



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

Happy New Year! With the Fall 2023 classes ending in November, graduation in December, and Spring 2024 classes beginning on January 16th, I combined information that would have been included in a December edition with this January edition of the monthly newsletter.

Despite its challenges, I hope 2023 was fulfilling and enriching for you. Regardless of how good or bad 2023 was to you, it is now in the past and 2024 is before us! As we embark on the journey into 2024, let's do so with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to nurturing an environment where trust is inspired, communication and collaboration are encouraged, academic freedom is valued, and innovation prevails. Together we have weathered challenges and celebrated triumphs. I am confident that with our passion for advancing society by developing professionals to lead, serve, and educate, great things lie before us and those for whom we serve. Thanks to each of you for your unwavering support for our students, your engagement in meaningful research, and your service to our university, state, region, nation, and world!

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Our Why and Our Vision

As we conclude 2023 and begin 2024, the time is ripe for exploring our why and our vision. Our why comes from our past and our vision looks forward into the future.



Upcoming SACS-COC Accreditation



The 2024-25 academic year will serve as the snapshot period from which data will be collected for WT's reaccreditation review with SACS-COC and the visit is planned for the first week in March 2026.

With this comes the need for quality assessment, faculty credentialing, etc.

One item that will affect every single faculty member and administrator is the need for our CVs to be completely up to date in Interfolio.

As you prepare your APS documentation over the break and during January, please be mindful that this requirement is coming soon. Consider using this evaluation period to update your Interfolio CV. This will lessen the burden as the time for our SAC-COC review draws near.



2022-2023 Assessment Evaluation

| WT WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY™ | | Institutional Effectiveness | Contact Us |
|---|------------|--|------------|
| Assessment for Improvement Scorecard | | | |
| Overall Scores by Department by Program: | | | |
| Colle. # | Department | Program | Score |
| ESS | EDUC | Counseling MA | 51 |
| | | Education BS | 75 |
| | | Educational Diagnostician MED | 82 |
| | | Educational Leadership EdD | 85 |
| | | Educational Leadership MED | 80 |
| | | Instructional Design & Technology MED | 56 |
| | | Interdisciplinary Studies BS | 71 |
| | | Leadership In Curriculum & Instruction MED | 95 |
| | | School Counseling MED | 59 |
| | | Teaching MAT | 71 |
| PSCJ | | Criminal Justice BA,BS | 87 |
| | | Criminal Justice MA | 77 |
| | | Emergency Management Administration BAAS | 84 |
| | | Political Science BA,BS | 64 |
| | | Public Administration MPA | 90 |
| PSSW | | Psychology BA,BS | 69 |
| | | Psychology MA | 67 |
| | | School Psychology SSP | 97 |
| | | Social Work BSW | 92 |
| | | Social Work MSW | 87 |
| | | Sociology BA,BS | 50 |

- Continued on next page -

2022-2023 Assessment Evaluation (Continued)

According to Dr. Dan Stroud, Director of Assessment, this is not an evaluation of how well our programs are assessing their students, rather it is an exercise to show whether the programs are using the prescribed process (based on best practices in the field), to seek improvement for the betterment of their students as they move into their chosen careers.

