

Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholars Research Guide

Summer 2023



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Melbern G. Glasscock
Center for Humanities Research

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholars (UGSS) Program is supported by the **Glasscock Center for Humanities Research (GCHR)**, the **University Writing Center (UWC)**, and **LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research**. The objective of the program is to expand undergraduate research in the humanities by providing an intensive summer research experience in which students are introduced to important research questions, trained in methods of research and analysis, and guided in the development of critical thinking, independent learning, and communications skills.

Summer scholars enroll in a two-week intensive seminar taught by their respective Faculty Directors. During the seminar, groups of 3-5 students are immersed in a focused topic and develop a research question that they continue to investigate under the mentorship of their Faculty Directors for the remaining 8 weeks of the summer. Students attend 8 weeks of writing workshops created especially for this program through the University Writing Center on a variety of topics relating to: How to Use the Library; How to Formulate a Research Question and Answer It (methods, research); Writing a Proposal Topic; and Peer Review of Draft.

Following the 10-week summer session, students will develop individual proposals for a research thesis that they will complete during the academic year under the guidance of their Faculty Director. This program is a gateway into participation in the Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) program. Ultimately, scholars will produce a thesis as part of their scholarship application. Students will receive a \$2,000 scholarship for participation.

At the conclusion of the program, students will publish their theses either in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Capstone Collection or a scholarly journal. Students are encouraged to present their research at academic conferences, research symposia, and serve as ambassadors for undergraduate research. The goal of UGSS is to position students for competitive applications for graduate and professional school and sharpen their research and writing skills.

For more information, visit tx.ag/gchrUGSS.

PROGRAM BENEFITS



Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholars will:

- Develop a focused research question
- Make a public presentation
- Produce a written humanistic thesis to be published in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Capstone Collection or a scholarly journal
- Establish a professional network of students and faculty
- Receive a \$2,000 scholarship to help allay the costs of summer tuition and other expenses related to research
- Obtain access to a shared office space in the Glasscock Building for the summer
- Earn a university-level honors transcript distinction along with a URS medallion as official graduation regalia
- Expand their knowledge of the humanities and social sciences
- Build a skillset that will guide their success in current and future coursework
- Become competitive applicants for graduate or professional schools, fellowships, and grants

Did you know?

Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholars who complete their thesis receive special graduation regalia!



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholars learn an array of skills that will guide them through their college education and early careers:



Practice Critical Thinking Skills

Undergraduate humanities research encourages critical thinking skills by challenging students to analyze, interpret, and evaluate cross-disciplinary connections.



Enhance Communication Skills

Through the process of researching and presenting their findings, students learn to effectively articulate empirical and non-empirical research to diverse audiences.



Develop a Professional Network

Humanities research often involves collaboration with professors and other students, providing opportunities to cultivate meaningful connections and develop a professional network.



Contribute to Academic Discussions

Undergraduate humanities research makes meaningful contributions to academic knowledge and discourse, advancing understanding in various fields at Texas A&M and beyond the Texas A&M community.



Foster Personal and Professional Growth

Participation in research programs can lead to personal and professional growth by developing self-confidence, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of one's academic interests and beliefs.

WHY RESEARCH?

Research Rankings

Texas A&M pursues teaching, research, and service at the exceptionally high levels expected of America's great universities. Texas A&M is a top tier research university with international recognition. It is **one of only 65 invited members** of the Association of American Universities (AAU). The College of Arts and Sciences, specifically, is responsible for more than \$140 million of that research, including millions in indirect cost return that is reinvested in new and continuing projects ([Texas A&M Division of Research, 2021](#)).

