

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  
Academic Affairs

# PROVOST'S REPORT

2016-17

# A LETTER FROM THE PROVOST

**Dear faculty, students, alumni, staff,  
and friends:**

It is my pleasure to invite you to review the 2016-17 report from our academic units.

Throughout this report, you will see highlights of the accomplishments of our faculty and students in various academic units. Two members of our faculty, Dr. DeLello and Dr. Newsom, received this year's University of Texas System Regents Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) award, while a third member, Ms. Doty, was inducted to the UT System's Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Many of our academic programs continued to receive national and regional accolades for their high quality; for example, graduate nursing (online) programs were ranked 1st in Texas and 13th nationally by the US News & World Report, and the accounting program was ranked 1st in Texas and 6th nationally based on CPA certification of its graduates. The university has also made great strides in increasing its retention and graduation rates this past academic year, with a number of initiatives including Summer Bridge and decentralized advising, as well as the award-winning quantum leap proposal on digital toolkit for student success. Our Honors program grew to its largest size in its 8-year history, while maintaining its highest academic standards and with participation from every college with undergraduate programs. Construction is well underway on the 140,000 sq. ft. business building.

In February, the Library hosted the third "Celebration of Scholarship and Creativity" to highlight the exceptional achievements of our faculty in research and scholarship. The newly implemented "Crystal Talon Award", established to recognize exceptional research and creativity, was awarded to 12 faculty

members. The Provost's office also presented copies of 13 books authored by our faculty for addition to the Library's collection.

Faculty in many of the academic units were engaged with a number of community activities. College of Business partnered with the City of Tyler on the new Innovation Pipeline to provide educational opportunities and courses to the community to help encourage entrepreneurship in the region. College of Education and Psychology provided summer literacy programs at the Glass Recreation Center, offered low cost mental health counseling at area clinics, and worked with many area schools to help improve their programs. Faculty in biology brought much attention to their programs through Darwin Day and Earth Day events with nationally known speakers.

I sincerely hope you will take joy and pride in reading the accomplishments of your colleagues throughout this report.



**AMIR MIRMIAN**

Ph.D., P.E., Fellow ASCE, Fellow ACI  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Sam A. Lindsey Chair Professor of Civil Engineering

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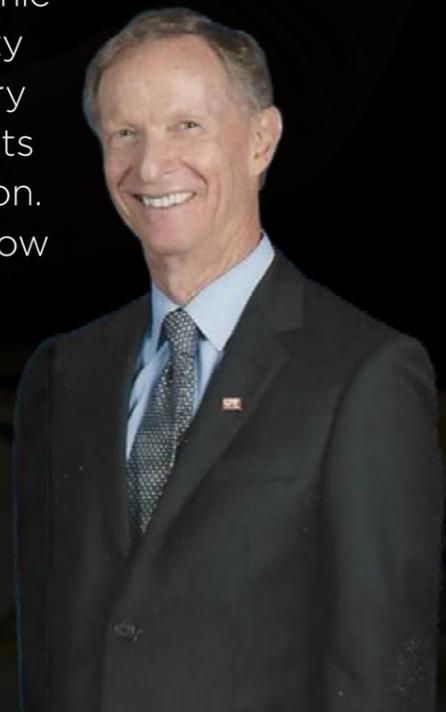
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# COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

The college, during the recently completed academic year, was characterized by scholarly productivity and accomplishment. A member of the History faculty was awarded the college's tenth Regents Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) recognition. The teaching faculty in Arts and Sciences has now received ten of the thirteen ROTA awards total. The fall enrollment for Arts and Sciences was nearly 4 percent higher than the previous year and more than 14 percent higher than 2012.

**DR. MARTIN SLANN**  
DEAN



## EDUCATION

The College is slightly ahead of the university average for FT Faculty contact hours and well ahead of the average SCH/faculty ratio. It is around the university average for the percentage of transfer students. We've been able to enhance our internationalization efforts. Both the annual Costa Rica deep immersion in Spanish program and the Israel Study Tour continue to attract viable numbers of students from a variety of majors in and outside of the Arts and Sciences.



## ACCREDITATION

The Department of Mathematics underwent an outside review of its graduate program. The review found that the program was most viable, but did recommend a number of suggestions, most of which have been or are in the process of being enacted. In fact, the suggestions were already in the planning stages when they were provided. Since their implementation commenced, the graduate program has increased in terms of the number of students and graduates. We expect current trends to continue and the effort is being assisted with the provision of modest graduate assistantships.

## RESEARCH/SCHOLARSHIP

Faculty received a total of over \$1.7 million in external funding. This is a record and is indicative of a strong trend that has improved over the last several years. Most of the external

funding has resulted from successfully placed applications within the natural sciences and mathematics, though more disciplines are beginning to apply for research funding. The output of the college's faculty in all disciplines is remarkable, considering their many responsibilities and is highlighted.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Several members of the college faculty again gave presentations at the annual and always well-attended Great Decisions series sponsored by and held at the City of Tyler Public Library. Around six dozen free concerts were provided by the School of Performing Arts on and off campus and various public venues. The Department of Art and Art History continued its close collaboration with the Tyler Museum of Art in a variety of projects. The annual Darwin Day, hosted by the Biology faculty, was well attended by visitors to the campus. A member of the Mathematics faculty and a ROTA recipient has been a guest speaker at area elementary schools. Another Mathematician was an instructor at the Discovery Science Place. Several members of the faculty in most of our disciplines are sought after speakers. A number of them have been interviewed by regional electronic and print media on areas included in their respective expertise. A member of the Biology faculty is working with Bullard High Schools students on a science project that is scheduled to go to the International



Space Station in August 2017. The Debate Club has also worked with the Tyler Public Library to host the very well attended public debates on the issue of censorship.



#### FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The College continues to sustain a balance that stresses excellence both in classroom teaching and scholarly productivity. Recent highlights include the college's tenth recipient of the ROTA recognition, a senior lecturer in History. In addition, an assistant professor in Criminal Justice recently received an award for Outstanding Distance Learning Faculty member. The chair of the Department of Mathematics received the Provost's Excellence in teaching Award. These speak to the college's approach to superb teaching that is to be found in the traditional classroom environment and the online initiative. The college's full-time faculty has increased with the recruitment of several highly credentialed individuals. The overwhelming majority of these colleagues received very high marks during their pre-tenure review this spring. Finally, this faculty authored or co-authored well over a hundred peer-reviewed articles and provided dozens of presentations at professional conferences. It's important to note that many published papers and presentations were co-authored with undergraduate and graduate students who are engaged in research and expect to pursue graduate work.

#### STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS IN COMPETITIONS

The College houses two active and successful student organizations that frequently represent the university during regional, national, and international conferences. Both the Debate Club (regularly rated as one of the best five programs in North America) and the Model United Nations are open to students from any major. They have a long run of success in competitions that include several Ivy League and Big Ten student delegations. In great part, thanks to excellent faculty advisors, these students continue to accrue awards. It's important to note that these organizations enhance writing, speaking, and research skills for the students. Such skills are most helpful to them as they prepare to embark on careers or, increasingly, pursue advanced degrees in graduate study or professional schools.

#### ALUMNI

As the renovation of the Arts and Sciences building nears the end of its planning stage, the dean's office, in concert with the college's Advancement officer, is reaching out to prospective donors, both alumni and other interested parties, to consider gifting to the cost. Alumni success stories are many. A few highlights include the following: One alumna has been named "lawyer of the year" in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, an alumnus, a physician, has been inducted into the Bethesda Health Clinic's Doctor Luke society, and a former graduate student was recently named Associate Vice President for Business Services at main campus of Penn State. While many alumni are distinguishing themselves in a variety of pursuits in the East Texas area, a growing number are being placed in several sought after career environments elsewhere. Moreover, many alumni who remain in the Tyler area are finding professional positions in the electronic and print media, local businesses, teaching in the primary grades through the two-year colleges.

#### DEVELOPMENT

Over the last year other Development efforts have been successfully pursued. Gifts and



pledges are approaching \$500,000 annually. Thanks again to the efforts of the Development officer and the Music faculty, we are on the verge of becoming a Steinway school. This should occur within a matter of months once we have made the final purchase of a Steinway piano that gets us to the threshold.

#### GOALS FOR 2017-2018

During the last year, there have been extensive and in-depth meetings with architects and representatives of the Physical Plant to finalize plans for the renovation of the Arts and Sciences building. The renovation will commence by early summer in 2018. A year later, we anticipate that the renovation will provide ample space to house four of the college's nine departments, the Honors program, the Debate Club, a Moot Court Room, and several smart class and seminar

rooms. Every effort is being made to ensure that the renovation insists that the building will become student friendly as well as a comfortable and convenient place for students to not only attend classes, but have ample access to spaces that will enable them to study alone or in small groups. Fund-raising efforts will continue with an increased focus on namings for classrooms, suites, and offices.

The college has made progress in refining and improving its increasingly pro-active advisement process. Student retention and graduation rates are obviously linked to and are virtually inseparable from relevant advisement and counseling.

Individual departments possess distinct emphases on dual enrollment and distance education. The department chairs will be instrumental in accommodating policy to meet particular needs.

The college will continue and, hopefully, enhance the Honors Program. Because Honors will be housed in the renovated building and because nearly two thirds of the Honors students are from the Arts and Sciences, we expect to continue to enhance in supportive and collaborative fashion our very similar missions.





# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

The College of Business and Technology continues to build distinction through new academic initiatives and outreach events. The College continues to see significant growth while building distinctive new programs that enhance student's educational experiences and provide value to the community. Construction is well underway on the 140,000 sq. ft. business building. I hope you will enjoy reading about just some of our activities and successes during the 2016-2017 academic year.



8 2016-17 Pr **DR. JAMES R. LUMPKIN**  
DEAN

## ENROLLMENT AND GROWTH

The College of Business and Technology saw another year of significant growth. Majority of the areas within the college grew with the largest growth, 28%, within the MBA program. Overall enrollment for Fall 2016 grew 18% from last fall. This includes both undergraduate and graduate programs. As the CBT continues to enjoy outstanding growth, recruiting and retention initiatives remain a priority at the undergraduate level.

## PROGRAM RANKINGS

- #9 Best Online MBA Program in Texas for 2017 (College Choice)
- #23 Best Affordable AACSB Online MBA Programs (Get Educated)
- #10 Most Affordable Graduate Accounting Programs (Accounting Degree Review)
- #12 Best Online MS in HRD Program (The Best Schools)

## ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

### Concentrations

- Energy Risk Management (Finance)
- Investment Management (Finance)

### Certifications

- NSA/DHS National Center of Excellence in Cyber Defense for Consumer Cybersecurity (Computer Science)
- Nano/Advanced Materials Safety (Industrial Technology)

### Centers/Laboratories

- Center for Consumer Cybersecurity
- Digital Forensics Laboratory

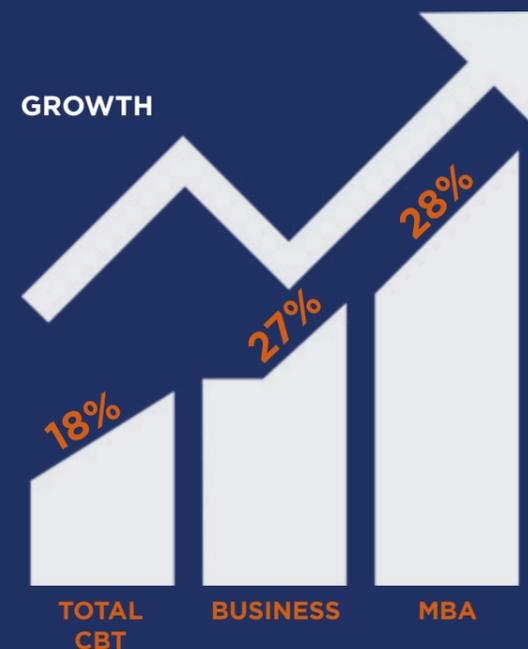
## SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENTS

The College presented two major events during the year. The Retail Summit sponsored by the Center for Retail Enterprises and the Center for Cybersecurity featured R. David Mahon, Chief Security Officer for CenturyLink. The event also include a panel discussion with Mahon, Paula Anthony, VP and CIO for ETMC, and AJ Burns, Assistant Professor for Computer Science. The college's Leadership Institute hosted its first Women in Leadership event for all UT Tyler female faculty and staff. The event featured guest speaker Paula Anthony, VP and CIO for ETMC and the College's Executive in Residence. The Leadership Institute also hosted the Leadership Program for UT Tyler department chairs and assistant/associate deans in the fall and spring. The event offered leadership training and a development program for attendees. In addition, the Texas Productivity

## THE NUMBERS

### ENROLLMENT

2,763	TOTAL COLLEGE
2,035	BUSINESS
181	COMPUTER SCIENCE
216	TECHNOLOGY
331	HRD



## CBT

Center offered training sessions for Lean Champion Certification and the Center for Family and Small Enterprises held the annual Small Business Roundtable, providing marketing, human resource, entrepreneurial and financial advice to attendees.

