FACULTY AND STAFF CONVOCATION

2:00 p.m. • Tuesday, Aug. 18 • Jack B. Kelley Student Center, Legacy Hall
PROGRAM AGENDA

Welcome
Introduction of New Employees
Construction Update
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update
StrengthsQuest Initiative
Homecoming 2015
I am WT Campaign
SECC Presentation
Presentation of Staff Awards
Presentation of Faculty Magister Optimus Award
State-of-the-University Address
Drawing

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

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien
President/CEO

Dr. Wade Shaffer
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Randy Rikel
Vice President for Business and Finance

Mike Knox
Vice President for Student Affairs

Tim Bynum
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Dr. Angela Spaulding
Vice President for Research and Compliance

Michael McBroom
Director of Athletics

Dr. Lance Kieth

Denese Skinner

Ricardo Machado

J. Pat Stephens

Tim Bynum

Dr. Emily Hunt

Dr. Christina Cox-Leisinger

President O’Brien and Betty Stocker

Dr. Wade Shaffer and Dr. Jean Stuntz

President O’Brien and Lynette Lough (Staff Employee of the Year 2015-2016)

James Webb
Chief Information Officer

Cliff Vanderpool
Director of Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Angela Allen
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

NINA DIXON, executive secretary, President's Office . . . born and raised in San Antonio . . . moved to Amarillo in 1991 . . . active member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

DR. NESRIN BAKIR, clinical assistant professor of computer information systems . . . Ph.D. from the University of Illinois . . . primary teaching and research areas include project management, web application development, management information systems, and database management . . . research includes publications in the International Journal of Productivity and Quality Management, International Journal of Information Systems & Social Change, and Journal of Information Technology Case Application Research.

KRISTY BARTLETT, Instructor of social work . . . joined the College of Education and Social Sciences in 2014 . . . received a B.S. in social work in 2010 and a M.S. in social work in 2011 from West Texas A&M University . . . resides in Amarillo with her husband and son.

DR. JEREMY BELLAH, assistant professor of computer information systems . . . Ph.D. from Texas Tech University . . . primary teaching and research areas include project management, web application development, management information systems, and database management . . . research includes publications in the International Journal of Digital Learning in Teacher Education and Tech Trends.

ANGELA DALLAS, office manager for the teacher preparation and advising . . . has a background in finance and data analysis . . . is a freelance and creative writer and currently working on a B.A. in English . . . lives in Canyon with her four children . . . enjoys youth sports, photography, crafting and party planning.

DR. BLAKE DECKER, assistant vice president for learning assessment . . . earned a Ph.D. in public policy with specialization in higher education policy from the University of Arkansas . . . received both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas Tech University . . . primary focus is collaborating with colleagues in collecting and interpreting reliable, valid data to promote data-informed actions that increase effectiveness . . . lives in Amarillo with wife Jenny and their children Evyn and Elijah.

ASHLEY ELLER, secretary II . . . joined the Department of History in the summer of 2015 . . . is the wife of a retired Army veteran and mother to two amazing boys—Zachary is a senior in the computer science at WTAMU and Tucker is a senior at Canyon High . . . after relocating to Canyon from North Carolina in 2011, she worked at Canyon Intermediate and helped cover CISD varsity sports for The Canyon News . . . enjoys being a part of the community, spending time with friends and family and improving her photography skills.

DANIELLE FLANAGAN, instructor of criminal justice . . . received her master’s in criminal justice (2013) and her Bachelor of Arts in sociology (2008) from WTAMU . . . interests include criminal justice and sociology with a respective on Women in Policing and the Elderly in Prisons . . . of an article titled “Women in Policing” . . . career prior to joining WTAMU includes work with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as an investigator and a caseworker . . . also a retired deputy sheriff from San Bernardino County Sheriff Department in California . . . plans to start her Ph.D. in criminal justice this fall.

DR. NOAH FRANKEN, assistant lecturer of communication . . . joined the Department of Communication in fall 2014 . . . earned a B.A. in English from Marquette University . . . a M.A. in communication from University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and a Ph.D. in communication from University of Missouri . . . teaches basic speech, business communication and various courses relating to interpersonal communication . . . research focus areas include family and relational communication.

