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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 1, 2008

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Counselor: Sleep Class Necessary for Some College Students** Higher education demands one culprit in Americans' poor sleeping habits.

By the time students get to university, they should have about 18 years of sleeping practice under their belts and be experts in the field, right?

Wrong.

When the time comes for higher education, odd hours, late night parties and studying for tests can wreck a student's sleeping habits, said Bryan Duncan, a counseling psychologist at Texas Tech University's Student Wellness Center. And those bad sleeping habits can bleed into adult life.

The National Sleep Foundation's 2008 *Sleep in America* poll reported American's work nine hours and 28 minutes on average, but spend only six hours and 40 minutes actually sleeping. NSF recommends getting at least seven to nine hours of sleep each night.

"No doubt about it, college is definitely one of the places where people learn bad sleeping habits," he said. "There isn't the structure in college that you have when you're in high school. One of the biggest problems is fluctuating sleep. Students may have class at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but start at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is really disruptive in terms of getting your sleep."

Because of this, Duncan instructs an Improving Your Sleep Habits class that teaches students how to be more effective sleepers. The workshops take place one hour a week for four weeks.

"It's easier to get thrown off than to get back on schedule with your sleeping habits," Duncan said. "Getting into a pattern is usually the hardest part."

Stress from school, personal problems, studying and partying all night can cause bad sleeping habits, he said. Duncan tries to teach his students how to handle stresses during the day, or looks at possible psychological issues to alleviate worries that may cause sleeplessness.

"When students come here, their sleeping patterns have changed a great deal and it's impacting their daily lives," he said. "Some people try to self-medicate with sleeping pills

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or alcohol. Sometimes, it's lifestyle issues standing in the way of getting enough sleep. We look at all of these things and try to get students back on track."

His clients have three basic problems: Either not enough sleep, too much sleep, or restless sleep that's interrupted.

"One of the biggest problems is naps. Naps get in the way of a healthy pattern. I joke with my clients that 'you are 20 years old. You don't need naps.' Generally, I get them to practice good sleeping patterns for about two weeks, and then it's habit for them. "

While getting good sleep might not fix all the problems students face, it will definitely give them an academic edge, he said.

"Well, it can help them get to class, and there's a definite correlation between attendance and better grades," he said. "Also, people who don't get enough sleep are at greater risk for problems such as obesity, diabetes, psychological distress and death in a motor vehicle accident."

**CONTACT: Bryan Duncan, counseling psychologist, Student Wellness Center at Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3674, or [bryan.duncan@ttu.edu](mailto:bryan.duncan@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 1, 2008

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, [sally.post@ttu.edu](mailto:sally.post@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

**Construction Alters Traffic Around Texas Tech's Memorial Circle**

**[Editor's Note: A map detailing the Memorial Circle project can be found at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu)]**

Construction on the east side of Texas Tech University's Memorial Circle will alter traffic patterns for several months.

Construction begins the week of Dec. 8 to replace a utility tunnel that runs between the Administration Building and Holden Hall.

The east side of the circle will be closed at Akron Avenue. The west side of the circle will carry two-way traffic to provide access to the Science Quadrangle and the Engineering Key. Signage will guide vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians using the area.

Construction is expected to take about nine months.

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**CONTACT: Bill Droll, project manager, Office of Facilities Planning and Construction,**  
(806) 742-2116 or [bill.droll@ttu.edu](mailto:bill.droll@ttu.edu).



# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 1, 2008

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, [sally.post@ttu.edu](mailto:sally.post@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

## **Carol of Lights Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**[Editor's note: Television live trucks may park along the Engineering Key in front of either the Mass Communications Building or Holden Hall, facing north.]**

WHAT: 50th Annual Carol of Lights

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Friday (Dec. 5)

WHERE: Texas Tech University Memorial Circle

EVENT: "50 Years of Shining Bright" is the theme chosen to represent the 50th anniversary of one of Texas Tech's finest traditions – the Carol of Lights.

The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a carillon performance. The lighting ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. and will include Texas Tech University's Combined Choir and the Texas Tech Trombone Choir performing classic holiday favorites.

The tradition was started by Harold Hinn, who provided the funds to light up the buildings that make up the science quadrangle and the administration building. The event became known as "Christmas Sing," and then evolved into what is now known as the Carol of Lights.

Today, the Carol of Lights utilizes more than 25,000 lights on the 13 buildings around Memorial Circle to create a spectacular holiday display.

The Residence Halls Association, which sponsors the event, will produce a video commemorating this year's ceremony. The video will be made available for purchase following this year's ceremony.

The Carol of Lights is free and open to the public.

