UNIVERSITY
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2014-2015
Welcome
Introduction of New Employees
Dr. Wade Shaffer
Construction Update
Randy Rikel
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update
Dr. Lance Kiehle
StrengthsQuest Initiative
Mike Knox and Dr. Christina Cox-Leisinger
Homecoming 2015
Tim Bynum
I am WT Campaign
Dr. Emily Hunt, Denese Skinner, Ricardo Machado, and J. Pat Stephens
SECC Presentation
Dr. Christina Cox-Leisinger
Presentation of Staff Awards
President O’Brien and Betty Stocker
Presentation of Faculty Magister Optimus Award
Dr. Wade Shaffer and Dr. Jean Stuntz
State-of-the-University Address
President O’Brien
Drawing
President O’Brien and Lynette Laugh (Staff Employee of the Year 2015-2016)

Please join us for a reception immediately following in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center, Legacy Hall Foyer.

Academic Affairs

- The Master of Science in Finance and Economics program earned a #10 Financial Economics graduate program ranking by The Financial Engineer in 2015 and a #11 ranking as a best specialized graduate business program offered online by U.S. News & World Report.
- The Master of Business Administration program earned a #32 best online MBA ranking for 2015. Other rankings for the program include #2 by Simple Dollar, #5 by Super Scholars Organization, #8 by Top Online Colleges, #10 by College Choice and #23 by online MBA Report.
- The CFA Research Challenge team won the 2015 Southwest U.S. Championship.
- College of Nursing and Health Sciences received approval to offer the baccalaureate program in health sciences via online delivery.
- Graduate curriculum in communication disorders accredited by the American Speech Language-Hearing Association—Council on Academic Accreditation.
- Online RN to BSN nursing program received the following national rankings: #38 nationally in Super Scholar Best Online (Undergraduate) Nursing Program 2015; Nonprofit Colleges Online Best Online BSN Program; Students Before Profits Award 2014-15 (#6); OnlineU 2014 Most Affordable Colleges for Online Nursing (#9); 2015 Best College Reviews Online RN to BSN Programs (#6); 2015 Great Value Colleges Top Online RN to BSN Programs (#20).
- Graduate online nursing program earned #41 rank in 2014 U.S. News and World Report Online Graduate Nursing and #2 rank for Cheapest Online Graduate Nursing Programs for Out-of-State Students.
- WTAMU won the bid to host the American College Dance Association in March 2016.
- WTAMU forensics attended its first international tournament and returned with two world champions and second place overall.
- NSACS team won seventh place in the nation.
- Won 13 Telly Awards for production of One Session, out of thousands of submissions.
- Dr. Paul Clark won a Fulbright to Japan for spring 2016.
Academic Affairs, Continued

• Faculty member James Barger’s saxophone quartet won gold medal in the wind division of the prestigious Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.
• WTAMU Symphonic Band and Chorale both invited to the Texas Music Educators Association Annual Conference.
• $95,000 raised at Ag Day by Ag Development Association.
• Six agricultural science faculty members sit on national or state boards.
• Astronomy research student presented at an international meeting in Germany and was selected to participate in a Summer Fellowship in Germany.
• Mary Jane Cruz selected to Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators.
• Drs. Clewett and Flynn received NSF MRI Funding for an NMR Spectrometer.
• 2014 medical school acceptance rate: 13 of 18 (72%) accepted; national average—42 percent.
• In 2014-2015, 50 percent of freshman engineering students participated in a learning community.
• Ashley Pinkham (West Texas A&M University) and Susan Neuman (New York University) received a $1,063,416 federal grant to investigate educational media supports for low-income preschoolers’ vocabulary development and oral language comprehension.
• Mireya Jacuinde, graduating social work major, was awarded an ETA (English Teaching Assistantship) Fulbright scholarship. Mireya will assist in teaching English in Spain while also completing health-oriented community service project.
• Desire’ Winslow, MSSW student, was awarded a $5,000.00 Imo Hogg Foundation Scholarship. Fourteen scholarships were awarded in Texas to students who have a commitment to working with people with mental illness.
• Shanna Peeples, 2015 National Teacher of the Year, received her Texas Teacher Certification in 2003 through the WTAMU Department of Education Alternative Certification Program.
• Dr. Janet Hindman, Dr. Beth Garcia, Dr. Betty Coneway and Dr. Judy Williams received a $56,000 grant in partnership with Jacksonville State University’s national study for the U.S. Department of Education, Investing in innovation (i3) program.
• Two Fulbright Scholars came to campus as part of the Fulbright Outreach Lecture Program.
• A total of 167,142 people used the library during the 2014-2015 fall and spring semesters.
• The Honors Program had its largest group—189 students—in spring 2015 and will begin the fall 2015 semester with 201 students.
• Advising Services implemented use of Program Evaluation and Student Planning for all freshmen with assistance from Information Technology, Office of the Registrar and college deans’ offices.
• Advising Services logged 11,820 visits by 6,107 unique students during 2014-15 (not including summer).