TRACIE FREDMAN, instructor, Communication Disorders . . . previously practiced speech language pathology for 11 years before joining the WTAMU faculty . . . teaches courses in language development and language disorders . . . supervises graduate students working at Jan Werner Adult Daycare Center . . . earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center . . . currently working on Ph.D. in speech and hearing sciences and researching the efficacy of using an Interactive Metronome to treat speech and language disorders.

PATRICIA GARANSUY, instructor of nursing . . . brings a long history of nursing to WTAMU . . . she started as a Certified Nursing Assistant and earned her Licensed Practical Nurse from Bates Technical College in Tacoma, Wash., in 1997 . . . her Bachelors of Science in nursing from WTAMU in 2009 and M.S.N. at Wayland Baptist University . . . decided to return to WTAMU to pursue her love of teaching . . . currently working toward her Doctorate of Nursing Practice . . . Desert Storm Army veteran . . . lives in Amarillo with her husband Clavio, a retired United States Marines and they have four children and six beautiful grandchildren . . . she enjoys traveling, hiking, skiing, cooking, reading and playing her bass clarinet with the Amarillo Wind Ensemble.

LISA GARZA, associate professor of sociology . . . joined the College of Education and Social Sciences in 2014 . . . received a BA in psychology in 1985 and a M.Ed. in counseling in 1987 from WTAMU and a Ph.D. in sociology in 1995 from Texas Women’s University . . . passionate about working in her community and believes it is imperative for individuals to learn their history, culture and importance of giving back to their communities.

DR. FRANCIS J. GOODE, assistant professor of education . . . earned a B.A. in history/political science from Texas Christian University, a M.Ed. in special education educational diagnostician from North Texas State University and an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Texas Tech University . . . before joining WTAMU as full time faculty, he served as an educational diagnostician, a principal, an instructional specialist, and a part-time instructor for Wayland Baptist University . . . he and his family reside in Lubbock.

JANET HANSON, administrative secretary II, Institutional Research . . . graduated from WT in 1980 . . . is a third generation employee of WT . . . her parents were WT Parents of the Year in 1979 . . . her 26-year teaching career was spent in Amarillo and Bushland ISD . . . loves to play with her grandkids and watch her husband cook.

BRENDA HAVENS, accounts manager, VP Academic Affairs . . . born, raised and lives in Canyon . . . earned a B.B.A. in accounting at WTSU . . . 30+ years of accounting experience in Amarillo area . . . met husband Mark at WT, and they have two grown married sons . . . enjoys baking, reading and singing in the First United Methodist Church choir and serves on the United Methodist Women's executive committee.

LAURA HERNANDEZ, Instructor/ATEP clinical coordinator in sports and exercise sciences/athletics . . . completed undergraduate degree in athletic training from Texas State University and a M.S. in exercise sciences/sports management from WTAMU . . . returns to WTAMU after being on the athletic training faculty at the University of West Alabama . . . will be overseeing student academic placement in clinical education, teaching within the SES department and providing athletic training care within the athletic department.

TAMARA JORDAN, administrative secretary I, Department of Education . . . brings work experience in the areas of criminal justice, human resources and property management . . . currently pursuing a B.A. in psychology . . . she and her family reside in Canyon.

DR. ROBERT KING, assistant professor of marketing . . . Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi . . . primary teaching and research areas include marketing research and advertising . . . research includes publications in Journal of Business Ethics, AMS Review, and Journal of Interactive Marketing.

JANNA JOHNSON, administrative secretary, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work and Political Science Criminal Justice . . . joined the departments in 2015 . . . enjoys the outdoors with her family and friends . . . resides in Amarillo with her daughter.

DR. STEVEN KARAGANIS, assistant professor of biology . . . hired in fall 2014 . . . teaching in the human anatomy and physiology and neuroscience areas . . . received his B.A. in biology at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind., and his Ph.D. in circadian biology from Texas A&M University . . . researches the biology of circadian (daily) rhythms of the rodent gastrointestinal tract, as well as gut motility and hormone rhythms.

DR. SHAN LEI, assistant professor of finance and economics . . . Ph.D. from the University of Missouri . . . primary teaching and research areas include corporate finance, financial planning and international finance . . . research includes publication in Journal of Money Weekly.

ANDREW BARRATT LEWIS, assistant professor of theatre . . . joined the Department of Art, Theatre, and Dance in fall 2014 and specializes in the area of musical theatre . . . holds a B.A. in musical theatre from Weber State University and a
M.F.A. in musical theatre from University of Central Florida. . . before coming to WT he was director of musical theatre, and assistant professor of theatre at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. . . recent WT accomplishments have been as director, musical director and conductor for You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown and director and conductor for Unlucky in Love.

