enjoys time with family and pursuing outdoor activities.

JACKIE HARBISON, custodian II, Physical Plant... hometown is Amarillo... she and husband Gary recently moved back to the Panhandle from Dallas to be closer to family... they have three children and five grandchildren... enjoys sewing and camping.

MEGAN HARRE, custodian II, Physical Plant... earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in 2010... works in Centennial Hall and has discovered the many challenges of a newly-opened residence hall... recently married and they have just bought their first home.

TIMOTHY HOPKINS, carpenter I, Physical Plant... grew up in Midlothian and moved to the Amarillo area in 2003... has been a carpenter for four years... enjoys hunting and watching NASCAR.

D'ERA JEFFERSON, merchandise buyer, University Bookstore... graduated from WTAMU in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in general studies... married to Brandon Jefferson (staff member in HVAC Department) since 1994... they have a daughter Kristen and a son Derik... was a student worker in the bookstore before graduating.

BRANDON JOHNSON, police officer, University Police Department... comes to WTAMU with more than three years of experience from municipal law enforcement in the area... earned a Basic Peace Officer Award License from TOLEOSE.

KATHY LEHNICK, administrative secretary II, Accounting and Business Office... grew up in Amarillo and moved to Canyon after marrying husband Greg... both are graduates of WTAMU and their daughter also is a WTAMU graduate... two granddaughters... hobbies are fly fishing and hiking with her husband.

MELVIN LOWE, custodian II, Physical Plant... works in Buff Hall and enjoys his many new co-workers at WTAMU... has helped with other residence halls during summer camps and New Student Orientations... enjoys the atmosphere at WTAMU.

BILLY MCCLAIN, custodian II, Physical Plant... born in Wellington... has two children and four grandchildren... favorite hobby is fishing.

DARLA MCLEAN, cashier, Accounting and Business Office... moved to Canyon almost three years ago from Lockney... married for 28 years to Steve, who also is a WTAMU employee... they have two sons who both earned degrees from WTAMU... enjoys time with family and taking road trips with her hubby.

ISIAH PEREZ, custodian II, Physical Plant... currently works on the night custodial crew but plans to attend college sometime in the future... hobbies include music, video games, time with friends and athletic activities such as football, basketball and wrestling.

UDIS MOORE, custodial foreman, Physical Plant... moved to Canyon at the age of 16 and graduated from Canyon High School in 1988... mother of two who enjoys music, reading and spending time with family and friends.

AARON PRICE, police officer, University Police Department... a native of the area... just completed the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy in Amarillo... UPD is his first job in law enforcement.

LARRY RODRIGUEZ, groundskeeper I, Physical Plant... born in Vega and grew up in Canyon and Hereford... brings 25 years of landscaping experience with him to WTAMU... father to 4-year-old Gavin Creed... enjoys watching the Washington Redskins.

GABRIELA ROSALES, assistant manager of custodial services, Physical Plant... native of Guadalupe... followed in the footsteps of her older brother and sister and attended WTAMU... earned bachelor's degree in general studies in 2011.

CYNTHIA THOMPSON, custodial foreman, Physical Plant... grew up in Plainview as one of seven children... married with four children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way... enjoys time with family, gardening, woodworking, reading and attending church.

JEFFREY TUFFORD, groundskeeper I, Physical Plant... 2002 graduate of Dumas High School... previously worked as a locksmith before coming to WTAMU... enjoys woodworking and golf.

ASHLEY WEBB, cashier, Accounting and Business Office... native of Canyon and a 2004 graduate of Canyon High School... enjoys time with family and her 15-month-old son Mason.

LARRY WILLIAMSON, custodian II, Physical Plant... born in Lubbock and grew up in Amarillo with two brothers... joined the army in 1977... hobbies include archery and reading books about history.

LOI WINTER, groundskeeper I, Physical Plant... grew up in Borger... earned a bachelor's degree in 1977 from WTAMU... currently working on a master's degree in Environmental Science... mother to four sons and a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America for more than 20 years... shares her home with one dog, two goldfish and three her... enjoys gardening, woodworking, bird watching, hiking and scuba diving.
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

CASEY HAYES, assistant director, Admissions...Amarillo native who graduated from WTAMU in 2011...previously worked for the Presbyterian Home for Children where he helped with motivational videos for the tenants...lead actor in the outdoor musical "TEXAS" during the summers of 2009-2011...recently married...hobbies include watching movies and riding his bicycle.