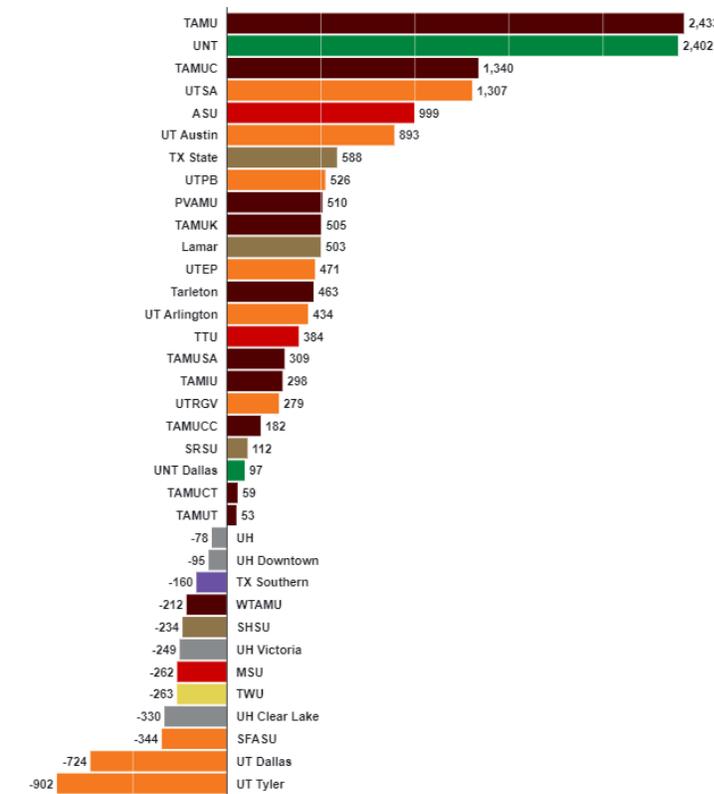
Programs were color coded in green, yellow, or red. Green indicates the program completed most of the expectations for the 2022-2023 assessment. Yellow means the program completed some of the expectations, and although red did not complete the assessment expectations, reports were submitted as complete and ready for internal review.

Each program receives a Qualtrics-based feedback report that includes a link to the Assessment Workbook. This allows for instant reference to possible improvements in 2023-2024. Dr. Stroud is eager to assist everyone as needed. Contact him at dstroud@wtamu.edu or call at extension 3452.

Enrollment Data at Texas Public Universities and in the TBRCOESS

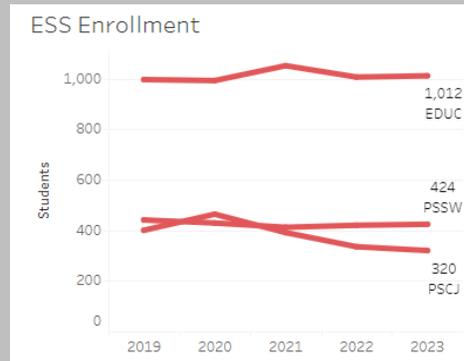
Consider the Fall 2023 enrollment data reported by Dr. Blake Decker at TAMUS in his blog post titled [Overview of THECB Fall 2023 Enrollment Data](#). Of obvious concern is the fact that WT was down 212 from Fall 2022 whereas every other TAMUS university reported was up, even if only minimally for some.

Change in Total Enrollment at Texas Public Universities (2022-2023)



Data Source: THECB Data Website

During the same time, according to the certified values reported by WT’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness, our college’s enrollment was relatively flat, with ED +5, PSSW +4, and PSCJ –15 for an overall ESS loss of –6.



As for the recent enrollment update (12/18/23) from WT’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness, WT was down 141 from SP 23 and ESS accounts for 110 (102 UG + 8 GR) of that total amount.

Program chairs, please review your respective programs and identify any barriers to

recruitment and enrollment. Let me know what I can do to help remove those barriers.

MPA Program Recently Added to Fire Science Exemption List



The Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences' Master of Public Administration program was recently added to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Public Universities Exempted Fire Science Programs list. Pursuant to Texas Education Code § 54.353, individuals who are employed as a firefighter in Texas and who meet the criteria outlined in the code may have their tuition and fees for one or more courses waived. This enables our MPA program to be more competitive in terms of student recruitment and provides a natural segue from our Emergency Management Administration (EMA) undergraduate program, which has previously been on the list. Approximately 50% of our EMA students are currently benefiting from the exemption, many of whom may be prospects for the MPA program. Lastly, and perhaps more importantly, the students for whom this exemption is offered put their lives on the line daily to protect the public. This is a service that we are proud to offer as a token of appreciation for the safety they provide for us, the public, each day. Thanks to Dr. Lovell for your leadership of the MPA program.

Textbooks

Allow me to reference President Wendler's memos to the university to guide the structure of this section of the newsletter. President Wendler's goal in the no-cost-to-student textbook initiative is to "reduce student indebtedness by reducing costs to students while maintaining or increasing the quality of our work in the academic arena" (December 18, 2023 memo to members of the university community).

