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Lawrence Bank is a rotator from the City College of New York. He served as the lead program director for the NSF solicitation focused on the Science of Sustainable Buildings (EFRI-SEED). He received a Ph.D. in Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the following journals: Construction and Building Materials, Journal of Composites for Construction (which he founded in 1997) and Advances in Structural Engineering. He is the author of the widely-used textbook “Composites for Construction: Structural Design with FRP Materials.”

Suzanne Barbour  
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Suzanne Barbour is the Cluster Leader in the Cluster on Cellular Dynamics and Function/Before joining the NSF, she was faculty in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on phospholipid metabolism and phospholipases A2 in mammalian systems.

Christopher Clifton  
CISE – Computer and Information Science and Engineering  
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Christopher Clifton is on leave from Purdue University, where he works on data privacy, particularly with respect to analysis of private data, including privacy-preserving data mining, data de-identification and anonymization, limits on identifying individuals from data mining models, and more broadly on data mining of text and data mining techniques applied to interoperation of heterogeneous information sources. He examines database support for widely distributed and autonomously controlled information, often related to data privacy. Prior to joining Purdue, Chris was a principal scientist in the Information Technology Division at the MITRE Corporation, and before that, an assistant professor of computer science at Northwestern University. He did his Ph.D. at Princeton and B.S. and M.S. at M.I.T.
Samantha Brewton Hunter  
BFA – Budget, Finance and Award Management  
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Samantha Hunter is a grants policy specialist in NSF’s policy office where she is responsible for proposal and award policy review, analysis, interpretation and implementation. She collaborates on the development of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide, which integrates NSF’s Grant Proposal Guide and the Award and Administration Guide. Samantha conducts various outreach meetings for public and private sector research and grants administration officials. She also serves as webmaster for BFA, with particular focus on the Division of Institution and Award Support. For fun, Samantha is the cheerleading coach for Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Kevin Leight  
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Kevin Leight is currently serving as a sociology program officer while on leave from the University of Iowa, where he is professor and former chair of the Department of Sociology and past director of the Iowa Social Science Research Center at the University of Iowa. He has written extensively on issues relating to economic development, globalization, and political sociology, on work was funded by the NSF, National Institutes of Health, Spencer Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, and his published articles have appeared in the American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, the Academy of Management Journal, Law and Society Review, and other outlets.

Yusheng (Christopher) Liu  
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Yusheng (Christopher) Liu is a program director in the Sedimentary Geology & Paleobiology (SGP) Program. While he manages SGP’s daily operations, he is also a member of the program director team overseeing two large interdisciplinary programs, GoLife (Genealogy of Life) and ADBC (Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collection), in NSF’s Directorate of Biological Sciences. Chris was an NSF CAREER Award receipt in 2007.
NSF DAY SPEAKERS-From NSF
May 20, 2015
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Susan Mason
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Susan Mason joined the National Science Foundation as a legislative specialist in 1990, rising to become head of External Affairs in 2000. Among her other achievements, she was director of Congressional relations at the National Archives & Records Administration, Congressional relations specialist at the Civil Aeronautics Board, and early in her career, she produced and directed a monthly, two-hour, live radio program, organized major concerts, and arranged station promotions and contests for KSON AM & FM in La Mesa, California. As head of External Affairs for NSF, Susan audits and plans strategic communications, as well as develops/produces media programs, media relations initiatives, and communication training programs.

Paul Morris
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Paul Morris completed a Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Oxford, working in the area of satellite design and data processing. After completing a UK research council fellowship at Oxford he accepted a position at the National Science Foundation as a program officer in the Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences Division. Paul’s background in computational science and big-data has been utilized at NSF to develop a set of innovative data-mining, text-analytics and machine-learning tools that are used within the Foundation for research and development portfolio analysis. These tools and techniques are currently being shared with other federal agencies to better understand the federal research investment.

James Neff
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James Neff is a program director currently serving as the coordinator for all AST Individual Investigator programs and as the Lead for the Stellar Astrophysics part of the Astronomy & Astrophysics Grants program. He is on an IPA detail from the College of Charleston, where he is a professor of Physics & Astronomy. He received his PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Colorado. His research interests include the solar-terrestrial and solar-stellar connections, high-resolution spectroscopy, as well as robotic observatory facilities and astronomical instrumentation.
Lisa-Joy Zgorski
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Lisa-Joy Zgorski is a public affairs specialist and NSF Days lead. Since joining NSF in 2007, she has received Director's Awards for work with CISE and the National Science Board. Her other “beats” have included OIA, SBE, Physics, Astronomy and NSF’s International Office. Prior to NSF, Lisa-Joy’s career highlights included serving as a legislative aide for U.S. Rep. Barbara Kennelly (CT); press secretary for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and (then candidate, now) Gov. Dan Malloy (CT), and public affairs manager in the press offices of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown; the Office of Management and Budget, the National Commission on Federal Elections Reform and The Century Foundation. She holds an MPP from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College; and certificates in policy studies from Dartmouth College and the Charles University Law Faculty in Prague.

