

Dr. Trisha Wald Wins Bernhardt Award at SWOSU

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Dr. Trisha Wald, chair of the Department of Business and Computer Science in the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology, is the winner of the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award for 2017 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Wald was presented the prestigious award at the annual Bernhardt banquet held on the SWOSU campus. For winning the award, Wald received a \$5,000 cash award, clock, pen and medallion.

SWOSU alumni Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt of Midwest City are sponsors of the annual award that goes to an outstanding faculty member who exhibits exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship and service.

Trisha (Parker) Wald grew up in Thomas (OK). After graduating from Thomas High School as valedictorian in 1999, Wald entered Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and finance from SWOSU in 2003, graduating summa cum laude and named the outstanding senior in finance.

In the summer of 2003, she married her husband, Nick, and they moved to Oklahoma City, where she began law school at the University of Oklahoma School of Law. Wald earned American Jurisprudence (AmJur) awards in Legal Research and Writing, Criminal Law, European Union Law, Insurance Law, Agency and Partnership, Mergers and Acquisitions and Estate Planning—signifying she had received the best grade in the course as chosen by the professor. She earned her juris doctorate degree with honors from OU Law in May of 2006.

Wald began working as an attorney at the law firm of DeBee Gilchrist, P.C., where her work centered on business formation, taxation, mergers and acquisitions. While she loved practicing law, she felt the urge to teach and in the fall of 2008, she was offered a job at SWOSU in the School of Business and Technology.

While at SWOSU, Wald has taught classes in business law, tax law and accounting. In addition to teaching, she has been active in scholarly activity through research and presentations with both the Academy of Legal Studies in Business (ALSB), a national group, and its regional affiliate, the Southern Academy of Legal Studies in Business (SALSB).

Wald is involved in campus activities and committees. The associate professor served as faculty senator from 2013-16 and was secretary/treasurer for the Faculty Senate in 2015-16. She and Dr. Patsy Parker implemented a faculty mentoring program for the SWOSU School of Business and Technology, designed to help new instructors segue into their teaching experiences at SWOSU. As to community involvement, she is a member of Kiwanis, a graduate of Leadership Weatherford Class 14 and a member of the finance committee at St. Eugene's Catholic Church in Weatherford. In addition, she is a member of both the Custer County Bar Association and the Oklahoma Bar

Association. In 2014, she received the Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants.

She and her husband, Nick, live in Weatherford. Nick is an Oklahoma City police officer and commutes back and forth from Weatherford. They have three children—Noah, Eli and Jacob.

Previous winners of the Bernhardt Award are (in order by year): Dr. Vilas Prabhu, Dr. Stuart Burchett, Dr. Gary Wolgamott, Dr. Terry Segress, Dr. James Hunsicker, Dr. Jill Jones, Dr. James Breckenridge, Dr. John Ludrick, Dr. W. Steven Pray, Dr. Les Crall, Dr. Peter Grant, Dr. John Hayden, Dr. Virgil Van Dusen, Steve Strickler, Dr. Mary Aspedon, Dr. John Woods, Dr. Scott Long, Dr. Charles Rogers, Dr. Tim Hubin, Dr. Brian Campbell, Dr. Patsy Parker, Dr. Tom Davis and Dr. Kevin Collins.