

2020



**ATGS**

Association of Texas Graduate Schools

# ANNUAL MEETING

October 1st-2nd



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL TEXAS.



# **Association of Texas Graduate Schools**



## **Annual Meeting**

**October 1-2, 2020**

# THE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS GRADUATE SCHOOLS

The Association of Texas Graduate Schools (ATGS), founded in 1951 in Dallas, Texas, with 60 members, seeks to advance graduate study in the state of Texas by providing a forum for the discussion of ideals, aims, and problems in graduate studies faced by institutions of higher learning throughout our state. We hold regular meetings annually at one of our member institutions to share our experiences in our different approaches to the challenge of providing a meaningful graduate education for our students.

## Officers 2020-2021

### President

Kellie Cude, Ph.D.

Associate Provost/Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs  
and Dean of the Graduate School  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

### Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph Oppong, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Academic  
Associate Dean of the Toulouse Graduate School

### President-Elect

Sarah Larsen Ph.D.

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School  
University of Houston

### Past-President

Victor Prybutok, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of Toulouse  
Graduate School  
University of North Texas



WE ARE **WARRIORS**

## About

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY- CENTRAL TEXAS

Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas), located in Killeen, Texas, is an upper-level, regional institution serving Central Texas. A&M-Central Texas offers junior- and senior-level coursework needed to successfully complete 28 baccalaureate degrees and all coursework leading to the completion of 18 graduate (master's and specialist) degrees. A&M University-Central Texas was established on September 1, 1999, as Tarleton State University-Central Texas, and became a stand-alone university on May 27, 2009, one of 11 universities within the A&M System which became a separately accredited institution in June 2013 through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), retroactive to January 1, 2013.

The Graduate School at Texas A&M University-Central Texas aspires to provide accessible and rigorous graduate programs and research within an applied framework with a diverse mixture of educator-scholars and learners committed to accessibility and excellence in graduate education, service, and research to enhance knowledge, skills, and abilities.

# AGENDA

October 1, 2020

9:00 - 9:15 am

## OPEN SESSION

Grab your coffee and say hello

9:15 - 9:30 am

## OPENING REMARKS

Kellie Cude, ATGS President  
Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

## PROVOST WELCOME

Peg Gray-Vickrey, Provost  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

9:30 - 10:30 am

## FINDING THE OPPORTUNITIES IN CRISIS

Suzanne Ortega, President  
Council of Graduate Schools

10:30 - 10:45 am

## BREAK

10:45 - 11:30 am

## UPDATES FROM THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Stacey Silverman, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academic Quality and Workforce  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

11:30 - 12:00 pm

## LUNCH BREAK

12:00 - 1:15 pm

## CASES, CONTROVERSIES, AND QUANDRIES: A REVIEW OF KEY 2020 HIGHER EDUCATION LAW MATTERS IMPACTING GRADUATE EDUCATION

Mackenzie Wilfong, General Counsel  
Tulsa Community College

1:15 - 1:30 pm

## BREAK

1:30 - 2:30 pm

**DAY ONE: Breakout Session**

Option 1

**INCREASING THE LATINX GRADUATE STUDENT PIPELINE: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND REFLECTIONS**

JoAnn Canales, Senior Scholar-in-Residence Emerita  
Council of Graduate Schools

Immediate Past Chair, American Association  
of Hispanics in Higher Education

Carla Vidal Thomas, Dietetic Intern, Graduate Student  
Texas State University

Francisco Villarruel, Faculty Grievance Official,  
University Outreach and Engagement Senior  
Fellow, Professor

Michigan State University

Option 2

**PREPARING FOR THE DIGITAL FUTURE  
(ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT)**

Fleming Puckett, Senior Director  
EAB

2:30 - 3:30 pm

**DAY ONE: Breakout Session**

Option 1

**GRADUATE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH:  
ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTIONS**

Dorie Gilbert, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Prairie View A&M University

Joseph Oppong, Associate Vice Provost for  
Graduate Education, Professor of Geography  
University of North Texas

Option 2

**DATA-DRIVEN STRATEGIES FOR GROWING  
ENROLLMENT IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

Elizabeth Smith, AVP of Enrollment  
University of Dallas

Owen Crean, Senior Director  
EAB

3:30pm

**DAY ONE ENDS**

# AGENDA

October 2, 2020

9:00 - 9:45 am

## **UPDATES FROM ICUT: BY THE NUMBERS, THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE & MORE**

Steven Johnson, President  
Elizabeth Puthoff, Vice President  
Sam Rauschenfels, Director of Communications  
Independent Colleges & Universities of Texas

9:45 - 10:30 am

## **DAY TWO: Breakout Session**

Option 1

### **MAKING PHD CAREERS VIABLE, VISIBLE, AND VALUED**

Annie Maxfield, Director of Graduate Career & Professional Development  
University of Texas  
President-Elect, Graduate Career Consortium

Option 2

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ACCELERATED ONLINE PROGRAMS: EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES**

Sudershan Pasupuleti, Associate Dean for Online Programs, Graduate College  
Parwinder Grewal, Dean & Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Education, and New Program Development  
Andre Mercade, Graduate Assistant, Graduate College  
Oscar Martinez, Graduate Assistant, Graduate College The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley



10:30 - 11:15 am

**DAY TWO: Breakout Session**

Option 1

**STANDING UP A GRADUATE SCHOOL:  
CONSENSUS BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Alan Itkin, Assistant Dean, Moody School of Graduate  
and Advanced Studies  
Southern Methodist University

Option 2

**RECOGNITION OF MASTERY OF  
COMPETENCY-BASED TRANSFERABLE  
SKILLS BY GRADUATE STUDENTS USING  
DIGITAL BADGING**

Ambika Mathur, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate  
School  
The University of Texas at San Antonio

11:15 - 11:30 am

**BREAK**

11:30 - 12:15 pm

**DAY TWO: Breakout Session**

Option 1

**SUPPORTING OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS  
DURING THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

Craig Ogilvie, Dean of the Graduate College, AVP  
Research  
Montana State University  
Sarah Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Higher  
Education & Learning Technologies  
Texas A&M University - Commerce

Option 2

**RESOURCES FOR SMALL OFFICES**

Trinidad Macias, Director of Graduate Studies  
University of the Incarnate Word

12:15 - 12:45 pm

**LUNCH BREAK**

12:45 - 1:30 pm

**DAY TWO: Breakout Session**

Option 1

**HOW REMOTE GRADUATE WORK IS CHANGING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT EVERYONE CAN DO ABOUT IT: TALES FROM 75K GRADUATE STUDENTS**

E. Alana James, Founder and CEO  
Doctoral Net

Sarah Larsen, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

University of Houston

Option 2

**NAVIGATING THE UNCERTAIN GRADUATE ENROLLMENT LANDSCAPE**

Will Lamb, Dean of Graduate Education  
EAB

1:30 - 2:20 pm

**BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTION**

Kellie Cude, ATGS President 2019-2020  
Joseph Oppong, ATGS Secretary/Treasurer

2:20 - 2:30 pm

**CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT**

Sarah Larsen, ATGS President 2020-2021

2:30 pm

**ANNUAL MEETING ENDS**







## **Suzanne Ortega, Ph.D.**

Suzanne Ortega became the sixth President of the Council of Graduate Schools on July 1, 2014. Prior to assuming her current position, she served as the University of North Carolina (UNC) Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (2011-14). Previous appointments include the Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of New Mexico (UNM), Vice Provost and Graduate Dean at the University of Washington (UW), and the University of Missouri (MU). Dr. Ortega's masters and doctoral degrees in sociology were completed at Vanderbilt University.

With primary research interests in mental health epidemiology, health services, race and ethnic

relations, and graduate education, Dr. Ortega is the author or co-author of numerous journal articles, book chapters, and an introductory sociology text, now in its 9th edition. An award-winning teacher, Dr. Ortega has also served on review panels for National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health and has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on grants totaling more than \$11 million in private foundation and federal funds.

Dr. Ortega serves, or has served, on a number of professional association boards and committees, including the boards of the Council of Graduate Schools, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), the National Academies Committees on the Assessment of the Research Doctorate and Revitalizing Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century, the NSF Human Resources Expert Panel and Education and Human Resources Advisory Committee, the American Council on Education (ACE), North Carolina E-learning Commission, and the UNC, UNM, and UW Presses. She currently is a member of the Board of Trustees of American University in the Emirates



## **Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.**

Stacey Silverman is the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Academic Quality and Workforce at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Silverman provides leadership on statewide policy initiatives related to undergraduate and graduate education with a focus on achieving the state's goals for higher education. Dr. Silverman has authored several studies on issues related to higher education focused on undergraduate and graduate education.