UGSS News:

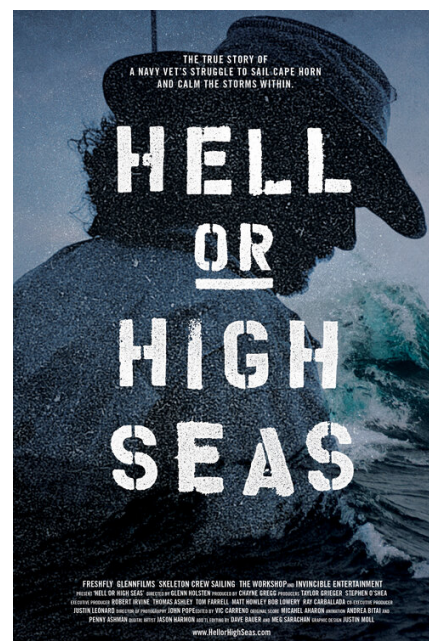
Former Glasscock Undergraduate Summer Scholar, **Stephen O'Shea '13** released a documentary in 2021 about veterans and their stories. During the pilot year of the Glasscock UGSS program, O'Shea developed a project on veterans' narratives with his Faculty Director, Dr. Marian Eide.

Hell or High Seas follows U.S. Navy veteran Taylor Grieger and writer Stephen O'Shea as they embark on the adventure of a lifetime — sailing around Cape Horn, the world's most treacherous ocean waters. The documentary is a moving portrait of a veteran using his own painful journey with PTSD to find healing for himself, and pave a smoother path for veterans returning to civilian life. From director Glenn Holsten, producer Chayne Gregg, and executive producer Robert Irvine, *Hell or High Seas* is an adventure film with a deep, universal message about perseverance and hope.

For more information about O'Shea's project inspired by his UGSS research, visit hellorhighseas.com.



Stephen O'Shea sailing on the Ole Lady



SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

How many credit hours does the UGSS summer course qualify for?

Glasscock UGSS participants receive a \$2,000 scholarship towards their summer tuition. The summer course may be taken as either a 0-credit hour, or as a credit-bearing course.

Students may elect to take the summer course as a 0-credit hour if their financial aid status may be affected by accruing additional hours. Students who choose to do so should bear in mind that this will delay a receipt of your scholarship funds.

Due to University regulations, scholarship funds cannot be disbursed for a term in which the student is not enrolled in credit-bearing courses. Therefore, in these cases, the scholarship disbursement would be postponed until the following semester.

For more information, visit <https://financialaid.tamu.edu/>.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an undergraduate thesis?

The Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis is a professional document that reflects the culmination of an individual student's or team of students' unique research project. Students in the program will either utilize the Arts, Humanities, or Social Science Template or the Creative Works Template to develop their theses.

Does my UGSS experience qualify for course credit?

Yes! Your UGSS summer seminar can be coded for 0-3 hours of credit-bearing coursework. In the fall and spring, your research seminars can also count for up to 3 hours. In total, students in the program can benefit from up to 9 hours of research credit on their transcript.

Note: 0-credit 491 courses show up on student transcripts but will not affect their degree plan hours or add tuition costs.

Can I earn Honors credit for undergraduate research?

Yes. If you are a student in the University Honors Program or a Departmental Honors Program, your research will be coded as a UGST 497 Honors Research Capstone Experience. Please reach out to a University Honors Program advisor to determine how many credits to take.



"The Ethics of Social Punishment"
2019 UGSS seminar
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Linda Radzik (PHIL)
Scholars: Jordan Dunlap, Jacob Espinoza-Stewart, Tory Martin, Eric Nash, Ava Ryan



"Environments and Religions of the Middle East and North Africa, ca. 600-2022 C.E."
2023 UGSS seminar
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Side Emre (HIST)
Scholar pictured: Katherine Fielder

My degree plan requires me to complete a capstone project. Is undergraduate research the same thing as a capstone?

A capstone is defined as a year-long integrative experience that allows students to combine their career goals, majors, and interests in faculty-mentored independent projects that focus on leadership, research, community service, or teaching. Students in honors programs can use the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program to fulfill their capstone requirement, or apply for a departmental capstone. Students should consult with their departmental and honors advisors to determine additional requirements and/or eligibility for capstone experiences.

How is humanities research different from STEM research?

Humanities research tends to use (but is not limited to) qualitative methods, such as textual analysis, ethnography, and interviews, whereas STEM research relies heavily on quantitative methods, such as experimentation, statistical analysis, and modeling. Further, humanities research questions tend to be open-ended, exploring the complexities of human experience, whereas STEM research questions are often focused on specific problems or phenomena that can be quantified and measured.

