



Terry B. Rogers College of Education & Social Sciences

Committed to Advancing Society by Developing Professionals to

Lead | Serve | Educate

Monthly Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Greetings from the Dean



Dr. Gary Bigham
Regents Professor | Dean

Exactly one year ago, I assumed my new appointment as Dean of the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences and sent you the following message in my first newsletter:

I am excited to address you in my new appointment as Dean of the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences. I am honored to be afforded the opportunity to work at this level with such a dedicated and accomplished group of professionals! I am committed to fostering an environment where trust is inspired, communication and collaboration is encouraged, academic freedom is valued, and innovation prevails. Through technology rich, innovative, and academically rigorous undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, and certification programs, we as a diverse and inclusive student learning-centered community of educators and scholars will maintain our steadfast commitment to advancing society by developing professionals who will lead, serve, and educate.

I cannot find anything about last August's message that I would change for this year. I am equally excited and honored to serve our students and you, the faculty and staff, in this role again. I look forward to the academic year ahead, as I hope you do.

Last year, I committed to providing a monthly newsletter. I view it as a venue by which I can keep you as informed as possible about college matters and happenings. We have many great accomplishments in our college, and we should celebrate them together. Unfortunately, I fell a bit behind and missed a few months toward the end of the spring semester and throughout the summer. Accordingly, I am attempting to catch everyone up with this August 2024 edition.

Please send me newsworthy information throughout the upcoming academic year. I very much want to share your, and your students' accomplishments. I will also strive to keep you updated with timely information and deadlines as the academic year unfolds. If you find that I have left something out of this newsletter that absolutely needs to be included, please email me and I will be more than happy to include it in the September newsletter.

Here's to wishing each of you a productive, enjoyable, and rewarding 2024-2025 academic year.

Dr. Gary Bigham
Regents Professor and Dean

In This Issue

Greetings from the Dean

Instructional Responsibilities

Intellectual Contributions

Professional Service

Calendar

Follow us



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TEACHING EXCELLENCE



Congratulations to Dr. Jenifer Kunz, Professor of Sociology, for being awarded the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences Faculty Excellence award for Instructional Responsibilities.

Congratulations to Dr. Kunz for also being awarded the West Texas A&M University Distinguished Innovation in Teaching Award!



Read the [May 8 press release](#).

CURRICULUM

WT Enters into Agreement with Cengage and McGraw Hill

Pursuant to [President Wendler's pledge to WT provide free textbooks](#) for students enrolled in core courses beginning in the Fall 2024 semester, WT has contracted with major publishers Cengage and McGraw-Hill. Although the initiative was primarily targeting students in core courses, the range of topics covered by these two publishers has the potential to benefit students in non-core courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels for students in classes whose instructors select materials from either of the two publishers. Additionally, students in core and non-core classes may benefit from instructors who identified other low- and no-cost solutions such as OER from their work last fall, following President Wendler's announcement. Refer to the [May 30 press release](#) for additional information.

Cengage Bb Faculty Resources

Generative AI in Higher Education

Opinions are mixed among instructors and professors in higher education about the place AI may or may not have in the learning arena. Here is a short read revealing some insights from early adopters.

Regardless of your stance...

Every faculty member must select one of the three required statements to be included in your syllabi for the Fall semester:

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

Because writing and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, it is a violation of academic integrity to employ generative AI at any point in this course.

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances with Permission

There are specific situations within this course where you will use generative AI to explore how the technology can serve as a complimentary learning tool. The course faculty member will inform when, where, and how you may employ these tools, along with guidance for attribution. Any use outside the faculty defined parameters constitutes a violation of academic integrity.

