



Temple College
Faculty Council Vision for 2025–2026:
Embracing Opportunities & Facing Challenges Together

Faculty Council is the official organization providing representation for faculty members at Temple College. We exist as a group effort to promote the best interests of Temple College, its faculty individually and collectively, and the community.

Faculty Council Report to the Temple College Board of Trustees
Nov. 17, 2025

I. News

A. Please join me in congratulating the folks listed below, as they have been elected to serve as a Faculty Council Member-at-Large to represent their division.

- **Business & Career Professions**, Jeremy Graham (FA25-SP26)
- **Fine Arts**, Derek Mudd (FA25-SP26)
- **Health Professions**, Kaitlyn Arnold (FA25-SP26)
- **Liberal Arts**, Geoffrey Lewis (FA25-SP27)
- **Natural Sciences**, Philip Friedman (FA25-SP27)
- **Workforce Development**, Elizabeth Barton (FA25-SP27)

Faculty representing Business & Career Professions, Fine Arts, and Health Professions will serve a one-year term that will end SP26, and those representing Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences, and Workforce Development will serve a two-year term that will end SP27. In the future, all members-at-large will serve two-year terms with those representing Business & Career Professions, Fine Arts, and Health Professions elected in even-numbered years and those representing Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences, and Workforce Development elected in odd-numbered years.

II. Committee Updates

A. Barnhart Award Selection Committee (Erica Perrine, Chair):

- The Barnhart Award Selection Committee is pleased to announce Chad Cryer (Biology) as the 2025-2026 Claudia and W.T. Barnhart Teacher of the Year, and congratulates



the following faculty on their nomination: Lisa Keil (Business Management), Sandra Melendez (Engineering Technology), Aurora Wold-Krogmann (Foreign Languages)

- Chad Cryer Barnhart Nomination and Application Materials (Please see attached.)



April 20, 2025

Dear Barnhart Committee Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that we nominate Professor Chad Cryer for the 2026 Claudia and W.T. Barnhart Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award!

Since Chad first arrived at Temple College in 2020, he has routinely surpassed all norms to ensure Temple College students have an enriching learning experience that they will never forget. Chad's ability to draw his students into a world of scientific interest and discovery is without measure. Perfecting the art of teaching, Chad utilizes a diverse array of skills (including teaching by guitar serenade) to lovingly compel his students to foster questions, comprehend scientific principles, and ultimately enjoy the pursuit of knowledge. His goal is that all of his students, no matter what their background or previous educational experience, succeed and excel. To accomplish this feat, Chad pursues common ground with his students and creates a memorable impression that breaks barriers to learning. As a testament, many students consider him a legend. On more than one occasion, he has dressed up in clothing to portray one of the students in his class, which his students find hilarious and exhilarating! Chad's exceptional passion for teaching is palpable – his students are both energized and motivated by his love for science. He has even been witnessed running from chalkboard to chalkboard with such excitement when teaching a specific topic, that he became winded! Most importantly, his students realize the genuine care and concern he has for each one individually.

Chad's concern and commitment to student success extends well beyond his own courses to the larger student body enrolled in biological science courses at TC. Students taking BIOL 1406 (Biology I for Science Majors) often struggle with the class initially, so Chad developed a series of online study modules (complete with quizzes) covering basic chemistry and other introductory information for incoming students to prepare them for the rigor of the course, which he has offered to others in the Biology Department. These tutorials were not a required task, but something Chad wanted to do to help his students. He also worked with a colleague to produce a pre-assessment quiz for students planning to enroll in BIOL 2401 (Human Anatomy & Physiology I), to help them decide if they should further prepare for A&P before officially taking the class. These projects demonstrate Chad's motivation to enhance success in science courses that students traditionally find challenging.

Perhaps the setting where Chad shines the brightest is in mentoring research students. For several years, he has taught BIOL 2289 (Research Methods in Biology) at the EWCHEC Campus. Not only has he guided several classes in studying the fundamentals of research, from statistical analysis to evaluating published papers, but he has also devoted much of his personal time, including weekends and summers, to ensuring student success in research. As part of this process, Chad completed a course on lichen biology in 2023 to establish research needs that could be filled by Temple College students. This further led him to create an online database that several students will be using for upcoming projects, such as lichen diversity assessments in Central Texas. Currently, Chad is participating in the Texas Master Naturalist Program, receiving training in wildlife and natural resource management, but also laying the foundation for future student research opportunities by working with local landowners and scientists from other institutions to develop collaborative projects.