CONTACT: The Residence Halls Association, (806) 742-2651, [rha@ttu.edu](mailto:rha@ttu.edu) or Craig Kuehnert, residence life coordinator and Carol of Lights adviser, (806) 742-1096, [craig.kuehnert@ttu.edu](mailto:craig.kuehnert@ttu.edu).



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 1, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

**McCain to Speak at Texas Tech Graduate School Commencement**  
Chancellor will speak at undergraduate ceremonies.

Former presidential candidate Sen. John McCain will speak at Texas Tech University's Graduate School commencement ceremony at 4 p.m. Dec. 12 at the United Spirit Arena, 1701 Indiana Ave.

Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, will speak at the two undergraduate commencement ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Dec. 13, also at the United Spirit Arena. Texas Tech will graduate 2,504 students in the fall ceremonies.

"We are honored to have Senator McCain speaking at our Graduate School commencement. He is a true American hero who continues to serve his country and I know he will inspire our graduates to strive for success in their professional and personal lives," Hance said.

The morning ceremony will include the Colleges of Human Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Visual and Performing Arts, Mass Communications and the Rawls College of Business.

The afternoon ceremony will include the Colleges of Education, Architecture, Arts and Sciences and the Whitacre College of Engineering.

A hooding ceremony for graduates of Texas Tech's School of Law will be at 5 p.m., Dec. 13 in Allen Theatre of the Student Union Building.

McCain, the senior senator from Arizona, was the Republican nominee for President of the United States in the 2008 election. He is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. He serves on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Hance became the third chancellor of the Texas Tech University System on Dec. 1, 2006.

Before coming to Texas Tech, Hance was a partner in Hance Scarborough Wright, an Austin and Dallas law firm. His political career began in 1974 when he won a seat in the Texas State Senate. Four years later, he won election to the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

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After Congress, Hance won election to the Texas Railroad Commission. He earned a bachelor of business administration degree from Texas Tech in 1965 and graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1968. He returned to Lubbock to practice law and teach business law at Texas Tech. In 1973, he was named an outstanding professor at Texas Tech.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 2, 2008

CONTACT: John Davis, [john.w.davis@ttu.edu](mailto:john.w.davis@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Researchers, Congressional Leaders Announce Major Findings  
on Texas Tech-Developed Wipe Used for Counterterrorism**

WHAT: News conference

WHEN: 11 a.m. CST Wednesday (Dec. 3)

WHERE: The Merket Alumni Center on the Texas Tech University campus. The news conference may be viewed online at [www.tiehh.ttu.edu](http://www.tiehh.ttu.edu). Questions can be e-mailed during the news conference to [media.questions@ttu.edu](mailto:media.questions@ttu.edu).

EVENT: Researchers and Congressional leaders will announce results that demonstrate the superiority of a wipe developed by researchers at Texas Tech University. After researchers at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University developed a nonwoven wipe that could be used to decontaminate toxic chemical warfare agents, an evaluation of the wipe using a live threat agent was carried out by a nationally-known, independent laboratory.

This news comes after blue-ribbon Congressional panel has recently concluded that it's likely that terrorists will use a weapon of mass destruction somewhere in the world by 2013.

**CONTACT: Ronald Kendall, director, The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, Texas Tech University, (806) 885-4567, [ron.kendall@tiehh.ttu.edu](mailto:ron.kendall@tiehh.ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 2, 2008

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, [sally.post@ttu.edu](mailto:sally.post@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

**Open Forum Set for Texas Tech Provost Finalist**

WHAT: Open forum for Gail Hackett

WHEN: 4 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 3)

WHERE: Escondido Theatre in the basement of the Student Union Building

EVENT: Hackett is one of two finalists for the provost position at Texas Tech University. The open forum will allow Texas Tech faculty, staff, students and interested members of the community to meet and ask questions of Hackett.

Hackett is provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She currently is provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Hackett joined the University of Missouri-Kansas City as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of counseling and education psychology in 2008. Previously she served as university vice provost and dean of University College at Arizona State University. She also was on the faculty of the University of California, Santa Barbara and Ohio State University. She is a widely published author in the fields of social cognitive theory and career assessment and counseling. She earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Pennsylvania State University.

The second provost candidate, Robert Smith, visited campus earlier this week. Smith is provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs emeritus and professor of chemistry at the University of Arkansas.

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, associate director, Office of Communications and Marketing, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2136 or [sally.post@ttu.edu](mailto:sally.post@ttu.edu).