XIANGU LI, assistant professor of political science . . . joined department in 2014. . . received a B.Eng. in urban and regional planning from Nanjing University in 2006, and a Ph.D. in public administration and management from the University of North Texas in 2014. . . believes living in the Texas Panhandle is the best way to make him a real Texan.

MONICA LITTLE, administrative secretary II . . . joined the School of Music in summer 2014. . . received a B.S. in education from Dallas Baptist University and is a former fifth grade teacher at Ennis . . . taught reading, writing and language arts . . . favorite part of being a teacher (besides the months of June, July, and August) was UIL coaching . . . married for 42 years to Truman Little, a retired Aggie engineer . . . they have one son, Brian, who is a teacher in Lubbock . . . her hobbies include reading, traveling to unknown destinations and playing the fiddle.

NAOMA LYTLLE, administrative secretary I, AHEC . . . moved to the Texas Panhandle in 2008 from Arizona where she was born and raised . . . proud mother of two wonderful boys and also a (GI)3 shop to a beautiful two-year-old grandson . . . when work and school isn’t keeping her on her toes she enjoy being outdoors—gardening, hiking, bike riding, camping, boating and especially having family time.

TRENT MCEVERS, assistant professor of meat science . . . earned a Ph.D. in agriculture from West Texas A&M University in 2014. . . currently teaches food science, meat animal carcass evaluation and meat science . . . research interests include growth and development of cattle, utilization of technologies including genetic markers and biometrics to better understand carcass quality and yield as well as developing methods to measure carcass traits and fabrication characteristics.

DR. GREG MCGOVERN, instructor of chemistry and lab coordinator of chemistry and physics . . . received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. . . primary research areas include organometallic synthesis of catalyst candidates and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy of small organic compounds . . . research includes a collaboration with Texas Tech University.


SABRINA MECK, consulting coordinator for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) . . . earned a B.A. in communication from West Texas A&M University before joining the SBDC . . . pursuing a M.B.A. from WTAMU.

DR. ERIC MEJIA, instructor of English . . . joined the Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages in fall 2014 . . . received a B.A. in English in 2000 and a M.A. in English in 2002, both at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio . . . earned a Ph.D. in English literature and criticism in 2013 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania . . . research interests include artistic expression of modernism and postmodernism in the English novel.

LISA MITCHELL, instructor of finance and coordinator of graduate programs . . . M.B.A. from West Texas A&M University . . . primary teaching areas are financial planning and corporate finance . . . includes publication in the Southwestern Economic Review.

CAMILLE NEEB, dean’s secretary, College of Education and Social Sciences . . . native of New Mexico . . . previous experience in mortgage lending, financial aid and admissions . . . wife of Coach Mike Nesbit and mother of one son, Gavin, who attends WTAMU.

COLLEEN PEACE, instructor of nursing . . . graduated from WTAMU in 2008 with a B.S.N. . . . earned a M.S.N. in nursing informatics from Walden University in 2012 and a Post Master’s Certificate in nursing education from Walden University in 2014 . . . currently working on a Ph.D. in nursing education . . . joined WTAMU in October, 2014 . . . currently teaching medical terminology online and serves as a clinical instructor for nursing concepts . . . married with two sons and two grandchildren . . . enjoys quilting and scrapbooking.

NIK PEACOCK, scene shop foreman . . . joined the Department of Art, Theatre and Dance in fall 2014 . . . experienced in supervising both theatre students and professional stagehands to complete production goals . . . a graduate of Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi, where he received his BA degree . . . knowledgeable in all aspects of technical theatre, with focuses on scenery, lighting and CAD rendering . . . has worked on many educational productions throughout his college career as lighting designer, scenic designer and crew leader.

DR. DENISE PHILPOT, clinical assistant professor of computer information systems and decision management . . . Ph.D. from the University of North Texas . . . teaching and research areas include statistics for business and economics, management information systems, change management and international human resource management . . . research includes book chapters in Encyclopedia of E-Leadership, Counseling, and Training and Handbook of Research on Workplace Diversity in a Global Society.

ASHLEY PINKHAM, assistant professor of psychology . . . joined the College of Education and Social Sciences in 2014 . . . received a B.A. in psychology from the University of Chicago in 2003 and a M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Virginia in 2006 and 2009 . . . resides in Amarillo hunting for the perfect cup of coffee.

