Dr. Brian King made a visit to American Airlines’ fabulous and futuristic “campus” at Fort Worth, Texas. A warm welcome and constructive discussions with David Capossela and colleagues about prospective opportunities for Texas A&M University students. An inspiring place to consider future possibilities.

[https://onemileatatime.com/american-airlines-headquarters/](https://onemileatatime.com/american-airlines-headquarters/).

Dr. Courtney Suess-Raeisinafchi, Dr. Brian King and Dr. Candy Tang, as well as graduate students Omar Youssef and Jai Girard attended the 2022 International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE). Dr. Suess and Omar presented two travel oriented papers, while Jai attended the NENA Federation Conference and joined the Beverage Special Interest Group for ICHRIE.

Dr. Jamie Rae Walker and the AgriLife Extension WOW-E Team conducted one of their key Year 4 efforts, the WOW-E Youth Summit. Twelve teens attended the Summit and learned how to make change and empower their communities!

[Here is a link to the video.](#)
Our, until recently, Associate Department Head, Susan Scott, has headed off into her next chapter: retirement. It has been an honor to work with Susan, and she will always be a part of the RPTS family. Best wishes going forward, Susan!

With centralization of the Business Services Unit, we will soon be saying farewell to Kathy Junek and Clara Aguilar when they move to the fifth floor. Although they are relocating, they will still be part of our RPTS family!
Recognitions

We are delighted to congratulate our Site Superintendent, and former RPTS student, Jonathan Failor, for his being awarded the 2022 State Historic Site Manager’s Award! This well-deserved honor represents Jon’s work leading the awesome team at Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Star of the Republic Museum, Barrington Plantation, and Fanthorp Inn. It’s a big job leading his large team, though Jon does it with excellence and gusto. Well done!

Dr. Jun Wang has been admitted to the 2022-2023 Mentored Research Academy: R01 Boot Camp. The Boot Camp is a 9-month mentoring program to support and increase the success rate of faculty who are applying for their first NIH R01. Congrats Dr. Wang!

Award Letter  Boot Camp Schedule

On July 14th, Dr. Jim Petrick participated as a keynote speaker during the 92nd TOSOK Busan International Tourism Conference in South Korea, where he spoke about envisioning the future of tourism research.

A newly published book, "A Curriculum for Developing and Training Experience Designers", has just been co-authored by a team of our exceptionally talented faculty and graduate students. Drs. Gary Ellis, Darlene Locke, Pattie Freeman, and Jingxian Jiang, as well as Alexandra Skrocki, Kaylee Janes, and Allen Taggart all worked on this fabulous project. Well done, all!
Department Events

It may be 100 degrees outside, but that didn’t stop RPTS from celebrating Christmas in July!

On Wednesday, July 27th, RPTS celebrated World Conservation Day. This day raises awareness about the importance of natural resources and conservation. Conservation starts with us!

Faculty and Staff celebrating July and August birthdays include:

- Dr. Brian King
- Dr. John Crompton
- Dr. John Thomas
- Mrs. Kelly Kyle
- Dr. Donna Lee Sullins
- Dr. Jim Petrick
- Dr. Heather Eden

We wish you the best!