



4th EDITION

DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR OF COLLEGE EVENTS

*The American Shakespeare
Center Performs on Campus*
Feb. 22, 2012
Student Activities Center
Black Box Theatre

*Eva Longoria to Serve as
Keynote Speaker*
2012 Lozano Long Conference
Feb. 25, 2012
Student Activities Center
Auditorium (SAC 1.402)

Explore UT
Mar. 3, 2012
Campus Wide

*35th Annual Workshop in
Ancient Philosophy*
Mar. 23, 2012
Various campus locations

Undergraduate Research Week
Apr. 16-20, 2012
Various campus locations

Texas South Asia Conference
Apr. 20, 2012
ACE 2.402

For more events please visit the
Liberal Arts website at:
www.utexas.edu/cola.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Happy New Year and greetings from the College of Liberal Arts.

Next month the Dean's Distinguished Graduate selection committee will again nominate 12 students who have distinguished themselves in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and service. Upon graduation, these students will become part of this alumni association and, like you, make their mark in a variety of professions and communities. Keep an eye out for the next edition of the DDG Alumni newsletter for an in-depth look at what these new alumni have accomplished while here and what their future plans are.

Many exciting things are happening, not only around the college, but within the association as well. In our efforts to reach out to all of the DDG alumni, we have updated the DDG Alumni Association Facebook page. It is on that page that we will begin to send updates and information about the association. It will also serve as a place for you to reconnect with each other and update us about the things you are involved with. So if you haven't already done so, please visit our page and request to be a member.

Also, beginning with this edition, we have added a "Where Are They Now" section to allow everyone a chance to learn about other members - whether they have graduated recently or are about to attend their 20-, 25-, or even 30-year class reunion. This will be an exciting endeavor as it will allow DDG alumni to glimpse what others have done since leaving the Forty Acres. To make this section successful, we need your help. If you would like to update the association on what you have been involved with since graduation, please contact Monica Horvat at ddgalumni@utexas.edu and she will send you the details about this section.

We are very excited about the new and exciting additions to the association and are looking forward to hearing from its alumni. So until I see you on campus, Hook 'em Horns!

Sincerely,

Marc Musick
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW DDG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EMAIL ADDRESS

In our effort to make it easier to communicate with the association members and for the members to contact us, we have created a Dean's Distinguished Graduates Alumni Association email address. The new email address is ddgalumni@utexas.edu. We will use this email address to send updates as well as the semi-annual newsletters. To ensure you receive these emails and newsletters, please add the new association email to your address book.

If you have any questions about the email address or any other aspect of the association, please contact Monica Horvat at ddgalumni@utexas.edu.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW:

Monica Gully and James Loehlin



Monica Gully
2011 DDG
English/Plan II Honors

Over the past year, Monica has actively pursued her mission for a career in educational policy and administration.

One week before graduation, Monica began working for the College of Liberal Arts Student Division, developing special projects for the Dean's Office. Her extensive experiences in student leadership and promotion of student services gave her insight into her primary projects there. These included compiling campus resources for college readiness modules, collaborating on grant writing for college initiatives, and developing the original design for a new online course. In the Student Division she had the opportunity to directly affect college initiatives and gained exposure to the essential operations and policies which affect the college's function.

In August, Monica began her current position with Liberal Arts Career Services (LACS) as Front Office Manager. LACS hired Monica from a competitive pool of applicants to manage the front desk and to support the recruiting and administrative teams throughout the year. She works closely with the coaching team, student organization volunteers, and supervises as well as hires the undergraduate employees. In addition to her office activities, Monica has continued creating content for the new online course, a retention project initiated by the Dean's Office. The course is designed to instruct first-year students on how to create a successful college experience and prepare them for life after the graduation. Monica has also served on several selection committees for the college, acting as an alumni representative.

Outside of her work hours Monica remains nearly as active in the community and in her studies as she was as a student. She recently became the Social Media Director for a non-profit organization based in Houston called Local Schools, Local Needs. The organization connects community members who have resources to give with teachers and schools in need, and Monica manages their outreach through social media. She is currently assisting an Educational Administration Ph.D. candidate on a conference paper, exploring the influence of family and life experiences on students who work as peer mentors for other students. In February, Monica also added *Romeo & Juliet* to her repertoire of Shakespeare performances through Austin's City Theater. In her future Monica sees big plans for a career in educational policy and administration, and is applying to graduate school this fall.



