

# COE NEWS

A Publication of the College of Education at Texas State University

## Employee Wellness Pilot Program Launching Spring 2015

The Department of Health and Human Performance is teaming up with other units across campus to help Texas State employees make their health a priority. Employees can register now for the Texas State



Employee Wellness Pilot Program, which begins Jan. 12 and ends May 4. During this program, employees will have free and unlimited access to wellness education classes, swim at the Aqua Sports Center twice a week, racquetball at Jowers Center, and group exercise classes at Jowers Center, JCK, Aqua Sports Center, and other possible locations. Program registration and additional information are available at [www.worklife.txstate.edu/Wellness](http://www.worklife.txstate.edu/Wellness).

“Carolyn Clay and I are excited about assisting human resources in expanding the wellness options on campus,” said Lisa Lloyd, professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance. “This will not only benefit Texas State employees, but also faculty who are interested in using this program as a platform for research and students who are interested in developing a strong set of wellness promotion skills.”

Using a lottery system, 100 pilot participants will receive additional features, including pre- and post-program assessments, cooking demonstrations, membership to the Student Recreation Center, and behavior change coaching during the 15-week pilot program period. Participants must meet eligibility criteria and register by Dec. 15. ★

## ★ *Our Mission*

As a premier professional school, Texas State University’s College of Education is dedicated to enhancing human potential for all through excellent teaching, relevant scholarship, and community engagement.

## *Inside this issue*

- \$15 Million NASA Grant.....2
- Research Highlights.....3
- Alumna Feature: Patricia Fletsch Beck.....4
- Del Valle Superintendent Receives National Award.....5
- Presidential Award Recipients.....6
- Project SUPERB Receives \$1.05 Million DOE Grant.....7
- Faculty & Staff Spotlight.....8-9
- From the Dean’s Desk.....10

# *NASA Awards Texas State \$15 Million Grant for STEM Teacher Training*

Texas State University has been awarded a \$15 million grant from NASA to help train teachers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines.

The grant, the largest ever for Texas State, will be distributed over five years to the university's Colleges of Education and Science and Engineering.

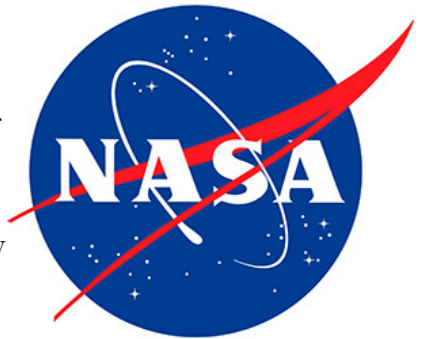
“By creating a national STEM educator professional development model capitalizing on NASA’s unique assets, the initiative aims to strengthen the STEM content knowledge and instructional skills of our nation’s teachers, thereby resulting in greater student interest and success in STEM-related courses and an increase in the national STEM workforce pipeline,” said Texas State Provost Gene Bourgeois.

Texas State was awarded the grant after the university responded to a NASA challenge to minority-serving institutions to propose innovative ways to share the agency’s unique content to enhance professional development for STEM teachers.

Under the agreement, Texas State and its partners will create experiential learning opportunities for educators, with a strong emphasis on digital technology for accessing and using NASA content.

“This is truly a team accomplishment and recognition of the prestige and quality of our College of Education. Collaborating with NASA in this way positions us to extend our reach to a national audience of teachers,

teacher educators and other informal educators,” said Araceli Martinez Ortiz, director of the LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research at Texas State.



***“This is truly a team accomplishment and recognition of the prestige and quality of our College of Education.”***

“Over the next five years, we will develop, research and facilitate the delivery of various forms of professional learning experiences for educators nationwide,” she said. “Through these STEM educators, we seek to positively affect more students in grades K-20.”

“As one of the largest single awards made to Texas State University, the NASA grant to support STEM education research is a resounding endorsement of our institutional strength and role as a national leader in STEM education research,” said Michael Blanda, assistant vice president for research and federal relations at Texas State. ★

# Research Highlights

## Curriculum and Instruction's Taylor Acee Presents Presidential Seminar



Dr. Taylor Acee, assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was honored by President Denise M. Trauth at the 45th Presidential Seminar in April. The Presidential Seminar represents the highest honor the university bestows upon faculty for scholarly and creative activity.

