

2020 Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards

— *Recipient Bio Information* —

Texas Tech University

Dustin Benham

Professor Benham devotes his time to improving the civil- and criminal-litigation systems. He teaches and studies civil procedure, evidence, and advocacy. By an at-large vote of the School of Law's student body, he was honored as the Advanced Professor of the Year in 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, and 2014. In 2016, Professor Benham was elected to the Texas Tech University Teaching Academy. He was also recognized as the Texas Tech Student Bar Association's Best Upper-Level Professor and bestowed with the Texas Tech Hispanic Law Students Association Best Professor Award. In 2015, Texas Tech University honored him with the President's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Professor Benham is Secretary of the Teaching Methods Section of the Association of American Law Schools. He is regularly invited to speak on teaching topics at law schools and conferences around the country. Professor Benham has co-authored two textbooks and designed new law school courses that employ cutting-edge teaching methods.

Kristi Gaines

Kristi Gaines is an Associate Professor in the Department of Design in the College of Human Sciences and Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Her research investigates ways that the built environment can accommodate diverse populations through design. She is nationally recognized as a leader in designing learning environments and other spaces for individuals with sensory sensitivities and developmental disorders. Dr. Gaines serves as co-founder of the Texas Tech Coalition for Natural Learning.

Her book, *Designing for Autism Spectrum Disorders*, continues to receive extensive recognition in the design community and was selected as the winner of four awards from the most respected organizations in interior design: the Environmental Design Research Association, the American Society of Interior Designers, the Interior Design Educators Council, and the International Interior Design Association.

Erica Irlbeck

Erica Irlbeck is an associate professor of agricultural communications at Texas Tech University.

Irlbeck teaches various courses at Texas Tech, mostly in video production and strategic communications. In her years at Texas Tech, she has focused on expanding her pedagogical base in a variety of ways. She participated in the development and improvement of the agricultural communications senior capstone experience, developed three courses for online delivery, created a new resident course on agricultural advocacy, and increased the quality of content and

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assignments in all of her courses. Her program's undergraduate degree was rated first in the nation by an independent study in 2015.

Irlbeck's research areas are in agriculture in television media, risk and crisis communications, and science communications. Through a grant project from BASF, Irlbeck developed a program to train agricultural scientists in communications and advocacy. The program is in its fourth year with plans to expand and create a course available to all graduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Irlbeck serves the industry at local, state, regional, and national levels. She is the superintendent of the Texas FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event, is the vice president for the Western Region American Association for Agricultural Education, and is a committee member for the National FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event. She is a member of the Lubbock County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Irlbeck received her Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education from Texas Tech in August 2009. Previously, Irlbeck worked in agricultural television news for AgDay Television and KLBK-TV, farm radio for Clear Channel Networks, public relations and advertising. She received her bachelor's degree in agricultural communications from Oklahoma State University in 1998 and her master's degree in agricultural communications from Texas Tech in 2007.

Erica is married to Scott, who farms wheat and grain sorghum in the Texas Panhandle. They have an eight year old son, Jett.

Jeremy Marston

Dr. Jeremy Marston joined Texas Tech as an assistant professor of Chemical Engineering in 2014. Prior to this, he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham in the UK and has worked as a research fellow at the Institute of Chemical and Engineering Science in Singapore, and as a research scientist at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Marston's research focuses on the application of high-speed imaging to fluid and granular flows, with particular emphasis on biomedical applications, such as needle-free transdermal drug delivery and ophthalmic drug delivery. He has received industrial funding from Inovio Pharmaceuticals and the NSF CAREER Award, and has a portfolio of nearly 60 publications.

Eric E Rasmussen

Dr. Eric Rasmussen is an associate professor in the College of Media & Communication at Texas Tech University. His research focuses on the effects of media on children's well-being, as well as the role of parents in altering the media's influence on children. For the last several years he served as the principal investigator on a private grant from The Fred Rogers Company and the

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W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Though his work is regularly published in his field’s top academic journals, it goes beyond the boundaries of the academy and is regularly disseminated to an important end user—parents—through media outlets such as BBC, NPR, Yahoo! News, Parents Magazine, NY Post, PBS Parents, Huffington Post, and more. He also conducts seminars and workshops for mental health professionals, educators, and parents. The main inspiration for his research is his wife and four daughters. In his own words, “As parents, we need all the help we can get. I hope my research can make some small difference for families as they try to navigate the increasingly complex media world.”

