Faculty Senate Report—January 28, 2014
Outstanding Faculty Activities & Accomplishments

Nelson Rusche College of Business

- Dr. Timothy Clipson, business communication and leadership professor, was recently invited to speak at the Carter Lecture Series at Georgia Southern University College of Business Administration and also continues as an invited speaker and trainer at student leadership conferences sponsored by the international Beta Gamma Sigma organization.
- Mr. Henry Dunn, legal studies lecturer, served as advisor for the Pens and Axes chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Inc., the largest and oldest business student organization in the world. He successfully coached and prepared student for state competition, seven of whom qualified to compete at the PBL National Conference in Anaheim, California.
- Dr. J. Keaton Grubbs, legal studies professor, developed and led business students in a study abroad, which included visits to business venues in Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, which focused on European trade and finance. Dr. Grubbs was the 2013 recipient of the college’s Marlin C. Young Teaching Excellence Award and the SFA Teaching Excellence Award.
- Dr. Emiliano Giudici, assistant professor of finance, presented his paper, “The Impact of Business Sentiment of Capital Structure: Evidence from Brazil,” at the Academy of Business Research.
- Dr. Ryan Phelps, associate professor of economics, had his article, “An Empirical Investigation into the Local Decision to Ban Smoking,” accepted for publication in the Journal of Applied Economics and Policy.
- Dr. Phelps continues to lead the Economics Reading Group, which is funded by a grant received from the Koch Foundation, into its third year, providing students with the opportunity to discuss current economic concepts and qualify for scholarships.
- Dr. Mitch Crocker, management professor and department chair, and Ms. Cathy Henderson, management lecturer, received the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award from the Society for Advancement of Management.

James I. Perkins College of Education

- Dr. Jannah Nerren, associate professor of Elementary Education, recently hosted Stacy Bess, an author and educator, best known for Nobody Don't Love Nobody, which was made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie in 2011 called "Beyond the Blackboard."
- Dr. Tara Newman, assistant professor of human sciences and director of the Office of High Impact Practices, is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Southern Queensland (Australia) where she is assisting the university as they combine their colleges of engineering and education.

College of Fine Arts

- A delegation of music faculty will travel to China over spring break to recruit Chinese graduate students in strings and piano to attend SFA.
- An exchange art show with the Liberia Accademia di Belle Arti (LABA) in Florence, Italy, last year has planted the roots for a student exchange program for the future.
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

- Dr. Jeremy Stovall, assistant professor of forestry, recently received a $127,000 grant from Luminant Mining to study forest carbon ecology on reclaimed mine land.
- Dr. Dale Perritt, professor and department chair of agriculture, serves on the national board for the Non-land Grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities organization.
- Dr. Warren Conway, professor of forestry, is receiving $125,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform an environmental assessment of heavy metals in snowy plover nesting habitats.
- Dr. Craig Morton, associate professor of agriculture, is serving as associate superintendent of the National Future Farmers of America Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems Career Development program involving 44 states across the United States.

College of Liberal and Applied Arts

- Through a collaborative effort with many SFA faculty members, Dr. Ray Darville, professor of sociology, has directed a study for the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Dr. Andrew Brininstool, assistant professor of English, signed a contract with Queen’s Ferry Press to publish his short story collection, Crude Sketches Done in Quick Succession.
- Dr. Gary Mayer, professor of mass communication, presented his research at the Popular Culture Association conference in Washington, D.C., titled, “That Ad Don’t Make Sense: No Drusilla, Ads are not Perfect.”

College of Sciences and Mathematics

- Dr. David Cook, associate professor of computer science, was recently elected president of the Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on the Ada Programming Language.
- Mr. Korey Kahler, lecturer of computer science, recently had his coauthored article, “Testing the Effectiveness of Lecture Capture Technology Using Prior GPA as a Performance Indictor,” published in the Teacher=Scholar journal.
- Drs. Steve Wagner, Jo Taylor, Sarah Canterbury, and Ron Havner, faculty from the department of biology, have been working on project funded during the past four years by the National Study of Education in Undergraduate Science. They were initially funded to help study the long-term effects of the former NASA-NOVA course (BIO 301). This included site visits by project evaluators from San Diego State University. In 2011 and 2012, they were invited to present papers at NSEUS’ annual conference on their efforts to reform undergraduate science education. Their participation resulted in the publication of two “background research” papers, “Connecting Undergraduates to the Work of Minority Scientists,” and “Cooking from Scratch: Development of Inquiry Based Activities for the General Microbiology Laboratory.”
- The Biology Department has purchased a LICOR 4300 DNA Analyzer. This machine will transform our abilities to conduct genetic research at SFA, as genetic techniques are used to answer questions in evolutionary biology, behavioral and molecular ecology, systematics, population genetics, conservation biology, and are a cornerstone of molecular biology and biotechnology. The DNA Analyzer gives us the ability to offer students hands-on experiences in advanced molecular techniques. Funding for the DNA Analyzer was provided by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and a Genomics Education Matching Fund Grant awarded to Jennifer Gumm, assistant professor of biology.