



Terry B. Rogers College of Education & Social Sciences

Committed to Advancing Society by Developing Professionals to

Lead | Serve | Educate

Monthly Faculty & Staff Newsletter



Dr. Gary Bigham
Professor | Dean

Greetings from the Dean

As we move into April, for all practical purposes we are wrapping up the 2023-2024 “traditional” academic year. The last class day is May 1st. Yes, I understand that there is a May intersession and two summer sessions, but in the traditional sense, we are arguably nearing the end. It can be a stressful time, if we allow it, but I challenge you to conder this. “When we work hard for something we don’t believe in, it’s called stress. When we work hard for something we love, it’s called passion” (Sinek, n.d.). Which camp do you find yourself in most often?

Perhaps I am finding myself in reflection mode at an odd time of the year, but I was at a conference last week and there was a question asked that particularly resonated with me. “When the wind blows, are we motivated to build walls to block it or windmills to benefit from it? Consider which applies to you. Hopefully, we agree that passion in building our windmills is preferred to the stress associated with building a wall – that the wind keeps blowing down.

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Finite vs. Infinite Games and Mindsets

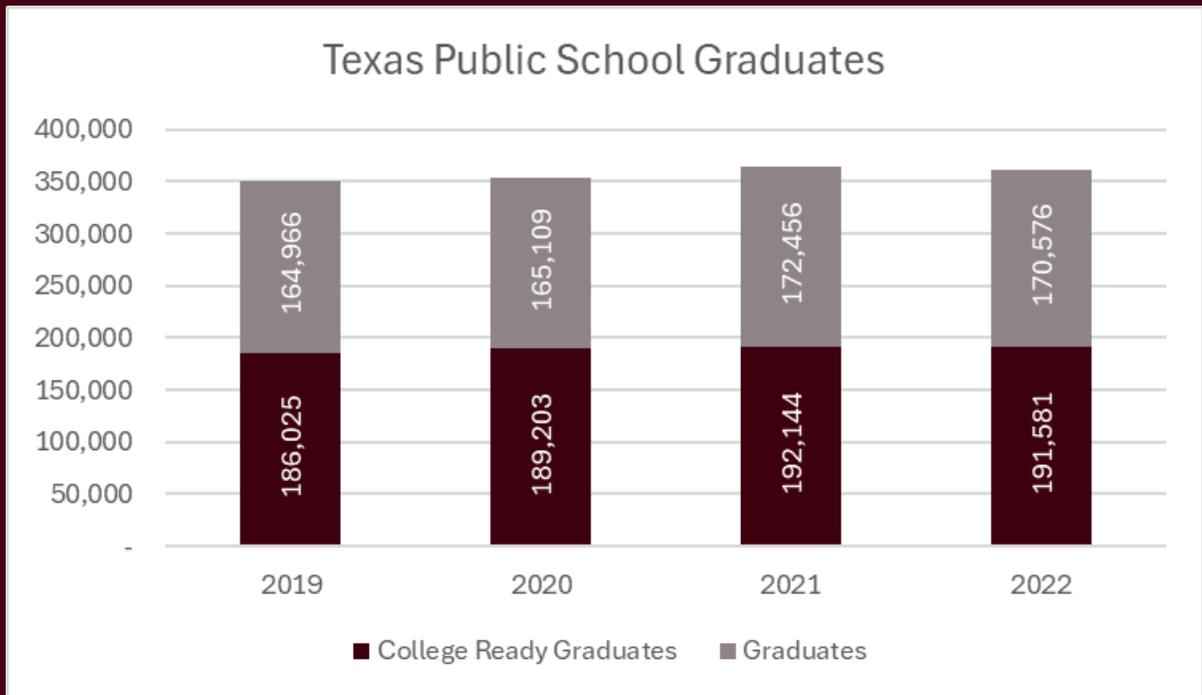
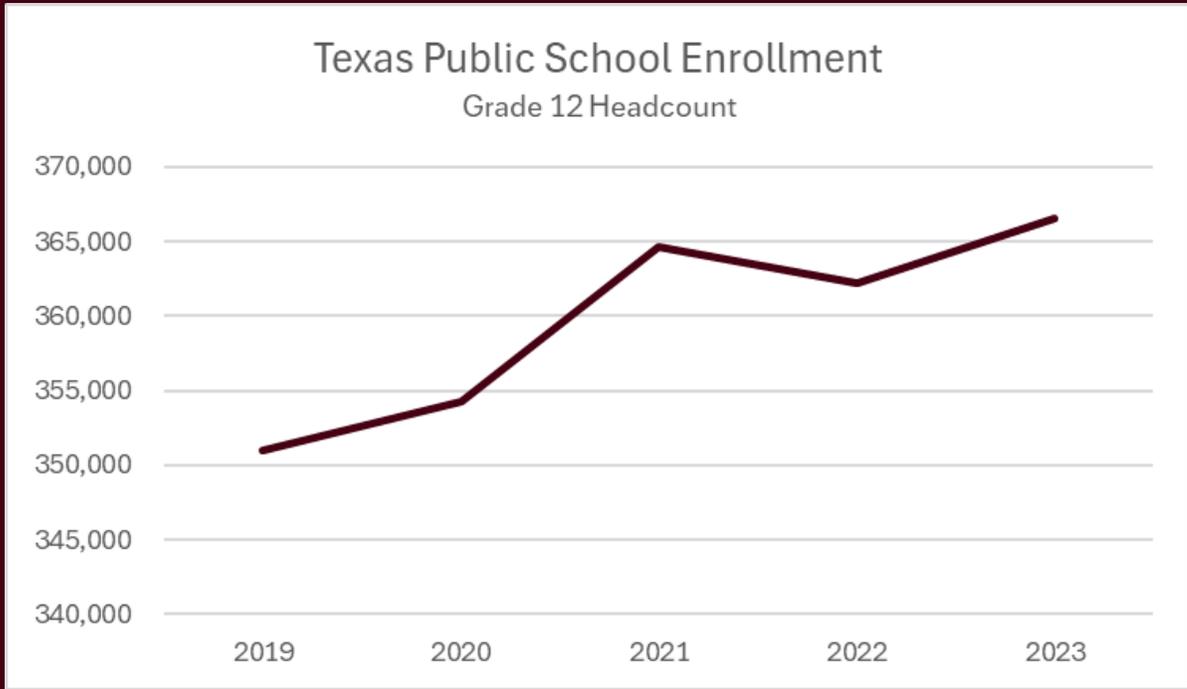
Consider this as we engage in the ebb and flow of the work we do. We are always striving to be the best (however “best” is defined), but at what cost (1:32-1:42)? Are we guilty of trying to force finite rules to infinite games?



