UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien
President/CEO

Dr. Wade Shaffer
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sherri Bays
Vice President for Business and Finance

Michael Knox
Vice President for Student Affairs

Dan Garcia
Vice President for Enrollment Management

Dr. Neal Weaver
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Dr. Angela Spaulding
Vice President for Research and Compliance

Michael McBroom
Director of Athletics

James Webb
Chief Information Officer

Cliff Vanderpool
Director of Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Dr. Rosemary Gray
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES (JULY 1, 2013 TO JULY 1, 2014)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CAROLYN BAUM, instructor of communication studies . . . received her B.A. and M.A. from West Texas A&M University . . . prior to joining the communication faculty as a full-time instructor, Baum taught at Palo Duro High School . . . as a part-time instructor in the Department of Communication, she was awarded the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award three times.

HOLLY C. BELLAH, instructor of social work . . . earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from WTAMU . . . previously worked at Amarillo ISD as school social worker and completed exam for LMSW in December 2013 . . . has traveled extensively and previously taught ESL in Hong Kong and India . . . passionate about earning her Ph.D.

DR. ALISON BERRY, assistant professor of business communication . . . Ph.D., from University of Kansas . . . primary teaching and research areas include conflict resolution and negotiation, business communication and intercultural communication . . . research includes publication in the Journal of Business and Leadership.

DR. DEBRA BLANTON, clinical assistant professor of communication disorders . . . received her bachelor’s degree from Valencia Community College, master’s from the University of South Alabama . . . has worked as a SLF in the school system, for the Bureau of Indian Education on the Eastern Navajo Reservation, in the Mobile County Public School Systems in Mobile Ala., and taught graduate and undergraduate classes while earning her doctorate . . . has completed her first year at WTAMU, where she taught graduate and undergraduate courses and supervised clinical practicum.

DR. SHARON BURNETT, associate professor of accounting . . . Ph.D., from Oklahoma State . . . primary teaching and research areas include accounting information systems, cost accounting and managerial accounting . . . work has been published in Journal of Accountancy, CPA Journal and Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly.

BERNICE BURNSIDE, administrative secretary, Sports and Exercise Sciences . . . comes to WTAMU after working on certification at Amarillo College . . . previous work experience with private businesses . . . outside of work her priority is taking care of her family.

DR. ERICK BUTLER, assistant professor of environmental engineering . . . earned his B.S. in environmental science with a concentration in environmental technology, an M.S. in environmental engineering and a doctorate in civil engineering all from Cleveland State University . . . teaching interests are in the environmental engineering area, such as water and wastewater treatment, air pollution and solid and hazardous waste . . . one of four faculty members at WTAMU to receive a Major Research Instrumentation from the National Science Foundation . . . also working on research from a grant from the Ogallala Aquifer Program using the electrocoagulation treatment process treat feedyard wastewater . . . lives with his wife and tabby in Amarillo . . . enjoys traveling, playing outdoor basketball and tutoring refugees in English at North Grand Villas in Amarillo.

DAVID CLARK, instructor of accounting and healthcare management . . . C.P.A. and M.P.A. from WTAMU . . . has held CFO and CEO positions in the health care industry, as well as being the managing partner of a regional health care consulting group . . . research includes work in Journal of Accountancy and Today’s CPA.

DR. BETTY CONEWAY, assistant professor of education . . . earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Saint Mary of the College, a M.Ed. in reading from WTAMU and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Texas Tech . . . comes to WTAMU from Hereford, where she served as a curriculum specialist, reading/language arts coordinator, response to intervention leader, reading intervention specialist supervisor and classroom teacher.

DR. SHANNON H. DEGENHART, research associate, Engineering and Computer Science . . . holds a Ph.D. in agricultural education with an emphasis in educational program development and accountability from Texas A&M University, a Masters of Science in agricultural economics, Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Science in animal science all from West Texas A&M University . . . served four years as a project specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Education and Outreach Team for the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense headquartered in College Station . . . has managed multi-state projects; evaluated regional, state-wide, and multi-state projects and served as director of a start-up branch campus for a community college . . . Dalhart native who enjoys riding horses and spending time with family.

DR. VALERIE DENNIS, instructor of English . . . completed her Ph.D. in English at the University of California, Irvine in 2012 . . . specialist in medieval and early modern drama . . . comes to WTAMU from the University of Baltimore, where she served as an instructor of English from 2009 – 2012.

