Dear Students,

With commencement upon us, we are proud to highlight some of the amazing accomplishments our students and alumni have made. From undergraduates to graduates, we know our students are preparing to become the best in their fields. Just look at some of the “Rising Star” news we have from our alumni.

This is due to the wonderful faculty and staff at the College of Education. Without them, we would not be able to continue achieving excellence among our peers or engaging our students to further their careers. Similarly, our donors play a big part in the success of these students. The ability to focus on their academic work rather than financial concerns will be paramount. For that we thank our private scholarship donors and all those who contribute to making our college and university the best it can be.

With that, we leave you until next year, and send a big congratulations to our Class of 2016! We are delighted to say we have completed another successful year. With commencement upon us, we are proud to highlight some of the amazing accomplishments our students and alumni have made. From undergraduates to graduates, we know our students are preparing to become the best in their fields. Just look at some of the “Rising Star” news we have from our alumni.

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Best,
Stan Carpenter, Dean
College of Education

Promotions
DeLara Julian Student Teaching Placement Coordinator Office of Educator Preparation

Honors
Dr. Lori Assaf named Honorary Professor of International Studies Department of Curriculum & Instruction

Upcoming Events
Commencement: C&I, CLAS Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. Strahan Coliseum
Commencement: HHP Thursday, May 12, 2 p.m. Strahan Coliseum

This information is available in alternate format upon request from the Office of Disability Services.

College of Education Private Scholarship Donors

Every year, Socons face a difficult decision of whether or not to begin or continue their education due to financial factors. Through the amazing generosity of our scholarship donors, we are able to help offset some—or all of—the costs for students to receive their education. We would like to recognize the following donors fulfilling the 2016-2017 academic year and on behalf of our students say thank you!

Welcome New Staff
April Cunningham Academic Advisor I Advising Center
Angela Leibold Admin II Office of Educator Preparation

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.

We will be excellent in evidence-based practice, scholarship and teaching.

We will be relevant to the needs of the people we serve.

We will be engaged in public and professional communities.

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New Braunfels ISD Scholarship Recipient
Paige Brown is the recipient of the New Braunfels Retired Teachers Association $1,500 scholarship. Brown is currently student teaching in a fourth grade classroom at Lamar Elementary (NBISD). The New Braunfels Retired Teachers Association will also award a $1,000 scholarship in the fall.
Doctoral Students Excel in National Mentoring

The School Improvement program at the College of Education is designed for individuals in a variety of educational roles who wish to develop and refine their abilities to provide leadership for educational excellence. Within the program there is a strong emphasis on mentoring, including placing doctoral students in high quality national mentoring programs in educational research.

These highly competitive appointments are sponsored by the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) and connect emerging scholars to established researchers in the field.

This year, 10 School Improvement students were appointed to these programs. More information about the students’ appointments can be found on the sidebars in these two pages.

In April students were given the opportunity to meet with their mentors in a seminar format at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting in Washington, DC.

David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in Educational Administration & Policy

The David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in Educational Administration & Policy brings together noted researchers and emerging scholars who are preparing for careers as university professors.

Yvette Cantu and Sarah Jean Baker were appointed as Clark Scholars.

2016 OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Master’s Level: Amy Shatile
Degree: Specialist in School Psychology

2016 OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Doctoral Level: Kayon Murray-Johnson
Degree: Ph.D. in Adult, Professional and Community Education

From Left to Right: Jocabed Marquez, Adrienne Aldaco, Samuel Garcia, and Patricia Rocha

William L. Boyd National Educational Politics Workshop

The William L. Boyd National Educational Politics Workshop is named in honor of a renowned researcher and educator in the field of educational leadership, education policy, and educational administration. This year, Texas State had four participants appointed to the Boyd Seminar.

Susan Croteau
Tanya A. Long
Zane Wubbena
Katherine Lewis

Barbara L. Jackson Scholars Workshop

The Barbara L. Jackson Scholars Workshop is for those emerging scholars nominated as Jackson Scholars through the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). This two-year program provides formal networking, mentoring and professional development for graduate students of color who intend to become professors of educational leadership. Texas State’s 2015-2017 Jackson Scholars are:

Master’s Level: Amy Shatile
Degree: Specialist in School Psychology

Doctoral Level: Kayon Murray-Johnson
Degree: Ph.D. in Adult, Professional and Community Education
Dr. Martinez Wins Early Career Award

Dr. Melissa Martinez, assistant professor of education and community leadership in the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology, has been named the American Educational Research Association’s (AERA) Early Career Award recipient.

The award recognizes a scholar who has conducted a distinguished program of cumulative educational research in any field of educational inquiry within the first decade following receipt of their doctoral degree.

We sat down with Martinez to learn more about this achievement.