JENNIFER HOUSTON, enrollment management specialist III, Registrar’s Office...Navy veteran who comes to WTAMU from the Amarillo VA where she worked as the administrative officer to the chief of staff...earned her bachelor’s degree from Western Kentucky University and a master’s in health administration from the University of Kentucky...married with one daughter.

JEANETTE JARNAGIN, financial aid specialist III, Financial Aid...comes to WTAMU after 16 years at Panhandle Plains Student Loan Center/ACS...has lived in Canyon all her life...son will be a high school senior this fall...two dogs provide nightly entertainment for the family.

ALICIA JOHNSON, assistant director, Admissions...originally from Garland and graduated from WTAMU in 2011...work history includes administrative assistant of customer relations at Mind Matters of Texas Clinic and assistant office manager for Mark Eye Care...enjoys riding horses, casual photography and hiking at Palo Duro Canyon.

JACOB LOPEZ, assistant director, Admissions...earned a bachelor’s degree from WTAMU in 2012...former WTAMU lifeguard and co-founder and business manager of ShuffleCore Entertainment...hobbies include running, reading and playing video games.

MICHELLE MCAFadden, assistant director, Admissions...comes to WTAMU from Amarillo Venon, where she was a box office manager...grew up in Olton and earned her B.B.A. from WTAMU in 2007...enjoys running and reading books by her favorite author Nicholas Sparks.

AUBREY RIEBSSLAEGER, financial aid specialist III, Financial Aid...native of Canyon...previously worked at ACS in Canyon and the Department of Education’s loan servicing department and financial aid for an online university...has one daughter, Capri Denise, and expecting second child in December.

BECCA RUTKOWSKI, financial aid specialist III, Financial Aid...joins the University after previously working for ACS...lives south of Canyon with a menagerie of pets...proud mother of a 16-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son...enjoys gardening, canning, cooking, reading and traveling...WTAMU has made her feel very welcome.

MARKLEY WILHITE, record assistant, Admissions...previous work experience includes WTAMU, Canyon News, Amarillo Independent School District, University of Texas at San Antonio and Texas Tech...graduated from WTAMU in 1997 with a bachelor’s degree in general studies...Cowboy fan who enjoys softball and tennis.

RACHEL WILLIAMS, financial aid specialist III, Financial Aid...previously worked at Amarillo College where she earned an associate degree in business administration...received her bachelor’s degree in accounting from WTAMU...loves working in a college environment and helping students reach their goals.

GINA VILLARREAL, outreach advisor, College Talent Search...grew up in Bovina and graduated from WTAMU in 2004...comes to WTAMU from Caprock High School where she was a career specialist...passionate about developing opportunities of higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

QUINTIN BRENNEMAN, network administrator, Microsoft, Network Services...earned an associate degree in renewable energy...has worked in information technology for six years...enjoys time with his 3-year-old daughter...hobbies include cara, hunting, fishing, woodwork, metal work and rock climbing.

KRISTA FAVELA, instructional designer, Instructional Technology Services...received her baccalaureate and master’s degree from WTAMU...currently working on doctoral degree in instructional design at Texas Tech University...enjoys hiking during free time.

KRISTIN FREEMAN, administrative secretary, Information Technology...graduated from Canyon High School and earned her bachelor’s degree from WTAMU in 2006...lived in Anchorage and Austin before returning to Canyon...enjoys spending time with family and friends and cooking new foods for them to try.

DUSTIN HUME, mobile application developer, Information Services...grew up in Colorado...worked for IT and CIS departments as an undergraduate...after graduating in 2011 he was selected as a software engineer intern for the Executive Office of the President of the United States...he and wife Tiffany have a 3-month-old daughter named Finley...enjoys time with family and friends.

EYOEL MENGESHA, Linux systems administrator, Information Services...home is Nairobi, Kenya...has been in the United States for three years...earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a master’s degree in computer information systems...enjoys playing and watching basketball.

STACY SCHELLER, network administrator, Network Services...earned an associate degree at Amarillo College and a bachelor’s degree in computer science from WTAMU...electric and steel guitarist for local bands...married for 22 years with two daughters...hobbies are fishing, hunting and card tricks.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

VICKY BUCKELEW, donor relations coordinator, Institutional Advancement...born and raised in Happy...attended SWTJC in Lodi and WTAMU...has worked at three different Methodist church camps...enjoys quilling and baking...married to Terry...has three grown children, two Yorkies and recently blessed with first grandchild, Azaylin.