ANGIE ELKINS, instructor in education . . . earned a Bachelor of Science in English and art and a M.Ed. in special education from Texas Tech University . . . currently nearing completion of her doctorate in educational psychology at Texas Tech . . . is a certified educational diagnostician and comes to WTAMU from Lubbock ISD . . . also has been a classroom teacher, a campus dyslexia interventionist and a reading interventionist for Lubbock ISD.

JERE ELLISON, graduate admissions coordinator, Graduate School . . . graduate of WTAMU with a master’s in English and minor in theatre and communication . . . chasing a dream of becoming a full-time writer . . . recently completed fourth novel and fast-approaching start to his fifth, he refuses to give up . . . strives to enjoy life as best he can with his beautiful wife.

DR. SHAOKUN FAN, assistant professor of computer information systems . . . Ph.D. from University of Arizona . . . primary teaching and research areas include management information systems, system analysis and design and programming . . . work includes publications in Decision Support Systems, Journal of Computer and System Sciences and Application Research of Computers.

TRACI FREDMAN, instructor, Communication Disorders . . . received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in speech-language pathology . . . currently working on her Ph.D. in speech-language pathology . . . previously employed for the last five years with ECI serving the Texas Panhandle.

CAROLINA GALLOWAY, director of Study Abroad . . . born and raised in Esmeraldas, Ecuador . . . earned Bachelor in Business Administration from Universidad Catolica in Quito . . . came to WTAMU as an international student in 2008 and earned a M.B.A in 2009 and M.A. in 2011 . . . worked . . . graduated in the last 20 years in Houston . . . educational background in mathematics and curriculum and instruction . . . has professional experience as an assistant professor in mathematics and curriculum and instruction, including more than 15 years in academic assessment . . . has published more than three dozen papers or reports and presented in over 20 conferences on assessment related topics . . . proudly served this country for 12 years in the U.S. Navy, the United States Marine Corps Reserve and the Texas Army National Guard.

DR. BRIDGET GUERRERO, assistant professor of agricultural business and economics . . . received her B.S. in agricultural business and economics and M.B.A. degrees from West Texas A&M and her Ph.D. in agricultural economics with a minor in statistics . . . before joining WT she was a program specialist with Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension.

BRIAN GUILLEN, office manager, Department of Education . . . grew up and graduated from high school in Brooklyn, N.Y. . . . a social science major seeking a social studies grades 7-12 teacher certification . . . currently resides in Canyon.

DUSTIN HAHN, instructor of communication studies . . . joined the Department of Communication in January . . . received his B.A. in electronic media production from Harding University in 2009 and completed his M.A. in mass communication in 2012 at Texas Tech . . . will be completing his Ph.D. at Texas Tech in December . . . he and his wife Tessa live in Canyon and have a son, Abel . . . enjoys running, cycling and competing in Ironman Triathlons.

DR. EMILY HAMMER, clinical assistant professor of management . . . Ph.D. and M.B.A. from Texas Tech University . . . primary teaching and research areas include business ethics, human resource management and training and development . . . work includes publications in Journal of Philosophy and History of Education and Research & Teaching in Development Education.

SHANNON HOLMES, administrative secretary, Panhandle Area Health Education Center . . . native of Amarillo and received an Associate degree from Amarillo College in 2012 . . . loves hosting family gatherings and parties . . . she and husband Russell have two children and three dogs.

AMY HORD . . . instructor of social work . . . earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from WTAMU . . . Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW) . . . previously worked at Amarillo ISD as lead mental health professional . . . also was a part-time instructor at Amarillo College.

DR. NATHAN HOWELL, assistant professor of environmental engineering . . . earned his B.S. from the University of Texas at Austin in chemical engineering and then worked for two years as a consulting engineer at a groundwater remediation company . . . obtained a Ph.D. in environmental engineering at the University of Houston, focusing on organic pollutants in coastal waters, sediment and fish . . . joined the WTAMU School of Engineering and Computer Science, where he is working in the continued development of relatively new undergraduate programs in both civil and environmental engineering.