Note that as Dr. Wendler has engaged in multiple conversations and interactions with numerous constituents throughout the Fall 2023 semester on this topic, the evolution of the initiative has been reduced from "no West Texas A&M University student will be required to buy any textbook for *any course*" (August 24, 2023 memo to students, faculty, and staff) to no student will be required to buy any textbook for *any core curriculum course* in the Fall 2024 semester (December 18, 2023 memo to members of the university community).

As you are aware, President Wendler created a Blue Ribbon Committee on October 24, 2023. Final responses to the committee charge were reported to Dr. Wendler on November 30, 2023.

WT's textbook program, beginning in the Fall 2024 semester, per the 12/18 memo, is as follows:

1. The no-cost-to student textbooks will apply to only core curriculum courses.
2. The university will provide resources to help achieve goals.
3. Further consideration and deliberation will continue and develop as an evolving approach to further reducing student costs.

Many thanks to each of you for your efforts in finding low- and no-cost instructional materials. Please remain vigilant in those efforts as #2 offers no guarantee of *cost exemption* at the college and department levels. Furthermore, my interpretation of #3 is that this that there will be an expectation to expand this initiative beyond core curriculum courses as time progresses.

University Curriculum Committee

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the fall convening of the university curriculum committee, originally scheduled for November 17 was postponed to the spring semester. It is currently scheduled for February 2 and will combine the fall and spring curriculum matters into this single meeting.

Spring and Summer Scheduling

May intersession, Summer I and II, and Fall 2024 class schedules are due by **noon on Friday, January 26th**. Course scheduling related timelines are as follow:

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| May, Summer, and Fall course schedules due | Friday, January 26 by 12:00 p.m. |
| CPI opens for corrections, edits, and setting preferences | Thursday, February 8 at 9:00 a.m. |
| CPI closes for room syncing and optimizing | Tuesday, February 13 at 12:00 p.m. |
| Registrar’s Office completes corrections from CPI to Colleague | Tuesday-Friday, February 13-16 |
| Room scheduling and optimization process begins | Monday, February 19 |
| Schedule available on the web | Monday, February 26 |

Associate Degree Update

The latest information I have regarding associate degrees is that WT currently plans to begin only one associate degree in the Fall 2024 semester, and it will be in mathematics. The other seven (including two in our college) will follow in the Spring 2025 semester.

Although dual credit is separate from associate degrees, it is obviously integrated. Dr. Terry addressed the matter of dual credit in his November 30 note to faculty. He believes “we can better influence the overall quality of preparation for our upper-level classes if we engage in core classes as much as possible – including dual credit.” Furthermore, he asserted that “many of our programs that serve the core have not had access to a significant component of the student base they traditionally recruit as program majors given the lack of engagement opportunities.” Such is the case for many of the students that we traditionally serve.

Lastly, please understand that my effort is to keep you informed, but in Dr. Terry’s words, realize, “Nothing is final, but there are several efforts in motion.”

Professional Development

Drs. Teri Bingham, Russell Miller, Betty Coneway, and Gary Bigham attended the Raise Your Hand Texas professional learning event sponsored by the Charles Butt Foundation in Dallas on November 1-3. Attendees were engaged in numerous professional learning and work sessions, ending the event by participating in a Teaching Works Public Teaching Day. The work sessions, one of which is represented by the picture, required attendees to work with data from their respective departments and colleges.



End-of-Semester Celebration

Thanks for allowing the Dean's office to honor you at our end-of-semester celebration on December 6th. Everyone engaged in food and fellowship throughout the day and we enjoyed seeing you in and around the office.

EVENTS



Faculty Hires and Changes

FACULTY

Dr. Kenneth Denton, Associate Professor of Psychology officially assumed the role of Associate Dean of the College on January 1st. In addition to his new duties as Associate Dean, Dr. Denton will maintain an active presence in the school psychology program.



