

(<http://www.twitter.com/TAMULiberalarts>) (<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/DZR.woa/wa/viewTagged?tag=Liberal+Arts&id=387492114>) ([feeds.html](http://feeds.html)) (<http://www.facebook.com/tamu.liberal.arts>)



## **Three Liberal Arts associate professors named Ray A. Rothrock '77 Fellows**

9/7/2012

Steve Balsis, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, Britt Mize, Associate Professor in the Department of English, and Ke-Li Xu, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics have been appointed Ray A. Rothrock '77 Faculty Research Fellows.

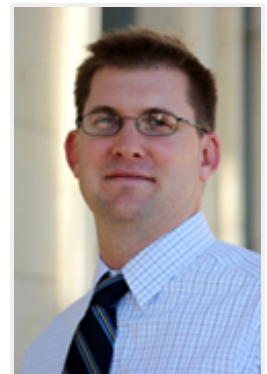
With a significant gift from Mr. Ray A. Rothrock '77, the College created the Ray A. Rothrock '77 Fellows Program. This program is intended to recognize annually three or four newly-promoted, highly recommended associate professors with three-year awards. These are intended to support exceptionally promising post-promotion projects and outstanding teaching that should enable the recipient to make significant contributions in research, teaching, and service to the department, college, and university.

“These are exceptional faculty members, and we want to recognize and encourage their efforts with resources that will help them continue to develop as scholars and teachers,” said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts José Luis Bermúdez. “That, ultimately, is the intent of the fellowship. We are very grateful to Ray Rothrock for endowing this very important program.”

Here are brief profiles for the three recipients:

### **Steve Balsis, Department of Psychology**

Steve Balsis received his doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis. He joined the Texas A&M University faculty in 2007 as an assistant professor. Specializing in clinical psychology, Balsis has been teaching both upper and lower level abnormal psychology courses in the Department of Psychology. His research focuses on personality changes that occur with aging and advancing personality assessment tools for older age groups. Balsis also has a second line of research focused on the measurement of dementia. The goal here is to hasten the early detection of Alzheimer's disease, which is a critical step in managing the disease. His most recent studies are aimed at improving the detection of change in clinical trials of Alzheimer's disease medications.





### **Britt Mize, Department of English**

Britt Mize earned his doctorate in 2003 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in Old and Middle English language and literature as well as literary and cultural theory. Before joining the Texas A&M faculty in 2006, Mize was an assistant professor at California State University at Long Beach. In his time at TAMU he has taught eleven distinct upper-division and graduate courses on medieval English literature and the history of the English language, in addition to supervising independent studies, honors projects, and extracurricular graduate reading groups each summer. Mize has published work in several internationally respected journals, and his new book will be released this year. Much of his research focuses on the concept of tradition and its manipulation to serve new purposes. Mize has also worked with various departmental committees, and this academic year, he will begin his second year as Associate Director of Graduate Studies.

### **Ke-Li Xu, Department of Economics**

Ke-Li Xu received his doctorate from Yale University in 2007, specializing in econometrics. Before joining Texas A&M in 2011, Xu was an assistant professor at the University of Alberta in Canada, where he taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in business statistics and data analysis. Xu's research interests are in econometric theory and financial econometrics. He has eleven refereed articles in eight different journals, and his publications go beyond economics publication, with two published works in mathematics journals. During his first year at Texas A&M University, Xu made notable contributions to the Department of Economics by organizing the Texas Camp Econometrics XVI academic conference, serving on the Ph.D. Qualifier Exam Committee and coordinating the econometrics seminar in 2011. This academic year, Xu will continue his service to the department on the Graduate Instruction Committee and teach three graduate econometrics courses.



-30-

Contact: Dini Susanto, [dini.susanto@libarts.tamu.edu](mailto:dini.susanto@libarts.tamu.edu) <<mailto:dini.susanto@libarts.tamu.edu>>, 979.845.6061