CARRIE CUTHRIE, development officer, College of Nursing and Health Sciences...registered nurse...met husband Mark on a blind date, and they have been married 20 years...they live in a 106-year-old house in Canyon with daughters Grace and Chloe...when not working on the house, she enjoys gardening, history and going to the lake with her family.

LISA INSALL, alumni relations coordinator, Alumni Association...grew up in Andrews...received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WTAMU...married and active in Basenji Rescue and Transport.

KASEY LONG, development officer, College of Education and Social Sciences...active in the Amarillo and Canyon communities through Junior League of Amarillo, Delta Zeta as the Texas state alumni chairman and on the board of directors for the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities and for The Turn Center of Amarillo...received her bachelor’s degree in biology in 2007 and master’s degree in business administration in 2011 from WTAMU...she and husband Ryan, also a WTAMU grad, live in Canyon.

DONNA MAKKHAVANE, special events and marketing coordinator, Communication and Marketing...earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration at WTAMU...joined the WTAMU staff in December after 12 years with the City of Amarillo...lives in Amarillo and enjoys being involved with the community...spends free time with 3-year-old son Ryden, volunteering and managing her small business.

TAYLOR MEYER, graphic/web designer, Communication and Marketing...graduated in May with a B.F.A. in graphic design...enjoys road trips, experimenting with new foods in the kitchen, spending time with family, biking and DIY projects...dreams of one day having a home in the Pacific Northwest, preferably Portland, Ore.

BARBARA PALMER, donor steward and prospect research analyst, Advancement Services...a Penryn native whose work experience includes American Quarter Horse Association, United Way of Amarillo and Canyon, Kids, Inc., and Advanced Adjusting, LLC...earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in speech communication/English at WTAMU...daughter Anna is a freshman at Tascosa High School, and they have a pug named Zeva and cats Zippy and Zoro.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

EJ INGRAM, employer relations coordinator, Career Services...native of Oklahoma and a graduate of Oklahoma Panhandle State University...comes to WTAMU with experience in marketing and sales with stints in insurance, banking and as a small business owner...enjoys time with wife, their adult children and perfect grandchildren.

JESSIE JONES, area coordinator, Residential Living...served as a resident assistant in Jarrett Hall in 2007 and hired as assistant area coordinator in 2009...earned bachelor’s degree in 2009 and master’s degree in 2012...looking forward to building his personal and professional skills at the University he considers home.

ORVIE NIX, clinical coordinator, Student Counseling Services...earned a bachelor’s degree from Eastern New Mexico University and a master’s degree from the University of Denver...completed a post graduate certificate in mental health consultation at Tulane School of Public Health...extensive years of experience as social worker, social service administrator and mental health administrator.

REBECCA WARREN, professional counselor, Student Counseling Services...earned both her bachelor’s (2008) and master’s degrees (2011) from WTAMU.

DAVID WILSON, assistant director of residence life, Residential Living...native of Oklahoma and a graduate of Tula High School...earned a bachelor’s degree from Eastern New Mexico and a master’s from San Diego State University...previously worked as residential coordinator at Tarleton State and assistant director of residence life for a private student housing company at the University of Texas at Arlington.
MISSION STATEMENT

West Texas A&M University, a member of The Texas A&M University System, is a student-centered, learning community dedicated to educating tomorrow’s leaders through innovative academic and co-curricular undergraduate and graduate programs. The University serves as the principal academic and cultural center of a multi-state region and is a significant catalyst for economic development by expanding the frontiers of knowledge through education, research and consultation. Its faculty and staff prepare students for leadership roles both in their chosen careers and as citizens of the nation and the world. West Texas A&M University is committed to providing a technology-rich education, constantly improving its academically challenging educational experience, and engaging students through effective teaching and practical experiences involving inquiry, discussion, research, creative activities, experiential learning and service. The University is committed to the intellectual, professional and social growth of students by providing an education grounded in the liberal arts and opportunities to develop strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills, an understanding of cultural diversity, a commitment to ethical behavior, an appreciation for the fine arts and humanities, and a desire for life-long learning.

CORE VALUES

West Texas A&M University holds the following core values as those principles that the University will not compromise, even to overcome obstacles or achieve short-term gain:

• Academic and Intellectual Freedom
• Pursuit of Excellence in All Endeavors
• Creativity and Innovation
• Respect for the Dignity of All Individuals
• Cooperation and Communication
• Community Service and Leadership
• Exceed Expectations of Internal and External Customers
• Continuous Improvement
• Integrity
• Diversity