DR. SAM IVES, associate professor of animal science . . . earned his B.S., D.V.M. and Ph.D. from Kansas State University . . . has served as a technical service veterinarian and senior ruminant nutritionist for Zoetis and Cactus Feeders . . . comes to WT as supervisor of the Nance Ranch Feedlot with teaching responsibilities at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

DR. TAU KADHI, assistant vice president for learning assessment . . . comes to WTAMU after spending the last 20 years in Houston . . . educational background in mathematics and curriculum and instruction . . . has professional experience as an assistant professor in mathematics and curriculum and instruction, including more than 15 years in academic assessment . . . has published more than three dozen papers or reports and presented in over 20 conferences on assessment related topics . . . proudly served this country for 12 years in the U.S. Navy, the United States Marine Corps Reserve and the Texas Army National Guard.
DR. KRISTIN KUHLMANN, assistant professor of nursing . . . earned her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of New Mexico . . . teaches in the graduate nursing program and is director of the WTAMU Health Partners Clinic . . . was previously family nurse practitioner/director of Eastern New Mexico Student Health Services . . . was a member of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy (Prevention and Parenting) Coalition . . . the subject of her Ph.D. dissertation was college freshman weight change.

DR. XIANGHU (DALE) LI, assistant professor and coordinator of the Emergency Management Administration Program . . . earned a bachelor’s degree from Nanjing University in China and a Ph.D. from University of North Texas . . . he and his wife are both from China.

DR. RYAN MATTSON, assistant professor of economics . . . Ph.D. from University of Kansas . . . teaching and research areas include money and banking, macroeconomic theory and international economics . . . research includes publication in the Open Economics Review.

DR. KELLY MCCAULEY, assistant professor of management . . . Ph.D. from Texas Tech University . . . primary teaching and research areas include organizational behavior, leadership and business ethics . . . work includes publications in Leadership Quarterly and Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science.

JESSE MELSON, graphic designer and event coordinator, Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities . . . earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree at WTAMU in 2013 . . . when he’s not singing with the Amarillo Opera or scheduling an art opening at the Paper Crane, he’s designing creative promotions for all of the college’s departments.

STEPHANIE MONTANO, community based education coordinator, AHEC . . . grew up in Las Cruces, N.M. and received bachelor’s degree in community health from New Mexico State University . . . she also is a certified health education specialist . . . has lived in Amarillo for eight years.

JENNIFER MOORE, instructor of nursing . . . received her M.S.N. and B.S.N. from WTAMU . . . previously taught in the LVN program at Clarendon College . . . commutes to WTAMU from Borger . . . is a fan of Harry Potter.

OLIVER MULAMBA, assistant professor of mechanical engineering . . . earned both his B.S. (2009) and M.S. (2011) from WTAMU and a Ph.D. in 2011 from Texas Tech University . . . author of Synthesis and Characterization of Piezo-Magneto Composites: Examining Energy Release of Materials Incorporating Piezoelectric and Magnetic Properties, co-author of several publications and presenter at numerous conferences nationally . . . has lived in several countries, speaks several languages but realizes there is no place like Texas and no language like “Texan” . . . lives with his wife in Canyon and enjoys soccer, golf, woodworking, reading, Bible study and puzzles.

CHRISTINA PALMER, secretary II, Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages . . . earned her B.S. and M.Ed. from Texas A&M - Texarkana . . . moved to Canyon three years ago from Houston, where she worked as a special education administrator for Houston Independent School District.

DR. ROBIN PATTERTON, clinical assistant professor of business and director of continuous improvement . . . earned a J.D. from the University of New Mexico . . . primary teaching and research areas include business law, gift and estate planning and healthcare law . . . work includes publications in Research in Business and Economics Journal, Journal of Business and Economics Research and Today’s CPA.

BLAKE PRICE, instructor, Sports and Exercise Sciences . . . WTAMU alumnus with B.S. in sports and exercise sciences, M.S. in exercise science/sports management, and post bachelor teacher certification . . . has extensive experience in athletic operations with Amarillo ISD and was a teacher/coach with Plainview ISD.

DR. MATT REARDON, assistant professor of history . . . specialist in early America . . . comes to WTAMU from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he served as an adjunct instructor of history . . . earned a B.A. from Louisiana State University, M.A. from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

TANA ROBERSON, assistant professor of theatre . . . received her B.A. in theatre from Oklahoma Baptist University and her M.F.A. in theatre/design from The University of Georgia . . . served as a graduate assistant at The University of Georgia and during those years assisted in the areas of scenic painting, scenic construction and production management . . . has generated more than 50 scenic designs for the Amarillo Little Theatre, served as its volunteer coordinator and assisted WTAMU theatre as an adjunct professor.

