As an environmental educator, there is a classic activity that I do in teacher and student workshops called the Web of Life. The objective of this activity is for students to learn that in nature everything is interconnected and interdependent on each other for existence. And the sum of the individual parts is greater than the whole. I believe the same is true in human communities, of which our department is an excellent example. Each of us, faculty, students, and staff, is important in our own right but it is our work together as a community that makes our department strong and viable. We each come to the ILT community with an amazing diversity of expertise, passion, and commitment and it is this diversity that makes us unique and productive as a department. I feel honored and humbled to be a member of this community, knowing that my own strengths and weaknesses are individual components of the community yet when combined with others in the department they contribute to the community as a whole. It is when we combine all of our strengths that we can move our department forward. The sum of all of us is greater than the whole. It is with this thought that I hope to take forward this year, that our department is truly a community of which each component is important, but when combined, we are magnificent!
First Interdisciplinary Studies Colloquium
Held April 15-16

The first Interdisciplinary Studies Colloquium, sponsored by the Dept of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching was held in April, 2010. The two day event included six events. Keynote speeches, faculty and student paper presentations, the presentation of the Martinello Awards, and workshops for faculty, graduate and undergraduate students drew more than 300 participants to the events.

The five speakers include well known educational researchers and former professors at UTSA. Patrick Slattery (Texas A&M), Veronica Boix-Mansilla (Harvard), Michael O’Malley (Texas State), Marian Martinello (UTSA Emeritus) and Gillian Cook (UTSA Emeritus) addressed diverse topics related to interdisciplinarity in education in keynote addresses or through workshop formats.

Fourteen faculty from across the UTSA campus community and 26 graduate students presented papers and works in progress during the roundtable sessions on Thursday afternoon. Thirteen undergraduate students were honored for their nomination for the 2009-2010 Martinello Prize and the three winners were announced at the luncheon on Friday. These included undergraduate students: Renee McCombs, Yannik Scarff, and Angela Sherwood.

All of these events were supported by Student Learning Resource monies and private donations. Thanks to all faculty and graduate students who helped organize this successful first-time event and the numerous volunteers and presenters who helped make this event successful.

The San Antonio Writing Project

The San Antonio Writing Project grant was funded for $46,000 for the 2010-2011 academic year. This project just celebrated its 5th anniversary. During the academic year we offered our annual summer institute for new teacher consultants, two open institutes for K-College teachers, and two summer writing camps. We also hosted our annual conference in February. In addition we sponsored the Cuentos Exhibit and Open Readings at the Institute of Texan Cultures, and we supported the Limpopo Writing Project in South Africa.
National Impact Feature

The journal, *Voices from the Middle*, is coedited by Professors Roxanne Henkin, Janis Harmon and Elizabeth Pate. This journal is published by The National Council of Teachers of English. They published Volumes 17 (3 & 4) and Volumes 18(1) and are putting the final touches on issue 18(2). This peer-reviewed national/international journal takes readers on a metaphorical journey toward new understandings about literacy and learning for young adolescents.

Each issue:
- Has original cover art
- Begins with an invited article by leading literacy experts
- Contains article contributions written by researchers, practicing teachers, and teacher educators.

Articles undergo blind, peer reviews by national and international reviewers.

Global Impact Feature

In March 2010, Dr. Audrey Mohan, assistant professor, was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad to Ecuador. The project, titled *Sustainable Ecosystems, Enduring Cultures (SEEC) Ecuador*, funded 14 educators to visit Ecuador for 4 weeks during June to study geography, history, biodiversity, sustainability, and culture. The group first visited Quito, with walking tours of the new and old neighborhoods of Quito, visiting schools, museums, and churches to learn about indigenous groups and colonialism in Ecuador. Activities in Otavalo included Spanish and Kichwa lessons, and daily visits to local villages, schools, and ceremonial sites. The group also stayed aboard the *Angelito* in the Galápagos, completing daily field excursions onto the islands to learn about the flora and fauna, history and geography, and sustainable tourism and human impact on the ecosystems there. Following the Galápagos, the group ventured to the Amazon Rainforest to stay in a remote ecolodge owned by the Achuar indigenous community. The group learned about the rainforest, biodiversity and indigenous cultures during this portion of the trip, and toured the operation and maintenance of the ecolodge, including the solar and water filtration systems. The final portion of the program took participants back into the Andes to San Jorge Ecolodge, to learn about medicinal plants, native birds, trees, and animals, and cultural changes in the region over the last several centuries. Since returning home, the SEEC Ecuador Fulbrighters are working to develop social studies and science lessons to focus on sustainability, geography, history, and culture of Ecuador. For more information about SEEC Ecuador, please contact Audrey Mohan at audrey.mohan@utsa.edu.

Fulbright-Hays Recipient:

Dr. Audrey Mohan

For more information about the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) program, please visit: [http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa/index.html).
Dr. Misty Sailors is the Principal Investigator for "Malawi Reads," a $13 Million three year project to provide five million books written by local Malawian teachers for 1000 elementary schools in Malawi. This project was funded by USAID.