Is the program difficult?

Like any research program, the UGSS/UGR experience is challenging. However, your research experience is accompanied by support from the Glasscock Center, your faculty advisor, and various units, such as the University Libraries, University Writing Center, and LAUNCH. Should you wish to receive more support in your research journey, you may find it useful to reach out to other faculty members from your previous courses for assistance or general advice as well as affiliated departments that you see fit. Our goal is to best support you. Please do not hesitate to reach out for more assistance.



"Energy, Environment and Literatures and Film from the Global South"

2021 UGSS seminar

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Carmela Garritano (GLAC)

Scholar pictured: Lauren Curtis

May

- UGSS: 2-week intensive seminar with Faculty Director
- DATA Program application opens (*optional*)

June

- UGSS: 8-week UWC Workshops Begin



September

- URS: Application deadline



October

- URS: Monthly small group meeting between students and assigned thesis reviewer

January

- URS: Thesis formatting workshop option #1 (only one session required)

February

- URS: Presentation practice session (*optional*)
- URS Symposium (*optional*)
- URS: Installment 2 and Spring progress report due
- URS: Thesis help drop-in session

TIMELINE

July

- UGSS: UWC writing workshops continue

August

- UGSS: Public presentation schedule opens



November

- URS: POWER writing productivity session
- URS: Monthly small group meeting
- URS: Fall progress report due

December

- UGSS: Continue independent research time



March

- URS: Monthly small group meeting
- URS: Final thesis help drop-in session

April

- URS: Final thesis deadline
- URS: Public presentation report deadline



TIPS FOR MANAGING LONG PROJECTS



Start with a clear research question and plan.

- Before starting your research project, take some time to develop a clear research question and plan. This will help you stay focused and organized throughout the project. Break down your research question into smaller, realistic research goals and create a timeline for completing each goal.

Choose a topic you are interested in.

- When you choose a topic of interest, you will likely find it easier to apply your energy to previous knowledge found within the field of study or your future projects/goals. Your interests will provide you with a wealth of information that will help you advance your career.

Keep detailed notes and records.

- As you conduct your research, keep detailed notes and records of your findings. This will help you keep track of your progress and make it easier to write up your final project. Use citation management software to help you keep track of your sources and create a bibliography.

Schedule regular check-ins.

- Make sure to schedule regular check-ins with your Faculty Director to discuss your progress and get feedback on your work. This will help you maintain personal accountability for your research goals.

Take breaks and utilize productivity methods.

- Long research projects can be difficult to manage effectively. Use productivity techniques such as the Pomodoro technique to help you stay focused and set clear research goals.



tx.ag/pomodoro



SETTING GOALS



The UGSS Program encourages students to create SMART goals when managing their thesis projects. Specifically, when students consult their Faculty Directors, they are encouraged to outline SMART goals for their regular check-ins to ensure the smooth progression of their projects over the course of the school year.

Specific: What *exactly* are you trying to accomplish?

Measurable: How will you know when you will achieve it?

Attainable: Is it genuinely possible to achieve it?

Realistic: Does it contribute to your thesis project's growth?

Time-Bound: By when do you want to achieve it?



DATA Program

The Dissertation Article and Thesis Assistance (DATA) program is a semester-long program designed to support graduate students working on a thesis, dissertation, or article for publication. Undergraduates working on an undergraduate thesis are also welcome to apply.

When you participate in DATA, you attend weekly meetings with the same writing consultant at a time worked out between you and the DATA administrator (e.g., Tuesdays at 1 pm). Throughout the semester, you spend time each week independently developing the project, whether by researching, writing, or revising. Depending on where you are in your process, you may decide to use your meetings for brainstorming, feedback, accountability, or a combination of the three.

