



CENTER FOR
STUDENT RESEARCH
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT

AY 2018-2019



Table of Contents

Mission and Purpose	1
Highlights	1 - 2
Student Engagement By-the-Numbers	3
Student Research Grants Final Reports	4 - 14
Student Travel Presentation Grants Final Reports	15 – 23

Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Center for Student Research is to enhance the educational experience of students by providing opportunities for meaningful engagement in faculty-mentored research and creative activity opportunities. The purpose of the Center for Student Research is to promote an enhanced educational experience for students by providing opportunities for meaningful interaction between faculty and students through support, education, and programming in research and creative activities. The goals of CSR are to:

- provide opportunities for students to participate in all phases of research and creative activity, from design through dissemination;
- facilitate research partnerships between TWU students and faculty promoting faculty-mentored research opportunities for students;
- facilitate scholarly/creative partnerships between TWU students and faculty promoting faculty-mentored scholarly/creative opportunities for students;
- facilitate research collaboration between graduate and undergraduate students;
- enhance the students' knowledge of all phases of research;
- promote a national presence for TWU students (i.e. National Council for Undergraduate Research - NCUR, Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Natives Americans in Science - SACNAS); and
- ensure mutual benefit to both students and faculty members.

AY 2018-2019 Highlights

- The Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSGC) Design Team Challenge teams had a banner year. Twelve undergraduate students, one graduate student, and the faculty advisor, Rhett Rigby (College of Health Sciences, School of Health Promotion and Kinesiology), represented TWU in two competitions in AY 2018-2019. The fall team won best overall



and each undergraduate student was awarded \$1,000. The spring team placed fourth in the competition and each undergraduate student was awarded \$400.

TWU's Acolytes of Apollo won the TSGC Design Challenge held November 12, 2018, in Houston.

- The 2019 Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium had the greatest number of participants (485) in the symposium's history. The keynote speech, given by Dr. Erika Camacho, had a very high attendance and excellent comments were received.
- Over \$37,000 was awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students to support research and the presentation of research. The maximum for each award was \$500 and 79 students (12 undergraduate and 67 graduates) were recipients. See reports beginning on page 4.
- Thirty students attended the National Council for Undergraduate Research Conference (NCUR) held at Kennesaw State University in April 2019. The Center for Student Research was able to provide \$450 in funding for each student with other divisions and departments assisting with additional funding.



TWU at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in April 2019.

- In the summer of 2019, the CSR's International Student Researchers initiative was piloted by Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas (College of Professional Education, Teacher Education) and her undergraduate PIONERAS - Preservice Bilingual Teaching students in Costa Rica. While enrolled in their ESL Teaching Methods class, the students also conducted a collaborative research project.



International Student Researchers in Costa Rica, Summer 2019.

Student Engagement Summary

EVENT	# STUDENTS ENGAGED
Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium	
TWU Denton April 2019	
UG	337
Post-Bac	7
Master's	58
Doctoral	83
Total Engaged	485
National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR)	
Kennesaw, GA April 2019	
Total Engaged (UG)	30
CSR Research Travel and Research Grant Awards	
Student Reports begin on Page 4	
UG	12
GS	67
Total Engaged	79
TSGC NASA Team	
UG	12
GS	1
Total Engaged	13
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans In Science (SACNAS)	
Total Engaged (UG & GS)	30
Workshops/Presentations/Individual meetings	
Total Engaged (UG & GS)	130
Total Engagements	845

Student Research Grants Final Reports

- Marco Avalos** Funds were used to compensate participants for their time in participating in the study. From the 36 participants, 32 participants were compensated for their participation and 4 declined to receive any type of payment.
- Young-Hoo Kwon** The participants were somehow active older adults. The study was looking to assess different handle height adjustment on a rollator. An exit survey of their perception on the different adjustments of the rollator with three questions showed the following: 1. 50% of the participants felt that the wrist-height adjustment allowed them to better unload their weight over the device; followed by the 48%-height and 55%-height adjustment (41.7% and 8.3%); 2. They felt that they can walk more as their normal walk at 55%-height, followed by the wrist crease and the 48% of their height (41.7 %, 36.1, and 22.2% respectively). 3. Lastly, the 55%-height showed to be the most comfortable position for walking, followed by the wrist-crease and 48%-height adjustments (47.2%, 38.9%, and 13.9%). Therefore, the wrist-crease height adjustment was perceived as the best adjustment that allowed them to have a good shared weight-bearing support while having a comfortable posture while ambulating. Objective measures are being processed currently.
- Paramita Basu** The funds have been used to purchase an opioid receptor blocker and rats to study whether *Euphorbia bicolor* latex extract induces non-opioid analgesia in a rat inflammatory pain model. Results showed that *E. bicolor* latex extract-mediated analgesia was not elicited via opioid receptors, indicating that the latex phytochemicals would serve as non-opioid pain therapeutics. Also, these results have been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.
- Dayna Averitt**
- Matthew Brisebois** Funds were used to purchase an ELISA kit to measure Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor, a critical dependent variable in my study. Without this grant I wouldn't be able to perform the analysis for my study. Another portion of the funds also contributed to water bottles and Clif Bars for the participants so that they could consume a standardized breakfast before exercising. Data collection is ongoing, but a small number of completed participants have been analyzed and the results are going to be presented at the Texas ACSM conference February 28-March 1. The abstract has been submitted and I will present a poster. Data collection will be completed by the end of March, at which point I can finish chapters 4 and 5 of my dissertation. I will also prepare a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal this year.
- Rhett Rigby**
- Christopher Brown** The funds were used to purchase four compliant balance (Airex) beams to our clinical study sites. Our clinical study sites are a part of the Breathing Center of Houston (BCH). These clinics specialize the treatment of people with pulmonary diseases. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is target population for the study, and BCH's patient population includes ~70% people with COPD. These implements provide a surface that challenges the somatosensory system's contribution to balance in a unique way. They allow for multiple static, steady state and dynamic, steady state balance exercises to be performed with the
- Peggy Blake Gleeson**

somatosensory systems being perturbed. These implements have been shown to play a role in improving balance in many patient populations. These items are a required implement for the experimental group's interventional procedure. Without this item, it would be difficult to realize potential improvements in balance for this study group. The study is nearing enrollment; I am in the last revision of the prospectus and will be ready to submit the IRB application in November of 2019. Enrollment is expected to begin in December of 2019. Once the clinical study begins enrollment and interventions have begun, the balance beams will begin formal use.