DR. REGINA C. RODRIGUEZ, assistant professor of education . . . earned a B.A. in English and a M.A. in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Texas . . . earned a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi . . . brings experience as an English language arts teacher and expertise with the National Writing Project . . . she and her family reside in Amarillo.

DR. LESLIE RAMOS SALAZAR, assistant professor of business communication and decision management . . . Ph.D. from Arizona State University . . . teaching areas include current issues in management communication, business communication for health care managers and statistics for business and economics . . . work includes publications in Communication Quarterly, TSM Business Review, Communication Teacher, and Health Communication.

DR. JOHN SHANKS, assistant professor of music . . . joined the School of Music in 2014 as visiting instructor of trombone . . . The Ohio native received his Bachelor of Music degree from Youngstown State University, his Master of Music from Indiana University and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Alabama . . . after a successful first year at WT, he has been appointed assistant professor of music . . . previously taught at Jackson State University, served as principal trombone in the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and currently holds the position of principal trombone in the Amarillo Symphony . . . has a versatile career as a classical soloist and in bands for Norwegian Cruise Lines and in a national tour of the musical, "Hairspray."
spending time with family and the many adventures with her two year old.

PAYTON BROWNING, police dispatcher, University Police Department . . . born in Lubbock . . . graduated from WTAMU with bachelor's degree in 2013 and a master's degree in 2014 . . . previously part-time student employee police dispatcher for UPD.

LETA J. CARROLL, shuttle bus driver, University Police Department . . . 26 years radiologic technology, APRT, PT, CT, MAMO, CBSDT . . . graduate South Plains College with Associate of Science . . . registered in radiology, CAT scan, mammography, bone density . . . director of radiation safety . . . retired in 2009 . . . drove school bus for CISD for two years before starting at WTAMU.

NATHAN CRAWFORD, patrol officer, University Police Department . . . graduated from Canyon High School and WTAMU with a B.A. in criminal justice in 2009 . . . served as a dispatcher for UPD from 2008-2009 . . . worked for the Randall County Sheriff's Office as a dispatcher for 14 months after graduating . . . graduated from the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy's 102nd class . . . commissioned as a deputy sheriff in March 2011 and worked in the jail division as a gang intelligence officer until May, 2015 . . . joined UPD in June 2015 . . . married his wife Reina on April 18, 2015 and has two stepchildren, Diego 11, and Alexis, 12.

JERRY FALTINEK, director of support services, University Police Department . . . earned a B.B.A. from WTAMU . . . held various management positions since graduating from WTAMU and spent the past seven years at the Department of Family and Protective Services . . . enjoys spending time with his wife and their two sons . . . hobbies include muscle cars, auto racing and anything that his wife and children are interested in.

KAREN FOX, campuswide ID card office assistant, Buffalo Gold Card Office . . . native to Amarillo . . . previously spent seven years in the medical field and 13 in banking . . . married to husband John for 25 years, and they have two beautiful daughters—Amber and Haley, who will be a sophomore at WTAMU in the fall . . . enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.

MARK JOLLY, shuttle bus driver, University Police Department . . . grew up in Borger, graduated from Canyon and attended WTAMU . . . from 1975 to 2006 he owned and operated Jed's Trucking . . . worked for Peter Trucker until 2014 . . . he and his wife Sharon have been married 45 years and have two sons and four grandchildren that live in Canyon . . . enjoys bicycle riding and participating in the kids and grandchildren activities.

JUSTIN MCBRIDE, patrol officer, University Police Department . . . grew up in Lubbock and graduated from Coronado High School . . . attended South Plains College and completed the law enforcement academy . . . worked about two years as a deputy sheriff in Floyd County . . . became a nationally registered EMT with the Lockney Volunteer Fire Department . . . spent about eight months as a dispatcher at UPD before becoming an officer . . . lives in the beautiful city of Canyon.

CLAY MCGRAW, patrolman, University Police Department . . . grew up in Sulphur Springs . . . graduated from Hardin Simmons University with a B.B.S. in criminal justice in 2008 . . . worked as a police officer in Tulia for two years prior to coming to WTAMU . . . enjoys playing golf during free time.