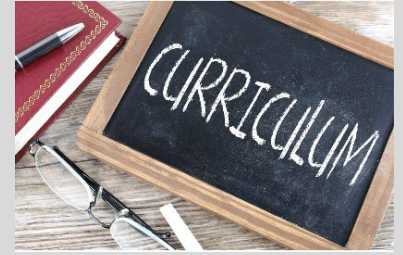
Generative AI Permitted with Attribution

The use of generative AI is permitted in this course to help prepare assignments and projects. When submitting work, students must clearly identify any generative AI content in contrast to student contributions (e.g., student citation of prompts, the generative AI platform used, the date the prompts were issued, and related). Using an AI tool without proper attribution qualifies as a violation of academic integrity.



Fall Curriculum Cycle

As reported in the April newsletter, the curriculum cycle for the upcoming academic year began in May. Although the first hard due date on the Academic Affairs calendar is September 9, much of the substantive work has occurred during the summer at the program, department, and college levels. **Please be mindful that we do not have the time in the fall semester to work on curriculum that we have had in the past.** Accordingly, if you have course additions, changes, deletions, and/or program changes, work directly with program chairs and department heads **sooner rather than later.** We want to be intentional, thorough, and complete. Our goal is to submit well-written documents that are not riddled with problems, and in need of substantial edits. Please know that your professionalism, attentiveness to substance and detail, and allocation of time to the process is greatly appreciated.



Due Dates	Items
May 1-15	Early submission for review
Sept. 9	Curriculum due to direct supervisors
Sept. 16	Curriculum due to Deans
Sept. 17-27	College curriculum committees convene to review curriculum to forward to next level
Sept. 30	Curriculum due to Teacher Ed Unit, Core Committee and Graduate Committee
Oct. 7	All curriculum due to University Committee (Academic Affairs)
Nov. 1	University Curriculum Committee Meeting



The deadline for January and Spring SCHEDULING is at noon on Friday September 13!



Due Dates	Items
Sept. 13	January and Spring courses due
Sept. 19	Spreadsheets with imported data sent to departments for corrections
Sept. 24	Department corrections due
Sept. 24-25	Registrar's office completes corrections
Sept. 26-27	Room scheduling process begins
Oct. 1	Schedule available on web

SOLAR ECLIPSE

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse moved across North America, passing over Mexico, United States, and Canada. The next solar eclipse of this magnitude is not expected to be visible from the United States until 2044. Although it may have taken away from some instructional time, many of our faculty saw the benefit of embracing this rare opportunity to partake of the moment with each other and with students.



INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

New Process for Adding Panopto Videos to WTClass

Panopto, the university tool for sharing premium video content in courses, has updated the process for adding video to WTClass. This new process is designed to be more user-friendly and will make integrating video into your courses easier. If you are currently creating new premium video course content to upload into Panopto, be sure to check out the instructions.

To assist you with the new Panopto process, written and video instructions have been created. See below:

Written Instructions

Video Tutorial

LMS Transition from Blackboard to Canvas

After a five-week faculty evaluation, which included a faculty feedback and recommendation survey, **West Texas A&M University will transition to a new Learning Management System (LMS), Instructure's Canvas, on June 4, 2025.** This launch date coincides with the 2025 Summer I semester.

As the current LMS contract expires on July 31, 2025, WT's instructional technology team is fully committed to working toward a seamless transition to Canvas. In preparation for the transition from Blackboard to Canvas, faculty members were carefully screened and selected to serve as mentors to colleagues within each of the academic colleges. The role of mentors is to learn the Canvas system as an early adopter, prepare and teach a course in Canvas in the Spring 2025 pilot semester, and provide expertise, assistance, and encouragement to colleagues in navigating the migration to Canvas. Faculty mentors for our college will be announced later in August.

Additionally, to keep everyone informed and up to date on the progress of the migration, the instructional technology team has created a [dedicated migration website](#). This website will serve as a central hub for information, resources, and training updates related to the transition to Canvas. You are encouraged to check the site regularly as we transition to the Canvas environment. The migration website link is [Canvas Migration Website](#). Faculty training opportunities are anticipated to roll out in the fall.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this process and your continued dedication to the success of our students. Your support and cooperation are essential as we work together to make this transition as smooth and successful as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about the transition to Canvas, please do not hesitate to contact the Academic Technology team at wtclass@wtamu.edu.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY



Congratulations to Dr. Russell Miller, Assistant Professor of Education and previous Lanna Hatton Professor of Education, for being awarded the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences Faculty Excellence award for Intellectual Contributions.

