Welcome to our new faculty colleagues

Top row from left along with their title and area of expertise: Yonghwan Chang, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Sport Management, Cheryl Rode, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Sport Management, Emily Dhurandhar, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Human Performance, and Grant Tinsley, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Exercise Physiology. Bottom row from left: Jarrod Blinch, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Motor Learning, Matt Huml, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Sport Management, and Ty Palmer – Assistant Professor – Human Performance. Claudio Rocha, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor – Sport Management will join the department in January.
Welcome to our new faculty

**Dr. Jarrod Blinch:** Dr. Blinch is a motor behavior researcher who studies how the human neuromuscular system accomplishes movement. His research focuses on how the arms coordinate when accomplishing shared or separate goals, and how difficult movements can be simplified by changing the conceptualization of the task. These studies employ cognitive psychology and neuroscience methods combined with trajectory analysis. Jarrod received his Ph.D. in Kinesiology from the University of British Columbia in 2015. Before joining TTU, Dr. Blinch was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Lethbridge.


**Dr. Yonghwan Chang:** Dr. Chang studies sport consumers’ associative and propositional processes of attitudes, cognitive appraisals of emotional responses, and quality, value and risk perceptions, in addition to their psychological characteristics, such as personality, need, and motivation. These lines of research have been extended to a variety of segments in the sport and related industries, such as sponsorship, endorsement, sport branding, luxury service, social media, and spectator sports. From the methodological and statistical points of view, Dr. Chang employs a combination of machine learning and Bayesian optimization techniques to examine sports spectators' emotional reactions manifested in social media. Dr. Chang also investigates innovative applications of an integrative analysis with propensity score methods and structural equation modeling to sport consumer behavior research. Dr. Chang received his Ph.D. in Sport Management from the Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management, University of Florida, and was a Financial Investment Consultant at the Kumho Asiana Group in South Korea.


**Dr. Emily Dhurandhar:** Dr. Dhurandhar studies the psychosocial, environmental, and dietary factors that influence human energy balance and obesity. She studies the role of breakfast and dietary protein in weight loss and appetite control, and also performs real-world weight control interventions to better inform public policy about obesity. She also studies the role of adversity and food insecurity in weight gain. Dr. Dhurandhar received her Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from the Department of Human Ecology, Louisiana State University and did a postdoctoral fellowship with the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Before joining TTU she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior, University of Alabama at Birmingham.


**Dr. Matt Huml:** Dr. Huml focuses on the academic experience of student-athletes. These topics include athletic identity, balance between academics and athletics, athletes performing community service, and many others. Originally from the Chicagoland area, Dr. Huml received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Organizational Development (Sport Administration Emphasis) from the University of Louisville. He also previously earned his M.Ed. and B.S. from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. Before joining TTU he was an Assistant Director of Undergraduate Services in the College of Education and Human Development, University of Louisville.


**Dr. Ty Palmer:** Dr. Palmer studies the effects of aging, fall-history, and athletic status on muscle stiffness, strength, postural balance, and other performance-based outcomes in young and elderly adults. He also studies age-related differences in anatomical muscle characteristics, including measurements of muscle size and quality. Dr. Palmer received his Ph.D. in Exercise Science from Oklahoma State University. Before joining TTU, he was an Assistant Professor at Kent State University in the School of Health Sciences.

Dr. Claudio M. Rocha: Dr. Rocha studies the international aspects of sport management. Such international aspects encompass international sport consumer behaviors, ethnocentric behaviors, and organization and legacies of sport mega-events (e.g. Olympic Games). Currently, he has focused on the organization of sport mega-events in developing countries, with emphasis on the perceptions of different stakeholders (e.g., local residents, politicians, diplomats). Dr. Rocha received his Ph.D. in Sport Management from the Ohio State University. During his Ph.D. he was a Fulbright Scholar. Before joining TTU he was an Assistant Professor in the School of Physical Education and Sport of Ribeirao Preto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.


