



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 2, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Hosts Carol of Lights

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University and the Residence Halls Association will host the 55th annual Carol of Lights.
- WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 3)
- WHERE:** Memorial Circle, the Science Quad and Engineering Key on the Texas Tech University Campus
- EVENT:** Texas Tech University hosts the 55th annual Carol of Lights celebration “55 Years of Magical Memories” on Tuesday (Dec. 3). The night kicks off with the traditional carillon concert at 6:30 p.m. and the outdoor ceremony will follow at 7 p.m.

Parking is available in the Commuter North parking lot adjacent to Jones AT&T Stadium. Vehicle traffic on campus streets in the vicinity of Memorial Circle will be restricted at 5:30 p.m. and will remain closed until the conclusion of the event.

Immediately following the Carol of Lights, the Texas Tech School of Music will host its annual Carols Concert 8 p.m. at Hemmle Recital Hall.

The lights will be lit every night from dusk until midnight from Dec. 4, 2013 through Jan. 1, 2014.

This year, Carol of Lights will be broadcasted live for audiences far and wide. Through a Google+ Hangout on Air, anyone can view a live stream of the event, processional and concert from a number of different angles starting at 6:30 p.m. In addition, a Twitter timeline to experience others’ reactions will run alongside the broadcast. To view, click [here](#).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 2, 2013

CONTACT: Chris Cook, chris.cook@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Names Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs, Dean of Graduate School

Texas Tech University today (Dec. 2) named Mark Sheridan to the position of Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School. Sheridan, who assumes his role in March, currently is associate dean in the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies and director of the Cellular and Molecular Biology Program at North Dakota State University.

“Following an exhaustive and thorough search by the committee, we have selected a talented and well-respected individual to lead our graduate program into the future,” said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. “Dr. Sheridan has been recognized numerous times by his peers for his dedication and leadership in higher education through teaching, mentoring and research.”

The Jordan A. Engberg Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at NDSU, Sheridan previously served for four years as the director of the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, a federal-state-private sector collaboration to enhance research infrastructure, and as the director of the Regulatory Biosciences Center at NDSU for 10 years. The Fullerton, Calif., native began his career at NDSU in 1985 as an assistant professor in zoology.

Sheridan’s dedication to student development is reflected in his service to NDSU’s student mentoring program throughout his career. Additionally, he has mentored fellow faculty and visiting scientists to the university.

“The role of the Graduate School is critical in advancing research and creative scholarship at Texas Tech University,” said Texas Tech Interim Provost Lawrence Schovanec. “Dr. Sheridan fills a very important leadership position and I know that he will do an excellent job in helping our university achieve its ambition to be a great public research university. I am very pleased and excited that he will be joining the Texas Tech community.”

Sheridan is a well-respected researcher worldwide in the areas of comparative physiology/biochemistry and endocrinology, and has held visiting professorships in Japan, China, Sweden, Brazil, Canada and Taiwan. By invitation, he’s made more than 30 presentations nationally and internationally and has more than 140 peer-reviewed papers.

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“With the dedicated work of its faculty, staff and students and with tremendous support from its alumni and friends, Texas Tech is at a unique point in its history and poised to emerge as a premier national research university,” Sheridan said. “Graduate programs will play a prominent role in that emergence, and I am pleased to join Texas Tech at this exciting time.”



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

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DATE: Dec. 2, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech's Raider Red Makes Semifinals in Mascot Challenge Final Four includes a bull, a bird and a Spartan.

Raider Red, Texas Tech University's costumed public relations mascot and reigning National Mascot of the Year, has made it to the final four in the playoff rounds of the [Capital One 2013 Mascot Challenge](#).

Week two of the playoffs finds Red seeded No. 3 and competing against second-seed Sparty of Michigan State University. Raider Red bested Smokey from the University of Tennessee in the quarter finals. The playoffs are a single-elimination vote with only two rounds remaining.

Red's three regular-season losses came in week one against East Carolina's PeeDee the Pirate, week three versus South Florida's Rocky the Bull and week 10 against Wisconsin's Bucky Badger.

This week's 25-point challenge is "What is your mascot's playoff superstition?" For 100 points upload a video or photograph supporting Red with a playoff beard. Each upload also must use the #CapitalOneRaiderRed hashtag.

Fans also can follow Raider Red on [Facebook.com/TTURaiderRed](https://www.facebook.com/TTURaiderRed) and Twitter @TTURaiderRed.