Sterling T. Shumway

Dr. Sterling T. Shumway, is an Evelyn M. Davies Regent’s Professor and serves as the Chair of the Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences Department. He is the co-developer, presenter and supervisor of the inpatient family program at the Ranch at Dove Tree where he has been teaching and supporting families who have addicted loved ones since 2006. He is a member of the TTU Teaching Academy and is the recipient of other teaching awards including the Spencer A. Wells Award for Creativity in Teaching (COHS) and the TTU Presidents Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Shumway has been invited as a keynote speaker and presenter at multiple institutes and conferences and is the co-author of the book “Six Essentials to Achieve Lasting Recovery.”

Roman M. Taraban

Roman Taraban is a professor in Experimental Psychology at Texas Tech University.

From 2018 to 2021, Taraban is a recipient of the Texas Tech President’s Excellence in Teaching Professorship. In 2018, Taraban was the recipient of the Texas Tech University Office of the Chief Information Officer “Excellence in IT innovation – CISER Emerging Research Website Project”. He was also the recipient of the 2017 College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Innovation Award. In 2013 he received the President’s ‘Excellence in Teaching’ award, and in 2003, he was inducted in the Texas Tech Teaching Academy. Currently, he serves as a member of the Editorial Board of East European Journal of Psycholinguistics.

His teaching interests include cognition and cognitive neuroscience; psycholinguistics; language and literacy; and cognitive development. His research interests include language learning; category induction; connectionist modeling; and naïve Bayesian text analysis; undergraduate study behaviors; engineering ethics; engineering problem solving; and reading comprehension.

Doctor Taraban has his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Carnegie Mellon University, did post-doc work at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He earned his master’s in educational psychology from the University of Chicago.

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Angelo State University

Eddie F. Holik III

Eddie Frank 'Trey' Holik III is an assistant professor of physics, is an ASU alum and five-year ASU faculty member. A tireless researcher with extraordinary time management skills, he has performed groundbreaking research on magnetism and magnetic technology that is being utilized at such places as the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the U.S. Large Hadron Collider that produce X-rays, protons or neutrons for the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases, including cancer. His technology can also be found in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) facilities. Over the last five years, he has received \$35,000 in external research funding, published 22 articles in industry journals, made 18 presentations at professional conferences, and was an invited plenary speaker for the International Magnet Technology Conference in the Netherlands. He was also awarded a Toohig Fellowship by the U.S. Large Hadron Collider Accelerator Research Program, which is given annually to only one physics scholar in the world. In addition to his own research, Holik also mentors and secures funding for his students' research projects. He has mentored 16 undergraduate research projects, several of which have been published, and he sponsors ASU's chapters of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and Sigma Pi Sigma national physics honor society. He also annually leads the SPS Physics Road Tour outreach program that takes entertaining physics demonstrations to middle and high schools throughout Texas and New Mexico. His dedication to his research and his students truly sets him apart.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Thomas Abbruscato

Dr. Abbruscato is currently a University Distinguished Professor, Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. As Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences since 2012, his department has significantly increased NIH sponsored research for the School of Pharmacy and TTUSHC. As an Associate Dean of the GSBS, he has expanded the Ph.D. and MS programs in Amarillo and Abilene. Dr. Abbruscato's research has been communicated in >70 peer reviewed publications. He is currently funded as PI with 3 separate NIH R01 grants from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute of Drug Abuse and Food and Drug Administration. His laboratory has obtained > \$8 million in research grants from NIH, FDA, and the American Heart Association while at TTUSHC. Dr. Abbruscato has also served as an NIH Study Section Member for 12 years and he has chaired the Drug Discovery for the Nervous System Study Section for 2 years. Dr. Abbruscato's research group utilizes novel approaches to understand the mechanisms by which the neurovascular unit responds to brain ischemia "stroke"

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with respect to transport protein expression, cell-cell interactions, and the transport of drugs, ions and nutrients that are vital for brain recovery after stroke. His lab surgically models brain stroke (focal middle cerebral artery occlusion) along with tobacco smoke and e-Cig exposure to investigate these comorbid conditions. The overall goal of his lab is to make significant preclinical discoveries that will translate clinically to novel treatment options for stroke patients, which unfortunately to this date do not have many viable therapeutic options to improve brain recovery after stroke.