For more information about the DATA Program, visit tx.ag/DATAprogram.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES RESOURCES

Citation Tools

- RefWorks
- Endote
- Zotero
- Mendeley
- Bluebook Citations Guide
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index
- or RSVP for a TAMU Libraries workshops on citation management

tx.ag/citationbasics

GetitForMe

Request books, articles, theses, dissertations, and other materials for free from the Texas A&M University Libraries or other libraries in the world.



tx.ag/getitforme

Write Right Podcast

This student-produced podcast series explores a variety of communication-related topics. (Accessible on SoundCloud and iTunes)



tx.ag/UWCwriteright

Humanities Research Databases

- Academic Search Ultimate
- JSTOR
- Westlaw
- Lexus Nexus
- Philosopher's Index
- Ethics, Science, Technology, and Engineering: A Global Resource
- Anthropological Literature
- America: History & Life with Full Text
- Municipal Laws and Ordinances

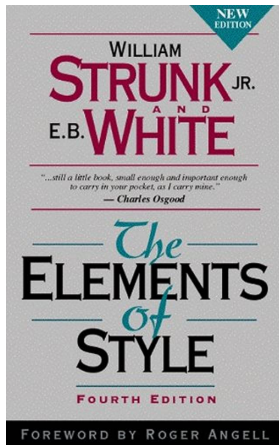
tx.ag/librarydatabases



LIBRARIES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

HELPFUL WRITING GUIDES

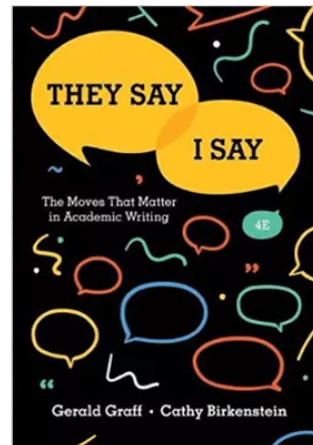
Free PDFs of the following writing guides are available online:



Strunk, William I. 1999. **The Elements of Style**. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.



tx.ag/StrunkWhite



Birkenstein, Cathy, and Gerald Graff. 2018. **They Say / I Say**. 4th ed. New York, NY: WW Norton.



tx.ag/TheySayISay



University Writing Center
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The **University Writing Center (UWC)** provides free writing and speaking guides, podcasts, interactive lessons, and videos for students to use for their writing projects. Below are a few helpful guides that you may find useful:

- Annotated Bibliography
- The Perfect Thesis Proposal
- Research Papers
- Research Posters
- Scholarly Journal Articles
- Research Writing Process



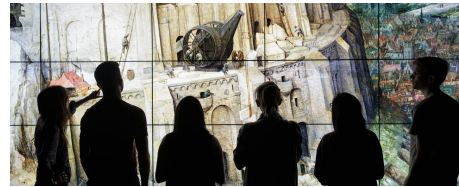
For more information, visit writingcenter.tamu.edu/Students/Writing-Speaking-Guides.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Matthew Bizzell bizzellmatthew@tamu.edu	Program Coordinator I	
University Writing Center		
Nancy Vasquez nvasquez@tamu.edu	Director	Writing Studios
Tiffany Tigges narrowpath95@tamu.edu	Writing Consultant II	



PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH



TAMU Student Research Week

This four-day competition highlights student research occurring on the Texas A&M campus. Students who participate are provided a venue to present their work through either oral presentations or poster sessions. This event allows students, faculty, and the community to see the depth and breadth of research conducted at Texas A&M. Since 1996, SRW has been a valuable tool in meeting the university's mission of academic, research, and service excellence. SRW is a premier program of the Graduate and Professional Student Government and is supported by several academic and non-academic departments on campus. Student Research Week (SRW) is the largest student-run research symposium in the nation usually held in the Spring semester.

For more information, visit srw.tamu.edu.



Did you know?

***Sarah Kelly '23, a former
Glasscock
Undergraduate Summer
Scholar, won 1st place at
the 2021 SRW!***





LAUNCH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium

The symposium features both poster and oral presentations in a variety of disciplines by undergraduate researchers who participate in the LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program. The program provides undergraduates with a graduate student experience by allowing them to participate in research, produce a professional document and communicate their findings as principal authors to the university's scholarly community.