The mascot with the most votes at the end of the championship round will be the Capital One National Mascot of the Year and will be announced during the 2014 Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1, 2014. The winner will be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship to help fund its school's mascot program. Each of the 2013 participants also will receive \$5,000 for their university mascot program.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 3, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
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Postponed: Texas Tech English Learner Science and Math Conference

WHAT: English Learner Science and Math Education Conference scheduled for Saturday (Dec. 7) has been postponed until further notice, due to unforeseen circumstances.

EVENT: The Texas Tech University Center for Research in Leadership Education and *Proyecto* English Learner Science and Mathematics Education federal grant is partnering with Region 17 to host the annual English Learner Science and Mathematics Conference. The two featured keynote speakers Judit Moschkovich and Sylvia Celedon-Pattichis, are leading researchers in the field of mathematics education with English learners.

Teachers from across the region will participate in hands-on activities that promote the mathematics and science literacy of all students and in particular, English Learners.

Breakout sessions are designed to support on-going and intensive professional development activities with the goal being to improve classroom instruction for English Learners in science and mathematics education.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 3, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech's Free Market Institute Receives \$1.7 Million Grant to Study Origins of Economic Freedom, Prosperity

Texas Tech University's Free Market Institute (FMI) received a \$1.7 million three-year grant from the John Templeton Foundation to study the origins of economic freedom and prosperity.

The grant also will fund post-doctoral fellowships, visiting professors, doctoral student fellowships, guest lecturers, summer research stipends and a major conference.

"This will be the largest grant the Free Market Institute has received since the initial pledge of \$4 million that founded the institute," said Benjamin Powell, director of the institute. "It's going to significantly increase our activity. This grant will bring more than 50 scholars, post-doctoral students, visiting professors and guest lecturers to Texas Tech during the course of the next three years. It will help us make a significant contribution to better understanding the social change dynamics that lead to a freer and more prosperous society."

Daniel Austin Green, director of Freedom and Free Enterprise at the Templeton Foundation, said the research conducted by Texas Tech will provide greater insight about the more fundamental question of which institutions bring about economic freedoms.

"We won't just be learning more about how to make societies prosperous, but about the deeper culture and values that will sustain freedom and prosperity long into the future," he said. "The main research project funded by the grant will study what causes countries or U.S. states to adopt institutions that support an environment of economic freedom that causes prosperity."

How economic freedom is improved is much less understood than the benefits that freedom provides, Powell said, and the research project will address this major gap in that understanding.

"If private property and economic freedom are essential for achieving and maintaining a high standard of living, then it is crucial to understand specifically how improvements in these areas have been achieved and if there are lessons that are replicable in less free areas of the world or less free U.S. states today," he said.

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Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis said that understanding economic questions such as the one covered in the grant make Texas Tech's FMI stand out as a research institute and can have far-reaching applications that impact millions of people.

"It will be interesting to see what Dr. Powell and others uncover as they work toward a better understanding of how economic freedom and prosperity interact," Nellis said. "I appreciate Dr. Powell's continued efforts to secure external sources for funding."

The Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the big questions of human purpose and ultimate reality. It supports research on subjects ranging from complexity, evolution and infinity to creativity, forgiveness, love and free will. The organization encourages civil, informed dialogue among scientists, philosophers, and theologians and between such experts and the public at large, for the purposes of definitional clarity and new insights.

"In its first year since opening, the Free Market Institute at Texas Tech is already making a tremendous impact on our students, faculty and campus," said Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance. "This \$1.7 million grant is just another example of the institute's excellence, and we are proud of Dr. Powell and his team's efforts to highlight the importance of free market thinking and economic freedom."

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu.

CONTACT: Benjamin Powell, director, Free Market Institute, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-3097, or benjamin.powell@ttu.edu.



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 4, 2013

CONTACT: Jaryn Jones, jaryn.jones@ttu.edu
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Chancellor to Announce Distinguished Faculty Awards

- WHAT:** Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching, Research and Commercialization Awards Announcement
- WHEN:** 2 p.m., Dec. 6 (Friday)
- WHERE:** McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center, 17th and University
- EVENT:** Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance will announce the winners of the 2013 Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards, along with the first-ever Commercialization Awards. Administrators and award recipients from Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso and Angelo State University will be present.