The CBT also held Mock Team Interviews in both fall and spring semesters. Over 50 business representatives conducted the mock interviews with over 125 students participating.

The college's Beta Alpha Psi chapter hosted the annual Meet the Firms event for accounting and finance students. Over 80 students attended the event and had the chance to meet firms from as far as Dallas.

The Computer Science Department held its second Cyber Patriot Games Hackathon. The event was the culmination of a project from undergraduate and graduate classes, including Information Technology, Computer Science and Computer Information System senior projects courses and ethical hacking courses. The event helped prepare students to defend cyber infrastructures.



### ALUMNI

Valari Staab (BBA 1982) was named B&C Broadcaster of the Year. Throughout her tenure, which started after Comcast bought NBCU, Staab has focused on giving individual



Valari Staab (BBA 1982)

stations the resources they need to grow from the ground up. As a result, NBC and Telemundo owned stations today airing unprecedented amounts of local news, building I-teams and partnering on consumer advocacy. For her achievements, B&C and the TVB have selected Staab as Broadcaster of the Year. She will receive the honor at the TVB Forward Conference on September 29, 2017.

Kyle Cole (BBA 1978) was named executive director of business development at Praxis Healthcare Solutions.

Keith Roe (BBA 1990) is the Senior Vice President, Venues at PSAV, a global event technology services industry.

Chris Wootton (BBA), former UT Tyler tennis All-American was named University of Southern California women's assistant tennis coach.

The CBT hosted Dallas/Fort Worth area MBA Alumni at the Texas Rangers Game at Globe Life Park in Arlington in June 2017. The Accounting Department held its annual Awards Dinner prior to the May 2017 Commencement. The event hosted



97 attendees. Alumni presented endowment scholarship awards to their 2017-18 student recipients.

### STUDENTS

Graduate students in Advanced Marketing Fundamentals course collaborated with the East Texas Veterans Alliance and Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce on the "Recognizing Our Service members Everyday" or R.O.S.E. Veteran Discount Program. Students applied marketing concepts to create this veteran discount program for local veterans.

Two of this year's 22 NCAA Division III PING All-America Team members are CBT students; Sam Hill (Finance) and George Toone (Finance).

### FACULTY

Dr. John James Cater III was honored as a Family Firm Institute Fellow with advanced certification in family business advising at the 2016 FFI Global Conference.

Dr. Veronda Willis, CPA, an associate professor of accounting at UT Tyler was named the 2016 Texas Society of CPAs' Outstanding Accounting Educator recipient.

Dr. Venu Gopalakrishna-Remani received the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Texas Alpha XI Chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Dr. Kim Nimmon (Human Resource Development), Dr. Heshium Lawrence (Technology), and Ms. Kerrie Anne Clark

(Management) received the UT Tyler CBT research award, service award, and teaching award respectively for the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. Kerri Camp and Dr. Barbara Wooldridge received the AP teaching award for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Dr. Camp was also chosen as UT Tyler's nominee for the Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award for Tenure-Track Faculty.

### DEVELOPMENT

\$94,000 was received for endowed scholarships and special programs for the college.

Construction began on the new \$53 million, 140,000 square foot business building that will house the College of Business and Technology.

### PARTNERSHIPS

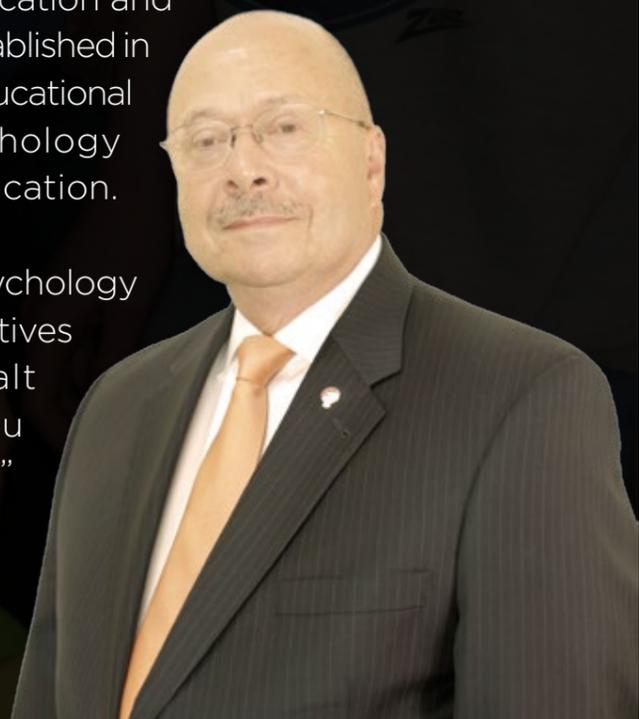
The College has partnered with the City of Tyler on the new Innovation Pipeline to provide educational opportunities and courses to the community. The project is focused on encouraging the entrepreneurial community. People can rent space to converge, work together and sharpen their skills. The premise of the pipeline is to be a place where anyone in need of equipment or experience can come to collaborate with professionals and experts.



# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY

For the past 45 years, the College of Education and Psychology has been preparing outstanding educators and mental health professional for Texas. The College of Education and Psychology is one of the original colleges established in 1971 and consists of three academic units: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Psychology and Counseling and the School of Education.

This year, the College of Education and Psychology began a variety of new and exciting initiatives in each Department/School. As Walt Disney said, "When you're curious, you find lots of interesting things to do."



**DR. ROSS SHERMAN**  
DEAN

## OUR MISSION: THE PUBLIC TRUST

The College of Education and Psychology's core purpose is to prepare competent, caring, and qualified professionals in the fields of education, psychology and counseling and to advance the knowledge base in our respective disciplines.

As a College, we are charged with providing the highest quality instruction to our students, engaging in the production and dissemination of knowledge through research and scholarship, and providing service to the University and our respective professions.

Over the years, thousands of UT Tyler's educators and mental health professionals are adding value to the Texas economy and improving the quality of life for our citizens.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE COLLEGE: CHARTING A PATH TO THE FUTURE

It was Benjamin Franklin who said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." We begin each academic year with the goal of developing an articulated strategic planning process for the College and the individual academic units. The College's [Vision 2025](#) document identifies the future aspirations for the College. In addition, the [Dean's Strategic Plan](#) is updated annually by the leadership team and each academic unit also engages in conversations in order to update their strategic plan to guide the Department/School.

## PROGRAM GROWTH: NEW HORIZONS

Over the past few years, the College has experienced tremendous growth in graduate programing.

All graduate programs in the field of education are 100% online. Whether your aspirations are to be a school counselor, principal, reading specialist, educational diagnostician, or superintendent, you can pursue your dream through UT Tyler's online programs. Online programs in the College of Education and Psychology provide students with an asynchronous learning

environment that is both time efficient and cost effective and maintains a high-quality graduate education. These programs allow the University to extend its geographical reach to the entire State of Texas.

The Department of Psychology and Counseling has proposed a new Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology that is currently being reviewed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We are optimistic the program will be approved and begin operating in the 2018-19 academic year. Stay tuned!



## ACCREDITATION: MEETING STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Department of Psychology and Counseling's M.A. program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is in its third year since receiving the prestigious CACREP accreditation. CACREP is the recognized standard for counselor preparation by the Institute of Medicine and the Veteran's Administration. UT Tyler is one of only two UT System schools to be CACREP accredited.

Since the College of Education and Psychology's inception in 1974, all educator preparation programs have been accredited annually by the Texas Education Agency. TEA is the state agency responsible for educator preparation in the State of Texas.

**SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY:  
EXPANDING THE KNOWLEDGE  
BASE**

The College of Education and Psychology consists of a community of scholars charged with expanding the knowledge base within their respective disciplines. This is accomplished through the research and scholarship our faculty pursue. This past year, the faculty within College published two books, 18 chapters and 36 journal articles. In addition, the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies launched the first online journal at the University entitled, Diversity, Social Justice & the Educational Leader.

**EXTERNAL FUNDING: SERVING THE  
NEEDS OF EAST TEXAS**

The College of Education and Psychology and the Ingenuity Center continue to lead the University in external grant funding. During 2016-17 the faculty within the College generated \$3,246,382 dollars in external funding to provide scholarship funds for preservice teacher preparation, professional development for inservice teachers as well as other initiatives. The School of Education's Texas Regional Collaborative in Mathematics is the longest continuously funded grant at UT Tyler having been reauthorized annually for the past ten years totaling approximately two million dollars and impacting hundreds of East Texas mathematics teachers.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:  
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE  
IN EAST TEXAS**

Improving the quality of life for East Texans through community outreach and service is a mission the College of Education and Psychology takes very seriously. Whether it is providing summer literacy programs at the Glass Recreation Center, providing low cost mental health counseling at area clinics, or working with area schools that are designated improvement required, faculty from the College are actively engaged in the community.



Photo provided by Tylerpaper.com

In only the second year of its operation, the Memory Assessment and Research Center (MARC) under the direction of Dr. Andrew Schmitt has provided over 50 full dementia assessments, 300 brief cognitive screenings and 350 hours of direct counseling services. This outreach effort is truly making a difference with people in East Texas struggling with memory impairment due to aging, dementia and other neuropsychological illnesses.

**CENTERS: PROMOTING  
INNOVATION, QUALITY AND  
SERVICE**

The College of Education and Psychology has three Centers designed to promote innovation, quality and service: K-16 Literacy Center, Ingenuity Center, and East Texas Center for School Based Research & Instruction.

The K-16 Literacy Center under the direction of Dr. Kouider Mohktari, Anderson Vukeljia, Wright Endowed Professor of Education, promotes literacy by developing research based literacy programs in schools, providing staff development for teachers and providing direct services to K-12 students. The efforts of the Center are helping foster literacy throughout the East Texas region.

The Ingenuity Center is the oldest of the College's Centers and is direct by Dr. Michael Odell, Roosth Endowed Chair for STEM Education. The Ingenuity Center's primary mission is to increase the number of students who study and enter STEM fields. The Ingenuity Center includes the UT Tyler Innovation Academies, Discovery Science

Place and Project Lead the Way.

The newest addition to the Centers in the College is the East Texas Center for School-Based Research & Instruction. The Center consists of all public ISDs in Smith County and is designed to be an organized research unit that promotes instructional effectiveness and student achievement.

All three Centers work in consonant to promote educational achievement for students throughout East Texas and the State.

**FACULTY:  
PASSING THE TORCH**

This past year the College of Education and Psychology lost a colleague when Dr.



Ronald Livingston, Professor of Psychology, passed away unexpectedly. Dr. Livingston joined the UT Tyler faculty in 1994 after completing his Ph.D. studies at UT Austin. Dr. Livingston was an outstanding teacher and an accomplished scholar. He was a kind and gentle

soul who was a friend and mentor to his colleagues and to the students whose lives he touched.

This year, the College of Education and Psychology will bid adieu to Dr. Mark Lewis. Dr. Lewis joined the faculty in 1985 and served in a variety of capacities within the College including Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Coordinator of the Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction. In addition, Dr. Berni Hansen retired in December 2016. Dr. Hansen taught literacy classes at UT Tyler since 2002.

The School of Education welcomed Dr. Gina Doepker and the Department of Psychology and Counseling added Dr. Erin West. We look forward to their contributions to the University and their respective disciplines.



