The spring semester included a whirlwind of activity. With the Texas Legislature in session, our Division helped provide information and statistics to state lawmakers in addition to our regular duties.

We wrapped up the semester with a few signature events including our Develop & Thrive Workshop in April, Staff Appreciation Week highlighted with the President’s Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony and Provost Carol Fierke’s Lone Star Picnic, which included the Tradition of Excellence Awards and her State of Academic Affairs Address in May.

Congratulations to the President’s Meritorious Service and Tradition of Excellence award winners from Enrollment & Academic Services!

With the spring semester in the books, we’re rolling right into the first summer session of classes and New Student Conferences. Please offer a friendly “howdy” to welcome the new faces that you see on campus.

Gig’em!

Joseph P. Pettibon II
Vice President for Enrollment & Academic Services
Two individuals and one team from the Division of Enrollment & Academic Services were recognized in April as 2019 President’s Meritorious Service Award winners.

Congratulations to Melissa Mallet Bohnsack, Scholarships & Financial Aid; Paul Pausky, Career Center; and team members Oscar Lopez, Rozina Munoz, Luis Miguel Salinas, Joel Solis and Vanessa Soto from the Rio Grande Valley Regional Prospective Student Center, a team award winner.

The 2019 awards ceremony recognized 25 individual staff members, two supervisors and two teams who were selected for their meritorious service to Texas A&M University.

In a university-wide memo, President Michael K. Young wrote, “From the nominations submitted, an anonymous committee, comprised of representatives from across campus, had the difficult task of selecting the award winners from an extraordinary group of nominees. Many thanks to this dedicated committee for their service. The President’s Meritorious Service Awards recognize and reward staff for their commendable service to our great university. Recipients of this highly prestigious award have demonstrated their commitment to the Aggie core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service. To each of them, I extend my most sincere congratulations and deep appreciation for their tremendous efforts that make Texas A&M such a great place to live and work.”

Each individual recipient received a $1,000 award, a commemorative plaque, and a lapel pin. Teams will be recognized with a plaque for departmental display and members of each of the teams received an award of $200, a framed certificate of recognition, and a lapel pin. The President’s Meritorious Service Awards program is sponsored by the Office of the President and The Association of Former Students and coordinated by the Division of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness. Joining President Young on stage to present the awards was Mark A. Fischer ’72 of Edmond, Oklahoma, who is serving as chair of the board of The Association of Former Students.

Pausky offers this advice to new employees in the Division, “Meet as many people as you can; listen more than you talk; under promise and over deliver. We can all improve the system – go make a difference!”

“To have a good working environment is important to me, but I also believe in the work that we do in financial aid,” Bohnsack said. “We are removing barriers and creating access to higher education for students.”

She encourages everyone to be involved.

“Whether it’s on your team, in your office, in the division or at the University, make connections,” Bohnsack said. “It takes all of us to help students succeed and graduate.”
On May 15, Texas A&M University Provost Dr. Carol Fierke hosted the *Lone Star Picnic* at the Academic Affairs Spring Social & Tradition of Excellence Awards. Staff members enjoyed Texas treats including Blue Bell Ice Cream and celebrated another successful year for Academic Affairs. The program, which is generously underwritten by The Association of Former Students, also paid tribute and recognized the excellence of colleagues in the division.

Congratulations to the following Enrollment & Academic Services employees who received 2019 Tradition of Excellence awards at the ceremony held at the Hildebrand Equine Complex:

**Tradition of Excellence Individual Award Recipients**

- Brandie Eneks, senior associate director, Admissions
- Marc Huffstickler, software applications developer IV, Enterprise Information Systems
- James Murphy, assistant director, Admissions
- Anindita Sen, software applications developer III, Enterprise Information Systems
- Carolyn Stout, assistant director, Scholarships & Financial Aid
- Mofie Thomas, business coordinator III, Academic Affairs Business Services

**Tradition of Excellence Support Staff Award Recipients**

- Gloria Masso, senior administrative coordinator I, Admissions
- Karen Washington, administrative coordinator I, Admissions

Kathryn Greenwade ‘88, Vice President for Communications and Human Resources at The Association of Former Students, assisted Dr. Fierke with making award presentations on stage, and Brandy Kosh, executive director of Academic Affairs Business Services, served as emcee for the event.
There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Colin Powell

Academic Affairs Business Services

- AABS held their annual Staff Retreat on April 18. Clay Bassham facilitated a Clifton Strengths Finder session for the staff, which allowed staff to identify and recognize their strengths while exploring the strengths of others in the department and learning how to engage those strengths in a team environment.

  Congratulations!

- Melissa Blake, Business Coordinator II, received her master’s in business administration from Tarleton State University May 10.