We bid farewell to Dr. Miller upon his acceptance of an offer to join LeTourneau University as the new Head of their Department of Education.

WT Researchers Explore Increase in Cyberbullying Against Educators



Read the [April 9 press release](#).

Dr. Adam Weiss, Assistant Professor of Education, joined forces with Dr. Leslie Ramos Salazar, Amjad Abdullat Professor of Business, Dr. Jillian Yarbrough, Virginia Engler Professor of Business, and Dr. Katelynn Sell, Assistant Professor of Management at Nova Southeastern University. Their collaborative work titled Cyberbullying of university faculty: An examination of prevalence, coping, gender and personality factors was published in the June issue of *Computers in Human Behavior*.



Hope for the Middle East: American Universities have a Role

Dr. Kal Demerew, Assistant Professor of Political Science, spent time in Israel this summer. Learn more about his visit from his op-ed published in the Dallas Morning News.

PROFESSORSHIPS

Dr. Janet Hindman Receives First Dyke Rogers Professorship

Dr. Janet Hindman has been named the Dyke Rogers Professor of Educational Leadership and will be serving as a professor for the Department of Education and a scholar for the Hill Institute. With her unwavering commitment to the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences and the Department of Education, of which she served as Department Head, coupled with her sense of fair play, guided by her strong moral compass, WT and the Hill Institute will be well-represented with Dr. Hindman's leadership. Congratulations Dr. Hindman!



INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

For additional information, read the [May 2 press release](#).

Trust | Family | Hard Work & Persistence | Regard for Others | Personal Responsibility & Free Will | Exercise of Virtue

The Hill Institute

Compatriotism & Patriotism | Free & Open Exercise of Faith | Personal & Civic Loyalty | Rugged Individualism

Call for Applications: Dyke Rogers Professorship

This professorship is established within the Hill Institute and the Terry B. College of Education and Social Sciences. Appointments for endowed professorships in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences are reviewed every three years for continuance or reassignment based on satisfactory performance of the faculty with the intent of the endowment as evidenced in an annual report of the recipient's professional activity submitted to the College Dean, Hill Institute administration, and Dyke Rogers or his designee. The appointment typically commences on September 1 of the academic year following the appointment; however, the dean may approve an alternative start date in consultation with the donor.

Professorships provide the recipient during the term of the appointment with discretionary funds based on a determined annual spendable percentage of the value of the endowment. Allowable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, program enhancement, research, curriculum development, graduate assistants, computer software and hardware, professional development and/or journal subscriptions and/or related expenditures approved by the dean. The funds may not be used to supplement the appointed faculty member's salary. The use of funds will be reported annually on or before August 31 to the Dean of the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences and Dyke Rogers.

Eligibility criteria:

- The professorship may be awarded to an assistant, associate, or full professor (associate or full professor preferred) in Education and Social Sciences and demonstrate evidence of, or expressed desire to continue instruction, scholarship and service that impacts the quality of life for communities of the Texas Panhandle;
- Record of scholarly activity and teaching effectiveness in the discipline specified by the professorship;
- Record of impactful professional service that advances initiatives in the college; and
- To align with the donor's intent in establishing the professorship, the faculty member should understand and respect the values and beliefs of the donor and be willing to work within the Hill Institute.