Daisy Cantu

Dayna Averitt

The funds provided to me by the Center for Student Research allowed me to purchase three antibodies to perform immunofluorescence. Throughout this time, I have been titrating the antibodies and optimizing the conditions to have my experiments working. Currently, as soon as I complete my studies, I will start analyzing all data. The results from these studies will be presented at TWU symposiums, and the Experimental Biology (EB) Conference in Orlando, FL. Currently, my abstract has been accepted and I am in the process making travel arrangements. Further, I will be including the Center for Student Research under my poster acknowledgements. Findings from this project will culminate in research abstract presentation and a publication to the Journal for Chemical Neuroanatomy in May 2020. I would like to express my gratitude to the Center for Student Research Team at TWU for the support.

Nicole Carroll

Brigitte Vittrup

These funds assisted me in my dissertation research project, Parenting Self-Efficacy and Child Resilience as Protective Factors for Mental Health in Type 1 Diabetic Children. The funds made it possible for me to offer gift cards to parent participants, and therefore, made it possible for me to collect a large amount of data. Without these funds, I believe I would not have been able to gather as many participants for my dissertation as I was able to (n = 138). I also believe these funds helped me complete my data collection phase of my dissertation quickly. I received IRB approval in March 2019. I was able to complete data collection in July 2019. All participant data was gathered through an online website, Psychdata. From July 8th through July 12th, I completed the TWU CRDA data analysis cohort and was able to analyze the data I had gathered. I plan to have gift certificates emailed to participants by the end of August 2019. I plan to present my dissertation defense to my committee in September 2019. I have sent an application to present a poster of my dissertation results at the International Play Therapy Conference in October 2019 in Dallas. I am pleased with my dissertation data analysis results and plan to write at least two research articles to submit to two different scholarly journals, after presenting the results to my committee.

Keith Crabtree

Shanil Juma

The funds associated with the Student Small Grant Program were utilized to expand the collaborative research work with University of North Carolina Greensboro to analyze inflammatory and oxidative stress markers in saliva specimens obtained from a refugee population that has a high risk for hypertension. We purchased two oxidative stress biomarker kits (Nitrate and Uric acid colorimetric assays) to expand our outcomes related to this research. Concentrations. Pilot testing of specimens to show validity and sensitivity of

these kits related to saliva analysis is presently underway. The results from these biomarkers will be examined along with previous outcomes of oxidative stress and inflammatory biomarkers to assist with drawing associations with other biological and socio-economic data and its relation to health and disease risk in the refugee minority population currently living in the Southeastern United States. Upon completion of these analysis, we plan to present the findings at local and national conferences. Our findings will also be associated with manuscript submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Chen Du

Shanil Juma

The fund from Student Small Grants has been used to acquire two essential materials, including cryopreserved subcutaneous preadipocytes and preadipocyte medium, for the proposed study. Training on cell culturing, expansion, differentiation, maintenance, cryopreservation and polyphenol extraction has been completed at this point. The proposed study is currently in progress with the next step of allocating freeze-dried mushroom powder with a mixture of White Button and Cremini mushrooms. Once the mushroom powder is acquired, mushroom polyphenol extraction will take place and preadipocytes will be differentiated in a medium containing mushroom polyphenols and a medium that does not. Furthermore, mature adipocytes will be treated with polyphenols and undergo mitochondria stress tests to reveal efficacy of cellular respiration under polyphenol treatment. The results of the project will be submitted as a podium presentation at Nutrition 2020, hosted by the American Society for Nutrition, at Seattle, Washington, in May 30 - Jun 02, 2020. The results of the study are planned to be published in a selected journal after the conference presentation.

Aubree Evans

Jessica Gullion

These funds allowed me to incentivize student participation in my survey with ten \$25 Amazon gift cards. The grant also motivated me to conduct the study now, which will hopefully help me meet the requirements of a three-article dissertation for the Sociology PhD program. I anticipate being able to write at least two articles from the data that I collected. I sent the first push on September 10, and the second push went out on September 19th. The incentives helped because I received 847 responses before the survey closed on September 21. I have not yet analyzed the data, but I intend to do that this semester and to write an article to submit for publication in a higher education teaching journal this winter. I also plan to present a poster on the results at the Creative Arts Symposium in spring 2020. Since I also collected qualitative data, I expect to write an additional article from that data after I take the Qualitative Methods class spring 2020.

Chloe Fields

Mandy Golman

The summer small grant was such a huge help to my dissertation research project! This summer, I completed individual in-person interviews with within the specific target population of African American men and woman, ages 30 to 44. Within these interviews, I specifically focused on learning the perceptions of early detection screening for colorectal cancer, for this group. With this grant, I was able to provide each interview participant with an incentive gift card of \$20 dollars from Wal-Mart, as a thank you for their participation. Through these funds I was able to gain more participants than I originally planned and collect

an abundance of data for my research. Currently, I am in the process of analyzing my data, so that I can report on my results and present my findings as a part of my completed dissertation. Upon finishing, it is my plan and my goal to not only publish my dissertation within the following journals: Colorectal Cancer, Qualitative Research, Ethnicity & Health, and Journal for Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, but to also present my finds at one or two conferences related to the areas mentioned above. I am certainly grateful to have been awarded this small grant and know that it aided significantly in the completion of my data collection.

- Isabella Fousell** These funds aided immensely in my research. The funds allowed me to have incentives available for the participants who completed the survey. I needed at least 150 participants to complete the survey, and the funds allowed me to receive 100 \$5 Amazon gift codes. This was a tremendous benefit because it incentivized the completion of the survey by the eligible population. Because of the incentives purchased by the small grants program, I was able to reach the number of participants required to have a enough data to analyze. I am still working on completing my project in that we are analyzing data. Because these funds were utilized to galvanize participation, I was able to provide the correct amount of incentives as requested by the participant and gain the necessary data. We are in the process of analyzing the data in order to present it at the NCUR.
- Katie Rose**
- Priscila Frayre** The award assisted our research in buying high fat food (HFD), DIO Rodent purified Diet with 60% Energy from Fat. This food was needed in order to assess any preferences of HFD over normal chow (NC) in MeCP2 knockout mice through conditioned place preference (CPP) test, a test that assesses how animals perceive the reward value of food and drugs of abuse. The mice were conditioned from day 2 to 13 for 30 minutes by placing them in a three-chamber apparatus. The central chamber is a small chamber that is in between two larger chambers. Each of the large chambers consisted of different floor textures and wall patterns. HFD food and NC were assigned to a specific large chamber. On even days, mice were confined in one chamber with HFD and on odd days, the mice were confined in one chamber with NC. On day fourteen, October 1, 2019 mice were placed in the small chamber, without food, and allowed access to all three chambers for 20 minutes. The animal's location was monitored and used to calculate the preference score. These data provided us with more information on how knockout of MeCP2 might contribute to the hyperphagia seen in MeCP2 knockout mice and how it may facilitate obesity in mice for our future publications.
- Elisa Na**
- Ryan Gordon** Receiving the Texas Woman's University Student Small Grant this past fall provided me the opportunity to learn new skills within the lab. Specifically, for
- Anthony Duplanty** our study, we used a cell culture model, which is a novel research tool. Additionally, we used advanced techniques such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to assess changes in gene expression. I also had the opportunity to familiarize myself with new equipment that Dr. Duplanty uses in his research studies. All of these new research tools are valuable as I will be able to use them

in future studies and my dissertation. In addition to learning new techniques, I will have the opportunity to present this data at two upcoming conferences in the spring. In March (6-8), I will be attending the Muscle Biology Conference at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Attending this conference will allow me to present my findings, learn the newest science in skeletal muscle research, and network with individuals within this unique research field. Additionally, I will also be presenting this data at the TWU Research Symposium in April. I am grateful to have received this grant as it has greatly enhanced my overall research experience at TWU. This study will lead to subsequent investigations within our lab and future dissertation ideas.

