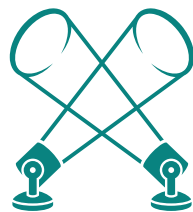


SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE
**FACULTY
SPOTLIGHT**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020
SPECIAL EDITION



SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE
**FACULTY
SPOTLIGHT**
ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020



This **Faculty Spotlight** showcases a few instances when faculty essential qualities manifested in marvelous ways. There are definitely many more examples, on a daily basis, that personify our faculty commitment to student success.

A commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, student success, and leadership are a few of the essential qualities and characteristics fostered among faculty at South Texas College. These attributes were demonstrated throughout this academic year in countless ways, and are usually recognized with annual awards. Unfortunately, like many other College activities, we had to cancel our award selection process this year.

As a result, with this Special Edition of the Faculty Spotlight for academic year 2019-2020, the Division of Academic Affairs is featuring a few instances when faculty essential qualities manifested in marvelous ways, all in the name of student success. We are also shining a spotlight on our retiring faculty to honor their service to South Texas College and wish them farewell.

Faculty members of South Texas College continue to be the foundation of our exceptional institution. Beyond providing instructional programs and promoting academic integrity, our faculty inspire, challenge, and nurture our students to succeed – thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anahid Petrosian".

Dr. Anahid Petrosian
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Chief Academic Officer
South Texas College



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Essential Qualities and Characteristics of South Texas College Faculty Page 4

Spotlight On Faculty Essential Qualities

Excellence in Teaching and Learning Page 5

Student Success Page 6

Leadership and College Service Page 7

Excellence Through Professional Development Page 8

Community Service and Creating a College-going Culture Page 9

Faculty Retirees 2019-2020 Academic Year Page 10



ESSENTIAL QUALITIES & CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE FACULTY

South Texas College has endeavored to advance regional prosperity through the educational advancement of its students. Nevertheless, transforming our students' hopes and dreams into realities would not be possible without a strong foundation - the South Texas College faculty, who embody the College's mission and values. Thus, South Texas College seeks faculty who champion student success.

FACULTY ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

South Texas College faculty members exhibit the highest levels of professionalism, remain current and competent in their fields, and excel in a collaborative environment. Faculty Members are familiar with diverse teaching methods and use these tools to encourage high levels of student engagement and student understanding.

A COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS

South Texas College faculty members are committed to student success. They guide, advise, motivate, and enhance student learning through passion for their discipline and demonstrate compassion and patience for their students. In addition, they are innovative in their teaching and seek all opportunities to identify strategies they can implement, which will motivate students to succeed.

A COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP AND COLLEGE SERVICE

South Texas College faculty members lead at local, regional, state and national levels. Faculty leaders at South Texas College recommend and develop programs, trainings, and curricula that meet the ever changing needs of the community. They contribute to student success by participating in committees and serving as student club advisors, mentors to students, and as a vital resource for new faculty.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

South Texas College faculty members are committed to life-long learning. They participate in professional development opportunities to improve their teaching, maintain currency with technological advances, and incorporate diverse teaching modalities into their courses.

A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CREATING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

South Texas College faculty members serve the community by participating in outreach initiatives, public speaking, dual enrollment, or community organizations. They interact with local businesses and schools to promote South Texas College's core values and strategic directions.



SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE FACULTY - CHAMPIONS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Updated August 23, 2017

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Biology Faculty Bring Nationwide Phage Hunters Research Program to STC

Faculty at South Texas College have made it possible for our students to participate in SEA-PHAGES (Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics and Evolutionary Science), a two-semester, discovery-based undergraduate research course. Through this program, South Texas College offers immediate immersion in authentic, valuable, accessible undergraduate research opportunities designed to foster scientific inquiry and discovery. South Texas College students participating in the SEA-PHAGES program are Dual Enrollment Medical Science Academy (DEMSA) juniors from nine of our partnering high schools. Biology faculty involved with securing and implementing this program include Dr. Thomas Ndolo, Dr. Mehrzad Mahmoudian-Geller, Dr. Shima Chaudhary, and Mr. Jorge Cantu.

“As a faculty member of a two-year biology program, participating in a nationwide effort that can contribute to the body of knowledge used to treat antibiotic-resistant infectious diseases is an extraordinary opportunity beyond our wildest dreams.”

