Dr. Daniel Bennett (Assistant Professor, Department of Biology) was awarded a grant through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for his research project titled *Bees of the Big Thicket National Preserve.*

Dr. Michele Harris (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry), recent recipient of an endowed professorship, has developed the first course specific to the new Patent Education program. The course is titled Introduction to Intellectual Property and is open to all STEM majors as well as Forestry, Environmental Science and Agriculture majors. Dr. Harris also recently completed a series of patent courses at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Texas Regional Office.

Drs. Wesley Brown, Chris Barker, Mindy Shaw Faulkner and Kevin Stafford co-authored with multiple graduate students on presentations at the 51st Annual Meeting of the South-Central Geological Society of America meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Keith Hubbard (Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics) assumed leadership of the Mathematics Association of America’s national Committee on Articulation and Placement.

Dr. Jane Long (Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics) was recently named an associate director for the National Association of Math Circles.

Dr. Christopher Aul (Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Engineering & Astronomy) is the PI on a National Science Foundation grant, through a sub-award from Texas A&M University titled, *Undergraduate Research in Energy and Propulsion.*
Hospitality Administration faculty worked with Oglala Lakota College (a tribal college) to develop a hospitality concentration within the Lakota Studies degree.

Merchandising faculty received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant related to textile conservation.

The Interior Design Senior Design Show is traveling from the SFA Library to showcase displays in Dallas and in Houston.

Dr. Eric Jones and Dr. Dustin Joubert are taking three of their students to co-present research at the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) International Conference 2017 in Denver at the end of May.

Dr. Linda Bobo is completing the articulation agreement with LeTourneau related to the graduate athletic training program; in this articulation agreement, selected high performing kinesiology students interested in athletic training at LeTourneau will transfer to SFA during their senior year to begin the graduate athletic training program.

Dr. Karen Embry Jenlink, Professor of doctoral studies in educational leadership recently accepted the gavel and will serve as national president of the Association of Teacher Educators during the 97th annual meeting held in Orlando, Florida. The ATE was founded in 1920 as a professional member organization devoted to the improvement of educator preparation for school-based and university teacher educators. Its members represent more than 700 colleges and universities, 500 major school systems, and a majority of state departments of education within 41 active state and regional affiliated units.

Mary Catherine Breen (Sec Ed & Ed Leadership), Submitted GEAR-UP Grant — over $11 million partnering with LISD and NISD to increase postsecondary enrollment and reduce the need for postsecondary remediation


**College of Liberal and Applied Arts**

Dr. Brian Murphy, Dean

**Ray Darville, Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology, and Pat Stephens Williams**, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, are beginning work with the Alabama State Parks system in order to conduct a first-of-its-kind visitor survey of their park visitors in four selected state parks. This multi-year project will involve visitor studies in all 22 Alabama state parks. We will be taking eight undergraduate and one graduate student with us this summer, which supports the university’s plan on enhancing student experiences (transformative learning) outside the classroom. Students will be gathering data and developing their research skills as part of their experience.

Dr. Sue Whaley, English lecturer, attended the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference and her personal essay, "Milledgeville: A Bird Sanctuary," was runner-up in their competition; it has been published in *Ten Spurs* journal.

Dr. Mark Sanders, English Chair and Professor, published *The Red Book: The Selected Poems of Kathleene West*. He was a primary consultant to editor Daniel Simon of the *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology 1867-2017*, published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press; the book is part of the 150 year legacy project for the State of Nebraska. He has three poems in the anthology, as well. He also published two poems in *Watching the Perseids: The Backwaters Press Twentieth Anniversary Anthology*. 
Dr. Kyle Conlon Assistant professor of psychology, Conlon’s article “Transparency for the Public Good: When Feeling Powerful Does and Does Not Affect Willingness to Sacrifice for the Environment” was recently accepted for publication in The Journal of General Psychology.

College of Fine Arts

Dr. A.C. “Buddy” Himes, Dean

Chris Talbot and David Lewis are taking a group of 10 art students to Florence, Italy this summer.

Tim King is taking the SFA A Capella Choir to Germany this summer on a Martin Luther Reformation pilgrimage.

Dr. Andy Parr and Dr. Gene Moon each traveled to Hong Kong in March to present masterclasses and to recruit graduate students for the School of Music.

Jessee Edwards, a composition student of Dr. Stephen Lias’s, won an international music competition and was invited to Lviv, Ukraine to present this.

Prof. Piero Fenci from the School of Art will be representing the College of Fine Arts and the School of Art at one of the first artistic exchange endeavors with institutions in Cuba this June.

Angela Bacarisse and other theatre faculty will be taking a group of students to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland this summer.

Nelson Rusche College of Business

Dr. Tim Bisping, Dean

Dr. Ryan Phelps, associate professor of economics and finance has been selected as the 2017 Undergraduate Research Mentor. Phelps has mentored numerous
undergraduate students during his tenure at SFA. Three of these students have been selected as URC Top Scholars, including Rebecca Miller, who is being recognized this year for her work “The Impact of Demographics on Aggravated Assault in Texas Cities.”

Rusche College of Business has implemented a mentorship program to provide students with an additional resource outside of an academic setting. The program matches members of the Rusche College of Business Executive Advisory Board with an SFA student based on the student’s goals, the mentor’s industry specialty and location, and personalities. Mentors advise and guide students as they advance in college and help students launch their careers.

Rusche College of Business hosted its fourth College to Career Conference. C2C, a professional development event, will feature sessions throughout the day with speakers from across the state representing companies such as Kohls, Wells Fargo, Wintrust Commercial Finance, Pilgrim’s Pride, Austin Bank and more.

Dr. Susan Jennings in the Rusche College of Business Department of Business Communications and Legal Studies won the 2017 Outstanding Educator Award for the Association of Business Communication – Southwestern United States presented at the Federation of Business Disciplines conference in Little Rock on March 8, 2017.

Ms. Judi Biss in the Rusche College of Business Department of Business Communications and Legal Studies was selected as the 2017 Marlin Young Outstanding Teacher Award winner of the Association for Business Communication – Southwestern United States which was presented at the Federation of Business Disciplines conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 10, 2017.

Rusche College of Business Faculty member in the Department of Business Communications and Legal Studies, Dr. Clive Muir, sponsors the college’s Phi Beta Lambda chapter which recently sent 22 students to state competition in Houston. The chapter had a very strong showing with a number of state winners, including:

1st Place Business Ethics - Daniel Walker
2nd Place Client Service - John Edling
2nd place Cost Accounting - Mark McLean
3rd Future Business Executive - Michael Kugler
Several of these Phi Beta Lambda students are next expected to participate in Nationals which are in Anaheim, California, at the end of June.

**Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture**

**Dr. Hans Williams, Interim Dean**

**Dr. Jared Barnes**, assistant professor of agriculture, received the 2017 Sustainability Award from the Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful organization during SFA’s Earth Day Celebration held April 1.

SFA’s Division of Environmental Science was invited to participate in the Society of Petroleum Engineer’s student competition at the Health, Safety, Security, Environment, and Social Responsibility Conference - North America in New Orleans on April 18-20. Six universities participated in a challenging four-hour quiz bowl competition sponsored by ExxonMobil. It was SFA’s first time to compete in the event, which was dominated by petroleum and environmental engineering programs.

SFA placed fourth behind Colorado School of Mines (first place), University of Oklahoma (second place), Texas Tech University (third place) – and ahead of Oklahoma State University (fifth place) and Louisiana State University (sixth place). It was a close finish and significantly raised the visibility of SFA’s program with the petroleum industry. Five senior environmental science students represented SFA: Brianna Bueno, Conner Marx, Jill Pickett, Craig Sterling, and Megan McCombs. Coaches were **Drs. Sheryll Jerez, Kenneth Farrish, and Jeremy Higgins**. The teams competed in three topic areas: Environment, Social Responsibility, and Health and Safety. We plan on participating again in two years when the event is held in Houston.
Drs. Christopher Comer and Daniel Scognamillo led 25 students from the forestry program to the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Led by college advisors, Brandy Bishop and Kara Goodson, over 20 potential employers participated in the first-ever ATCOFA Career Fair held in the forestry building; 120 students participated in the event.

Drs. Daniel Unger and David Kulhavy representing the geospatial science program were recently invited by the Society of American Foresters to write a paper on their leading use of UAVs in forest management applications.