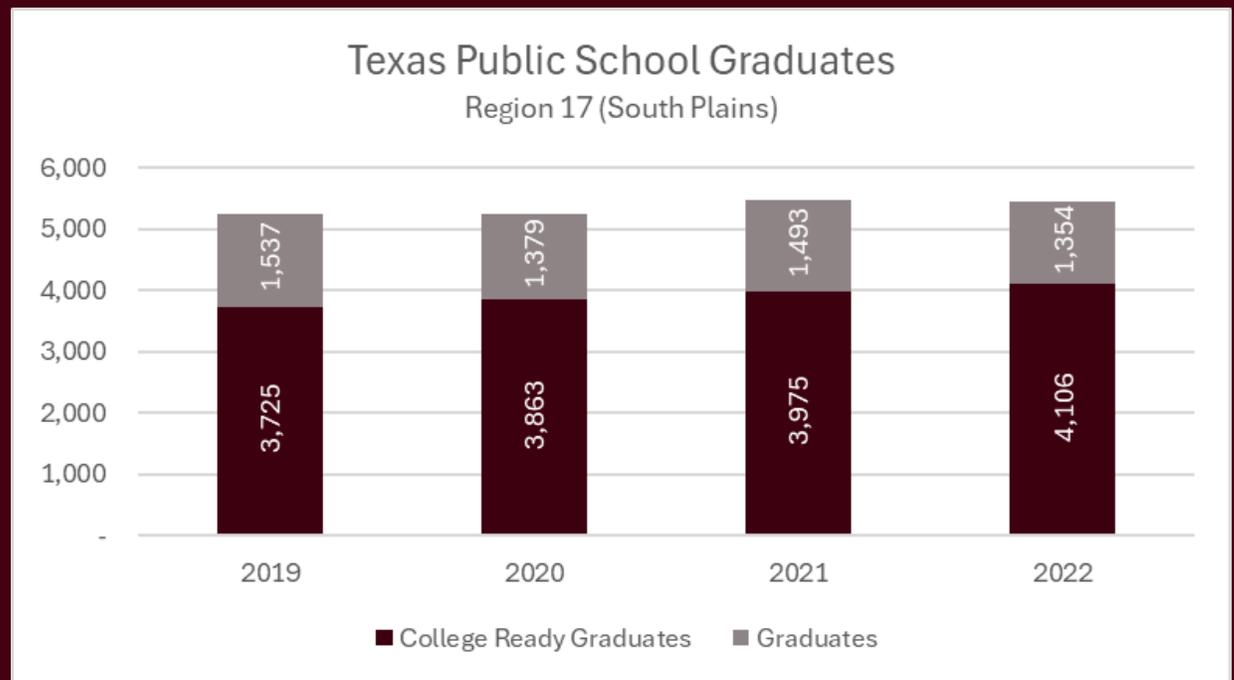
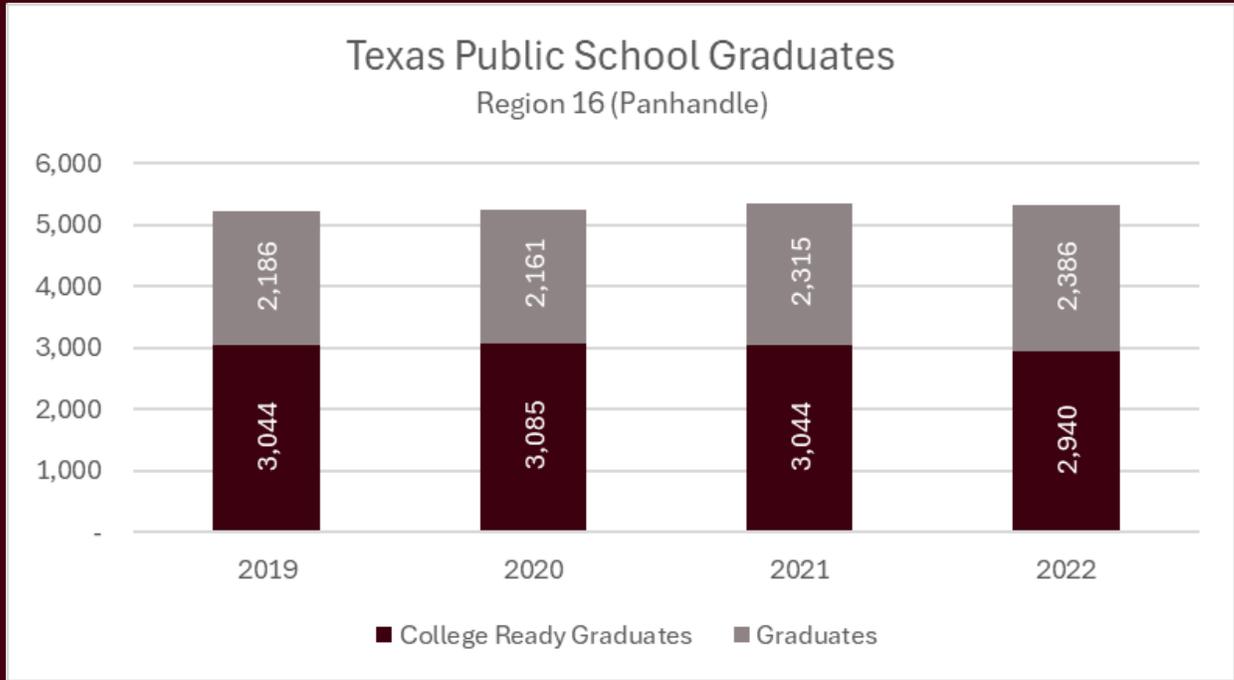
After viewing this video, I challenge you to view it again from a student recruitment perspective (a finite game 1:44-2:00) and an education perspective (infinite game .0:27-1:06 and 2:00-2:23). Are we applying the right rules to the games we are playing and are we differentiating between the two?