- Gena Guerin** This Student Small Grant Program award from summer 2019 was applied towards funding for my dissertation project entitled. “Hypothyroidism and Skeletal Muscle: An In Vitro Model of Investigating Impaired Pathways of Muscle Health”. The funds were used to purchase customized human thyroid hormone depleted serum from BBI Solutions, Inc. (Cardiff, UK) for use in human skeletal muscle cell culture. This project was conducted from August 1 through August 10th in the Exercise Physiology Biochemistry Lab in Pioneer Hall. Human skeletal muscle myoblasts were cultured in thyroid hormone depleted media and then treated with an exercise mimetic. Although cell culture research is not new for investigating hypothyroidism, utilizing human skeletal muscle tissue and the application of an exercise mimetic to simulate the effects of exercise is a novel area of research. The data is currently being analyzed and readied for my dissertation.
- Anthony Duplanty**
- Taylor Hickman** The funds provided were used to purchase tissue culture flasks (T-flasks), chamber slides, and media for macrophage culturing; a serotonin ELISA kit was previously purchased. These supplies were necessary for starting my new project and allowed me to learn macrophage cell culture, maintenance and treatment. The macrophages were cultured in the T-flasks, fed with RMPI media, and then seeded onto the chamber slides. Post-seeding, the cells were treated with various concentrations of estrogen in order to mimic the hormone fluctuations of the rat estrous cycle. The supernatant was then collected, stored and tested for serotonin. The preliminary data shows that a significant concentration of serotonin was released from the macrophages post-estrogen treatment, and further standardization is required. The project is ongoing, and the data collected will be presented as a research poster at the TWU Celebration of Science (October 17th, 2019), the Society for Neuroscience National Conference (Chicago, IL October 19th, 2019), the TWU Arts and Science Symposium (April 2020), and the International Association for the Study of Pain Conference (Amsterdam, August 2020).
- Dayna Averitt**
- Amanda Hoelscher** The funds provided by the student small grants program were used to purchase equipment and reimbursement for participants needed to collect data for a multiple case study. This study was carried out in the spring of 2019 and resulted in a poster presentation that is being presented at the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists national conference on August 11, 2019 in Lexington, KY. A poster proposal has also been submitted for presentation at
- Josephine Chan**

the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) national conference which will be held in April, 2020 in Boston, MA. Acceptance into the AOTA conference has yet to be announced. Finally, the study resulted in a manuscript that was submitted for publication on June 2, 2019 to the Special Interest Section Quarterly journal through AOTA. There has yet to be a response, but I plan to follow up with the editor within the upcoming week.

- Rebecca Hornung** The research supported by the CSR small grant investigated progesterone's reduction of the return of inflammatory orofacial pain exacerbated by estrogen.
- Dayna Averitt** We found that CFA-evoked mechanical allodynia was attenuated following ovariectomy while sham animals remained sensitive to touch. Daily estrogen treatment triggered the return of touch sensitivity, which was attenuated when progesterone was also administered either daily or every other day. This attenuation occurred rapidly within one hour of administration. Allopregnanolone treatment, whether daily or every other day, also attenuated estrogen-exacerbated touch sensitivity within one hour of treatment, but only on the first treatment day. We also found the presence of progesterone receptors in the trigeminal ganglia by immunohistochemistry. Data were submitted for publication in *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience* in February 2019. Data was presented at TWU Student's Creative Arts and Research Symposium as a platform talk in April 2019 and be presented at the International Association for Dental Research Conference during the week of June 2019 in Vancouver, Canada.
- Elif Isik** Thank you very much for your support. You provided 50 pieces \$10 Wal-Mart gift card for the subjects. The subjects have been receiving a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card after completing posttest questionnaires at 6 and 12 weeks to compensate for their time. Sixteen subjects completed the questionnaires at 6 and 12 weeks, and these subjects received a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card two times. 32 Wal-Mart gift cards were given to 16 subjects. Remaining 18 \$10-Wal-Mart gift card will be given nine more subjects at upon completion of the questionnaires at 6 and 12-week to compensate for their time.
- Nina Fredland**
- Yasar Arfat Kasu** The aim of this project titled "Establishing adeno-associated virus expression system to study neuronal toxicity associated with TDP43 C-terminal fragments" is to generate adeno-associated viruses (AAV) for transducing primary neuronal cell lines and mice brains. The proposed AAV will be used to ectopically express TDP43 protein fragments that are associated with ALS and dementia. The allocated funds were utilized to obtain a cell line (Agilent) that is highly efficient in producing AAV particles. AAV were isolated and purified from cells using an affinity-chromatography based purification kit (Bioland Scientific). Ultimately, we were successful in developing an AAV expression system for TDP43 fragments, and we produced AAV that enable able to transduce different cell types. The transduction efficiency of the purified virus particles was determined by confocal microscopy. Currently, we are working towards increasing the viral titer to further enhance in vitro and in vivo transduction efficiency. The results obtained from this study will become a part of my doctoral thesis and will be disseminated at the Neuroscience 2019 conference in Chicago, the Texas
- Chris Brower**

Society of microscopy annual meeting and at the 2020 TWU creative arts and science symposium.