Q: What does receiving this award signify for you?
A: “First and foremost, I am very humbled in being the recipient of the 2016 AERA Division A Early Career Award. And to be honest, I was speechless when I was notified about receiving this award because previous recipients are leading scholars in the field of Educational Leadership that I would have never thought I’d be compared to. The award is particularly significant to me for a number of reasons. For one, I feel the award is a true validation of the kind of work I do as a critical scholar that examines equity and access issues along the P-20 pipeline. My research agenda is fairly broad with regards to educational leadership, and it is also interdisciplinary in nature. I have three strands of work which relate to 1) issues of college access and readiness for students of color and underserved students, 2) equity-oriented and social justice leaders/leadership, and 3) the experiences of faculty of color. And so I feel this award particularly provides scholars like me that examine leadership issues both directly and indirectly to feel embraced in a field that can often be considered very traditional, with a clearly defined and limited view of educational leadership. Secondly, this award also reflects the great support and mentoring I’ve received along the way from colleagues, mentors, and friends both within and outside of academia. It is also a tribute to all those individuals who gave of their time and shared their stories with me as a part of my work.”

Q: How does this achievement reflect the overall work you are doing and the overall work going on at the College of Education?
A: “I believe this achievement is reflective of my general work ethic, my commitment to teaching, research, and service, as well as my motivation to make a difference not only within my field, but also in my immediate community in Central Texas and at Texas State, specifically. Many of my colleagues within the College of Education are equally engaged in unique and meaningful work, and have also been recognized in similar fashion by the University or through other professional organizations.

And so I feel honored to be receiving this award knowing that I am contributing to and helping sustain a legacy of top-notch scholars within the College of Education.”

Dr. Martinez left receives her Early Career Award at the 2016 AERA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
**RISING STARS**

**STUDENT VETERAN FINDS HOPE IN HORSES**

Mary Ballengee is a second year graduate student in the Therapeutic Recreation program and a United States Army veteran from the Vietnam Era with special interests in therapeutic horseback riding. Her love for horseback riding is gaining Ballengee recognition.

In November, Ballengee received the 2015 P.A.T.H. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) International Equine Services for Heroes Equestrian award. PATH International recognizes individuals and equines that symbolize their celebration of ability, optimism, diversity and a shared love of equines. Most recently, she was awarded a medal for working with and teaching 10 veterans and 10 wild mustangs in a two month program.

Ballengee will be staying busy this summer working with eight women through her personally created Veteran Woman Only therapeutic horseback riding program at ROCK in Georgetown.

Meshing the worlds of therapeutic recreation and equestrianism has proven to be a life saver for Ballengee: “Three years ago when I moved to Texas I became involved with the Veteran portion of the therapeutic horseback riding at ROCK, V.E.T.S. and Mustang Mentors,” Ballengee shared. “I was in pilot programs at each facility/organization. The Mustang program allowed me to gentle (train, break) a wild mustang untouched by humans and that experience saved my life. I was able to learn trust and hope when I was given that mustang to keep. He has given me the focus and strength to move forward and find within me the resources to help other veterans especially those with no voice. I have found working with horses, and all forms of ability and disability, fits my life purpose now at age 63. I have renewed hope and can see the future for myself and others as I study and attend classes at Texas State University.”

Katherine Ledbetter-Cho, a recent graduate from the Special Education Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis program, was awarded the Graduate Student Research Poster Award by the Texas Association of Behavior Analysts during their annual conference in March. Her research project was titled “Research Project: Behavioral Skills Training to Improve the Abduction-Prevention Skills of Children with Autism.” Additionally, the paper was accepted for publication with the following citation: Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., Davenport, K., Moore, M., Lee, A., O’Reilly, M., Watkins, L., & Falcomata, T. (accepted 2015). Behavioral skills training to improve the abduction-prevention skills of children with autism. Behavior Analysis in Practice. Congrats Katherine!

Santa Rosa County School District named Gulf Breeze High School math teacher Stephanie Duffy as its Teacher of the Year. Duffy is a Texas State University graduate who has taught math at Gulf Breeze High for 20 years. Duffy is the school district nominee for the Florida Department of Education – Macy’s Teacher of the Year. The state teacher of the year will be selected in May and will be the Florida candidate for National Teacher of the Year, which will be announced in January 2017.

Michelle Cardenas from Hilcrest Elementary (Del Valle ISD), was among one of the five Central Texas-area educator finalists named for the 2016 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award. Cardenas is up for the category in Leadership Elementary. In May, she will compete in San Antonio on a statewide level for the grand prize of $10,000 for herself and a $10,000 grant for her school. Cardenas received her bachelor of science degree through the Department of Curriculum & Instruction and her master’s degree through the Teacher Fellow’s program. We wish her all of the best of luck!

Six graduate students from the Department of Curriculum & Instruction presented their in-class research at the International Society for the Social Studies 2016 Annual Conference on February 25. Early Childhood through Sixth Grade program students Melinda Barth, Amanda Brown, Kinsey Perry, Krista Reitz, Abigail Williams, and Fourth through Eighth Grade program student Kacy Weldon presented their research for a panel entitled “When Children Talk: Pre-service Elementary Social Studies Teachers Exploring Critical Issues through Children’s Eyes.” The International Society for the Social Studies draws research and practitioner-based presentations from a global scholarly community of about 250 people representing the United States, Turkey, Portugal, Pakistan, Australia, China, and numerous other countries.