- John Owens, Business Coordinator III, received his bachelor’s in university studies – with an emphasis in human resource management, human & family development and technical writing on May 18.

- Melody Sanchez, Business Coordinator III, received her associate degree in business accounting from Blinn Junior College on May 9.

International Student Services

- The Aggie Honor System Office and International Student Services hosted a series this spring for international students about the Aggie Academic Code of Conduct.

- ISS will be hosting a series called “Ask ISS.” This is an opportunity for academic advisors, faculty and staff to learn about different processes regarding international students.

- On May 14, ISS presented “Preparing for New International Students,” which included information on new Terra Dotta International Student Document Processing, Orientation and Check-In for Fall 2019.

- On June 11, ISS held “My New International Students are here! Now what?” This program covered health insurance requirements, SSNs, on-campus employment and other important topics pertaining to international students.

- International Student Enrollment session to be held July 9. Information on full-time versus part-time, co-enrollment, distance education, registrar memos, RCLs, and other topics will be discussed.

Develop & Thrive

Save the date – October 22, 2019

Fall Workshop and Awards

Details will be released soon!

Mark your calendar for Develop & Thrive Fall 2019 and the Pillars of Excellence Award Ceremony taking place at the MSC October 22.

http://academicservices.tamu.edu/EASPDC/Resources
Marketing

- In February, Enrollment & Academic Services Marketing was awarded the **CASE Bronze Award of Excellence for Creative Use of Digital/Social Media** for the Step Into Texas A&M snapchat advertisement. Developed by **Dominique Benjamin**, the campaign helped raise brand awareness among prospective out-of-state students.

  Users could swipe up on the advertisement to unlock a lens, which would allow them to “step into Texas A&M.” In this augmented reality (AR) experience, users physically walk through a Texas A&M class ring, which served as a virtual entrance to a 360° photo of the university’s iconic Academic Plaza.

  Check out the snapchat lens at [tx.ag/stepinto](http://tx.ag/stepinto).

Admissions

- **Self-Reported Academic Record (SRAR)** – Beginning this fall, freshmen applicants will have the opportunity to self-report their academic records as part of their admission file to Texas A&M University. The Office of Admissions has partnered with Scarlet Computing to allow a student the ability to enter, track and submit a self-reported high school academic record in place of an official high school transcript for admission consideration. It is anticipated that the SRAR will speed up the completion of the admission files because students will no longer have to wait for official documents to be sent from their high schools. Instructions for completing the SRAR will be available on the website and students may start compiling their information as early as their freshman year.

- **Appelt Aggieland Visitor Center Makeover** – In June 2019, construction begins to remodel the Appelt Aggieland Visitor Center in Rudder Tower. More than 80,000 prospective students, families and other guests toured campus last year. The Visitor Center serves as the critical entry point in what may become a lifetime connection to the Aggie Network. Passionate volunteer tour guides and paid student ambassadors share their unique Aggie story while walking guests through main campus. They advise visitors about A&M’s academic programs, research impact, global reach, traditions, athletic events, campus life and much more so prospective students can see themselves happy and successful as Aggies.

  New features will include:

  - An enlarged, 40-person video auditorium will add critical capacity to serve more school groups with admission information. A sliding glass wall incorporates high-end design features and increases area flexibility. Bright lights paired with branded elements will energize the space creating a collegiate, welcoming environment. New immersive, interactive exhibits will be added and the counter and walls will be removed to open up the reception area to allow for an enlarged, more effective back-office work space.

  The Visitor Center will serve guests remotely in Rudder Lobby until the renovation’s completion slated for September 15.

- **National Merit Scholars** – Texas A&M University ranks No. 1 in Texas among institutions in enrollment of National Merit Scholars according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation annual report. Texas A&M enrolled 178 National Merit Scholars in the fall 2018 semester, an increase of 30 additional Merits from the previous year with 148 enrolled in fall 2017. A&M ranked No. 3 among public universities and No. 7 overall nationally. Selection as a National Merit Scholar means recipients receive significant academic scholarships that vary from each institution. According to figures from the National Merit Scholars program, a total of 7,563 designees were named merit finalists in 2018 to receive scholarship awards totaling $30.8 million. An additional 1,110 participants, who were not finalists, received special scholarships totaling $9.6 million.

- **SEC Tour Recap** – Lynn Barnes, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Chris Reed, Director of Recruitment, recently completed the weeklong SEC Spring Tour. This informational tour includes representatives from all 14 SEC schools with a goal of spreading the word about SEC academic opportunities through a series of college fairs and counselor breakfasts. The tours always occur in an area where no SEC schools are located. This year’s stops were Richmond, Virginia; McLean, Virginia; and Baltimore, Maryland.
Scholarships & Financial Aid

- **National Student Employment Week** – Another successful National Student Employment Week took place in April with 73 students nominated by their supervisors for Student Employee of the Year.