Vadivel Ganapathy

My primary research interest is in nutrient transporters and metabolite receptors in normal tissues and in cancer. I have cloned and characterized about 40 transporters for various organic solutes, including peptides, amino acids, vitamins, drugs, and metabolites. Recently, we have identified two new transport systems for oligopeptides, which are coupled to transmembrane Na⁺ gradient and accept peptides consisting of 5 or more amino acids. My contributions in the field of nutrition were recognized by an International Award from the Rank Foundation, UK (The Rank Prize for Nutrition) in 2003, which I shared with two other scientists, one from the Medical College of Georgia and the other from Harvard. My research has been supported by extramural grants continuously since 1987. To date, I have trained 13 graduate students, and I currently have 2 PhD students and 3 MD/PhD students in my lab. I have published 490 full-length research articles and 30 book chapters. My Google Scholar citation h-index is 98 (i.e., 98 of my publications have been cited 98 times or more) with a total of 36,000 citations.

My other passion in my academic career is teaching, particularly in medical student education. I have been teaching biochemistry and physiology to medical students for almost 25 years. I consider teaching as the noblest of all professions and I strive to do my best in making my lectures simple, logical and easily understandable to the students. My aim is and always has been to let the students leave the class with a clear understanding of the topic so that they are not left to figure out by themselves what was taught in the class. If the students have to learn the subject by themselves even after being taught by somebody in a class, how can we justify the concept of classroom teaching? I am also passionate about teaching for selfish reasons; when I teach, I get to learn topics that I would have no motivation to learn if I were not teaching. I believe that someday this extra knowledge will become useful in my research, which is the other passion in my career. Teaching profession is unique in another way too. If you do a good job, you can see the positive response from the students immediately, both during the lectures and after. This is instant gratification! In research, you have to wait for years together for your work to be recognized; in some cases, it might never happen at all! I have received several awards from the students for my teaching, but the most memorable one was when the first-year medical students in my former institution (Medical College of Georgia) designed their class T-shirt with a caricature of my picture and the caption "The Medical College of Ganapathy." This happened two years in a row, and the Dean and the President noticed it! I consider that gesture from the

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students as the height of my teaching career. I grew up in India at a time when teachers were held in high esteem, and I was always told that my respect and adoration should be placed in the following order: Mother, Father, Teacher, and God. I was fortunate to have so many wonderful and phenomenal teachers, both in high school and in college. I still vividly remember sitting in the first row in my chemistry class, which was taught by my most favorite professor, wondering if I will ever become as good as him as a teacher. Even today, that thought still keeps motivating me to do my best as a teacher. I am a lucky man indeed to be recognized and appreciated by my students!

Sherry Sancibrian

Sherry Sancibrian is a University Distinguished Professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, where she has been a faculty member since 1984 and the Program Director for Speech-Language Pathology since 1999. Over her 35 years of teaching, she has received the Outstanding Faculty Award from Texas Tech Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa (1990), the President's Excellence in Teaching Award in 1996 and 2007, the Outstanding Faculty Member award from Delta Delta Delta, and the Distinguished Alumna award from the TTUHSC School of Allied Health Sciences (2003) and the TTU College of Education (2011). The TTUHSC Student Government Association has recognized her for her teaching with the Outstanding Faculty award 11 times.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso

Thwe Htay

Dr. Htay is an Associate Professor of Medical Education at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso's Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. She is an academic general internist serving as the Director of the Medical Skills Course for the Year 1 and Year 2 medical students. Before moving to TTUHSC El Paso in 2016, Dr. Htay's professional experience included private practice focusing on diabetes care in Permian Basin and Houston, Texas, and academic general internal medicine in the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where she was extensively involved in medical education and ambulatory practice leadership. She also served as a clinical faculty member of TTUHSC Permian Basin while in private practice. After receiving her medical degree from the Rangoon University Medical College in 1994, she completed internal medicine residency training at the TTUHSC Permian Basin, where she received the Regional Dean's award for outstanding professionalism and interdisciplinary coordination. She is board certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Physicians in 2007, and is currently serving as a member of the board of directors of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians representing Far Northwest Region of Texas.

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