Welcome New Faculty

Brent L. Iverson, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Undergraduate Studies

W.J. and V.M. Raymer Professor and
Distinguished Teaching Professor
Department of Chemistry

Take Home Lessons

You have been hired by one of the world’s great universities because we think you are going to become an accomplished scholar

You are going to teach. Strive for balance by becoming a world-class teacher-scholar
Ranked 30th in the world

Top-ranked faculty and research

UT Austin was just ranked 19th in the world for high-impact science research

- Ranked 12th in Earth and Environmental Sciences
- 19th in Chemistry
- 20th in Physical Sciences

Source: Nature Global Index (June 23, 2015), which tracks publication in the world’s top research journals
What starts here really does change the world – UT’s perfect balance of scholarship and teaching

• Some UT inventions that changed the world in which you grew up

• Innovative education programs that are transforming higher education

What starts here really does change the world

• Lithium battery technology – John Goodenough, Mechanical Engineering

• First micro scale glucose monitor (FreeStyle®) and co-founder of Therasense, now part of Abbott Diabetes Care, Inc. – Adam Heller, Chemical Engineering

• Inventor of Texaphyrin® and co-founder of Pharmacyclicks, just bought by AbbVie for $21 Billion (with a “B”) – Jon Sessler, Chemistry

• Inventor of KinetiSol® processing and a drug formulation that has stopped abuse of oxycontin – James McGinnity, Pharmacy

• Anthim® a commercialized (Elusys, Inc.) cure for late stage anthrax – Jennifer Maynard, George Georgiou and Brent Iverson, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry
What starts here really does change the world – UT’s perfect balance of scholarship and teaching

- Some UT inventions that changed the world in which you grew up
- Innovative education programs that are transforming higher education

What starts here really does change the world

- Signature Courses – Ground-breaking first year courses that prepare students to be more successful college students – School of Undergraduate Studies – now being copied around the state.
- Flags – A reimagined and innovative approach to breadth requirements in an era of widely available substandard on-line courses, commonplace AP testing and dual credit – School of Undergraduate Studies – now being discussed around the country.
- Freshman Research Initiative (FRI) - a program that places hundreds of freshmen in valuable research experiences – College of Natural Sciences – now being copied around the country
- UTeach - an innovative and widely acclaimed teacher preparation program – College of Natural Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Education – now being copied around the country
- Innovative student success initiatives – Provost’s office, David Laude – featured in a New York Times article and a recent PBS special on higher education
As a scholar at UT, you are going to teach. Imagine the impact.

It is the best feeling in the world and deeply rewarding when a former student says “thank you” for inspiring them and making a positive difference in their life.

- Every student you inspire will impact not only themselves, but also their family and friends

- Your role is therefore catalytic and the ultimate impact will be impossible to fully calculate.
As a scholar at UT, you are going to teach.
Imagine the impact.

- Every student you inspire will impact not only themselves, but also their family and friends.
- Your role is therefore catalytic and the ultimate impact will be impossible to fully calculate.
- One of the students you inspire could themselves impact thousands or even millions more!

Distinguished UT Former Students
(small sampling)

**BUSINESS**
- **Marc Seriff**, co-founder, America Online
- **Gary Kelly**, chairman of the board, president, and CEO, Southwest Airlines
- **Michael Dell**, chairman of the board, Dell
- **Robert Cade**, inventor of Gatorade
- **William R. Johnson**, CEO, H.J. Heinz
- **James Truchard**, co-founder and president, National Instruments

**GOV/POLITICS**
- **Laura Bush**, former first lady of the United States
- **Tom C. Clark**, former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
- **Fernando Belaúnde Terry**, former president of Peru
- **Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson**, former first lady of the United States
- **Ann Richards**, former Governor of Texas
Distinguished UT Former Students
(small sampling)

SCIENCE/ARTS
• Stephen S. Vogt, developed Doppler imaging technique
• Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist and director of New York City’s Hayden Planetarium
• John Hamm, actor
• Richard Linklater, Academy Award-nominated film director and screenwriter
• Janis Joplin, singer, inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award