Each year Texas A&M University joins colleges and universities across the country in recognizing the importance of the student employment experience during National Student Employment Week.

Rachel Ullmann, a native of Bryan, was honored as Campus Student Employee of the Year. Ullmann serves as a student worker in the Mays Center for Executive Development, and has been key to the success of their office for the past several years.

Taylor Olsovsky, a native of Schulenburg, Texas, was recognized as Community Student Employee of the Year. Olsovsky works for the Texas A&M University AgriLife Service for Poultry Science, where she assists in supporting livestock shows across the state of Texas.

Megan Waldron, a native of Bastrop, Texas, and Kendall Callen, a native of Bryan, were named recipients of the Class of 1956 Student Employee Endowed Award.

Each recipient was awarded a scholarship for the 2019-20 academic year. Waldron is a senior student coordinator for Conference & Guest Services in the Office of Residence Life, and Callen is a student assistant for the Office of Transition Academic Programs.

- **Improvements to Scholarships & Financial Aid Customer Service** – Scholarship & Financial Aid has implemented an artificial intelligence bot on its website. Visit the website (financialaid.tamu.edu) and meet Miss Rev, who’s ready to help Aggies. In addition, the office will soon launch a new verification portal to streamline the verification process for students.

- **Benefits Processing Workshop** – The Veteran Services Office hosted the fifth annual Benefits Processing Workshop April 9-10 in College Station. This workshop is designed for school certifying officials to share best practices and experiences while leveraging ideas to improve processes and service to student veterans and military-affiliated families. Staff in attendance represented Prairie View A&M, TAMU-Corpus Christi, TAMU-Commerce, TAMU-Central Texas, TAMU-Kingsville, Tarleton State, Blinn College, Texas Tech and Sam Houston State University. Workshop topics included VA Education Benefits Processing, Hazlewood Education Benefits Processing, Handling Fraudulent Documents, Customer Service, Processing DoD and VA Payments, Office Efficiencies, and a StrengthsQuest Overview.

- **Coming soon!** – Emergency aid information and applications will soon be on the financialaid.tamu.edu website. The department will provide resources from their office and other offices on campus that assist students experiencing hardships.
The Texas A&M University Career Center hosted the annual **Advisory Council Meeting** on May 1. Nearly 75 employer and campus partners joined Career Center staff members to discuss subjects related to recruiting trends and important issues facing the Career Center. On May 2, the Career Center hosted more than 70 employers and Career Center staff members for the annual Recruiter Training Day, which highlighted best practices for recruiting at Texas A&M University, discussions on the changing college recruitment environment, and employer and student panels.

**Karen Severn** and **Brie Garcia**, the pre-law advisors for Texas Aggies, are now serving on the Board of the Southwest Association of PreLaw Advisors (SWAPLA). In April, they attended the annual SWAPLA Conference in Oklahoma City where Severn presented a morning session for experienced advisors, providing insight into several advising topics. Garcia served on the Logistics Committee, ensuring the events held at all three law schools in Oklahoma ran smoothly. Severn serves the board as Past President, and Garcia was selected to serve as an at-large board member.

The **Office of Graduate and Professional Studies** took a busload of Texas A&M University students to Marilyn Yeager’s presentation on LinkedIn and branding at Prairie View A&M University, followed by a networking event with the students from both universities.

In May, **Roland Block** gave a presentation titled “Unlocking the Hidden Power of LinkedIn” to 75 graduating and Engineering Academy students at Houston Community College’s graduation celebration.

Two members of the Career Center staff have been appointed to leadership roles for the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers (SoACE) Assessment and Data Analytics Knowledge Group: **Abdullah Abdul Kader** has been selected as chair while **Cami Hernandez Merhar** is vice-chair. In their one-year term, they hope to bring insight about how to effectively capture data and turn it into insights in order to improve career readiness for students.

The Career Center’s **Susan Wyatt** was named as a T-Camp namesake for 2019. Wyatt, an administrative coordinator, joined the Texas A&M staff in 2007 after a 20-plus year career in the staffing industry in Houston.

**Congratulations** to these recently recognized Career Center staff members:

**Bradley Matthews** received the Aggie Allies Rainbow Award in April for his work with the LGBTQ+ community.

**Michael Shehane** received the NASPA Career Development Champion Award.

**Paige Hellman** received the Maroon & White Leadership Coach of the Year in April for her work with leadership development at A&M.