SHAWNDRRA RUTLEDGE, administrative assistant, School of Music . . . has a unique background in the business and finance world . . . working on her master’s in communication with an emphasis in cultural and international studies . . . enjoys education, vacations and time with her family.

DR. ÓSCAR SANTOS-SOPENA, assistant professor of Spanish . . . specialist in Spanish literature, particularly humanism, the Renaissance and Baroque periods as well as technology in language teaching . . . received his M.A. from the Catholic University of America and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland . . . was a research fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History . . . recently won an award for a short documentary film on Spanish King Jaume I.

PAULA SCHLEGEL, instructor of communication studies . . . received her B.A. from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and her M.A. from West Texas A&M University . . . previously served as an adviser for the BGS program at WTAMU and as a part-time instructor in the Department of Communication . . . is an accomplished storyteller and serves on the board of the Tejas Storytelling Association.

TRACY SHEA, business consultant, Small Business Development Center . . . comes to WT after spending the last six years with AO Vending and CS Stars.

KATHY SHIPP, instructor of nursing . . . president of the Texas Board of Nursing . . . earned her B.S.N. and Post-Master’s FNP certification at WTAMU and her M.S.N. from the University of Texas at Austin . . . has 25 years of teaching experience at five institutions . . . has been a family nurse practitioner for 20 years . . . received the Meritorious Service Award as a member of the Texas Health Disparities Task Force . . . scholarly activities include grants, publications, invited presentations, and external consultations.

JESSICA SMITH, senior research analyst, Institutional Research . . . earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Texas Tech University . . . previously served in Institutional Research at Amarillo College, and prior to that as math faculty at a community college in Seattle, Wash., . . . originally from Amarillo but has lived in several western states . . . married with one son . . . enjoys walking the family dog, keeping saltwater aquariums and learning.

RITA SMITH, secretary, Department of Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics . . . has 14 years of experience as an educational secretary . . . has two grown children who are married along with a granddaughter arriving any moment . . . enjoys camping, hiking, reading and spoiling her two dogs.

DR. TIM STEFFENS, assistant professor in plant, soil and environmental science . . . earned his B.S. in agricultural education from Tarleton State University, his M.S. in animal nutrition from Texas Tech University and his Ph.D. in range science from Colorado State University . . . most recently served as rangeland management specialist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Colorado for eight years . . . is a certified professional in range management and has a 40 percent extension appointment with Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension.

MELISSA TIMMONS, instructor of mathematics . . . started in 2009 as a part-time instructor and became an instructor in mathematics in 2013 . . . received a B.S. in mathematics from West Texas A&M University in 2004 and a M.S. in mathematics from WTAMU in 2009.

JENNIFER TRACY, administrative assistant, Department of Agricultural Sciences . . . comes to WT from Los Angeles, where she was a senior staff assistant to the director of Walt Disney Imagineering Research and Development . . . prior to that served assist an executive assistant to the executive vice president and managing director of Disney Interactive Media group . . . has a B.A. in communications from the University of Michigan.

KRISTA TROY, secretary for the department head of history and geography . . . received her B.F.A. in art education at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor and her M.F.A. in printmaking and drawing from West Texas A&M University . . . also serves as a part-time instructor in art, theatre and dance, where she teaches art history.

NANCY TURRBUIATES, instructor of nursing . . . earned her M.S.N. from Walden University and her B.S.N. from the University of Mary . . . as lead instructor of the Population-Focused Nursing Practice course, supervised the Homeless Health Fairs conducted by senior nursing students . . . a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve . . . worked on the Spirit Lake Tribe Indian reservation in North Dakota for 13 years, caring for the people of the Sioux tribe . . . a native of Hereford.

DR. SARAH VARTABEDIAN, assistant instructor of communication . . . completed her Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin and her M.A. and B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill . . . served as the media consultant and assistant producer for the staging of “Mother Divine, the Musical,” in July 2013 at the Pearl Theatre in New York City . . . previously served as assistant instructor at University of North Carolina, a member of Amencorps and an actor in the New York International Fringe Festival.

MELISSA WHITE, administrative assistant and community outreach donor coordinator, Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities . . . received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WTAMU . . . she and husband Andrew have two boys, Logan and Grayson . . . joins the WTAMU staff from the American Quarter Horse Association.