On pages 2-4, I share some data from an arguably rich pool of potential WT students for your awareness.

Texas Public School Enrollment and Graduation Data

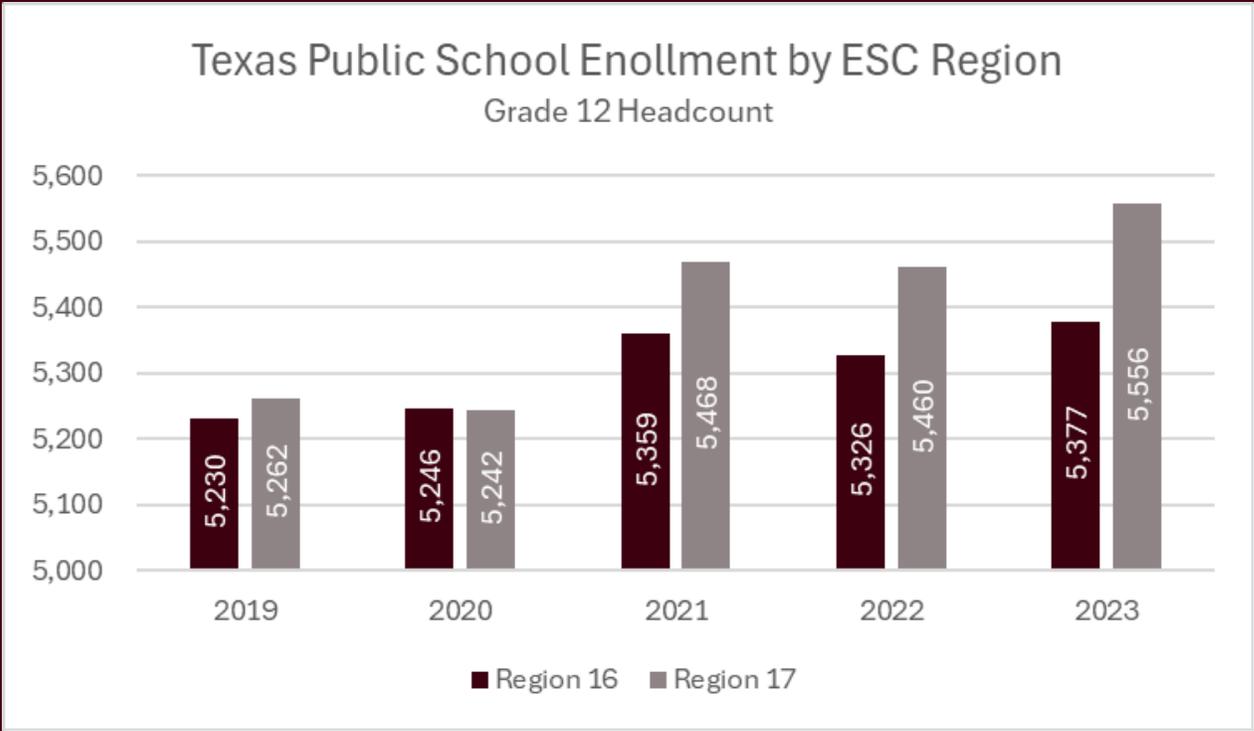


Texas Public School Enrollment and Graduation Data



Texas Public School Enrollment and Graduation Data

HS GRADUATION STATS



I know many of you well enough to expect you to question how a “college-ready” student is defined. These data were pulled from [Texas Academic Performance Reports](#) accessible from the [Texas Education Agency](#). The metrics are outlined in the applicable [Accountability Manuals](#) (a new manual is issued each year). I simply pulled the data on the stacked bar graphs from the sections of the respective reports that were identified as “college-ready” without diving deep into the methodology.

Educators EXPO

The recent Educators EXPO was the perfect opportunity for students to meet and network with employers providing full-time professional teaching opportunities now or in the future.



World Social Work Day

Instructors of Social Work **Kristi Bartlett** and **Ruth De Anda** were interviewed with Studio 4 and News Channel 10 for World Social Work Day. The National Association of Social Workers shared this interview on their Facebook page where they have over 200,000 followers. This was great marketing for the program.



Council for Exceptional Conference

Faculty from the Department of Education recently attended the Council for Exceptional Children conference. ISET (Innovation in Special Education Technology) is a division of CEC, which had the tech playground. WTAMU had a table in the tech playground which you can see pictured below.



EVENTS



Attendees pictured:

[Dr. Jennifer Denham](#) – Instructor of Education

[Dr. Mikyung Shin](#) – Assistant Professor of Special Education, Bill Piehl Professor of Education

[Dr. Robyn Hedke](#) – Special Education Teacher at Terrell ISD and recent graduate of the WTAMU Doctor of Education Program in Educational Leadership



ISET INNOVATIONS
IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY

Rural Community Leaders Fellowship

Educational and community leaders from around the nation who were selected for the second class of West Texas A&M University's Rural Community Leaders Fellowship recently convened in Amarillo.

During their one-year appointment, RCL fellows are connected with the WT educational leadership program in ways that further the effectiveness of future rural leaders through research, education, and practice.



EVENTS

RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

A program of the
Educational Leadership
Doctoral Program



WT Terry B. Rogers College of
Education and Social Sciences
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.

The 2024 cohort of fellows were nominated in the fall and selected in January. Nominees for the next class of fellows are being accepted now. Nominees should have 10 or more years in leadership positions, including five or more years in a single, rural community, and they should be nominated by another rural leader. Rural-serving superintendents and college/university presidents are always eligible, and rural hospital CEOs and heads of rural-focused nonprofit organizations may be included when the research topic might be enhanced by their inclusion.