DARLA MCLEAN, student account representative, Accounting and Business Office . . . lived in Canyon for five years, worked for WTAMU previously and came back in June . . . married to Steve (SRS) for 31 years and has two sons who are both WTAMU graduates . . . enjoys time with family, especially her granddaughter, and taking road trips with her hubby.

JOHNNIE PRICE, shuttle bus driver, University Police Department . . . retired teacher and coach from public and private schools . . . WTAMU alumni (69) . . . attended school in Vega . . . currently living in Amarillo . . . four children . . . married for 46 years.

RANDY RIKEL, vice president for business and finance, Office of Business and Finance . . . returns home to WTAMU from UT Dallas and A&M Texarkana . . . 18 years of Texas higher education experience . . . B.B.A. in accounting from WTAMU and is a certified public accountant . . . he and his wife Joni have been married for 26 years, and they have four children—Landon, Claire Paige and Lawton and the cutest grandson Bryton . . . enjoys restoring older homes, traveling with family and coaching youth sports.

DAVID C. SCOTT, shuttle bus driver, University Police Department . . . former truck fleet coast-to-coast owner/operator for 35-plus years while owning a motorcycle conversion business in Amarillo . . . he and his wife are proud parents of two WTAMU alumni.

ATHLETICS

CANDACE ABRAMS, associate head softball coach, Athletics . . . comes to WTAMU after a two-year stint as head coach at Colorado Mesa . . . starting second season with Lady Buffs softball team . . . helped lead WTAMU to a 45-11 record this spring, LSC regular season and tournament championship and a berth in the NCAA South Central Region . . . earned a master's in sports and exercise psychology in 2010 from Barry University in Miami Shores, Fl.

JOSH ASHLEY, assistant women's basketball coach, Athletics . . . joins the coaching staff after serving as assistant women's basketball coach at Eastern Oklahoma State College and two years as the men's basketball graduate assistant at Angelo State . . . earned his bachelor's at Tarleton State and a master's degree from Angelo State . . . he and his wife Tish have two children—Josiah and Kaleb.

JAMES CROWDER, assistant men's soccer coach, Athletics . . . enters his second season with the men's soccer team after a six-year career as goalkeeper director at the Lonestar Soccer Club in Austin . . . helped lead the Buffs to a 9-7-1 overall record . . . received a bachelor's degree from Midwestern State in 2000.

KEVIN DRIGGS, assistant women's soccer coach, Athletics . . . comes to WT from La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, where he lead the men's soccer team to three 6-A state championships . . . played collegiate soccer at the University of New Mexico . . . graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work form the University of New Mexico—Highlands in 2011 . . . currently working on a master's in clinical counseling . . . he and wife Jacqueline have two children.

MICHELE FURLONG, assistant volleyball coach, Athletics . . . served as the graduate assistant coach at Texas Woman's before coming to WTAMU . . . was a setter at Washington State and Wichita State before beginning coaching career with the Washington State men's volleyball team . . . has played and coached club volleyball.

CASEY LISH, ticket and donor relations manager, Athletics . . . native of Pocatello, Idaho . . . former baseball player for the Buffs (2010-2011) after transferring from College of Southern Idaho . . . earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from WTAMU . . . he and wife Nikki live in Canyon.

CAMILLE PERKINS, assistant women's basketball coach, Athletics . . . the Groesbeck, Texas, native comes to WTAMU via Angelo State, where she was an assistant coach for the Rangers in 2013-2014 . . . all-conference player for Angelo State from 2008-2011 and finished playing career as second all-time leading scorer in program history, leader in free throws made (573) and attempts (749) . . . earned both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in education from ASU.

JUSTIN RICHTER, assistant football coach, Athletics . . . previously served as a graduate assistant at the University of New Mexico, working with defensive backs . . . will be coaching the Buffs wide receivers . . . lettered two years as a wide receiver at the University of Saint Mary, where he earned a bachelor's degree in sports management . . . also played two years at New Mexico Military Institute . . . comes from Truth or Consequences, N.M.

MATT SEGUIRA, assistant strength and conditioning coach, Athletics . . . native of Santa Maria, Calif . . . comes to WTAMU from the University of Michigan, where he was a graduate strength and conditioning coach . . . earned a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology from Chico State in 2009 and a master's from Eastern Michigan in 2014.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

B.J. BRITTAIN, assistant director of admissions-transfers, Admissions . . . born and raised in the Texas Panhandle . . . earned a B.A. in political science from WT in May 2015 . . . fell in love with WT from his first day as a freshman in 2011 and wants to continue being a part of what makes this University so amazing . . . currently pursuing a M.Ed. in student leadership and development in higher education from Angelo State University.