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 3, 2008

CONTACT: John Davis, [john.w.davis@ttu.edu](mailto:john.w.davis@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Lawrence Livermore National Lab Study Finds Texas Tech Fibertect™ Wipe Best for Decontamination of Chemical Warfare Agents, Toxic Chemicals**

[Editor's Note: Attend the streaming news conference at 11 a.m. CST by logging onto [www.tiehh.ttu.edu](http://www.tiehh.ttu.edu). Send questions to [media.questions@ttu.edu](mailto:media.questions@ttu.edu). Photos and more information can be found at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu)]

A newly-developed decontamination wipe designed by researchers at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech University has proven itself the best for cleaning up chemical warfare agents and toxic chemicals.

The evaluation of the nonwoven dry wipe product, called Fibertect™, was performed as part of a study by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory using mustard gas and other toxic chemicals. Researchers found that the Texas Tech-created product outperformed 30 different decontamination materials, including materials currently used in military decontamination kits.

The results are published online today (Dec. 3) in the American Chemical Society's peer-reviewed journal, *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research* and titled, "Next Generation Non-particulate Dry Nonwoven Pad for Chemical Warfare Agent Decontamination."

This news comes after a blue-ribbon Congressional panel has recently concluded that it's likely that terrorists will use a weapon of mass destruction somewhere in the world by 2013.

By developing this product, TIEHH is meeting the specific needs of today's military as expressed in a 2004 report to Congress published by the U.S. Department of Defense. In this and the March 2005 annual report, the department called for products such as this one to decontaminate people and military equipment as part of its Decontamination Science and Technology Modernization Strategy.

"These test results are another affirmation that Texas Tech researchers, particularly those working at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, are some of the best in the world," said Kent Hance, chancellor of Texas Tech University System. "The new products developed from their research will help safeguard our troops against chemical hazards and assist emergency crews in cleanups from toxic accidents and environmental disasters."

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Seshadri Ramkumar supervises the Nonwovens and Advanced Materials Laboratory at Texas Tech. He and other scientists with the Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. National Program for Countermeasures to Biological and Chemical Threats have worked to create a product that will be an asset to military and homeland security efforts in the post-Sept. 11 environment. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense.

“Needlepunch nonwoven technology has been used to develop this flexible, absorbent and adsorbent material that can be used not only as a decontamination wipe, but also as the liner of protective suits, filters and masks,” said Ramkumar, who served as the lead author for the study. “The material is flexible, doesn’t contain loose particles and is capable of cleaning intricate parts of everything from the human body to the control panel of a fighter jet.”

The product features an activated carbon core sandwiched between an absorbent layer on the top and the bottom, he said.

“Dr. Ramkumar and others have worked hard to make us a leading research institution by developing this innovative and necessary product,” said Ron Kendall, director of TIEHH and a co-author for the report. “This new fabric will help protect our troops on the battlefield as well as Americans here at home against biological and chemical warfare and terrorism threats.”

The technology has been licensed by Texas Tech’s Office of Technology Commercialization to Waco-based Hobbs Bonded Fibers. The company is organizing a global marketing team to expedite the commercialization of Fibertect™. The initial member of the team is The Bellator Group, which has a successful history of commercializing products into the military sector.

“The exciting news here is that the federal government saw a need for this product, and Texas Tech came up with a product to meet that need,” said Carey Hobbs, president of Hobbs Bonded Fibers. “Now, the federal government is going to see an actual return on its money. You can buy this product today, and we’re already manufacturing and exhibiting it to people in the marketplace.”

Hobbs Bonded Fibers has been one of North America’s most innovative and technically advanced fiber processing companies since 1953. From the company’s multi-location manufacturing facilities with headquarters in Waco, a variety of synthetic and natural fibers are used to produce more than 150 branded and specialized products used by military, industrial and consumer markets. For more information on the wipe production, contact **Carey Hobbs, president of Hobbs Bonded Fibers, at (254) 741-0040, or [carey@hobbsbondedfibers.com](mailto:carey@hobbsbondedfibers.com).**

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health develops environmental and health sciences research and education at Texas Tech University and Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. The institute’s goal is to position Texas Tech as an internationally recognized force in the integration of environmental impact assessment of toxic

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chemicals with human health consequences, framed in the context of science-based risk assessment to support sound environmental policy and law. For more information on the development of the wipe, contact **Seshadri Ramkumar, associate professor at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University, (806) 445-1925 or [s.ramkumar@ttu.edu](mailto:s.ramkumar@ttu.edu).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 3, 2008

CONTACT: Barbara Brannon, [barbara.brannon@ttu.edu](mailto:barbara.brannon@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2982

**Discounts on Books Available at Texas Tech University Press  
Holiday Open House**

The Texas Tech University Press (TTUP) will host a holiday open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 9) in the press offices, second floor of the Administrative Support Center at 2903 4th St.