Dr. Silverman oversees more than \$100 million in state-funded grant programs, including the Graduate Medical Education Expansion, Family Practice Residency Program, Family Practice Rural Rotation Program, Joint Admissions Medical Program, Statewide Preceptorship Programs, Autism Grant Program, Emergency and Trauma Care Program, Nursing Allied Health Research Program, Minority Health and Research Program, and Open Educational Resources Grants. Dr. Silverman also oversees the federal Carl D. Perkins funding that supports community and technical colleges.

Dr. Silverman led the Coordinating Board's effort in convening the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium and serves as the agency's appointee. She also represents the agency on the Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council and the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

Prior to joining the staff of the Coordinating Board, Dr. Silverman was Director of Legislative Affairs for the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Silverman is a graduate of TCU, Midwestern State University, and received her PhD from The University of Texas at Austin.



## **Mackenzie Wilfong, Esq.**

Mackenzie Wilfong earned her Bachelors of Arts from the University of Oklahoma where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, she received her Juris Doctorate degree from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. Following law school, Mackenzie practiced litigation at a national law firm in Kansas City where she specialized in Education and Employment Law, practicing in both Kansas and Missouri. After leaving private practice, she joined the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights as a federal enforcement attorney investigating allegations of harassment and discrimination in a five state region during both the late Bush and early Obama administrations. Most recently, for nine years Mackenzie worked for OSU and its Board in several roles including Associate General Counsel for the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, representing nine Colleges and Universities across Oklahoma. Mackenzie has served as an Adjunct Professor at Oklahoma State University teaching graduate level courses including Higher Education Law and as a guest speaker for Meridian Technology Center's Business Development Training Center on topics including Medical Marijuana, Employment Law, and the COVID-19 related Federal CARES Act funding. Mackenzie is a frequent regional speaker on Title IX, Employment law, and the First Amendment, and recently developed and presented a four-part state-wide live web series on the new Title IX federal regulations, which concluded in late July.

Currently, Mackenzie is the General Counsel for Tulsa Community College, where she serves on the Executive Team and provides legal counsel to the College's four campuses serving 25,000 students in Tulsa County.

Mackenzie is a Board member of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice and co-authored a chapter on the First Amendment in Higher Education for the recently published book *Student Conduct Practice: The Complete Guide for Student Affairs Professionals*.



## JoAnn Canales, Ph.D.

JoAnn Canales was appointed Senior Scholar-in-Residence Emerita at the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington, D.C. after having served as Senior Dean-in-Residence at the Council of Graduate Schools for Fall 2019 and Dean-in-Residence in 2018-2019. Previously, she served as the Founding Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She holds degrees from the University of Houston, Laredo State University, and The University of Texas at Austin. During her more than 20-year tenure at A&M-CC, she served in numerous roles both at the college and university levels and received the 2005-2006

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2002-2003, she was awarded an American Council of Education Fellowship and interned at Pace University in New York City.

She has extensive experience in accreditation related activities with regional accrediting organizations (SACSCOC, HLC, and Middle States) including the preparation of the reaffirmation responses (SACSCOC & HLC), serving as a team member on site visits (Middle States), chairing and/or serving as a team member on state accreditation visits (Texas and Rhode Island), presenting on accreditation related topics, and consulting with/developing programs adhering to accreditation standards.

She also has experience with group facilitation/mediation, strategic plan development, program evaluation and collaboration. Her portfolio includes working collaboratively in a variety of settings including school districts, state departments, state/national organizations, the Federal Reserve Bank, and international institutions of higher education in Mexico, Canada, Peru, and Trinidad/Tobago. She currently serves as the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education as well as a member of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Board of Directors, and the Phi Kappa Phi Board of Directors. She also chaired the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Council of Graduate Schools as well as the GRE Board's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Canales is author/co-author of textbooks and scholarly articles/book chapters related to second language learning, teacher preparation and program efficacy. Her areas of expertise include English-language proficiency assessment, teacher preparation, and issues of access and success in higher education. She has extensive experience evaluating programs (K-20) having served as a Senior Evaluation Specialist for Chapter I Programs (1983-1987); Owner of a consulting service evaluating the efficacy of federally funded programs (1987-1989); Director of a Collaborative Research Center at the University of North Texas (1989-1992) and evaluator of multiple programs in higher education (1998-2020). She has also served as principal/co-investigator on NSF and USDA grants.

She has over 45 years of teaching experience in public schools and three public institutions of higher education in Texas and Colorado.



## **Francisco A. Villarruel, Ph.D.**

Francisco A. Villarruel serves as Michigan State University's Faculty Grievance Official. He is also a University Outreach and Engagement Senior Fellow and a Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University. Villarruel is recognized nationally for his research and policy work that focuses on Latino youth and juvenile justice systems reform as well as youth development. Villarruel has published over 50 journal articles and book chapters, edited eight books and co-authored ten state or national policy reports. He is a co-author of the nation's first report that focuses on the analysis of disproportionate

and disparate treatment of Latino and Latina youth by the U.S. justice system entitled *¿Dónde Está la Justicia? A Call to Action on Behalf of Latino and Latina Youth in the U.S. Justice System*. Villarruel also collaborated on a 2020 report entitled *Latinx Data Gap in Youth Justice Systems*; Latinx youth continue to be nonexistent in juvenile justice data, which documents how each of the 50 states, across counties and institutions collects highly inconsistent and inaccurate data of Latinx youth in the youth justice system.



In their call to action, they argue that the failure to provide culturally and linguistically competent services contribute to disparities.

Villarruel serves or has served on the boards of several national organizations, including the Campaign for Youth Justice, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, the National Juvenile Justice Network Leadership Development Institute Advisory Board, the National Association of Hispanic Education, Child Trends, Transparent Media, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Michigan Juvenile Justice Commission. In 2016, Villarruel was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Coordinating Council of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



## **Carla Vidal Thomas, B.A.**

Carla Vidal Thomas is a dietetic intern and graduate student at Texas State University originally from Laredo, TX. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Human Nutrition. Additionally, she is in the process of completing 1000 hours of supervised practice through her dietetic internship in various clinical, community, food service, and specialty settings.

After graduating in 2013, Carla worked in marketing and sales. However, she developed an interest in nutrition, which led her to explore and learn about the field of dietetics. Subsequently, she became passionate about food security and the importance of childhood nutrition. She was inspired to switch career paths and pursue a master's degree in nutrition. Throughout her graduate career, Carla has worked with Bobcat Bounty, the on-campus food pantry, helping the Texas State community by providing food access to ultimately increase food security. She also worked as a Graduate Instructional Assistant for the Food Systems lab and as a Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Jaime Chahin, Dean of the College of Applied Arts. During this time, she collaborated with Dr. Chahin to author a literature review titled "Advising on Career Pathways with an Emphasis on Mentoring for Latinx Students," which is currently in the process of being reviewed for publication. Currently, she is working on a research project assessing the food security barriers and facilitators among LGBTQIA+ Texas State students.

Upon receiving her master's degree and completing the dietetic internship, Carla hopes to become a Registered Dietitian. She is keeping her mind open to the variety of opportunities provided by the field of dietetics. She is also strongly considering pursuing a doctoral degree in the near future. She aspires to help many individuals and their families by securing and increasing access to healthy foods, especially in underserved communities.



## **Fleming Puckett, Ph.D.**

Fleming is a Senior Director and Speaker in EAB's Research Advisory Services group. As the head of this group's advancement division, he presents and discusses EAB's strategic research at national meetings and on college campuses across the United States, Canada, and the UK. Fleming works with a diverse range of audiences, including board members, deans, advancement officers, and higher ed. administrators in colleges, universities, and university systems. Prior to joining the firm in 2013, Fleming served as a higher-education consultant at Huron Consulting Group, assisting major research universities in their efforts to

expand their funded-research portfolios and to comply with regulations regarding the use of federal funding. Fleming has also taught Harvard Negotiation Project principles to Wall Street investment banks and has served as teaching and research assistants at Cornell, Boston, Columbia, and Oxford Universities. Fleming and his wife live in South Carolina. He enjoys wine-tasting, croquet, fiction-writing, and fly-fishing and is an aspiring bee-keeper.



## **Dorie J. Gilbert, Ph.D.**

Dorie J. Gilbert, Ph.D. is Dean of Graduate Studies and newly-appointed Dean of the Brailsford College of Arts & Sciences at Prairie View A&M University. Prior to joining Prairie View A&M, she was Director of the Master of Social Work program at Norfolk State University (2017-2019). Before that, she served for twenty years on the Steve Hicks School of Social Work faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, where she received numerous teaching awards recognizing her excellence in teaching. Dr. Gilbert's scholarly work focuses on international and interdisciplinary social work. She has published extensively on culture

and race, health and mental health disparities, Africentric social work, and international development in Africa. She is a 2019 alumna of the Higher Education Resources Service (HERS) Leadership Institute and holds a B.B.A. in Engineering Management, M.S.S.W. and Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin.