In the third-year review of the endowed professorship service, the College Dean may continue the appointment or announce a call for applications for a subsequent appointment. Before the endowed professorship term expiration and the formal call for applications, the College Dean will consult with the donor and designee, when appropriate, to determine whether to renew the faculty appointment in the professorship or consider other applicants as the best path forward to advance the college mission. When reassignment of the professorship is determined, **applications must include a current vita and a statement about how the appointment will enhance the candidate's scholarly activity, teaching, and professional service.** While an endowed professorship is typically a three-year minimum appointment with the possibility of renewal for consecutive three-year terms, the College Dean can terminate a professorship appointment at any time, subject to consultation, when appropriate, with the donor or designee.

The Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences Recognition Committee will review applicants and forward a recommendation of two to three finalists to the College Dean for consideration. Selection will include a faculty interview with the College Dean, Hill Institute administration, and Dyke Rogers or his designee before finalizing an appointment to ensure faculty and donor general values and philosophies align. The Dean will forward a recommendation to the University Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs will appoint all endowed professorships subject to the university president's approval.

The Rogers have generously committed to funding seven professorships as follows: Educational Leadership, Education (Science of Teaching Reading), Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Political Science. Four are now funded, one of which is held by Dr. Janet Hindman. I am seeking applications to award three more in the fall – one in education and two in the social sciences. **The application requires the submission of a current CV and a statement about how the appointment will enhance the applicant's scholarly activity, teaching, and professional service.** The deadline for applications is September 1st. Applications should be emailed to the Dean at gbigham@wtamu.edu.

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Research Grant



Dr. Sang Hwang was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to support her research on early childhood literacy and ESL programs for refugee populations in the Texas Panhandle. Her project is titled *Empowering refugee parents: Enhancing English proficiency for improved child education outcomes*.

Internal Grants Programs

Call for Proposals Begins August 2024

WT Graduate School and Research
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.

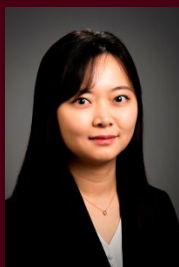
806-651-2732 | SRSInternalGrants@wtamu.edu | wtamu.edu/srs

Killgore Faculty Research

Graduate Student Research

President's Undergraduate Research

Faculty Development Grant



Congratulations to Dr. Sohee Kim, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, who earned a Faculty Development grant at the conclusion of the academic year. Faculty development grants are provided to fund professional development and associated travel expenses. Dr. Kim attended the Summer 2024 Conference of the Korean Society of Criminology at Endicott College. For more information about award winners university-wide, refer to the [press release](#).

Twanna Powell Fellowship



Dr. Maxine Debutte, Professor of Psychology, was selected as the first Twanna M. Powell Fellow and publicly recognized in the May commencement ceremony. The fellowship comes with \$50,000 of discretionary funds to support her research. Dr. Debutte plans to search for possible cognitive effects adult psychiatric medications may have on pediatric patients whose brains are still developing. For more information, refer to the [May 11 press release](#).

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE



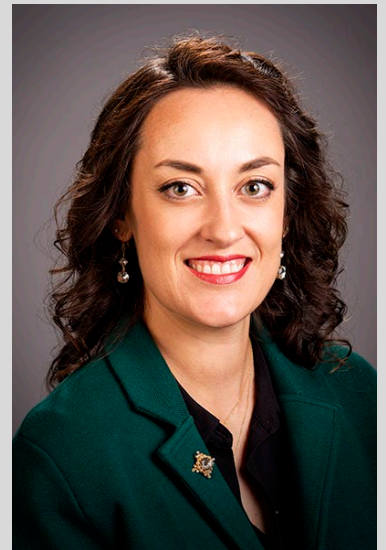
Congratulations to Dr. Janet Hindman, Professor of Education and Dyke Rogers Professor of Educational Leadership, for being awarded the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences Faculty Excellence award for Professional Service.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Rogers Interviewed by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dr. Elizabeth Rogers was interviewed by the Fort Worth Star Telegram following three student suicides in Keller ISD. Dr. Rogers is an Assistant Professor of Counseling in the Department of Education, a Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified School Counselor in Texas, and a National Certified Counselor. Dr. Rogers was awarded the John Shirley Advocacy Award by the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) and she is the president-elect of TCA. Thanks to Dr. Rogers for serving in such an important leadership role in this important state organization. We anticipate Dr. Roger's expertise to continue to be sought as she leads this organization an represents the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences.