A 30 percent discount is available on TTUP books for holiday giving and with the purchase of any two books patrons will receive a free book. There are limited quantities of signed books available. Free gift wrapping will be offered. Parking is free.

For more information and a detailed map, visit [www.depts.ttu.edu/ttup/pdfs/TTUPOpenHouseInv2008.pdf](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttup/pdfs/TTUPOpenHouseInv2008.pdf). To browse books beforehand, please visit the TTUP website at [www.ttup.ttu.edu](http://www.ttup.ttu.edu).

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CONTACT: John Brock, Texas Tech University Press, at (806) 742-2982.



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 4, 2008

CONTACT: Sarah Whetstone, [sarah.whetstone@ttu.edu](mailto:sarah.whetstone@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

## **Texas Tech and SPC Receive Education Partnership Award**

Texas Tech University's College of Education and South Plains College earned a Star Award for creating a partnership project in which they work together to produce top-notch educators. The award is given by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to partnering schools that create programs to ease the transition from junior colleges into four-year institutions.

The College of Education Partnership Project began in 2004 after South Plains became the first community college in Texas to receive approval for an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree. The relationship between the schools creates a barrier-free transition for education students from SPC to Texas Tech.

"We're honored to be recognized in this way," said Sheryl Santos, dean of the College of Education. "It's a job well done by the faculty of both schools and we look forward to working together in the future."

The two schools are focusing on joint development of a highly articulated associate's degree curriculum and unconditional admission to Texas Tech's College of Education for students with teaching associate's degrees from SPC. Both schools are working on program recruitment activities and intensive advising and mentoring of students in the program.

Since 2004, 100 students who have earned teaching associate's degrees have transferred into Texas Tech's College of Education. One hundred percent of those students have graduated from Texas Tech or are currently enrolled.

In 2008, Star Award applicants competed in six categories: two-year colleges; four-year colleges and health-related institutions; partnerships; public or private schools or school districts; and organizations that promote a college-going culture.

Texas Tech and SPC bested 83 applicants to win in the partnership category.

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**CONTACT: Janie Ramirez, program coordinator, College of Education, (806) 742-1998, or [janie.ramirez@ttu.edu](mailto:janie.ramirez@ttu.edu).**



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# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 4, 2008

CONTACT: Sean Cleveland, [sean.cleveland@ttu.edu](mailto:sean.cleveland@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-4108

### **Ranch Horse Team Takes National Honors at ASHA Championship**

Texas Tech University's Ranch Horse Team garnered multiple individual national championship honors Nov. 21-23 at the inaugural American Stock Horse Association National Championship Show at the Heart of Texas Fairgrounds in Waco.

The open competition featured 10 high-profile teams from across the nation.

"It's amazing that the Texas Tech Ranch Horse Program could be represented so well in this inaugural event," said Kris Wilson, coach of Texas Tech's Ranch Horse Team and an assistant professor in the university's Department of Animal and Food Sciences. "This was truly an historical day for the program."

Among the student winners were:

- Alicia Daugherty, a junior agricultural communications major from Alpine: All Around Non-Pro, Non-Pro Reining, and Non-Pro Stock Horse Pleasure
- Jennifer Richards, a senior agricultural communications major from Marble Falls: All Around Limited Non-Pro Reserve and Limited Non-Pro Stock Horse Pleasure
- Ashley Palmer, a senior interdisciplinary agriculture major from Cyprus: Limited Non-Pro Reining

Meanwhile, Wilson himself took first place in the event's All Around Open competition. Cara Wilson, an employee in Texas Tech's Office of Admissions and wife of Kris Wilson, took top honors in the All-Around Novice Reserve category. Cara Wilson often assists in helping prepare for ranch horse team events and at times accompanies students to competitions.

The Red Raiders wins in Waco marked the end of the team's fall season; it continues competition throughout the spring, culminating at the 2009 ASHA Collegiate National Championship on April 25 at the Texas Tech Equestrian Center.

Find Texas Tech experts and story ideas at [www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/media/](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/media/)

**CONTACT: Kris Wilson, coach, Texas Tech University Ranch Horse Team at (806) 742-2805, ext. 236 or [k.wilson@ttu.edu](mailto:k.wilson@ttu.edu)**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 8, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Colleges Receive Greater Texas Foundation Grant**  
Collaborative degree program will boost math and science teaching.

- WHAT: Announcement of Greater Texas Foundation Grant
- WHEN: 10 a.m. Wednesday (Dec. 10)
- WHERE: Sitton Burkhart Children's Literature Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Education Building, 3008 18<sup>th</sup> Street.
- EVENT: Texas Tech University officials and representatives from the Greater Texas Foundation will announce a major grant to fund a new master's program in education to beef up middle school math and science teaching in Texas.

