

## Social Work, Sociology, and Criminal Justice

- Dr. James J. Vardalis, Department Head & Associate Professor of Criminal Justice & Shannon Waters (Adjunct Faculty) recently published (May 2010) "An Analysis of Texas Sheriff's Opinions Concerning Domestic Terrorism: Training, Equipment, Funding" in the peer reviewed Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (2010-Volume 7, Issue 1, Article 42). The research included a questionnaire survey of 254 Texas Sheriff's and the critical role they play in the event of a terrorist attack.
- Dr. James J. Vardalis was invited to attend and present a lecture regarding "College Education and Law Enforcement in Texas" to The Justices of the Peace & Constables Association of Texas at their annual Conference held at Padre Inland. The three day event was attended by over 275 participants. Pictured (left to right) Constable and President, Larry Gallardo, Dr. James J. Vardalis, Tarleton State University, Constable and 2nd Vice President, Chad Jordan, Judge & President Elect, Jackie Miller, Jr.
- Recent Master in Criminal Justice graduate, Captain Shana Whatley, U.S. Army now serving in Iraq has been promoted to the rank of Major effective September 1, 2010. She is part of the Military Police Command Staff in organizing the difficult transition period from U.S. military personnel to Iraqi security forces.



ULTRA, a sculpture by John Gregg, is located adjacent to the Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center and has become a familiar site to Tarleton students. It is designated as a symbol for "unlocking limits that restrict achievement." The tip of the solid white sculpture points Due North.



Tarleton State University's College of Liberal and Fine Arts

2010 Summer

## Painting a Different Scene

### Theatre Majors Create Murals in O. A. Grant Building

The O. A. Grant Humanities Building just got four new murals, thanks to students in Professor Carol Stavish's set design course.

The idea for the murals came from Dean Minix, who asked department faculty to help him coordinate a mural competition. Professor Stavish responded by using the competition as a class assignment for her set design course. Students in the class were instructed to submit designs depicting Tarleton themes on the back walls of the four auditoriums in the O. A. Grant Building.

The winner of the competition was theatre major Matt Cox, who received \$250. His award-winning idea was to combine Tarleton folklore with famous works of art by Leonardo da Vinci, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso and other artists. Shown above, for example, is the mural in Room 119, which is clearly based on Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* but includes images of the Tarleton Smokestack, the Trogden House, Memorial Stadium, the town of Stephenville, and the Hunewell Bandstand.



Helping Matt Cox to paint the four murals this past semester were Carol Stavish, Elizabeth Lowe, Natasha Braswell, Meg Steffens, Camillie Collins, Alle Bird, Trey Foster, Amber Thornton, Ryan Thornton, KayLee Grant, Kaylie Carrico, Sydnee Scott, Scottie Corley, Van Williams, Darrel Haynes, Tessa Reynolds, Kelsie Cowen, Grey Mowery, Thomas Schilb, Drew Gillespie, and Stephanie Grizzard.

Dean Minix is very pleased with the results. "The murals not only give the O. A. Grant Building more color and energy, but they also give a glimpse of the artistic talent and creativity that abounds in the Department of Fine Arts at Tarleton."

