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Titan Success: Faculty Behind the Scenes, February

Thorpe Center

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FACULTY BEHIND THE SCENES

The latest in Titan Success, making Tommy proud.

In This Issue

Dr. Edgar Lehr's Findings

Dr. Michelle Gibbs is
Movin' Up

Stephanie Davis-Kahl's
Resources for Many

Don't forget to fill out the Faculty and Staff Achievement form with all of the fun stuff and innovative things you're doing in the classroom. No accomplishment is too small or too big!



[Click Here for the Link!](#)

Thorpe Center

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Newsletter construction by Shea Atkins '23
Hispanic Studies

**HAPPY BLACK
HISTORY MONTH!**



DATES TO REMEMBER



- Feb. 28, 4pm: Maps and Timelines: Low Effort (For Faculty!) Student Project Ideas in the Thorpe Center (Ames 300)
- Mar. 3, 4pm: Faculty Colloquium by Drs. Tara Gerstner and Pennie Gray in Beckman
- Mar. 3, 4pm: University Excellence Award Nominations due to thorpe@iwu.edu
- Mar. 6, noon: May/Summer 2024 Travel Course Planning Workshop - check the Faculty Calendar for the Zoom link
- Mar. 13-17: Spring Recess
- Mar. 22: Academic Advising Begins

Dr. Edgar Lehr's Findings

Robert Harrington Endowed Professor of Biology, Dr. Edgar Lehr, has published with a finding of a new species (the *Proctoporus titans*, dedicated to IWU). He writes, "A new lizard species was discovered from a very remote and unexplored area of the Otishi National Park in Peru and dedicated to IWU. We furthermore named a waterfall, a swamp, and a mountain ridge. The etymology reads: The species epithet *titans* is used in reference to the Titan community of Illinois Wesleyan University, including former, current, and future students, faculty, and staff. We dedicate this species in recognition of the Titans' mission "To go out and do well, but more importantly, to do good." (Lehr, 2023).

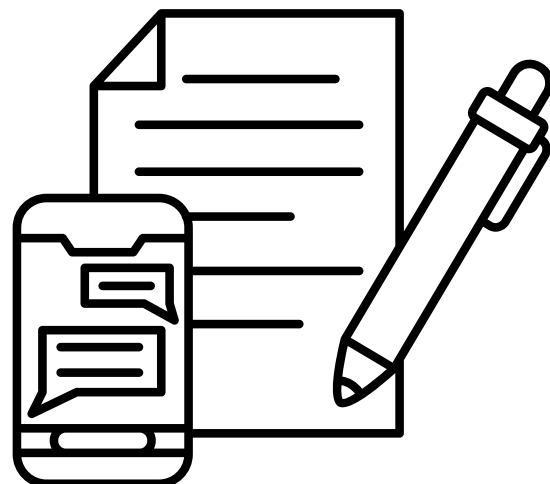


"Preserved holotype of *Proctoporus titans* sp. nov. (MUSM 40916, male) in dorsal (A) and ventral (B) views. SVL 53.9 mm" (Lehr, E., Cusi, J. C., Fernandez, M. I., Vera, R. J., & Catenazzi, A., 2022).

Find the publication here: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/taxonomy3010002>

Michelle Gibbs Promoted to Managing Editor

Head of the B.A. Theatre Arts Program, Dr. Michelle Gibbs has been promoted. She writes, "I am the new managing editor for a peer-reviewed academic journal about Black Theatre and Performance, titled, the Black Theatre Review (tBTR). The Black Theatre Review (tBTR) is a biannual online, peer-reviewed journal published by the Black Theatre Network (BTN). BTN is dedicated to the exploration and preservation of the theatrical visions of the African Diaspora. The goal of tBTR is to explore scholarship, history, and performance of Black peoples and cultures wherever they are expressed throughout the world. Previously, I served on editorial staff for the journal. I also have an article in the first issue of the publication ("Preparing Soul Food: Investigating Performativity vis-à-vis Cultural Memory," July 2022). In my role as managing editor, I will vet articles, book and theatre reviews; assist with permissions and assignment of all reviews; correspond with authors and publishers; and coordinate printing of issues. For more information about the journal, please visit us at <https://journals.librarypublishing.arizona.edu/tbtr/>" (Gibbs, 2023).



Stephanie Davis-Kahl's Resources for All

University Librarian Stephanie Davis-Kahl writes, "Undergraduate research is a specific pedagogical practice with an impact on teaching and learning, and the definition of what counts as research continues to expand to include different types of projects, mentors, and institutions. Diversity, equity, and inclusion in librarians' work with students and faculty are present and growing. Collaborations between faculty, librarians, and students are furthering student knowledge in new ways. This community and an awareness of students' non-academic challenges demonstrate the library's contribution to students' overall sense of belonging within their institutions. This second volume of *Undergraduate Research & the Academic Librarian*—following 2017's first volume—contains 22 new chapters that explore these expanded definitions of research and the changes wrought in the profession and the world in the intervening years. Throughout the book you'll find lesson plans, activities, and strategies for connecting with students, faculty, and undergraduate research coordinators in support of undergraduate engagement and success. *Undergraduate Research & the Academic Librarian, Volume 2*, captures both the big picture view of undergraduate research as well as the front-line work in the classroom, at the reference desk, and online" (Davis-Kahl, 2023).

<https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/undergraduate-research-and-academic-librarian-case-studies-and-best-practices-volume-2>

The Pedagogy Hotspot

Exploring Character Analysis Through a Spotify Playlist
By: Assistant Professor Christie Cole

Assistant Professor Christie Cole writes, "While teaching an upper-level Hispanic literature course dedicated to Don Quixote, one of my goals was to have students experience the seventeenth-century text as deeply connected to our modern world, particularly in regard to the flesh-and-blood characters that Cervantes presents throughout the novel. The Marcela and Grisóstomo episode presents a satirized version of a pastoral novel, in which Marcela, rather than merely serving as the silent muse, plays an active role in her life choices by rejecting the advances of her male suitor Grisóstomo. In class, I started discussion of the text by having students complete an interpersonal communicative activity in which they created playlists for Marcela and Grisóstomo. The songs chosen by the students were meant to reflect each character's personality—power female anthems by singers like Beyonce represented Marcela's independent spirit, and darker, moodier emo music represented Grisóstomo's frustrated romantic advances. After time in groups, students then participated in a presentational communicative activity by presenting their top five songs for each character to the rest of the class. This activity not only generated a lot of discussion and laughs, but it showed me that the students were able to analyze these two characters and see them as connected to questions of female autonomy still deeply relevant to our modern society" (Cole, 2023).



AMES RESOURCES!

Brought to you by: Abby Mann and Stephanie Davis-Kahl

NEW!

What is it and what can it do?

We now have 2 touchscreens on the first floor of the library that highlight digital work created by students in classes and summer research programs. This allows students to interact with each other's work and, hopefully, be inspired for projects of their own!

Who will benefit the most?

This allows students to see what their classmates are doing in ways that we hope strengthen the community of intellectual discovery at IWU.

Explore Fellow Students' Work

IWU Student Projects

highlight some of the visual and digital projects done by IWU students in various classes, fellowships, and internships. Please browse through the below to see what your classmates are up to and to develop ideas for projects of your own. Just touch the image or button of any project you're interested in!

If you'd like to develop a digital project of your own, please reach out to Digital Scholarship Librarian Abby Mann (amann@iwu.edu or stop by Ames 145).

National and Cultural Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes

Click Here to Explore

Bloomington-Normal Community Health Blueprint

Click Here to Explore

We would **LOVE** it if faculty submitted digital projects their students have created for this (with permission from students to post: [here's a form](#)). This can be digital projects like websites, podcasts, interactive maps, etc, or project based outcomes like zines or fliers.

AMES HELP!

Brought to you by:
Stephanie Davis-Kahl

DO YOU NEED DATA?



Visit the ICPSR, "a data archive of more than 250,000 files of research in the social and behavioral sciences. It hosts 21 specialized collections of data in education, aging, criminal justice, public health, criminology, substance abuse, terrorism, and other fields."

Our membership with ICPSR also includes access to:

- summer programs for students & faculty
- scholarships for summer programs
- podcasts, classroom exercises, and more



To access ICPSR, go to:
https://libguides.iwu.edu/stats_data

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) is an international consortium of university, college, and independent research libraries. Founded in 1949, CRL supports original research and inspired teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by preserving and making available to scholars a wealth of rare and uncommon primary source materials from all world regions.

IWU faculty are encouraged to explore and request materials for use in research and the classroom; our membership covers the cost of delivery and/or digitization (depending on the materials requested). Visit our A-Z list on The Ames Library website to access the Center for Research Libraries' catalog and Topic Guides.

If you would like to be featured in the next newsletter follow the link to our Success Survey!

[Click here for the form!](#)