ATCOFA faculty Drs. Daniel Unger, David Kulhavy, I-Kuai Hung, and Yanli Zhang completed the following publications in 2016:


Dr. Yuhui Weng, assistant professor forestry, reports his first publication since joining the faculty at SFA:


Ralph W. Steen Library

Dr. Shirley Dickerson, Director

Linda Reynolds, director of the East Texas Research Center (ETRC)

• The ETRC hosted a reception in January for the opening of the David Rusk papers donated by Linda Rusk and family. Kyle Ainsworth, Special Collections Librarian, was the principal in processing the Rusk collection which comprises more than 700 items covering the Republic of Texas and early Texas statehood.

• Ms. Reynolds was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board whose mission is to:

  ✓ promote awareness of historically significant records through education and

  ✓ training support public access to records;

  ✓ serve as a catalyst for improving storage conditions within the state;

  ✓ support the preservation efforts of historical and genealogical societies, archives, museums, libraries, colleges, local governments, and other institutions;

  ✓ review grant requests submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for funding.
• Ms. Reynolds presented at the Texas Czech Genealogical Society “Preservation and Disaster Planning & Recovery of your Family Treasures” January 28, 2017

• Ms. Reynolds is overseeing the project process the W.T. Carter & Bro. Lumber Company records. Several graduate and undergraduate students are involving with processing the extensive collection. This is anticipated to be a two-year project.

• Ms. Reynolds was awarded a $12,674 Texas Treasures grant from the Texas State Library & Archives Commission to digitize 384 oral histories gathered during the 1970s-1990’s from Gary High School students as part of the Loblolly magazine. Linda is providing a unique oral history (OH) number prior to uploading them to Sound Cloud and ingesting them into the East Texas Digital Archives online repository.

• Ms. Reynolds served as a reviewer for the Academy of Certified Archivist (ACA) recertification petitions, Feb

Edward Iglesias—Web Services Librarian

• Edward Iglesias, Web Services Librarian and Kreg Mosier, head of Library Web Services, launched the Emerging Technologies Area in the Steen Library, which is a hub of tools provided for student use to facilitate their literacy and mastery of emerging technologies. Currently, the focus is on Virtual Reality (VR) and 3D printing as aids to visualizing and rapidly prototyping ideas. In the use of these tools students are exposed to 3D Modeling software in a VR environment such as Tiltbrush and Medium as well as more conventional desktop tools like Autodesk 360 Fusion or Revit. The immersive nature of Virtual Reality also allows for a wide variety of educational application in many fields of study. By "getting out of the way" of student learning, the Library hopes to provide an environment where students are constantly challenging themselves while working with peers to research, discover and create.

**Jodene Pappas—Cataloging Services**

- Conference Presentation
  - Presented at the SirsiDynix Users Group meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 24, 2016. Her presentation was titled “Considerations before Implementing MobileCirc for a Weeding Project: Two Perspectives”.

**Dr. Spencer Acadia, Information Literacy Librarian**

- Peer-Reviewed Articles
  


- Book Chapters
  

- Database/Encyclopedia Entries
  


- Conference Presentation:


- Reviewer

Dr. Acadia was invited by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and Choice to review and contribute to the Resources for College Libraries database hosted by ProQuest. He reviewed and recommended changes to database taxonomic structure in sociology and recommended book title additions to the core collection list in sociology.

**Phil Reynolds, Scholarly Communications Librarian**

Conference Presentations:


https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc920665/
Tools & Strategies to Enhance Your Journal Publishing Program [Lightning Panel]
“Helping Fledgling Journals Leave the Nest” R. Philip Reynolds, May 18th 2016 Denton, TX
https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc920644/m1/

“Helping Fledgling Journals Leave the Nest: Library as Publisher Support for Launching New Journals” R. Philip Reynolds, IR Day, April 29th, 2016, Hattiesburg, MS
http://aquila.usm.edu/irday/2016/1/16/

Susan Clarke, Head of Research & Instructional Services

Conference Presentation:

Presented at the Library and Information Technology Association Conference in November 2016 in Ft. Worth, TX. Topic: “User Experience and Assessment: Building a Framework from Within”.

Erica Chapman, Research & Instructional Services Librarian

Service

Appointed to the steering committee organizing the first Texas Conference on Institutional Repositories.

Jonathan Helmke, Associate Director for Information Services

Conference Presentation: