



The COAS PERSPECTIVE

2011 Awards

COAS Teacher of the Year



“Dr. Claudia San Miguel is an Assistant Professor and a valued member of the Behavioral Sciences Department’s faculty since 2005. As the Director of the Criminal Justice program, Dr. San Miguel provides academic leadership for the program’s undergraduate curriculum and online master’s degree. She consistently receives high praise from her students and has been honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Teaching in 2011. In addition to her program leadership, Dr. San Miguel has served on numerous committees devoted to teaching excellence and has overseen WIN courses, Core Curriculum courses and written reports for TEC and other program evaluation and articulation matters. As a teacher-scholar, Dr. San Miguel has co-authored a book on the death penalty, and has over ten journal articles/book chapters.” —Chair, Dr. Bernat



“Dr. Michael Kidd is beginning his 3rd year at TAMIU, coming to us from his post-doctoral position at UT Austin. Dr. Kidd has proven to be an outstanding instructor and researcher for the department. He has not only received the most outstanding student evaluations in the department, he has established a world class fish facility to support his research on the genetic components of reproductive behavior. His teaching extends into the graduate program, with 6 graduate students, the first of which finished their masters degree this summer. We are indeed fortunate to a teacher and scientist of Dr. Kidd’s caliber join us.” — Chair, Dr. Mott

COAS Scholar of the Year



“Dr. Christopher Ferguson is an Associate Professor and a valued member of the Behavioral Sciences Department’s faculty since 2005. As a licensed Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Ferguson engages in research and assessments of issues pertaining to mental health diagnoses, cognitive disabilities , neuropsychological impairments and assessments of issues pertaining to mental health diagnoses, cognitive disabilities, neuropsychological impairments and, media and violence. He consistently publishes in peer reviewed journals and recently published “Violent Crime: Clinical and Social Implications” (Sage Publications). In the past year, his research was the focus of an amicus brief presented to the U.S. Supreme Court that argues that video gaming does not create violent propensities in youth. A prolific scholar, he has over 20 journal and book chapter publications that are forthcoming or in print since 2010.”— Chair, Dr. Bernat



“Dr. Gilberto Soto has done a great deal of work in bilingual music education for elementary students. His work with McGraw-Hill’s ‘Spotlight on Music’ has been highlighted in ‘Fiesta de Canciones,’ bringing to life some of the rich Hispanic Folklore and Tradition through music.”

—Chair, Ms. Leyendecker