Faculty and Student Research Poster Session and Research Fair



Our college we exceptionally well represented at the 19th annual Faculty and Student Research Poster Session and Research Fair hosted by the Cornette Library in collaboration with Graduate School and Research. Our representation included Faculty: Drs. Piper Biery, Maxine De Butte, Janet Hindman, Nicole Kraus, Alicia Macchione, Shanna Peeples, and Ming Xie, and Students: Allan Baltazar, Clyde Raible and Drs. Robyn Hedke and Ilene Walton. (If I failed to list anyone, please know it was an unintentional oversight).

Allan Baltazar
Graduate student
Allan Baltazar
presents his
research
“Ameliorating
mental health
emergencies:
Crisis
intervention
teams in police
departments.”



EVENTS



Dr. Piper Biery and Dr. Maxine De Butte
Dr. Piper Biery and Dr. Maxine De Butte each presented research at this year’s fair. Dr. Biery, Assistant Professor of Political Science, shared her work titled “Flee the state of fantasy.” Dr. De Butte, Professor of Psychology and Associate Department Head discussed her work “Impact of chronic estradiol and melatonin administration on neurobehavioral functioning in middle-aged female rats.” Dr. De Butte is a Killgore grant recipient.

Proposed Changes to the Curriculum Cycle

The number of mistakes found on curriculum paperwork at the university-level has been reported to the deans as rising to a concerning level.

I do not know the degree to which this is applicable to our college, if at all. The yearly time “crunch” associated with the complexities of a new academic year, scheduling, T&P, curriculum, etc. creates the recipe for less than stellar work. Accordingly, the proposed plan for a revised curriculum cycle is as follows:

- May 1-15 – Early Submission for Review
- September 9 – Curriculum to Supervisors
- September 16 – Curriculum to Deans
- September 17-27 – College Curriculum Committees Convene
- September 30 – Curriculum due to Teacher Ed Unit, Core Committee, and Graduate Committee
- October 7 – All curriculum due to University Committee (Academic Affairs)
- November 1 or 8 – University Curriculum Committee, TBD

The advantage of this adjustment to the curriculum cycle is that it allows all summer for preparing and editing necessary paperwork for the process. **Per this proposal, programs and departments should start having curriculum conversations this month.**

With the next academic year being a data reporting year for the upcoming SACSCOC reaccreditation review, the request made to all colleges is to make every effort to keep curriculum and program changes to a minimum.

Education Prep Program Certification

West Texas A&M University’s Educator Preparation Program recently earned a top honor from the Texas Education Agency.



WT’s EPP earned a commendation by the TEA’s State Board for Educator Certification under its “Preparing the Educators Texas Needs” category. WT was recognized for the percentage of prepared teachers in teacher shortage areas and for the percentage of prepared teachers employed in rural schools, both key measures in addressing regional needs. The educator program also received commendations for “Rigorous and Robust Preparation,” “Preparing Educators for Long-Term Success” and “Innovative Educator Preparation.”

Expansion of Tuition Discount Program

Many part-time employees of the university and their families may now be eligible for half-off tuition and mandatory fees, beginning with the upcoming summer session.



The university's Employee and Family Tuition and Fees Reduction program will begin to apply to employees who work 50% or more of the hours of a full-time employee, as well as their spouses and dependent children. The waiver program launched in 2022, and is one of the most generous programs offered by any state college or university in Texas or the Texas A&M University System.

The new discount will apply to both baccalaureate or graduate degrees, but not to certificate programs, non-degree applicable courses or second bachelor's degrees. It also does not cover course materials, housing, or meal costs.

Further, other conditions may also apply, including financial aid benefits. The waiver is considered a taxable benefit for dependent graduate students, and students must remain in good academic standing to continue qualifying for the waiver. Click [here](#) for more information.

STUDENTS



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WTAMU EXPANDS 50% TUITION DISCOUNT TO PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES



Surprise Scholarship

WTAMU Teacher Education Candidate and Amarillo Chick-fil-A worker was surprised with \$25,000 scholarship by CEO.

Fam Tial received the True Inspiration Scholarship. Tial, according to organizers, is a first-generation immigrant who “understood the value of education from an early age.”



STUDENTS

Fam Tial
Tial is currently studying to become a teacher and aims to teach students that “regardless of their backgrounds, they have the power to create their own desires.”



