

2015-16

Provost's Report

Office of Academic Affairs



The University of Texas at Tyler

A Letter from the Provost

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

It has been a great honor for me to serve as a member of the faculty and as the Provost of this incredible institution since July 2015. This has been a great year for us to come together with a sense of joy and pride for the institution and with a greater expectation of what we can accomplish together, and we have - from our joint town halls with the Faculty Senate to our effective Task Forces on Learning Management, Student Success, and Advising. Together with the Academy of Distinguished Teacher, we have re-shaped the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning around learning communities and the concept of “for faculty by faculty” with its founding director, Dr. Delello, and a place for the faculty to come together. We are bringing our campus jewel, the student-run, faculty-advised Patriot Talon and the new Talon Media Center to the heart of the University Center.



Dr. Amir Mirmiran

Throughout this report, you will see highlights of the accomplishments of our faculty and students, where we take pride in our graduate online nursing program ranked 7th by the US News & World Report, in our Executive MBA in Healthcare ranked 15th nationally by the Best Schools, in our biology faculty Dr. Seal as our first NSF Career awardee, in our nursing faculty Dr. Peterson on the \$2.1M federal grant to educate nurses - the largest such grant in the State of Texas, in our Fulbright Scholar Dr. Sterken who recently lectured at the US Embassy in Bangkok, and many more points of pride. We have also received approval for several new programs, including Doctor of Nursing Practice, BS in Information Technology, BS in Wellness, BS in General Business, and BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Our Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed its Pioneer Class of 82 students from a competitive pool of 600 applicants. We believe it is the vision of our founding dean, the innovative curriculum and the exemplary faculty that have drawn an unprecedented pool of 700 applicants for our second class of 108 students. Another success story has been the Houston Engineering Center (HEC), an innovative model with a seamless pathway for student success – the Center expects to enroll over 300 students this fall. Just as it gears up to celebrate its 20th anniversary in the coming year, our College of Engineering successfully hosted the 2016 National Concrete Canoe Competition.

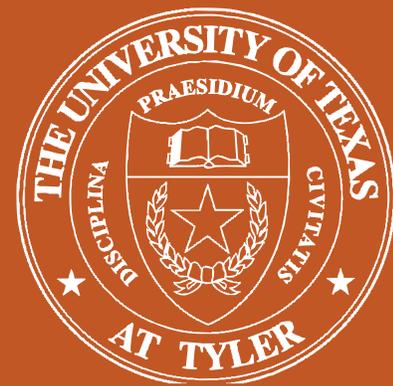
Our Honors program grew to its largest size in its history, while maintaining its highest academic standards and with participation from every college with undergraduate programs. With its new location at the University Center, the Honors program is poised to accelerate on its trajectory to become an Honors College as anticipated in the Strategic Plan.

This year, the Graduate School and the Robert R. Muntz Library launched Scholar Works to showcase the scholarly and artistic output of the UT Tyler faculty and students for the World to see.

Looking back at the history of this institution, the faculty has shown that if we believe in our dream, we can build it together. We hope that you will continue to invest your trust in our dream, and join us for the next leg of this exciting journey!

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

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MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Texas at Tyler is a comprehensive institution of higher education, serving the State of Texas through the pursuit of excellence in education, research, leadership, and public service, focused on East Texas through its campuses in Tyler, Longview, Palestine, Houston, and online.

Guided by outstanding and compassionate faculty who utilize an array of instructional delivery options, graduates of The University of Texas at Tyler learn to be courageous leaders, demonstrating critical thinking, effective communication, character, and integrity. Our students are inquisitive, focused on expanding their knowledge across a broad spectrum of topics. They are dedicated to seeking lifelong learning to be productive in a competitive and changing world. Graduates of The University of Texas at Tyler not only master their academic disciplines and career skills, but also develop positive values and interpersonal abilities, making them valued citizens of Texas and the world.

The University of Texas at Tyler, in an environment of academic freedom, provides trailblazing education from nationally recognized faculty scholars with expertise in the disciplines of the arts and sciences and in professions such as business, education, engineering, health sciences, and technology. The research and creative pursuits of the faculty drive continual advancement in scholarly expertise and the expansion of human knowledge. The fruits of these creative and scholarly efforts are disseminated to our students in the classroom, to the general public through publication, to our community through public service, and to the world through technology transfer. The University of Texas at Tyler supports lifelong learning, seeking to serve all individuals who desire to enhance their lives through education, develop their careers through professional development, and broaden their perspective through the development of new skills and discipline knowledge.



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16
DEAN: DR. MARTY SLANN



During the last academic year, the College of Arts and Sciences continued to enhance and augment its exceptional reputation, supporting its teaching and research faculty as second to none in excellence, and providing academic programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels that recognize the needs of students in the twenty-first century. The college is the largest on campus and home to over a dozen disciplines and majors in nine departments. What follows are highlights of the many and varied achievements of the college that has been accurately referred to as the “heart and soul of the university.”

The college has had success in positioning itself as the “pre-professional school of choice.” Our graduates increasingly go on to medical, law, dental, and pharmacy programs after being mentored by advisement centers that cater to pre-law and pre-med majors.

EDUCATION

The college currently offers a total of 16 undergraduate degrees in nine departments. It has 12 graduate degree programs, all at the master’s level. Approximately 1,500 UT Tyler students, or approximately one of every six Patriots, major in an Arts & Science discipline, with slightly over two hundred currently enrolled in our graduate programs. Approximately 40 undergraduate students are double majors either within or outside of the college, and we are working to expand this number. The college’s largest majors in descending order are Biology, Criminal Justice, English, Mass Communication, and Chemistry. Recently, a track in Biochemistry was established, and the college plans to add a master’s degree in Chemistry and a doctoral degree in Biology. In addition, the college has expanded its efforts at internationalization. Study tours to Costa Rica and Israel included record numbers of students.

ACCREDITATION

It should be noted that just two years ago, the Music program was assessed by NASM, the National Association of Schools of Music, and was found to be essentially flawless.

RESEARCH

The recently concluded academic year was another productive one in terms of scholarly presentations at professional conferences (over 100) and in publications of scholarly books, textbooks, and articles in peer-reviewed outlets. The college also achieved a record in the acquisition of external funding for scholarship. In particular, the Department of Biology had \$2.66 million and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry \$1.066 in active funding.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The School of Performing Arts provides dozens of shows, concerts, and other performances annually. The overwhelming majority of these are open and free to the public.

FACULTY

The college was fortunate to continue to recruit and retain extraordinarily gifted and talented faculty. Between 2014 and 2015 nearly 30 new faculty were recruited for both new and vacated lines. This is an extraordinary number considering the entire faculty cohort is 110 members. Several of these in the natural sciences brought research funding with them. We are especially pleased that the college is attracting younger teacher/scholars who enjoy and thrive in a culture that emphasizes a balance between teaching excellence and scholarship.

STUDENTS

Once more, student organizations sponsored by Arts and Sciences won significant awards and recognitions. The Debate Club is currently rated as the fourth best in North America and achieved numerous awards. The Model United Nations received awards in competitive regional and national conferences. Success was achieved in both cases by excellent collaboration between students and their faculty advisors.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

The college has benefitted substantially from the efforts of its Advancement officer who, in collaboration with department chairs and selected veteran faculty, has reached out to successful alumni. A total of \$500,000 was raised during 2015-2016, a record amount for us. Some of these monies were dedicated to the construction of the new Center for the Musical Arts. We are realistically hopeful that a current initiative may result in the naming of the College or the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

LOOKING AHEAD

The College of Arts and Sciences is the only college that provides courses that are required by students in the other colleges. At least 2,000 students each semester are enrolled in our classes. The faculty take great pride in their role as teachers, mentors, and scholars as they prepare students for their careers and life interests in the twenty-first century. Moving forward, we will continue to diligently pursue external funding, fundraising, and quality teaching

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DEAN: DR. JAMES LUMPKIN



This past academic year has been one of Building Distinction in the College of Business and Technology. The College has built significant growth, built distinctive new programs that will elevate the College on the national scene, and completed the design phase of a new signature, 140,000 sq. ft. Business Building that will bring the College together for the first time. I hope you will enjoy reading about just some of our activities and successes during the 2015-2016 academic year.



ENROLLMENT AND GROWTH

The College of Business and Technology saw another year of significant growth. All areas of the College grew with the largest growth in the MBA program. The CBT remains the largest College at UT Tyler with over 28% of total enrollment and over 48% of all graduate enrollment. Along with the enrollment growth, the CBT saw a record number of degrees awarded and accounted for 36% of all graduates at the University.

Even as the CBT enjoys outstanding growth, new recruiting and retention initiatives have been launched at the undergraduate level. These initiatives include a new freshman-level Introduction to Business course and a new Learning Community program.