Athletics

• Finished in the top 10 in the NACDA Directors’ Cup for the second-straight year.
• Had 2.97 overall department grade-point average highlighted by a spring semester school-record 3.06 GPA with all but four programs having a 3.0 or better for the spring.
• Two student-athletes earned prestigious NCAA Elite 89 honors (Bri Leeper and Ethan Peterson). Over the last two years WT has had four student-athletes earn NCAA Elite 89 honors.
• The 2.97 GPA in 2014-15 is the seventh-straight year of breaking the record for the best GPA in the athletic department.
• Both the men’s and women’s programs earned Lone Star Conference Academic Excellence Award for the first time in school history.
• WT had a league-best 167 student-athletes named to the 2014-15 Lone Star Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll and had 61 student-athletes with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

• 12 of 16 sports earned NCAA postseason qualification (Equestrian finished 3rd nationally as non-NCAA sport)
• The baseball program earned its first Lone Star Conference regular season title in 2015 and made second-straight NCAA regional appearance.
• Women’s basketball won back-to-back Lone Star regular season, LSC tournament, South Central Region tournament and Elite Eight appearances.
• Seven teams in 2014-15 won Lone Star Conference titles.
• Nine teams finished ranked in the national top 25 of their respective sports.
• Volleyball won its 19th LSC title and participated in its 25th NCAA postseason.
• Renee Erwin won back-to-back Rlon Lenz Daktronics Softball Player of the Year honors as she became the first player to win back-to-back honors.
• Women’s basketball standout Chontiquah White was named the LSC honoree for NCAA Woman of the Year (NCAA Woman of the Year finalists will be announced in September).
• Five coaches earn LSC Coach of the Year honors.

Business and Finance

• Year-to-Date increases in University Bookstore sales
  • 7.40 percent in textbook sales amounting to an increase of $66K in sales.
  • 43.26 percent in rental textbook sales/revenue amounting to an increase of $19.5K in increase rental revenue.
  • 16.44 percent in technology sales amounting to $55K in increased sales.
• Net revenues of the University Bookstore are directed to help fund many University activities.
• Positioned to offer digital textbooks for fall 2015 expanding the economical choices offered to students for textbook/curriculum materials.
• Installed new registers at all three store locations to meet new PCI compliance requirements that will be in place by October of 2015.
• New registers and PIN pads provide required point-to-point encryption of card information and by October will facilitate the newest form of payment, ApplePay.
• UPD hosted two Interns (spring and summer semesters) from the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice – affording each of the students 240 hours of on-the-job experience.
• UPD officers made more than 2,500 service calls for vehicle boosts, vehicle assists, vehicle unlocks, building locks and building unlocks.
• UPD dispatch answered an average of 51 phone calls and dispatched approximately eight service calls per a 24-hour period.
• Buffalo Express will have transported approximately 135,800 students and employees from FUBC parking to campus by mid-August. The peak month of use was October 2014 with 21,042 passengers.
• The Lock Shop work-order process for key distribution and lock maintenance addressed 984 requests/orders.
• Parking Services distributed 6,504 parking permits easily and hassle-free with Rydin PermitExpress online service.
• The payroll department developed and implemented a process for payroll deductions of parking permits. The department is in the process of developing a payroll deduction option for membership to the Virgil Henson Activities Center.
• Hired the first full time Title IX Coordinator to oversee University’s compliance with Title IX regulations.
• The HR department completed a review of the University’s hiring practices by the Texas Workforce Commission/Civil Rights Division (TWC/CRD). The TWC/CRD conducts this review on Texas State agencies every five years. The final report is pending, however, the review indicated the University had no violations or significant deficiencies.
• Assisted in the development of the Request for Proposal (RFP) of a new system-wide HR and payroll software program and the assessment of the software programs submitted by the vendors. “Workday” was selected as the vendor and will replace the current B/IFP system (Budgets/Personnel/Payroll).
Business and Finance, Continued

