



# BUFF BRIEF

A WEEKLY NEWS & EVENT UPDATE FOR THE PAUL ENGLER COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCES



## WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COVID-19 UPDATE

For the most up to date information from West Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System, visit the University's [COVID-19 Information Page](#).

COVID-19 INFORMATION

# WTAMU Plans to Reopen in the Fall



## *Fantastic Faculty*



Photo by: Rik Andersen

### **Dr. Naruki Hiranuma**

#### **Wins University Intellectual Contributions Excellence Award**

Dr. Hiranuma, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, has been immensely successful at securing both external (7) and internal (5) grants, totaling approximately \$1.7M. The highlights of this grantsmanship are the receipts of a Department of Energy Career Award of \$750,000 in 2018 and a National Science Foundation Career Award of \$500,000 in 2019. Both are five-year awards in support of his research on the “Implications of aerosol physicochemical properties including ice nucleation from ARM mega-sites towards understanding atmospheric cloud microphysical processes” (DOE) and “The Role of Ice-Nucleating Particles and Their Feedback on Clouds in Warming Arctic Climate” (NSF). Receiving Career Awards in two consecutive years is a truly exceptional achievement. In recent years, Dr. Hiranuma has been involved in four peer-reviewed journal articles and participated in eighteen research presentations/posters. Students under his direction have received travel grants to conduct research in foreign labs, including Germany, Japan, and the Ny-Ålesund Atmosphere Flagship at the Norwegian Polar Institute. Dr. Hiranuma earned a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from Texas A&M University and joined the faculty at WT in 2016.

## Dr. Bonnie Pendleton

### Receives Recognition

Dr. Bonnie Pendleton, Professor of Integrated Pest Management and Entomology, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Long-time Service by the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Dr. Pendleton has a distinguished history of service with the organization having served in numerous positions, including president from 2008-2009. Most recently, Dr. Pendleton has served as Chair of Student Research Presentations.



[More about the SW branch of ESA](#)

Photo by: Rik Andersen

# Stellar Students

## Sheridan Franks Receives NODA Award



Sheridan Franks - Jr. AG.EDS

Photo Courtesy of: The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership

Sheridan, a 3rd year Peer Leader here at WT, recently received the NODA (originally National Orientation Directors Association) Region IV Outstanding Four-Year Undergraduate Student Leadership Award. This award is designed to give special recognition to a student for their creativity, energy, enthusiasm, and outstanding abilities, which are the backbone of successful and dynamic orientation programs.

“Sheridan is the type of leader that doesn’t seek to be in the front or the center of attention, but he is often the one our team looks to as an example of what it means to serve our incoming students and each other. Two of Sheridan’s top five strengths are Deliberative and Belief, and these really shine through in his quiet and steadfast leadership of our team. Through his time here at West Texas A&M, Sheridan has embraced every opportunity to serve our University, and in the process has risen on campus as an amazing leader, representing himself with integrity, honesty and dependability.” – Quote from Sheridan's nomination letter

**NODA is an international association comprised of professional administrators, students, faculty, and related organizations.**

[Learn more about NODA](#)

## Kendall Woellmer Nominated for President's Award



Kendall Woellmer Sr. AG.MEDIA.COMM.

Photo Courtesy of WT Athletics

West Texas A&M Director of Athletics Michael McBroom announced on Friday the candidates for the prestigious President's Award given to one male and one female student-athlete.

Candidates for this award are chosen by the head coaches of each sport, with a recommendation letter from the coach and supporting information. Requirements for nomination are: the student-athlete competed during the current academic year, earned a varsity letter, exhausted their intercollegiate eligibility and had a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.50. The selection guidelines are on service and leadership, academic achievement, and athletic excellence.

Kendall Woellmer was nominated for the award by Coach Ellis of the Equestrian Team.

[Read more here](#)



### Rogers LEAD WT 2020 Cohort Earns Certificate

The Rogers LEAD WT program's Class of 2020 have graduated earning a Leadership Certificate.

The Cohort is made up of 23 students. This year, five of those students are in the Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences:

**Andrea Althoff**, Sr. PSES

**Sierra Gordon**, Sr. AGRIBUS

**Taylor Gray**, Sr. BIOCHEM

**Scout Odegaard**, Sr. AG.MEDIA.COMM

**Kendall Woellmer**, Sr. AG.MEDIA.COMM

Rogers LEAD WT Vision:

After earning the Leadership Certificate from West Texas A&M University, Rogers LEAD Scholars will be confident in their ability to lead, prepared for exceptional employment opportunities, eager to serve in their communities, and determined to make a difference in others' lives. And, as a result of their example, other WT students will desire opportunities to develop their own leadership potential.

**Congratulations Class of 2020! We are proud of you!**



*Don't forget to fill out your post-graduate survey!*



# Research Review

**Dr. Joseph C. Cepeda**  
**Professor of Geology**

## **What is the title of your research project?**

*The 1978 Canyon (Texas) flood – an estimation of flood magnitude in Palo Duro Canyon State Park.*

## **Who is involved?**

*Dr. Joseph Cepeda*

## **Description of Research Project**

*In May of 1978, a historic (500 year) flood occurred in the City of Canyon and downstream from Canyon in the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, including Palo Duro Canyon State Park. The flooding was the result of runoff from thunderstorms that produced as much as 10 inches of rain in a few hours.*

*This study sought to determine the peak discharge for the flood at the First Water Crossing in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. The starting point for the study was the historical marker at the First Water Crossing that marks the height of the water at the peak of the flood -- 24 feet above the channel and 21 feet above the floodplain. The floodplain which is in part occupied by the Hackberry Campground is still at the same elevation as in 1978. Using standard United States Geological Survey protocols for estimating the peak discharge from the height of the water above the channel, it was determined that the peak discharge at this location was 70,000 cubic feet per second ( 1970 cubic meters per second).*

## **Expected Publication of the Research Results**

*This research was published in the Texas Journal of Science, volume 71.*

[https://texasjournalofscience.org/doi/pdf/10.32011/txjsci\\_71\\_1\\_Note6](https://texasjournalofscience.org/doi/pdf/10.32011/txjsci_71_1_Note6)



# SAVE THE DATE

5/11 - May Intersession begins

5/11 - Final Grades Due for Spring 2020

5/13 - May Intersession full payment due for those registered after May 3rd

5/25 - Memorial Day - University Closed

5/27 - Summer 1 Full Payment due for those registered on or before May 24th

5/28 - May Intersession Finals

6/1 - Summer 1 Classes begin



Employer  
Information  
Session

MAY 13TH | 3 PM

**HOW TO NAVIGATE  
THE JOB MARKET IN  
A TOUGH ECONOMY**

EMPLOYER PANEL FEAT.

Ms. Miranda Knippers with Champion X  
Mr. Andy Etheredge with Cactus Feeders  
Lt. Dennis Rice with Randall County Sheriff's Office



REGISTER IN HANDSHAKE

# PPHM - Seeking a Program Intern



Apply on Handshake: [https://employer.joinhandshake.com/jobs/3696646/edit?initial\\_page=4](https://employer.joinhandshake.com/jobs/3696646/edit?initial_page=4)

## *Pond's Ponder*

The first of the fall semester we started with a poem of Dr. Seuss. Let's end the spring semester with more of his wisdom:

**"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"**

**Dr. Seuss**