Dr. Mehrzad Mahmoudian-Geller
Biology program faculty and member of the South Texas College SEA-PHAGES team

South Texas College was the only higher education institution in the Rio Grande Valley to gain admission to this prestigious program. Established by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and comprising a nationwide collaboration of 177 institutions, the program enlists students to help discover new bacteriophage species. On January 21, 2020, South Texas College received exciting news that one of the samples, submitted a DEMSA student, isolated a new *Microbacterium Actinobacteriophage*. The dual enrollment student that submitted the sample was able to name the new phage *DelaGarza* in honor of her father.



Faculty Play Vital role in Reaffirmation and Pass Rates of NAH Programs

Excellence in teaching and learning is exemplified division-wide with the successful reaffirmation of all program accreditations within the Nursing and Allied Health Division. Focused on educational goals and objectives and effective strategies for achieving them, NAH faculty ensure success in program outcome measurements. This was evidenced in May 2020 with hundred percent pass rates in national licensure among students in six different NAH programs. Healthcare professionals consistently remark on the quality of knowledge and skills our NAH students exhibit in clinical environments, which is a testament to the quality of instruction provided within the faculty.



A COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Faculty Distribute Symbolic Degree Covers to Celebrate Student Success

South Texas College faculty symbolically distributed degree covers, regalia, and yard signs to graduating students, beginning with the Bachelor's Program on June 1, 2020. In the days that followed, faculty throughout the College continued to don their own academic regalia to honor graduates with concurrently scheduled distributions at the Pecan, Mid-Valley, and Starr County Campuses. Degree covers were distributed curbside to graduating students who were asked via email invitation to pick up their "degrees" at scheduled times.

Commencement is a milestone event for students and their families. Due to COVID-19, the Spring 2020 commencement ceremonies were cancelled. Faculty, program chairs, and deans demonstrated extraordinary efforts to honor and commemorate our graduates in memorable ways including creating virtual celebration videos and preparing recorded video messages.



"We know that all of our students are always looking forward to this moment, to be able to walk and receive their diploma. We know this a dream come true for our students and unfortunately due to COVID-19, we still tried our best to make this celebratory for them as well as respect and honor them."

Dr. Ali Esmaeili

Dean for Math, Science, IT, and Bachelor Programs



Faculty Commit to Open Educational Resources

Reducing the financial burden of a higher education for our students is a major focus, and a component of that is increasing the use of Open Educational Resources (OER). Our bachelor programs were one of the first instructional areas to convert 100% to OER. Some of the other programs committed to OER are Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Sociology. In Spring 2020, an inventory of programs using OER was conducted as well as the process of identifying programs that would commit to being OER-based. Dr. Rolando Longoria was quick to offer his assistance with this initiative.

**Zero
Textbook
Cost**



"This year marks the second year that all faculty have been using the OER version of our Intro to Sociology Book, "Intro to Sociology 2e" with Openstax. The move towards OER textbooks was initiated when SOCI was still part of the CRIJ department. Since then, we've had some good feedback from students, school districts, and instructors. We are working up resources that can be shared by all SOCI instructors in the department, and DC instructors as well. These are saved on a BlackBoard shell that all faculty have been added to; from this shell they can copy and transfer resources into their classes easily."

Dr. Rolando Longoria II

Chair, South Texas College Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work

A COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP AND COLLEGE SERVICE

Inaugural Chair Academy Starts in Fall 2019

On September 6, 2019, the South Texas College Chair Academy began with an inaugural cohort of 19 chairs from across the academic divisions. Dr. Anahid Petrosian welcomed attendees and stated that developing the Chair Academy was one of her long-term goals; she expressed gratitude that after many years her vision became a reality. The mission of this Academy is to provide program chairs with the tools they need to be successful leaders and engage in effective college service. The Academy consists of six sessions and a certificate ceremony. Participants complete pre-session assignments that incorporate the following Academy curriculum topics:

- Role of the Chair and Hiring Procedures for Faculty and Staff
- Resolving Conflict
- Scheduling and Course Assignments
- Program Management and Development Process
- Developing Comprehensive and IE Plans
- Budget and Purchasing



Chair Academy

Feedback from Chair Academy participants

“Thank you for this opportunity and for having this training. It’s wealth of wisdom and was so helpful and important.”



“This was a great opportunity and a very informative academy. The assignments and planning for each session were exactly what is needed to do all that is required for a Chair position.”