MEGAN PIRTLLE, assistant director, Admissions . . . a Pampa native . . . came to West Texas A&M University in 2012 . . . graduated after three years with a bachelor's in agricultural media and communication in May 2015 . . . was part of the equestrian and horse judging teams along with several other campus organizations.

JOSEPH “SEPH” STILES, assistant director, Admissions . . . was raised in Heath, Texas . . . graduated from WT in 2014 with a degree in mass communication/electronic media . . . started career in local and sports news, but returned to WT to help students make the best decision of their lives—becoming West Texas A&M University Buffaloes.

SEDRIK KNOWLTON, assistant director, Admissions . . . a self-proclaimed Army brat, never had a place to call home until he arrived in Canyon to play football for the Buffs . . . after graduating with a degree in sports exercise and sciences, he had the opportunity to return to WT to become part of the Buff family . . . now has a passion to help others find their “home away from home” at WTAMU.

CALLEIE KALINEG, outreach adviser, College Talent Search . . . alumna of both Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch and WTAMU with a passion for helping people and feels a driving need to pay it forward . . . graduated with a B.A. in social work and returned to Boys Ranch as a caseworker and then as coordinator for the Independent Living Program . . . now an outreach adviser WT . . . hopes to put lifelong experiences to work helping others as they plan their futures . . . has a beautiful daughter, Kelsie, as well as two cats, a dog, and a rabbit . . . loves horses and being outside, but mostly enjoys “being with those I love and care about.”

RENEE INGERSOLL, enrollment management specialist III, Registrar’s Office . . . graduate of the psychology program at WTAMU . . . started working for the Registrar’s Office in April 2015.

JENNIFER HARVELL, student record assistant I, Registrar’s Office . . . 2011 CHS graduate, earned a B.S. in biology and a minor in chemistry from University of Texas at Arlington in December 2014 . . . came to WTAMU March 2015 . . . currently applying to medical school and enjoying being back home in Canyon with her family.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FRANK J. GARCIA, microsystems analyst . . . raised in Amarillo . . . currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in computer information systems . . . loves spending time with family, being outdoors, CrossFit and saltwater aquariums . . . enjoys the West Texas A&M community.

DAVID C. LISTER, microsystems analyst . . . raised in Pampa and pursuing an undergraduate degree in computer information systems . . . enjoys playing guitar and providing music for events . . . loves spending time skiing, wakeboarding and hiking with family and friends.

Dora Smith, administrative secretary I . . . born and raised in Tulia . . . left for five years with her husband who joined the army . . . stationed in California and Germany . . . married for 26 years and blessed with a wonderful son and daughter . . . loves spending time with family and shopping with daughter.

LEON CAREY, development grant writer, Advancement Services . . . joined WTAMU staff in January 2015 after being employed by USDA for 30 years . . . received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University . . . enjoys hiking in Palo Duro Canyon, teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to refugees, travel and spending time with his wife Jill and two teenage daughters, Wendy and Melody.

JOSH CLIFT-JINKENS, web/graphic designer, Communication and Marketing . . . born in Michigan and raised in Colorado . . . he received his B.F.A. in graphic design from WTAMU in May of 2014 and was hired two months later by the University . . . while attending WTAMU he worked as a designer for two years at Impress Print Shop in OfficeMax and local consulting agency Estacar Companies and is thrilled to be continuing his career at his alma mater . . . enjoys reading, knitting, watching films and TV and vacationing in Canada.

LEZLIE DAVIS, director of advancement services, Advancement Services . . . received her B.A. from Texas Tech University . . . joined the WTAMU staff in November 2014 . . . a four-time semi-finalist for the Toastmasters World Championship of public speaking . . . enjoys teaching and ministry with her church, spending time with her husband, Jim and being “Cake” to two grandsons (with one more on the way).

CATHERINE MCGOVERN, senior designer, Communication and Marketing . . . has a B.F.A. in communication design from the University of North Texas . . . worked at two Dallas ad agencies and completed projects with a variety of brands including Nokia, Brach’s and Sony . . . before coming to WTAMU, she worked for the Texas Tech University System for six years.