Photo provided by TylerPaper.com

**CLOSURE: BUILDING A BRIGHTER  
FUTURE FOR TEXAS**

At the core of any institution is the 'why' or the True North Star of the organization. Why does the organization exist and why will it exist for the next hundred years? For the College of Education and Psychology, it's our passion to prepare the next generation of great teachers, principals, superintendents, educational diagnosticians, reading specialists, school counselors and mental health professionals. We know that each day one of our graduates teaches a child to read, inspires a student to dream big or provides counseling to a client to get him or her through a difficult period.

In essence, the College of Education and Psychology is providing the outstanding educators and mental health professionals our society needs to pass the torch from one generation to the next. It's an awesome responsibility and a great privilege!

For more information on the College of Education and Psychology see the following link to the [CEP Homepage](#).

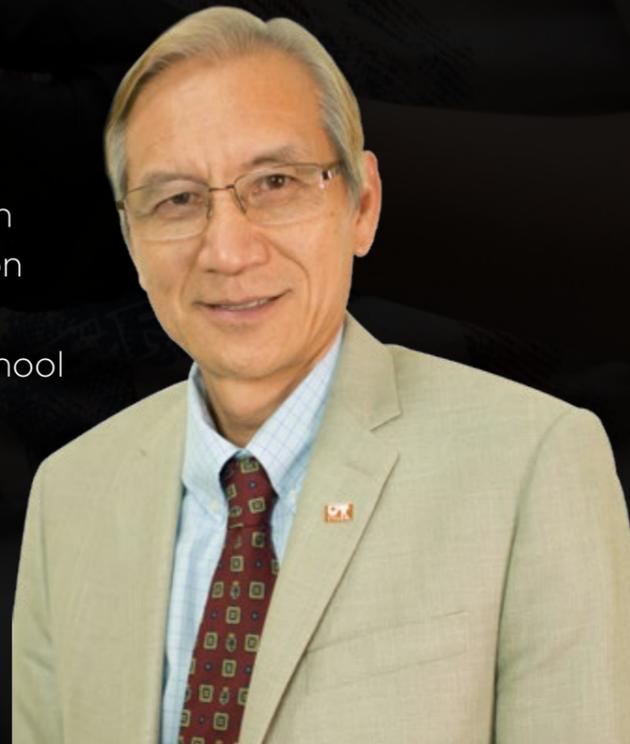


# COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

## ENROLLMENT, GROWTH AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The overall enrollment in the CNHS in Spring 2017 reached 2,328 students which represents a 6.8% growth with comparison to the enrollment of last year (Table 1). Specifically, the growth is 8.7% for the School of Nursing. We graduated 615 students in the academic year of 2016-17 which is a 8.5% increase over previous years.

**DR. YONG "TAI" WANG**  
DEAN



**TABLE 1.**

The CNHS student graduation in 2016-17 and enrollment of Spring 2017

	COLLEGE	SCHOOL OF NURSING	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & KINESIOLOGY
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	2,328	1,829	499
<b>ENROLLMENT GROWTH %</b>	6.8%	8.7%	0%
<b>GRADUATION</b>	615	469	119
<b>GRADUATION GROWTH %</b>	8.5%	20.7%	-23.7

### THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The School of Nursing itself accounts for approximately 21% of the total enrollment at UT Tyler; about 30% of all in-coming freshmen declare pre-nursing as their major. In spite of program growth, the School of Nursing maintains the rigor of its programs. The BSN graduates exceeded a 95% pass rate on the national licensure exam (NCLEX) and the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students maintained a 98% pass rate and the post-master's students achieved 100% pass rate on the FNP certification exam in 2016.

### NATIONALLY RANKED PROGRAM

Our Nursing graduate online programs have been well recognized nationally when the online graduate nursing programs were ranked #13 in the country and #1 in Texas by the US News & World Report in spring 2017.

### NEW PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES AND ACCREDITATION

1. The new DNP program received SACS-COC approval, meaning UT Tyler moved to Level IV designation for doctoral programs.
2. We are developing a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program which is pending the final approval by ACOTE, SACSCOC and THECB. We hope to start the first MOT class in 2018.
3. Our B.S. in Kinesiology program was recently recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS)-preparatory program.

### RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS/PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

#### SCHOOL OF NURSING

1. Rizer, Carol, PI; Petersen, S.; Roberts, A., McInnis, A.; Crisp, M. Schlemmer, T.; Oliver, A. NTUNE: An Academic-Practice Partnership Providing Immersive Clinical Traineeships in Diverse Populations for Primary Care Nurse Practitioners. June 2017-2019; HRSA: \$1.4 million
2. Wang, YT. Goh, C. H., Liao, T. Wheelchair Tai Chi Ball Training Program For People With Spinal Cord Injury; PVA Education Foundation Grant; Awarded June 2017 for June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018: \$50,000.
3. Hermanns, M., Haas, B., Engaging Persons with PD in Physical Activity using Activity Trackers and Online Social Media: A Feasibility Study, STTI Beta Alpha; January 2017: \$2,959.70
4. Gipson, C. Refinement and Psychometric Properties of the Self-Efficacy for Sleep Hygiene Inventory; UT Tyler Office of Research; June 2017-May 2018: \$5,317.00



## CNHS

### HEALTH & KINESIOLOGY

5. Tseng, B. (PI); Petersen, S. (co-investigator): Biofeedback Robotic Pet Augments Aerobic Exercise to Reduce Blood Pressure and Arterial Stiffness in Patients with Hypertension; CNHS Intramural grant; December 2016: \$5,000.00
6. Sorensen, William (PI). Cooper, Cheryl (CoPI). Prevalence of soil transmitted helminths in northeast Texas children; Department of State Health Services. March 2017: \$68,336.00,

### INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

The Institute for Integrated Healthcare (IIH) completed its second year in May 2017. As the Institute has matured, so has interest outside the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). The IIH co-hosted the first annual Interprofessional Research Forum with the CNHS, the College of Pharmacy (COP) and UT Health Northeast. Sixty five researchers attended the forum on October 28, 2016. The interprofessional event fueled collaborations between researchers from the different participating



Dr. William Sorensen, Fulbright Scholar

units. Those include an HPV prevention project between UT Health NE and UT Tyler CNHS and COP, development of a novel exercise program for veterans with spinal cord injuries between UT Tyler CNHS and the College of Engineering, and a working group from the CNHS and UT Health NE to examine maternal-child health outcomes in the region. The 2017 Forum planning will begin in early fall 2017.

### FACULTY AND STUDENTS ENGAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Fulbright Scholar: Dr. William Sorensen was named a Fulbright Scholar. This award will fund Dr. Sorensen to teach epidemiology in a graduate nursing program in Brazil during the spring of 2018. He will also conduct research with Brazilian colleagues on the topic of smoking cessation interventions in HIV+ Individuals.
2. Nursing Faculty: School of Nursing faculty are actively engaged in professional service, and several were recognized as leaders in the profession either through election or appointment via competitive application. Ms. Anthe Caruso was elected secretary of the Texas Nurses Association (TNA); she also represented Texas at Nurses Day at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Ms. Anita Lowe and Rebecca Carasco
3. Interprofessional Evidence-Based Practice Conference: The School of Nursing sponsored a very successful Interprofessional Evidence-Based Practice Conference, held February 14, 2017. The School of Nursing also hosted a QSEN (Quality and Safety Education in Nursing) conference with national speaker Gerry Altmiller on April 21, 2017; numerous nursing schools across the region had representatives attended.
4. Faculty/Students Community Engagement: Since 2011, the Department of Health & Kinesiology has administered an innovative outreach program called the Patriot Academy, which provides home-schooled children the opportunity to participate in age and developmentally appropriate motor skill programs. The Patriot Academy also serves our physical education students as a lab setting for both observation and administration of activity programs. In 2016-17, the Patriot Academy had 34 children enrolled, ranging in age from 6 to 14 years old.
5. Faculty and Students: The School of Nursing was also represented in an article in the US News & World Report. Former undergraduate and current graduate student, Adam Switzer, and Dr. Barbara Haas were interviewed for an article on hybrid/online learning.
6. Student Achievement I: The UT Tyler Texas Student Nursing Association (TSNA) chapter was recognized at the annual state convention as "TSNA Chapter of the Year"; they also received the TNSA "Breakthrough to Nursing Award".
7. Student Achievement II: School of

The total external/internal grants are presented in Table 2.

Faculty Scholarships: Faculty scholarships in terms of peer-reviewed publications, professional presentations, books and book chapters are presented in Table 3.

**Table 2.** The CNHS research and training grants in 2015-16.

	COLLEGE	SCHOOL OF NURSING	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & KINESIOLOGY
RESEARCH	\$234,276	\$58,276	\$176,000
TRAINING	\$700,000	\$700,000	-
TOTAL	\$934,276	\$758,276	\$176,000

**Table 3.** The CNHS faculty scholarship in peer-reviewed full length publications, presentations, published books and book chapters

	COLLEGE	SCHOOL OF NURSING	DEPARTMENT OF H&K
PEER-REVIEWED FULL LENGTH PUBLICATION	72	58	14
PRESENTATIONS	79	59	20



Nursing students were once again recognized for their efforts related to health policy and patient advocacy. Sherron Franks-Meeks, PhD in Nursing student, was appointed by Governor Abbott to the Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Reduction; her appointment was confirmed by the Senate.

8. Student Achievement III: Nursing students from Longview and Tyler were regular contributors on the East Texas radio group Alpha Media stations. Students developed and recorded several Public Service

Announcements / health promotion spots that aired during drive time on stations KKUS, KYKX, Sunny 106.5, and La Invasora 96.7 & 92.3, QXFM/ KDOK and online.

9. Student Achievement IV: At the national level, MSN student, Molly Little, represented UT Tyler at the annual AACN Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., where she engaged in healthcare advocacy and met with Texas representative, Louis Gohmert and staff from Senator Cruz's office.





# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

The past academic year has been one of growth and change in the College of Engineering (COE). We are pleased to welcome Dr. Javier Kypuros as the fourth Dean of Engineering in the college's 20 year history. Dr. Kypuros joins us from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where he served as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Engineering and Computer Science. He is passionate about student success in engineering education, as evident from his two current projects funded by the National Science Foundation; one on an ecosystem for success in engineering and the other on social identities in engineering education and practice.



**DR. JAVIER KYPUROS**  
DEAN

Dr. Kypuros has also been funded for his research on dynamic systems and control by NASA and the Texas Space Grant Consortium. His passion and skill in the teaching arena are evinced by his recognition as a UT System Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award winner in 2014.

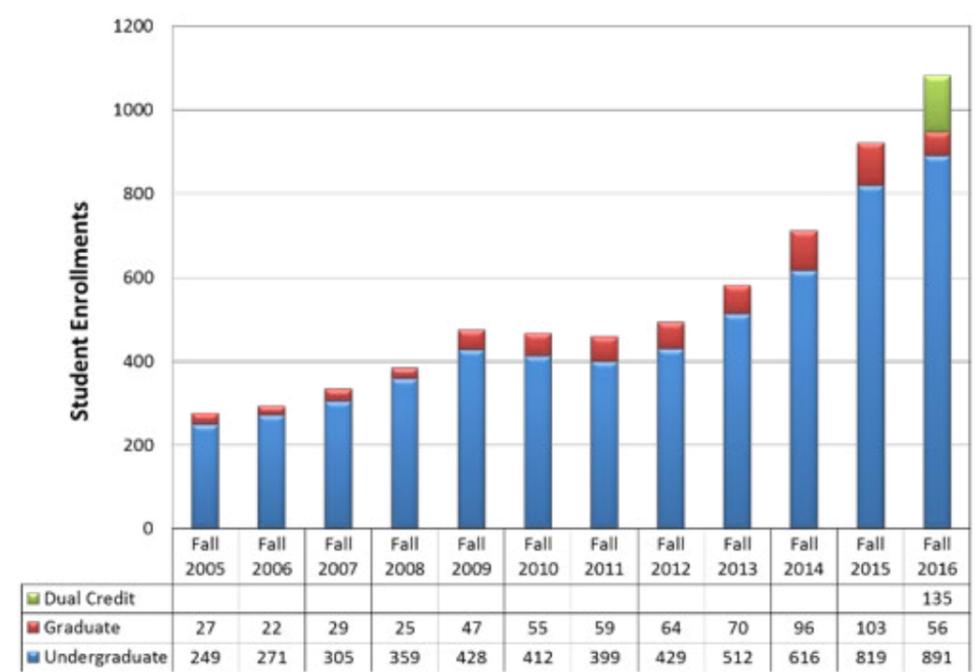
Orion Spacecraft. I hope you enjoy reading about our activities this year, and don't hesitate to contact us with questions or if you would like more information (coe@uttyler.edu, 903-565-7040).

## ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

We also welcomed three new faculty to aid in managing major growth in undergraduate enrollment, including demonstrating sustainable growth at the Houston Engineering Center (HEC), our second campus home that opened in 2013. This year, the Civil engineering program had a graduating class of over 30% females. For the program, and engineering in general, this is a significant increase in the representation of women into the profession. The enrollment of the Construction Management program continues to increase and attract many seeking to gain advantage in the growing and very active construction/project management profession. The Department of Electrical Engineering received over \$730K in both federal and industry research funding. In our Department of Mechanical Engineering, our faculty and students have continued to successfully collaborate with NASA to support training for the NASA

The College of Engineering saw another year of significant growth, with total enrollment moving to 947 students in the fall of 2016, while also serving dual credit students (135) for the first time. Mechanical Engineering experienced the largest growth at 17.4%. The enrollment at HEC also successfully hit our target of 350 students in the fall of 2016. A new and innovative four-plus-one arrangement (where students can finish a B.S. and M.S. in engineering in a five year period) was initiated that is anticipated to positively impact our graduate programs moving forward.

One of the focus areas of the COE is in increasing access to engineering for all. In addition to our successful launch of HEC, which is meeting this need for students in Houston, one of our biggest educational initiatives this past year was in launching a dual credit Introduction to Engineering course (to partner with the



popular Project Lead the Way High School engineering curriculum) for delivery to a statewide audience. We partnered with 12 high schools as part of this initiative, and we are expanding to a second course (Engineering Graphics) and 25 high schools in fall 2017.



**ACCREDITATION**

Our Civil, Mechanical and Electrical undergrad programs were successfully accredited by ABET in 2015, with next reviews scheduled for 2020 for re-accreditation in 2021. Our Construction Management undergrad program was reviewed by the ABET Applied Science Accreditation Commission. Although official notification is scheduled for late August, we expect are that the program will receive a positive determination from ABET.

**RESEARCH**

This year has been a busy one for the college in the research front. We have recently identified five specific focus areas in research. Noted below are example projects and people who are currently exploring in these areas through external funding support:

Civil and Infrastructure

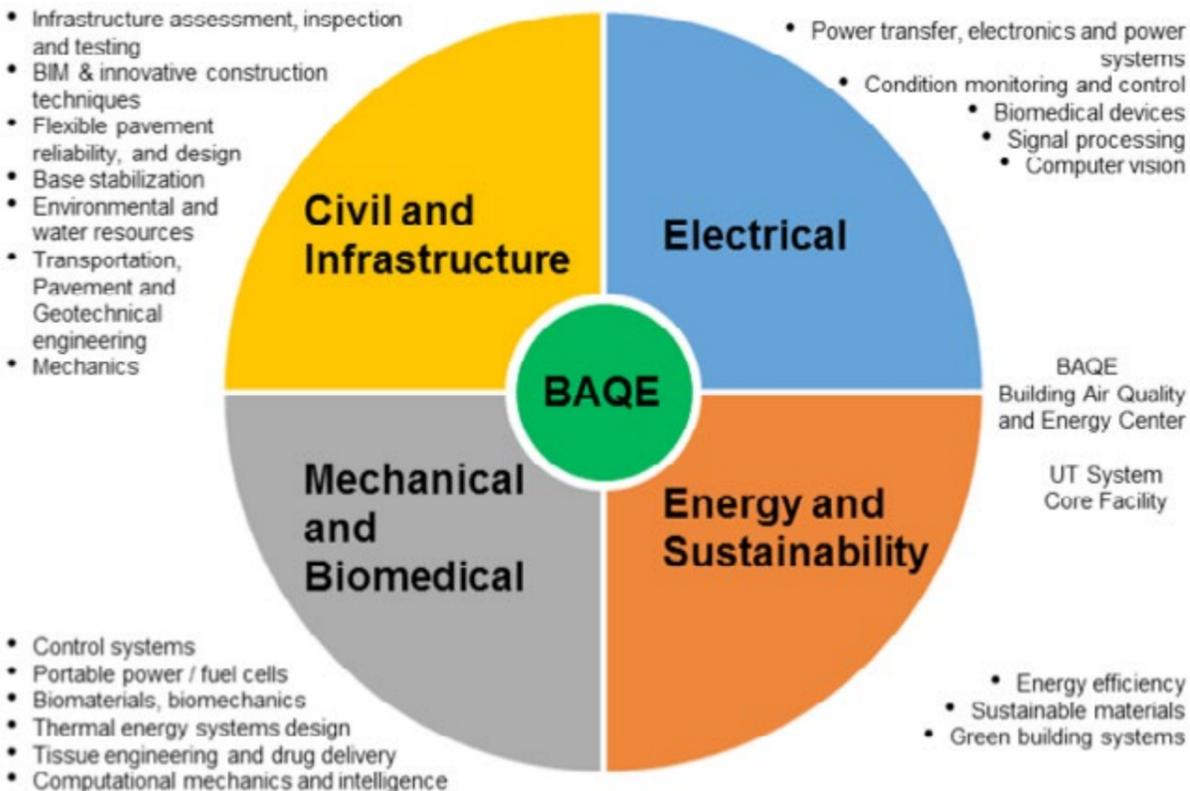
Dr. Mena Souliman has won awards and recognition for his work with Bike Lanes in Mid-Sized Cities, and his work in Behavior of Asphalt Pavements.

Electrical

Dr. Mukul Shirvaikar is partnering with researchers in Health and Kinesiology to improve the usefulness of bone scans through Image Processing and Pattern Recognition.

Energy and Sustainability

Dr. Michael McGinnis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and New Mexico State University on an NSF funded project studying the impacts of Recycled Concrete Aggregates for use in Concrete.



Mechanical and Biomedical

Dr. Hassan El-Kishky and Dr. Shirvaikar are studying new Fuel Cell Technology.

Building Air Quality and Energy (BAQE) Center

Dr. Nelson Fumo is developing models to better predict net zero home energy use utilizing our UT System Core Facility in this area.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Numerous outreach activities dispersed across all departments in the college were conducted. Of particular note this year were our collaborations in support of Project Lead the Way (PLTW), our support of the annual MathCounts competition in February (where we hosted more than 15 K-12 mathematics teams on campus), and our “Engineering Takes Center Stage” Summer Camp in July 2017. In helping PLTW, we aided in judging different competitions and helped with training the next generation of K-12 engineering instructors. The camp, partially funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, serves 25 8-10 grade students as we build excitement and enthusiasm for



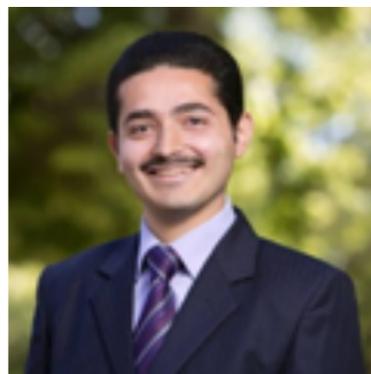
careers in engineering. Students tested concrete and timber members, built lifting and handling systems and bridges, explored soldering, circuit boards and programming, and had a blast during their time on campus in Tyler.

**FACULTY**

Our faculty group continues to grow and be recognized. We welcomed Andres Garcia, Tyler Hall and Tanya Larson as instructors in Mechanical and Civil Engineering at the Houston Engineering Center. Dr. Indic is directing a research center that involves wearable sensor design and big data analytics for the prediction of life threatening events in humans. This research center received half a million dollar National Institute of Health grant for developing analytics using physiological signals from preterm infants at Neonatal Intensive Care Units. Ms. Apurupa Amperayani, a graduate student working in the center been invited to present her research work in the prestigious Computing in Cardiology Conference in Rennes, France. The center entered into research collaborative agreements with several premier universities and published three research papers in well-respected journals in the field.



Dr. Souliman’s research interests include mechanical, mechanistic, and economical analysis of sustainable pavement materials. He serves as a PI on a USDOT funded project, which also involves the Transportation Consortium of South Central States and other academic institutions within the UT System. With this and other projects, Dr. Souliman is managing over a quarter million dollars in externally funded research. Dr. Souliman is publishing his results in journals such as the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and ASCE Journal of Civil Engineering Materials.





## STUDENTS

It has been an exciting year for the student groups in engineering. The ASCE Student Chapter's entry to the Texas Mexico Student Conference Concrete Canoe competition garnered 2nd place with "Excaliboat" an homage to the days of King Arthur, and the Steel Bridge team 2017 design "Pocket Aces" earned them a fourth place among 21 teams competing in the event. The two teams had the highest combined ranking of any University in Texas or Mexico. Our Construction Management students Association (CMsA) submitted a competition project package for the National Home Builders Association annual conference and were selected to compete in Florida. Our IEEE chapter's robotics team placed 5th (out of 11) at the Texas VEXU NBN Championships, losing in the semi-finals to eventual champion, UT Austin, and placed 8th of 32 teams that entered the competition at the IEEE R5 meet in Denver in April 2017. Two MENG seniors presented papers at the ASEE Gulf Southwest Conference at



UT Dallas in March 2017, and an Honors MENG student presented a paper at the NCHC Conference in Seattle in October 2016.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As we seek to increase access to careers in engineering, we are expanding the state-wide dual credit offerings in engineering to include Engineering Graphics, doubling our offerings and

our high school partners to 25. As graduate degrees are becoming ever more critical in today's rapidly changing STEM fields, we have formalized and begun offering a new innovative 4+1 BS to MS program that will allow our best and brightest undergraduate students to earn a master's degree with one additional year of schooling. Please look for more information in the coming weeks about these exciting initiatives.

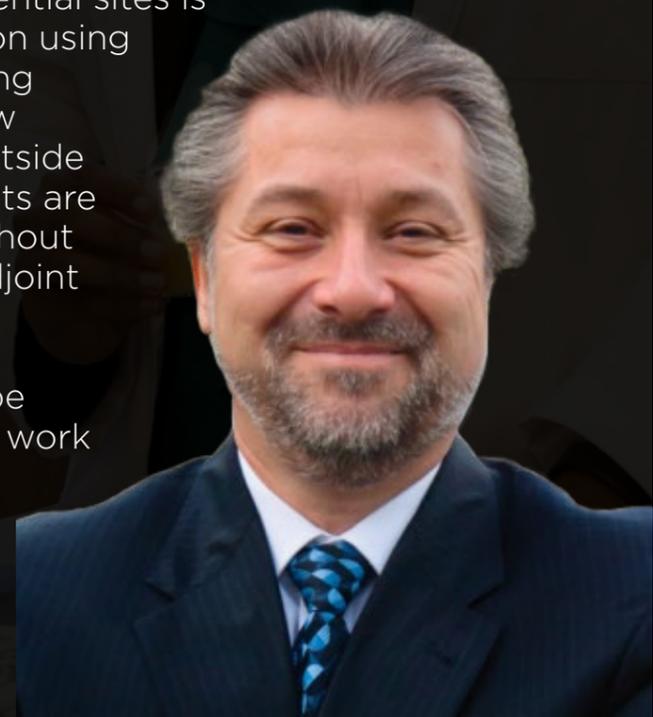




# BEN & MAYTEE FISCH COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

The Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy continues to grow as we welcomed our second cohort of student pharmacists in fall 2016. The curriculum in the classroom, laboratories, and experiential sites is advancing well and focusing students on using critical thinking skills to solve challenging problems by communicating with fellow student pharmacist team members. Outside W.T. Brookshire Hall, student pharmacists are learning in over 150 pharmacies throughout East Texas with the help of over 350 adjunct faculty members, known as preceptor pharmacists. These community leaders are helping our students learn how to be pharmacists in real-life settings as they work with patients in greater East Texas and northwest Louisiana.