Note: The LAUNCH URS Symposium fulfills the URS thesis program requirement for students to complete a public presentation and offers them a chance to receive constructive feedback on their research projects and presentation skills. Faculty, staff, post-docs and graduate students attend both oral and poster presentations as active listeners and provide feedback on research projects and presentation skills.

For more information, visit tx.ag/URSsymposium.



The Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference (CTURC)

The Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference (CTURC) is a student-organized conference hosted by The University of Texas at Austin. Volunteers from The Senate of College Councils – Undergraduate Research Committee and The Texas Undergraduate Research Journal work together to organize the conference.

CTURC allows undergraduate researchers, from all majors and universities in Texas, to present their original research. The two different presentation styles are Poster Presentation and Oral Google Slides Presentation. Its mission is to provide a collaborative interdisciplinary environment that increases visibility and promotes the importance of undergraduate research across the state of Texas.

For more information, visit tx.ag/CTURC.

GETTING PUBLISHED

At the conclusion of their research experience, students can choose to:

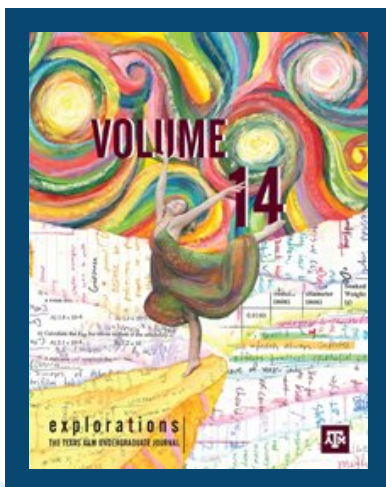
1. Publish their research in the [OakTrust](#) TAMU Theses and Dissertations Repository
2. Place an embargo on their theses for up to three years to allow students to publish their work in a scholarly journal



Definition:

In academia, an "embargo" is a restriction placed on a thesis or dissertation that allows only the title, abstract, and citation information to be released to the public, while the full text of the work is kept hidden for a limited period of time.

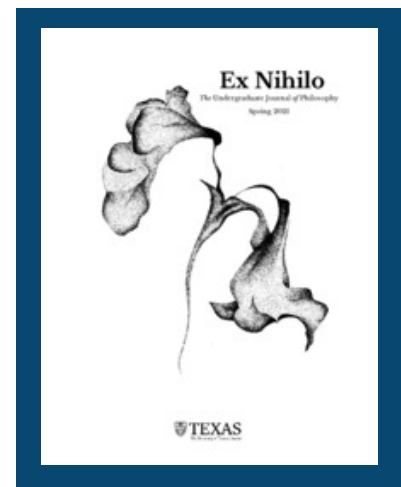
Undergraduate Humanities Journals in Texas:



Explorations
Multidisciplinary
Undergraduate Journal
Texas A&M

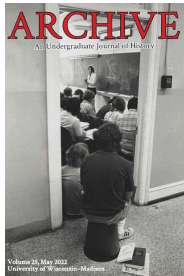


Aletheia
Undergraduate
Philosophy Journal
Texas A&M



Ex Nihilo
Undergraduate
Philosophy Journal
UT Austin

GETTING PUBLISHED

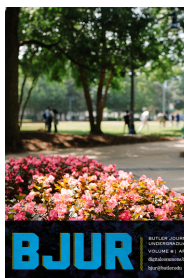


Archive: An Undergraduate Journal of History

Click the links for more information!

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Accepts submissions of History scholarship, including scholarly papers, articles, book reviews, and historical essays from undergraduate students of all majors from colleges and universities in the U.S. or abroad.



Butler Journal of Undergraduate Research (BJUR)

Butler University

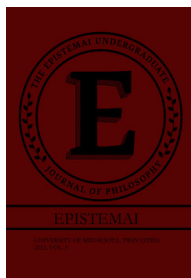
Submission of original, scholarly research articles is open to undergraduates from any accredited college or university. BJUR publishes scholarships across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.



Compass: An Undergraduate Journal of American Political Ideas

A joint project of Northern Illinois University and Arizona State University

Publishes work related to American democracy understood in the broad contexts of political philosophy, history, literature, economics, and culture.



