Happy New Year!
The Office of Planning and Assessment wishes you a prosperous and joyful start to 2012

Changes at OPA

There have been some recent staff changes in the Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA), and we’d like to share these developments with you!

Two beloved colleagues, Dr. Andrea McCourt and Mr. Sam Oswald, left OPA to pursue other positions within University College. We wish Sam and Andrea well in their new positions, and we look forward to collaborating with them on assessment-related projects.

On December 5, 2011, OPA welcomed Dr. Craig Morton as Associate Director. Dr. Morton comes to OPA from Student Housing, where he successfully led many assessment initiatives. Dr. Morton received his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Texas Tech in 2010.

Digital Measures: HB 2504 and Beyond

Keeping the DigitalMeasures account up-to-date not only maintains HB 2504 compliance but also allows faculty members to streamline their reporting processes. In 2012, DigitalMeasures will be used in six colleges for Faculty Annual Reporting. Introduced Fall 2011, the Graduate School Application can now be printed in DigitalMeasures.

A NSF and NIH Bio-Sketch report is currently in beta testing and will be available in January 2012.

Faculty members can view their public profile at http://www.ttu.edu/courseinfo/

Student Assessment is a Priority at Texas Tech

OPA administered the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Science, Mathematics, and Writing Skills modules in September 2010. The samples of TTU students included juniors and seniors from each college.

On average, TTU juniors scored comparable to juniors nationally on the Science module, higher on average on the Math Test, and lower on average on the Writing Skills Test. TTU seniors scored slightly higher on average compared to seniors nationally on the Science module, higher on average on the Math Test, and slightly lower on average on the Writing Skills Test.

Fall 2010, OPA administered the
UPCOMING STUDENT ASSESSMENTS:
Spring 2012
CAAP Math and Writing Skills Tests

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:
February 19-21, 2012: 12th Annual Texas A&M Assessment Conference
February 21-24, 2012: TAIR in Corpus Christi, TX

2011 SACS Conference Attendees—Elaina Cantrell, OPA, Dr. Justin Louder, Ethics Center, Jennifer Hughes, OPA, Keisha McKenzie, Ethics Center, Dr. Sam Bradley, Mass Comm, Dr. Valerie Paton, Vice Provost, Dr. Kevin Stoker, Mass Comm

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CAAP Science module and will administer the Math and Writing Skills modules in Spring 2012.

The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) was administered to 79 freshmen in Fall 2011 and will be administered to 100 seniors in Spring 2012. The Council for Aid to Education (CAE) will provide TTU with a report on the progress of TTU relative to students at other colleges.

During Fall 2011 OPA also facilitated TTU’s participation in a CAE research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The primary goal of this project is to improve understanding of what it means to be “college ready.” TTU is one of only six 4-year colleges that are participating in this important project. The Academic Testing Center was crucial in making both CAE assessments a success.