SPORTS
• Bianca Knight, Sanya Richards, Ricky Berens, Cat Osterman, UT student-athletes have now produced a total of 130 Olympic medals, including 73 gold, 37 silver and 20 bronze. 2012 London Olympics, UT would have ranked in a tie for 13th place among all nations in the number of gold medals earned
• Kevin Durant, NBA superstar
• Earl Campbell, Heisman Trophy winner, members of both the Pro Football Hall of Fame and College Football Hall of Fame
• Jordan Spieth, Number 1 golfer in the world

Best life advice I ever heard

• Roy Spence, UT Austin graduate and co-founder of GSD&M, an incredible ad agency in Austin (“Don’t Mess with Texas, I am an American, Bags fly free, We’re Texas”) attributes the following life advice to his grandmother on the day he left for UT Austin:
Best life advice I ever heard

Take grandma Spence’ advice...don’t suck. You are going to teach. Strive to be a world-class teacher-scholar.

“Don’t do something you suck at”

Let’s talk about student learning
My observations:

Some of my close friends are great teachers at UT Austin and they all have two important characteristics in common:

The best teachers don’t just cover material, they are concerned with what the students are actually learning
My observations:

Some of my close friends are great teachers at UT Austin and they all have two important characteristics in common:

The best teachers don’t just cover material, they are concerned with what the students are actually learning.

The best teachers never stop trying new things to improve student learning.

Why listen to what a dean has to say about teaching?

- Member of President’s Tenure and Promotion Committee
- Special responsibility to evaluate teaching portion of every promotion file
Why listen to what a dean has to say about teaching?

- Natural Sciences Advisory Council Teaching Excellence Award, 1993 & 1997
- The Friar's Centennial Teaching Award, 1994
- Texas Exes Teaching Excellence Award, 2000
- Jean Holloway Teaching Excellence Award, 2001
- Academy of Distinguished Teachers, 1999
- UT Board of Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, 2011
- Named State of Texas Piper Professor 2013
- Inaugural President, UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers, 2013-2015

The Little Orange Book: Short Lessons in Excellent Teaching
Hardcover — April 30, 2015
by The University of Texas System Academy of Distinguished Teachers (Author)

- See all formats and editions
  Hardcover
  $16.11
  11 Used from $21.52
  16 New from $17.77

The Little Orange Book captures reflections and tips on teaching and learning from the sixteen members of the University of Texas System Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Its many vignettes span a wide range of tactics and teaching interests, from establishing a safe learning space to classroom silences, from curriculum development to modeling the best teachers, and from giving thanks to those teachers who came before us to leaving our own legacies. The Little Orange Book is the perfect text for first-time college instructors who are just getting started on their instructional careers, as well as longtime faculty who have many experiences in the college-level classroom.
Two things I remember each time I step in front of a class

1. Patience, patience, patience
   A lesson my dad taught my 16-year-old self

2. The mirror effect
   Two senior colleagues, two very different perceptions
Who was the very best teacher you ever had? What made him or her so impressive?

What role do you play in student success?
Take Home Lessons

You have been hired by one of the world’s great universities because we think you are going to become an accomplished scholar.

You are going to teach. Strive for balance by becoming a world-class teacher-scholar - you will get there by focusing on student learning and improvement every semester (“Don’t do something you suck at”)

Q: If students are customers, and if the customer is always right, then what’s the point of attempting to educate them?

A: ---?
Finishing Well by Jim Vick

It’s hard when life has brought acclaim
When heights were mine to climb,
To feel I’m lifted from the game
While I’m still in my prime.

I dream of building once again
A world where students thrive.
Relationships, careers begin,
And futures come alive.

I long once more to throw a pass
Or turn a double play,
Instead of hearing others say
“How do you feel today”?

As other doors are slowly closed
Putting dreams beyond my reach,
I walk the path my parents chose
I pass the torch, I teach.