



# Lobo Stars

Newsletter 7 2010-2011

Sul Ross State University Quality Enhancement Plan

## Center Hosts Faculty Seminar for Outdoor Teaching and Learning

The Center for Outdoor Learning and Faculty Development hosted the Outdoor Teaching/Learning Conference August 5—6, 2010, at the Morgan University Center. Dr. John Hadjimarcou, Chair of the UTEP Department of Marketing and Management and recipient of UTEP's 2010 Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching, presented the keynote address as well as a two-hour pre-conference workshop. The workshop was a hands-on demonstration of a condensed version of a UTEP support program that was designed to help faculty juggle their own lives and interests with the time demands of the modern classroom, service, and research.

Sixteen presenters from the Sul Ross faculty and technology and testing staff members gave 15-minute presentations under four categories: Interdisciplinary Field Trips; Testing Us, Them, and the Facts in the Outdoors; The Sunny and Dark Sides of Blending the Outdoors with Technology; and Solving Problems Out of the Classroom. SRSU presenters included: Christopher Ritzi, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Biology; Kevin Urbanczyk, Director of Rio Grande Research Center and Professor of Geology; Tim Parsons, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Information Technology; Bonnie Warnock, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Natural Resource Management;

Keynote Speaker, Dr. John Hadjimarcou from UTEP also presented a workshop on blending career with personal life. Provost Coers serves as chair of the opening session: Drs. Chris Ritzi, Bonnie Warnock, and Kevin Urbanczyk.

Susan Fox-Forrester, Director of Career Services and Testing and Jan Reub, Testing Coordinator; Ilda González, Lecturer in Spanish; Barney Nelson, Associate Professor of English; Kathy Stein, Director of Academic Center for Excellence; Sandy Bogus, Integration Analyst, and Rhonda Austin, Director, Project *Puertas Abiertas*, Title V Post Baccalaureate Grant; David Oesper, Learning Community Support Specialist, Title V Grant; Rafael Azuaje, Assistant Professor of Computer Science; Melanie Croy, Dean of Professional Studies; Eric Holt, Assistant Professor of Mathematics (via video); Matt Walter, Lecturer and Curator for the Museum of the Big Bend; and Patricia Moody Harveson, Assistant Professor Natural Resource Management.





## Outdoor Teaching/Learning Conference Program

**Thursday, August 5, 2010**

**9:30 am – Registration and coffee**

**10:00 am – Welcome, Dr. Ricardo Maestas**, President, Sul Ross State University

**10:15 am - Pre-Conference Workshop:** “Integrating teaching, research, and service in an effective manner is one of the best strategies to develop a productive and successful career in academe.” **Dr. John Hadjimarcou**, Chair of the UTEP Department of Marketing and Management and recipient of UTEP’s 2010 Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching

**Lunch Break**

**1:30 pm – Introduction of speaker, Dr. Ricardo Maestas**, President, SRSU

**Keynote Address – Dr. John Hadjimarcou** – “Creating a Positive Learning Environment through Faculty Development”

**Panel Presentations**

**2:30-3:30 pm SESSION A – INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELD TRIPS – Chair, Don Coers, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs**

**Christopher M. Ritzl**, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of **Biology** – “Outdoor Learning to Enhance Medical and Veterinary Entomology Experiences.”

**Kevin Banczyk**, Director of Rio Grande Research Center and Professor of **Geology** – “Map the Sul Ross Campus: A GIS/GPS project.”

**Tim Parsons**, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Information Technology – “Technology for Outside and Inside the Classroom.”

**Bonnie Warnock**, Department Chair and Associate Professor of **Natural Resource Management** – “Incorporating Research Opportunities into Undergraduate Field Trips: Why real work is better than busy work.”

**15-minute Break**

**3:45-4:45 pm SESSION B – TESTING US, THEM, AND THE FACTS IN THE OUTDOORS – Chair, Jim Case, Dean of Arts and Sciences**

**Susan Fox-Forrester**, Director of Career Services and Testing and **Jan Reub**, Testing Coordinator – “Pre- and Post-Testing for Outdoor Learning.”

**Ilda González**, Lecturer in Spanish – “Outdoor Video of Skit or Monologue as Final Exam for Spanish 1412.”

**Barney Nelson**, QEP Director and Associate Professor of **English** – “Mixing the Poetry and Science of Birds at Bosque del Apache.”