Social Gatherings



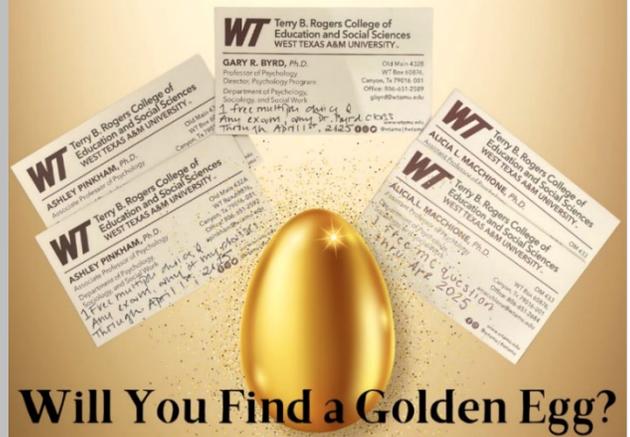
The psychology department at WTAMU has been busy this semester with several educational, social, and recruiting events.

The Graduate Psychology Club hosted a rock-climbing evening, and faculty members hosted a bowling night for students.

Recent Activities

Golden Egg Hunt

Psychology students were given the opportunity to hunt for five golden eggs hidden around campus. Each one contained a coupon entitling the winner to one free multiple-choice question on an exam.



Will You Find a Golden Egg?

PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



CRASE

Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

TRAINING



Faculty attended training on how to respond during active shooter events. This free training was offered by the University Police Department. Additional sessions are available.

- 9 a.m. April 4
- 1 p.m. April 18
- 11 a.m. April 11
- 3 p.m. April 25

 UPD Classroom in Old SUB

RSVPs requested at WTPolice@wtamu.edu

Recruiting Activities



Faculty and graduate students hosted recruiting events both on and off campus this past month.

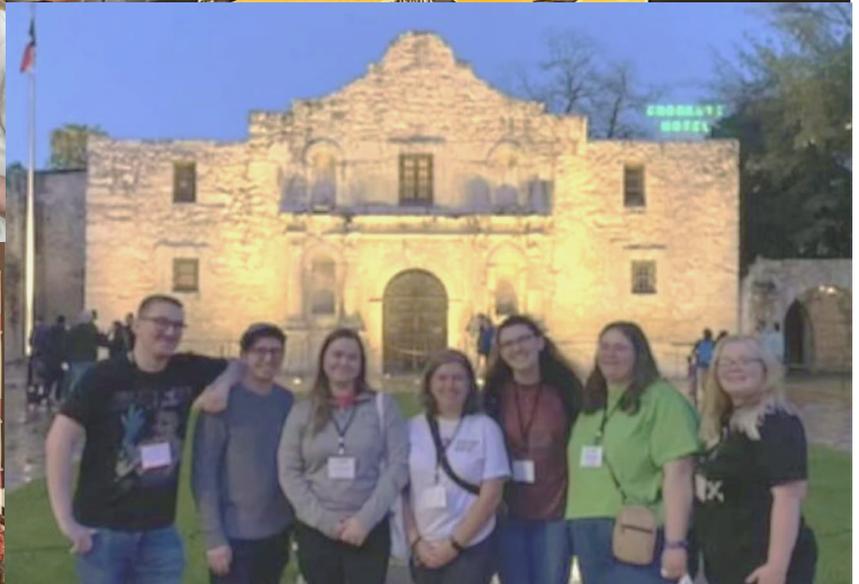
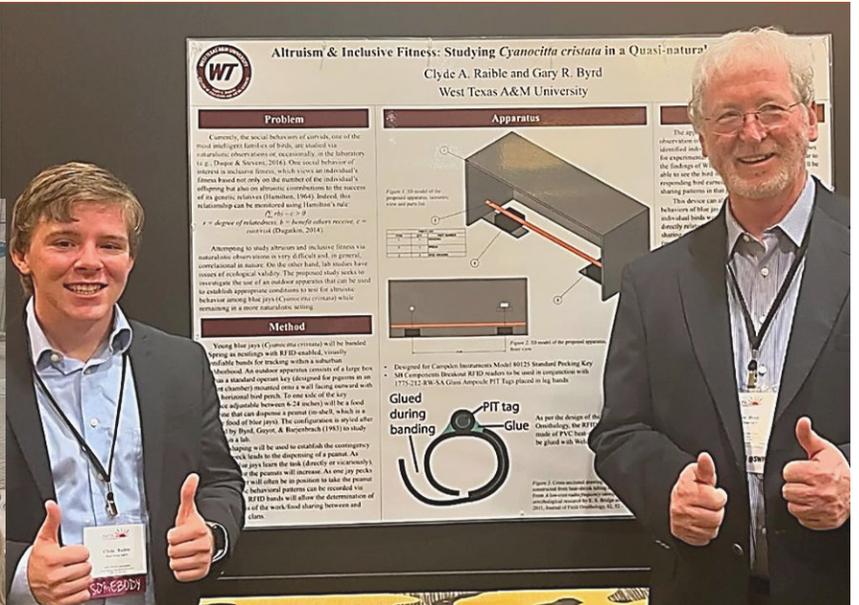


Southwestern Psychological Association Conference

Faculty and students attended the Southwestern Psychological Association conference in San Antonio, TX. Several students had the opportunity to present their research during the conference's poster sessions.



PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

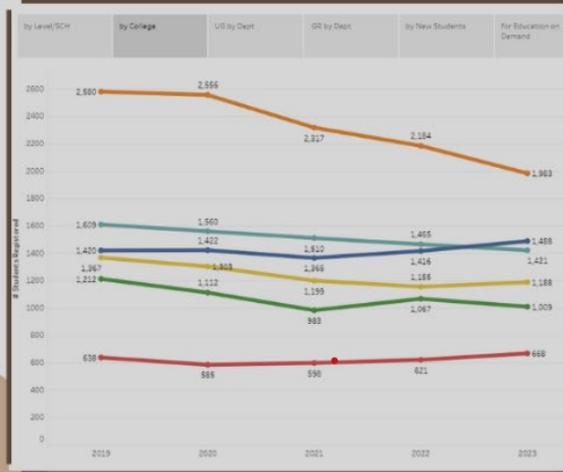


Special thanks to our sponsor Michael Miller, CFP.

Registration Statistics

Fall Registration Dashboard

Did you know you can start tracking student registration for this coming Fall 2024 Semester?



<https://analytics.wtamu.edu/registration/>

FACULTY

Starting this week, the Fall 2024 Registration dashboard has launched. This dashboard will track registration statistics week by week for 19 weeks. A historical trend line is available going back 6 years, 2017.

At this time registration for summer semesters is also available, and during the end of the fall semester the Spring registration is available for tracking. Click [here](#) for more information.

There are several unique features which are available in the tabs across the top of the dashboard. A breakdown by semester credit hours, college, department (Undergrad and Graduate), new student category, education on demand, race and ethnicity, and finally, a historical view over all the weeks seen on one screen.

Severe Weather Information

As we move into the spring months in the Texas Panhandle, the potential for severe weather increases. As such, it is important for all West Texas A&M University students, faculty and staff to know what to expect in the event severe weather moves across the high plains.

In the Texas Panhandle, the months of April, May and June have proven to be the worst months for thunderstorms, hailstorms and tornadoes.

WT will make every effort to announce severe weather information using campus resources for email, voicemail and Safe Zone.



All faculty, staff and students are strongly encouraged to download the Safe Zone app on all personal mobile devices. Doing so allows users to receive WT-issued emergency alerts and safety information directly on cell phones and other mobile devices. Alerts are issued via emails, text messages and push notifications. Apple users, [click here to download](#) the Safe Zone app. Android users, [click here to download](#). For information, visit the [Safe Zone website](#).



SafeZone

WTTM

This service is free, easy to use, and contains many other great safety features.

Severe Weather Continued

What procedures should people follow at West Texas A&M University?

Once an emergency alert message has been activated, go inside a building (if outside), stay indoors, and do not move from building to building or try to go to a vehicle. Go to the lowest level of the building, to the most interior portion of that building, and away from exterior doors and windows. Avoid areas with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, theatres, gymnasiums, or arenas.



Accessible basement facilities are available in the following buildings during regular business and class hours:

- Virgil Henson Activities Center
- Natural Sciences Building
- Marmaduke Internet Innovation Center in the basement of Cornette Library (interior hallways and rooms)
- WT Bookstore located in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center
- Jack B. Kelley Student Center
- Old Main (1st floor away from outside doors and windows)
- Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Annex
- Harrington Academic Hall WTAMU Amarillo Center

Also, please note the Amarillo Office of Emergency Management will conduct monthly tests of the outdoor severe weather alert system. These tests should occur the last Friday of each month, weather permit

Scholarship

Academic Affairs is providing funding to offer a \$1250 scholarship to qualifying May graduates receiving a bachelor's degree who complete the **application process** and are admitted to the Graduate School.



The Graduate School sent an initial email on March 18 to students slated for graduation in May. The Graduate School plans to send a follow-up email on April 1 and a text on April 15. We (TBRCOESS) plan to send an email to our students between April 1 and April 15 to encourage them to apply.

Regardless of our best efforts to reach students from an administrative level, the most effective encouragement to move to that next level often comes from an instructor/professor/advisor who the student most respects and admires. Accordingly, please do your part to ensure that all upcoming graduates receive this information for a \$1250 scholarship to be applied toward graduate studies this summer. Graduate programs should capitalize on this opportunity for recruitment as well.