Twenty-two universities from around the state applied for the grant, of which Texas Tech was the only school chosen for funding.

**CONTACT: Jennifer Wilhelm, principal investigator, College of Education, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-1997 ext 229, or at [jennifer.wilhelm@ttu.edu](mailto:jennifer.wilhelm@ttu.edu).**



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 9, 2008

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, [sally.post@ttu.edu](mailto:sally.post@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

## **SACS Rescinds Texas Tech Probation**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) today (Dec. 9) removed Texas Tech University from probationary status.

SACS placed the university on probation in December 2007 due to the need to provide further evidence regarding the assessment of general education courses.

“I am pleased that the probation has been lifted,” said Guy Bailey, president of Texas Tech University. “During the past year, a number of people have worked extremely hard to put in place an assessment process that will provide meaningful data on our general education courses. We were able to develop the assessment and meet the SACS evidence requirement in a timely fashion.

“I want to thank Dr. Valerie Paton who led the effort and the many faculty and staff members who worked diligently on this process. I would also like to thank Dr. Joe Silver from SACS who helped us in getting this task accomplished.”

Texas Tech continues to be fully accredited with SACS-COC as it was throughout the probationary period. Texas Tech looks forward to continuing its positive relationship with SACS-COC in the future.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: Dec. 10, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Former Presidential Candidate McCain to Speak at Texas Tech Graduate School Commencement**

- WHAT:** December Graduation
- WHEN:** 4 p.m. Friday (Dec. 12); 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 13)
- WHERE:** United Spirit Arena, 1701 Indiana Ave., in Lubbock
- EVENT:** Former presidential candidate Sen. John McCain will speak at the Graduate School commencement ceremony on Friday afternoon. McCain, the senior senator from Arizona, was the Republican nominee for President of the United States in the 2008 election.

The ceremony is free and open to the public; parking also is free.

No credentials are required to cover Sen. McCain's address. However, media will be asked to stay to a designated area to the west side of the stage. There will be no media availability with Sen. McCain.

Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, will speak at the two undergraduate commencement ceremonies on Saturday.

The morning ceremony will include students in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Natural History and Humanities Degree Majors, Human Sciences, Mass Communications, Visual and Performing Arts and the Rawls College of Business.

The afternoon observance includes the Colleges of Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education and the Whitacre College of Engineering.

U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico Greg Fouratt, a 1995 Texas Tech School of Law graduate, will give the speech at the Texas Tech School of Law hooding ceremony at 5 p.m. Saturday, in the Student Union Building's Allen Theater.

More than 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students will receive diplomas during the ceremonies.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 10, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Colleges Garner \$3 Million from Greater Texas Foundation** Middle School Math and Science master's program gets a jump start from funding.

Teaching math and science more effectively in Texas middle schools and with more qualified teachers is much closer to reality, thanks to the Greater Texas Foundation and a group of researchers from Texas Tech University.

Texas Tech officials announced today (Dec. 10) a \$3 million grant from the foundation to fund a new master's program designed for current middle school math and science teachers. Twenty-two universities across Texas competed for the \$3 million award, the largest amount ever granted by the Bryan-based organization.

The foundation serves the citizens and educational institutions of Texas by supporting initiatives that increase access to higher education, support teachers and encourage parental and community involvement in education.

The new master's program, called Middle School Math and Science (MS)<sup>2</sup>: Understanding by Design, is an endeavor of the College of Education in collaboration with the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Engineering.

"Improving math and science education is a national imperative," said Wynn Rosser, executive director of the foundation. "Texas Tech University, through a number of impressive programs, is already addressing the issue. Greater Texas Foundation believes the MS<sup>2</sup> program is complementary, and we are quite pleased to invest in Texas Tech and our state's science and math teachers."

"Texas Tech is a national leader in training teachers in math and science and in the delivery of distance education," said President Guy Bailey. "We are honored to participate with the Greater Texas Foundation in this important project."

According to Jennifer Wilhelm, principal investigator on the project, the (MS)<sup>2</sup> program will allow teachers from throughout Texas to pursue the distinctive master's degree at a distance, with minimal on-campus requirements, over a three-year period. The first cohort will begin the course of study in the fall of 2009.

"This program is unique in that it aims to improve instruction for teachers who serve underserved student populations as well as provide opportunities for math and science teachers to accomplish several other goals," said Wilhelm.