A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

South Texas College Faculty Transition to Online Instruction

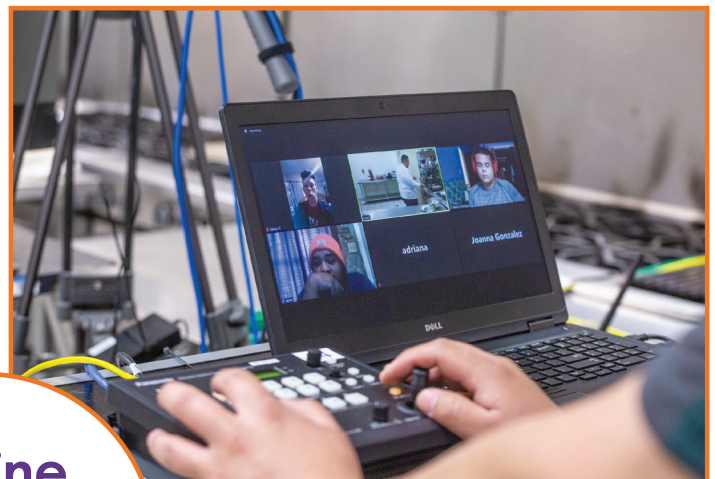
On March 13, 2020, the South Texas College community was notified that regularly scheduled, on-campus, face-to-face classes would be suspended the week after Spring Break and would resume on Monday, March 30, in an online format due to the coronavirus outbreak. During this one-week timeframe, STC faculty and staff transitioned 4,000 courses to an online modality.

With dedication and determination, STC faculty participated in accelerated training sessions such as “Suddenly Online” and “Using Zoom to Connect with Your Students.” These online workshops offered faculty training on how to video conference, screen share, and use the virtual whiteboard to teach students. Faculty also learned how to create Zoom sessions in Blackboard and record live sessions that can be linked to Blackboard for those students who were unable to participate in live sessions.



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**

**A total of close to 1,000 part-time and full-time faculty
have completed Online Teaching Certification.**



**Online
Instruction**
in action



A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CREATING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

Culinary Arts Program Hosts 2nd Annual “Thanks-for-giving” Buffet to Support the South Texas College Food Pantry

Combining hands-on learning and community service, South Texas College Culinary Arts faculty and students hosted the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Buffet dedicated to assist our students in need by raising money for the South Texas College Food Pantry. The annual event is hosted on the Pecan Campus and serves hundreds of faculty, staff, and students raising thousands of dollars to support the food pantries. STC Food Pantry services are college-wide with locations on the Pecan, Mid-Valley, and Starr County Campuses, providing support for students who are experiencing food insecurity with nutritious food items. “There has been a lot of preparation and a lot of time that has gone into this but it has been a true team effort,” said Culinary Arts student, Roxanne Aguilar. “I am glad I could be here to help students.”



“We did this buffet to raise funds but also to raise awareness that the food pantry is here and exists as a service for our students. This was a big event and it has been fun to see the students’ reactions, and they all seem to appreciate the fact that it’s for something good and for their fellow students who might be in need.”

Jennifer Guerra
Culinary Arts Program Chair

Music Department Provides Free Virtual Music Summer Camps

The Division of Liberal Arts in partnership with Continuing, Professional, and Workforce Education provided free virtual music summer camps for middle and high school students.

Camps were conducted via Zoom in the following (4) areas:

- Piano,
- Cello,
- Guitar
- Song Writing



Faculty within the STC Music Department expertly adapted to the circumstances presented by COVID-19 and began offering courses and summer camps online. This outreach initiative advanced efforts to create a college-going culture in our region by exposing children and young adults to college instructors.

Music Department administration and faculty feel passionately about music and how it can lift people out of stressful times. These camps potentially provide a distraction from struggles while most definitely providing a unique academic experience.



FACULTY RETIREES | 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

Faculty members at South Texas College are the foundation of our great institution, and their commitment to student success provides a lasting legacy of educational advancement in our community.

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is honored to recognize our retiring faculty for their leadership and service to our students and our community – and we wish them the best as they begin a new chapter of their lives.

BUSINESS, PUBLIC SAFETY & TECHNOLOGY

Fred Barrera

Diesel Technology Instructor | 6 Years of Service

Manuel Niño

Diesel Technology Instructor | 23 Years of Service

Pedro Pompa

Computer and Advanced Technology Instructor | 25 Years of Service

Irma Rosales

Architectural & Engineering Design Technology Instructor | 24 Years of Service

MATH, SCIENCE & BACHELOR PROGRAMS

Javier Gonzalez-Ramos

Biology Instructor | 12 Years of Service

Masood Haidarasi

Developmental Math Instructor | 25 Years of Service

Noel Punsalan

Physical Science Instructor | 12 Years of Service





Thank You for Your Service!