The HRD Department's Ph.D. Program continues to thrive, having graduated 14 students since 2013. Currently the program has 65 active students, and 21 of those students are working on their dissertations.

PROGRAM RANKINGS

The College's MBA program is beginning to receive national recognition. The MBA in Healthcare Management was ranked 15th nationally by the Best Business Schools and the general MBA is 121st out of all MBA programs by US News and World Reports.

BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT

2,337	Total CBT
1,603	Business
237	Computer Science
202	Technology
295	HRD

GROWTH

9%	Total CBT
12%	Business
29%	MBA
11%	Student Credit Hours

DEGREES AWARDED

638

A NEW HOME FOR THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

The big news for the College this year was the approval and design of a new home for the College of Business and Technology. The 140,000 sq. ft. building will not only be the show piece of the University, but will allow us to bring all the departments together for the first time. The state-of-the-art building will enhance our ability to grow even more and add new high demand programs. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September 2016.

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

The faculty have been very active in strategically developing new academic initiatives. These include:

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Certified Financial Planner (CFP)
Internal Assurance and Consulting
Oil, Gas, and Energy Accounting
Certified Professional Category Analyst
SAP
Leadership

DEPARTMENT

Finance
Accounting
Accounting
Marketing
Business
Management

NEW DEGREE PROGRAM

Leadership Minor
General Business Major
Information Technology Major
Marketing and Cybersecurity Concentration
Executive MBA Healthcare Management

DEPARTMENT

Management
Business
Computer Science
MBA
MBA

The Industrial Technology degree (Technology), now being offered at the Longview University Center (LUC), is receiving strong support from business and industry in the region. The enrollment for the program doubled this past academic year. A new laboratory facility was created to allow students to take all course work need for this degree at the LUC.

SPECIAL OUTREACH EVENTS

The College presented three major speaker events during the year. These included the Economic Forecast Summit sponsored by the Hibbs Institute for Business and Economic Research featuring Laila Assanie, Business Economist of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; the Retail Summit sponsored by the Center for Retail Enterprises, featuring David Bishop, Managing Partner of Balvor, LLC.; and the Leadership Speaker Series featuring Lou Holtz, nationally recognized college & professional football coach and television football analyst. In addition, the Texas Productivity Center offered training sessions for Lean Champion Certification and the Center for Family and Small Enterprises held the annual Small Business Bootcamp, providing legal, banking, entrepreneurial and financial advice to attendees.

The CBT also holds Mock Team Interviews every fall and spring semester. Over 50 business representatives conduct the mock interviews with the students.

The Computer Science Department held its first Cyber Patriot Games Hackathon. The event was the culmination of a project from six classes, including Computer Science and Computer Information System senior projects courses. The event helped prepare students to defend cyber infrastructures. In addition, the department's Robotics Team placed 5th at the Texas tournament. The team lost in the semifinals to the eventual winner, UT Austin.

ALUMNI

The UT Tyler Alumni Association recognized three CBT alums as distinguished alumni. Distinguished alumnus Dr. Scott Scarborough (MBA 1999) former president of the University of Akron. Distinguished alumna Traci Kenner (BBA 1985) currently serves as assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, as the district's appellate chief. Matthew Riccardi (BBA 2007, MBA 2009) was recognized as the distinguished young alumnus. He is the senior manager of basketball operations and scout for the National Basketball Association's Brooklyn Nets organization.

Mr. E. Carroll Roge (MBA 2000) was promoted to Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives at East Texas Medical Center.

The CBT and the UT Tyler Alumni Association cohosted the first ever MBA Alumni After Hours. Forty-four MBA alumni and their guests networked with fellow alums as well as the CBT faculty and staff. Attendees were also provided with college updates that included current enrollment numbers, new programs and information on the new Business Building.

The CBT participated in the Dallas area UT Tyler Alumni event held at the Texas Rangers Game at Globe Life Park in Arlington. Of the alumni who attended, 44% were CBT graduates.

STUDENTS

The College is proud to have outstanding and active students. Paul Douglas Brown (MAcc 2014), received the Elijah Watt Sells Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for his performance on the CPA exam. Brown was one of only five winners in Texas and 75 in the U.S. out of 93,742 candidates who took the CPA exam. Fourteen Beta Alpha Psi members attended the regional meeting and five will attend the national meeting of Beta Alpha Psi.

The College is also pleased to have many outstanding student athletes. Kelsie Batten (Management), a member of the 2016 Division III Softball National Championship team, was named National Player of the Year, received the NCAA Division III Championship Most Outstanding Player award, HeroSports Pitcher of the Year, and numerous other awards and honors.

The Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) team

BY THE NUMBERS

NEW PROGRAMS

- 6 New Certificates
- 6 New Degrees

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 45 Programs Delivered
- 58 Faculty Involved in Community
- 45 Speakers in Classes
- 61 Student Research Projects
- 675 Students Involved in Projects

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

- 201 Peer Reviewed Publications
- 113 Presentations
- 2 Books Published
- 12 Chapters in Books
- 19 Grants Received by Faculty

consisting of Reagan Fair, Maria Lucia Elizondo, and Toby Wilkerson earned second place in the national SHRM case competition held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Maria Lucia Elizondo (MBA student) was named an Archer Public Policy Fellow and will spend the 2016 summer interning at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C.

A team of Marketing students conducted a research project for 7-11 and presented the results to the company's senior management at the corporate headquarters in Dallas.

Freshman Computer Science student Andrew Fobel is working on a grant from the Air Force Research Lab as part of the Small Business Innovation and Research Program. His work has already resulted in a publication at the IEEE Software Engineering Research, Management, and Applications (SERA 2016) conference.

The HRD Ph.D. students are generating a significant number of publications, and graduates are being placed well. This year Dr. Cathy Cockrell accepted a consulting position at Business Control Systems, Dr. Ashley Hall accepted an assisted professor position at Stephen F. Austin State University, and Dr. John Dexter accepted an assistant professor position at Troy University.

FACULTY

Several of the faculty in the College have received national and international recognition. Kathy Kapka was elected Chair of the Texas Society of CPAs and Dr. Veronda Willis was elected to the Executive Board. The Texas Society of CPAs is a professional organization with 27,000 members. Dr. Willis was also named Outstanding Educator by the Southwest Region of the American Accounting Association. Dr. Jim Cater (Management) was selected as a recipient of the 2015 Global Education Network Scholarship, and the Fitzpatrick & Francis Family Business Continuity Foundation Scholarship. Drs. Mark Miller and Heshium Lawrence (Technology) were invited to present papers at the 6th International Conference on Lean Six Sigma in Edinburgh, Scotland where they also conducted a certification training workshop for lean managers.

Dr. Marina Astakhova (Management), Dr. Kerri Camp (Marketing), and Dr. Barbara Wooldridge (Marketing) received the UT Tyler CBT research award, service award, and teaching award respectively for the 2015-2016 academic year. Dr. Wooldridge has been named the 2016 UT Tyler Distinguished Faculty Provost Fellow.

DEVELOPMENT

To support the Marketing Department's Insight Motivated Marketing (IMM360) initiative, the JDA Software Group donated software licenses valued at \$1,470,000 and Nielsen donated access to its consumer data. All undergraduate business students will have an opportunity to use these as part of their degree program. Three new scholarships were endowed this year for a total of \$450,000 in scholarship endowment in the College.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DEAN: DR. ROSS SHERMAN



This year the College of Education and Psychology began a variety of new and exciting initiatives in each department/school. As Walt Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it!" 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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

We began this academic year with the goal of developing an articulated strategic planning process for the College and each academic unit. This fall we commissioned a Vision 2025 Committee to identify the future aspirations for the College. In addition, the Dean's Strategic Plan was updated by the leadership team. Each academic unit also engaged in conversations in order to update their strategic plan to guide the Department/College.

PROGRAM GROWTH

Over the past few years the College has experienced tremendous growth in graduate programming. 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. A student in West Texas, the valley or Metroplex can now be a Patriot!

The Department of Psychology and Counseling has proposed a new Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology that is currently being reviewed by the UT System Board of Regents. We are optimistic the program will be approved and begin operating in the 2017-18 academic year.

BY THE NUMBERS

DEGREES AWARDED

81 Undergraduate
100 Graduate

EXTERNAL FUNDING GRANTS & CONTRACTS

\$7.7 million

COLLABORATORS

- Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County
- Salvation Army
- Andrews Center
- Tyler Independent School District
- Academic Rodeo

ACCREDITATION

The Department of Psychology and Counseling's M.A. program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is in its second 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. 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.