Those of us who work with Chad know that he is always thinking about ways he can broaden the Temple College student experience. In addition to his work in the classroom and in the field, Chad has served as the primary faculty sponsor for the Temple College Science Club since 2023, and he co-leads an annual student trip to the Texas Academy of Science meeting as well. At this annual meeting of scientists from around the state, students taking the Research Methods class experience a scientific conference firsthand. Previous research students, including those mentored by Chad, are afforded the opportunity to present research findings from their projects to peers in the scientific community, and are also eligible to compete for awards and scholarships.

Personally, Chad's exuberant personality and benevolent nature enable him to work skillfully within the Biology Department as a dependable and dedicated team member, cheering on and supporting his colleagues while maintaining profound and lasting friendships. His recent accolades include recognition as a remarkable educator in 2023, being the recipient of both a NISOD Excellence Award and the Rotary Club of Taylor's Distinguished Educator Award. Clearly, Chad is an outstanding educator and an exceptional member of our faculty, and we are thrilled to nominate him for the 2026 Claudia and W.T. Barnhart Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award!

Sincerely,

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Dear Members of the Faculty Council,

I am extremely honored to accept this nomination for the Claudia and W. T. Barnhart Teacher of the Year Award. As a product of Temple College myself, there is no greater population of students I'd rather be serving than ours. I am grateful for this acknowledgment, and I am happy to share my educational experiences, current and past research projects, student organizations and relevant community service I do to help support our students.

Thank you for the nomination,

Chad Cryer
Assistant Professor of Biology

Educational Degrees:

- Master of Science degree - Texas State University – San Marcos
- Bachelor of Science degree - Mary-Hardin Baylor University
- Associates in Applied Science degree - Blinn College

Teaching Experience:

- Biology Instructor, Associate Professor of Biology - Temple College
- Adjunct Biology Instructor – Austin Community College
- Biology & Chemistry Tutor – Austin Community College Learning Lab

Departmental Contributions:

- Developed an Anatomy & Physiology Assessment Quiz to help student determine whether Biol 2401/2101 “Human A&P I” or Biol 2404 “Intro A&P” is the correct path forward of them.
- I developed a “Self-paced mini course in Biology” to help provide students with a foundation of biological topics prior to the first exam, because its often the case that how they perform on the first exam sets the tone for the rest of the semester. In testing the following 2 years, the groups that had access to the self-paced mini in course in biology do have higher overall grades that the groups that did not. I aim to expand that self-paced mini course to Anatomy & Physiology classes.
- Over the academic years of 2022-2025 I've mentored 23 students through summer research projects. 7 of those students have presented their data at the Texas Academy of Science annual conferences over the following topics:
 - Ultraviolet reflectance of lichens incorporated into ruby-throated hummingbird nests

- Cannibalistic tendencies of freshwater planaria
 - Lichens as biological indicators of air quality in Central Texas
 - Varroa mite levels in feral bee colonies in Central Texas
 - Prevalence of nasal bot flies in Central Texas white-tailed deer
 - Lichen distribution as it relates to tree species, UV-C exposure levels, bark and soil pH, stemflow of individual tree morphology, etc.
- A total of 5 of these students graduated with Biological Honors on their degree, which will make them much more attractive to potential research institutions.

Current Educational Projects:

- My research teams are attempting to build an online lichen density of map of Central Texas using the iNaturalist App in combination with their field research. This will help illuminate air quality levels in association with things like urban sprawl, or agricultural practices.
- I'm also in the process of developing a Self-paced mini course in Anatomy & Physiology that will aim to improve student success rates in A&P courses by exposing them to important course topics at their own pace prior to enrolling in a course.

Student Involvement:

- Primary organizer for the Biology Club. Our goals include providing opportunities for students and the public to participate in field activities that will help participants learn about native plants and animals, our local Texas geology and to discuss hot topics and current events in biology.

Community Involvement:

- Texas Master Naturalist 2025 inductee. Partnering with the Texas Master Naturalist program has greatly increased the opportunities I can offer my research students. Without access to the professionals I've met through the TMN program, I would not be able to mentor as many students as I do.
- Texas Historical Society member, Texas Archeology Society member.

Grants and Awards:

- GRIT Distance Learning Micro-Grant
- Best Practices of Teaching Micro-Grant
- NISOD Teaching Excellence Award
- Distinguished Educator Award from Taylor Rotary Club
- Course Quality Champions – Phase 2 & 3