



## SEMESTER RECAP

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During the Fall 2013 semester, the PROF Center presented various faculty seminars that introduced a variety of teaching practices and tools to enhance the learning experience in the classrooms:

Dr. Patrick Bahls, from the University of North Carolina Asheville, presented how to model a math lesson to students and faculty in the Department of Engineering, Math and Physics.

Dr. Patti H. Clayton offered a two-part faculty webinar to assist development of service-learning classes and introduce community-based research in the classroom.

Partnering with the College of Education, PROF Center hosted a two-day seminar presented by Dr. Jennifer Beasley, from the University of Arkansas, on differentiating instruction for students and faculty in the College of Education.

In addition, PROF Center promoted events to increase student involvement in the classroom as well as in the community.

In November, the Service-Learning Expo 2013 was hosted, increasing awareness of classes engaged in service-learning and showcasing students’ engagement in the Laredo community.



PROF Center at Dr. Garza’s service-learning class ceremony

Furthermore, the PROF Center participated in the ceremony honoring students who will complete their higher education in four years.

## MODELING A MATH LESSON FOR TEACHERS

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Patrick Bahls, associate professor of mathematics at the University of North Carolina Asheville, offered a seminar on modeling math lessons for faculty in the Department of Engineering, Math, Physics, and students in the College of Education.



Dr. Patrick Bahls

Dr. Bahls is known for introducing writing in math classes, an innovative practice sometimes not seen in a mathematics classroom. He endorses low-stakes writing activities because they reinforce students' learning. Writing allows students to explore their thoughts, generate new ideas, and increase communication with others. Various examples of writing activities were provided during the seminar.

During his presentation, Dr. Bahls highlighted the importance of active learning. The Moore method, inquiry-based learning, and collaborative learning were introduced as pedagogical models that promote active learning. Activities of each model were presented during the seminar to increase active learning, collaboration, and student engagement. Moreover, Dr. Bahls explained flipped classrooms, a new pedagogical model, where students read outside of the classroom and come prepared to tackle hard concepts during class time.

Overall, Dr. Bahls' presentation promoted a higher level of engagement, facilitating students' responsibility of learning and understanding. Students and faculty who attended Dr. Bahls presentation learned new ideas to promote learning in a wide range of subjects.

**To obtain a full video of the workshop by Dr. Bahls, stop by the PROF Center's office KL 421, or reach the office at (956)326-3133.**

## DEVELOPING A SERVICE-LEARNING/ COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH CLASS

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The PROF Center held a two-series faculty webinar on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Patti Clayton, an independent consultant from Cary, North Carolina, presented ways to incorporate service-learning.

The goal of the workshop was to help faculty implement service-learning classes and allow a greater number of students to participate in the community. Service-learning classes provide experience to students by pairing a TAMIU class with a local organization. Through service-learning, students explore connections between theory and practice, discover different venues for learning, and learn of community organizations in the Laredo area.



Dr. Patti H. Clayton

Dr. Clayton provided tools for the faculty that could be used in a wide range of subjects. She stressed the importance of thinking about service-learning as a way of doing projects with the community and not for the community. When the community, faculty, and students work together they learn from each other, making meaningful experiences for the students, professors, and community members who participate.

Dr. Clayton presented in-depth explanation of goals from service-learning; personal growth, academic, and civic learning. To achieve these goals, students need to engage in critical reflection about their experiences during their service. Dr. Clayton offered many examples and worksheets to help students think critically and make the link between academic work in the classroom and in the community.



TAMIU faculty at Dr. Clayton's webinar

Although service-learning classes require planning, the benefits that students, faculty, and community gain are essential for learning. The measure of student success clearly emanates from the relevant learning experiences they gain by applying content knowledge in actual community settings.

**To obtain a full video of the webinars by Dr. Clayton, stop by the PROF Center's office KL 421, or reach the office at (956) 326-3133.**

## DIFFERENTIATION INSTRUCTION AND DIFFERENTIATION IN PRACTICE

Dr. Jennifer Beasley, assistant professor of Childhood Education Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Arkansas, gave a two-day seminar for students and faculty in the College of Education on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Beasley has 25 years of experience in education as a teacher, professor, columnist, and workshop facilitator. Her areas of teaching include curriculum, differentiating instruction, literacy assessment, and theories of teaching and learning.



Dr. Jennifer Beasley

The October 25<sup>th</sup> seminar, sponsored by Title V: Focus on Student Success, presented ways to implement differentiating instruction to faculty in the College of Education. Differentiating instruction prepares pre-service teachers develop personalized material to effectively reach all the students in the classroom.

Differentiation is a responsive way of teaching that allows teachers to discard “one-size-fits-all” teaching techniques, and adapt their teaching styles to fit every learner’s needs. Teachers need to think proactively, to plan what the students will need and effectively reach all the students. Dr. Beasley highlighted that differentiation is not dividing low versus high achievement students, nor is it individualized instruction for every learner. Instead it’s an integration of ongoing assessments, flexible instruction, high-quality curriculum, positive community experience, and assigning appropriate tasks to students. Activities to implement differentiation were presented by Dr. Beasley.

The faculty seminar highlighted the importance of teaching differentiation instruction to education students. In addition, the book Leading and Managing: A Differentiated Classroom by Tomlinson & Imbeau (2010) was provided to attending faculty. The book provided additional differentiation strategies for students and faculty participating in the seminar.



Dr. Beasley presenting to  
College of Education faculty.

During the seminar, TAMIU faculty interacted with each other and discussed different strategies used in the classrooms.

**To obtain full video of the seminars by Dr. Beasley, stop by the PROF Center’s office KL 421, or reach the office at (956)326-3133.**

## H-E-B READ 3: GROW YOUNG MINDS, READ 3 TIMES A WEEK

During the month of October, H-E-B, with the help of TAMIU and the Laredo Public Library, launched their yearly program aimed at enhancing childhood literacy. H-E-B READ 3 is a six-week program where children under the age of five are introduced to books. Exposure to books increases children's vocabulary before they enroll in school, this program gives children a head start in reading skills. In addition, the program educates parents on the benefits of healthy meals in child development.



ACP Student reading to children

H-E-B, the Laredo Public library, and TAMIU worked in tandem to make the program possible for the Laredo community. H-E-B provided funds, instructional materials, and employee volunteers, the Laredo Public Library provided its facilities, and TAMIU coordinated instructors to make classes possible. Alternative Certification Program (ACP) students from TAMIU introduced children to books, educational songs, activities, and fun games. Parents participated in nutrition classes, learning healthy recipes to boost children's development. Classes met every Friday morning, from October 4<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Public Library. H-E-B donated one book to each child at the end of each session promoting reading in their homes as part of "READ 3" times a week goal.

Dr. Xuesong Wang, Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at TAMIU, coordinates the program and encourages parents to enroll their children. Programs like READ 3, help children with literacy skills needed in school.

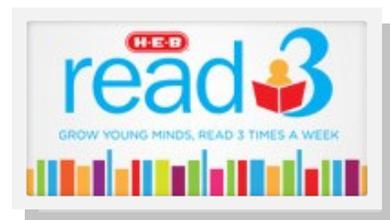
The READ 3 program will be offered in January 2014.

**For additional information, contact Dr. Wang at [xuesong.wang@tamiu.edu](mailto:xuesong.wang@tamiu.edu)**

**To learn about the H-E-B "Read 3 Program," visit [heb.com](http://heb.com), click on "Community" and find "Read 3."**



TAMIU ACP students with Read 3 Graduates,  
November 8<sup>th</sup>.



## SERVICE-LEARNING EXPO 2013

“Learning is experience, everything else is just information.” -Albert Einstein

University courses allow students to open their minds to new material and enrich their learning. Service-learning courses go an extra step; they provide students a meaningful community experience while they earn course credit. In a service-learning class, students participate in a community organization paired with their class and apply class content in a real-world setting.

Faculty from TAMIU and the PROF Center, work with local organizations to make service-learning classes possible. Service-learning classes, offered during the Fall 2013 semester, centered on the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Education. Students worked with local organizations enabling a profound learning reflection, and well-rounded understanding of themes covered in class. Local organizations working with TAMIU included Volunteers Serving the Need (a veteran’s nonprofit organization), People with Ideas of Love, Liberty, Acceptance & Respect (PILLAR, an anti-bullying organization), Plazas Comunitarias (an adult education program sponsored by the General Consulate of Mexico in Laredo), and Literacy Volunteers of Laredo.

On **November 11, 2013**, PROF Center hosted the annual Service-Learning Expo. In the expo, students present on how service-learning enhances their academic learning as well as their civic responsibility. A total of 17 student groups participated in the expo, showcasing posters and/or videos. Each group presented their work with the community and its impact on academic learning. Students were judged by TAMIU faculty on their presentation, reflection of community experience, and overall design of their project. First-place winners are seen below.



First-Place Poster: Juntos por la Educación:  
Karen Infante, Alejandra Ramirez,  
Vanessa Cadena



First-Place Video: VSTN:  
Carlos Romo, Monica de la Fuente, Martin Montes,  
Josh Nataki, Carmina Montes

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT SERVICE-LEARNING

Based on student responses from Spring 2013

90.5% believe service-learning work made positive contributions to the community

88.1% agreed that reflection activities enhanced learning in course

83.4% agreed service work helped in learning course content

76.2% would take another service-learning class

85.7% agreed they would get a better class grade because of a service-learning project

Service-learning courses have a positive student response at TAMU. These classes engage students in the Laredo community, increasing academic learning and personal growth.

Be on the lookout for the 2014 Faculty Summer Seminar to learn more about service-learning development.

**Faculty interested in additional information about service-learning classes, contact Dr. Marcela Uribe, Director of Service-learning, in Killam Library 421.**

### UNVEILING THE WALL AND THE PROF CENTER

On October 9th, 2013, TAMU's Student Success Center celebrated students who are dedicated to completing their studies in four years by holding their annual Unveiling the Wall Ceremony. Each year a ceremony is conducted in honor of those who are on their way to complete their education in four years, as a way to applaud their academic efforts. Current sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are on track in their studies were honored by having their names added to the wall displayed in the Zaffirini Student Success Center on the second floor. PROF Center, among offices of University College, was present to celebrate On-Time students.



PROF Center Staff at Unveiling the Wall 2013.



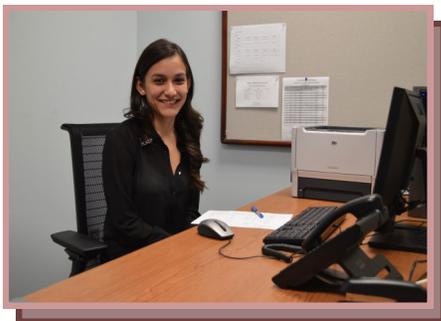
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### VISIT US AT

Killam Library RM 421  
 We are on the web!  
[www.tamiu.edu/profcenter](http://www.tamiu.edu/profcenter)

\*If you would like to submit an article of a TAMU event, contact PROF Center Staff\*