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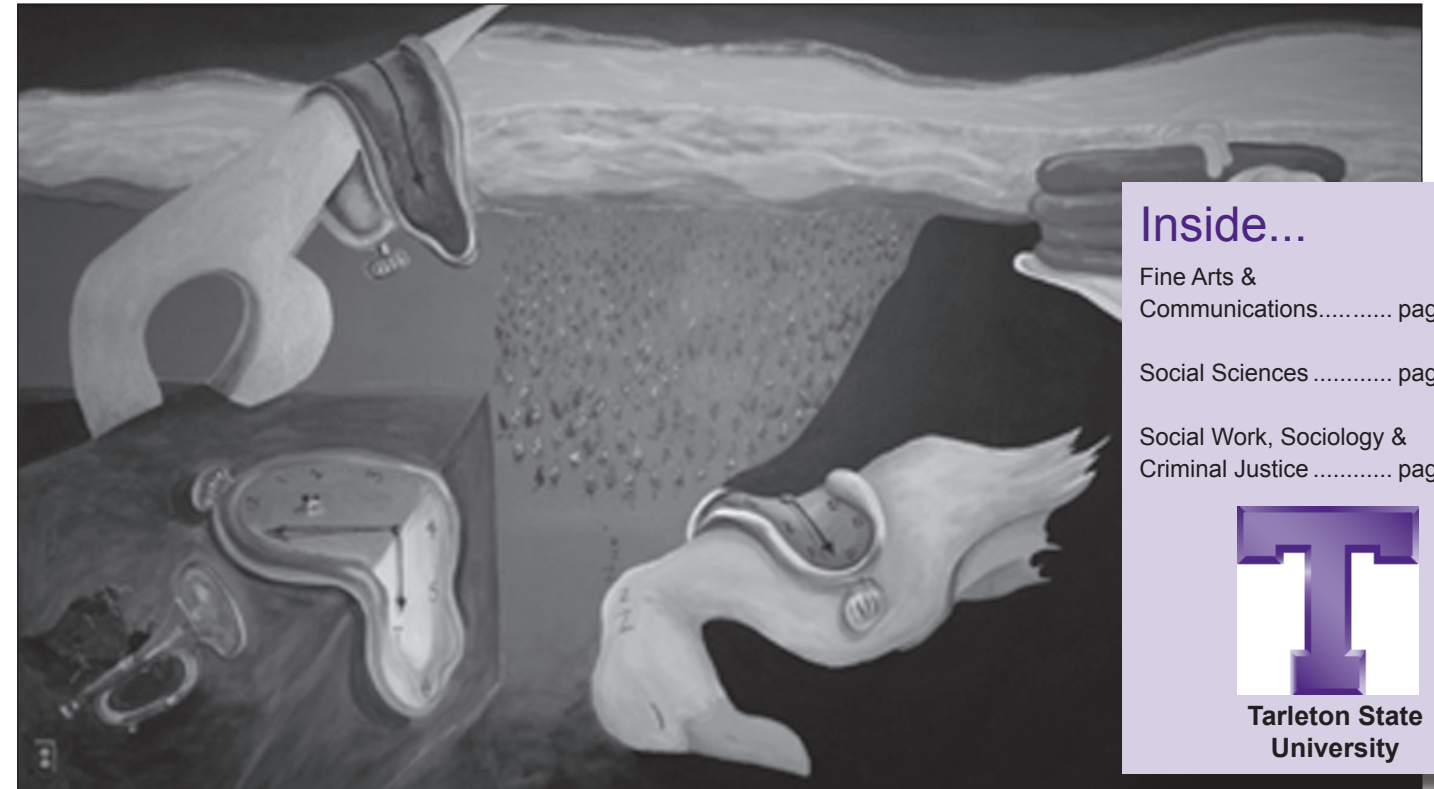


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## Fine Arts



Anthony Pursell

- Every year, Tarleton presents a two-play summer theatre season. The offerings for Summer 2010 were *The Foreigner* (July 29-31 and August 5-7) and *Red, White and Tuna* (August 10-14). Directed by Associated Professor of Theatre Mark Holtorf, both comedies were staged in the Workshop Theater of the Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center.

- Dr. Anthony Pursell has been selected as Tarleton's new Director of Bands, a position he will assume effective July 15. Pursell previously held positions at Kansas State University and Northern Illinois University. He also taught in public schools in Louisiana. The Department of Fine Arts is very excited to welcome him as its newest colleague.

- Dr. Charles Rives, Tarleton's Director of Choirs, was recently named an honoree of the 2010 O. A. Grant Excellence in Teaching Award. Rives has taught at Tarleton since 1983.

- At the Faculty Awards Recognition Dinner last April, Assistant Professor of Music Greg Ball was recognized as the winner of the Barry B. Thompson Service Award for his dedication to students in and out of the classroom. Ball has served as the faculty advisor for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia for the last 18 years.



Greg Ball

- Rebecca Garrett, a senior art major, was named Outstanding Department Graduate. She graduated magna cum laude with a 3.8 GPA in May 2010. While at Tarleton, she was a member of the Presidential Honors Program and the Presidential Honors Society. She was also a Residential Leader for two years. Garrett plans a career in art education.

- The repertory concert by the Moscow Ballet last November was such a huge success that the company was asked to return. On November 22, 2010 the Moscow Ballet will perform selections from *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and other classical adagio repertoire in the Auditorium of the Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center. Showtime is 7:30 pm and tickets go on sale November 2. Call the FAC Box Office at (254) 968-9634 for more details.