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Wilhelm explained the other goals to be to:

- deepen their understanding of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) content and pedagogical content knowledge;
- create meaningful connections between STEM disciplines as a method of making math and science content relevant to a diverse population of middle school students
- develop communication and mentoring skills through dialogue with other math and science teachers and with STEM and education faculty regarding the ties between math and science in effective instruction
- experience and produce through group teamwork, integrated curricula that focus on addressing common misconceptions in order to improve middle school education

The grant will provide up to 100 participating teachers with a laptop computer and pay tuition and fees, as well as their housing during their face-to-face summer coursework.

“We believe in the importance of having high-quality teachers in our state’s classrooms; MS<sup>2</sup> is perfectly designed to address this need,” Rosser said.

Key project members include Zenaida Aguirre–Muñoz and Rebecca Ortiz from the College of Education, Mary Baker from the College of Engineering; and Dom Casadonte, Jerry Dwyer, David Lamp, Mark McGinley from the College of Art & Sciences.

Teachers interested in participating in the program should contact Wilhelm at (806) 742-1997 ext. 229 or [jennifer.wilhelm@ttu.edu](mailto:jennifer.wilhelm@ttu.edu).

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**CONTACT: Jennifer Wilhelm, principal investigator, College of Education, (806) 742-1998 ext. 455, [jennifer.wilhelm@ttu.edu](mailto:jennifer.wilhelm@ttu.edu) .**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 12, 2008

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, [leslie.cranford@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.cranford@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech University to Honor Graduates**

**[Editor's note: A student from your area is included in this release.]**

Texas Tech University will award diplomas to 2,504 students during graduation exercises Dec. 12 and 13.

Commencement speakers are former presidential candidate Sen. John McCain and Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance.

Texas Tech's Graduate School will hold its commencement ceremony at 4 p.m. Friday (Dec. 12) in the United Spirit Arena, 1701 Indiana Ave., in Lubbock. McCain will serve as the ceremony's featured speaker. The ceremony is free and open to the public; parking also is free.

Undergraduate commencement ceremonies are scheduled for 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 13), in the United Spirit Arena. Hance will speak at both ceremonies.

The morning ceremony includes students in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Natural History and Humanities Degree Majors, Human Sciences, Mass Communications, Visual and Performing Arts and the Rawls College of Business.

The afternoon observance includes the Colleges of Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Education and the Whitacre College of Engineering.

U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico Greg Fouratt, a 1995 Texas Tech School of Law graduate, will give the speech at the Texas Tech School of Law hooding ceremony at 5 p.m. Saturday, in the Student Union Building's Allen Theater. A reception will follow in the Student Union Building.

Receptions for the colleges will follow their respective ceremonies. Reception locations are: College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in the atrium area of the Animal Science Building; College of Architecture in the Architecture Building, room 101A; College of Arts and Sciences in the foyer in front of room 104 in Holden Hall; Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration in the Business Administration Building Rotunda; College of Education in the second floor foyer of the Education Building; College of Engineering in the Dean's Office Suite; College of Human Sciences in the El Centro Lounge; College of Mass Communications in the Frazier Alumni

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Pavilion; and College of Visual and Performing Arts in the foyer of the university's Maedgen Theatre.

Outstanding students will carry banners representing their respective colleges. Administrators selected the banner bearers based on all-around achievement.

The banner bearers are: Kalyn Mary Sanders, an agricultural communications major from Aubrey, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources; Simon Timothy McGown, an architecture major from Nacogdoches, College of Architecture; Jill Delynn Propst, a political science major from Lubbock, College of Arts and Sciences; Kelley Nicole Backhaus, a multidisciplinary studies major from Katy, College of Education; Russell Lee Miller, an electrical engineering and computer science major from Lubbock, College of Engineering; Meredith York, a public relations major from Lubbock (morning ceremony), and Maanisaad Shahriar, a petroleum engineering major from Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (afternoon ceremony), Honors College; Amanda Lee Newton, a personal financial planning major from McKinney, College of Human Sciences; Kaitlin Amarys Lisette Chapman, a public relations major from Amarillo, College of Mass Communications; Rebecca Ann Hubbell, a general studies major from Houston, College of Outreach & Distance Education; Ellen Burkholder, a marketing major from Lubbock, Rawls College of Business; and John Wesley Magee, a music major from Arlington, College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Selected to carry the banner for the Graduate School is Mickey Best from Duncan, Okla., who this semester receives his doctorate in fine arts-theater. Unveiling the banner for the new College of Outreach & Distance Education is Melissa Clifton Sturdivant of Abilene, who receives her Master of Science degree in horticulture.

Also recognized during commencement exercises will be bachelor's degree candidates with the highest grade-point-averages in their respective colleges.