**DR. LANE BRUNNER**  
DEAN



## EDUCATION

The Class of 2020 that matriculated into the Fisch College of Pharmacy in fall 2016 represented a 30% increase in students in their first professional year. This planned growth was successful due to in part to the statewide recruiting of students enrolled in colleges and universities in Texas as well as an increasing national presence as an innovator in pharmacy education. In addition, the individual attention given to each applicant and involved family members enhances the character of the Fisch College of Pharmacy as a student-centered Doctor of Pharmacy program.

## ACCREDITATION

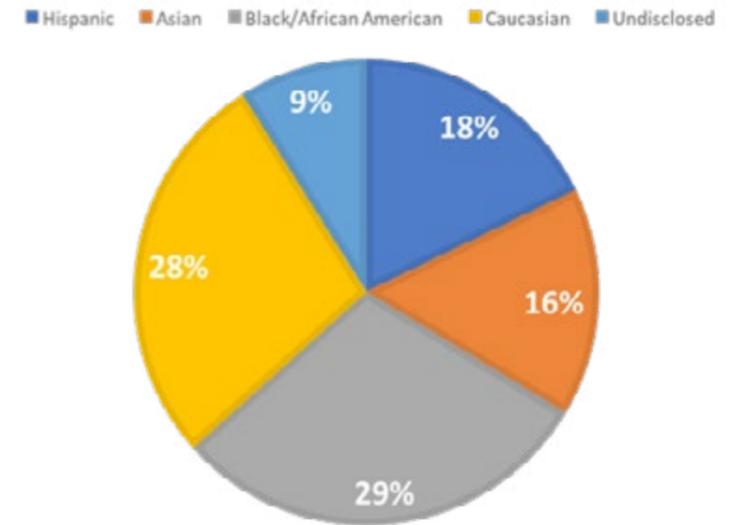
As the Class of 2020 prepared to matriculate into the Doctor of Pharmacy program, the Fisch College of Pharmacy received news that the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education granted the College Candidate status of accreditation. This is an important step in the accreditation process as it allows for students of the Doctor of Pharmacy program to sit for the national board exam upon graduation. This accreditation status was granted for two years, the longest period allowed at this stage of program development.

## STUDENTS

The Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed the students of the Class of 2020 in fall 2016. The 107 students joined the College from a pool of 692 applicants. Nearly 200 students were invited to campus for an intensive on-site interview that included a writing assessment, mathematical skills exam, eight multiple mini-interviews, and a team-based learning simulation. Family and friends were also invited to visit the College during the interview event where they had the opportunity to meet the faculty and staff and ask questions of the dean. Over 230 family and friends joined prospective students during the interview events.

The students matriculating in fall 2016 are

## ENTERING CLASS DIVERSITY - FALL 2016



a diverse group of men and women, just as it was in fall 2015. Although 92% of the students for fall 2016 are Texas residents, most were not born in the Lone Star State. Similar to last year, the gender of the students was nearly balanced at half female and half male. Hispanic students represent 18% of the population and students of Asian descent are 16%. Black or African American students make up 30%, and 28% are Caucasian.



In early fall 2016, the Fisch College of Pharmacy held White Coat Ceremonies for both the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020. The White Coat Ceremony signifies an important transition in a student pharmacist. The ceremony memorializes the evolution from a classroom and laboratory only

## COP

pharmacy education to include experiences in patient care settings, such as the corner drug store or a hospital pharmacy. This transition is critical to embedding a strong sense of professionalism and duty to care for patients and their families in student pharmacists who may have little prior experience in pharmacy.

## FACULTY

The Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed nine new faculty and administrative staff members during the 2016-17 academic year. Dr. Fadi M. Alkhateeb joined the College as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Alkhateeb was the Director of Assessment and Accreditation at the Rangel College of Pharmacy at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. Dr. Alkhateeb's appointment is with the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences where he will teach pharmacoeconomics and pharmacy administration. Dr. Joseph S. Glavy is faculty member who joined the Pharmaceutical Science Department from the Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Glavy is appointed as an Associate Professor and will teach in the area of cardiovascular pharmacology.

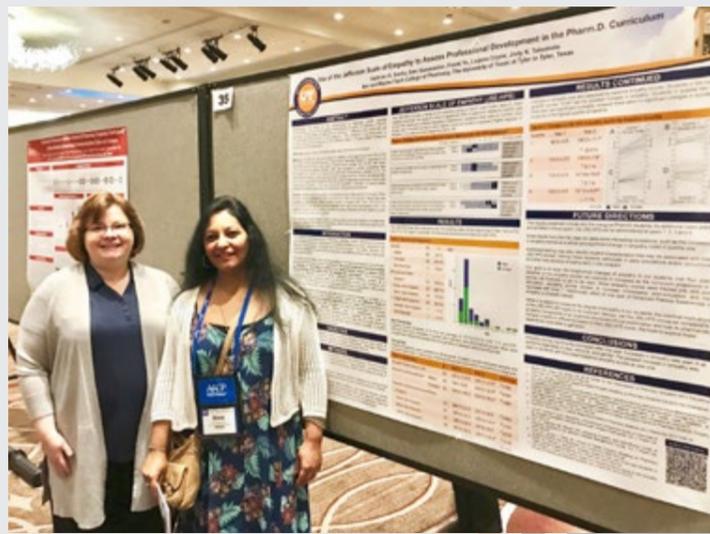
Seven faculty members joined the Clinical Sciences Department. Dr. May H. Abdelaziz recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California - San Francisco in cellular cancer research. She is appointed as a Clinical Assistant Professor and will teach in the area of cancer therapeutics. Dr. Elizabeth A. Cook joined the College after completing an advanced specialty residency at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in Tulsa. She will teach ambulatory care pharmacy as a Clinical Assistant professor. After competing an advanced specialty residency in psychiatric pharmacy at Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe, Dr. Denver Shipman joined the Department as a Clinical Assistant Professor teaching in the area of psychiatric pharmacy. Dr. David B. Romerill was a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital in Baytown before he joined the College. He will teach in the areas of critical care and emergency medicine. Dr. Jonathan

Newsome joined the College as a Clinical Associate Professor with significant prior academic experience at Hampton University School of Pharmacy and South College School of Pharmacy. Dr. Newsome will teach cardiology to students as they advance through the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Two additional faculty positions have been filled with significant responsibility toward the experiential component of the curriculum. Ms. Karen Ratekin was a practicing pharmacist with the Brookshire Grocery Company before she joined the College. She will be responsible for managing the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences for students during the first three professional years. Dr. Kawanda McCarty-Williams joins the College from the Director of Pharmacy role at Brentwood Behavioral Hospital in Shreveport. Dr. McCarty-Williams will oversee the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, which encompasses the entire fourth professional year curriculum.

## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Glavy joined the Fisch College of Pharmacy with a remarkable history of grant funding through the National Institutes of Health as a faculty member and postdoctoral fellow. Trained by Nobel Laureate Günter Blobel of Rockefeller University, Dr. Glavy's work has been featured in Science, Nature, and Cell. In addition to receiving STARS funding from The University of Texas System, Dr. Glavy is able to continue his National Institutes of Health funding and research at UT Tyler. The purpose of Dr. Glavy's research is to develop a novel process to improve drug delivery through the cell nuclear envelope



barrier to improve non-viral based gene and polymer delivery and thus improve therapeutic options for treating disease.

Dr. Michael Veronin has received peer-reviewed grant funding from the College to analyze the federal Food and Drug Administration FAERS database for reports of adverse drug events using machine-learning techniques and developing a predictive model for clinical use. Many types of commonly prescribed drugs have been found to seriously increase the potential for strokes, heart attacks, and other frequently fatal cardiovascular adverse events in patients. Medications commonly associated with serious cardiovascular side effects include those used to treat attention-deficit disorders, arthritis, moderate pain, and hormone deficiency.

Dr. David Pearson received a grant from The University of Texas at Tyler Research Council to investigate how cell adhesion proteins influence the survival of B-cells and their malignant counterparts. Results from this work will lead to a greatly improved understanding of how cancer cells survive and metastasize throughout the body. Ultimately, this work will add to the growing knowledge of how prevent some of the more aggressive forms of malignant cancer.

The Fisch College of Pharmacy presented a college-wide poster at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual meeting in summer 2017. This invited presentation provided an opportunity for the College to share its strategies for assessing the critical domains of self-awareness, leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship, and professionalism in student pharmacists.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Fisch College of Pharmacy has engaged in a partnership with the Jacksonville Independent School District to improve health literacy in the schools and community. Being able to understand basic health information and services and make appropriate health decisions is



vital to the well-being of East Texans. The health literacy of children is represented through a continuum over time and is often reflective of the parent or caregiver's level of health literacy. Through this partnership, Fisch College of Pharmacy is helping address health literacy needs at the grade school level and working with these young students and their families to improve their understanding of information and how to make appropriate choices.

In fall 2016, Fisch College of Pharmacy students and faculty held a health fair event called A Prescription for Health Literacy. Held during the monthly Family Night event at West Side Elementary, student pharmacists and faculty offered blood pressure screenings, information on heart health, heart disease, high blood pressure, and dental hygiene to children and parents in attendance. Following this event, the College hosted events for third and fourth grade students in W.T. Brookshire Hall. During



the event, student pharmacists and faculty shared with the elementary students what a pharmacist does in the community and the importance of medication safety.

Student Pharmacists were active in the Brookshire Grocery Health Fair where they assisted pharmacists in educating visitors about proper medication use. Fisch College of Pharmacy students also assisted with the Tyler Drug Take-Back Event and collected over 300 pounds of unused and unneeded medications. And continuing their work to education the East Texas community about medications, student pharmacists participated in the Hispanic Outreach Event at Tyler's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Student pharmacists were active nationally as well representing the Fisch College of Pharmacy at meetings of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and American Pharmacist Association. Activities included leadership workshops, medication counselling competitions, and patient advocacy training.

Dr. Brittany Parmentier represented the Fisch College of Pharmacy as a member of the East Texas Substance Abuse Coalition and served as the Chair of the Prescription Drug Taskforce. The Coalition is made up of community members who work together to prevent substance abuse among East Texas youth. As a member of the Coalition, Dr. Parmentier spoke to Tyler Independent School District high school students about

substance use disorders and the role of a pharmacist in prevention and treatment. She also educated parents of Kilgore Middle School students on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. As the Chair of the Prescription Drug Taskforce, Dr. Parmentier worked to provide Tyler residents with a safe disposal method for unused prescription medications. The Coalition partnered with the Tyler Independent School District Career and Technology Center and the Smith County Sheriff's Office to place two prescription drug drop boxes in Tyler in summer 2017. Dr. Parmentier and the Fisch College of Pharmacy will continue to work with the Prescription Drug Taskforce and educate the East Texas community about the safe and effective use of medications.

Faculty in the Fisch College of Pharmacy have been active in sharing with fellow educators the way we implement team-based learning in our curriculum. As one of only a handful of colleges that use this pedagogy throughout a curriculum, the faculty's experience and advice has been sought after by universities and community colleges. Always willing to share ideas, the Fisch College of Pharmacy hosts team-based learning workshops in W.T. Brookshire Hall and is willing to travel to engage interested colleagues at their academic site. As faculty members infuse greater amounts of active learning in the classroom, team-based learning as a comprehensive approach to student engagement becomes appealing and achievable. As enthusiastic practitioners of team-based learning, the faculty members in the Fisch College of Pharmacy are eager to share best practices and help others reach their teaching goals.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Fisch College of Pharmacy. Staff of the Year recipients included Thayer Merritt, IT Coordinator and Tessa Wilson, Administrative Service Officer. Mr. Merritt was recognized in particular for his outstanding service to students who had challenges with computers



and access to the College's information technology. Ms. Wilson was recognized for her pioneering work in the Fisch College of Pharmacy as the first staff member hired as the Dean's Administrative Associate and now the Administrative Services Officer.

Faculty were recognized by students and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for excellence in teaching. Dr. Simi Gunaseelan was selected by the first-year student pharmacists for exceptional teaching in the first-year curriculum. Drs. J. Shawn Jones and Michael A. Veronin shared the honors for teaching excellence from students in the second professional year curriculum.

### FRIEND AND FUND DEVELOPMENT

A challenge with a new college is establishing development relationships in the community where none have existed previously. Although alumni are years away, excellent opportunities exist to connect with leaders in the community and build meaningful relationships that engage hearts and

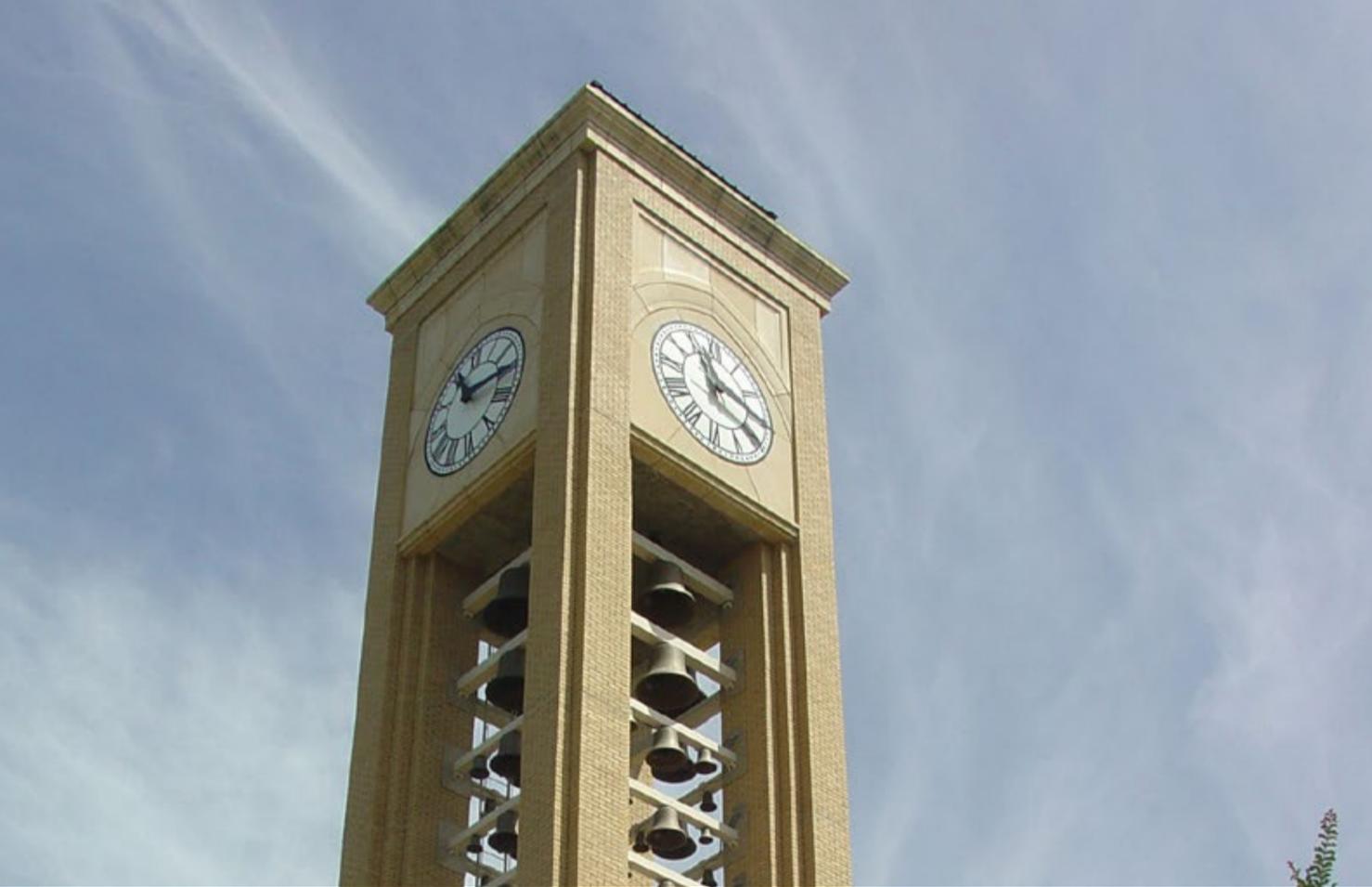
minds. The Fisch College's approach to a community-owned college of pharmacy has been embraced by healthcare professionals and the citizens of East Texas. Pivotal to the College's success in the community has been articulating the College's transformational initiatives of student scholarships, health literacy, pharmacogenomics, and advancing medication therapy management.

The Fisch College of Pharmacy founded its Development Council comprised of leaders in the community, philanthropy, and pharmacy profession. The Development Council has met monthly and worked diligently helping the College build a new donor base for the College and the University.

A key to cultivating a nascent donor base for our new Doctor of Pharmacy program was establishing an annual fund, named the Dean's Circle of Excellence. Funds raised through this initiative go towards establishing student scholarships. Having scholarships to recognize and reward academic excellence, leadership and community service is important in establishing a healthy alumni base and recruitment resource for a successful future.

During the 2016-17 academic year, the Fisch College of Pharmacy awarded its first endowed scholarships establishing new traditions for recognizing leadership, academic excellence, and community service.

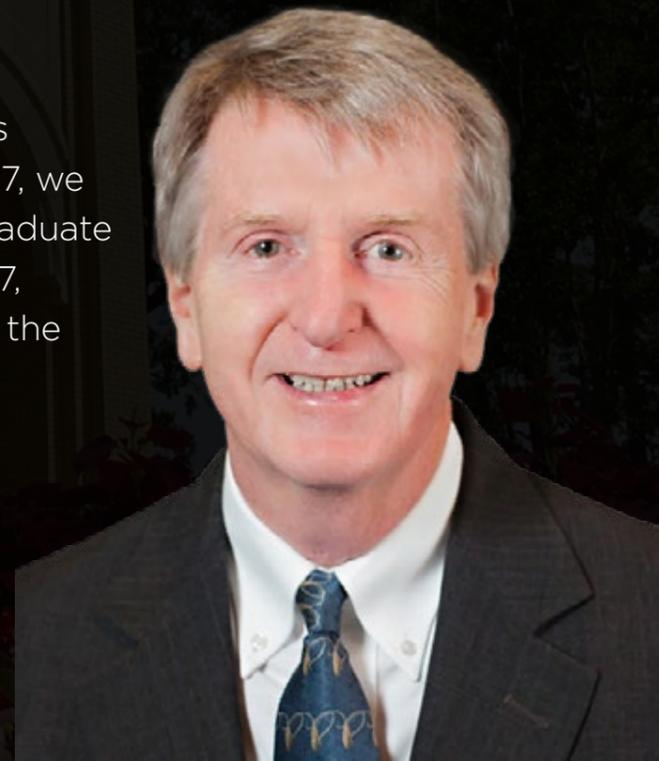




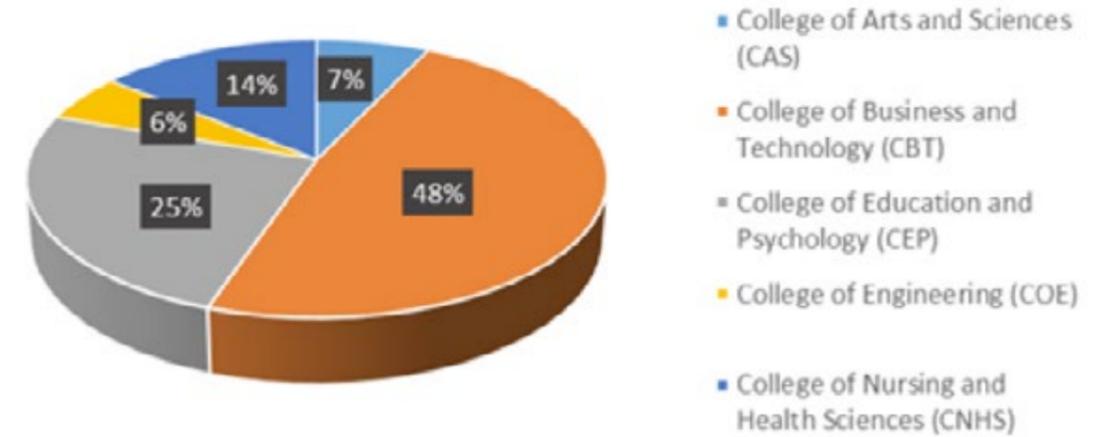
# GRADUATE SCHOOL

The growth of the Graduate School has continued. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, we saw an incredible increase of 28% in graduate degrees awarded, and as of Spring 2017, the Graduate School comprised 31% of the university's total enrollment.

**DR. WILLIAM GEIGER**  
VICE PROVOST AND DEAN



## Master's Degrees Awarded 2015-2016



The 2016-2017 academic year has been all about efficiency for the Graduate School.

We are excited about our new “rooftop marketing” project, which allows us to determine where potential interest in UT Tyler is located and specifically target that area. This increases the efficiency of our recruitment email strategies, allowing us to put extra emphasis on these areas.

We have completed implementation of ImageNow Workflow for all eligible departments, and have a demonstratively quicker turnaround time for applications – a decision is usually rendered within a week of the application’s completion. Departments have been universally enthusiastic about this new system.

We have also streamlined our application process. The inclusion of departmental items in the PeopleSoft checklist has allowed us to centralize the collection of admission documents and more effectively and efficiently communicate to applicants what they still need to do to be considered for admission.

To aid in document collection, our office manager, Chelsea Crain, has become a Notary Public. This allows us to make

notarized copies of original documents for students who cannot get replacement documents from their issuing institutions. This is an especially great benefit for our international applicants.

The New Graduate Fellowship awarding process has been revamped with an eye towards efficiency. New procedures and record keeping systems have been put in place. Students are notified of their awards within days of the application deadline.

We are in the second year of ScholarWorks, and can report a great success there. We have had over 20,000 downloads of UT Tyler-generated scholarship since its inception, and the pace is only increasing. These downloads are coming from across the country and around the world.

Graduate Admissions has begun sending Welcome Boxes to newly admitted students in an effort to increase their enrollment rate. These are custom boxes that contain a UT Tyler T-shirt and other gear to let the student know they are welcome here. So far, the response has been unanimously positive.



# ROBERT R. MUNTZ LIBRARY

During the last academic year, the Robert R. Muntz Library continued to advance our position as a center of discovery, exchange, and advancement of ideas. As such, we are building upon our strong foundation of resources and services with the expansion of support for the changing scholarly environment, research and curriculum, and engagement with our faculty, students and the community.

**JEANNE STANDLEY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## CHANGING SCHOLARLY ENVIRONMENT

“Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment. Open Access ensures that anyone can access and use these results—to turn ideas into industries and breakthroughs into better lives.” - SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition)

The Robert R. Muntz Library is committed to providing access to the scholarly achievements of the UT Tyler community. As such, the University Archives and the Graduate School have partnered to create the University’s institutional repository, Scholar Works, which supports and promotes open access. Content in Scholar Works includes student theses and dissertations, faculty scholarship, and university archives digital collections. In the past 1.5 years, works from 24 different faculty have been downloaded by over 3,200 researchers from across the globe. Scholar Works at UT Tyler currently holds 876 unique items, which have been downloaded over 22,000 times.

A working group was formed to educate and inform the UT Tyler community about scholarly communication issues, with the aim to increase awareness of copyright policies and related issues, fair use, author rights, open access, Scholar Works at UT Tyler, and predatory journals and how to avoid them. If interested in learning more about open access, author rights, or Scholar Works, check out the Scholarly Communication research

guide: [libguides.uttyler.edu/scholcomm](http://libguides.uttyler.edu/scholcomm).

The University Archives is also implementing a web-crawling system that archives born-digital items from the University’s website. The web-crawling system will be much like the Internet Archive Wayback Machine, allowing us to capture and preserve information that has only been published online.

## RESEARCH AND CURRICULUM SUPPORT

The Library Public Services Department, which includes Circulation, Reference, Instruction, and Outreach is quite pleased with our accomplishments for 2016-17. The Circulation department loaned thousands of items and continues to support the interlibrary loan department.

At the request of the Student Government Association, the library extended hours until 2:00am Sunday through Thursday. We accomplished supporting longer hours with the addition of one new position and changes to existing work duties. We are very pleased with the response of our students to our extended hours and the volume of usage our collaborative learning spaces receive.

