

AcademiCast Transcript
Texas Tech University
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Pierce: This is AcademiCast—Texas Tech University’s podcast series from the Office of the Provost. I’m Rachel Pierce, and I’ll be covering the top academic and research stories on campus. Later in the program, Provost Bob Smith will spotlight Integrated Scholar Zenaida Aguirre-Munoz. First, the news...

Classes are back in session for the spring semester at Texas Tech. And a recent upgrade to the Libraries’ archive system couldn’t have come at a better time. A grant from the Hoblitzelle Foundation has helped the Libraries to purchase a Mekel Mach film scanner. The scanner allows the Libraries to digitize thousands of microfilm rolls in its collections. Librarian Joy Perrin works in the Digital Resources area and uses the scanner in her work.

Perrin: I don’t know if you’ve ever tried to use microfilm downstairs. It’s very difficult to use, and we haven’t been able to digitize that before. So by digitize, I mean scanning it, making it searchable, so that you can Google it.

Pierce: Libraries staff will begin using the scanner to digitize local newspapers. The digitization effort has been ongoing for eight years. Perrin explains that adding to the Libraries’ store of digital resources is critical for Texas Tech as it strives to raise its profile among research universities.

Perrin: Because Texas Tech is a state-funded, partially state-funded, research university, and we’re working toward being a research university, we feel it’s our duty to try to digitize the stuff that belongs to the people and make sure that it’s available for the people. Anything that we have that’s unique to either Lubbock or Texas Tech that otherwise wouldn’t get digitized by other entities, it’s our job to make that available to the world.

Pierce: In addition to newspapers, the Libraries staff has been digitizing theses, dissertations, and books. Further down the line, the Libraries aims to one day add maps, posters, and other large-format documents to its collections.

Turning to other news...

The Board of Regents has approved two proposed degree programs. The first is a Master of Science in Professional Science and could begin as early as the upcoming fall semester. The second is a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies that could get underway after the fall. The degree programs have been embraced because of their interdisciplinary curricula and emphasis on marketable career skills.

The university is reforming its chemical inventory procedures. Some delivery and inventory practices will change under the new system, which is expected to be in place by March. Among the changes, all chemical deliveries will be sent to the Central Warehouse, where chemicals will be coded and entered into a database.

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Integrated Scholars dedicate themselves to a course of lifelong learning. Their emphasis on teaching, research and service helps to promote scholarly engagement. And in doing so, Integrated Scholars advance Texas Tech's role in educating, serving and inspiring others to pursue a path of lifelong learning. In this edition of AcademiCast, Provost Bob Smith spotlights Integrated Scholar Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz.

Smith: The plight of the immigrant child is of foremost concern in the integrated scholarship of bilingual education professor Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz. The daughter of immigrants herself, Muñoz noticed while growing up that she was singular among friends to be on track for a college education. A desire to work with students who had backgrounds similar to hers led Muñoz to rewarding work & volunteer opportunities while she was an undergraduate, as well as opening doors to graduate study.

Muñoz: I had a great opportunity as an undergrad to do an ethnographic study in Mexico that looked at high-poverty Mexican children. And while the study had more questions than answers, it sort of laid the foundation of my evolving research agenda.

Smith: Through her own teaching & research, Muñoz has impacted the pedagogy of many educators & the learning experiences of many more students.

Muñoz: My research agenda allows me to identify assessment and instructional practices that afford language learners meaningful access to learning opportunities, particularly the impact of opportunity to learn on student achievement. Opportunity to learn is a global issue, particularly in developing nations where the distribution of wealth and opportunities is much more polarized than in the United States. I've been working with the Guatemalan government to develop national opportunity-to-learn standards and help them with an implementation plan.

Smith: In addition to her research, Muñoz's expertise has enabled her to serve numerous organizations & advisory panels at the state & national levels. Yet her contributions within the local community have been the most meaningful, thanks to her emphasis on relationships among area teachers, administrators & school districts.

Muñoz: I want to improve the educational experiences of English language learners. Establishing strong working relationships with teachers, schools and districts is very important to achieve that impact. Locally, I have founded bilingual teacher support

networks. I have been engaged in organizing teacher conferences through the Lubbock Area Bilingual Education Association as well as served on school district committees.

Smith: Muñoz believes that pursuing one's passion while connecting with academicians & others within & external to the university environment are essential for the integrated scholar.

Muñoz: Definitely find something that you're passionate about. Think about the kinds of activities that will allow you integrate research, teaching and service, so that it's not as hard, in terms of a balancing act. Persist and publish, and collaborate with a wide range of people in and out of academe.

Smith: William Harold Cowley (1899-1978), long-time of Professor of Higher Education Administration at Stanford University (1945-1978), noted:

"Without research, scholarship degenerates into fatuous verbalism . . . without scholarship, research decays into a mere collection of elaborate trivia . . . without both research and scholarship, teaching becomes bromidic prattling." The seeds of integrated scholarship are found in Cowley's admonitions, & for Professor Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz, her strong emphasis on teaching, research, & service has earned her the position of Integrated Scholar. Through her integrated scholarly efforts, she continues to inspire others as a professor, researcher & valued partner in academic engagement. AcademiCast commends Professor Aguirre-Muñoz for her efforts & wishes her continued success in all that she does! Thanks for listening! I'm Bob Smith.

Pierce: Thanks, Dr. Smith! That concludes this edition of AcademiCast. If you would like to learn more about the stories featured here, please visit our website at academicast.ttu.edu. Join us again as we spotlight the top academic and research news from Texas Tech University, as well as profile Integrated Scholar Bill Pasewark.