LIBERAL ARTS

Laura Nunn

Speech Instructor | 22 Years of Service

Stevan Schiefelbein

Assistant Professor of Developmental English | 15 Years of Service

Dawn Taylor

Associate Professor of Speech | 20 Years of Service

Joy Lynn Wells

Developmental Reading Instructor | 20 Years of Service

Debra Wyatt

Speech Instructor | 21 Years of Service

NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

David Ayala

Health Care Student Success Instructor | 7 Years of Service

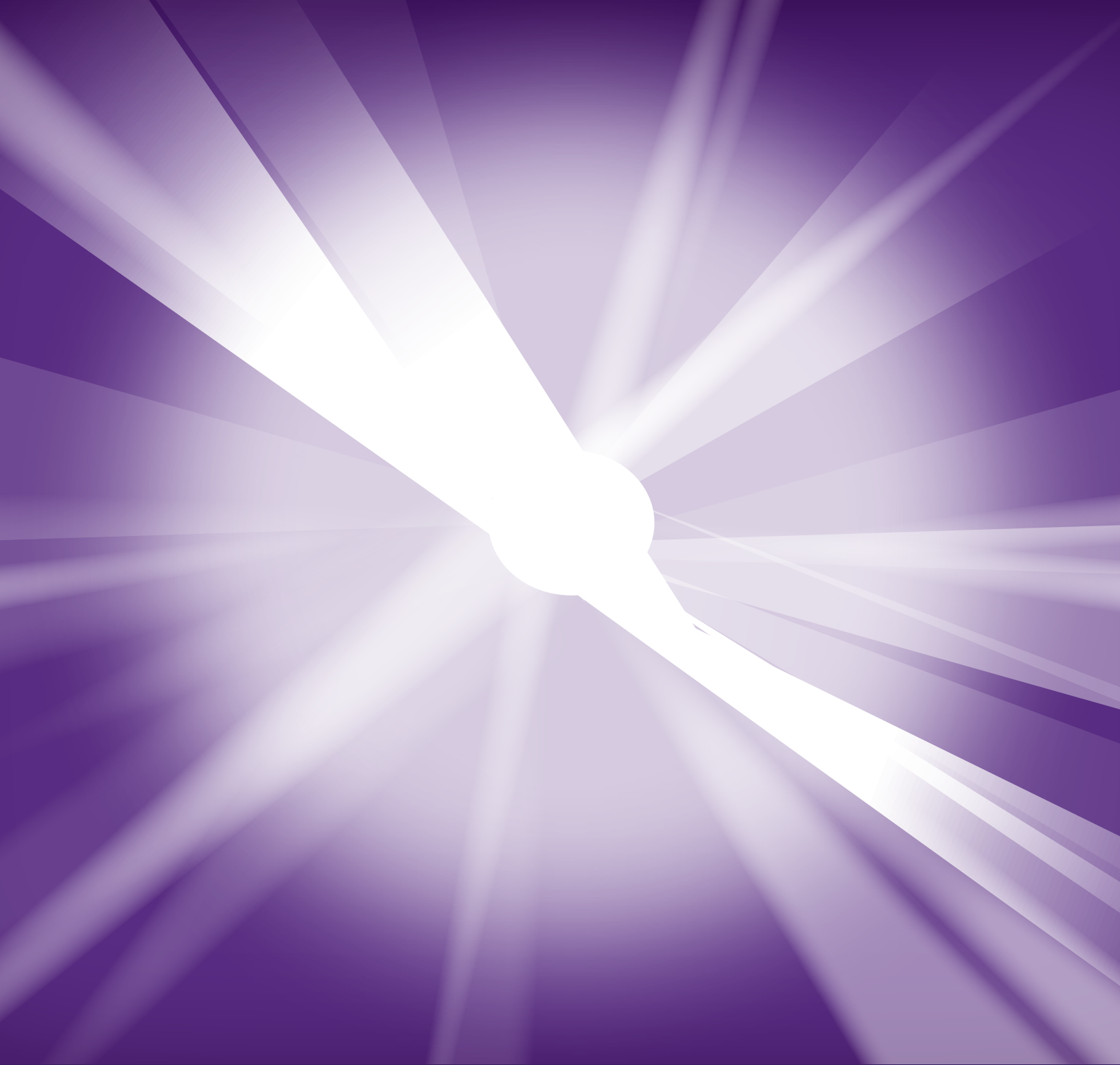
Nestar Rios

Health Care Student Success Instructor | 4 Years of Service

Chelan Williams

Associate Degree Nursing Instructor | 10 Years of Service





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**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**