In his presentation, entitled "College Student Motivation: Emerging Research and Ideas for Practice,"

Acee reviewed a series of experimental and correlational studies he conducted on student motivation in undergraduate courses. He emphasized the roles students' values, beliefs, goals and emotions play in learning and academic achievement. He also discussed programs, interventions and learning strategies for helping students generate motivation and become more strategic and self-regulated learners. ★

## Ph.D. in Education Program Establishes Partnership with Chilean Universities

Four Chilean scholars from the education doctorate program at Universidad Alberto Hurtado-Universidad Diego Portales in Chile visited Texas State University to inaugurate a new doctoral-level partnership. This collaboration focuses on enhancing a mutual Chilean-U.S. research infrastructure to support educational improvement in both countries.



The week-long visit involved researchers and doctoral students from Chile and Texas State University. Activities included a research colloquium, strategic planning and site visits to Texas public schools in Del Valle ISD. ★

## Ciullo Accepted to Competitive Research Workshop

Dr. Stephen Ciullo, assistant professor of special education, was one of only 15 applicants accepted to the Research Design Workshop at Northwestern University this summer. Ciullo earned his doctoral degree in special education from the University of Texas at Austin. He researches instructional practices that enhance content learning and reading in students with high-incidence disabilities in grades 4-8. ★

## Barry Wins 3MT Competition

The Graduate College hosted Texas State's first university-wide 3MT competition this March, which entailed short, intense articulations of students' doctoral research. Bill Barry, graduate student in developmental education, earned first place in the competition.

## Brooks Represents US in Korea Visit

Dr. Ann Brooks, director of the adult, professional and community education Ph.D. program, visited Korea in November. She was sponsored by the Koreans and the Japanese as the U.S. representative to a tri-continental symposium, with the event's goal being to initiate a transcultural scholarly dialogue and initiate a new global journal. ★

# Alumna Feature Patricia Fertsch Beck (1906-1971)

Patricia Fertsch Beck's life was marked by personal struggle, from health issues to financial setbacks. But those hardships pale in comparison to her legacy of dedication to her family, her students, and her decades-long career as a Texas public school teacher.

Patricia grew up as the eldest of five children in Hallettsville, Texas, where her father, Chas Fertsch, served as mayor for 12 years. While her father practiced law his entire life, many of his family members had successful careers in higher education, so Patricia's passion for education came by her naturally.

Patricia graduated from Hallettsville High School around 1923 and went on to study education at the University of Texas at Austin. She attended for two years, as the minimum requirement for a teaching certificate was just two years of accredited college at the time.

Patricia's first teaching position was in the agrarian community of Engle, Texas.

While teaching there, she met and married her husband, Alfons J. (A.J.) Beck, a local restaurant proprietor and first-generation American in the neighboring town of Flatonia, Texas. She continued teaching in Flatonia until her first son, Chas, was born in 1929. After their son's birth, Patricia's teaching career was put on hold for the next seven years as their family expanded to five children.

Patricia continued to take care of their family full time until 1935, when she began teaching at the Mexican American grade school in Waelder, Texas. That school was dissolved after several years, and Patricia became the oft-acclaimed third grade teacher in the Waelder ISD.

Patricia's teaching legacy is remarkable, as she taught over 30 years throughout personal hardship. But two obstacles in particular put her teaching career in the balance and demonstrated her dedication as an educator.

In 1945 at the end of World War II, the state of Texas passed legislation requiring a four-year accredited college degree to teach. Patricia only had a two-year degree. She and several other Central Texas teachers set out to achieve this goal so they could continue to teach public school. For the next several years, they spent every Saturday of the school year and three to five days a week during the summers trekking the 47 miles from Waelder to then Southwest Texas State Teacher's College in San Marcos. After four years, in the summer of 1949, Patricia received her degree the same year her second eldest son, Marvin, received his high school diploma.