FACULTY

This year we bid a fond adieu to long time faculty members Drs. Chip and Olga Fisher and Mrs. Suzanne Brians. They served UT Tyler and the East Texas educational community for many years. The School of Education welcomed Drs. Karlyn Adams-Wiggins and Staci Zolkoski and the Department of Psychology and Counseling added Drs. Randy Moate and Jessica Holm. We look forward to their contributions to the University and their respective disciplines.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

The College of Education and Psychology and the Ingenuity Center continues to lead the University in external grant funding. During 2015-16 the faculty within the College generated 7.7 million dollars in external funding to provide scholarship funds for preservice teacher preparation, professional development for inservice teachers, direct services to middle school students as well as other initiatives. Kudos to the School of Education and Dr. Michael Odell, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Professor of Education and Mrs. Cindy Sherman, Senior Lecturer in Education for leading these initiatives.

SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY

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 College experienced a 200% increase in authored books and 63% increase in journal publications. The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies began preparation for the first online journal at the University entitled, Diversity, Social Justice & the Educational Leader. The inaugural edition is due out Fall 2016.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Improving the quality of life for East Texans through community out-reach and service is a mission the College of Education and Psychology takes very seriously. Whether it is tutoring children at the Salvation Army, 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.

In only the second year of 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.

ALUMNI

Whether it's pursuing a career in education or becoming a mental health professional, alumni from the College of Education and Psychology are adding value to their respective profession. This past year two alumnus were selected as Superintendents to lead their respective school districts. Dr. Chris Moran (M.Ed., 2000) assumed the helm at Whitehouse ISD and Mr. Cody Mize (M.Ed., 2010) was chosen to lead Winona ISD. They are but a small sample of all of the alumni that are making a difference in school districts and mental health agencies throughout Texas.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR EAST TEXAS

Our passion within the College of Education and Psychology is to prepare the next generation of Texas educators and mental health professionals. We know that one day one of our former students will teach a child to read, counsel a client through a difficult period or inspire a student to dream big. It is an awesome responsibility and a tremendous public trust.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DEAN: DR. MICHAEL MCGINNIS

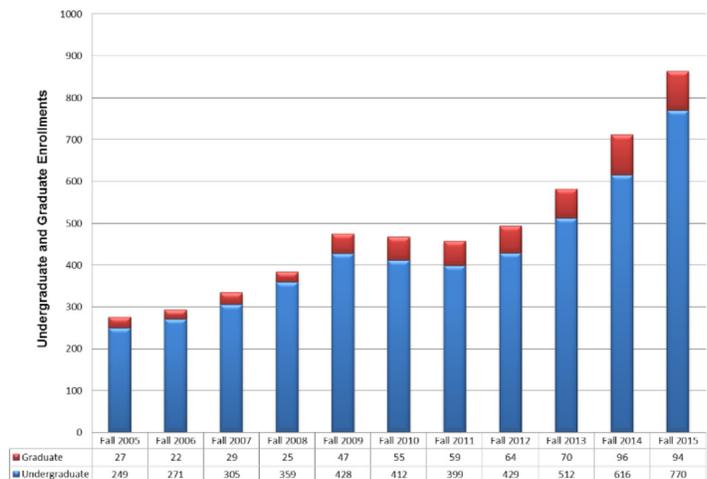


The past academic year has been one of growth and change in the College of Engineering (COE). We are pleased to welcome four new full time faculty, but also sadly had to say goodbye to our previous Dean, Dr. James Nelson, who left to serve as the Director of Texas A&M University System Engineering Academic Initiatives. This year, the College managed major growth in undergraduate enrollment, including demonstrating sustainable growth at the Houston Engineering Center (HEC), our second campus home that opened in 2013. Our IEEE student group earned the Region 5 Best Student Branch Award, and our Department of Civil Engineering and ASCE Student Chapter successfully bid for and hosted the 2016 ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition, which brought schools from across the U.S. and Canada such as UCLA and the University of Wisconsin to UT Tyler. In our Department of Mechanical Engineering, our faculty and students have continued to successfully collaborate with NASA to support training for the NASA Orion Spacecraft. Finally, the upcoming year represents our 20th Anniversary! Please look for more information as we plan a suite of events and activities to celebrate this important milestone.

ENROLLMENT AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

The College of Engineering saw another year of significant growth, with undergraduate enrollment moving from 616 to 770 students in fall of 2015. The total enrollment in the college was 864 students in the fall of 2015, a 21.3% increase from the previous year, with Mechanical Engineering experiencing particularly strong growth (40.8%). The enrollment at HEC also successfully hit our growth target of 250 students in the fall of 2015. Although enrollment in our graduate programs in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical engineering programs is essentially flat at approximately 95 students, information follows below about our new initiatives to reach this important market in the future.

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, our biggest educational initiative this year is in creating 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. Numerous high schools have already signed agreements to partner with UT Tyler as part of this initiative, which will have its initial offering in the fall of 2016.



ACCREDITATION

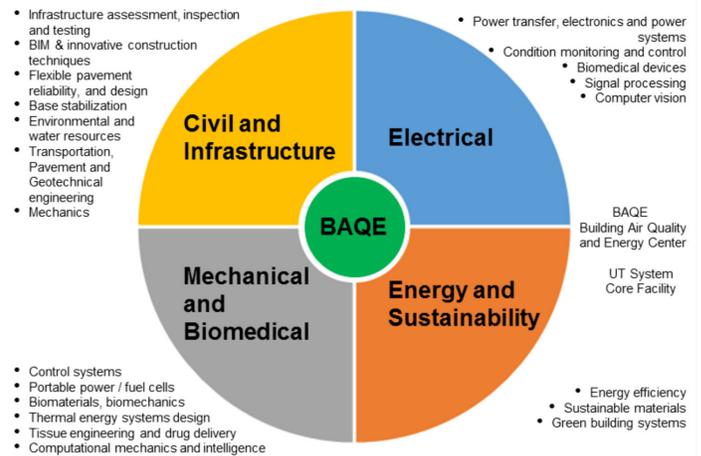
Our Civil, Mechanical and Electrical undergrad programs were successfully accredited by ABET in 2015, with next reviews scheduled for 2020 for re-accreditation in 2021. Our Construction Management undergrad program is currently under review by the ABET Applied Science Accreditation Commission, and we anticipate the first inaugural accreditation of this program in 2017.

RESEARCH

This year has been a busy one for the college on this front. Achievements of note included our Department of Civil Engineering with 100% of non-administrative faculty with ongoing or new extramural funding. Additionally, the COE published 20 journal articles and 26 conference papers, while submitting 38 research proposals to external funding agencies. We managed \$1,260,391 in new or continuing extramural funding as either PIs, CoPIs or Senior Investigators.

In research, we have recently identified five specific focus areas. 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 is 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, and our Marine Minds Summer Camp in July 2016. 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 water quality, built powered boats 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. Dr. Torey Nalbome was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in 2016. We welcomed Dr. Chung Goh in the fall of 2015 to the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Goh's interests are in computational design and manufacturing innovation, particularly in mechanics and materials. In the fall of 2016, Dr. Premanda Indic will join the Department of Electrical Engineering, bringing his expertise and interest in biomathematical modeling and sensors. Dr. Shih-Feng Chou will be joining our Department of Mechanical Engineering, bringing expertise in biomechanics, biomaterials, and tissue engineering. In the fall, Mr. Joe Boylan will join our Department of Construction Management, bringing over 30 years' experience as a CEO and project manager to that group.



Dr. Chung Goh



Dr. Shi-Feng



Dr. Premanda Indic

STUDENTS

It has been an exciting year for our students. Our IEEE chapter's robotics team placed 5th at the Texas VEXU NBN Championships, losing in the semi-finals to eventual champion, UT Austin. The ASCE Student Chapter's Concrete Canoe team placed 4th (of 16) at the Texas-Mexico Student Conference with their entry 'Bridgette', an innovative two-piece canoe that the judges agreed was unlike anything the conference has ever seen, and earned the ASCE Texas Section Keith McBride Spirit of the Competition Award. Perhaps most excitingly, our inaugural ASCE Steel Bridge Team, who are also our first student competition team with a home base at HEC, finished tied for third with their first ever entry into the Texas-Mexico Student Conference, "Genesis."

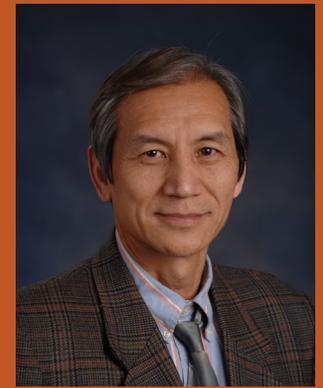
LOOKING AHEAD

Three new programs and initiatives are highlighted here. First, as noted above, 2016-2017 represents the college's 20th Anniversary, with large celebratory events already scheduled for February and March 2017, and more events highlighting the importance and excitement of engineering to come throughout the academic year. Second, as we seek to increase access to careers in engineering, we will officially offer the state-wide Introduction to Engineering dual credit class for the first time this fall, while we develop a second course in this track, Engineering Graphics, for roll out the following year. Finally, as noted above, our graduate program enrollment is relatively flat, yet we know that graduate degrees are becoming ever more critical in today's rapidly changing STEM fields. We are exploring 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.