Highest ranking December graduates for each college are:

- Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources: Kalyn Mary Sanders, an agricultural communications major from Aubrey.
- Architecture: Simon Timothy McGown, an architecture major from Nacogdoches.
- Arts and Sciences: Jessica Jean Casler, a political science major from Bedford; Jaci Leigh Glover, a political science major from Linden; Jonathan Simeon Martin, a history/political science major from Del Rio; and Lauren Kaye Valastro, a political science/Spanish major from La Grange.
- Education: Kelley Nicole Backhaus, a multidisciplinary studies major from Katy.
- Human Sciences: Ashley Elizabeth Coulon, an early childhood major from Midland; Brooke Danae McIntire, an early childhood major from Shallowater;



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Amanda Lee Newton, a personal financial planning major from McKinney; Lauren Elizabeth Ratterree, an early childhood major from Mansfield; Kimberly Ann Silverman, a human development and family studies major from Houston; Tasha Alisa Victor, a human development and family studies major from Houston; and Callie Renee Zamorsky, a human development and family studies major from Hutto.

- Mass Communications: Kaitlin Amarys Lisette Chapman, a public relations major from Amarillo.
- Rawls College of Business: Lisa Dyer, an accounting major from Lubbock.
- Whitacre College of Engineering: Robert Wayne Berry Sr., a petroleum engineering major from Lubbock; Dusty Alan Burger, a mechanical engineering major from Lubbock; Jonathan Todd Dover, a mechanical engineering major from Lubbock; Russell Lee Miller, an electrical engineering and computer science major from Lubbock; Timothy William Monday, a computer engineering major from Lubbock; Phillip Emmet Perley, a civil engineering major from Lubbock; and Aubrey Alvin Spear IV, a mechanical engineering major from Lubbock.
- Visual and Performing Arts: Colleen Nicole Sisneros, an art history major from Lubbock; and John Wesley Magee, a music major from Arlington.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 15, 2008

CONTACT: John Davis, [john.w.davis@ttu.edu](mailto:john.w.davis@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

## **Two Texas Tech Professors Receive Fulbright Grants**

Two professors at Texas Tech University received Fulbright Grants from the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State.

Arfin Lodhi, a professor in the Department of Physics, received the award for lecturing and research at the University of Punjab in Pakistan for 2008-2009. Peter Briggs, curator of art at the Museum of Texas Tech and an adjunct faculty member, will teach at the Academy of Fine Art and Design in Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia.

An internationally recognized specialist in particle physics, space radiation and new and renewable energy, Lodhi has taught for more than 40 years. His research while in Pakistan will examine the structure and decay of hadronic matter which will provide insight to understanding physics beyond the standard model. Also, he will research space and terrestrial power generation that will have the practical application to stimulate design of a conversion device for power generation.

Briggs will teach an upper-division course in curatorial practices that prepares art students in the theory and practice of curating exhibitions and collections of contemporary art. It also addresses the development of professional practices for working artists, focusing on specialized care and handling of art works, marketing of art works and the artist, and professional presentation and interpretation of art work.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

**CONTACT: Jane Bell, Fulbright program advisor, (806) 742-2974, or**  
[jane.bell@ttu.edu](mailto:jane.bell@ttu.edu)



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 17, 2008

CONTACT: Cory Chandler, [cory.chandler@ttu.edu](mailto:cory.chandler@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Graduate Receives Mortar Board Fellowship**

A recent Texas Tech University graduate is among 15 students awarded Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society member fellowships this year.

Nicole Hannemann received the Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship, a \$6,000 award.

Mortar Board awarded a total of \$60,000 in fellowships to 15 honor society members this year. Recipients are chosen based on academic excellence, recommendation, promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement.

Hannemann was initiated into Mortar Board in 2006 and served as fundraising chair during her two active years of membership.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry and Bachelor of Arts in history with a concentration in art history, and currently is attending Baylor College of Medicine to obtain her M.D.

“Mortar Board has offered me the refreshing opportunity to meet and work with other dedicated and like-minded students,” Hannemann said. “It’s not that everyone thinks in the same way or has identical professional goals, but we do have a common thread in our commitment to education and the community. In fact, there are few other organizations that have such motivated members as well as such a wide cross-section of academic and extracurricular interests.”

In addition to Mortar Board, Hannemann is a member of American Chemical Society as a student affiliate, the Dr. Bernard Harris pre-medical society, Eta Omicron Nu honors college organization, Phi Kappa Phi honor society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Additionally, she served as an Honors College First Year Experience Mentor and Texas Tech Chancellor's Ambassador as an undergraduate.