Epistemei: An Undergraduate Philosophy Journal

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

A student-run philosophy journal at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. The journal publishes short, original philosophical work done by undergraduates from universities across the country, and internationally.



Harvard Educational Review

Harvard University

Accepts contributions from researchers, scholars, policymakers, practitioners, teachers, students, and informed observers in education and related fields. In addition to original reports of research and theory, HER welcomes articles that reflect on teaching and practice in educational settings in the United States and abroad.



Inquiries: Social Sciences, Arts, & Humanities

An open-access academic journal focusing on publishing high-quality original work across a range of disciplines, especially on work in the social sciences, arts, and humanities.



Penn Undergraduate Law Journal

University of Pennsylvania

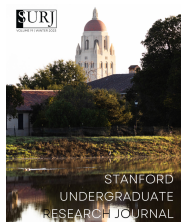
Seeks to foster scholarly discourse on topical and historical issues pertaining to law or the legal system.



Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal

Ball State University

Peer-reviewed journal publishes original work by undergraduates from around the world.



The Stanford Undergraduate Research Journal

Stanford University

The mission of *SURJ* is to encourage, recognize, and reward intellectual activity beyond the classroom while providing a forum for the exchange of research and ideas.



Undergraduate Journal of Humanistic Studies

Carleton College

Publishes high-quality papers that present serious research with fresh points of view in the humanities and social sciences.



Yale Historical Review

Yale University

Welcomes works from undergraduates at any institution on any historically relevant topic.



“This program allowed me to differentiate myself from my fellow Arts & Sciences students. I’ve greatly improved in my ability to schedule long-term projects... the ability to carry out one idea over 30+ pages takes practice, and I’ve certainly received a lot of practice in that now.”

- Sarah Kelly, Philosophy & Economics

1st Place Award Recipient of Student Research Week 2022



“Because of the research training and seminar I attended, I was able to bridge together ideas that interested me throughout my college career and turn my research into something I was excited about. Also, this seminar helped me independently think through complex concepts. I benefited greatly from this program as I met students who shared similar interests and I maintained a great relationship with my faculty mentor.”

- Nydia Gomez, Global Languages and Cultures



TESTIMONIALS



“My experience in the UGSS program is invaluable and has ultimately molded me into a more articulate writer and editor. I learned that the quest for knowledge is both invigorating and rewarding, as learning more about the overarching systems in the United States provides me with a sense of urgency for social change, justice, and reform... This program gave me more confidence to pursue a career in the legal field and I look forward to building upon the skills of time management, communication, critical thinking, and analysis in law school.”

- Kate Girvin, Philosophy



“...this experience was very enriching. Having the opportunity to work so intensely on a topic that I am passionate about was so enjoyable. I am genuinely proud that I get to say that I have published work at Texas A&M University!”

- Zoe Simmons, English



The Glasscock Center is dedicated to fostering and celebrating the humanities and humanities research among the community of scholars at Texas A&M University and in the world beyond the academy.

The Glasscock Center awards residential fellowships, research fellowships, grants to co-sponsor events, funding for working groups, publication support, and other awards for independent and cross-disciplinary research in the humanities. Fellows and grant recipients are integral to the Center's on-going programs and activities through their faculty and graduate colloquia, working groups, and lecture series. The Glasscock Center develops research initiatives, and also recognizes outstanding scholarship annually with an international book prize, the Susanne M. Glasscock Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship, which is accompanied by a guest lecture from the recipient and a community event. Coordinated by the Glasscock Center, the Mary Jane and Carrol O. Buttrill '38 Endowed Fund for Ethics supports activities and events for faculty and students on the investigation of ethical issues.

Growing from the Interdisciplinary Group for Historical Literary Studies, founded in 1987, the Center for Humanities Research was created by the Board of Regents of Texas A&M University in 1999 and received a naming endowment in 2002. This name change recognizes an extraordinary gift from Melbern G. Glasscock '59 and Susanne M. Glasscock, which constitutes a sustaining endowment for the Center.

The Glasscock Center is a unit of the College of Arts & Sciences and is located on the third floor of the Glasscock Building on the Texas A&M University Campus.

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on social media!

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