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DEAN: DR. YONG “TAI” WANG



The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) continued to grow in student enrollment, degrees awarded, research and training grants, international initiatives and faculty and student engagement during the 2015-16 academic year. Currently, we have two units in the College: the School of Nursing and the Department of Health and Kinesiology. Our Nursing graduate programs continued to be highly ranked nationally and new health professional programs have been approved or prepared. Our faculty and staff continued to work hard to help students succeed. In the CNHS, we have built positive momentum to further move the College forward.

ENROLLMENT, GROWTH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The overall enrollment in the CNHS in Spring 2016 reached 2,295 students which is a 5% growth with comparison to the enrollment of last year (Table 1). Specifically, the growth is 7.9% for the School of Nursing and -4.9% for the Department of Health and Kinesiology. The CNHS accounts for 27.5% of the total enrollment at UT Tyler, respectively. We have had 567 graduates in the academic year of 2015-2016 which is a 34% increment with comparison to the number of graduates in the last academic year.

Table 1. The CNHS student graduation in 2015-2016 and the enrollment of Spring 2016

	CNHS	School of Nursing	Department of H&K
Enrollment	2,295	1,770	525
Enrollment growth %	5.1%	7.9%	-4.9%
Graduation	571	415	156
Graduation growth %	34%	41.6%	17.3%

The School of Nursing: The School of Nursing itself accounts for approximately 21% of the total enrollment at UT Tyler. 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 99% pass rate on the FNP certification exam in 2016.

The Department of Health and Kinesiology: After several years of growth, Spring 2016 enrollment represented a 4.9% reduction in comparison to that of Spring 2015. The Department is currently developing several new curriculum initiatives to address student interests and needs, such as the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Health & Kinesiology degree program is awaiting final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

NATIONALLY RANKED

Our Nursing graduate online programs have been well recognized nationally. The online graduate nursing programs were ranked #7 in the country by US News & World Report in 2016 (#6 was John Hopkins University and #5 was Duke University).

NEW PROGRAMS

The Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP): On January 21, 2016, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) gave approval to the School of Nursing to offer a new degree, the DNP. The first students were admitted in spring and began coursework in summer 2016.

Certificate in Nursing Informatics: The School of Nursing also offered a new certificate in Nursing Informatics. Seven students enrolled in the first cohort, and will finish the program in summer 2016. The enrollment for fall 2016 is anticipated to be double that of the first year.

BA in Health & Kinesiology Degree Program: This new degree is designed to prepare students for careers in the popular “wellness coaching” and “fitness training” industry. We are currently developing proposals for several other new degree programs, including a BS in Nutritional Science, MS in Healthcare Informatics (joint effort with the School of Nursing).

PhD in Biomedical Sciences: (Interdisciplinary joint effort with UT Health Northeast). Currently, we are one of the Colleges working with UT Health Northeast on this dual PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Susan Yarbrough from our College is chairing this committee and the progress has been reported to Provost Mirmiran.

Master of Occupational Therapy Program (MOT) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program: The CNHS currently is developing its MOT and DPT Programs. We have reserved a slot for an MOT program with American Occupational Therapy Association and finalized our MOT proposal for UT System and THECB. It is anticipated that we will start our first MOT class in May, 2017 or earlier. We are preparing a DPT proposal for UT System and THECB and hope to start our first class in 2018 or 2019.

Health Informatics Master Degree and Gerontology Certificate: A new healthcare informatics master’s degree is being planned as a joint effort between the School of Nursing and Health & Kinesiology. A multi-disciplinary Gerontology certificate is also being explored.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

2016 Summer International Innovation Teaching Workshop: We organized our first International Innovation Teaching Workshop scheduled for July 17-31, 2016 at UT Tyler. The purposes of this Teaching Workshop are to introduce new teaching concepts, innovative teaching methods and the application of advanced technology in the teaching-learning environment. There are 29 participants who are University faculty in Nursing or Health/Kinesiology or Nursing Administrators from five different Universities/Colleges. This International Innovation Teaching Workshop will strengthen the international collaborations between UT Tyler and the Universities in China and Taiwan and increase the international visibility of UT Tyler.

International MSN Cohort Program: The School of Nursing in the CNHS is working with the HOPE School of Nursing at Wuhan University and the School of Nursing at Shandong University to develop face to face MSN degrees in Administration or Education for their BSN graduates. We are working on the admission procedure under the direction of UT Tyler Graduate School and hope to start the first class in Fall of 2017.

MS Transfer Plan for Health Sciences and Kinesiology: We proposed a MS transfer plan in Health Sciences and Kinesiology and shared the curriculums examples with seven Universities/Colleges in China. We are also working on the admission procedure under the direction of UT Tyler Graduate School and hope to start the first class in Fall of 2017.

Hosting Visiting Scholars and Exchange Student: During this past academic year, the school welcomed its first international student taking undergraduate courses as an exchange student. Lisa Yu, from Shandong University in China, spent the spring semester at UT Tyler, with credits transferring back to her home university in China. We also hosted 6 international scholars for the academic year, including Dr. Hee-Young Kang, from Chosun University in South Korea, Professor Xinguo Yuan from Yangtze University, Dr. Yuhua Gao from Guangzhou Sport University in China, Mr. Lun Li from China University of Geosciences, Dr. An Ru from Shandong Sports University in China and Dr. Ting (Judy) Liao from Wuhan Sports University in China. These visiting scholars were/are working under the mentorship of our faculty in teaching and research.

RESEARCH

Research and Training Grants/Projects: The Department of Health & Kinesiology maintains an outstanding program of research and scholarship in multiple areas related to human health, wellness, and movement. Funded areas of research for 2015-2016 include, 1) Osteoporosis and prediction of bone fracture risk (Dr. Dong, NIH), 2) Exercise and stroke risk in patients with atrial fibrillation (Dr. Tseng, AHA), 3) Exercise and peripheral vascular disease (Dr. Arce-Esquivel, internal grant), 4) Prevention of hypertension during pregnancy (Dr. Francis, Trinity Mother Francis Foundation), and 5) Development of smoking cessation programs (Dr. Cooper, Texas DSHS). Health & Kinesiology faculty research expenditures for 2015-2016 totaled ~\$80,000. This includes 4 externally-funded projects and 4 internal seed grants.

The School of Nursing is making advances in obtaining grant funding. Of note, Dr. Sandra Petersen was awarded a grant related to educating MSN-FNP students. The grant, titled True North: An Academic-Practice Partnership, is funded for 2.1 million dollars by HRSA. Dr. Amy Toone also obtained a small education grant (\$1,500). Several faculty have current research grants, including Dr. Barbara Haas (completing a 3-year \$147,800 grant through Baylor to study exercise in persons with cancer); Dr. Gloria Duke (collaborating with TAMU on an intervention related to human trafficking); and Dr. Beth Mastel-Smith (internal grant to use Tai Chi and electronic tablets to improve health and cognition in older adults). Others have submitted research grants and are awaiting notification (Dr. Melinda Hermanns, Dr. Danita Alfred).

Table 2. The CNHS research and training grants in 2015-2016

	CNHS	School of Nursing	Department of H&K
Research	\$271,176	\$53,700	\$218,476
Training	\$699,985	\$ 699,985	-
Total	\$972,161	\$753,685	\$218,476

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

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

	CNHS	School of Nursing	Department of H&K
Peer-reviewed full length publication	76	56	20
Presentations	81	72	9
Books	1	1	0
Book Chapters	10	6	4

INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

The Institute for Integrated Healthcare (IIH) celebrated a one-year anniversary in May 2016. The purposes of establishing IIH are to external research and training funding; to enhance undergraduate/graduate student research; and to promote community healthy. The inaugural year was a busy year as evidenced by increased visibility, new members, grant submissions, and the allocation of research and training funds.

A new website for the IIH was developed and launched in October 2015, just prior to the major remodeling of the University of Texas at Tyler website. Policies and procedures related to membership were developed in the fall of 2015 followed by recruitment of 17 new members in spring 2016. The initial membership drive focused on the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; recruitment will be extended to other University and Community partners in fall 2016.

Three IIH members, Dr. Sandra Petersen, Dr. Neil Dong, and Dr. Ben Tseng have new or extended external funding. Additional members, Dr. Danita Alfred, Dr. Melinda Hermanns, Dr. Neil Dong, and Dr. TaiYong have submitted grant applications for external funding that are either in review or are being revised for resubmission. The IIH provided financial support for six IIH members' ranging from \$100.00 to \$4,000.00 for research and non-research related projects that fit the mission and goals of the IIH. The IIH funded five faculty to attend NIH and NSF grant-writing workshops. Volume 1, Issue 10 of the IIH Newsletter is slated for dissemination in early fall 2016. The IIH will use the Newsletter to share and honor the work of current members, recruit new members, and inform others of the work of the IIH.