• Processed approximately 1,309 packets from student employment, an average of approximately 93.5 per month.
• Completed 79 new staff orientations and 37 new faculty orientations.
• Processed 2,655 documents through the electronic Employment Information and Payroll Change Queue.
• Six fellow employees have been trained as Title IX investigators.
• Added monthly Employee Assistant Program (EAP) newsletters and other related information to the HR website.
• Automated the Budget Adjustment Form.
• Monitored and processed approximately 6,000 documents requiring budget or funding actions.
• Responded to 47 Public Information Requests.
• Secured land purchases totaling $370,000.
• WTAMU procedures updated for the newly implemented electronic student travel process.
• Renewed property-fire insurance covering more than $400 million in 90 structures at over 2,860,000 square feet.
• Taught three more Green Belt Candidates bringing the total number to 18 candidates in the Six Sigma Project. One person completed the Green Belt project and met the requirements for a Green Belt. We now have three Green Belts. One person completed the requirements for Black Belt and was awarded the certificate.
• WT’s recycling program has contributed the following
  - 94,201 pounds of paper
  - 49,850 pounds of cardboard
  - 788 pounds of aluminum
  - 5,544 pounds of plastic
  This resulted in a savings of natural resources of
  - 2,209 trees
  - 4,908 gallons of oil
  - 809,882 gallons of water
  - 490,836 KW of energy
  - 452 cubic yards of land fill space
• Continued Implementation of guaranteed tuition. Currently have 375 tuition and fee schedules.
• Worked with Elucian on the bridge for the BAM implementation.
• Beta test with Elucian for the new payment plan.
• Processed 51,800 cash receipts.
• Processed 20,137 payments to vendors and students.
• Set up more than 100 new accounts.
• Reworked GL Security when login ID’s changed.
• Set up new procedure to get new accounts on for the Budget process.
• Processed 11,280 1098T forms.
• Processed 380 1099 forms
• Processed more than 2,000 account correction/transfers.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

• Secured $120,000 in additional Texas Work-Study Mentorship Program from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Funds will be used to support scholarship/wages to WTAMU Collegiate G-Force Mentors.

• Revised the phone system so that it has a messaging system and can inform students of commonly asked questions before it goes to a financial aid officer to pick up.
• Modified intake processes during New Student Orientation and every instance where there is a line of more than seven so that every staff member sees students and parents, thereby reducing wait time.

INTernational Student Office

• Exceeded the goal of a five percent increase in international student applications for fall 2014; the increase was 64 percent, which resulted in an additional 146 applications beyond the goal. The total number of applications was 409 for fall 2014, compared with 250 the previous year.
• Exceeded the goal of a three percent increase in international student enrollments in a degree-seeking program for fall 2014; the increase was actually 45 percent, which resulted in an additional 73 enrollments beyond the goal. The total number of enrollments was 251 for fall 2014, compared with 173 the previous year.

OFFice of Enrollment Management

• The vice president for enrollment management became president of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) in April 2015.
• Represented the University at the Segundo Congreso Latinoamericano de Investigación Educativa in San Juan, Puerto Rico. WT became the first signatory to el Congreso from a U.S. institution of higher education. The vice president also presented a session titled, “Creciendo Matricula: Oportunidades para Estudiantes.”

OFFice of Undergraduate Admissions

• Exceeded the goal of 5,000 undergraduate first-year student applications for fall 2014; received 5,267 that recruitment cycle.
• Exceeded the goal of 1,800 undergraduate first-year student applications from Hispanic students for fall 2014; received 2,061 that recruitment cycle.

Diversity and inclusion

• 100 percent of students who participated in the Active Study Hall (ASH) persisted and registered for the following semester.
• Collaborated in taking students, faculty and staff to the Texas Association for Chicanos in Higher Education state meeting and the Texas Association for Black Personnel in Higher Education state meeting.
• Represented WTAMU in more than 38 community meetings or programs to provide information, expertise and insights and to promote best practices for increasing diversity and inclusion.
• Collaborated with University departments on more than 40 programs and activities related to diversity and inclusion.
• Collaborated with University departments and student organizations for program and activities for Diversity Days, Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, MLK Celebration, Women’s History Month, LGBT and International Student.

Enrollment Management

College Talent Search

• Met all federal guidelines and met all objectives while serving 477 students in the federally-funded $217,971 Talent Search program.
• Secured a funding increase from the U.S. Dept. of Education. Total $230,000 for the 2013-2014 budget year.
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**Enrollment Management, Continued**

- Established a faculty call effort to admitted students with >23 ACT and submission of a scholarship application (COESS, CFAM, ECS). Faculty call prospective students to aid in completing admissions process/enroll.