- Pending accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music, the Department of Fine Arts will begin to offer the Bachelor of Music in performance. The degree will have three emphasis areas: piano, instrumental, and vocal. The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have already approved the new degree, which requires extensive coursework in applied music, pedagogy, literature, and ensembles.

## Communication Studies

- Dan Malone, SPJ-Fort Worth's Open Doors Award "celebrates the record of an individual or organization in defending the people's right to open government and open records." It is considered a lifetime achievement award.

- "Take a Hike, Ike" hurricane-recovery supplies drive and delivery logistics, organized by a single Public Relations class member, won 2009 Tarleton Program of the Year and a national award from Sigma Chi Fraternity. The class was taught by Dr. Gay Wakefield.

- Student journalist Rachel Dudley's reporting of the play *Corpus Christi* was re-printed and used by media state-wide.



Betty Grant and Chuck Rives at the 18th Annual Alumni Academic Forum

- Three faculty members; Dr. Jennifer Edwards, Dr. Mike Milford and Prof. Cristi Horton, published in national publications.
- Dr. Edwards published "Twitter as an extension of the classroom" in *Academic Exchange Quarterly* (Spring 2010) and "Technology and Instructional Communication: Student Usage and Perceptions of Virtual Office Hours" in *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching* (March 2010) both with Lora Helvie-Mason, Southern University New Orleans.
- Dr. Mike Milford published "Neo-Christ: The Matrix and a Rhetoric of Allegory." *Southern Communication Journal* (Jan. 2010); Cristi Horton co-authored, "Step it Up in the Lone Star State: How Identity and Myth May Impact a Movement," in *Social Movement to Address Climate Change* edited by Danielle Endres, Leah Sprain and Tarla Rai Peterson; with Andrea Feldpausch-Parker, Damon Hall, Jodi Minion, Anna Munoz, Isreal Parker and Tarla Rai Peterson. (Cambria Press: 2009)

## Social Sciences

- Dr. Janet Schmelzer recently received an appointment as a Warrant Officer in the Texas State Guard 4th Regiment. Her responsibilities will be in Personnel and Administration. The Texas State Guard is under the direct command of the Governor of Texas who can deploy units to any emergency within the boundary of Texas. Emergencies include natural disasters (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods), acts of terrorism and bio-terrorism, and medical emergencies. In addition, the Texas State Guard can be deployed at the request of local authorities for civilian events. The mission of the Texas State Guard is provide mass care, control, and support state and local authorities when ordered by the Governor. The Texas State Guard is an all-voluntary military branch of the Texas Military Forces which include the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Texas State Guard. Soldiers of the Texas State Guard hold regular full-time employment in the public sector and deploy when called for any emergency at any time. Another member of the TSU faculty who serves in the TXSG is Dr. Wendell Sadler of Kinesiology who has served for several years and is a Captain and a Battalion Commander in the 4th Regiment.

- Tarleton State University history graduate students presented the results of their research recently at the Annual Historic Preservation Conference of the Texas Historical Commission in Houston. These students had just completed work conducting a historic site survey in the city of Glen Rose, Tex., and spoke on their efforts.



The students are registered in History 509 "Historic Preservation," one of the courses in the public history emphasis for master's degree students in the Department of Social Sciences. During spring 2010 they undertook recording 181 historic buildings and other structures as part of a contract between the City of Glen Rose and Tarleton State University. They prepared detailed written descriptions of each site and prepared film and digital photographs of each location.

The project in Glen Rose was funded by a grant to the city from the Texas Historical Commission, the state historic preservation agency. When commission staff members began planning the April 2010 meeting, they communicated with course instructor Dr. T. Lindsay Baker, and he made arrangements for the student to participate in the state conference

In the convention session devoted to historic site surveys, Tarleton graduate student Grace Hardwick narrated a slide-accompanied description of how the students actually undertook the field research. Then students David Buster, Jamie Arlt, Matthew Stephenson, Patrick Crawford, Tina Felton, and Michael Hennech each shared with the audience a story of his or her personal experiences in Glen Rose. One meeting attendee from Dallas remarked, "This was the best session that I attended at the whole conference."

For more information on the Glen Rose project and the public history track for master's degree students at Tarleton State University, contact the Department of Social Sciences at 254-968-9021.