FACULTY AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The School of Nursing sponsored a very successful Civility in Nursing conference. Attendees represented numerous schools across the region. 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 named to the inaugural Texas Nurses Association (TNA) Policy Council. Dr. Karen Timmons was appointed to the TNA Board of Governmental Affairs Committee.

Dr. Pam Martin is now chair of the THECB Pre-nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee. Dr. Barbara Haas was elected chair of NEXus, a national group of schools of nursing offering online courses for doctoral students.

Faculty were also recognized for scholarly and clinical practice excellence. In June, 2016, Dr. Sandi Petersen was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. In fall 2016, Dr. Ellen Fineout-Overholt's evidence-based practice book was named the #1 research text for 2015 by American Journal of Nursing. The text, titled Evidence-based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare: A Guide to Best Practice, is used by several professional schools, including nursing, pharmacy, and physical therapy.

School of Nursing students also enjoyed recognition for their efforts related to health policy and patient advocacy. The UT Tyler Texas Student Nursing Association (TSNA) chapter was recognized at the state convention when Level 2 student Taylor Dotson was elected TSNA President. The chapter also presented two resolutions to the TSNA House of Delegates and received the annual TSNA award for political involvement.

Dr. Fletcher Njororai was awarded a competitive STAR Fellowship funded by the NIH, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, through the University of North Texas Health Science Center. This fellowship involved intensive training in federal grant-writing in the area of Healthcare disparity research, and will culminate with submission of an NIH grant application (Dr. Njororai, PI). Dr. Benjamin Tseng was awarded a Beginning Grant-in-Aid from the American Heart Association. Dr. Tseng also received an internal Research Award from UT Tyler's Office of Research and Technology Transfer. Dr. Jimi Francis was awarded a grant from the Trinity Mother Francis Foundation to study early predictors of gestational hypertension.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As part of a new collaboration with Walmart Care Clinics, Walmart provided three new immediate use scholarships to students pursuing an MSN-FNP degree. Discussions continue on expanding those contributions to endowed scholarships.

A major initiative to develop a wellness center within the university is currently under consideration to help develop an interprofessional center for education, service, community outreach, and research.

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 2015-2016, the Patriot Academy had 30 children enrolled, ranging in age from 6 to 15 years old. This represents ~5% increase over the previous year. The Patriot Academy program is now self-supporting, providing the salary for adjunct physical education instructor, Judy Stanley, to administer the program.

The Department of Health & Kinesiology also conducts an annual Physical Education Workshop, which provides current and cutting-edge continuing education to local physical educators in East Texas. This year (October 2016), the 6th annual Workshop featured a program conducted by Chad Triolet, President of the Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and a former Southern District AHPERD Elementary Physical Education teacher of the Year. Fifty physical educators from the surrounding area attended.

BEN & MAYTEE FISCH

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16
DEAN: DR. LANE BRUNNER



More than a decade in the making, The University of Texas at Tyler established the first Doctor of Pharmacy program in East Texas. The College is honored to be named in honor of Ben and Maytee Fisch as their dedication and care for the people of East Texas exemplified the values we hold dear in the College of Pharmacy. Through the commitment and dedication of the University community, the Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy is proud to have enrolled its first students in fall 2015. We look to creating strong, meaningful, and lasting ties in East Texas and throughout the nation.

Our mission is to advance public health and wellness in East Texas and beyond through innovation and collaboration in pharmacy education, scholarship and advocacy.

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

The Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy offers a single academic program leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The four-year curriculum is a graduate-level, professional doctorate program which allows graduates to practice as pharmacists once they pass state and national board exams.

The innovative curriculum educates students about the roles and responsibilities of a pharmacist in the myriad practice settings open to them upon graduation. A primary focus of the curriculum is to help students learn how to solve real-world problems by communicating effectively in teams. In the classroom, faculty use a method called team-based learning to engage students in active learning rather than delivering content through didactic lectures. Team-based learning energizes students and focuses their time in the classroom on applying concepts to solve problems in small, high-functioning teams facilitated by expert faculty.

In addition to classroom activities, students spend time each week working with practicing pharmacists in the community. This experiential component of the curriculum is valuable as it helps students translate what they learn in the classroom to real situations with healthcare professionals and their patients.

Following three years of classroom and experiential coursework, students spend a calendar year working fulltime directly with pharmacists and other healthcare providers during their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences. This final year sharpens the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors of students so they are ready to enter the workplace and provide exceptional pharmacy care in our community.



ACCREDITATION

The 2015-16 academic year was an active year in accreditation for the Fisch College of Pharmacy. The Southern Associate of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges, the regional accrediting body for UT Tyler, visited campus to evaluate the Doctor of Pharmacy program and granted its approval. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, the organization that accredits professional pharmacy programs granted the Fisch College of Pharmacy Precandidate status following its comprehensive onsite visit. This level of accreditation is the critical first level in accreditation status and allowed the College to enroll students in fall 2015. Our vision is to be the preeminent college of pharmacy that fosters leaders in pharmacy practice, education, scholarship, and public service to care for rural and other underserved populations.

STUDENTS

The Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed its Pioneer Class of 82 students in fall 2015. Of the 595 applicants to be part of the Pioneer Class, 174 were invited for an onsite interview with faculty, staff, and preceptors. In order to ensure the College enrolled the best candidates, the two-day interview event included assessments of math and writing skills, verbal communication, and personal and professional development. Family and friends are also invited to the interview events so they have an opportunity to learn more about how our curriculum is delivered and how they can support their students. The Pioneer Class started the College's first student organization, the American Pharmacist Association Academy of Student Pharmacists, and was recognized nationally as the inaugural student pharmacist organization at UT Tyler.

All 82 students in the Pioneer Class successfully completed the first professional year in the Doctor of Pharmacy program and we look forward to welcoming them back to campus after a well-earned summer rest. During the academic year, 38 students performed exceptionally well in the classroom and were named to the Dean's List.

A Pre-Pharmacy Club was established at UT Tyler and became a formal campus organization for those who are interested learning more about a career in pharmacy as they prepare to apply to the program.

In order to enroll the best students in the Class of 2020, who will matriculate in fall 2016, over 60 separate recruiting events were held at universities, colleges, and high schools. Nearly 700 applications were submitted for the 102 open seats in fall 2016. The College interviewed just shy of 200 students and welcomed 235 family members and friends to parallel activities during the admission interview events.



W.T. Brookshire Hall, home of the Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy

FACULTY

The Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed eight new faculty members in preparation of the academic year. Three faculty members joined the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department as Associate Professors with tenure; Dr. Leanne Coyne whose areas of expertise include neuropharmacology as well as developing novel learning assessment instruments and processes, Dr. David Pearson with a strong background in immunology and biochemistry, and Dr. Michael Veronin whose has an emphasis in social and administration pharmacy sciences with a special focus on health literacy.

Five faculty members joined the Clinical Sciences Department as Assistant Professors; Dr. Molly Adams whose area of practice is internal medicine and who began her practice site at Trinity Mother Francis in Tyler, Dr. Frank Yu with a focus on community practice and ambulatory care and has established the Bethesda Clinic in Tyler as his practice site, Dr. Jonathan Cho whose expertise is in infectious disease and has a practice site at the Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Dr. Grace Loreda with significant experience designing and implementing clinical trials and who is working with researchers at UT Health Northeast in the area of clinical research, and Steven Coleman, J.D. who is a pharmacist and attorney and will help our student pharmacists learn the complexities of pharmacy law.

The Fisch College of Pharmacy embraces core values that shape our academic and professional culture:

- Integrity – honesty, fairness, and respect for individual worth
- Optimism – supportive, positive, and hopeful
- Curiosity – inquisition, investigation, and discovery of the possible
- Accountability – transparency, responsibility, and commitment
- Leadership – inspiration, collaboration, and advocacy
- Initiative – purpose, innovation, and lifelong learning
- Development – growth, maturity, and cultivation

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to developing an innovative curriculum, establishing policies and procedures, and creating the logistics for a new professional doctorate, the faculty have been active in research and scholarship. Faculty in both the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Clinical Sciences Departments have given nearly 30 presentations at regional, national, and international venues and published over a dozen scholarly works on topics as varied as developing novel dosage forms, creating classroom board games, advancing innovative clinical practice activities, and engaging students through active learning and interprofessional education.

Faculty have also been successful in securing funding and patents for continued research and scholarship. Dr. Jody Takemoto was awarded a grant from The University of Texas at Tyler Office of Research and Technology Transfer to study the effects of melatonin on mitochondrial relevant biomarkers in diabetes. The project aims to further characterize molecular mechanisms at the RNA and protein levels of mitochondrial relevant targets affecting metabolic diseases, such as diabetes, which can lead to discovering effective targets for treatment.