- Sukhbir Kaur** The funds allocated were used to order 12 female Sprague-Dawley rats, which underwent ovariectomy surgery. Two weeks post-surgery, the trigeminal ganglia tissue was isolated and cultured onto poly-D-lysine coated plates. These cultures were used to standardize the calcium imaging protocol using the Cytation 5 plate reader. An essential part of learning live cell calcium imaging was to standardize the protocol and conditions of the experiment. Capsaicin (activator of TRPV1) was used for this purpose. We successfully imaged the influx of calcium pre- and post- capsaicin treatment. Our preliminary standardization studies also found that 30nM capsaicin was potent at causing an enhanced calcium influx as compared to the lower and higher concentrations. These results will help us develop our further experimental protocols with estrogen and serotonin. Results of this study will be presented as a platform talk at TWU Arts and Science Research Symposium (April 2019, Denton, TX), International Association for Dental Research conference (June 2019, Vancouver, Canada) and as a research poster at Society for Neuroscience conference (October 2019, Chicago, IL). We are also in process of writing a manuscript that will be submitted by Fall 2019.
- Dayna Averitt**
- Mohammed Lakdawala** Genetic interactions between the DBL-1/BMP-like pathway and dpy body size genes in *C. elegans*. Invitrogen SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase purchased using student small grant program fund was used to determine level of dpy-24/blmp-1 expression levels in wild type and dbl-1 mutant. It was also used to determine levels of spp-9 in various dbl-1 backgrounds. These funds helped in obtaining results that led to a very interesting novel project that will help us determine how dpy-24/blmp-1 interacts with the DBL-1 pathway. These funds also helped in completion of the spp-9 project, which was ongoing in our lab. A manuscript on this work is currently in progress and is to be submitted in August 2019. Future studies focus on identifying expression levels of body size regulating genes in different genetic backgrounds. This work will be presented at The Allied Genetic Conference, April 22-26, 2020, Washington, DC.
- Tina Gumienny**
- Aracely Lomeli Lynette Grange-Maasoumi** The purchased supplies from this fund have not yet been used. The supplies will be used until November 2019 for the Head-to-Toe checkoff examination for Junior 1 nursing students and again for Junior 2 students during their Women's Health Simulation. Since these events are taking place roughly 6 to 8 weeks from now, it is difficult to answer some of these questions currently. The funds assisted in purchasing necessary items for the completion of my capstone research project. The buying of the diffuser, lemon essential oil bottles, and cotton squares allowed me to have unused, new items for my aromatherapy research project. The fresh use of the products will allow for an increased reliability of the research findings and can prevent jeopardization of the results and data events. The purchase of the supplies will provide aromatherapy to the students through the lemon infused diffusers and cotton squares and aid their anxiety. Upon the completion of this study, I will create a poster with my

findings and data to hopefully be presented at the AWHONN conference in San Antonio in May 2020 and possibly the WHSAA meeting in September 2020.

- Sushila Pathak** I purchased Zymo Pure buffers, Transfectin reagent, and SYBR Green Master Mix from this grant. I was able to extract high amounts of plasmids used in
- Laura Hanson** transfection for binding studies. Cells were transfected with the plasmids to express FLAG-tagged viral protein M140 or control protein, bacterial alkaline phosphatase (BAP) using the Transfectin reagent. Next, cells were infected with wildtype or mutant viruses and immunoprecipitation was performed to determine if the truncated M139 expressed by the mutant virus is able to bind to FLAG-M140, one of its normal binding partners. We determined that both wildtype and mutant M139 are able to bind to M140 at 37°C and 40°C but FLAG-BAP, a negative control, was not able to do so. Next, by performing PCR using SYBR Green Master Mix, I determined that the wildtype and mutant viral DNA were equally protected from DNase I at 37°C and 40°C. This indicates that there is no defect in capsid formation in the mutant virus. This work was presented at the American Society for Virology meeting held in Minnesota, July 2019 and will be presented at the TWU Celebration of Science, October 17, 2019.
- Kathy Ly** This grant allowed me to screen for the estrogenic and antiestrogenic activities of Euphorbia bicolor plant extracts. The plant organs were extracted individually
- Camelia Maier** and a transgenic yeast system expressing the estrogen receptor alpha was used to screen for biological activity. The funds were used to purchase ethanol solvent for plant extracts, chemicals for culturing yeast, BioRad reagent for protein determination, ONPG (enzyme substrate) for the estrogenic and antiestrogenic assays, and the standard chemicals, estradiol and genistein, for the positive controls for the assays. The results obtained with this grant will be presented as a poster at the TWU Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium and will become part of a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. This is the first study on the estrogenic and antiestrogenic activities of the plant, which is a native plant to Texas and southern USA and will be used to identify the plant estrogens for the possibility to design medicine for treating menopausal symptoms, osteoporosis, and cancer.
- Ayman Mehdi** The funds provided by the Center for Student Research greatly helped with the progression and quality of my research project as an honors intern at UTSW.
- Jennifer Wilson** With the funds I received, I was able to purchase the pro PONTTOON software. The purchase of this software is vital to my research because it allows me to create unlimited, high quality animated videos that can be shared easily with research team members at UTSW, Duke University and TWU. Based on the interventions that have been completed, multiple participants from each institution provided positive feedback about the video content and quality. The purchase of the microphone helped to create high quality videos without any background noise. Lastly, the headphones were used by participants in the research study to block out any background noise. This was important because it allowed the participants to have their undivided attention on the videos

resulting in accurate data. I have currently completed interventions for 17 out of the 20 participants. Data analysis to be completed in the next 2 weeks.

- Antonio Miranda** The funds provided by the small grant program allowed for the completion of an unprecedented study: the exploration of diabetes perspectives of Mexican origin males. This population represents the cultural group with the highest rates of obesity and diabetes related complications. Mexican origin males, however, are grossly understudied. This is the first, theory based, qualitative study ever completed on the perspectives of nutrition and diabetes in Mexican origin men living in the United States at risk for diabetes (defined as a BMI within the overweight and obese ranges). The small grant allowed for the compensation of each participant (15x30 dollars each) and, partially, the travel of the researcher (50 remaining dollars). Lastly, data analysis is underway with the results expected to produce 3-4 publications, and dozens of international presentations with the first being scheduled for April 2020 in Georgetown, Texas. Thank you to all involved in this tremendous program.
- Cynthia Warren**
- Michael Mulvey** The Student Small Grants Program has assisted greatly in my ongoing research and art practice. This practice explores identity and the many new challenges along the border of Texas and Mexico. The funds were initially used to purchase film for this ongoing project. The funds were not only invaluable but using the funds to purchase the film through TWU allowed for at least fifteen percent increase in the amount of film I could have purchased. Using this film, I have been able to traditionally photograph the complexities and visual definitions of regionalism, identity, along this historic gateway with a large format camera. The images and research show a crossroads, a place where immigration policies are filled with impossible choices, new definitions of what is “family,” and identity. This research project will continue to be part of an ongoing project through this year and part of 2021. It will be part of my graduate prospectus as well as my final graduate gallery show projected for May 2021.
- Meg Griffiths**
- Ezgi Ozturk** The award was used to purchase pads for the tDCS machine for migraine study in Nutrition department. tDCS machine is a low-intensity brain stimulation machine that sends electric currents to brain. To send those currents, tDCS machine needs saline solution to pass electric currents and pads absorb this solution. The pads were purchased, and I have evaluated biomarker indicators for neuro-inflammation. This study had 19 participants who used tDCS. 10 of those participants used tDCS for 4 weeks for 5 days a week and 9 participants used tDCS for 2 weeks 5 days a week. Each was 30 minutes long.
- Shane Broughton**
- Vyoma Parikh** I received the student small grant to help with my pilot research project as part of my PhD in Physical Therapy Program. I used the grant money to obtain 20 amazon gift cards worth 25\$ each. These gift cards were to be used as an incentive to help with recruitment of participants for my study. I will be giving these gift card to the participants as incentive upon their study completion. I have so far been able to recruit 3 participants for my research project using the available funds as an incentive. However, I have not been able to schedule and complete the data collection for these recruited participants at this time due to
- Hui-Ting Goh**

a scheduling conflict. I plan to complete data collection for my recruited participants over the next 3-4 week period. I plan to continue to use the funds from this grant to recruit up to 20 participants total for me pilot study over the next four months. Upon completion of recruitment and data collection, I plan to use the data from this study to present a poster at the national or state level Physical therapy conference next year.