**Kathy Stein** – Director of Academic Center for Excellence – “If Only It Were That Easy.”

**Friday, August 6**

**9:30-10:30 am SESSION C – THE SUNNY AND DARK SIDES OF BLENDING THE OUTDOORS WITH TECHNOLOGY – Chair, Mazie Will, Associate Professor of Business**

**Sandy Bogus**, Integration Analyst for Project *Puertas Abiertas* (Title V Post Baccalaureate Grant) – “Capturing the Outdoors and Bringing It In!”

**David Oesper**, Learning Community Support Specialist, Title V – “Learning the Constellations / Pointing a Telescope / Meteor Watch.”

**Rhonda Austin**, Director, Project *Puertas Abiertas* (Title V Post Baccalaureate Grant) – “Virtual Field Trips: The next best thing to being there”

**Rafael Azuaje**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science – “Internet Addiction.”

**15 minute break**

**10:45-11:45 am Friday: SESSION D – SOLVING PROBLEMS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM – Chair, Paul Will, Chair of Animal Science**

**Patricia Moody Harveson**, Assistant Professor of **Natural Resource Management** – “Using Geocaching to Engage Students, Create Outdoor Learning Opportunities, and Enhance Critical Thinking Skills.”

**Eric Holt**, Assistant Professor of **Mathematics (via video)** – “Good Mathematical Questions Are Right Outside Your Front Door!”

**Matt Walter**, Lecturer and Curator for the **Museum of the Big Bend** – “Museums as Learning Tools.”

**Melanie Croy**, Dean of **Professional Studies** – “Counseling and the Great Outdoors: A Habitat for Healing and Growth.” (Dr. Croy will lead us outside!)

SRSU President, Dr. Ricardo Maestas, welcomes the audience and introduces the Keynote Speaker.



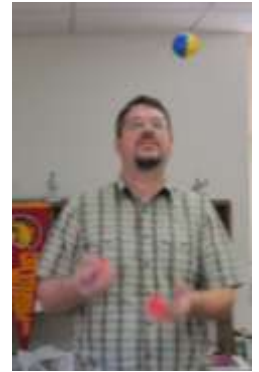


## ACE, Res Living, Honors, and QEP Sponsor Faculty After Five: Lifelong Learning

Faculty After Five: Lifelong Learning will take place on Thursday, October 28, 2010 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the quadrangle of Lobo Village 2. Faculty members are invited to share their hobbies and passions with students in the informal atmosphere of the residential living quarters. The idea being that faculty members are real live human beings who live lives not tied directly to teaching classes and grading papers. AND these interests require that faculty members be able to use the learning skills that they acquired as students in order to practice and become better at the hobbies they enjoy.

Faculty and students can enjoy hot apple cider and cotton candy as they talk about the activities that faculty members engage in when they're not working in the classroom. We'll also have apple dunking.

Come see Ritzzy knitting, Martin juggling, Ray zooming, and more!



## Henry Thoreau Lecture Celebrates Magical Fall Weather

In true back-to-nature character, many of the local residents walked to the Kokernot Amphitheatre on a perfect fall evening with beautiful weather, to listen to the famous philosopher/ author Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau visited the outdoor setting through the dramatic skills of experienced scholar-actor Kevin Radaker. The presentation was free and open to the public.

In a dramatic monologue set in 1860, when America was poised upon the brink of the Civil War, Radaker presented the provocative spirit and words of Henry David Thoreau, America's mid-nineteenth-century apostle of the wilderness, social critic, and political thinker. Immediately after the 45-minute dramatic monologue, Radaker, while still in character as Thoreau, answered questions from the audience. Then, after Radaker was introduced to the audience, he also answered questions as a Thoreau scholar.

Radaker, professor of English and Department Chair at Anderson University in Indiana has presented Thoreau to audiences across the nation since 1990. This was his first trip to the Big Bend Area.



"Henry" admires one of our ancient cottonwoods just prior to his speech for a good crowd of over 100 faculty, students, staff, and locals.


SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
 PRESENTS

*Henry David Thoreau*  
 to speak at  
 Kokernot Amphitheatre

*Live Each Season as it Passes;  
 Breathe the Air,  
 Drink the Drink,  
 Taste the Fruit,  
 And Resign Yourself to  
 The Influence of Each.*


**October 14, 2010**  
 FREE - 7:00 p.m.  
 Kokernot Amphitheatre

"Kevin Radaker's portrayal of Thoreau combines penetrating and exhaustive scholarship with vibrant and dynamic theater. The result is a mesmerizing performance that is moving, illuminating, and profound." - James Davis Moran, Director of Outreach, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts



Dr. Kevin Radaker  
 Professor and Chair of English  
 Indiana Anderson University

For more information  
 call: 432.837.8154



Sul Ross State University  
 a member of the Texas State System of Higher Education  
 Alpine, Texas

## QEP Innovation Awards for 2009—2010

SRSU President, Dr. Ricardo Maestas, presented the 2009-2010 QEP Innovation Awards to the following recipients during the opening fall faculty meeting:

- Best Pilot Project, Funded**—Kathy Stein/Julie Vega -- “Writing Project Using the Mall, Digital Cameras, and Peer Review”
- Best Student Travel, Funded**—Sandra Chambers/Robbie Ray -- “Get to First Base w/Fractions, Ratios, Percentages, & Statistics” (Trip to Hobbs, NM)
- Best Unfunded Idea**—Ilda González-- Spanish language students practice skills by interviewing local Hispanics to learn regional customs and cuisine.
- Best Student Idea**—Society for Conservation Biology--manned booth at Outdoor Expo encouraging students to identify tracks, skulls, and fecal matter of local wildlife

Winners were selected by the members of the QEP Advisory Committee: Cesario Valenzuela, Vice-President of Finance; Don Coers, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and Mitchel Waecter, SGA President. Dr. Maestas presented each winner with a star-shaped trophy.

## Archaeological Dumpster Diving

“I didn’t really ‘take my class outdoors’ per se,” says Michelle Rich, Adjunct Faculty, “but they did a project that involved collecting data on the mini-recycling bins located around downtown Alpine. They had to do this research on their own time. We also had an extra credit trip to the main recycling facility, again, outside of normal class time.

“How does recycling tie in with Introduction to Archaeology, you might ask? It’s all material culture! The same research strategies used for archaeological fieldwork can be applied to investigations of modern material culture.”

## Kalam to attend Teaching Professor Conference

QEP will sponsor Dr. Md Kalam, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and member of the 2010-2011 QEP Faculty Seminar, to attend the 8th Annual Teaching Professor Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20--22, 2011.

Student performance, mentoring, academic integrity, faculty development, technology, group work, self-assessments, rubrics, motivating students are a few of the issues that will be discussed during the three-day conference.

## Personal Locator and Satellite Phones Now Available for Grads

Puertas Abiertas, a Title V grant, is opening more doors for graduate students traveling in the Big Bend and beyond. According to Pamela Pipes, graduate students who conduct field work in remote locations, can now check out a personal locator beacon from the Graduate Student Center in addition to a satellite phone. Information about both can be found at [www.sulross.edu/graduates](http://www.sulross.edu/graduates).

## Disruptive Student Behavior Webcast Scheduled for December 1, 2010

The Center will sponsor a webinar entitled “Proven Strategies for Managing Disruptive Student Behavior” on December 1, starting at noon in UC 202. Lunch will be provided for participants who RSVP.

The interactive webinar will cover the following topics: 1) The importance of dealing with misconduct in a timely and decisive manner, 2) Intervening properly and privately before problems become public, 3) Realistic, legally sound, and proportionate discipline techniques, 4) How student codes of conduct can be an instructor’s best friend, 5) Looking for help from colleagues and experts, and 6) When it’s time to alert administration.

To register, please contact Donna Greene at 8233 or email [dgreene@sulross.edu](mailto:dgreene@sulross.edu) by November 15, 2010.

## Art-Science Fusion Lecture

The Center funded travel expenses for Dr. Terry Nathan who lectured on fusing art and science, a new program at the University of California, Davis that students find inspirational. The lecture introduced the 2011 Shooting West Texas Photography Symposium. The Center encourages proposals to invite speakers whose ideas expand outdoor learning.

	Expected Performance	Value-Added Percentile
<b>Overall CLA Score</b>	<b>Above</b>	<b>88%</b>
Performance Task	Above	86%
Analytic Writing Task	Near	82%
Make-an-Argument	Above	98%
Critique-an-Argument	Near	37%

## Faculty Seminar Finds Data Quite Interesting

Seminar members explored recent excellent results from a national standardized test, Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). SRSU ranks in the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile overall and in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile on one portion of analytic writing.

A small sample of students took the test last fall (100 freshmen) and spring (25 seniors). The CLA analyzes the preparation of the incoming freshmen and compares that to the performance of the graduating seniors. The CLA also uses incoming SAT/ACT scores to analyze progress made compared to progress made by seniors across the nation who had similar incoming SAT/ACT scores. The resulting scores are then evaluated as below, near, or above expectations as indicated by both preparation of the incoming freshmen and their SAT/ACT scores.

Three SRSU seniors who graduated in 2010 actually topped the national raw data comparison charts with scores of 1424, 1308, and 1307 and received rankings of “way above” expectations. In addition, because of scheduling, several of SRSU’s most outstanding seniors were unable to take the test, for instance the Man and Woman of the Year and all student teachers. Of those tested, 33% of SRSU graduating seniors ranked “well above” and another 22% “above” expectations.

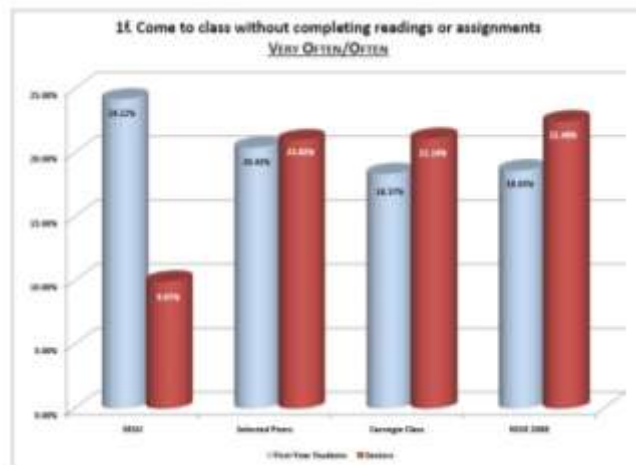
Perhaps the most intriguing part of this data is that the high scores for SRSU students who come to us with high SAT/ACT scores and good foundations seem to indicate that it is not only struggling students who receive a good education here, but that we are providing an outstanding education for excellent students as well.

Grade averages for the 25 graduating seniors who were sampled ranged from a low of 2.17 to a high of 3.93, SAT scores from a low of 710 to a high of 1230, and ACT scores from a low of 11 to a high of 27. The dramatic increase for both underprepared and well prepared students gave SRSU a top score of 1.1 for value added. To put this score in perspective, the University of Texas system has made their 2005-06 scores public. According to those reports, UT Permian Basin topped their comparison chart with a 1.3 score. Scores for all other UT system schools would fall below the SRSU 1.1 score, with UT El Paso and UT Dallas receiving negative value-added scores.

In addition, these preliminary results place SRSU well above, above, or equal to all minority serving institutions of all sizes and prices nationwide for 2009-2010.

Value added is quickly becoming a new way of ranking colleges. Current rankings are usually based on incoming SAT/ACT scores of freshmen, publication lists for professors, and size of endowments or budgets that supposedly offer the greatest opportunities for those incoming students. However, accrediting agencies and those responsible for oversight of higher education have been seriously questioning those assumptions.

The value-added movement was influenced in part by Derek Bok, former president of Harvard University, in his book criticizing undergraduate education: *Our Underachieving Colleges: A Candid Look at How Much Students Learn and Why They Should Be Learning More* (Princeton, 2005). Bok has been quoted as saying, “The college that takes students with modest entering abilities and improves their abilities substantially contributes more than the school that takes very bright students and helps them develop only modestly. We really need to take the focus off entering scores and put it more on how much value is added.”



Seminar members also looked at data from the National Survey of Student Engagement. Members were especially intrigued with the questions when SRSU student answers were quite different from comparison groups.

## QEP Faculty Seminar Members 2010-2011

Twenty-six Sul Ross faculty and staff are currently attending the 2010-2011 QEP Faculty Seminar. Members meet every other Friday during lunch to discuss ideas to enhance teaching and learning. Current seminar members represent the following departments:

- Business Administration—Mazie Will, Linda McAnally
- Animal Science—Paul Will, Darwin Yoder
- Academic Center for Excellence—Robbie Ray, Kathy Stein
- Fine Arts and Communication—Michelle Selk, Carol Fairlie, Jim Bob Salazar, Joe Velasco
- Education—Kip Sullivan, Clay Rasmussen, Scarlet Anderson
- Physical Education—Roger Grant, Sandra Chambers
- Campus Activities—Jeff Blake
- Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences—Rob Kinucan
- Languages and Literature—Ilda Gonzalez, Filemon Zamora, Barney Nelson
- Computer Sciences and Mathematics—Lloyd Moyo, Kris Jorgenson, Eric Holt
- Earth and Physical Sciences—Md Kalam, Kevin Urbanczyk
- QEP—Donna Greene