Dr. Simi Gunaseelan was issued two patents for her work on novel drug dosage forms. The patents are titled Degradable Hydrogel Compositions and Methods (Patent No.: US 9,345,662) and Dressing Compositions and Methods (Patent No.: US 9,211,358).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A challenge for new Doctor of Pharmacy programs is establishing experiential sites in the community. At these sites, student pharmacists work directly with pharmacists and other healthcare providers to learn and practice the art and science of pharmacy in patient care settings. As the first College of Pharmacy in East Texas, a primary goal for our Office of Experiential Education was to establish sites for our students by working with local and regional independent, chain, and institutional pharmacies to training pharmacists to become licensed preceptors. In preparation for precepting our student pharmacists, Dr. Holly Duhon, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education educated and trained nearly 400 practicing pharmacists at over 150 sites. These preceptors spend significant time with our students sharing their passion for pharmacy and wisdom on caring for patients.

Dr. Frank Yu lead the Fisch College of Pharmacy partnership with the Tyler Police Department, East Texas Substance Abuse Coalition, and Brookshire's Grocery Company in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Several hundred pounds of medications were collected for safe destruction. Students helped members from the community understand the importance of proper medication destruction and how the environment can be protected from unsafe drug disposal.

The Pioneer Class of student pharmacists joined efforts with the East Texas Substance Abuse Coalition to increase awareness of prescription and illicit drug abuse in East Texas. As a growing concern in East Texas and the nation, abuse of prescription opioid medications is devastating to families and communities. Student pharmacists in the Fisch College of Pharmacy actively engage in efforts to educate audiences of all ages about the horrific consequences of prescription medication abuse.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Faculty members in the Fisch College of Pharmacy have been recognized for their teaching and scholarship activities. Dr. Ra'ed Khashan was recognized as the Teacher of the Year by our student pharmacists and nationally by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Dr. Doug Ried was given the annual Rufus Lyman Award by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for the best scholarly publication in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education.

W.T. Brookshire Hall, home to the Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy, also received recognition for outstanding design. TEXO, The Construction Association honored W.T. Brookshire Hall by bestowing its highest award, the Merit Award, for design and construction. In addition, the American Society of Interior Designers gave W.T. Brookshire Hall First Place in its Design Ovation Interior Design Award.

The Fisch College of Pharmacy exists because lives are at stake. We believe knowledge partnerships, through access to compassionate pharmacy care, strengthen and build communities.



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DEAN: DR. SCOTT MARZILLI



The University College was created in 2014 and housed the Department of Academic Success, the Department of Academic Innovation and the BAAS degree completion program. Due to the success and growth of all areas within the University College the 2015-2016 academic year was a time for reflection, planning, and transition.

While at its core, the mission of the University College has not changed, the evolution of The University College as a catalyst of growth and incubator of innovation to the entire University has emerged. To accomplish the aforementioned mission, the new offices of Pre-College Programs, Digital Learning and Degree Completion and Extension were created. The Office of Pre-College Programs currently coordinates all Dual Credit initiatives, the Office of Digital Learning provides unsurpassed faculty and student support for technology enriched face-to-face, hybrid and online courses, and the Office of Degree Completion and Extension coordinates the BAAS degree completion program and is currently examining new and additional opportunities for extended education.

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Katy Buerger, the coordinator of UT Tyler's Partnership in Academic Concurrent Enrollment (PACE) has worked collaboratively with UT Tyler's academic departments and high schools across Texas to provide high school students increased accessibility to UT Tyler's excellent curriculum and faculty. Our academic departments are now offering 10 UT Tyler core curriculum courses to over 600 high school students across Texas. We have increased our offerings in areas such as music, engineering, history, writing composition, and political science.

There are plans to offer additional PACE courses in business, computer science, and psychology in the near future. While our PACE program provides the same unparalleled quality and rigor of traditional on campus UT Tyler courses, this year we worked hard to provide the PACE high school students access to the same student support services our traditional on campus students receive. These services include access to the PASS tutoring center, the Mathematics Lab, the Writing Center, and a new Student Learning Community designed specifically to assist PACE students with their academic success.

QUICK FACTS 2015-16

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC UNITS

- The Office of Pre-College Programs
- The Office of Digital Learning
- The Office of Degree Completion and Extension

UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES

- PATSS Program
- Staying Connected Online Summer
- LMS Selection Task Force
- LMS Implementation Task Force
- New Faculty Induction
- PACE Dual Credit
- BAAS Degree Completion Program
- Faculty Development

In addition, we have created professional development opportunities for our partnering high school counselors and administrators.

We are excited about the Office of Pre-College Programs being the conduit between Texas high school students and UT Tyler's exceptional educational experiences.

DIGITAL LEARNING

Dr. Holley Collier, the interim Director, has hit the ground running with the new Office of Digital Learning. Over the past year, the Office of Digital Learning has conducted over 50 workshops attended by over 300 faculty and staff across all academic colleges.

These workshops included a variety of topics, including Universal Design, Gamification, Open Educational Resources, eBooks, Building Community, and building Faculty Presence in face-to-face, online and hybrid learning environments.

In its effort to provide unsurpassed faculty and student support for technology enriched face-to-face, online and hybrid courses, the Office of Digital Learning created the Digital Learning Studios (DLS) and is in the process of creating the Digital Learning Lounge (DLL).

The Digital Learning Studios provide Faculty, Staff and Students an opportunity to create digital content like never before. This content is currently being used to provide lectures to online courses, hybrid courses, and flipped face-to-face courses. There have been more than 3000 lectures captured within the Digital Learning Studios, and we believe this is only the beginning.

The Digital Learning Lounge will be a location for Faculty and Instructional Designers to talk about the use of technology in higher education. It will highlight technologies, provide faculty development opportunities, either one-on-one or in small groups, and most importantly, it will be safe place for Faculty to experiment with their pedagogical strategies.

HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

- Increased number of Partner High Schools
- Increased the number of PACE dual credit courses offered
- Created a PACE Student Learning Community
- Created a PACE Orientation for students and parents
- Created a PACE Professional Development Program for high school counselors and administrators
- More than doubled PACE dual credit enrollment

DIGITAL LEARNING

- Created the Digital Learning Studios
- Provided over 50 Faculty Workshops to 300 attendees
- Recorded over 3000 lecture videos
- Worked with Faculty to developed 32 PATSS hybrid courses
- Creating the Digital Learning Lounge for Faculty and Staff

DEGREE COMPLETION & EXTENSION

- Created the 21 for 21 UNIV Core for BAAS degree
- Created over 150 new AAS to BAAS pathways
- Created the BAAS Advisory Board
- Surpassed 200 BAAS Students
- Was nominated and applied for THECB's 2016 Star Award for 60x30TX

DEGREE COMPLETION & EXTENSION

Kristie Allen, the coordinator of the Office of Degree Completion and Extension, has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout the 2015-2016 year. Recognizing the need to expand educational attainment through increased accessibility, Kristie worked with me to develop the Bachelors of Applied Arts and Sciences degree program (BAAS), a 100% online baccalaureate degree completion program, with an emphasis on 21st Century Job Skills, created specifically for working professionals looking to finish their four-year degree in an academic environment that recognizes the importance of balancing school, work, family, and other life obligations.

Through partnerships with community and technical colleges, the business community, and professional organizations providing credit for prior learning, the University of Texas at Tyler's BAAS degree completion program is making a strong contribution to the THECB's 6x30TX higher education plan by increasing educational attainment in adults ages 25-34, increasing the total number of degrees completed, and providing graduates with the 21st Century Job Skills necessary for today's workforce. This BAAS degree has more than doubled its enrollment in the past year, and just recently surpassed 200 students, making it one of the top 10 largest undergraduate degree programs at UT Tyler.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

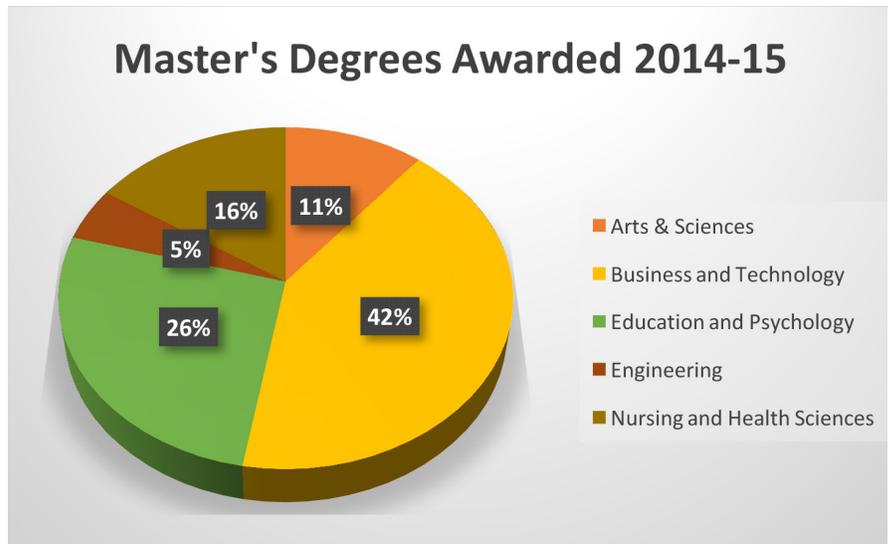
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DEAN: DR. WILLIAM GEIGER