The Reference department continues to support faculty, staff, students, and our community information resource needs. The librarians, who also serve as liaisons to the academic programs, work directly with faculty and students to meet their information and research needs. Librarians provided reference and research assistance both on an individual and class basis. This past year, Librarians held over 360 research sessions, both individually and in groups, reaching over 3,000 students.

“Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. Information literacy is also increasingly important in the contemporary environment of rapid technological change and proliferating information resources.” -ACRL (Association



of College and Research Libraries)

We are in our 3rd year of what was previously the Research Ready pilot study. Partnering with Dr. Emily Standridge (Literature faculty and Writing Center Director), we have completed the overall design for integrating a set of Research Literacy (formerly Research Ready) lessons into both ENGL 1301 & ENGL 1302 courses. Since the Spring 2017 semester, we have established a focus group with core ENGL 1301/1302 instructors to both strengthen the lessons in terms of information literacy as well as integrate more of the course information into the lessons. Research Literacy lessons were implemented in two ENGL 1301 sections and ten ENGL 1302 sections for a total of 12 sections, a significant increase from the 2 sections in the previous year. Using pre- and post-testing, students within these sections showed a 20% improvement in their understanding of information literacy concepts.

The Library provides individualized resource and service reviews in accordance with the UT Tyler External Review Master Calendar 2017-19, and upon request from the various

academic departments. Subject-specific resources are evaluated employing the Library of Congress, Research Libraries Group Conspectus collection levels, as a guide to document areas of strength in the Library collections in support of research endeavors and curriculum focus. Reviews are also provided for new academic programs being developed across the academic departments and other requests, such as for grant submissions. Over the past year, the Library has compiled and provided over 12 comprehensive reviews across a wide range of academic programs, such as M.Ed. of Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Occupational Therapy, and a Nursing Program Review specifically for a grant submission.

### FACULTY AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Library, in partnership with the Provost and Academic Affairs, hosted our third "Celebration of Scholarship and Creativity Reception." Organized to highlight the exceptional achievements of research and scholarship our faculty contribute to the expansion of knowledge, the reception and

## THE NUMBERS

	PAST YEAR	LAST 3 YEARS
eBook Usage	↑46%	↑165%
Electronic Resources Usage	↑185%	↑216%
Print Books Usage	↓-24%	↓-36%
# Reference Questions	↑43%	↑84%
# Reference Questions at 11PM (Peak Period)	↑504%	↑278%
# of Students at One Time	↑20%	↑228%

corresponding magazine, A Celebration of Scholarship and Creativity, continue to be well received. Additionally, the newly implemented, "Crystal Talon Award", established to recognize exceptional research and creativity, was awarded to 12 faculty members. The Provost's office presented copies of thirteen faculty books for addition to the Library's collection.

During the past year, University Archivist Terra Gullings presented "Subscription, Interlibrary Loan, or Nothing: How to ensure global Access to your Scholarly Works" as part of a series of workshops from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. This workshop demonstrated how faculty can use Scholar Works at UT Tyler to store, preserve, and provide worldwide access to their scholarly endeavors. It also included a discussion about open access, including: copyright agreements, author rights, avoiding predatory journals, and benefits of adding content to Scholar Works at UT Tyler.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The University Archives participated in the planning and activities for Dr. Mabry's retirement celebrations, and this year, is

contributing to the planning of the Alumni House Grand Opening and President Tidwell's inauguration events.

The library hosted 40 displays from July 2016 through June 2017. This includes the re-introduction of the book display on the 3rd floor in January 2017. Collaborators included the University Archives, IELI, The Susan G. Komen Foundation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the League of Women Voters (LWV), PsiChi Club, and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

We also hosted 12 events over the year, including Summer Read-In, Swap Swipe Share (2), the Human Library event, Banned Books Week, and the Cormier Symposium. The hallmark events of our year are the Celebration of Scholarship and Creativity, hosted in conjunction with the Provost's office, and the biannual Night Against Procrastination, hosted with Student Life & Leadership, New Student and Family Programs, PASS, SI, and the Writing Center.

Our social media presence has increased dramatically over the course of the last year. Twitter impressions went from a high of 15,000 for the spring semester 2016, to a high of 28,000 for fall 2016, and those numbers have held steady over the spring of 2017. Profile visits have increased in a similar manner, from 1,500 in spring 2016 to 2,700 in spring 2017. Facebook analytics are sparser due to terminology being changed mid-year, making direct comparisons more challenging - but our total reach went from an average of 7,500 in spring 2016 to over 10,000 in fall 2016. The number of page views and impressions also increased in a similar fashion.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Library will continue its evaluation and expansion of technology, resources and services to meet the changing needs of the next generation scholars.

Beginning this summer, the Library and the Writing Center continued their successful

## LIB

partnership and established the “PubClub”. The PubClub meets once a week to support non-course related writing across all departments. Meeting in the library provides a dedicated location removed from the everyday spaces, for faculty/staff to focus on their writing, as well as a common meeting place to collaborate with other faculty/staff. The Writing Center provides peer-level writing experts specifically to benefit the faculty and staff, and research librarians are available to consult on reference research.

Please watch for these upcoming workshops provided by the library as part of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

### **Title: Copyright Issues Got You Down?**

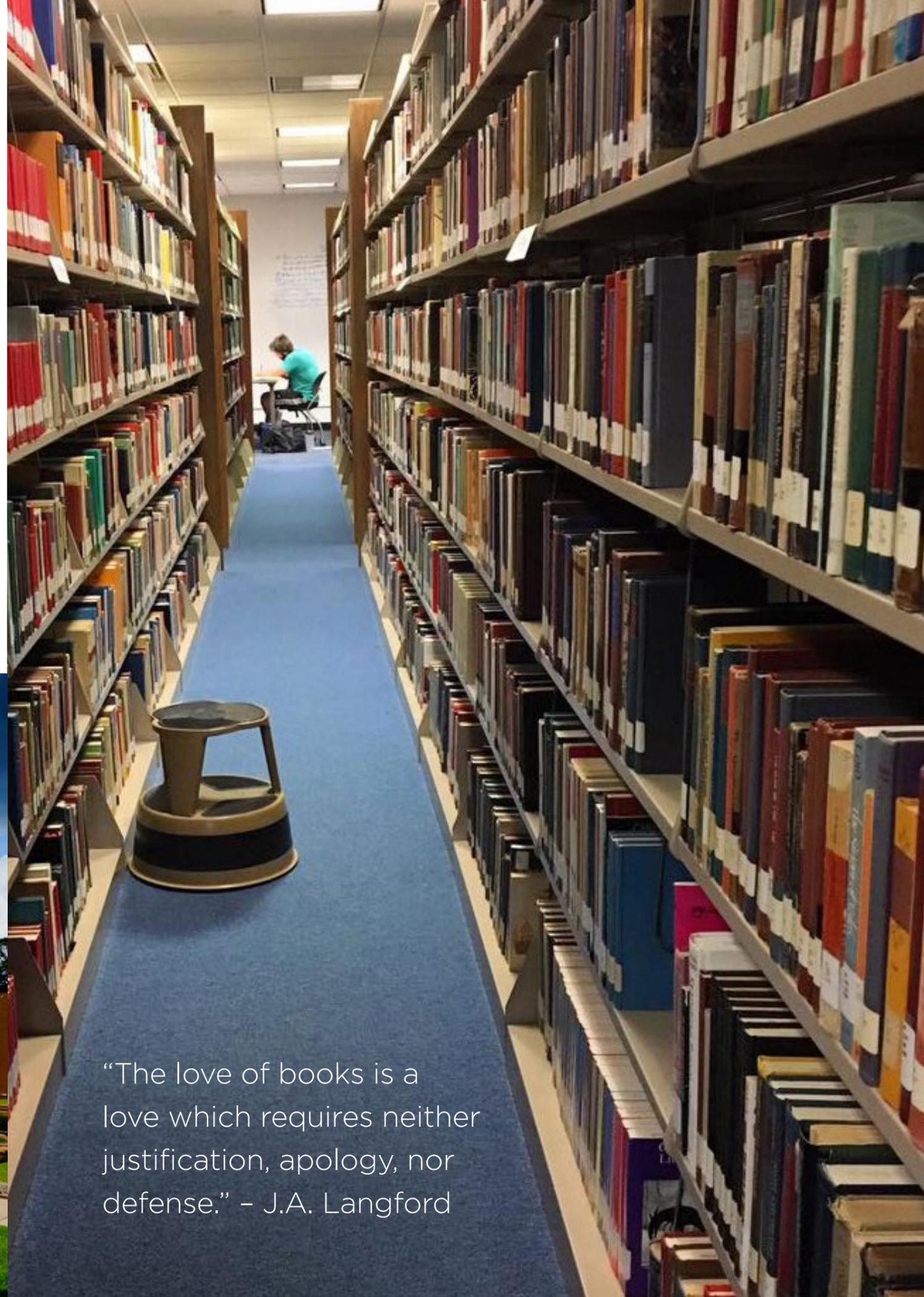
Updates from the Scholarly Communications Working Group (Terra Gullings and Kyle Gullings)

**Summary:** The use and creation of research are integral parts of faculty’s teaching and scholarship, but navigating the ins and outs of copyright issues, the allowances and exclusions, can be overwhelming. During

this workshop, participants will hear about what our Scholarly Communications Working Group has developed for faculty, including information relating to author rights, copyright, fair use, open access, creating access to faculty scholarship through Scholar Works at UT Tyler, and the use of open textbooks and other free course materials.

### **Title: ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy and the College Professor (Rebecca Fernandez and Christine Forisha)**

**Summary:** We work toward the same goal – having students who are able to navigate the vast and complicated information landscape in order to be successful in their fields of study – but we can benefit from having a common language to work together. The Information Literacy Frameworks provide a crosswalk to talk about literacies and competencies that span disciplines in a language that is not unique to just one. This workshop will provide faculty a look at the pedagogical framework the librarians use to help students develop information literacy skills.



“The love of books is a love which requires neither justification, apology, nor defense.” – J.A. Langford



# OFFICE OF SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



The Office of Special Academic Programs (SAP) experienced continued success in our mission to provide transformative learning experiences for undergraduate students at The University of Texas at Tyler. SAP oversees four programs: The Honors Program, GATE (Global Awareness Through Education), The Archer Fellowship, and the Freshman Book. These programs impact well over a thousand students and faculty members, both in and out of the classroom.

**DR. PAUL STREUFERT**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year, the Honors Program grew to its largest size in its eight-year history, as 121 students participated in the program. The Honors Program includes students from six of the seven colleges at UT Tyler and has maintained high academic standards, as the average GPA of students in the program is 3.67/4.0, representing a slight increase over last year.

#### EDUCATION:

- Honors Program grew to 121 students, with groundwork laid to take 140 students next academic year.
- This spring saw the 100th graduate of the Honors Program walk the stage, including the first significant number of graduates from the Honors in the Major-Psychology track.

#### ACCREDITATION:

- Spring 2017 included our first external peer review by Dr. Guy Litton, Executive Director of Honors Programs at Texas Woman's University. Dr. Litton's evaluation included the following statement: "It is important to note that, while the UT Tyler Honors Program is still relatively young (not quite at the end of its eighth year), it is widely regarded by many in the state of Texas as being the best new honors program at any four-year institution in the past decade."

#### RESEARCH:

- Five Honors Program students presented original research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Seattle: Kierin Stevens (CAS-math), Gerardo Viera Perez (CAS-math), Mack Stewart (CE-MENG), Alaina Strehl (CNHS-nursing), Haylee Brewer (CBT-marketing).
- Four students presented original research at our regional conference, hosted by the Great Plains Honors Council: Ashley Atkins (CBT-marketing), Rebecca Floyd (CNHS-kinesiology), Mary-Elizabeth

Smith (CAS-history), and Penny Dutton (CEP-education). Mary-Elizabeth Smith was nominated for a Boe Prize, the recognition of academic excellence by GPHC.

