



# Fall 2016

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Graduate School

# ALUMNI NEWS



Dear friends and alumni of the Graduate School:

We have so much to celebrate in the Graduate School at Texas Tech!

This February, The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education ranked Tech among the 115 most elite universities in the US, a recognition for which our graduate enterprise figured prominently.

The high quality of our faculty and our graduate programs continue to attract students from every US state as well as from all corners of the world. We set enrollment records for each of the terms (fall, spring, and summer) this academic year and we awarded a record number of master's and doctoral degrees. The number of doctoral degrees we awarded (332), puts us in the top 17% of all doctoral-degree granting institutions in the US.

The graduate programs of Tech continue to drive innovation and help meet the demands for a highly skilled workforce. Our graduates gain the expertise, creativity, and courage to take on the world's most complex challenges. Their work in all fields of endeavor are making a difference and enriching lives.

A hallmark of the graduate experience at Tech is our commitment to student success. We provide a comprehensive professional and career development program that compliments disciplinary training in five core areas: communication, critical thinking, leadership & management, professionalism, and ethics. Other sections of this newsletter highlight some of these programs.

Tech's continued prominence as a leader in graduate education depends on our ability to recruit and support the very best students and assure that they acquire the skills they need to succeed while at Tech and after they graduate. Please visit our new website for up to date events, competitions, and accomplishments from the graduate school.

"From here, it's possible"

Best wishes,

Mark A. Sheridan, Ph.D.  
Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs  
Dean of the Graduate School

# Social Sciences to Stanzas: Texas Tech Graduate Students are Making an Impact



## **Christopher Chamberlain** – Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship Recipient

Christopher Chamberlain is a graduate student at Texas Tech University. Originally from Los Angeles California, he obtained a scholarship to play collegiate football at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. While there, Christopher was voted Captain of his football team, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Christopher believes that his experiences in Oklahoma helped to shape him and taught him how to see the potential within himself.

In Christopher's first year at Texas Tech, his classmates voted him the student representative for the class. In his second

year, he was selected as a guest speaker at the Graduate School Fellowship Reception. Christopher believes that Texas Tech has served him well, providing him a platform for growth and the ability to hone his leadership skills.

As a graduate student at Texas Tech he interned at University Medical Center, with supervision provided by the Director of Social Services. In his second year, he interned at the Lubbock Private Defenders Office working with individuals suffering from severe mental illness while having guidance provided by the Mental Health Program Supervisor.

Christopher wants to elicit social change on a larger scale. In doing this Christopher believes that he is able to leave something behind as a seed of gratitude for the blessing of the human experience. Because Chris feels that a life worth living is one of purpose and service, he plans to open a private practice and continue public speaking to highlight the tenacity and resiliency of the human spirit.

## **Andrew Reinhart** – James D. and Mary Hazlewood Graduate Fellowship Recipient

Andrew Reinhart is a graduate student at Texas Tech University pursuing a Master of Music degree while serving as a teaching assistant in the music theory department. He received his BM in music education and saxophone performance at TTU in 2016, graduating summa cum laude.

An active teacher, Andrew is a staff instructor with the Young Saxophonist's Institute and teaches master classes and private lessons in the Lubbock schools. He completed his student teaching at Ronald Reagan HS (San Antonio, TX) during the Spring of 2016, where he worked closely with several chamber ensembles and concert bands.

As a saxophonist, Andrew has traveled nationally and abroad to perform as a soloist; with the TTU Saxophone Ensemble; and as a member of the Mirasol Quartet, an award-winning contemporary chamber ensemble. As passionate advocates for arts education and community engagement, the quartet regularly performs public school concerts and clinics to share its commitment to this mission.



## **New Heights Reached: Achieving Tier One**

Texas Tech was selected for the prestigious Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, officially making our university a Tier One University in research. Carnegie Classifications are announced every five years to see the progress of research universities in the United States. With this esteemed honor of becoming Tier One, we are one of 115 universities selected as Highest Research Activity for Doctoral Universities. Criteria needed to acquire Tier One designation include institutions that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees, at least 200 Ph.D.'s conferred in each academic year of the preceding biennium and at least \$45 million in expenditures of restricted research funds in each fiscal year of the preceding biennium. We not only met the criteria but we exceeded in all categories. This past academic year we awarded 332 doctoral degrees, placing Texas Tech among the top 17% of all doctoral-degrees granting institutions in the U.S.