**Registrar**

- Staff members from the Office of the Registrar served on key campus task forces and committees and contributed to campus-wide discussions related to the academic calendar, information technology, instructional technology, enrollment management, undergraduate admission appeals, suspension appeals and reinstatements and orientation for both freshmen and transfers.

**Scholarship Office**

- Compiled a report for Institutional Advancement of all scholarship endowments, level of endowment, year established and current balances. The report was used to identify underfunded scholarships and development officers are working with donors to increase these scholarships.
- Enhanced the online scholarship application with focus on improving the resume application feature for new students and also creation of passwords. Scholarship Services worked closely with IT to make the suggested changes to the online scholarship application which has greatly improved the process for applying.
- Scholarship Services’ Facebook page now has 822 followers compared to 500 last year.

**Upward Bound**

- The Upward Bound Program’s 2008 cohort had a 47.6 percent six-year graduation rate in the last reported annual report to the U.S. Department of Education.
- One hundred percent (100%) of the Upward Bound participants achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher for the 2013-2014 reporting year.

**Upward Bound Math and Science**

- One hundred percent (100%) of the Upward Bound Math and Science participants achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher for the 2013-2014 reporting year.
- One percent (100%) of current seniors achieved the proficient level on their high school state assessments in reading/language arts and math.

**Information Technology**

- Completed a yearlong pilot on Blackboard Learn across 255 courses with more than 3,000 students participating. Two hundred technology workshops on Blackboard Learn have been provided totaling 400 hours of training in preparation for the migration from Angel Learning.
- Launched a new faculty technology support portal containing “how to” videos and instructions for Blackboard Learn, migrating Angel courses to Blackboard, Blackboard Mobile and Cisco WebEx to name a few. Missed a training session? Check out http://faculty.wtamu.edu for help.
- Buffalo Roaming, the University’s wireless network infrastructure, was upgraded to Cisco’s newest wireless architecture. Three hundred wireless access points have been added throughout the campus, including all of the residence halls.
- Apple iPad mobile carts for classroom use will be available for checkout starting this fall.
- Kaspersky antivirus software is now available to all faculty and staff members for personal use. Contact ITSC for instructions on downloading.
- Cloud-based storage by EMC Syncplicity will be available to faculty, staff, and students starting this fall.

**Institutional Advancement**

**Increased Use of Social Media**

- More than 16,300 followers on main WT Facebook page.
- Almost 3,000 Instagram followers.
- Twitter account has more than 7,000 followers.
- More than 17,000 individuals identify with WT on LinkedIn.

**Back the Buffs—Crowdfunding Platform**

- Newly created in fall of 2014, the University’s crowdfunding platform Back the Buffs has connected more than 100 new donors to student and faculty needs, raising over $10,000 in its first year.

**WT Alumni Association—Chapter Development**

- Members of the alumni association staff, board and volunteers continue to cultivate opportunities for connection in cities across the country. Those areas with the most activity include Denver, Washington D.C., San Antonio, Houston and DFW.

**WTAMU Foundation Faculty Development Grants**

- The WTAMU Foundation awarded more than $20,000 to WT faculty members through the Foundation Faculty Grant Program. The WTAMU Foundation board hosted a charity golf tournament in July 2015, raising more than $25,000 to support this program in future years.

**Development—Planned Giving**

- In additional to cash gifts and pledges, the WTAMU Foundation confirmed almost $3 million in new planned gift expectations during the 2014-15 fiscal year. These gifts include wills and bequests as well as beneficiary designations of trusts and insurance policies.

**Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**

- The museum served 1,651 WTAMU students through curriculum support.
- The museum served 3,583 WTAMU students through student services.
- This year PPHM was inducted into the Best of Amarillo Hall of Fame and won the Canyon News Gold Star Award, Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence, True West Top 10 Western Museums and Best of Amarillo: Best Museum and Art Gallery.
- PPHM had visitors from Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, not to mention 34 percent of PPHM’s visitors come from outside the state of Texas.
**President’s Office**

- Undergraduate enrollment at WT has grown 25.8% since Fall 2005; however, undergraduate enrollment from the Top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle – principal service area of WTAMU – has only increased by 0.1%.
- Increase in Enrollment of Veterans
  - Fall 2008 enrollment of military service members (active duty/reservists), veterans, and dependents numbered 87.
  - Spring 2015 enrollment of military service members (active duty reservists), veterans, and dependents numbered 524.
- Military Friendly
  - For the sixth consecutive year, WTAMU was named one of the 2015 top military-friendly universities by G.I. Jobs magazine, and for the third consecutive year Military Advanced Education Top Military Friendly University.
  - WTAMU was named a Purple Heart University.
- Student Success
  - Four-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshman entering WTAMU in Fall 2010 was 27.3%. This is a new high for WTAMU and second highest in The Texas A&M University System — exceeded only by Texas A&M University.