This year, the project has printed its first 970,000 books. Teacher training on how to use the books began in October. Pilot data for understanding the impact of the literacy project is currently being collected.

An ILT doctoral student, Shelbee Nguyen, and master’s student, Michelle Boyle (both with Adult Learning and Teaching concentrations) studied abroad and conducted independent research projects this summer in Rome, Tuscany, and Venice, Italy. They were directed by Dr. Joellen Coryell, ILT faculty member.

Shelbee’s research focused on adult student perceptions of and motivations to study abroad, while Michelle researched education abroad, experienced multiculturalism and the globalization of the English language. They were also a part of the Italy Honor’s Program which studied Italian urban culture through the interdisciplinary lens of history and architecture.
Dr. Maria Arregúin-Anderson - COEHD Academy for Teacher Excellence Award. “Exploring cell phone technologies as tools for scientific inquiry and linguistic/cognitive engagement with bilingual prospective teachers” $5,000.

Dr. Matthew Berland - National Science Foundation (NSF), "Collaborative Project: Programming Standing Up", $282,733

Dr. Kim Bilica - CCRI, "College Career Readiness Initiatives," $10,000

Dr. Kim Bilica - TRC, "Mid Career Recruitment for Math and Science," $200,000

Dr. Audrey Dentith - THECB CCRI, "UTSA Interdisciplinary Studies in Teacher Education Curriculum Revision," $10,000

Dr. Carmen Fies - Brackenridge Foundation, "UTSA/Basic Schools Network EC-5 STEM Initiative" amendment - $15,750

Dr. Carmen Fies - SALSI, "SPARKT," $49,922

Dr. Belinda Flores - DOE, "CCRAA, Support for STEM Teachers," $2,615,000

Dr. Belinda Flores - DOE, "Middle Level ATEP," $1,914,130

Dr. Belinda Flores - DOE, "Special Education ATEP," $2,014,253

Dr. Belinda Flores - Greater TX Fnd., "Teacher Academy Induction Learning Community," $506,499

Dr. Belinda Flores - GTF, "TAILC Continuation," $150,000

Dr. Belinda Flores - THECB, "Academy for Culturally Efficacious Math and Science Teachers," $700,000

Dr. Belinda Flores - UTCCERP, "Char. of Effective Math and Science T of ELLS," $116,700

Drs. Belinda Flores and Betty Travis - TRC, "Regional Math Collaborative," $85,000

Dr. Roxanne Henkin - National Writing Project, "San Antonio Writing Project 2010-11 Continuation", $46,000

Dr. Maria Kaylor - NSF, "Universal Design and Technology for Students with Disabilities in STEM Fields," $200,000

Dr. Audrey Mohan - Fulbright-Hayes, "Sustainable Ecosystems, Enduring Cultures in Ecuador," $84,268

Dr. Christine Moseley - TRC, "Mid Career Recruitment for Math and Science," $200,000

Dr. Christine Moseley - UT Texas Regional Collaborations, "Texas Learning Academy Induction Learning Community for Math and Sciences" (TAILC-MS) amendment, $15,216

Dr. Misty Sailors - USAID, "Malawi Reads," $13,000,000
Research Highlights: 2010 ILT Publications


Research Highlights: 2010 ILT Publications


Grant Feature

The Academy for Teacher Excellence (ATE) was recently awarded a FIPSE (Funds for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education) grant entitled IClass: Innovative Communities of Learning Advancing Student Success, An Early College Approach for increasing Latino participation in the mathematics and science disciplines. Awarded amount was $749,972.00.

The project will be working with Edgewood ISD’s Memorial High School and its Toltech T-STEM Academy.

Dr. Belinda B. Flores (ILT) and Dr. Rachel Ruiz (Assistant Vice President of P-20) are the PI’s. An interdisciplinary team includes Co-PI’s: Betty Travis (Mathematics-COS), Maricela Oliva (ELPS), Norma Guerra, (EDP), Wayne Wright (BBL), Maria Kaylor (ILT), and Kim Bilica (ILT). Lucretia Fraga, ILT doctoral student and ATE Associate Director for Instructional Technology is the Instructional Manager and Lorena Claeys, BBL doctoral candidate and ATE Executive Director is the Director for the grant.

First FIPSE Grant Awarded to UTSA

Anna Cohen-Miller, ILT PhD student received the 2010 Certificate awarded for developing ESL curriculum that applies ecological/environmental concepts “Greening the Curriculum.” The certificate was awarded by the Go Green! Viva Verde Committee, Palo Alto College, San Antonio, TX.