DAVID WILLARD, head of the Department of Art Theatre and Dance . . . received his B.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art and his M.F.A. in sculpture from Tyler School of Art . . . awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the United Kingdom, where he worked with the glass industry and developed innovative art-making techniques at the Stourbridge College of Art . . . during his 35-year career, he has served as an assistant professor of art at the University of Wisconsin, curator of education at the Boise Museum of Art, director of external relations and development in the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Austin and executive director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.
ATHLETICS

J. ARN WOMBRE, assistant professor of civil engineering . . . B.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering from Texas Tech University . . . M.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University . . . additional studies at Ezekiel School of Church Music . . . worked in professional engineering practice in Colorado, Lubbock and Dallas/Fort Worth . . . emphasis in aerodynamics of structures and extreme wind effects on structures . . . previously taught at Texas Tech, South Plains College, Kingdom Preparatory Academy (Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, and Logic . . . strong interests in church worship music, homeschooling and family history research.

TOM BROWN, head coach, men’s basketball . . . comes to WTAMU from Winnona State and brings 20 years of experience and multiple trips to the NCAA Tournament and the Elite Eight . . . earned his bachelor’s degree in 1993 and master’s degree in 1998 from Winnona State . . . he and wife Trisha are parents to Tj, Zach and Ella.

BENJAMIN BUCK, assistant baseball coach and recruiting coordinator . . . previously served as pitching coach at Regis University . . . native of Denver and started collegiate career at Lamar Community College and finished at the University of Utah . . . pitched professionally for the Mid-Missouri Mavericks . . . he and wife Candice live in Canyon.

TUCKER EICHHORN, assistant athletic trainer/instructor . . . a New Mexico native who completed his undergraduate degree in athletic training at Fort Lewis College in Colorado . . . graduated in 2013 from WTAMU with a M.S. in exercise science/sports management . . . earned national certification as an athletic trainer and his Texas Licensure.

ARTHUR GOVE, assistant coach, men’s basketball . . . joins WTAMU after 16 seasons at Winnona State where he and WTAMU head coach Tom Brown served as assistants . . . played basketball and baseball at WSU and was an All-American during the 1994 season and earned All-District honors in 1993 and 1994 . . . earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Winnona State . . . he and wife Katie are parents to daughters Sydney and Jordyn.

QUINCY HENDERSON, assistant coach, men’s basketball . . . comes to WTAMU after two years at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington . . . the 6-foot-5 guard/forward played at Division I Creighton before transferring to Winnona State, where he played under WTAMU coaches Brown and Gove and claimed the NCAA DII National Championship in 2006 and 2008 and playing for the title in 2007 . . . named NSIC Newcomer of the Year in 2006 and second team NSIC honors in 2007 and 2008.

KEOLA LOO, assistant coach, football . . . served as graduate assistant coach at Arizona State before coming to WTAMU . . . earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and criminology in 2005 from Washington State University and an associate degree in liberal arts from Orange Coast College in 2003 . . . he and wife Shannon have three children—Naluwaa, Kealamaikahiki and Kalanilii’aloa.

DERRICK PEOPLES, coordinator of student-athlete services . . . the Diana, Texas, native played Buff football from 2006-2011 and served as team captain his senior year . . . recipient of the coveted Chaun Thompson Award following his final season as a Buff . . . earned both his bachelor’s degree and master’s from WTAMU.

JOHN SPARKS, director of operations, First United Bank Center . . . started as a student worker in 2010 and has coordinated speaking events, graduations, camps and championship events . . . earned an associate degree from Howard County Junior College and both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WTAMU.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DON ADAMS, accountant II, Accounting and Business Office . . . originally from Corpus Christi and moved to Amarillo in 1973 . . . attended Amarillo College and WTSU . . . became a CPA in 1992 and is a member of Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Panhandle Chapter of Certified Public Accountants . . . enjoy playing tennis and taught tennis classes at Amarillo College for about 10 years.

SHERRI BAYS, vice president for business and finance . . . comes to WTAMU from Western New Mexico University, where she served as vice president of business affairs . . . earned a bachelor’s degree from New Mexico State University and has been a certified public accountant since 1999 . . . has held positions with IBM, KPMG Peat Marwick, Philips Dodge Tyrore, Inc. and Citizens Bank.


SUSIE CHITWOOD, cashier, Business Office . . . married to Joe Dale Chitwood . . . they have two daughters and four grandchildren . . . enjoys reading, movies, gardening and hiking in Colorado.