CATHERINE MECK, development officer, Development . . . earned a B.S. in mass communication/public relations and a M.A. in communication and media from WTAMU . . . originally from Wilmington, Del. . . . all three children are WTAMU graduates . . . member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and WTAMU Alumni Association.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

DON CONNER, assistant director of recreational sports, intramural and club sports . . . earned a B.S. in sports management from the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Ind., and M.S. in recreation and sports management from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., . . . member of National Intramural Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA), NIRSA Region IV and III, and NIRSA Mentor Programs . . . hobbies include watching all types of sports, fantasy sports, golf and spending time with friends and family.

JUSTIN CORNELSEN, assistant director of recreational sports/aquatics and fitness, Recreational Sports . . . earned a bachelor’s degree in health, physical education and recreation from Southwestern Oklahoma State University . . . previously worked at the Amarillo Town Club as the fitness director . . . married to Kimberly Cornelsen and has three children . . . enjoys golfing, water sports and running.

CHRISTINA COX-LEISINGER, assistant vice president for Student Affairs . . . earned a bachelor’s degree in biology for Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, a master’s and Ph.D. in higher education administration from Texas Tech University . . . native of Castana, Iowa, and has 15 years of higher education experience . . . joins WTAMU from Texas Tech University, where she served as the associate director of student conduct . . . has two children, Brock and Avery.

DAVID FAVELA, academic adviser, Advising Services . . . earned his B.A. in history in 2008 and M.Ed. in 2013 from WTAMU . . . glad to be at here and currently working on a second master’s in history.

PAUL FENSTERMAKER, director for Student Disability Services . . . joins WTAMU with 25 years of experience working in the area of disability services . . . earned a bachelor’s degree in special education from Eastern New Mexico University and a master’s degree in mid-management administration from WTAMU . . . joins WTAMU from disability services at Amarillo College . . . he and wife Danette have two daughters—Larissa and Maycee . . . enjoys spending time with family, music the outdoors and anything Harley-Davidson.

MARY HINER, administrative assistant, Student Affairs/Student Government . . . comes to WTAMU after working in the medical field as an office manager for the past 20-plus years . . . received a bachelor’s degree from WTSU . . . she and husband Mark have two beautiful daughters Kylie and Lauren . . . loves spending time with family and friends.

MANDY PURYEAR, academic adviser, Advising Services . . . native of Canyon . . . earned bachelor’s degree in finance and Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University . . . previously worked at Milam Institute as an instructor of accounting . . . enjoys spending time with her husband of 21 years, three children, five dogs and two cats.

HILLARY SIEGFRIED, academic adviser, Advising Services . . . originally from Holly, Colo. . . . earned a B.S. in agricultural media and communication from WTAMU in 2011 and a M.S. in agricultural communication from Oklahoma State University in 2012 . . . joined the Advising Services team in July 2014.

MEGAN WHITTEN, events coordinator, Jack B. Kelley Student Center . . . currently pursuing a master’s degree in instructional design and technology at WTAMU . . . hobbies include anything that involves being outside and laying in her hammock . . . has a beta fish named Meir (means “bright one” in Greek)—he is a small human in her life and is an incredibly spoiled fish.

MELODY YOUNGBLOOD, professional counselor, Student Counseling Services . . . earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism/public relations in 1983 from The University of Texas at Austin, and holds a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from WTAMU . . . returned to the work world after being a stay-at-home mom for 23 years . . . she and husband Johnny have a 24-year-old son in physical therapy school at Texas Tech and a 21-year-old daughter who attends UT/Austin, majoring in advertising.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

JANET WOOD, graduate admissions coordinator . . . earned bachelor’s degrees in biology and chemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, master’s degrees in kinesiology and later in counseling psychology at Texas Woman’s University . . . comes to WT with collegiate teaching experience as well as experience in the division of Student Life . . . certified experiential educator . . . enjoys all things outdoors.

RESEARCH AND COMPLIANCE

RICHARD SMITH, director of academic and research environmental, health and safety . . . received B.S. in environmental science from WTAMU and has work experience in a wide range of industries . . . conducted more than 300 environmental compliance investigations and has experience as an on-site safety officer and excavation safety officer . . . served five years in the United States Marine Corps, obtaining the rank of sergeant and helped develop intelligence-driven pre-deployment training for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom . . . selected to provide security operations for the 2004 Olympics in Athens and the 2005 Masters Tournament in Augusta . . . currently resides in Amarillo with his wife Serena and children Sevon and Tucker.
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