- Emily Powers** The \$168 we received from the Small Grant is being used for the study we are conducting at Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center. We are investigating the impact of Music Therapy in heart rate and anxiety levels of Phase I Cancer Research patients. We were able to purchase headphones and MP3 players to carry out our study and that immediately upon IRB approval, we can begin the study activities. The headphones and MP3 players enable the patients to participate in the study without disrupting their clinical trial environment or other patients. Data collection and analysis should be completed by the end of the semester, which will enable us to complete the manuscript and submit abstracts to NCUR and identified professional nursing conferences (Oncology Nursing Society, and the Southern Nursing Research Society).
- Jennifer Wilson**
- Manisha Rao** The award was used to purchase reagents and calibration kit for quantification of high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) on the Biolis. Some was also used for a new Eppendorf manual 8-channel multichannel pipette. Heparinized plasma samples were collected from 57 firemen and analyzed for hs-CRP. Each sample was run in duplicate. Two out of 57 samples had undetectably low levels. Average concentrations \pm SD for rest of 55 individuals were 1.29 ± 1.17 mg/L (range .01 – 4.75 mg/L). Hs-CRP levels were high (> 1.0 mg/L) in at least 52% (29 out of 55) indicating increased chronic inflammation and cardiovascular stress in the firefighters. New multichannel pipette increases accuracy and reproducibility while setting up microplates for ELISA and Milliplex assays and reduce variance among duplicates. It helps generate reliable data reflecting concentrations of biomarkers.
- Shane Broughton**
- Namrata Raut** The main techniques used in my research titled, “Serine/Threonine kinase regulation of actin nucleation” was western blotting (WB). This technique requires antibody and inhibitors. We purchased LIM Kinase Inhibitor I (435930), LIM Kinase Inhibitor II (5387681) and SP600125. We did conduct three set of western blot after inhibiting with the inhibitors purchased. We are currently analyzing the data from WB. Once the data is analyzed, I and Dr. Hynds are going to write the abstract and submit it for the poster presentation at the Society for neuroscience (SfN). The meeting of SfN is scheduled for Oct. 19-23, 2019 in Chicago, IL. Also, this piece of the work is going towards one of my chapter in dissertation for my PhD.
- DiAnna Hynds**

- Sumod Sebastian** I purchased all items mentioned in the budget of the proposed project on blood-brain barrier crossing efficacy of polymer encapsulated-magnetic nanocarriers (PE-MNCs) using the small grant. I could complete a major part of the experiments in the proposed project using the above-mentioned supplies. Based on the data obtained from this work, I submitted an abstract for the AAPS (American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists) 2019 PharmSci 360 conference, which will be held in San Antonio from Nov. 3-6, 2019. Remaining part of the experiments and the data analysis will only be completed by the end of next month (August 2019) as I needed a modified version of the magnetic nanocarriers. I aim to defend by early November, and I will be submitting one manuscript based on the data obtained from this project.
- DiAnna Hynds**
- Arpita Talapatra** The Small CSR grant helped in the purchase of a few secondary antibodies needed for my project. I ordered FITC-Donkey Anti-Rabbit IgG, Cy5-Donkey Anti-Mouse IgG, TRITC-Goat Anti-Rabbit IgG and FITC-Goat Anti-Mouse IgG. These secondary antibodies helped me to identify specific protein localizations in histological studies. The two main reasons why I ordered these antibodies is firstly, all of my primary antibodies were produced in rabbit and mouse. Therefore, I needed a complementary detection antibody that is anti-rabbit or anti-mouse. Secondly, these fluorescent tags are compatible with the microscope filters present in the Biology Department. Our project is still ongoing, but we are getting good, detailed results showing localization of target proteins in the seminiferous tubules of testis so that we can detect differences of protein expression due to different testosterone concentration present in the testis.
- Nathaniel Mills**
- Maria Villanueva** Dr. Libersat: I have to report unfortunately that Maria transferred out of TWU just before the Fall semester to UNT's art program. Maria informed me of her decision just a week before the semester started and returned the VR Headset at that time.
- Julie Libersat**
- Emily Zumbro** The TWU student small grant helped to provide supplies needed to conduct preliminary cell culture experiments and establish proper techniques in our cell culture lab. We completed our last preliminary cell culture experiment during the Spring semester to help establish the optimal timeframe for Formoterol treatment in our muscle cell lines. This research helped to establish normal processes involved in mitochondrial biogenesis and will be used as groundwork for future muscle cell culture experiments in our lab. Without these funds, we would not have been able to conduct qPCR analyses on our muscle cells. We are in the process of writing a paper describing our muscle cell culture methodology involved in cell proliferation, cell differentiation, cDNA quantification, RNA extraction, and qPCR analyses, which would not be attainable without the funds from the TWU student small grant. Future research as a result of this project will involve age-related and disease-related mitochondrial dysfunction in muscle cells.
- Anthony Duplanty**