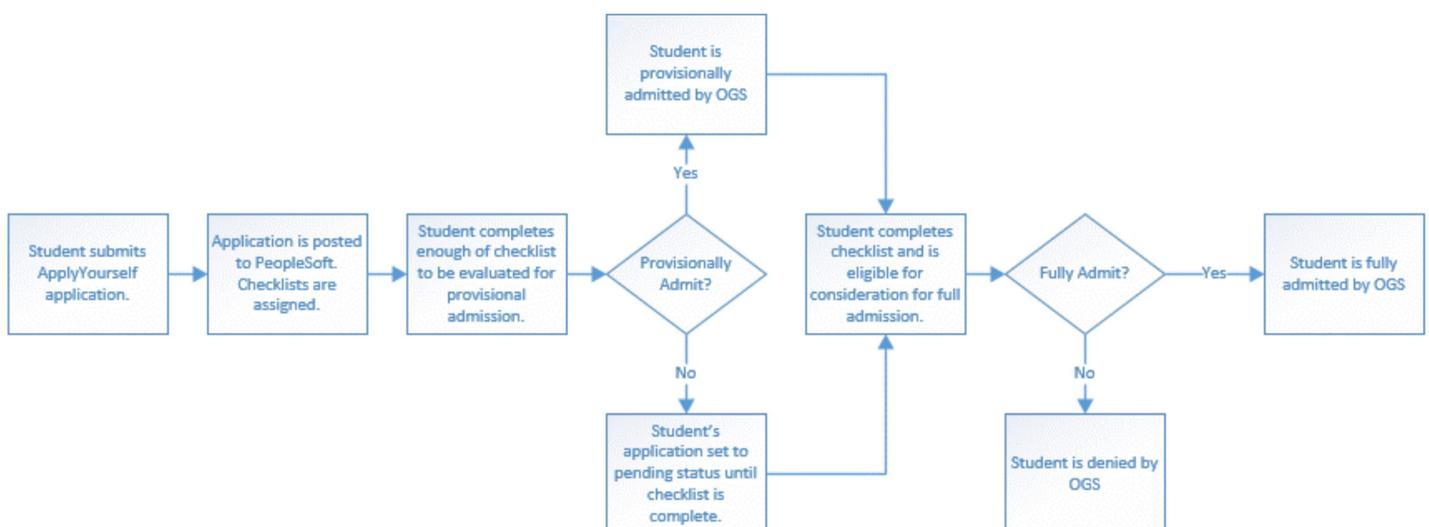


In 2015-2016 the Graduate School continued to be one of the fastest growing segments of the University of Texas at Tyler. Nearly 30% of the students enrolled in the University are graduate students. This is a 9% increase from fall 2014 to fall 2015. The number of graduate degrees conferred has been growing at a rapid pace in the past few years. The chart below depicts the distribution of degrees awarded among the colleges.

The use of technology in the graduate admission process has enabled the Graduate School to continue offer prompt, friendly service to applicants despite the increase in graduate students. Through the use of ImageNow Workflow, information/applications are now automatically sent to the right users for immediate action. The status of applications is monitored as they progress through the admission process, as illustrated in the following diagram.



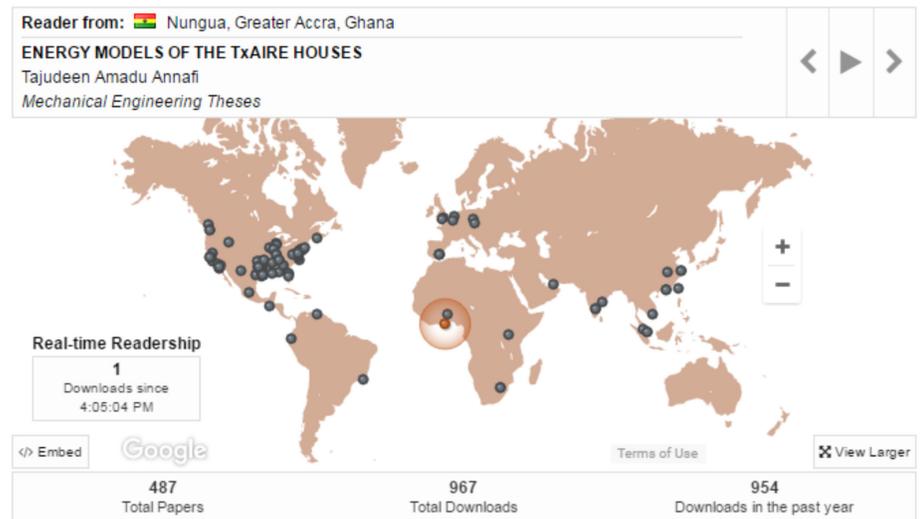
We are entering year two of the new graduate school application, ApplyYourself, which is integrated with PeopleSoft and Workflow. This user-friendly application has streamlined the application process and boosted the completed application rate from January 1, 2016 through July 5, 2016 to an impressive 94%.



In addition, the Graduate School has implemented Intelligent Capture for Transcripts software, which allows for faster, more accurate transcript processing. The automation of this task frees up our admissions representatives so they can provide a more personal, individualized admission experience for our students.

The Graduate School has partnered with the Robert R. Muntz Library to launch Scholar Works as a way to showcase the scholarly and artistic output of the UT Tyler community. Scholar Works enables storing, preserving, and providing access to documents and publications by students, faculty, and staff. Full text of most works deposited in Scholar Works are freely accessible to the world via the web. We anticipate that by providing global visibility to the scholarly and creative endeavors of faculty and students, new graduate students will choose to become part of the University of Texas at Tyler community.

The real-time readership map function in Scholar Works shows the reach of UT Tyler's scholarship. The site was launched in May 2016, and we've already had almost 1000 papers downloaded.



The staff of the Graduate School are key players in maintaining the growth and health of graduate studies at the University of Texas at Tyler. In recent months Michael Giordano, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, and Jessica Miller, Graduate Recruiting

Supervisor, presented "Keeping in Touch: Using an effective email and CRM (Customer Relationship Management) strategy to encourage prospects to apply" to a standing-room only crowd at the National Association for Graduate Enrollment Management (NAGAP) conference in Nashville in April, and were invited to share the same presentation at the Regional Texas Graduate Admissions Professionals (TxGAP) meeting in San Antonio in May. Their presentation has been downloaded over 50 times from the TxGAP website.

In addition, Michael was one of six participants selected nationally for the Leadership in Enrollment Management Certificate program, offered as a partnership between the Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice at the University of Southern California and NAGAP. He was awarded the certification in May 2016. And Jessica created our Profile Evaluator to instantly generate a response based on the prospective student's information. Prospective students receive one of three responses: encouraging them to apply, asking for more info, or encouraging those with low language or GRE/GMAT/MAT scores to retake the exam.

In the coming year, we anticipate the Graduate School will work with the Office of University Advancement to promote a "Case for Funding the Graduate Scholarship Program" and will develop strategies for attracting greater numbers of qualified UT Tyler undergraduates into graduate programs that will enhance careers in their areas of interest. In addition, we anticipate promoting UT Tyler's graduate programs among alumni and expanding our recruitment efforts in selected international markets.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DIRECTOR: DR. PAUL STREUFERT



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 GATE (Global Awareness Through Education) Program, The Honors Program, 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.

IMPACT ON CURRICULUM

In 2015-16, GATE faculty globalized six new core courses, reaching over 400 students. Professors who globalize courses often keep these global elements in future sections of the course, thereby continuing the globalizing process after the first year.

In June and July of 2016, the GATE Program led its cohort of 18 global scholars on a five-week travel study to Ghana in West Africa. Students studied speech communication and government with UT Tyler professors at the University of Ghana in the nation's capital, Accra. The travel study culminated in a service learning experience, a ten-day medical outreach in the rural village of Okurase, where GATE students worked alongside Ghanaian doctors and nurses.



In October of 2015, the GATE director and coordinator submitted the impact report to SACS as part of the university's fifth-year interim report for reaffirmation of accreditation.

IMPACT ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

El Grito, Mexican Independence Day celebration. Co-sponsored with the Campus Activities Board, this event had an attendance of over 200 and was featured in the Tyler Morning Telegraph. Impact Week, co-sponsored by Student Life and Leadership, provided students with service learning activities helps students view international issues and problems (e.g. hunger) through a local lens (e.g. an Oxfam Hunger Banquet).