Doctoral Students Present at National Conference

George Jackson, Anna Cohen-Miller, and Debra Root, ILT doctoral students (Cohort I & II) presented a panel (with Associate Professor Audrey Dentith, ILT) at the American Association of Curriculum & Teaching (AATC) on Friday, October 8. The panel session entitled, “Interdisciplinary Studies in Teacher Education: Globalizing the Curriculum” highlighted the curricular course development work they completed in summer of 2010. Their paper described the process of interdisciplinary course development in two undergraduate IDS courses, their analysis of the dynamics of curriculum processes, the uses of curriculum theories, the history and context of the IDS program, the finished components of the syllabi, and plans for future evaluation. This work evolved from a grant supported by the CCRC (College Career Readiness Council – Social Studies Initiative) and involved faculty, graduate students, and classroom teachers.
Research Highlights

Dr. Rosalind Horowitz has been appointed to the new editorial boards of Writing & Pedagogy, and Diaspora, Indigenous and Minority Education: An International Journal. She also organized a symposium on Conducting Interdisciplinary Research in the New Millennium. Speakers were Richard Gambitta, Director, Institute for Law and Public Affairs; Kyle Murray, Faculty Associate for the Center for Water Research and Assistant Director for Undergrad Research Development in the Honors College; and Rosalind Horowitz, Director, The Border Literacy Project.

Dr. Dennis Davis, new assistant professor of literacy education, participated in the National Academy of Education’s Predoctoral Adolescent Literacy Fellowship. The fellowship provides mentoring and financial support for dissertation work related to adolescent literacy. Dr. Davis’ dissertation was a meta-analysis of reading comprehension strategies instruction in upper elementary and middle school settings.

2010 ILT Conference Presentations

- 41st ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, Milwaukee, WI
- Adult Education Research Conference, Sacramento, CA
- American Association for the Adult and Continuing Education, Clearwater Beach, FL
- American Education Research Association, Denver, CO
- Association of Public and Land-Grant University’s Commission on International Programs Summer Meeting, Sedona, AZ.
- EDMEDIA, Toronto, ON
- E-Learn 2010 Conference. Orlando, FL
- International Conference on Software Engineering, Cape Town, South Africa
- International Reading Association World Congress on Reading, Auckland, New Zealand
- International Society for Technology in Education Conference. Denver, CO.
- Mahela Sammellan Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX
- National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE). Denver, CO.
- San Antonio Virtual Environments in Education and Training (SAVE-ET), San Antonio, TX
- Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages, Boston, MA
- The National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Orlando, FL
- The National Writing Project Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

Faculty and Students

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Teaching Highlights

CONGRATULATIONS!

Two ILT Faculty Receive The University of Texas System Regents System Awards

Dr. Maria Kaylor & Dr. Alycia Maurer

Dr. Maria Kaylor

Dr. Alycia Maurer

Project Learning Tree’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood

Dr. Blanche Desjean-Perrotta and Dr. Courtney Crim served as Early Childhood Advisory Committee members and Project Learning Tree’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood has been selected a Learning Magazine 2011 Teachers’ Choice Award winner. Project Learning Tree is a nationally recognized Environmental Education program for K-12. The program is for early childhood educators who are interested in environmental education for young children 3-8 years old.

The PhD program in Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching

The PhD in ILT is in its second year. There are 13 doctoral students in Cohort 1 and additional 14 students in Cohort 2. Faculty have been actively advising students, teaching in the program and participating in doctoral committee work. The program continues to gain popularity and is actively recruiting for its Fall 2011 class.
ILT in the News
A C&I graduate student is making an important impact on local education. Ed DeLeon was featured in a KSAT 12 news story representing the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), a local charter school where he works. To view the full story: [http://www.ksat.com/video/25046500/index.html](http://www.ksat.com/video/25046500/index.html)

Student Teachers and Technology
In student teaching, students receive a two hour technology presentation ("Imagine the Possibilities!") that offers exposure to a variety of applications. The point of the training is to provide ideas about the ways that technology can be used in a classroom. During student teaching, students are expected to demonstrate some use of technology in their lesson plans. Our student teaching website: [http://education.utsa.edu/student_teaching](http://education.utsa.edu/student_teaching) offers students the opportunity to participate in Facebook, Twitter, Wiki, and Blog. Students are also offered the opportunity to participate in our Flip Camera cohort. Student teachers are trained in the use of Flip Cameras, I-movie editor, and Articulate.

Service Highlights

- Rosalind Horowitz was one of two faculty throughout the College of Education to be recognized by the Honors Alliance at UTSA, a consortium of honors groups, for academic and service excellence, April 9, 2010, at their Honors Dinner and Awards Ceremony.
- Karla Broadus was asked to attend the NISD Curriculum Update meeting.
- Joellen Coryell, Elizabeth Pate, and Robin Redmon Wright were on the leadership team of the UTSA Internationalization Task Force, evaluation study of internationalization at the institution. Their work produced a Logic Model and Internationalization Status Report with recommendations to the Executive Vice Provost’s Office. More information is available at [http://provost.utsa.edu/evp/](http://provost.utsa.edu/evp/)
- M. Arreguin-Anderson and Kimberley Cuero co-organized and facilitated the first Proyecto Silvestre (Project Wild) in Spanish conducted in the state of Texas.
- Project Learning Tree’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood has been selected a Learning Magazine 2011 Teachers’ Choice Award winner! Blanche Desjean-Perrotta and Courtney Crim served as Early Childhood Advisory Committee members.
- Anna CohenMiller, Developing a Bike Sharing Initiative on the Palo Alto College campus. Go Green! ¡Viva Verde! Committee. San Antonio, TX.
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Travels with Rowdy!
(Photo compliments of Dr. Courtney Crim!)