The Chancellor's Council raises funds for student scholarships and recruitment, faculty awards and support, and various other programs of excellence.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 4, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Rawls College of Business Unveils STEM MBA

New master's program is the first of its kind in Texas.

As the economy recovers, science, technology, engineering and math graduates are increasingly important in the workforce. Texas Tech University's Rawls College of Business has developed a new STEM MBA program focused on the competencies STEM students need to move forward in their careers.

The one-year program is designed to help STEM students increase their marketability and gain the leadership and insights needed to succeed in the business world. The first cohort starts next summer.

"The courses in the program are unique to a STEM audience in two ways," said William Pasewark, Webster Professor of Business and associate dean of Graduate Programs for the Rawls College. "First, the traditional MBA core courses will use content, cases and examples that focus on industries that typically employ STEM students. There will be less emphasis on the financial and retail sectors and greater focus on the high-tech, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and energy industries."

Second, he said, several courses in the program strictly are STEM-based and, in many cases, taught by professors with STEM backgrounds. The commercialization class, for example, is designed to show how ideas conceived in science and engineering eventually find their way to the marketplace.

Lance Nail, dean of the Rawls College, said the STEM MBA is not a common find at business schools. In fact, the Rawls program is the first in Texas and one of only a handful in the country.

"When I first arrived at Texas Tech, many of our internal stakeholders expressed a desire to elevate the status and visibility of our MBA program," Nail said. "Our external stakeholders talked about the need for greater cross-disciplinary training in approaching problems, the ability to collaborate with peers to solve those problems and more effective individual and collective communication skills to lead within an organization. I don't know how many times I heard about the early- to mid-career engineer or scientist with excellent technical skills whose career could have been enhanced by the knowledge of those same business and leadership skills."

Nail said as they moved into strategic planning for the college, it became obvious that they could address the needs of the internal and external stakeholders, and create future generations of

leaders in business and society through what he called “a highly rigorous specialized MBA program that meets the aspirations of Texas Tech and the needs of the business community.”

“This is where we leveraged one of the greatest assets of Texas Tech,” Nail said, “which is a comprehensive research university with highly regarded academic programs in all areas on one physical campus. Our faculty thought leaders in business are surrounded by top faculty and students from all disciplines here on campus.”

Nail said that with a great national and regional need for the education and training of leaders from STEM disciplines, and Texas Tech’s excellent academic programs in those areas, a STEM-focused MBA program seemed to be a natural match of excellence in business and STEM for the university.

“As Dr. Pasewark mentioned, the curriculum has been designed to offer the basic body of knowledge in business along with knowledge and skills more focused on STEM-trained students,” Nail said. “We have done this while addressing the needs of the business community for a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach with an emphasis on effective communication skills.”

According to Nail, many of the Rawls faculty received undergraduate and graduate degrees in the STEM disciplines and enjoyed success in STEM-oriented careers before pursuing their doctoral degrees and academic careers in business.

“Our faculty is well-suited to teach STEM-trained students on how to translate their primary education in STEM to business success – both within an organization or as an entrepreneur,” Nail said. “We are very excited to offer this new program.”

For more information, follow the program on [Facebook](#) or visit the [website](#) to start an application. The application deadline for Summer 2014 is April 1, and June 1 for Fall 2014.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at today.ttu.edu/media/ and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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DATE: Dec. 4, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech to Host Pan-American Chess Championship

The Texas Tech University Chess Program and Texas Tech Knight Raider Chess Team will host the 2013 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship on Dec. 27-30.

The Pan-American championship, or the “World Series of Chess,” is open to all post-secondary schools in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The event was first held in 1946. This is the first time the tournament will be held in Lubbock.

“A number of the teams, including Texas Tech, will be stronger than those representing many nations in the World Chess Olympiad,” said Al Lawrence, director of the Texas Tech Chess Program. “More than a dozen international grandmasters, the highest ranking in chess, will play here.”

The top four qualifying schools from the tournament go on to compete in the Final Four of college chess, held in the spring. Texas Tech has been crowned National Champion twice since the program began in 2007.

The Pan-American championship will be held at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center, located at 2322 Mac Davis Lane in Lubbock. A reception will be held at 4 p.m. Dec. 27 and a closing ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Dec. 30.

Lawrence Schovanec, interim provost for Texas Tech will represent the university.