UT Tyler students visited the Dallas Holocaust Museum and met a Holocaust survivor who talked with the students about his experiences and the political events that led to the Holocaust. Our fourth annual Global Quiz Night drew a record crowd of 220 participants. Local businesses sponsored prizes for the event.

Honors students attended the Distinguished Lecture Series talk by UT System Chancellor William McRaven. Students, faculty, and staff attended a screening of Casablanca at the historic Liberty Theater in downtown Tyler. Chris Vognar, film critic for the Dallas Morning News, provided an introduction and led a Q&A.

IMPACT ON FACULTY

GATE hosted a series of current event lectures by UT Tyler faculty members Randy LeBlanc, Edward Tabri, Melissa Dotson, Natalia Menkina-Snider, Barbara Wooldridge, and visiting scholar Ping Xiao. Also, the GATE Faculty Liaisons Committee implemented its Faculty Development Grants, assisting professors Wes Hickey, Elizabeth Lisot, and Colin Snider with travel to international conferences, which has direct impact on globalized teaching.

The Honors Program has grown to its largest size in its seven-year history, as 110 students participated in the program. Though Honors has grown by 50% in the last two years and includes students from six of the seven colleges at UT Tyler, we have maintained high academic standards, as the average GPA of students in the program is 3.64/4.0.



RESEARCH

Two Honors Program students presented original research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference: Benjamin Strube (CAS) and JR Gutsch (CE). 19 students presented original research at our regional conference, hosted by the Great Plains Honors Council. This group included all students from the Honors in the Major-Psychology course (see below), as well as students from CAS, CHNS, and CBT. Along with the Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, the Honors Program designed and hosted our first Lyceum Conference, a celebration of research at the University of Texas at Tyler. 47 students participated in the research showcase, exploring their ideas in poster and presentation sessions.

CURRICULUM

This academic year saw the implementation of the Honors in the Major-Psychology track. 12 students studying psychology worked with Dr. Amy Hayes on a new research course designed specifically for Honors students. All 12 students in the course had their proposals accepted at the Great Plains Honors Council conference (see above). The Honors Program designed four new HNRS zero-credit seminars to help provide structure and ease of advising for students and staff.

SAP oversaw the participation of four UT Tyler students in the Archer Center Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. and also the selection of four for participation in the next academic year.

The Freshman Book Committee conducted programming for the freshman book *Half the Sky* for AY 15–16 and selected Norman Rosenthal's text *The Gift of Adversity* for next year's freshman book.



ROBERT R. MUNTZ LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DIRECTOR: JEANNE STANDLEY



The Robert R. Muntz Library has had a successful and productive year. While maintaining our daily level of excellent service to the University of Texas at Tyler, we also engaged in and realized many outstanding accomplishments this year. Building on our unwavering commitment to supporting the academic mission of The University of Texas at Tyler, we have strengthened our position as a center of discovery, exchange, and advancement of ideas.

To that end, the physical Library continues to evolve to meet the needs of the students and the changing educational landscape. In response to changes in the curriculum requiring more collaborative student work, the third floor of the Library was renovated to provide an open area ideal for shared project work. Mobile furniture, white boards, and other training resources were added to allow students to develop the collaborative study spaces that suit their projects. The success of the space is noted by an increase of use by over 170% in the first three months after the completed renovation.

VISION

The vision of The University of Texas at Tyler Libraries is to continually position ourselves as a vibrant center of intellectual engagement, technological innovation, and the preferred source for learning and scholarship. This vision speaks to the past, present, and future of scholarship of the University community; not only storing research, but ensuring access to scholarly materials is provided to future generations of scholars.

FACULTY SUPPORT

To fulfill this vision, the University Archives, in partnership with the Graduate School, has been assembling a new Institutional Repository, Scholar Works at UT Tyler (<http://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/>). Scholar Works organizes, preserves, and disseminates the scholarly output of UT Tyler students, faculty, and staff. Since implementing Scholar Works in April, 2016, there have been over 1,500 downloads of UT Tyler's scholarly output – ranging from library and archives newsletters, graduate student theses and dissertations, to faculty research articles and faculty posters. Selected Works is another component of the Institutional Repository, providing an online presence to the faculty with professional profiles and an itemized record of their research.

STUDENT AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

A significant goal of the Library is to contribute to lifelong learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff through an expansion of the libraries' role in academic and campus activities. The Library addresses this goal by recognizing a need and responding to it with innovative, current solutions. Therefore, adding to the myriad of resources the Library provides to our UT Tyler students, the Library recently installed a One Button Video Studio on the second floor of the Library. The One Button Studio is an easy way to create high-quality video – no video production experience required. Camera, microphone and lights are automatically controlled, allowing the user to focus on their presentation rather than the technology.

Additionally, Muntz Library has a newly established Library Advisory Committee. Meeting for the first time last spring, the committee consists of faculty representatives from each College and both graduate and undergraduate student representatives. This committee will be instrumental in advising and helping to guide the Library on planning and expansion of services.

As an academic library, we are continually working to develop and maintain a thoughtfully chosen and well-organized array of resources that supports the curriculum and stimulates intellectual curiosity, while anticipating and responding to the changing educational environment.

PROVIDING RESOURCES

Working together, the Liaison Librarians and the Electronic Resources and Collections Librarian were instrumental in providing support to various Colleges and programs during accreditation or review efforts. Programs under review are provided a report, which covers the resources offered by the Library in general, and also contains an in-depth analysis of resources specific to the field of study. Additionally, as de facto members of the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils, and working closely with the faculty of the respective Colleges, the Liaison Librarians are able to anticipate future resource needs for new programs throughout the campus.

Enhancing student learning through the integration of information literacy across the curriculum is critical to the goals of the Library. Library instruction, in concert with faculty, was successfully provided to over 2,800 students in over 150 sessions. Additionally, noticing a gap in the support level for graduate distance students, the Library Instruction Department created Fast Passes (student research support manuals), which contain an array of information curated for the students depending on their field of study. Fast Passes have been completed for the Education, Literature, Nursing, HRD, Engineering, and Technology distance students containing general information concerning University contact information to more specific resource descriptions and research tips.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

DIRECTOR: DR. TERESA KENNEDY



The Office of International Programs (OIP) was established in July 2013. The OIP Team facilitates study abroad opportunities for students and faculty across campus and provides insurance advising, cultural and social programming, and immigration services for UT Tyler international students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs, UT Tyler Alumni participating in Optional Practical Training (OPT) to obtain work experiences related to their fields of study, students studying at the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI), and visiting scholars, faculty and their family members (692 individuals) from 58 countries. These services are provided to all undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to all faculty and staff, and support the overall university student enrollment and retention goals.

In addition, the OIP facilitates international research and engagement as well as international recruitment and marketing. The Office of International Programs also serves as a U.S. Department of State Passport Acceptance Center, assisting UT Tyler faculty, staff and students, as well as the East Texas community.

CURRICULUM

The Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) provided classes to 77 students representing 18 countries (Brazil, China, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, India, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine, United States, and Vietnam). To date, six IELI students have transferred into UT Tyler programs (three undergraduate and three graduate). The IELI gained certification/accreditation under the American Association of Intensive English Program during the 2015-2016 academic year.

The OIP also worked closely with the School of Education and the Innovation Academy to promote internationalization of the curriculum, facilitating UT Tyler's international students and exchange visitors to present culture and language lessons to students. Also, the OIP provided opportunities for students participating in the GATE program, students, faculty and staff across campus, to interact with UT Tyler's international community.

BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENTS SERVED

2014-15

International Services
692

Intensive English
Language Institute
77

Travel/Study Abroad
78

Passport Services
530

International Fest
500

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The OIP continued to expand Travel/Study Abroad activities for faculty, staff, students and East Texas community members through 10 short-term Faculty/Staff-led trips and two long-term University Studies Abroad Consortium® travel study opportunities.



78 UT Tyler students participated in travel study programs in 11 countries. University Collaborations Abroad aimed at promoting strong international research and engagement opportunities for UT Tyler faculty and expanding exchange opportunities for UT Tyler students. Six new international agreements of cooperation were established (now totaling 17 international university agreements abroad), Fulbright activities continued to be promoted across campus, and student opportunities for international leadership and career opportunities were facilitated.

Over 500 participants attended the First Annual International Fest during International Education Week in November 2015. International Fest provided an opportunity for the entire UT Tyler community to celebrate diversity and learn from one another. Events during International Fest included an international poster presentation competition, food from around the world, and performances by international entertainers. UT Tyler Students from 19 countries presented 30 poster presentations and 9 faculty members presented highlights from their travel study programs and international research projects. Six cultural presentations by 15 performers representing 5 countries (China, Egypt, India, Nepal, and Turkey) entertained the crowd.