**Aaron Longoria** was selected to serve as a 2019 MSC SCOLA (Student Conference on Latinx Affairs) facilitator.

**Pat Alexander** has been selected to serve as a representatives on the Academic Affairs Climate & Diversity Committee for the Division of Enrollment & Academic Services.

**Welcome**, to these new Career Center staff members: **Whitney Hinze**, Career Coordinator for Agriculture; **Taylor Henderson**, Career Coordinator for Mays Business School (First- and Second-Year Students); **Amarette Renieri**, Career Coordinator for Engineering (First- and Second-Year Students); **Meredith McDowell**, Career Coordinator for General Studies/University Studies; and **Stella Bosquez**, Administrative Associate IV.

**Congratulations to Susan Wyatt on being a 2019 T-Camp namesake.**
In April, the Enrollment & Academic Services Professional Development Committee hosted the Spring Develop & Thrive Workshop at the Rec Center.

Vice President Joseph Pettibon II gave a State of the Division address, and Kourtney D. Bassett spoke about Texas A&M’s Wellness Works program. Both Power Point presentations are available to view on the Resources page on the EASPD website at http://academicservices.tamu.edu/EASPDC/Resources.

Following the presentations, Enrollment & Academic Services staff members had the opportunity to use the Rec Center facilities for free.

EASPD is already planning the fall event, which will be held on October 22 at the MSC. Stay tuned for more information and to RSVP for the fall Develop & Thrive Workshop. Thank you to the Professional Development Committee for organizing the successful event.
Graduation Prep

In May, Texas A&M University conferred its 500,000th degree, and The Association of Former Students recognized 500,000 Former Students. The spring graduation ceremonies included more than 10,700 degrees at 15 commencement ceremonies across multiple campuses.

Reed Arena hosted eight ceremonies, and working tirelessly behind the scenes the staff of the Office of the Registrar verified, printed, rolled and prepared racks of diplomas for presentation.

A week prior to the graduation ceremonies, the Registrar’s staff gathered at Reed Arena to begin rolling diplomas, labeling tubes, inserting diplomas and organizing the tubes for the graduation ceremonies.

**Fun Fact:** Special-order labels with extra sticky glue are used because once a different brand was used and the Aggieland humidity resulted in the labels peeling and falling off the tubes.

As soon as grades posted on the night before the first ceremony, staff and volunteers from across the Division gathered at the Registrar’s Office in GSC to confirm and organize honor degrees before heading to Reed Arena to finalize the honor degree placements and move tubes to the racks used at graduation. Wrapping up the majority of the work after 1 a.m., the dedicated staff members returned to Reed a couple of hours before the 9 a.m. ceremony to take care of last-minute details before “Pomp and Circumstance” played over the Reed Arena speakers and the graduates marched to their seats. With University officials dressed in regalia and gonfalons in place, the ceremonies commence and degrees are conferred. And then the whole process is repeated seven more times.

**Fun Fact:** Student workers alphabetize diplomas of individuals absent from the ceremony so that once those tubes are returned to the GSC, they can be easily located to be picked up or mailed.

President Michael K. Young noted the significance of the 2019 ceremonies reaching the half-million mark in a campus-wide email, “These milestones are reflective of our commitment to bring higher education to all who seek it. And as we moved into the ranks of the world's top research institutions, we have held close the values and traditions that have served us well since opening our doors to students in 1876. Across oceans, across time and through great change, one thing has remained the same – the Aggie Spirit, an enduring force for good and a bond that unites generations. Cheers to the Class of 2019, all those who came before, and those yet to wear the Aggie ring.”

Here are a few snapshots from behind the scenes.
Thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped Texas A&M with the monumental spring graduation ceremonies!

Save the Date

Join the Division of Enrollment & Academic Services for a retirement celebration honoring

Janice Crockett

for her 35 years of service to Texas A&M University

Tuesday, August 20
YMCA Building Great Hall
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Comments at 3:30 p.m.

Trivia Time

What author did Vice President Pettibon quote during the Spring Develop & Thrive event?

Visit the Professional Development Committee’s Resource page on the EAS website for a clue!
http://academicservices.tamu.edu/

Email your answer to jhancock@tamu.edu by July 15.

All correct submissions will be entered in a drawing.

Look for the answer and trivia winner in the next EAS Newsletter.

Spring 2019 Newsletter Trivia Winner

Congratulations to Shervonne Smithey!

She correctly identifying Priority 1 of the Division’s Vision 2020 strategic priorities

Priority 1: Academic Tools Development – Develop and implement a comprehensive set of decision making tools to enable colleges to manage decisions related to enrollment, inclusive of recruitment, admissions, change of curriculum, and scholarship decisions, and preparation of their students for successful post-graduation outcomes.

Division of Enrollment & Academic Services

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