## **Joseph Oppong, Ph.D.**

Joseph Oppong is a Professor of Geography and Associate Vice-provost for Graduate Education and Academic Associate Dean at the University of North Texas. He holds Masters and PhD degrees in Geography from the University of Alberta in Canada and has been a faculty member at UNT since 1992. Joseph's research uses Geographic Information Systems and quantitative analysis to answer questions about who is getting what diseases where and why? He has served as Associate Dean in the Toulouse Graduate School since 2009 and currently serves as a Councilor on the national council of the American Association of Geographers.



## Elizabeth Griffin Smith

Elizabeth Griffin Smith oversees undergraduate and graduate enrollment at the University of Dallas, as well as financial aid. In her 11 year tenure with the university, she has welcomed the university's largest freshman class and has led the efforts that have resulted in increased new student enrollment in the Gupta College of Business Master's programs. A native Texan, Elizabeth relocated from the gulf coast to North Texas to attend UD as an undergrad. She resides in Dallas, where she can frequently be found checking out local breweries and cheering for the Dallas Stars.



## Owen Crean

Owen Crean works with higher education leaders to drive enrollment growth across adult, graduate online, and non-traditional student populations. Owen helps lead EAB's Adult Learner Recruitment initiative, which leverages best-in-class marketing and recruitment tactics, including consumer analytics and intent marketing, to target and enroll right-fit students. Across Owen's 7 years at EAB, he has served as a strategic advisor to Presidents & Chancellors, Provosts, Chief Business Officers, and other senior leaders, on numerous topics including: future strategy, strategic planning, marketing & recruitment, budget model redesign, facilities

management, data governance, information security, and advancement. Owen is a results-oriented leader responsible for aligning University needs with EAB's areas of expertise. Mr. Crean lives in Atlanta, Ga and enjoys college football and spending time outdoors.



## **Steven Johnson, Ph.D.**

Dr. Steven E. Johnson became ICUT's third full-time president in July 2020. A longtime leader in Texas higher education, Dr. Johnson previously served as Chancellor of WGU Texas. Before joining WGU, Dr. Johnson served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, his Master's from the University of Texas and his Bachelor's from Concordia University Texas.



## **Elizabeth Puthoff, M.Ed., MPA**

Elizabeth Puthoff joined ICUT in June 2005. A former high school chemistry teacher, she holds two Master's degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Education and a Master of Public Affairs. Her responsibilities include producing research reports, conducting research projects and monitoring legislation. Her legislative assignments include student-public education, teacher preparation and certification and financial aid.



## **Sam Rauschenfels, M.Ed.**

Sam Rauschenfels joined ICUT in June 2017 after completing a Master's in Education at The University of Texas at Austin. A native of Minnesota, Sam is a product of independent higher education, having completed a Bachelor's in Environmental Earth Sciences, with a minor in Film and Media, at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Sam coordinates public relations and communications for ICUT, including monthly newsletters, ICUT-produced publications, and media outreach. He also works to develop and implement new initiatives for ICUT and the ICUT Foundation.



## **Annie Maxfield, M.S.**

Annie Maxfield has been helping PhD students realize their professional goals for more than 10 years. As the Director of Graduate Career & Professional Development at UT Austin she collaborates with faculty, graduate students and employers to transform the culture of graduate education to embrace the many futures PhDs pursue. Prior to joining UT Austin, Annie established graduate career services at UCLA and Duke university. Nationally, she is the Design and Development Lead for ImaginePhD, an online, free and confidential career exploration and planning tool for humanities and social sciences. She is also the president-elect of the

Graduate Career Consortium, an international organization dedicated to doctoral professional development. She has taught advanced courses at 5 universities, speaks nationally and has worked with the Modern Language Association, The American Association of Universities, Connected Academics and the American Historical Association on initiatives such as Faculty Training, Humanists@work, AAU PhD Career Pathways, and the MLA Doctoral Student Career Planning Guide.



## **Sudershan Pasupuleti, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sudershan Pasupuleti currently serves Associate Dean of Graduate College and as a Professor at School of Social Work. He joined with dual appointment to UTPA/UTRGV in September 2014 as Department Chair and continued as founding Chair of UTRGV Social Work Department by contributing to its transition. Dr. Pasupuleti developed MSSW Accelerated Online Program and served as its founding director three and half years which has consistently ranked for the past three years. He also served as adjunct faculty member for School of Medicine at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He developed strategic plan

for the Social Work Department, established strong program assessment system, expanded faculty strength and enlarged enrollment, besides growing the enrolment of both BSW and MSSW programs. Dr. Pasupuleti has been social work educator for more than two decades and macro practitioner of social work both here in the United States and in India. He has taught human behavior, research and macro practice courses (organizations and communities) as well as supervised students for practicum.