“Nicole represents Mortar Board’s three key ideals of scholarship, leadership and service with ease, a quality that made her exceptionally deserving of this award,” Mortar Board Executive Director Jon Cook said. “It is with great pleasure that Mortar Board can not

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only recognize Nicole's numerous undergraduate achievements, but support her future dreams with a national fellowship."

Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 226 chartered collegiate chapters with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation. The Forum chapter at Texas Tech University was founded in 1957.

Some notable Mortar Board members include former President Jimmy Carter, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Lance Armstrong and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Learn more about Mortar Board at [www.mortarboard.org](http://www.mortarboard.org).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu).

**CONTACT: Alicia Notestone, the Mortar Board National Office, (800) 989-6266 ext. 106, or [anotestone@mortarboard.org](mailto:anotestone@mortarboard.org).**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 17, 2008

CONTACT: Barbara Brannon, [barbara.brannon@ttu.edu](mailto:barbara.brannon@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2982

### **Even Lawmen Get on the Naughty List Sometimes: Texas Author's New Book Traces Tales of the Bad Old Days on the Frontier**

It took a while for the gavel to catch up to the guns in the Old West. In a new book, "From Guns to Gavels: How Justice Grew Up in the Outlaw West," veteran attorney Bill Neal takes readers from Mississippi to the frontiers of West Texas, Indian Territory, New Mexico Territory, and finally to the frozen Montana wilderness through a series of linked, true-life tales of crimes and trials.

The book, published by Texas Tech University Press, traces the struggles of the fledgling criminal justice system in the Southwest through an engaging progression of outlaws and lawmen, plus a host of colorful frontier trial lawyers and judges. Neal draws on his 40 years as both a defense attorney and a prosecutor in Texas to look at how law and society matured together.

A native of Medicine Mound, near Quanah, Neal draws on his home turf for accounts of murders, escapes and shootouts. He retells events that not only have historical significance but also observe human nature in the context of crime and justice.

One story features Texas Ranger W.J. McDonald and how a well-placed plug of tobacco changed a gun fight.

It was the winter of 1893 in the small town of Quanah, near the border with Oklahoma Territory. McDonald received word that his longtime enemy, Sheriff John Pearce Matthews, "intended to mosey down to Quanah and shoot McDonald between the eyes," Neal writes. The gunfight happened in the middle of Main Street. McDonald's first shots were dead on, but a thick plug of Star Navy chewing tobacco and a notebook in Matthews' pocket stopped both bullets. Still, his good fortune was short-lived. Before the month was out Matthews would die of blood poisoning from the two other gunshot wounds.

"From Guns to Gavels" is a companion volume to Neal's 2006 book, "Getting Away with Murder on the Texas Frontier: Notorious Killings and Celebrated Trials," also published by Texas Tech University Press. "Getting Away with Murder on the Texas Frontier" was named Book of the Year by the National Association for Outlaw and Lawmen History, received the Rupert N. Richardson Award for the best book on West Texas history from the West Texas Historical Association, and was a finalist for both the

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Violet Crown Award from the Writers' League of Texas and the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America. Neal and his wife, Gayla, live in Abilene, Texas.

For more information or a review copy of the book, contact Barbara Brannon, marketing manager, Texas Tech University Press, (806) 742-2982 or via e-mail at [barbara.brannon@ttu.edu](mailto:barbara.brannon@ttu.edu). All of TTUP's books can be found at [www.ttup.ttu.edu](http://www.ttup.ttu.edu); for a complete listing of fiction published by the press, click on "Browse by Subject."

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Find Texas Tech experts and story ideas at [www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/media/](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/media/).

**CONTACT:**



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: Dec. 19, 2008

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, [sally.post@ttu.edu](mailto:sally.post@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

## **Edward James Olmos Speaks At Texas Tech**

Edward James Olmos will speak at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at Texas Tech University's Celebrating Diversity Scholarship Dinner.

Though widely recognized for his film and television career, Olmos also spends a great deal of time working for social and political causes, particularly as they have affected his native Latino heritage.

Though he struggled early on in his acting career, taking bit parts on popular television shows in the 1970s, he eventually found success. Starting with his Tony-nominated performance in "Zoot Suit," in 1978, Olmos developed into a highly-acclaimed and sought-after performer. He became a household name with his first regular series role, playing Lt. Martin Castillo on the hit television show "Miami Vice" from 1984 to 1989. He also appeared in the movies "Stand and Deliver" and "Selena" and currently is Admiral William Adama on "Battlestar Galactica."

Tickets are available at Texas Tech's Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center at (806) 742-8681. Ticket requests will be taken during the holiday break at [crosscultural.ttu.edu](http://crosscultural.ttu.edu).

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**CONTACT:** Jobi Martinez, director, Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center, at (806) 742-8681.

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