Student Presentation Travel Grants Final Reports

- Esther Ajayi-Lowo** NWSA 2018 gave me the opportunity to present a paper on my dissertation research for the first time and I got great feedback that will positively impact the writing of my prospectus in spring. I participated in the Women of Color Leadership Project, made connections with other students and scholars of color who provided insights on how to effectively incorporate a transnational perspective into my project. I met members of the African Feminist Initiative who provided feedback on my project from an African perspective, suggested other funding avenues for my research, and connected me with the Association of OBGYN in Nigeria- a good resource for my research. I participated in the Graduate Student Mentoring Program: my mentor offered suggestions on being strategic with publication and improving my CV. I attended a session with a leading global RJ figure, Loretta Ross, who offered recommendations on navigating the use of 'birthing justice' and 'reproductive justice' for the purpose of my research. I made contacts with RJ community organizations leaders, two of who will attend our TWU RJ event in spring.
- AnaLouise Keating**
- Abigail Baird** Attending the International Neuropsychological Society conference provided me with the opportunity to attend a wide variety of symposia and present two research projects on topics related to my areas of interest. My favorite sessions included two paper presentations, one on MCI in sports concussions, the other on dementia and aging. The act of presenting this research allowed me to expand my own understanding of each topic by explaining it to individuals who passed my poster and asked questions. I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Robert Roth, whose work was referenced on one of my posters, to discuss the findings of a study concerning the effort assessment qualities of a specific neurocognitive test. In the evenings at INS, various social engagements in the hotel lobby enabled me to make multiple contacts that will prove to be helpful when I begin applying for internship. I spoke with many neuropsychologists from the Michael Debakey VA Hospital, gaining insight into the interview process for both internship and post-doc positions. I was also fortunate to establish contact with an individual from Baylor Scott and White in Temple, Texas who expressed interest in having me as an intern in the future. Overall, my experience at INS provided not only the two publication opportunities, but also allowed me to attend various networking engagements that will serve me in the years to come.
- Sally Stabb**
- Paramita Basu** I attended Sigma Xi's Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference as a delegate and promoted TWU's Sigma Xi chapter's different scholarly activities, including student poster competition and initiation ceremony. I participated in different caucuses at the meeting and exchanged ideas, which will increase our chapters new initiating students, retain previous memberships and introduce new scholarly activities. Furthermore, I presented my research and received feedback from distinguished professors, scholars and other graduate students. The valuable suggestions helped me with my research questions and will eventually lead to publications in prestigious peer-reviewed journals. I also looked for postdoctoral opportunities that will enhance my skills and knowledge in molecular biology.
- Camelia Maier**

- Reighley Baugh** The experience I received while at the ICSW was priceless and invaluable. I believe some of the most impactful outcomes of my experience were the people I was able to meet. The first person I had the opportunity to connect with was Dr. Lynn Jackson- the president of The National Association of Social Workers in the state of Texas. She personally reached out to meet me for high tea while in York. During tea I had the opportunity to ask her about her work, both as a professor for TCU and the leader of NASW Texas. I was inspired by her work in advocacy and academia and discussed her path into academia. She inspired me to consider pursuing my PhD and to continue with my research and presenting. She shared how she was presenting at the ICSW conference to put the experience on her resume to apply for a tenured position- this made me realize how impactful this opportunity would be for me, not just as a student but as a professional in my career down the road. Another contact that I made was with Dr. Hoefer from the University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Lynn Jackson introduced me to him, and this contact has furthered my pursuit of my PhD. Dr. Hoefer talked to me about UTAs Doctoral Program and when I got back to the states, I emailed him about the opportunity. Since this encounter I have toured UTA, met with Dr. Hoefer and other professors in the Doctoral Program and am looking at the opportunity to receive a stipend package that will cover my tuition for the duration of my doctoral education! I cannot say that I would have reached out or had this funding opportunity if I had not attended this conference. This opportunity and the connections that I made have truly changed the trajectory of not only my education, but my career and future ahead. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my research and passion and to connect with other professionals in the field that have launched me into a career of academia and research!
- Kathryn Bezner** I had a wonderful opportunity to present at the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International in Ontario, Canada in September and I am thankful for the grant I received to be able to travel to this conference. I learned a lot over the three days that I attended this event and I will remember this forever. I obtained new information on violence against women, especially in the form of intimate partner violence and violence against women in a clinical setting. What I learned was very valuable to me and is something that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my academic and professional career. Seeing people from all over the world come together to share the passion for researching this topic and the empowerment of women was so inspiring and I am happy with the new professional relationships that I have formed because of this opportunity.
- Fuqin Liu**
- Chennapragada, SriPadmini** At this conference: I had the opportunity to present my dissertation related work to a diverse audience (researchers predominantly from Scandinavian and other European countries) who were able to provide critical feedback needed on our work. Beyond TWU and the US research scene, this feedback was critical for us (myself and my advisor) to make our work accessible in its format to a global audience. Post attending this conference, I have received an invitation to attend an interview for a potential post-doctoral research position with a UNESCO Chair in Ireland, while also being accepted to present a poster titled, to India, Disability Rights and Physical Education at The University of Alabama, Birmingham's Symposium on Disability Rights titled "Disability Rights are Human Rights" Attending this conference has enabled me to extend conversations with

my advisor Dr. Dillon on how we can initiate internationally relevant work here at TWU's Sherrill Teaching and Research (STAR) lab. I have also had the opportunity to extend conversations for collaborative work between our program here at TWU and other researchers from countries like Great Britain that are leading the research work in the field of Paralympics.

- Marcella Clinard** I attended the National Women's Studies Association annual conference in Atlanta from November 8–11. First, I attended the "Institute on Teaching Gender and Sexual Justice: Arab & Muslim Communities Institute." I applied to this event and received complimentary conference registration for participating. Through this event, I was able to meet quite a few scholars and teachers in my field who have similar research interests to mine. Throughout the conference, I attended sessions on topics related to my research interests and exchanged contact information with quite a few participants. Because I will need to recruit participants for my study next semester, networking with participants who might be interested in my research may increase my response rate. During the conference, I presented my paper titled, "Epistemology and Social Justice in a Postsecular Women's and Gender Studies." My paper was well-received, and I had the opportunity to talk at length with several of my co-panelists about our overlaps in research interests. During the conference, I also had the opportunity to connect with colleagues at TWU and at other universities. I took the opportunity to ask fellow graduate students in other programs about their courses, their comprehensive exams, and their research. Since I hope to go on the job market as soon as next year, getting a sense of the field is very important for my career, as are the opportunities to network at the conference.
- Claire Sahlin**
- Chen Du** The travel grant provided by Center of Student Research greatly supported me to be able to give a flash talk and presented three posters at the 2019 American Society for Nutrition Annual Conference. During the conference, I have made contacts with professors from many different universities and discussed with them about the research work I have conducted and got a lot of good advice from them. I ran into a postdoc from University of Iowa who wants to investigate breastfeeding practices. Due to my clinical background, she invited me to potentially collaborate on a research project. I also ran into a few skeletomuscular disease experts who I have followed up with after the conference and will contact for collaboration when the time comes. In addition, I went to a few sessions about grant writing and learned tips on writing NIH grants. Currently, I am working on a manuscript of a research study that I presented in a poster. Also, I have published the study that I presented in the conference in a oral format. This was a productive conference, and I want to thank you for the travel grant support, which made it possible for me to go.
- Shanil Juma**
- Alexis-Marie Garay** Being able to perform at a national conference was a wonderful opportunity. This type of performance was a new experience for me. I have never had the chance to create and perform material based on the teaching of Augusto Boal.
- Noah Lelek** Creating work that furthers the cause of social justice and how it affects those in education is exciting. The work I have gotten to bring to life with Dr. Lelek and the ITTs troupe has made me feel like I am flourishing not only as a performer

and artist but also as a student and an educator. The work presented at this conference also will be a noteworthy addition to my performance and educational resume. Performing this material and participating in the question and answer portion of the scenario has helped to make me a stronger, more confident, and smarter actor. During the question and answer section, I was able to speak with collegiate educators about subjects that also affect me as a secondary teacher. It was extremely interesting getting the perspective of college professors on important topics such as victim blaming and sexual assault. TWU's Interactive Theatre Troupe is doing some really exciting work directed to and for educators, and it is exciting to be a part of that. It also is so wonderful to get to represent Texas Woman's University and the Theatre department.

Robert Gross

I had a wonderful conference. The feedback I received was uniformly positive, giving me confidence that the basic argument I am making is possible to develop into an eventual book for publication. On the basis of the argument made at this conference, I have met with representatives of an academic press (University of Michigan Press) to discuss a possible book. I also met a disabled musician named David Nabb, who plays saxophone with one hand. I have written a new saxophone concerto for him since the conference, which he will premiere in 2019. I also felt that the conference appearance was successful in the sense that I was able to represent the profession of music therapy well, and to assure disability scholars from around the world that at least some members of the music therapy profession take the issues of disabled people seriously, and adjust their practices accordingly. Music therapy is slowly but surely making adjustments writ large to incorporate the perspectives of disability scholars, and my conference presentation was a small contribution to that end.

Michael Zanders**Jenna Hardy****Hui-Ting Goh**

I attended the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) on October 1, 2018. I presented a poster titled the "Effects of dual-tasking on temporal-spatial gait parameters after stroke: a preliminary analysis." The poster was well-attended, and I received great feedback regarding the design and conclusion. Furthermore, I was able to discuss the implications of our results with clinicians and how this data can be applied in the clinic. This experience improved my confidence and ability to present evidence-based practice to a greater audience. In addition to presenting my poster, I was able to attend a symposium regarding the technological advances in traumatic brain injury rehabilitation. This was a good opportunity for me to learn more about the current advancements in neurologic physical therapy and allowed me to talk with other physical therapists in the field. Prior to presenting my poster, I was also able to engage with various vendors and potential employers. This was a great way for me to make connections and learn about the numerous opportunities in the Dallas area. I will utilize these connections in my upcoming spring semester as I begin job searching.

Elizabeth Hughes

One of the most important outcomes of the TESOL conference was that I had to remove myself from the Texas climate of education. I explained my thesis to an

- Holly Hansen-Thomas** international audience who were unfamiliar with the STAAR test and TEA. I was the only presenter from a public school; the other presenters were researchers and scholars from Pakistan, Washington, Florida and Tennessee. As I gained a wider perspective, I was able to analyze and understand the results and implications of my research better than before the conference. As I was researching, the more I learned, the more questions I ended up with. Many of these questions were also addressed by other presenters at the conference. Even though I did not leave with everything answered, I left with leads on other publications that eventually strengthened my research. I successfully defended my thesis on May 28. Additionally, "Rural LTELs' Funds of Knowledge, Teacher Attitudes, and School Success in Today's Political Climate," a proposal based on my research presented at TESOL, was accepted by IGI Global for publication in the upcoming book: "Language Learning Instruction for Culturally Diverse Students and Immigrant Communities."
- Rachel McClure** The Center for Student Research funds through the student presentation travel award program assisted me in the progress of the research on the Occupational Wellbeing Inventory (OWBI) through exposure to other research occurring in the field of occupational therapy, formation of new ideas from the keynote speaker, and dissemination of the research results to practicing therapists. Attending the CAOT conference allowed me to learn about research occurring in emergency departments in Canada, which was instrumental in preparing me for assessments I would use as I began an internship in the emergency department at Vanderbilt University Medical Center June 10th. Additionally, I attended sessions regarding the aging well discourse, work opportunities for people with special needs, executive function required during specific occupations, and many other sessions. Those listed particularly expanded my view of occupational therapy and provided new ideas for what "wellbeing" means to different populations. This is necessary to the research, as I am in the process of writing the literature review section for a manuscript, we are preparing regarding the Occupational Wellbeing Inventory. These new ideas will help me to clarify and reframe the concept of wellbeing within the paper and also for future presentations. Additionally, the keynote speaker at the conference, Dr. Susan Forwell, provided new ideas on the concept of wellbeing in her Muriel Driver lecture entitled "Recapturing the joy of occupation". Her presentation highlighted the importance of pursuing occupations that provide pleasure, which supported results from our research indicating that veterans participating in crafting through the Help Heal Veterans craft kit program primarily receive pleasure from this occupation. Finally, attending this conference allowed Dr. Evetts and I to disseminate the results of the Occupational Wellbeing Inventory survey completed with veterans who participate in crafting. Many assessments in the field of occupational therapy focus on the outcome a client achieves in an occupation or a client's sense of accomplishment. However, in the OWBI study, veterans reported that crafting contributed most to their sense of pleasure, affirmation, and agency. This was highlighted in the CAOT presentation to challenge practitioners to expand their view of what contributes to a client's sense of wellbeing within an occupation, as well as to provide a new inventory to measure occupational wellbeing.
- Helen Evetts**

- Emily Morgan** I am thankful for the support I received from TWU to attend this conference. My presentation on the Introverted Teacher at the National Dance Education Organization annual conference in October was well-attended and well-received. I had several people I already know from the dance field who attended, as well as many I'd never met, and I was able to speak with many of them after my session. One has stuck with me; a K-12 teacher was in tears as she told how she'd struggled over the years to teach as an introvert in her school. During my session, others shared strategies they use, and this was helpful for all of us to hear. I am presenting a similar session on introverted teaching at my university's (Colorado State University) Professional Development Institute in January. CSU offers several different sessions for faculty and staff to attend. Over the break, I will be shaping my presentation into an article that I will submit to the Journal of Dance Education.
- Matthew Henley**
- Marianela Núñez Delgadillo** This conference was a great experience for all of us in many aspects. Since this was a statewide conference it was one of the first times presenting at a bigger conference compared to local conferences for some of us. For others, it was the first time presenting at any conference. The experience of being able to present with a distinguished professor and to share our knowledge and teaching practices of working with English Learners to others who also share an interest in working with English Learners was a valuable one. We also learned many other things at the conference from the featured presenter and the breakout sessions related to our field working with English Learners that we could immediately put into practice. We were able to make some new connections to resources and meet people from other districts in various positions to find new ways to serve English Learners better. It was a great experience for us.
- Amanda Stewart**
- Amber O'Brien** Attending this neuroscience conference really opened my eyes to the vast amount of research that is being done in the field. I learned that there are so many ways to conduct neuroscience research, and that it applies to so many other fields of study. I was able to talk to researchers at their posters and learn about different methods and techniques, and I was able to ask them the reasons behind their methodology. I was also able to attend workshops and hear from international researchers. The conference had the immediate benefit of enriching my class assignments this semester. For example, there was a paper that I was assigned to write on embodied cognition. It was on my mind while I was attending a workshop about using a portable form of EEG, along with virtual reality to examine the brain's activity regarding information about the body's position in the environment. It was sort of a form of spatial embodied cognition. This led to me looking up other research articles by the presenter and incorporating it into my paper. The opportunity to attend this conference will also have the lasting benefit of knowing that there are so many exciting topics being studied in neuroscience all over the world.
- Elisa Na**
- Foluso Oluade** The Student Presentation Travel Program's sponsorship provided me with the opportunity to travel to the Nation Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Conference and subsequently present my research material for the first time,
- AnaLouise Keating**

receive feedback from others in the field about how my research can be improved, and become aware of how I can polish my research information. I needed to have this experience of presenting at a conference because now I am aware of technicalities like how to structure my presentation aids (such as handouts) and how to convey my material briefly and clearly. The feedback that I received from others in the field provided me with theoretical information that can improve the accuracy and credibility of my current and future findings. Having discussions with others in the field about my research also made me aware of areas I need to polish, such as making clear connections among the cultural groups that I cite for my studies. I am very grateful for the sponsorship of the travel program and I worked hard to represent TWU well at a national level.

- Desiree Patterson** I attended the National Women’s Studies Association annual conference in Atlanta from November 8–11. First, I attended the “Institute on Teaching Gender and Sexual Justice: Arab & Muslim Communities Institute.” I applied to this event and received complimentary conference registration for participating. Through this event, I was able to meet quite a few scholars and teachers in my field who have similar research interests to mine. Throughout the conference, I attended sessions on topics related to my research interests and exchanged contact information with quite a few participants. Because I will need to recruit participants for my study next semester, networking with participants who might be interested in my research may increase my response rate. During the conference, I presented my paper titled, “Epistemology and Social Justice in a Postsecular Women’s and Gender Studies.” My paper was well-received, and I had the opportunity to talk at length with several of my co-panelists about our overlaps in research interests. During the conference, I also had the opportunity to connect with colleagues at TWU and at other universities. I took the opportunity to ask fellow graduate students in other programs about their courses, their comprehensive exams, and their research. Since I hope to go on the job market as soon as next year, getting a sense of the field is very important for my career, as are the opportunities to network at conference. Thank you very much for funding my conference travel and enabling my participation at my field’s national conference.
- Monique LeMieux**
- Judee Romero** This being my first time to attend an IFT convention, all three days consisted of walking the convention center, visiting known flavor companies and laboratory instrumentation suppliers regarding equipment we use in the flavor chemistry lab. I spoke with representatives of a company called Silvateam Food Ingredients that specialized in vegetal extracts whose booth had several essential citrus oils that are relevant to my research that they let me sample. I presented my research poster entitled “Calamondin (*Citrus microcarpa*) Peel and Juice Flavor Characterization Using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) and Descriptive Sensory Analysis.” A professor from Peru asked questions about my poster inquiring about the calamondin which he is familiar with because it is in his country. Another graduate student from a university in Florida also spoke to me about different flavor extraction techniques due to his research being based
- Xiofen Du**

on flavor volatile analysis of tomatoes. I feel fortunate to experience this convention as a graduate student because it gave me a bigger introduction to the food industry, which I did not realize was as big and innovative as it is. Experiencing this event has refreshed my inspiration to look forward to what my exciting career field has to offer.

Manijeh Rustomji At the TexTESOL State Conference I had the honor of presenting my project over culturally relevant literature. Due to my presence and participation in this

Amanda Stewart conference I was able to experience many positive outcomes, such as new knowledge and new connections with individuals in my field of study. This conference allowed me to sit in on presentations from other educators in the field and learn new techniques and strategies to implement into my future classroom. One of the presentations that I greatly benefited from was a group presentation presented by fellow Texas Woman's University students. The presentation introduced me to new strategies that would engage English language learners in the classroom. The TexTESOL Conference also gave me the opportunity to make new connections with current educators and prospective employers. I was able to connect with these contacts via social media in order to have them as a future point of contact. Overall, I was able to gain so much professionally from this conference and am glad that Texas Woman's University gave me the opportunity to attend!

Sanique South On June 11, 2019 I presented my research entitled effects of tart cherry juice on inflammatory markers in normal weight obese (NWO) women at the American Society for Nutrition annual meeting. Since presenting my research at the

Shanil Juma conference I have been working on completing the manuscript for publication this fall. The recommendations and feedback from the oral presentation have been very helpful in making edits to the manuscript. In addition, attending this conference opened opportunities for me to meet and network with professionals within the field of Nutrition. I attended a mentoring session in which I met individuals from academic and industry fields. The mentors present gave a short introduction and then opened the floor for questions. They also reviewed my resume which is very beneficial as I will be applying for jobs in the near future. The sessions I attended were very educational and will greatly enhance my future career as a nutrition scientist. Overall, this was a rewarding experience and I am grateful for the opportunity to have received this award that made it possible for me to attend this conference.

Ashlea Sovetts During the World Dance Alliance Americas Assembly, Reyna and I facilitated our workshop How to Create an Advocacy Toolkit on Thursday 2/14 and performed our duet Uncontrolled Friday evening on 2/15. During the workshop, we focused our attention specifically on advocating efforts for the area of El Paso, TX. The outcomes gained from this workshop were: information for how to make the arts more accessible in that region, discussions of more Latino/a representation and more bilingual arts performances. Throughout the conference we both took dance classes, watched performances at the University of Texas El Paso Wise Theatre and in Juarez, Mexico, observed panel presentations, participated in choreographic device workshops and attended the World Dance Alliance

Williford-Shade

Americas board meeting. The outcomes gained from this conference were: opportunities to work and grow the WDA organization, networking with dance professionals in other regions, receiving an invitation to co-teach a workshop at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, NC and return to co-teach at the University of Texas El Paso in El Paso, TX.

**Melanie
Van Allen**

Attending the Carnegie Mellon pre-conference seminar in dance studies and the Dance Studies Association conference in Evanston, Illinois was an invaluable experience as well as a networking tool. I met many emerging dance scholars who were in the process of writing their dissertations (ABD), as well as newly graduated Doctors of Philosophy in dance studies, which broadened my network of like-minded individuals who are working interdisciplinarily between dance studies and performance studies. I also gained a new perspective on innovative ways dance scholarship addresses ethnographic and autoethnographic research and methodologies. I made connections with scholars who are looking at street dance forms, notably Chicago house dance, and as such was invited to present my work in Denmark for an upcoming dance conference that examines street dance forms, cognition, identity, and emotion. I also made a connection with a doctoral student who is writing about the dance form Detroit Jit, which was a welcomed connection as there is nothing formally published on the Jit, expect my dissertation

**Rosemary
Candelario**