Prior to joining UTRGV, Dr. Pasupuleti served as a Professor and BSW Program Director at the University of Toledo (OH). He served as Director for the Office of Service Learning & Community Engagement at the University of Toledo. Dr. Pasupuleti has practiced action research in community settings. He has nearly 35 publications and made over 70 presentations at state, national and international conferences. In particular, Dr. Pasupuleti developed 2SEERS intervention to foster and build soft skills for personal growth, academic achievement and success in life.



## **Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D.**

Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D., is the Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and New Program Development at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). In this position he oversees UTRGV's Research Enterprise, Graduate College, Library Resources, Online Programs, Continuing Education, Centers and Research Institutes, Global Engagement, Sustainability Office, and leads the development of all new programs.

Dr. Grewal served as the Founding Dean of the College of Sciences at UTRGV until March 2018 and oversaw the award-winning

Mathematics & Science Academy, the nation's largest UTeach program, the Center of Excellence for STEM Education, the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy and the STARGATE program. Under Dean Grewal, the college underwent a major transformation, envisioning and building new academic units and degree programs, interdisciplinary research, education, and outreach centers, student success programs, and innovative local and global community engagement initiatives. The college established a new BS program in Marine Biology, two new MS programs, a new School of the Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, two new research centers - Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Advancement, and Center for Vector Borne Diseases, and the new HIGH Scholars program that engages area high school students in research with faculty. He also established a competitive Seed Grant program to enhance faculty research capacity, a Graduate Research Assistantships program to recruit high quality students, and the College of Sciences Annual Conference to share, disseminate, and celebrate student and faculty accomplishments.

Prior to joining UTRGV, Dr. Grewal served as Department Head for Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. There he established a new interdisciplinary doctoral program in Entomology, Plant Pathology & Nematology, and a shared-funding mechanism that doubled the size of the graduate program within two years.



## **Andre Mercade, B.S.**

Andre Mercade is a Graduate Assistant at Graduate College, UTRGV. Andre graduated from St. Edward's University with a B.S. in Computer Science in 2019 and is currently in the AO MSBA program at UTRGV. As part of his responsibility at the Graduate College he focuses on Online Faculty Initiatives in order to improve overall online academic experience.

## **Oscar Martinez, B.S.**

Oscar Martinez is a Graduate Assistant at Graduate College, UTRGV. He is currently a master's student in information technology, UTRGV. He worked as Mechanical Engineer Administrator at Tecnologico de Monterrey, Campus Monterrey. He worked as a project manager in construction and air conditioning companies in Mexico for different companies, mostly in companies in the area of renewable energy (solar, wind, biomass, etc.).



## **Alan Itkin, Ph.D.**

Alan Itkin is Assistant Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Adjunct Lecturer in World Languages and Literatures at Southern Methodist University. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan, an M.A. in Humanities and Social Thought from New York University, and a B.A. in Mathematics from the University of California Berkeley. Prior to joining SMU, he served as Assistant Dean for Graduate Education and Research in the College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt University. He also maintains an active research profile as a scholar of modern German culture and Holocaust literature.

His academic monograph, *Underworlds of Memory: W. G. Sebald's Epic Journeys through the Past*, was published by Northwestern University Press in 2017, and he has held the titles of Senior Lecturer in German at Vanderbilt University and Visiting Assistant Professor of Literary Cultures at New York University.



## **Ambika Mathur, Ph.D.**

Ambika Mathur, Ph.D., is Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). She is deeply committed to the advancement of all aspects of training for high school, undergraduate, medical, master's, doctoral and postdoctoral trainees. She is nationally recognized for establishing programs to enhance professional and career development opportunities for doctoral students, and reporting on career outcomes of doctoral alumni. She served as PI for one of only ten Broadening Experience in Scientific Training grant from the NIH. Recognizing the