Drs. Meg DeJong-Shier and Lan (Misty) Song have been hired to fill vacancies in the Social Work and Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership programs respectively. Dr. DeJong-Shier will transition from a Clinical Assistant Professor to a tenure-track line where she will serve as an Assistant Professor of Social Work. Dr. Song will transition from her current position as Adjunct Instructor, Research Methodologist Temporary to a tenure-track line as an Assistant Professor of Education where she will work primarily as a methodologist in the doctoral program.



Dr. Jennifer Denham and Mr. Ray Rigoni, both of whom have been working in the Office of Teacher Preparation (OTP) will be changing positions as we move into the spring semester. Mr. Rigoni will remain in the OTP but was recently hired as an Academic Advisor. Dr. Denham has been serving dual roles of Instructor and Academic Advisor but is leaving the OTP to become a full-time Instructor of Education.



INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Faculty Accomplishments



In November, Dr. John David Rausch, Teel Bivins Professor of Political Science, and Mary Scanlon Rausch presented their paper *Constitutional Right to Farm Amendments: What Texas Can Learn from Oklahoma SQ 777* at the [Oklahoma Political Science Association](#) Conference. They will probably seek publication in *Oklahoma Politics*, an annual publication of the Oklahoma Political Science Association that explores the broad context of politics affecting Oklahoma and its place in the surrounding region. Dr. Rausch said they found that a freedom to farm constitutional amendment can be defeated. He and Mary continue to look at Texas Constitutional Amendments informed by what they learn from the experiences of other states.



Have you recently published or presented your scholarly work? Please let me know when you do so I can recognize you in future editions of the faculty newsletter.

Faculty Accomplishments

Teacher Self-Care is the Selfless Choice



In an opinion piece for the [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/18), Drs. Russell Miller, Teri Bingham, and Crystal Hughes wrote, “We owe much to our teachers, and as the profession continues to ask more and more from them, the importance of teacher self-care must be addressed.” They concluded, “We must consider self-care not as selfishness; rather, it allows teachers the wherewithal to attend to their responsibilities while staying energized and positive.”

Grant Funded Research Recently Published

Congratulations to Dr. Russell Miller, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Lana and Bob Hatton Professor of Education, on your recent publication titled Curriculum as Theology: A Framework for Analyzing Curriculum as a Theological Text in Volume 6, Issue 1 of The Journal of Faith, Education, and Community.

Miller, R. (2023). Curriculum as theology; A framework for analyzing curriculum as theological text. *The Journal of Faith, Education, and Community*, 6(1).
<https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/jfec/vol6/iss1/2/>



Grant Award Recipients



Congratulations to Dr. Ming Xie, Assistant Professor of Emergency Management, and Dr. Li Chen, Associate Professor of Media Communication on their funded grant award in the amount of \$28,689. In their research project titled, *Public Health Risks and Resilience to Climate-Related Disasters in Rural Communities* they will survey refugees in the Texas Panhandle to explore how their experiences differ from other cultural and demographic groups regarding health risks caused by climate-related disasters. The grant was funded by the Natural Hazards Center and was one of only 10 projects that was funded. The Public Health Disaster Research Award Program is based on work supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through supplemental funding to the National Science Foundation.

Conferences

Proposals Due

19th Annual Faculty and Student Research Poster Session and Research Fair

→ SAVE THE DATE ←

19
TH
ANNUAL

FACULTY
and
STUDENT
RESEARCH
POSTER
SESSION
and
Research Fair

MARCH
SEVENTH
2024

INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In an email from Kelly Hoppe sent to all faculty on 12/4/2023 from Dr. Amy Andersen, with the subject: THIRD CALL – Faculty Poster Session, the following message was conveyed:

This is a reminder that proposals for our 19th Annual Faculty and Student Research Poster Session and Research Fair are due Friday, January 12, 2024. Visit our website for more information then submit your poster session online. Notifications of acceptance will be provided no later than Friday, February 2nd.

This event will be held Thursday, March 7th, 2024 in the library gallery and atrium. It is a great way to share your research and get your students involved with the scholarly community of WT.