The article referenced was titled, *After three student suicides in Keller ISD, mental health experts urge quick response.*



FACULTY LED, DIRECTED, AND INFLUENCED STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WT's Model UN Team Earns Honors at National Conference



Dr. Ming Xie, assistant professor of emergency management administration accompanied six students at the National Model UN event in New York City in April where they earned honorable mention delegate awards. Student participants included Helena Barnett, senior accounting major, Ubaldo Campa, sophomore political science major, Joel Diehl, senior political science major, Emmanuel Gonzalez, freshman political science major, Logan Johnson, senior electrical engineering major, and Collin Williamson, junior political science major. For additional details, refer to the [press release](#).

FACULTY LED, DIRECTED, AND INFLUENCED STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BSW Spring Conference



The BSW program held their Spring BSW Conference in April. Guided by Instructor Nydia Sotelo-Estrada, this is a student-inspired and student-led event. The first portion of the event provided undergraduate Social Work students with opportunities to meet with local agencies to learn more about the services they provide to the community. In addition, students had opportunities to speak with seniors who were completing their internships to learn about their experiences. Lunch was provided and swag bags were distributed. The second portion of this conference included presentations by students, for students, on various social work topics. This venue enabled seniors to hone their public speaking and leadership skills.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Students Recognized and Awarded Scholarships



Political Science and Criminal Justice students were awarded more than \$85,000 in scholarships and the PSCJ department recognized the following as outstanding students of the year:

Political Science: Biak Nung

Emergency Management Administration: Phillip Keith Smith Jr.

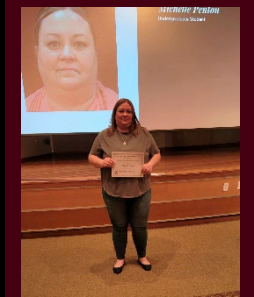
Criminal Justice: Thomas Wilson

Refer to the [press release](#) for detailed information about the scholarship donors and awardees.

Social Work Honors Reception



The Social Work Honors reception was held on April 22 in Legacy Hall. The reception was well-attended and many social work students were recognized for their accomplishments through out the academic year.



In addition to the many students who were recognized for various honors, the outstanding social work students of the year for the undergraduate and graduate programs were:

← BSW: Michelle Penton

MSSW: Jazmyn McGuire →



The following students were inducted into Phi Alpha Nu, the Social Work Honor Society: Elizabeth Salinas, Sara Oerly, and April White.

Shelly Johnson received the heart of social work award.



Social Work Student Receives Scholarship

Malyssa Starr, a second-semester MSSW student at West Texas A&M University, was awarded the 2024 Ima Hogg Scholarship by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. This \$5,000 scholarship will support her studies as she prepares to provide mental health services to underserved communities in Texas. Malyssa's journey in social work began with diverse experiences, including youth mentoring, Applied Behavioral Analysis, and work with Child Protective Services and homeless veterans. Her passion lies in supporting children and families, with aspirations to become a licensed clinical social worker and open her own clinic.

Kappa Delta Pi Ceremony

Kappa Delta Pi is the premier honor society in Education. WTAMU’s chapter is Iota Theta which was chartered in April of 1960. Dr. Jennifer Denham is currently serving as the advisor. Seven initiates (Kelsy Arnold, Bailey Bradley, Doraelia Johnston, Lisa Manriquez, Emily Montgomery, Alicia Rico, Sage Wyatt) were brought into the chapter and four new officers were installed: Bailey Bradley (President), Michelle Thomas (Vice President), Emily Montgomery (Secretary), and Lisa Manriquez (Treasurer).