Because she overcame this obstacle, Patricia taught uninterrupted from 1936 until 1960. She had her sixth child, Joan, the same year she earned her four-year degree. Only a few years later, her husband A.J.'s health began to decline. In the summer of 1953, A.J. passed away at 49, leaving her to provide for their six children on a meager teacher's salary.



*Students receiving scholarships, including the Patricia Fertsch Beck Education Scholarship.*

"What really made her an authentic "hung the moon" type mother and public school teacher was her forever forfeiting her personal comfort and financial where-with-all so she might provide for her children and others," said Marvin E. Beck, Patricia's son.

Then, in 1960, both her life and her teaching career were in jeopardy. That year Patricia suffered a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 54. She had completed more than 25 years of teaching, but she wasn't done yet. Patricia managed to recover and return to teaching, impacting children's lives for several more years.

Patricia had a second stroke several years after her initial recovery. She passed away in 1971 at the age of 65. She left a legacy for her family, for public education, and for Texas State through the annual Patricia Fertsch Beck Education Scholarship. ★

## Middle School Students Research Texas State

Students at Durham Middle School in Lewisville, Texas were happy to receive spirit items from the College of Education this spring.



Several groups from Ms. Katie Richmond's sixth grade math class researched Texas State University as part of an assignment and were rewarded with small gifts, which the college donated. ★



## Del Valle ISD Superintendent Receives National Excellence in Educational Leadership Award

Nominated by the Texas State University education and community leadership faculty, Dr. Kelly K. Crook was awarded the national Excellence in Educational Leadership Award by the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). Crook is the Superintendent of the Del Valle Independent School District in Central Texas. The UCEA is a consortium of 98 research-oriented higher education institutions committed to advancing the preparation and practice of educational leaders for the benefit of schools and children. The Excellence in Educational Leadership Award recognizes practicing school administrators who have made significant contributions to the improvement of administrator preparation.



In her capacity as superintendent of Del Valle ISD, Crook has worked with the community to develop a strategic plan for the district and has led district staff in using innovative practices, such as an on-site master's program for aspiring school administrators from among the Del Valle ISD faculty, a quality student teaching initiative with Texas State University, a commitment to parent and community outreach initiatives, and a leadership vision that integrates theory, research and practice. Crook has played a key role in establishing a district–university partnership that identifies promising school leaders and develops them into highly qualified principals and teacher leaders who are prepared to address some of the most persistent educational equity issues in Texas. Crook received her Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the Cooperative Superintendency Program at the University of Texas at Austin and is a proud graduate of public schools. ★

## Alumna Receives Teaching Award

Ms. Lindsey Thomas, a Texas State alumna who received her B.F.A. in studio arts in 2007, has been selected as the 2014 Dripping Springs ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. Thomas is in her sixth year as an art teacher in the district, having taught three years each at Rooster Springs Elementary and Walnut Springs Elementary.

"I went on to get my Art Education training through Texas State and felt incredibly prepared by my talented professors to take on my 860 students. These students challenge me to become a better teacher year by year," said Thomas.

# Presidential Award Winners

## Dr. Ting Liu

Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance



Dr. Ting Liu earned her Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Texas at Austin, M.S. in exercise and sports studies from Boise State University, and B.S. in physical education from Beijing Sport University. Liu's research is focused on cognitive and motor skill development and learning in children with autism spectrum disorder. She has 17 peer-reviewed publications, five internal grants and three external contracts. Her scholarly achievements have been recognized both locally and nationally. Liu was the recipient of two College of Education research awards and the 2011 Lolas E. Halverson Motor Development and Learning Young Investigator National Award. Liu has established and directed an autism summer camp since 2010. This camp has provided an innovative social, communication and physical activity forum for the underserved population of children with autism in San Marcos as well as hands-on service learning and research opportunities to Texas State University students.