To be eligible for this one-time scholarship, students must:

- Be a domestic, undergraduate student graduating in May 2024
- Be admitted into a graduate degree-seeking program
- Complete the general scholarship application
- Be registered for a minimum of three graduate hours towards a degree in either the summer 1 or summer 2 2024 terms

Faculty Presentations

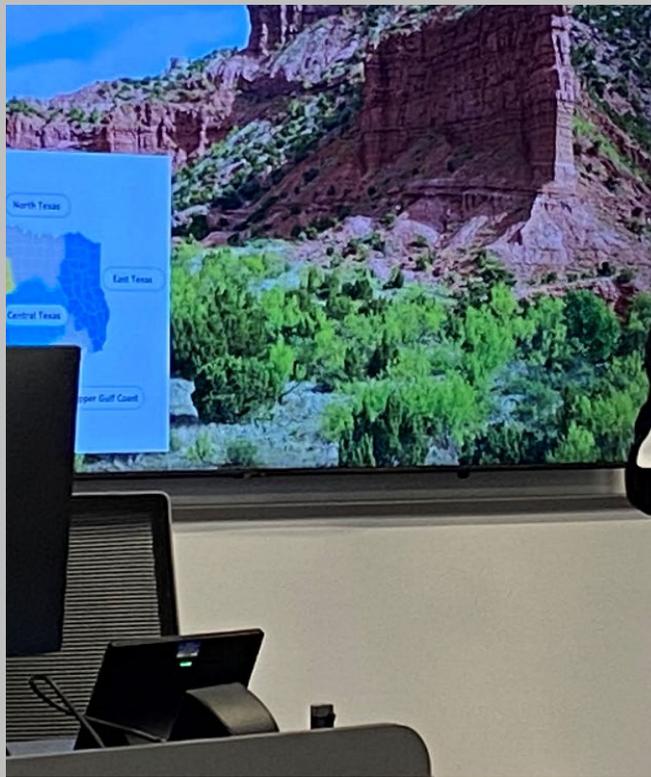


Dr. Vince Nix & Dr. Misty Song

Dr. Nix and Dr. Song recently presented their research proposal titled The Call of Rural Texas: Vocation in the Panhandle to the Region 16 P-16 Council.



FACULTY



Faculty Presentations

Mary Rausch

Librarian Rausch explains how she uses the WTAMU repository to share her collaborative research.



Dr. Dave Rausch

Dr. Rausch points out the benefits of uploading his research into the WTAMU repository during the Faculty and Student Research Poster Session.



Reminders



Please remain attentive to regularly updating and maintaining your information in [Interfolio](#).

EVERYONE'S Interfolio CVs must be up to date prior to the beginning of the Fall 2024 semester.

CLD Workshop

Supercharging Your Advocacy Skills

Monday, April 1st

Last Class Day

Wednesday, May 1st

Dead Day

Thursday, May 2nd

CLD Workshop

Experiences of Families of Children with Learning Differences

Wednesday, May 1st

Memorial Day

University Closed

Monday, May 27th

TrainTraq Compliance

As a friendly reminder to all full- and part-time faculty and staff, including student workers, the following penalties will be assessed for being 20 days delinquent in any assigned training:

1. **Graduate Assistants, Student Workers, and Staff Technicians will have their employment terminated by their department.** They are eligible for rehire if the manager chooses to rehire them. The department will be responsible for the cost of a new criminal history check.
1. **Faculty and Staff employees will have their network access removed until their past-due training is completed.** Also, Faculty and Staff employees who are delinquent in their training at any time during the fiscal year will not be eligible for any merit increases.
2. **Any part-time employee, including part-time instructors (PTIs) who are in training non-compliance, may not be eligible for rehire in the future.**

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline Registration Opens for Graduate Students CLD Workshop: Supercharging Your Advocacy Skills	2 Registration Opens for Seniors	3	4 Registration Opens for Juniors	5	6
7	8 Registration Opens for Sophomores	9	10	11 Registration Opens for Freshmen	12	13
14	15 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 August Graduation Applications Due Last Class Day	2 Dead Day 10:00 Spring Faculty Address; Legacy Hall	3 Finals	4 Finals
5	6 Finals <u>CLD Workshop: Experiences of Families of Children with Learning Differences</u>	7 Finals	8 Finals	9 Finals	10 Waitlists Close	11 <u>Graduation</u> 10:00: TBRCOESS
12	13 9:00: Grades Due! May Intersession: 1 st Class Day	14	15 School Board Workshop 2:00: <u>IRB</u> and <u>IACUC</u> Submission Deadline	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Last day to drop/WD w/guaranteed X	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day: University Closed	28	29 Last Class Day	30 NSO – All Colleges Finals	31 NSO – All Colleges Waitlists Close	

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)