Dr. Cheryl R. Rode: Dr. Rode studies sport tourism and the motivations behind travel to collegiate and professional sporting events as well as the destination image of the event location (city, region, etc.). This research includes sport fans that travel to sporting events via RV in addition to traditional travel and hotel arrangements. She also studies student-athletes and their academic experiences on college campuses as well as female sport management faculty numbers and their experiences in higher education. Dr. Rode received her Ph.D. in Sport Studies with a concentration in Sport Management from the University of Tennessee. Before joining TTU she was an Assistant Professor of Sport Management in the Division of Business at Ohio Dominican University.


Dr. Grant Tinsley: Dr. Tinsley studies the impact of alterations in energy intake, exercise and dietary supplementation on human body composition, energy expenditure, athletic performance, and health markers. One of his particular research interests is evaluating intermittent fasting programs as a method to reduce energy intake and improve body composition. Additionally, he is interested in the examination of the utility of longstanding and novel methods of body composition assessment. Dr. Tinsley earned his Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Exercise Nutrition at Baylor University in 2016 and previously received degrees in physiology, nutrition, and biomedical sciences.

Academic News

Proposed Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology
The department has developed a proposal for a new Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology. In April of 2016, a national, external team of senior advisors visited with faculty in the department to lend their expertise to the development of this proposal. The proposed Ph.D. will focus on exercise physiology, with an emphasis on health disparities as these relate to variations (age, gender, obesity, and ethnicity) in the physiological processes that lead to disease and disability among demographic and geographically defined populations. During the fall semester, the proposed new Ph.D. has been approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Programs, Graduate Council, and Academic Council. If approved by the TTU Board of Regents in December, this proposed Ph.D. will then be reviewed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Committee on Colleges. If this Ph.D. is approved, the first class of students will enroll in fall of 2018.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Melanie Hart is a professor of motor learning. She obtained her bachelor and master degrees from Texas Tech University and her doctorate from Auburn University. Before returning home to Texas Tech in 2003, she taught at Mississippi University for Women and the University of Northern Iowa. In addition to serving as interim department chair for two different years, she also served four years as an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Since January of 2014, Dr. Hart has served as Vice Provost for Worldwide eLearning. Her responsibilities include the oversight of the six regional teaching sites and the Center at Junction, online program compliance and quality, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), continuing education, and Texas Tech University Independent School District (TTUISD). Needless to say, she is a very busy person.

Dr. Hart teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses, especially in motor learning, both face-to-face and online. She received the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013. She is a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and serves as Vice President of the Texas Tech chapter.

Dr. Hart's research interests include theoretical research on the cognitive processes involved in the preparation and execution of movements, factors that influence learning in children and adults, and the effectiveness of physical activity programs. She is actively engaged in professional organizations and has served as a member of the board of directors for the American Kinesiology Association.

Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, reading, playing with her two grandsons, and spending time with her pets.
Faculty Spotlight

Angela Lumpkin elected to membership in the TTU teaching academy. The Texas Tech University Teaching Academy is a selective honor society of approximately 20% of the TTU faculty. Begun in 1997, those selected for membership are applauded for their demonstrated dedication to excellence in teaching and their efforts in furthering the development of the scholarship of teaching and learning. The Teaching Academy hosts the John M. Burns Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Coinciding with this event, Dr. Lumpkin and other new members will be inducted into the Teaching Academy. Vice Provost Melanie Hart and a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management was previously selected for membership into the Teaching Academy.