Elizabeth VanderPutten
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Elizabeth VanderPutten has been a program officer for almost 14 years, managing awards in research on teacher education and cyber enabled learning tools. She has served as acting deputy division director and chair of the CAREER Coordinating Committee. Before coming to DRL, she served as branch chief in the Division of Administrative Services and before that, in the Division of Information Systems. Prior to coming to NSF, Elizabeth was a program director in the National Institute of Education where she served as the executive secretary for Secretary Bell’s Task Force on Educational Technology and research director for a Congressionally mandated study of school finance. As an independent consultant, she co-led a major national meeting for Vice President Mondale on Youth Employment and served as a consultant to the World Bank.
NSF DAY SPEAKERS-From TTU
May 20, 2015
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Robert V. “Rob” Duncan
Vice President for Research and Professor of Physics
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Robert V. “Rob” Duncan came to TTU in January 2014, prior to which, he served as the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Missouri (MU). Earlier in his career, he held a number of academic positions at UNM and CalTech. He has served as principal investigator on a fundamental physics research program for NASA. He was the founding director of the New Mexico Consortium’s Institute at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He also formed the Sidney Kimmel Institute for Nuclear Renaissance (SKINR) at MU; and the Center for Emerging Energy Sciences (CEES) at TTU (in 2015), both of which seek to understand the origins of the Anomalous Heat Effect (AHE) in certain metals that are loaded with hydrogen isotopes. Throughout his career, Rob has received more than $25 million in funding on research efforts that he has led as principal investigator.

Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell
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Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Toxicology. She has had continuous NSF funding since 2009 and has received $3.7 million in NSF funding as PI/Co-PI. She has received funding from EHR’s Division of Undergraduate Education and MPS’ Division of Mathematical Sciences to conduct STEM education, research and outreach efforts. She has also received funding from the Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems (CBET) in the Directorate of Engineering to assess the environmental safety of carbon nanotubes; this funding has resulted in several publications and a pending US patent.

Dominic Casadonte
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Dominick Casadonte is Minnie Stevens Piper Professor. He has served as chair of the department as well as Interim dean of the Graduate School. Dominic’s research involves nanomaterial fabrication, environmental remediation, supramolecular photochemistry, and photoactive metallopolymer synthesis. He has been principal or co-principal Investigator on research and outreach grants totaling $9.6 million. His principal funding sources have included NSF MSP, NSF DGE, and NSF DUE. He has been a Dreyfus Fellow, a Fulbright Scholar, and an NSF Discovery Corps Fellow.
Jennifer Horn
Director of Translational Research and Entrepreneurialism
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Jennifer Horn serves as the director of translational research and entrepreneurialism in the Office of the Vice President for Research, in which she is responsible for establishing programs that support the expansion of a knowledge-based economy based upon Texas Tech’s research capabilities. Jennifer came to the TTU’s Office of the Vice President for Research from the Office of Research Services, where she served as associate managing director. She received her Juris Doctor from the TTU’s School of Law and also taught at the law school. Before coming to work at Texas Tech, she was in private practice in Lubbock, Floydada and Olton, Texas. She has served as associate general counsel for the TTU System, and as a staff attorney for the Seventh District Court of Appeals in Amarillo.

Keith Jones
Director of Psychological Sciences
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Dr. Jones is a human factors psychologist who specializes in human-computer interaction. His research has examined the effectiveness of brain-computer interfaces, how people with and without visual impairments navigate the Web, and how best to design Web-based education materials, Web browsers, video games, and cyber-security threat indicators. Recently, he has primarily focused on human-robot interaction, including users’ interactions with tele-operated and autonomous systems. He was a Co-PI on a NSF-funded project concerning sonifying cyber-security threat indicators and is currently the PI on a NSF-funded project regarding the design of caregiver robots that enable elders to age in place.

M. Duane Nellis
President

M. Duane Nellis began serving as TTU’s 16th president in June 2013. As an internationally recognized scholar and national higher education leader, President Nellis has been committed to enhancing TTU’s presence as a top tier national public research university through efforts that promote even greater levels of student success, academic quality and reputation, research and creative activities, and outreach dimensions. He has defined Texas Tech 21st century pillars of excellence around such themes as being more entrepreneurial, more engaged, with a commitment to inter-disciplinary activities and global connections, while enhancing diversity. He serves as chief executive officer of a university with more than 35,000 students, 1,400 faculty and 4,000 staff, and a budget of over $800 million. As the flagship university of the TTU System, Texas Tech was the first university in the state of Texas to qualify for National Research University funding (NRUF) and is a Carnegie high research activity national research university. He created growth opportunities with the President's Administrative Fellows Program and President’s Leadership Institute which faculty and staff the chance to enhance professional leadership traits and develop the necessary skills for administrative positions in the future.