importance of competency-based transferable skillsets needed by graduate students to succeed in careers across all job sectors, she created a micro-credentialing program that awards digital badges to showcase acquisition of skills. This program was highly valued by students, employers and research advisors alike, since it readily demonstrated mastery of those skills. She was the first permanent director of the combined M.D./Ph.D. combined degree program, and the founding director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at her previous institution (Wayne State University). She also started the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at her current institution, UTSA. Ambika is a tireless advocate of holistic admission on campus and contributed to the national discussion to promote diversity and inclusion across the spectrum of training, serving as PI of over \$25 million NIH-funded programs. A cancer immunologist by training, Ambika has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and several other agencies for research in cancer immunology, the immunological basis for complementary and alternative medicine interventions in pediatric populations, and has over 120 research publications. Altogether she has been awarded over \$30 million in grant funding for cancer research and for research training. She is Professor in the departments of Biology and Chemistry at UTSA. Ambika is also a published author of a medical mystery suspense thriller and a series of books for children.



## Craig Ogilvie, Ph.D.

Dr Ogilvie serves as Dean of the Graduate College and Associate Vice President for Research at Montana State University (MSU) since August 2019. He is leading a campus-wide discussion of how being at a Land Grant university impacts graduate students, e.g. intentionally developing students' commitment to equity and inclusion, engagement with the community, and collaborating to make progress on the most challenging problems that face our society. These values underpin recruiting, programs that help students transition to graduate school, and provides a focus for professional development and career planning.

Dr Ogilvie is advancing graduate student well-being by embedding ten graduate well-being champions in departments. These champions bring workshops from experts on well-being across campus into departments.

Dr Ogilvie serves as PI on an NSF RAPID grant on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on graduate students across the country. He also serves as PI of a ten-university NSF AGEP grant (CIRTL AGEP) that is implementing workshops in graduate programs across each university to improve the climate within research groups and is co-PI of an NSF INCLUDES collaborative grant (Aspire Alliance) to prepare graduate students to teach at community colleges.

Prior to joining MSU Dr Ogilvie was at Iowa State University (ISU) where he served as Assistant Dean for the Graduate College, focusing on inclusion and graduate careers. He also led ISU's HHMI undergraduate STEM reform; a partnership across all the science and math departments that has transformed all the introductory science labs to inquiry-labs, added extended research projects into lab courses, provided interdisciplinary science projects for undecided freshmen, and added active learning to calculus. Dr. Ogilvie conducts research in nuclear physics publishing over 290 papers and has received over \$19M of awarded grants.



## **Sarah L. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**

Sarah L. Rodriguez is an Associate Professor of Higher Education & Learning Technologies at Texas A&M University – Commerce. Dr. Rodriguez’s research addresses issues of equity, access, and retention in higher education, with a focus on community colleges, Latina/o/x students, and students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Currently, Dr. Rodriguez is involved with several large-scale interdisciplinary research projects focused on institutional environments and STEM identity development are sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF)

and the Kapor Center. These grants include an NSF RAPID focused on the experiences of graduate students during the COVID-19 pandemic and an NSF AGEP focused on improving campus climate for graduate students. During her academic career, Dr. Rodriguez has presented at conferences at the national, regional, and local levels and authored journal articles, book chapters, policy briefs, and other publications on broadening STEM participation. In recent years, she was selected as a Faculty Fellow with the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and a NASPA Emerging Faculty Leader.

She received her PhD in Higher Education Leadership from The University of Texas at Austin and holds a master’s degree with a focus in College Student Personnel from The University of Tennessee. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Texas A&M University-Commerce and was a transfer student from Trinity Valley Community College. To learn more about her current projects, visit <http://sarahlrodriguez.com/>



## **Trinidad Macias, Ph.D.**

Trinidad Macias is the Director of Graduate Studies at the University of the Incarnate Word. She oversees the policies, processes, and practices for all academic, administrative, programmatic and fiscal activities related to graduate studies operations. She has a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education with a focus on International Education and Entrepreneurship, Master of Arts in Political Science with a focus on International Politics, and Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. Her research interests include graduate student experiences, cultural competency, and international student experiences.



## **E. Alana James, Ed.D.**

Alana is a career educator, and author who was fortunate enough to work in online education as it began. This experience threw her into the traumas and intricacies of graduate student isolation. Now an examiner for universities, her early work saw her mentoring over 50 EdD and DM student through to completion. Her experience that, no matter how the pathways to completion were delivered, students stumbled at the same places threw her into a decade of research on: PhD completion, and the role technology can play in professional development.

Now an educational entrepreneur, Alana focuses on digital academic and professional development to universities so they can equalize the Masters/Doctoral experience, at very little per student cost. Her company, DoctoralNet (& MastersNet) provide a website branded for the university through which students receive access to a range of services including 90 webinars a year.