A reception in the Williams Reading room followed the ceremony on the evening of April 22nd.

Congratulations to these future educators and thanks to Dr. Denham and colleagues who provided guidance and direction to helped make this event a success!



Criminal Justice Association

For their last Criminal Justice Association meeting of the academic year, the WT CJA hosted Frank Phillips College CJ students for an evening of games, pizza, fellowship, and decompressing before finals. Faculty sponsors included Dr. John Jordan at Frank Phillips College and Dr. So Hee Kim and Dawn Jordan at WT.



Psychology Program Honors Students and Others



On May 2nd, the psychology program hosted a special event for students to recognize high performers, scholarship awardees, etc. The psychology students of the year were Emma Patterson, undergraduate and Gracelynn Wilson, graduate.

Shelly Johnson and Cindy Grabbe were recognized for their ongoing and helpful support to the program.



Dr. Stephanie Hart Named Director of the Center for Learning Disabilities and the Lanna Hatton Professor of Learning Disabilities

Dr. Stephanie Hart, Assistant Professor of Special Education, accepted the directorship of WT's Center for Learning Disabilities in May. Dr. Hart's passion for serving students with special needs aligns perfectly with the mission of the CLD. In conjunction with the directorship, Dr. Hart was also named the Lanna Hatton Professor of Learning Disabilities. Congratulations Dr. Hart and thank you for your service!



Refer to the June 4 press release for more information.

August Events

Aug. 15-16	New Faculty Orientation
Aug. 19	Fall Faculty Development; NS 101, 8:30 a.m.
Aug. 19	Faculty and Staff Convocation (University), JBK Legacy Hall, 1:00 p.m.
Aug. 21	Fall TBRCOESS Meeting; JBK Thunder, 10:00 a.m. (lunch provided afterwards)
Aug. 26	First Class Day

Collaborative Outreach: Community of Practice

Collegiate Edu-Nation (CEN) was awarded a \$200,000 grant by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in association with their partnership with WT to better serve rural students. The top ten partnerships across the United States were recognized and convened by the Carnegie Corporation in New York City in May. Participants of this community of practice are pictured below. Dr. Bigham, Regents Professor and Dean of the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences represented WT for the CEN-WT partnership.



August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Deadline for Dec Graduation Application <hr/> 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Last Class Day; SU 2	15 New Faculty Orientation <hr/> 11 Week Courses: Last Day for Finals <hr/> SU Finals <hr/> 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline	16 New Faculty Orientation	17
18	19 8:30: Fall Faculty Development; NS 101 <hr/> 9:00: Grades due; SU 2 <hr/> 1:00: Faculty/Staff Convocation; Legacy Hall	20 9:30: DOE Faculty Meeting	21 10:00: TBRCOESS Meeting; JBK Thunder <hr/> Syllabus Posting Deadline	22 Buff Branding	23 Buff Branding <hr/> Waitlists Close	24 Buff Branding
25	26 First Class Day	27	28	29	30	31

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day; University Closed	3 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline	4	5	6	7
8	9 Curriculum Due to Direct Supervisors	10	11 12 th Class Day	12	13 Winter Intercession and Spring Courses Due to Registrar	14
15	16 Curriculum Due to Dean T&P/3 rd Yr Review Folders Due; Interfolio 2:00: IRB and IACUC Submission Deadline	17 College Curriculum Committees Convene T&P/3 rd Yr Dept Committees Review and Convene	18	19	20	21
					8:00 pm: IT Maintenance →	2:00 am: IT Maintenance
22	23 College Curriculum Committees Convene T&P/3 rd Yr Dept Committees Review and Convene 20 th Class Day	24	25	26	27	28
					→	
29	30 Curriculum Due to Teacher Ed Unit, Core Committee & Graduate Committee T&P/3 rd Yr Dept Committees Review and Convene					

Academy Affairs Calendar

Academy Calendar (Registrar)