- Along with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, the Honors Program designed and hosted the second annual Lyceum Conference, a celebration of research at the University of Texas at Tyler. A total of 54 students, both undergraduate and graduate, participated in the research showcase, exploring their ideas in poster and presentation sessions. This year's Lyceum saw an increase in faculty participation and our first award for best faculty mentor.
- Honors students, through the student group Logos, have adopted the highway on University Blvd. near campus. Honors





students, faculty, and staff keep the highway clean by performing trash pick-ups four times a year. This spring our group was featured on KETK in a news report about the Adopt a Highway Program.

- The Honors Program hosted its first Sophomore Day of Service, which saw 15 Honors students, faculty, and staff renovate two houses in north Tyler owned by PATH.
- The Honors student group, Logos, created over 100 Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Brookdale, a retirement home near campus.

**STUDENTS-CURRICULUM:**

- This academic year, the Honors staff laid the groundwork for three new Honors in the Major tracks, in nursing, mechanical engineering, and criminal justice.
- The Honors Program implemented four new HNRS zero-credit seminars to help provide structure, ease of advising, and improved program retention.

**STUDENTS-EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS:**

- Our fifth annual Global Quiz Night drew a record crowd of 270 participants.
- Honors students attended the lecture given by Freshman-Book author and celebrated psychiatrist Norman Rosenthal.

- Honors students and the UT Tyler community participated in four other Honors Colloquia including a trip to Dallas for Shakespeare in the Park, a talk on student mental wellness, a viewing of the film North by Northwest, and a lecture by Dr. Vivek Pandy from CBT.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

- The Honors Program will continue to work on Honors in the Major initiatives in nursing, mechanical engineering, and criminal justice.
- To accommodate more students and increase the quality and quantity of Honors classes, the Honors Program will redesign curriculum and policies for implementation in the next academic year.



**STUDENTS:**

- In June and July of 2017, the GATE Program led its cohort of 17 global scholars on a five-week travel study to Vietnam. Students studied government and rhetoric with UT Tyler professors. The travel study also included a partnership with Hoa Sen University in which GATE students participated in a service learning program involving the SOS Children's Village, which houses over 200 orphans in Ho Chi Minh City.

**STUDENTS-EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS:**

- El Grito, Mexican Independence Day celebration. Co-sponsored with the Campus Activities Board, this event had an attendance of over 200.
- Along with the Art of Peace organization, GATE co-sponsored the Art of Peace banquet, which included an address by Rabbi Neal Katz and included attendance of over 100 community members.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

- In the coming year, GATE will transition to a faculty learning community for Globalism and Diversity in partnership with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.



**STUDENTS AND CURRICULUM:**

- SAP oversaw the participation of four UT Tyler students in the Archer Center Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. and also the selection of another four for participation in the next academic year.
- SAP staff met with new representatives from the Archer Center to discuss recruitment strategies.
- SAP staff redesigned undergraduate and graduate Archer curricula to stay current with Archer offerings.



The Freshman Book Committee hosted a talk by author, Norman Rosenthal about his text The Gift of Adversity. More than 140 were in attendance at this event. The committee also chose Ed Hume's Garbology for next year's freshman book.





# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The mission of the University College is to be the catalyst of growth, and incubator of innovation, and a resource for every faculty member and student to support their professional and personal success. To accomplish this mission, the Offices of Degree Completion and Extension, Digital Learning, and Pre-College Programs have had an impressive year, accomplishing many significant goals. It has been a pleasure leading such a dedicated and selfless group of individuals. Every University College staff member believes in “Making it Happen”.

## DR. SCOTT MARZILLI

Assistant Vice President for Academic Innovation and Student Success  
Dean of University College



A once College-wide achievement that was the result of the entire team working together was the \$1,444,000 Greater Texas Foundation Scholars grant. In order to increase the number of Early College High School graduates in Texas who transition to and complete four-year degrees by providing both financial and non-financial supports. This 8-year initiative will be housed in the Office of Degree Completion and Extension and led by Kristie Allen, Senior Coordinator. This grant will mark the University’s first strategic effort in recruiting and retaining ECHS graduates, a typically underrepresented and underserved population of students. We have already begun working with TJC, Tyler ISD and Chapel Hill ISD to make a 4-year college education attainable in only 2 years after graduating from high school.

### THE OFFICE OF DEGREE COMPLETION AND EXTENSION

The Office of Degree Completion and Extension experienced a year of transformation and expansion. With the help of Kristie Allen, the Senior Coordinator, students within the Bachelors of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree program were transitioned out of University College and into five Academic Colleges (College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Technology, College of Education and Psychology, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Engineering) making the BAAS UT Tyler’s only true multidisciplinary degree. This multi-college transition was made possible through the Office’s systematic and strategic preparation, comprehensive advisor training, and ongoing

troubleshooting and support for students within the program.

While maintaining central coordination of the BAAS, the Office of Degree Completion and Extension also produced several program-specific initiatives this past year. A Professional Internship course was designed to provide students within the program an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge acquired through the 21 for 21 curriculum in a real-life setting. The Office also developed and implemented a Student Success Coach model for all the UNIV courses that provides an unparalleled support to students in an online classroom environment.



The Office of Degree Completion and Extension continued to work collaboratively with the North Texas Community College Consortium to develop pathways from AAS degrees in regional two-year schools and the University of Texas at Tyler’s BAAS degree. Additionally, there were new formalized partnerships with Lone Star Community College, Odessa College, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, and UT Medical Branch.

### THE OFFICE OF DIGITAL LEARNING

Dr. Holley Collier, Director of the Office of Digital Learning, spearheaded an eventful year for the Office of Digital Learning. While continuing to expand support services



to all Faculty and Staff, the office's main goal this year was to lead the successful transition from Blackboard to Canvas. While most universities take many years to fully transition, UT Tyler completed a full transition in less than 8-months. After months of preparation, The Office of Digital Learning launched a pilot of Canvas during the spring semester in partnership with the Department of Education Leadership and Policy Studies. During this time, the Office of Digital Learning created "Canvas 101" for faculty to learn more about the new platform, and added a Canvas 101 for students, to assist students with their onboarding as well. To date, 283 faculty have fully completed the Canvas 101 course which is available to all faculty at UT Tyler. In addition to Canvas 101, the office organized trainings and workshops for every college, with more than 60 trainings offered to faculty in preparation for the transition and more opportunities over the summer and continuing into the fall. As of the start of the summer semester, UT Tyler retired Blackboard and fully adopted Canvas.



Specific services have been added and expanded over the past year, including dedicated graphic design, additional digital support specialists for each college, and 24/7 Canvas support for faculty. Faculty and staff received help polishing their presentations, course materials, marketing items and promotional products. Since March 2017, more than 80 projects have been completed ranging from course banners and images to wall art and marketing materials. College specific support has been added for all courses (online, hybrid, and face to face) with specific support specialists working in each college to be even more available and better understand the needs of each college. It would not have been possible for a successful transition to Canvas with the support of these dedicated new additions to the office. Finally,

24/7 support has been added for faculty and students, with the transition to Canvas. Over the Spring Pilot and Summer Sessions, 693 contacts to 24/7 were generated. This



support allows UT Tyler faculty, staff, and students to reach out for help immediately by phone or chat any time of the day (or night).

The Office of Digital learning is excited to continue to partner with colleges, departments, and individuals on our campuses to impact teaching and learning, no matter the delivery method of the content.



#### THE OFFICE OF PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Over the past year, the PACE Program (Partners in Academic Concurrent Enrollment) has continued to see great success under the leadership of Katy Buerger. During the Fall and Spring semesters, 550 high school students across the state of Texas completed a total of 2,508 semester credit hours at UT Tyler in a variety of disciplines within the core curriculum. The PACE Program continues to facilitate partnerships between UT Tyler faculty and high school administrators and teachers to provide students with a quality academic experience that effectively prepares them for a university-level education and a bridge to ease the transition between high school and college.

The PACE Program, together with the College of Engineering, also added concurrent enrollment opportunities through a partnership with Project Lead the Way to expand college course offerings for high school students pursuing an Engineering

pathway at PLTW certified high schools. These students had the opportunity to enroll in a UT Tyler Engineering course over the course of the school year and complete it concurrently with their PLTW curriculum. This opportunity exposed approximately 130 students in 10 high schools across Texas to our campus and Engineering degrees and exposed them to Engineering at the university level. This facet of the PACE Program will expand in 2017-18 by offering an additional Engineering course, therefore serving additional students as well as increasing the number of high school partnerships across the state.

The PACE Program has also restructured the application/enrollment process for dual credit high school students through utilization of a customizable software system called DualEnroll.com, which is specifically designed for dual enrollment programs and completely customizable to our enrollment process. The development stage occurred in the Spring semester and the system went live at the end of May, allowing it to be utilized for the Fall 2017 application/registration process. The system has numerous unique reporting capabilities and has greatly enhanced the efficiency of the student application/enrollment process by condensing the application and allowing students to select their courses in an online format rather than on paper. This has resulted in a virtually paperless registration for PACE Program students and has streamlined much of the



workflow for processing at the university.

Approximately 28 high schools across the state are expected to participate in the PACE Program during the 2017-18 school year, which will further and increase the presence of UT Tyler across Texas. We are excited about continuing to expand and provide high school students with the educational experience and tools they need to succeed at the university level.

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Under the direction of the Executive Director, Ashley Bill, The Department of Academic Success is committed to cultivating students' successful intellectual habits by providing meaningful educational plans through quality academic advising, encouraging the use of academic support services and fostering positive community learning and social interaction. During 2016-17 year the Department's divisions of Academic Support and the University Advising Center provided thousands of hours of tutoring support and launched multiple initiatives across campus to promote and improve student success.



### UNIVERSITY ADVISING CENTER

The University Advising Center (UAC), under the direction of its Director, Veronica Viesca, worked with all colleges to implement the Academic Advising Task Force recommendations from June 2016. The first recommendation implemented was

embedding and physically moving freshman advisors into the colleges, thus eliminating the distinction between freshman and college advisors. This change fosters a connection between the student and the college in the first year which creates long-lasting bonds between students and their advisors. This change also allows students to work with one advisor for their entire undergraduate experience, creating an "admission to graduation" mentorship opportunity.

The UAC also worked with all colleges across campus to implement the Education Advisory Board's (EAB) Student Success Collaborative (SSC), a multi-function software program that focuses on student communication, advising note-keeping, and data analytics. The advising platform and communication center was launched in Fall 2016 and over 10,500 advising interactions were captured in the first nine months. The data analytics functions of SSC were launched in Spring 2017 providing college leadership the opportunity to view graduation rates by major and student attributes, see how the course grade earned relates to student success, and review the change of major analysis to determine the paths students are likely to take.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The division of Academic Support, under the leadership of its Director, Lauralee Meyer, provided undergraduate students with over 10,400 hours of Supplemental Instruction (SI) and 7,500 hours of tutoring from the PASS Tutoring Center over the course of the year. This critical academic support gave students the knowledge necessary to improve their understanding of the course content and ultimately culminated in a .5 average increase in their semester GPA over students who did not participate in SI.

Academic Support also launched three new programs designed to meet the unique needs of the PASSages freshmen who are traditionally underprepared for college. The programs created were:

- Jump Start - a summer bridge program



that enrolled students in a College Composition I course, an entry-level Mathematics course, and a Success Seminar during the Summer II session. All courses were supported by required tutoring sessions immediately following each class on a daily basis. Additional activities were planned for the students to get them acquainted with the campus, with each other, and with city of Tyler. The overall goal was to not only expose students to all the academic (and other) resources available at UT Tyler, but also to ease their transition to college by letting them experience college before the fall begins.

- Soft Start - is a program designed for the underprepared freshmen who chose not to participate in the summer Jump Start program. It combines limited semester credit hour enrollment with additional support through a Success Seminar. A

unique feature of this program is that students will start in 9 hours initially and then add on 3 hours midway through the semester. This will allow students to get accustomed to college with a lighter load before adding that 4th class.

- PASSages Partnership - a partnership with Tyler Junior College that will allow UT Tyler students who need to become TSI complete to do so while being dual enrolled. Students will take the developmental coursework needed through TJC while beginning their college careers with their traditional classes at UT Tyler. TJC faculty will utilize UT Tyler classrooms and resources for the courses, which will allow students to complete the developmental education they need while only navigating one campus. This partnership program also has credit hour limitations and enrollment in a Student Success seminar.