DANIELLE DALPAZ, purchasing assistant, Purchasing and Inventory Services . . . studied library science and art history through the University of Maine . . . owner of photography business for 13 years, before coming to WTAMU . . . originally opened in Colorado in 2000 as a mobile studio then moved east to the Atlantic coast to Nova Scotia . . . moved to Amarillo with her family in 2008 and planted her roots . . . blessing her partner have three amazing kids and her Pomaranian, Olivia . . . enjoys spending time with family and friends, attending sporting events, playing volleyball, singing, playing guitar, reading and traveling.

JEFFREY DAVIS, dispatcher, University Police Department . . . originally from Pampa, spent 10 years as a child in Liberty . . . B.S. in political science from WTAMU in 2007 . . . worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife and taught 5th and 6th grade in public schools before returning to WT for his master’s in school counseling . . . lives in Canyon with his wife Kim and their 1-year-old son Tommy.

PAMELA DENNEY, cashier/inventory clerk, University Bookstore . . . graduated from nursing school in 1977 from Amarillo college . . . two wonderful grown sons, and the oldest is a WTAMU graduate . . . has worked for the bookstore off and on for the past 14 years . . . loves spending time with family and supporting the various sport teams at WTAMU.

Mandi GOODIN, textbook receiving clerk, University Bookstore . . . graduated from WTAMU in 2000 with a B.S. in ag business . . . married and with three beautiful kids—one girl and two boys . . . loves to spend time with family, ride horses, shoot guns, make stuffed animals, hunt and fish.

JAQUELINE CERVANTES, assistant director of admissions, Admissions . . . originally from Mexico, but has been in the United States for the last 13 years . . . earned a B.B.A. in general business from WTAMU in 2012 and currently pursuing a M.B.A. with a marketing specialization.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, assistant director of admissions, Admissions . . . hailing from Mesquite . . . enjoys being active—biking, hiking, camping . . . married since 2012 to his awesome wife, Mallory, who graduated from WT . . . he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in 2012 and came to WT as quickly as he could.

April RAMIREZ, outreach adviser, College Talent Search . . . graduated from WTAMU in 2011 . . . started working for the Talent Search program in August of 2013 . . . currently pursuing her master’s degree.

ANDREW SANTOS, assistant director of admissions, Admissions . . . came to WT in August of 2010 . . . had no idea what he wanted to do with his life or even what he wanted to major in . . . with help from people on campus, joined many organizations like Campus Services and Phi Delta Theta, get his degree in sociology and help WT grow by becoming an assistant director of admissions.
WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES (JULY 1, 2013 TO JULY 1, 2014)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

REBECCA BERNET, systems analyst, Information Technology . . . has a B.S. in equine industry and business from WTAMU . . . comes to WTAMU from AIG and has worked in networking since 2001 . . . married to Dianne McKenzie, and they have two children and two foster children they are in the process of adopting . . . enjoys doing mission work for Christ, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

CLAY SCOTT, systems analyst, Information Technology . . . currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in computer information systems . . . started working at WTAMU as a student worker and had the opportunity to join as full-time staff and loves the community here at West Texas A&M University . . . looking forward to keep getting to know each and every one of you, GO BUFFS!

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

FAITH HOELSCHER, developer, Office of Nursing and Health Sciences . . . joined the WTAMU staff in October 2013 . . . received her Bachelor of Science in social work from WTAMU in 2011 and her Master of Business Administration in marketing from WTAMU in 2013 . . . starting her Doctorate of Business Administration this fall through Liberty University . . . she and her husband Ryan reside in a home that they are currently building themselves in Dawn.

WEI PENG, multimedia designer, communication and marketing . . . received master's degree at University of Missouri . . . originally from Shanghai, China and traveled all over the United States before starting a new life in Canyon . . . brings in diverse professional and life experiences to the job . . . enjoys exploring new places, cooking and tranquil West Texas sunsets.

PPHM

DR. VERONICA ARIAS, curator of archeology, PPHM . . . earned a bachelor degree in history and international relations from Boston University, a master's in anthropology and a doctorate in anthropology specializing in archeology from the University of New Mexico . . . worked at UNM as a geographic information systems specialist, professor and graduate assistant . . . at PPHM she will work with the paleontology, archeology, biology and geology collections and focus on the proper exhibition, preservation, and facilitate research requests regarding these collections.

