

WENDI KAVANAUGH, PHD

Hobson Wildenthal Honors College
The University of Texas at Dallas:
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Educational History

PhD, December 2025, The University of Texas at Dallas, Humanities: History Focus
MFA, December 2010, The University of Texas at Dallas, Sound & Game Design
MA, May 2004, The University of Texas at Dallas, Photography
BS, August 2000, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Radio & Television

Academic Employment

Lecturer, Clark Summer Research Program, The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), Summers 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019
Lecturer, Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Fall 2023.
Associate Director, National Merit Scholars Program, Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, September 2023 – Present
Assistant Director, National Merit Scholars Program, Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, September 2017 – September 2023
Administrative Assistant, Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, June 2015 – September 2017

Research Interests

US-Latin American diplomacy during World War II, especially the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and the FBI
Twentieth-century Mexican history
Latin American Travel Writing
United States and Latin American Intelligence History

Distinctions, Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

The UTD CARE Award, Spring 2023
The UTD Staff Council Endowed Scholarship, Fall 2017, Spring 2017

Papers Presented at Conferences

“Diving Deeper into FBI Totalitarian Activities Files Using Machine Learning,” Annual Conference of the Society for Intelligence History, February 2025.
“Journeys: Historic and Current Trends in Latin American Travel Writing,” Annual Conference of The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, March 2023.

- “Friend or Foe? Two U.S. Government Offices and Mexico,” Annual Conference of The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, March 2022.
- “Preventing Destiny: The Mexican Identity as Defined by the United States During the Mexican-American War,” Annual Conference of The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, March 2020.
- “Cartographic Propaganda: Forged and Secret Maps of World War II,” Annual Conference of The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, March 2019.
- “Creating Fear: Maps and the FBI during World War II,” RAW: Research, Art, Writing Graduate Conference, February 2019.
- “Case Study: The Thursday Next Series,” Storytelling: Global Reflections on Narrative Storytelling: Global Reflections on Narrative. Inter-Disciplinary. Net A Global Network for Dynamic Research and Publishing, May 2014.
- “Maps & Monsters: Real and Unreal,” RAW: Research, Art, Writing Graduate Conference, March 2014.

Invited Talks, Workshops, and Presentations

- “Small Talk,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, October 2023.
- “Updated! Academic Integrity now includes AI Software,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, September 2023.
- “Writing an Impactful Email,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, August 2023.
- “How to Create & Present a Poster,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, February 2022, March 2023.
- “Business & Dining Etiquette,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, February 2022, February 2023.
- “Everyday Etiquette & Digital Manners,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, January 2022.
- “Integrity and Avoiding Academic Dishonesty,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, October 2021.
- “Four-Year Plan,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, September 2021.
- “University Etiquette,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, August 2021.
- “Design Your Life,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, July 2021.
- “Dallas Food Tour,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, June 2021.
- “Integrity and Academic Integrity,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, October 2020.
- “History Walk of Dallas,” Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, UTD, September 2020.
- “Fear Thy Neighbors:” World War II and Dallas,” Confronting the Past: The History of Racism and Hatred in Dallas, November 2018.
- “Creating Effective Rules,” Workshop at International Academic Conference on Meaningful Play, October 2014.

Professional and University Citizenship

The Society for Intelligence History– Member, 2024

Program and Paper Selection Sub-committee, 2026 Conference

CRM Steering Committee, The University of Texas at Dallas – Member, 2023 -2025

American Historical Association – Member, 2023

A&H Association of Graduate Students: RAW Prize Committee – Member, Spring 2022

UT Dallas Teach-In Collective – Member, Fall 2020 – Fall 2024

The Center for US-Latin America Initiatives, The University of Texas at Dallas

Delegad@ Fall 2019 – Summer 2024

The Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies – Member 2019 – Present

New Student Engagement Board (NSEB), The University of Texas at Dallas, 2018-Present

Subcommittee: Student Orientation, 2018-Present

Secretary, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Chapter 316, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2015-2018

Additional Volunteer Work

Richardson Corporate Challenge Volunteer – 2018, 2019, 2022

The University of Texas at Dallas Commencement Volunteer