## Dr. Paige Haber-Curran

Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology



Dr. Paige Haber-Curran earned her Ph.D. in leadership studies from the University of San Diego, M.A. in college student personnel from the University of Maryland, and her B.S.B.A. in business management and B.A. in German studies from the University of Arizona. Haber-Curran is program coordinator for the Student Affairs in Higher Education program. As the one full-time faculty member for the program, she is responsible for all student advising and curriculum development. She has enhanced and grown the internship program and introduced career development initiatives into the curriculum. She is preparing the first study abroad course for the program in partnership with Semester at Sea. Haber-Curran is recognized internationally as a leadership educator and speaks nationally on topics of effective teaching and facilitation. Bridging teaching and scholarly practice, Haber-Curran has published research and practical pieces on innovative classroom pedagogy.

## Ms. Carolyn Clay

Senior Lecturer, Department of Health and Human Performance



Carolyn Clay earned her B.S. and M.Ed. in exercise and sports science from Texas State University. She teaches undergraduate classes in exercise testing, prescription and programming. Clay has published two refereed articles and is the co-director of the Total Wellness program that leverages professional field experiences for students to provide low-cost exercise and health programming for Texas State faculty, staff and San Marcos area residents. Clay is a trusted mentor to many students, helping them apply their knowledge and skills in a variety of laboratory-based assignments and service learning activities. She has implemented online instructional technologies to reinforce key knowledge, freeing up more time for skill development in actual exercise testing and programming.

## School Psychology Program Receives \$1.05 Million DOE Grant

Project SUPERB, a preparation program for bilingual school psychologists, was recently awarded a five-year, \$1.05 million grant by the U.S. Department of Education's office of special education programs.



*Project SUPERB team, from left to right.  
Back row: Gerardo Carrillo, Veronica Guzman, David Ramos  
Front row: Dr. Jon Lasser, Juanita Arellano, Andrew Hernandez,  
Jacqueline Garcia-Joslin, Dr. Desiree Vega.*

Public schools face a shortage of school psychologists, especially those who are bilingual. This shortage can result in communication breakdowns, with a student's needs not being recognized or over-identifying students for special education.

To address these concerns, Project SUPERB (Scholars Using Psychology and Education to Reach Bilinguals) will prepare 24 fully-credentialed, high-quality bilingual school psychologists to improve teaching and learning by ensuring that language differences and assessment of the need for special education services are competently assessed for the purpose of appropriate educational interventions.

Dr. Cynthia Plotts, professor of school psychology in the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology, is the principal investigator for Project SUPERB. ★

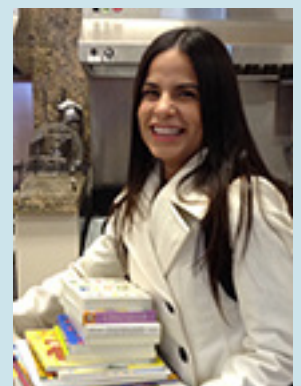
## HHP Program Re-accredited

The health and human performance undergraduate programs in recreation administration and in therapeutic recreation were awarded continuing accreditation on Oct. 13 by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions. COAPRT accreditation is a status granted to an academic program that meets or exceeds stated criteria of educational quality.

In review of the self-study report, a visitation team report and a review hearing, the Council approved accreditation, commending the program for exemplary strategic planning, exceptional program engagement with professionals, an exceptional faculty mentoring program and a commitment to academic excellence evidenced by over 15 years of COAPRT accreditation. ★

## Bilingual Education Early Literacy Project

Texas State University bilingual education students have been working with 3-year-old children in a project that promotes early literacy and healthy lifestyles. The READ3 Early Literacy Project is sponsored by H-E-B and is a partnership with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, H-E-B, San Marcos CISD, and San Marcos Head Start. For six weeks, 27 Texas State student interns taught lessons to children and led discussions with their parents regarding reading to their children and preparing healthy meals. Children in the program received school backpacks and t-shirts, and parents received free children's books and H-E-B gift cards for their participation. ★



*Brenda Nevarro, a parent who participated in the early literacy project.*

# Faculty & Staff Spotlight

## Furney Receives Teaching Award of Honor

The Texas State Alumni Association's 2014 Teaching Award of Honor was presented to Dr. Steven Furney at Fall Convocation. This award recognizes, encourages and rewards superior Texas State classroom teachers.

