FAMILY DAY

FALL 2016

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Welcome Plan II Families!

Thank you for joining us for this year’s Plan II Family Day. Here is the schedule:

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Brunch, Texas Alumni Center Connally Ballroom
   Enjoy a brunch buffet with other Plan II families, students, faculty and staff. Plan II Director Dr. Michael Stoff will make remarks at 11:15 a.m., then we will walk across the bridge to the College of Liberal Arts Building (CLA) for the Plan II model classes.

11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Model Classes, CLA Basement (choose one):

• CLA 0.130, Paul Woodruff - “Does Father Know Best in Sophocles’ Antigone?”
   Haemon’s father knows from long experience how to rule a kingdom and maintain order. But Haemon knows something his father does not know. How can he get Dad to listen? The price of failure will be death for one and endless sorrow for the other. We will perform and discuss this scene from the greatest of Sophocles’ plays, using my translation. We’ll have copies of the text for all who attend.

• CLA 0.128, Ruth Buskirk - Human Genes and Genomes
   Despite ever-expanding knowledge about human genes and how they work, we encounter new questions every day. Where will technology lead us in fields of individual genomics, genetic manipulation, and gene editing?

• CLA 0.126, Michael Starbird - The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking
   The root of success in everything from academics to business to leadership to personal relationships and everything else, is effective thinking—whether it’s thinking disguised as intuition or as good values or as decision-making or problem solving or creativity, it’s all thinking. Practical methods of effective thinking can be described, taught, and learned. They are not inborn gifts of a special few. All people can learn them and use them. This talk will describe practical, memorable elements of effective thinking and how to learn them.

• CLA 0.112, Janet Davis - Pigs in America: A History
   This class will explore the ways in which pigs played a central—if hitherto unrecognized—role in American colonization, conflict, expansion, and industrialization. In essence, this talk will analyze the formative role of the pig in creating modern American society.
Paul Woodruff, Plan II World Literature Professor, is a philosopher, writer, and translator, well known for his influential articles on Socrates and Plato. A former Director of Plan II and Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Woodruff has taught both World Literature and second-year Philosophy courses. His students often describe his classes as life-changing. He is currently finishing a book on the role of higher education in preparing students for leadership. He is also the recipient of the 2015-16 Chad Oliver Teaching Award in Plan II.

Ruth Buskirk, Plan II Biology Professor, is a Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research on behavior and physiology has been published in over 40 articles and includes work of spiders, dragonflies, baboons, and unusual animal behavior before earthquakes. Dr. Buskirk received the UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009, the Chad Oliver Teaching Award in Plan II Honors in 2012 and is a three-time recipient of the Texas Exes Teaching Award (1988, 1991, 1998). She has also been appointed as a Provost's Teaching Fellow.

Michael Starbird, Plan II Math Professor, is a Professor of Mathematics and a University Distinguished Teaching Professor at The University of Texas at Austin. He received his B.A. degree from Pomona College and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. A member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers since 1998, Dr. Starbird was also the winner of the Chad Oliver Plan II Teaching Award in 1997 and has received many other teaching awards and recognitions.

Janet Davis, Plan II Signature Course Professor, received her B.A. in History from Carleton College with magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1986. She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin in 1998 and has taught American studies, history, and women’s and gender studies at The University of Texas at Austin since 1998. She teaches a U.S. cultural history survey course, as well as specialized courses on U.S. social movements, popular culture, and animal studies. She is the recipient of the President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award; the Eyes of Texas Excellence Award; the Silver Spurs Centennial Teaching Fellowship; and the Dads’ Association Centennial Teaching Fellowship.

This year, our Family Day Model Classes features these four Plan II University of Texas faculty...
The Plan II Parents’ Fund

Plan II created the Parents’ Fund many years ago to help defray the rising costs of the programs and events we offer each year. Thankfully, much of what we do academically costs us little because of the enthusiasm of professors from other departments, the helpfulness of the student association, and the hard work and loyalty of the staff. But there remain essential costs that are not covered by our University budget. Each year those costs increase. The Parents’ Fund helps support unique programs for our students such as free printing, Peer Advising gatherings, Plan II Career Week, Senior Thesis Symposium, and of course, the Plan II cookie jar.

The process of giving is easy. Visit the University website and click on the “Give” button at the top right of the page next to the search box. Please be sure to select “Liberal Arts, College of” and then “Plan II” from the sub department menu when submitting your gift online.

Plan II knows that parents give to their children’s education in many ways and not just in dollars. We appreciate your support in all forms. The quality of students that make Plan II the jewel that it is could not happen without you, and we take seriously the trust you have placed in our program.

Thank you, and enjoy the day!