**Research and Compliance**

**Graduate School**

- The WTAMU/UL Wind Turbine Testing Center completed the first wind turbine Small Wind Certification Council (SWCC)/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) certification.
- The WTAMU/UL Wind Turbine Testing Center continued a program of Wind Turbine education to local middle schools.
- The WTAMU/UL Wind Turbine Testing Center participated in American Wind Energy Association’s (AWEA) Testing Standard 9.2 Revision.
- The WTAMU/UL Wind Turbine Testing Center began a campaign to become an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 certified Laboratory.
- Rob Thompson was hired as the new Fire and Life Safety director.
- Fire and Life Safety installed new fire alarm systems in the WTAMU Box/Field House, Museum and Dining Hall.
- Fire and Life Safety trained more than 250 employees on fire extinguisher usage and conducted 40 fire drill trainings in the resident halls.
- Annual WTAMU Compliance Plan developed, submitted and approved by TAMUS Ethics and Compliance Office.
- Implemented a university-wide electronic student travel process through university-wide collaboration.
- Academic and Research Environmental Health and Safety conducted general safety laboratory training of 2,500 students.
- Richard Smith was hired as the new Academic and Research Environmental Health and Safety director.
- An audit by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) of the WTAMU Institutional Animal Care and Usage Committee (IACUC) had no findings.
- Awarded more than $100,628 in faculty, graduate student and President’s Undergraduate Research internal grants.
- From fall 2013 to fall 2014: graduate student enrollment increased 26.6 percent. Graduate student credit hours increased 20.9 percent. Enrollment increased 28.4 percent and credit hours 26.2 percent comparing spring 2014 to spring 2015.
- Purchased and installed new research equipment—Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP MS)—in Core Laboratory for collaborative use by faculty (funding supported through Research Development Fund).
- Completed draft and architectural plans for new engineering core laboratory in the Palo Duro Research Facility. Construction bids are completed. Construction began in summer 2015.

**Student Affairs**

- The success rate for new externally-sponsored awards increased to 39 percent in FY15 from 21 percent in FY14.
- Exclusive license and patent rights agreement to Aggie Venture Partners for the commercialization of Dr. Emily Hunt’s research on Nanostructured Metallic Alloys for Antibacterial Application.
- Awarded sponsored research of $100,000 or more.
  - Awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant—$160,000 Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer-Flame Ionization Detector: Drs. David Parker, Gary Barbee, Andy Cole, Ty Lawrence
  - Awarded National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation grant—$236,766 High-temperature X-Ray Diffraction System: Drs. Emily Hunt, Oliver Mulumba, Kenneth Leitch, Ann Womb
  - Dr. Emily Hunt—$300,000 AVF Nano Alloys, LLC lab support.
  - Drs. Matt Jackson and Emily Hunt—$115,310.43—CNS Parntex for the “Active Bay Noise Reduction PDRD Project.”
  - Dr. Ty Lawrence—$317,284—Animal Health Related Sponsored Research
  - Gina Woodward—$127,400—Texas Tech University/ Small Business Association award for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
  - Drs. Nathan Howell, Erick Butler and Bridget Guerrero—$149,777 from USDA for “Water Quality Valuation Approach to Strategic Planning.”
- Launched the BuffStrong program to implement Strengths® for more than 1,300 freshmen and hundreds of student leaders, faculty and staff, creating a new leadership and personal development paradigm for our students
- Student Medical Services created new revenue stream of more than $120,000 by being the first university in The Texas A&M University System to begin accepting and billing student medical insurance, without raising costs to students.
- Record participation by students and employers in the spring two-day Career EXPO in March of 2015. 911 unduplicated students and 92 unduplicated employers.
- Renovation and reorganization of the CORE offices into the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, encompassing Student Activities, Student Organizations, New Student Orientation, Greek Life, and Leadership programs.
- Completed numerous renovations in the Virgil Henson Activities Center, including the all-purpose room, the pool, the cardio-fitness/ weight area.
- Achieved 91 percent occupancy in our residence halls in the fall semester, the highest occupancy from known records.
- Installed more than 100 international flags and the new world map mural in the JBK Student Center, commemorating the international nature of our student body.
- Instituted equine assisted therapy in the Counseling Center as a new service for students.