Please feel free to reach out to me via email or by phone at 651-2212.

Oh, and while you are working on your proposals, check out this 1-minute video of our 18th F&SRPS&RF to get an idea of what the event is all about!

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Hoppe

I encourage you and your students to take advantage of this local opportunity to showcase your great work to our campus community!

Twanna Powell Distinguished Fellow Award

Dr. Terry announced the Twanna Powell Distinguished Fellow Award in his November 30 note to faculty. In his note, Dr. Terry said:

I am pleased to formally share the establishment of the Twanna Powell Distinguished Fellow Award. Don and Twanna Powell have strong WT ties, and this legacy gift will create the University's ability to award annually. The award will include \$35,000 in funding to support research, and the University will offer two courses of release time (i.e., the expectation is for one in the fall and one in the spring, but can be adjusted if there are reasons to combine in one semester). Visiting with Don about the intent, there is no preference for one type of research. In addition, there is no preference on how the funds are used (e.g., spend on equipment, use as summer compensation, hire student assistants, purchase data, or whatever else might be an appropriate expense for specific research). The donors' goal is to support and highlight research at WT, with the hope of funding a wide variety of projects over time. Applications are due to the college dean by February 1. There is no formal application, but a letter of interest should include a research proposal abstract, a brief discussion of methods or design to achieve stated research goals, and a preliminary use of funds plan. The deans agreed to create a selection committee for each college nominee, including one administrator and one faculty member from each department. For example, in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences, the committee will consist of four members (one college administrator and one faculty member from each of the three NHS departments). Each college can forward one nominee as a semi-finalist for consideration. The final selection is by a university committee, defined by the donor instrument. The annual Distinguished Fellow Award will be announced at the spring graduation ceremony.



Accordingly, the 4-member TBRCOESS Twanna Powell Distinguished Fellow Award Committee will consist of one college administrator and three faculty members, representing the Departments of (a) Education, (b) Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work, and (c) Political Science and Criminal Justice. Applicants for the award are not eligible to serve on the committee. Any eligible faculty member may volunteer or may nominate someone to be considered for service on the committee. Please do not nominate anyone without their acknowledgement and agreement to serve if selected. Email your nominations (including self-nominations) to [Dr. Kenneth Denton](#).

Reminders

Please remain attentive to regularly updating your information in [Interfolio](#). EVERYONE’S Interfolio CVs must be up to date prior to the beginning of the Fall 2024 semester.



Winter Intersession

Grades Due

Monday, January 8

By Noon

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 15

University is Closed

First Class Day

Spring Semester

January 16

Syllabus Posting Deadline

January 11

Course Schedules Due

May, Summer, and Fall

January 26

Noon

University Curriculum Committee

February 2

Annual Performance Summary

Annual Activity Report due to Department Heads

Thursday, February 1

TrainTraq Compliance

As a friendly reminder to all full- and part-time faculty and staff, including student workers, we all received an email on November 27 informing us that 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.
2. **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.
3. **Any part-time employee, including part-time instructors (PTIs) who are in training non-compliance, may not be eligible for rehire in the future.**

January 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|--|--|---|--|--|-----------|
| | 1 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline | 2 University open | 3 Last Class Day (Winter Intersession) | 4 Finals (Winter Intersession) | 5 In Progress and Minor Curriculum Changes due to Academic Affairs | 6 |
| 7 | 8 9:00: Winter Intersession Grades due | 9 | 10 | 11 Syllabus Posting Deadline | 12 Faculty & Student Research Poster Session Proposals Due Waitlists close | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Martin Luther King Day University Closed | 16 First Class Day <hr/> 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline | 17 | 18 | 19 IT Maintenance | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 12th Class Day | | | |

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)

February 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | 1 APS Due to Dept Heads Twanna Powell Research Fellowship Application Due 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline Scholarship Application Priority Action Date | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 20 th Class Day | 13 Greenlighting Available | 14 | 15 December Graduation Application Available | 16 IT Maintenance | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 8 Week Classes: Last day to drop/WD with guaranteed X | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)