Fall 2016 Ambassadors

The Kinesiology and Sport Management Departmental Student Ambassadors are in their second year as the organization of students representing the department. These 15 student members are led by Head Ambassador and senior Sport Management major Derek Corral and serve as the face of the department. The Ambassadors were involved in numerous activities during the Fall semester including Lubbock High’s Annual College and Career Fiesta, the Texas Tech Preview Resource Fair, the Majors and Minors Fair, and Tech or Treat. The Ambassadors were also responsible for designing and selling Kinesiology and Sport Management fleece jackets and t-shirts, with help from departmental staff members. For the Spring semester the Ambassadors are currently planning a 5k run and cycling event for April and will also have a booth at the Techwell Interactive Fair in February. Please follow the Ambassadors via social media: Twitter – TTUKSM Instagram – ttuksmambassadors Facebook - Kinesiology and Sport Management Departmental Ambassadors.
Alumnus Spotlight

**Kelly McFarland** earned her Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sport Sciences in 1992 from Texas Tech University. After teaching junior high for three years, she decided to pursue a career in physical therapy earning a Master of Science in Physical Therapy in 1999 and Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2010 from Texas Woman’s University. After working in outpatient orthopedic clinics in the Metroplex Area, in 2003 Dr. McFarland founded Premier Rehab Physical Therapy. Now in four locations, Premier Rehab Physical Therapy will open in a fifth location in January of 2016.

Kelly enjoys helping people learn about their bodies’ limitations and potential. Kelly takes great satisfaction in analyzing physical problems and assisting her clients resolve these. She and her staff provide pain relief and injury rehabilitation services for sports injuries, postsurgical rehabilitation, pain treatment, and rehabilitation for work, accident, and personal injuries. With a caring attitude based on trusted relationships, she and her staff are committed to helping people regain the ability to fully engage in their lives. For students interested in a career in physical therapy, Dr. McFarland recommends making a dedicated commitment to academic work while completing required prerequisites courses for admission into a doctoral program and volunteering in various physical therapy settings.

As the owner, Dr. McFarland supervises her team of 13 clinicians and over 20 other employees, completes insurance reports, markets Premier Rehab Physical Therapy to physicians, manages daily operations, and works closely with area orthopedic surgeons in high quality patient care specializing in advanced orthopedics. Her intense passion ensures the highest quality of care is provide to all patients with the goal of helping each one return to work, activity, and normal routines of life.

Student Spotlight

**Danielle Villarreal**, a senior majoring in Sport Management with a minor in legal studies, has been selected for Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities in 2016. Who’s Who recognizes students who enhance the positive image of the American students through their contributions to the community and institution. Danielle is passionate about serving including the Team Luke Tennis Classic, Haven Animal Care Shelter, Experience Life Ministries, Volunteer Center of Lubbock, and Love and Care Ministries. Danielle has worked as a student assistant in the Texas Tech System Office of the Chancellor, a tour guide at the Texas Tech Visitor’s Center, and Congressional Intern in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Danielle has been actively involved with student organizations, such as President’s Select, Student Government Association, Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management Ambassadors, Order of Omega, Mortar Board, and Kappa Alpha Theta. She earned several Dean’s List recognitions and induction into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Order of Omega Greek Honors Society, and Rho Lambda Greek Honors Society. She was one of 16 students selected to participate in the Pre-Law Academy.

Danielle stated that she owes Texas Tech University, the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management, and her friends and family a huge, thank you! She said she would not be where she is today without the endless opportunities and the support, encouragement, and love given to her. While sad that her time at Texas Tech is coming to an end, she knows that this university and her professors have prepared her well for what is to come. In reflecting on the past four years, she stated that they have been a blessing, and she will be forever grateful for the memories made at Texas Tech. This university, faculty, and staff are the best in the country, and I am thankful for the opportunities provided to her by them.

Danielle, a senior from Leander, Texas, will graduate in December of 2016. Her immediate graduation plans are to attend law school.
On October 29, 2016, the Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA) participated in the American Heart Association annual Lubbock Heart Walk. “The Heart Walk is the American Heart Association’s premiere event for raising funds to save lives from this country’s No. 1 and No. 5 killers - heart disease and stroke. Designed to promote physical activity and heart-healthy living, the Heart Walk creates an environment that’s fun and rewarding for the entire family.” Retrieved from http://heartwalk.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1152310

Joined by departmental faculty and staff; the GTAs helped promote this great cause. Melanie Hart served as the chair of this year’s Heart Walk.

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the department of Kinesiology and Sport Management are invited to send pictures and information for upcoming newsletters.