"The previous recipients of this award are all outstanding teachers in their fields, and I am very proud to be able to join this group," said Furney. "It is great to be recognized and honored for something that you truly enjoy doing."

Furney is a professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance and has over 30 years of service at Texas

State. He was named among the first class of faculty designated with the rank of University Distinguished Professors and his students consistently rate his instruction as outstanding. ★



## Wiley Honored with Prestigious School Health Award



The American School Health Association presented Dr. David Wiley with the William A. Howe Award Oct. 11 during the 88th Annual School Health Conference in Portland, OR. Wiley, a professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, was recognized for his distinguished work and outstanding contributions to the field of school health.

"The American School Health Association has been very important to both my professional and personal development and I am humbled to join the ranks of those outstanding individuals who have received the Howe Award," said Wiley. "It will be an honor to be listed among my mentors and peers who have been such valuable partners in the school health movement in the U.S."

Wiley has been a health education professor at Texas State University for 27 years, having secured approximately \$2.8 million in extramural funding, authored or co-authored over 35 peer-reviewed articles, and presented over 150 keynote addresses and workshops across the United States. Wiley was the longest serving President of ASHA (2007-2009) and is also a Past-President of the Texas School Health Association (TSHA). ★



## ETS Testing Team Receives Quarterly Team Award

The Texas State Quarterly Team Award was presented to the Educational Testing Service TExES (Texas Examinations of Education Standards) Testing Team in February. Team members include Annette Hamon, Sonya Evans, Luz Benitez, Martin Zavala, Diane Osborne, Maria Sanchez, DeLara Julian, Andrea Nieto, Amy McAllister, Mike Bolles and Andrew Cortez.



Each semester the ETS Testing Team administers and proctors the certification exams for students going through the student teaching portion of their degree and certification process. The testing center administered 2,752 tests during 127 testing sessions in 2013.

People drive from across Texas to take their certification exams at Texas State because the ETS team creates an excellent testing environment. The team's role goes beyond this to maintaining safety, security and integrity throughout the entire testing process. ★

## Homeyer Honored as Director Emeritus



Dr. Linda Homeyer, a professor in and former chair of the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology at Texas State University, was conferred the national honor of director emeritus by the Association for Play Therapy board of directors during its recent conference in Houston.

The award honored Homeyer for her lifetime achievements, contributions and service to play therapy and the association. A prolific play therapy author and presenter, Homeyer twice served as president of the association's chartered Texas branch, editor of its quarterly newsletter, chair of its credentialing program and assisted establishment of the university's Texas State Play Therapy Institute. ★

## Pankey Co-authors American Sports Story

Dr. Robert Pankey, professor of biomechanics, co-authored the book "Destined for Greatness: The Story of the 1968 Carbondale Terrier Football Team," which was published this fall. It is a story about a group of kids who grew up in the Midwest to become the last undefeated football team in their school's history. More than a sports story, "Destined for Greatness" is an American story about a team seeking greatness in the face of war, protests and racism.



Pankey was captain of the 1968 championship team chronicled in the story, and was recently inducted into the Carbondale Community High School Hall of Fame for his contribution to the school's sports legacy. ★

---

## *From the Dean's Desk*

Friends,

What a semester! We started the year strong with almost \$20 million in external grants coming our way in late August and September connected to College of Education faculty, including the largest single grant in Texas State history from NASA. Our century-plus legacy of leadership in Texas teacher education will go national in the most current, modern and important way possible as we become responsible for Educator Professional Development Materials using unique NASA content and resources.

And that's just one of the STEM projects that we have going on, as you can see from this newsletter. In addition, we obtained funding for another of our key initiatives to prepare bilingual school psychologists, another of several ways we are getting our students ready for educating all Texans. Things are going great in the College of Education, but there is so much more work to be done! We welcome your suggestions and comments as you read what's in our newsletter this time and, indeed, at any time.

Best,  
Stan Carpenter, Dean  
College of Education