An author of four books, Dr James currently is working on exposing aggregate engagement data as she raises questions and provokes innovative answers to the questions: “What can technology do to push back on the increasing isolation experienced by our graduate students?” “What does professional development mean in a digitally driven, knowledge based university environment?”



## **Sarah C. Larsen, Ph.D.**

Sarah C. Larsen is the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Houston and a Professor of Chemistry (2018-present). Dr. Larsen received her PhD in Chemistry from Harvard University and her BA in Chemistry and Mathematics from Bowdoin College. She was a Department of Energy Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley before joining the faculty at the University of Iowa where she held various positions including Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry.



## **Will Lamb, Ph.D.**

Previously, Will served as Dean of Iona College's LaPenta School of Business. In his time at Iona, the LaPenta School revised its BBA, MBA, MS in Accounting, and MS in Finance. They also substantially revised their graduate portfolio, developed an online MBA, and hired 11 new faculty. Prior to his time at Iona, Will was Murata Dean of the F. W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College. In his time at Babson, the Graduate School launched Master's Degrees in Finance and Business Analytics, and opened a satellite campus in Miami, Florida.

Previously, Will worked for Ohio University's College of Business in a variety of roles including Associate Dean and Department Chair. He oversaw the launch of Ohio's online MBA and helped launch their Walter Center for Strategic Leadership and Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his time at Ohio, Will was a faculty member at Millsaps College.

# MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

## Associations of Texas Graduate Schools (ATGS)

Abilene Christian University  
Angelo State University  
Baylor College of Dentistry  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Baylor University  
Criswell College  
Hardin-Simmons University  
Houston Baptist University  
Lamar University  
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Midwestern State University  
Our Lady of the Lake University  
Prairie View A & M University  
Rice University  
Sam Houston State University  
Southern Methodist University  
St. Edwards University  
St. Mary's University  
Stephen F Austin State University  
Sul Ross State University  
Tarleton State University  
Texas A&M International University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas



# MEMBER INSTITUTIONS Cont.

## Associations of Texas Graduate Schools (ATGS)

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University-Galveston

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Texas Christian University

Texas Lutheran University

Texas Southern University

Texas State University

Texas Tech University

Texas Woman's University

The University of Texas - Pan American

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin

The University of Texas at Arlington

The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Brownsville

The University of Texas at Dallas

The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

The University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Galveston

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

# **MEMBER INSTITUTIONS** Cont.

## **Associations of Texas Graduate Schools (ATGS)**

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Trinity University

University of Dallas

University of Houston

University of Houston-Clear Lake

University of Houston-Victoria

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

University of North Texas

University of North Texas at Dallas

University of North Texas Health Science Center

University of St Thomas

University of St Thomas School of Theology at St Mary's Seminary

University of the Incarnate Word

Wayland Baptist University

West Texas A&M University

# SPECIAL THANK YOU



**WE ARE WARRIORS  
WE ARE WARRIORS**

These events do not happen without the efforts of many people. I am especially grateful for the support of our Executive Committee, **Victor Prybutok, Joseph Oppong, and Sarah Larsen.** Thank you for the participating so significantly in planning the meeting, suggesting speakers, providing Zoom as our platform, and facilitating the sessions. Your willingness to serve our members made everything possible.

**Barbara Peek**, who is my right hand. She started us off by updating the institutional lists, and then helped me plan for the original meeting...everything from the hotel blocks, to caterers, to the 1st Cavalry demonstration. Then she dismantled it all due to going virtual... calmly and graciously, as always.

**Keenan DeFoor**, for all his efforts to update the web page, fix the links, and make it possible for everyone to pay their memberships and register...all while making the site look good.

**Jason Arana**, for the beautiful program he put together.

**Zoom Technical Support**, from the University of North Texas and the University of Houston (who provided our Zoom rooms), and from Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

Finally, **Vesta Stacey**, Senior Administrative Specialist at the Toulouse Graduate School at UNT. Vesta went through all of this last year when UNT hosted, and by all rights was finished. Luckily for all of us, she generously and joyfully jumped at the chance to be involved again. We, quite literally, could not have done this without her. Vesta, thank you so much for your incredible efforts, your positive spirit, and your thoughtful attention. You are amazing!

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN HOUSTON FOR OUR 70th ANNIVERSARY!**

With deep respect for all y'all do for graduate education in Texas,

**- Dr. Kellie Cude**



**ATGS**

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