James Loehlin
1986 DDG
English/Plan II Honors

Among the most valuable experiences that Dr. James Loehlin had while studying in the College of Liberal Arts

as an undergraduate were those involving dramatic literature. He took a tutorial on "Tragedy and Philosophy" with Paul Woodruff; he participated in two summers of the Shakespeare at Winedale program with Jim Ayres; he spent a summer in London and Stratford-upon-Avon; and he completed a Plan II thesis on Shakespearean performance in which he directed a production of *All's Well That Ends Well*. His opportunities to work with drama, especially Shakespeare, in both classroom and performance settings, laid the foundations for which his life has been built upon.

After graduating from UT, he studied at Oxford for two years on a Marshall Scholarship. This gave him both a more concentrated degree in English literature and an amazing opportunity to see theatre. He saw close to a hundred plays during his two years there, directed six, and acted in a few more. After that he did a joint Ph.D. in Drama and Humanities at Stanford, and worked as a trainee director at the Orange Tree Theatre in London. All these activities cemented his love for Shakespeare and theatre.

His first job was in the Drama Department at Dartmouth College. He taught acting, directing, and dramatic literature, and spent two winter terms running the drama foreign study program in London, renewing his acquaintance with the British theatre. He also got married during this time; along with his wife Laurel, they loved having the chance to live in New England and spend time in London.

They returned to Austin in 1999 when he was hired to succeed Jim Ayres as Director of Shakespeare at Winedale. It has been a very rewarding challenge for the couple to spend their summers at the Winedale Historical Center, helping students learn about Shakespeare by staging his plays in a converted 19th-century hay barn. During the year he teaches courses on dramatic literature in the English Department at UT, and works on various scholarly and performance projects. He has published three books on Shakespeare and two on the Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. As a native Austinite, he has enjoyed being back at UT and working alongside some of his former teachers.

IN THE NEWS:

Texas Reaps Twice as Much as It Pays for University of Texas at Austin Faculty

University of Texas at Austin instructors generate nearly twice as much revenue through research funding and educational dollars as they cost the state in salary and benefits, according to a report on faculty productivity issued by the university.

The report analyzes data released earlier this year by The University of Texas System related to class sizes and research funding for about 4,000 instructors from graduate assistants to tenured professors. The report emphasizes that faculty impact cannot be fully measured by limited pieces of data from a single point in time. Still, it finds that the state receives a large return on its investment in instructors at the flagship university.

"The data show that professors at The University of Texas at Austin continue to fulfill the promise set forth by the university's founders to create and maintain a university of the first class for the state and its people," author Marc Musick, a sociology professor and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, writes in "An Analysis of Faculty Instructional and Grant-based Productivity at The University of Texas at Austin."

Key findings include:

- *All instructors generated about \$658 million in teaching and research-related revenue in 2009-10. They were paid about \$318 million in salary and benefits from state funds.
- *On average, tenured and tenure-track faculty members earn \$129,000 in salary and benefits from state funds, and each generates \$280,000 in educational and research funding.
- *Among the one-fifth of instructors who teach the most semester credit hours, 56.8 percent are tenured and tenure-track faculty members. Of those who teach the fewest semester credit hours, 77.2 percent are graduate students or non-tenured faculty.
- *About 88 percent of professors in colleges with undergraduate enrollments teach and collaborate with undergraduate students.
- *Only the lowest-paid faculty members, those who earn less than \$75,000 a year on average, fail to generate an equivalent amount of revenue for the university. Many of these are assistant professors at the start of their careers whose most productive years are ahead of them.

Musick's report is the first analysis of The University of Texas at Austin data that separates tenured and tenure-track faculty members from graduate teaching assistants and non-tenure track faculty, who have different responsibilities and expectations. It is also the first study that examines the number of "weighted semester hours" instructors teach. Those weighted figures generally reflect the time and resources needed to teach specific classes and are used to determine the amount of money the state allocates to public colleges and universities.

The report also makes recommendations for improvements, including developing a system to collect complete and meaningful data on faculty; increasing the size of medium-sized classes to free up more instructors to teach small seminars; and providing faculty members with additional mentoring as well as more support and incentives to apply for research grants.

"These successes do not mean that UT cannot get better; rather, the university must find ways to work with the UT System and its own faculty and administrators to push productivity to even higher levels," Musick writes.

Author: Gary Susswein, Director of Public Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts



On The Rise

Perhaps the only benefit from Austin's lack of rain has been that construction on our new College of Liberal Arts Building is ahead of schedule, helping the building project come in under budget. Located on the East Mall, this 200,000 square-foot, glass and limestone building includes a number of sustainable design strategies and is expected to receive LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Development Office has now raised \$19,028,889 in private donations to support the new building, which will finally give liberal arts students a place of their own on campus.

Author: Michelle Bryant, Assistant Director of Public Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts