On behalf of the entire Law Library and Academic Technology faculty and staff, we want to extend a hearty welcome to the 2015/2016 entering class and to all returning students. The Law Library and Academic Technology’s soul consists of its dedicated and efficient faculty, staff, and student assistants who are dedicated to providing you with first-rate service.

During summer 2015, the Law Library and Academic Technology faculty and staff were busy working to improve service delivery and other user programs. A few of these deserve brief mention here, but are further detailed in other sections of this newsletter.

**Collaboration Commons** - The Collaboration Common has been expanded to include additional group study areas. All of the shelving and corresponding collections have been relocated to other parts of the Law Library. The Commons now provides additional group cluster areas designed to better accommodate discussion and collaborative work without having to worry about disturbing others who prefer quieter study spaces.

**Blackboard Learn Transition** - At the conclusion of the 2015/15 academic year (i.e., August 2016), we will transition from the current MyTechLaw to the University’s Blackboard course creation, delivery, and classroom management system, which offers more advanced features that may better accommodate student’s and faculty’s learning and teaching styles respectively, including collaborative, and streamlined online capabilities.

**Study Aids** - We have expanded the study aids collection. The print collection is on Reserve, behind the Circulation Desk, where you may browse the collection and check out items for use outside of the Law Library. The digital collection consists of over 430 online titles that are accessible by using your Westlaw sign-in.

These are but a few highlights of the many projects the Law Library and Academic Technology faculty and staff undertook during the 2015 summer to better serve your needs. Again, the faculty and staff work hard to provide you with superior customer experiences. We are continually trying to improve. We welcome your suggestions, please let us know how we are doing.

Finally, let me once more extend a hearty welcome to the 2015/16 entering class and all returning students. We wish each of you a fulfilling, productive, and rewarding school year.

Arturo Torres
Associate Dean, Law Library and Academic Technology
Excellence in Legal Research Fall News

ELR on Blackboard

The Excellence in Legal Research Program is now on the Blackboard course management system. This means that you can now register for courses, access course assignments and other materials, and track your own progress through the ELR Program, all through the ELR Blackboard site! The ELR LibGuide contains instructions for accessing and registering through the ELR Blackboard site here: http://libguides.law.ttu.edu/elr.

Brown-bag Sessions

Beginning this semester, the Law Library Faculty will offer 1-hour ELR courses during the lunch hour. These courses will count as Elective credits for purposes of the ELR curriculum and will cover topics such as scholarly research, legal practice technology, and legal databases. Courses and schedules will be announced throughout the semester.

Class Information

All classes will meet in Computer Lab 226
- Wednesday classes meet 5:30pm-8:30pm
- Friday classes meet 2:00pm-5:00pm
- Saturday classes meet 9:00am-12:00pm

For more information about the ELR Program, go to: http://libguides.law.ttu.edu/elr

Fall 2015 Schedule

Visit the Research and Information Desk for the Answers to All Your Questions!

The Circulation Desk in the front lobby of the Law Library has been re-named the Research and Information Desk. This change is more than cosmetic. The Research and Information Desk is now your one-stop shop for all your library- and research-related questions.

In addition to the excellent services you have come to expect from the Circulation Desk - carrel assistance, course reserves, OASP materials - the Research and Information Desk now provides a computer monitor informing you of which Law Librarian is currently available for answering your legal research questions. Simply ask the Research and Information Desk staff to page the on-call Law Librarian.

But don’t forget that two of our Law Librarians – Marin Dell, and Joshua Pluta – have offices in the Collaborative Commons. Feel free to ask them legal research questions whenever their doors are open!

All of our Law Librarians have legal research experience and many have experience as practicing attorneys. They will be available to assist you with your legal research throughout your time as a student here and for the rest of your professional career. Please do not hesitate to ask us questions!

Elective Course

- Foreign & International Law (Tomes): Wed., Aug. 26 OR Sat., Aug. 29

Required Courses

- Texas Administrative Materials (Dell): Wed., Sept. 16 OR Sat., Sept. 19
- Federal Statutory Research (Baker): Fri., Nov. 6 OR Sat., Nov. 7
The Operations department has been very busy this summer making your Law Library a more collaborative space. We have been moving lots of books all summer long. When you enter the 1st floor of the Law Library things will look very different.

The 1st floor east side is the collaboration area. The remaining books have been moved from this area to other areas throughout the Law Library.

The 1st floor west side also looks different. The tables have been moved along with various collections of books. This area now generally houses primary sources of law, so look for Federal codes, administrative law, and cases digests here as well as Texas materials like the Texas administrative law, Texas codes and Texas cases.

The lower basement still has the beginning of the classified section (A-JZ) as well as journals and various regional and Federal reporters. The superseded material formally in the lower basement has been moved into the classified sections i.e. old Texas codes are now on the 2nd floor with the other Texas material.

Items like Reference material and DVDs have all been relocated behind the Circulation desk, so please check with Circulation staff for help finding these items.

If you have problems finding material please check the catalog for an updated location or check with staff at the Circulation desk and/or a reference librarian. We have also updated our Location Guide with the current location of library material.

Texas Tech Law Library has study aids for all 1L and many upper level law courses available in print and online. Study aids come in many different varieties and for various purposes. Hornbooks are student versions of longer legal treatises and can be invaluable for a close examination of a point of law. Nutshells are a concise paperback series of books that give an excellent overview of the law in a particular subject.

Other study aids, such as the Lexis’ “Understanding” series or the “Examples and Explanations” series, fall somewhere in between the scholarly Hornbooks and the plain language of a Nutshell. Other study aids have additional features, such as Gilbert Law Summaries, which have detailed charts and boxes containing exam tips. The “Mastering” series features review “checkpoints” at the end of each chapter and a master checklist of key points to know to assure the reader that they have studied and noted all the major topics in that area of law. The “Inside” series has many FAQ sections with short questions and answers after a chapter or two of content and a highlighted “sidebar” inset that gives interesting background and explanation of the chapter text. Finally, the “Q & A” series and the “Kaplan PMBR” series of study aids both have extensive multiple choice questions and detailed explanations of both the right and wrong answers. The Kaplan PMBR series also includes substantive course outlines and flowcharts, especially helpful for visual learners.

While many study aids are only available in print at the reference desk, the Law Library has subscribed to the West Academic Study Aids online collection, which can be accessed at http://eproducts.westlaw.com/LeamMore/Study-AidsHome.aspx using your Westlaw OnePass login and password. For more information about access, please see a librarian.

For those times when you want to put the traditional study aids away, the Law Library also has Texas Law and Law in a Flash flash cards and Gilberts and Sum+Substance audio CDs available to check out at the Library’s Circulation Desk.
This year’s Faculty Research Series will focus on Blackboard training as we migrate away from MyTechLaw to Blackboard. The Law Library will host TTU Worldwide eLearning each month as they come to the law building and instruct on Blackboard mechanics and instructional design.

Fall 2015 Faculty Research Series Schedule:

**AUG**
27 12PM-1PM
Welcome Back Faculty - Faculty Conference Room

**SEP**
10 11AM-1PM
Blackboard Basics with Karissa Greathouse TTU Worldwide eLearning - Lab 226

**OCT**
15 12PM-1PM
Blackboard Instructional Design with Tom Dolan TTU Worldwide eLearning Lab 226

**DEC**
12 12PM-1PM
Blackboard Assignments Dropbox with Karissa Greathouse - Lab 226

**NOV**
5 11AM-1PM
Blackboard Assessments: Tests & Pools with Karissa Greathouse - Lab 226

If you cannot attend these training sessions, TTU Worldwide eLearning offers various Blackboard training courses throughout the year at the Teaching, Learning, & Professional Development Center. Learn more at TLPDC’s website. http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpdc

Also, many of the training sessions that will be provided during the Faculty Research series have been recorded at TTU Worldwide eLearning’s website. http://www.depts.ttu.edu/elearning/blackboard

Please contact Jamie Baker at jamie.baker@ttu.edu for more information.

**The Law Library a “Proposal Spot”**

The Law Library can now add “proposal spot” to its list of accomplishments.

In late March 2015, TTU School of Law alumnus Jordan Owens contacted the law school to inquire about proposing to his then-girlfriend, fellow TTU School of Law alumnae Lindsay Nichols.

On April 3, 2015, flowers arrived at the Law Library and were placed where the couple first met – the study tables in the east side of the upper basement. Shortly thereafter, Jordan surprised Lindsay by bringing her to the spot and asking for her hand in marriage. She was surprised and elated, and she said yes! The Law Library couldn’t be happier to have assisted with the proposal, and we wish the happy couple all the best!

**Happy Retirement to Friend and Coworker**

The Law School and the Law Library paid a heartfelt farewell to one of our most trusted and valued staff family members, Daniel Dean.

Dan began his service to the Law School Library as THE IT staff person whom along the years helped to guide and build the foundation of the Law School and Law Library technical resources. From establishing the first email services to being one of the first schools to migrate our security systems to active directory. I know this may not mean much to those who don’t delve behind the scenes but it helped to establish the TTU School of Law and Law Library at the forefront of technology and security even ahead of main campus standards. This was a point of pride for Dan as he spoke of it often.

Dan officially retired and his last day was Fri. May 29th, 2015. He was part of our Law School family for 21 almost 22 years. Dan was an Air Force Veteran and also spoke of his years in the service. He used his years of experience and technical expertise to guide him through his long and successful career at the TTU School of Law. We will miss Dan but wish him the best and we will strive to carry on the tradition of technical excellence set by Dan Dean.