HEATHER KNOWLES, visitor services and account manager, PPHM . . . WTAMU graduate with a B.A. in history . . . has worked for PPHM as a student employee for two years . . . she purchases, merchandises and runs the operations for the museum store and coordinates the PPHM visitor's reception and front desk efforts.

AMY MITCHELL, programs coordinator, PPHM . . . earned a B.A. in history at Western Kentucky a M.A in museum studies at Baylor University, . . . comes to PPHM from Pittsburgh, Penn., by way of central Texas . . . previously worked for the Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum as a curator and education coordinator and the Mayborn Museum in Waco as the assistant village manager . . . at PPHM she is in charge of all adult programming and working on art programming for visitors of all ages.

RESEARCH AND COMPLIANCE

HEATHER TAYLOR, sponsored projects post award accountant I . . . earned a bachelor's degree from WTAMU in 2008 . . . joins WTAMU after three years with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center . . . born in Maine, moved to Texas in 1998 . . . enjoys spending time with her husband, Ryan, and two furry babies . . . Paxton, a mini Australian Shepard, and Bulitt, a Boston Terrier.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

PRISCILLA GANN, administrative secretary II, Recreational Sports . . . comes to WTAMU after working in the medical field for the past four years . . . graduated from Texas Tech University in 2010 with a master's degree in physician assistant studies . . . currently pursuing a degree in nursing.

LEONOR JENKINS, administrative assistant II, Student Disability Services . . . recently moved from Midland with her husband David of 19 years and their two daughters Hannah, who plans to attend WT in the fall of 2015, and Leah, a sophomore at Amarillo High, and a small army of pets . . . previously worked for Midland ISD and Ector County ISD . . . is a Certified Peace Officer, who worked in law enforcement for 12 years . . . enjoys her job at WT . . . hobbies include walking and talking life with her husband, decorating anything, cooking and having family night with her family.

MIKE KNOX, vice president for Student Affairs . . . native of Texas . . . earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in high education administration from the University of Pennsylvania . . . 15 years of experience in student affairs administration . . . joins WTAMU from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he served as assistant vice president for student affairs . . . married to Erica and has six children.

DARCY WEBBER, health integration specialist, Student Medical Services . . . joins WTAMU with 20 years of experience in behavioral health care and social work . . . earned a bachelor’s degree in human development and family studies from Texas Tech University and a master’s degree in clinical social work from the University of Texas at Arlington . . . comes to WTAMU from the Texas Tech Medical School Department of Psychiatry to return to the University . . . holds a clinical license in cognitive behavioral therapy and clinical supervision . . . she and husband Bud have one teenage son.

MICHELLE VINYARD, administrative secretary II, Educational Services . . . received a bachelor's degree in management from WTAMU in 2007 . . . previously worked for a pediatrician for a number of years before working for an orthopedic specialist in Amarillo . . . she and husband Justin have one daughter . . . hobbies include hunting, gardening, camping and spending time with family.

DAYNA SCHERTLER, health integration specialist, Student Medical Services . . . joins WTAMU from the University of Texas at Arlington, where she served as the director of Resident Life and Education . . . enjoys watching college football, jewelry making and metal work and most any outdoor activity.
West Texas A&M University, a member of The Texas A&M University System, is a student-centered, learning community dedicated to educating tomorrow’s leaders through innovative academic and co-curricular undergraduate and graduate programs. The University serves as the principal academic and cultural center of a multi-state region and is a significant catalyst for economic development by expanding the frontiers of knowledge through education, research and consultation. Its faculty and staff prepare students for leadership roles both in their chosen careers and as citizens of the nation and the world. West Texas A&M University is committed to providing a technology-rich education, constantly improving its academically challenging educational experience, and engaging students through effective teaching and practical experiences involving inquiry, discussion, research, creative activities, experiential learning and service. The University is committed to the intellectual, professional and social growth of students by providing an education grounded in the liberal arts and opportunities to develop strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills, an understanding of cultural diversity, a commitment to ethical behavior, an appreciation for the fine arts and humanities, and a desire for life-long learning.

West Texas A&M University holds the following core values as those principles that the University will not compromise, even to overcome obstacles or achieve short-term gain:

- Academic and Intellectual Freedom
- Pursuit of Excellence in All Endeavors
- Creativity and Innovation
- Respect for the Dignity of All Individuals
- Cooperation and Communication
- Community Service and Leadership
- Exceed Expectations of Internal and External Customers
- Continuous Improvement
- Integrity
- Diversity