*2016 3 Minute Thesis winners with celebrity judges*

## Professional Development events help prepare students for life after Graduate School

The Graduate School strives to have its students fully prepared entering the workforce and for our students to be successful. We recently held our 15th annual Poster competition where graduating students present their theses and dissertations on one poster board showing their research findings. We have an array of categories for students to enter and winners of each group are awarded money towards the completion of their projects. We also introduced a new competition this past year, 3 Minute Thesis, where students are to create one static image to present their thesis in the allotted time of three minutes. We had a fantastic turnout of about 100 students presenting their findings, and winners 1st through 3rd were awarded money towards finishing their research. Also the Graduate School hosts the annual Arts and Humanities Paper Conference to bring together the Texas Tech Community within these fields. The conference provides an environment for Graduate Students to present their research to an audience consisting of Texas Tech faculty, staff, and their graduate peers. The conference continues to be a success, by offering graduate students an opportunity to receive constructive feedback for future presentations of their research at professional conferences.



## Fostering Excellence

With the continued growth of graduate school student enrollment, new opportunities to advance Texas Tech University's emergence as a premier research university remains a top priority. A major part of that emergence is the enhancement of our graduate enterprise. The Dean's Advisory Council was created to be a major advocate for graduate education and to provide advice for expanding the size, scope, and quality of our graduate enterprise to meet the workforce and innovation demands of a global, knowledge-based economy. As alumni and friends of the graduate school, we would like you to welcome the Dean's Advisory Council and to thank them for their continued support of the graduate students here at Texas Tech. We look forward to working with each of the members as we develop a graduate enterprise of which we can all be proud and retain Texas Tech as a premier research university.

### 2016-2017 Dean's Advisory Council

**Samuel Ayers, Ed.D**

(Council Chair)

Lubbock, TX

**Margaret Briley, Ph.D.**

Austin, TX

**Sonya Britt, Ph.D.**

(Council Vice Chair)

Manhattan, KS

**Dana Cooper, Ph.D.**

Nacogdoches, TX

**Adam Eisenhauer, Ph.D.**

San Antonio, TX

**Gabriel Flores**

Dallas, TX

**Anish Kumar, Ph.D.**

Katy, TX

**Wendee Langdon, Ph.D.**

Lubbock, TX

**Cameron Monroe**

Amarillo, TX

**Jeffrey Sites**

Wilmington, OH

**Stuart Spendlove, Ph.D.**

Lubbock, TX

**Alexis Stamatikos, Ph.D.**

Seattle, WA

**Carol Townsend**

Richardson, TX



## Alumni Spotlight: **Sam Ayers, Ed.D.**

Sam Ayers was born and raised in San Antonio. He earned a B.A. in elementary education and history and a M.Ed. in school administration at Trinity University. He taught elementary students in Northeast and Alamo Heights ISDs while living in the Alamo City. Sam earned an Ed. D. at Texas Tech University while teaching in an elementary magnet school in East Lubbock.

He spent the majority of his thirty year career in public education with Lubbock ISD serving as an elementary, middle, and high school principal. He also served as associate superintendent for LISD. Sam joined the faculty at Lubbock Christian University in 2014 where he currently teaches undergraduate and graduate teacher education and school leadership classes in the LCU School of Education. He mentors undergraduate students in curriculum and instruction research and graduate students in researching effective teaching practices. With a passion and drive for education of all levels, Ayers was named to the Dean's Advisory Council in 2015, "Volunteering with the Dean's Advisory Council has provided an opportunity for me to meet graduate faculty and students and learn about the current graduate programs and achievements across the university. This experience has also provided a vehicle for contributing in a positive way to the continued success of graduate programs at Texas Tech University."-Sam Ayers, Ed.D.

Sam met his wife in a freshmen English class at Trinity University. Karla, a native of Lubbock, is a CPA with a tax practice. They have two adult daughters, Aimee and D'Ann, who are graduates of Texas Tech and Texas A&M Universities, respectively.

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