“University teams from all over the continent, including Ivy League schools like Princeton University and Columbia University, as well as the traditional chess powerhouses like Texas Tech and UT-Dallas, have registered,” Al Lawrence said. “Even warm-weather teams like the University of the West Indies are coming to Lubbock.”

The event will be open to the public.

In addition to top prizes, special trophies will be awarded for various honors. Registration for the tournament is \$200 until Dec. 7. Registration goes up to \$240 after that. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuchess/panam.php>.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu or on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 5, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Former Ambassador Remembers Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, who served as president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, died today (Dec. 5) at the age of 95. His presidency is remembered for disabling the legacy of apartheid in South Africa.

Tibor P. Nagy Jr., vice provost for international affairs at Texas Tech University, was ambassador to Ethiopia from 1999-2002 and Guinea from 1996-1999. Among his many other posts, Nagy served the Foreign Service in Togo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and visited South Africa, where he saw the horrors of apartheid firsthand. He also served in Washington, D.C., as the systems administrator for the African Bureau.

“It’s difficult for Americans to truly understand what Nelson Mandela means to Africa and to the developing world,” Nagy said. “This quiet, good-humored, gentle, modest giant endured so much suffering for the simple concept that race does not make one superior to another. After spending so much of his life in prison for what he believed, when the evil regime that imprisoned him crumbled, instead of emerging angry and intent on revenge, he became a force for peace, unity, forgiveness and moving forward.

“In our context, we can best characterize him as part George Washington, part Abraham Lincoln, and part Martin Luther King Jr. His presidency gave South Africa a chance to become a global model for development and racial harmony. Sadly, his successors to the presidency are squandering the tremendous goodwill Mandela created for South Africa. Regardless of what they do, or how South Africa goes, his own light will continue to brighten, immaterial of his mortality.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 5, 2013

CONTACT: Lauren Kozlovsky, lauren.kozlovsky@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech ICC Hosts 13th Annual Photo Exhibition

- WHAT:** High and Dry: Peoples and Places of the World's Dry Lands photo exhibition
- WHEN:** 5-7 p.m., Friday (Dec. 6)
- WHERE:** International Cultural Center (ICC) Auditorium, 601 Indiana Avenue
- EVENT:** Texas Tech University ICC will host the 13th annual juried photo exhibition from 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the ICC auditorium.

High and Dry: Peoples and Places of the World's Dry Lands photo exhibit attracts photographers from across the United States, and the public is invited to view this year's images by 61 photographers.

Guest speaker David Michael Kennedy will speak at 6:30 p.m. about his work and how he dedicates himself to the increasingly rare art of platinum palladium printing. Kennedy's past achievements include being commissioned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to photograph New Mexico's Cultural Landscape.

The event is free and open to the public.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 5, 2013

CONTACT: Lauren Kozlovsky, lauren.kozlovsky@ttu.edu
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**Texas Tech's Apparel Design and Manufacturing Students Showcase
Fashion and Art**

- WHAT: Fashion and Art Exhibition at the First Friday Art Trail
- WHEN: 6-9 p.m., Friday (Dec. 6)
- WHERE: Charles Adams Studio Project (CASP), 1106 Fifth St.
- EVENT: Texas Tech University apparel design and manufacturing students will display a fashion exhibition for the First Friday Art Trail.

Students will showcase their ready-to-wear and art wear fashion pieces inspired by the designer's favorite work of art. Instructor Rachel Anderson mentored students in preparation for the exhibition.

The exhibit will be on permanent display through Dec. 23.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, Dec. 6, 2013

CONTACT: Jaryn Jones, jaryn.jones@ttu.edu

Chancellor's Council Expands Awards, Announces Prestigious Award Winners

Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance today (Dec. 6) announced recipients of the 13th annual Chancellor's Council distinguished faculty awards. Recognizing excellence in teaching, research and commercialization, these awards represent the most prestigious honors granted to faculty members throughout the TTU System.

"We are pleased to present these outstanding awards to such esteemed individuals," Hance said. "These faculty members represent the best of the best and continue to take our universities to new heights."

For the first time in its history, this year's list of recipients also includes awards honoring faculty members for commercialization efforts. The Chancellor's Council awards now include Distinguished Research, Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Commercialization awards.

Eight faculty members from Texas Tech University, six faculty members from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), two faculty members from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso and two faculty members from Angelo State University received the honors for a total of 18 recipients.

"We are grateful to have such hardworking faculty members on our team," Hance said. "Their efforts not only benefit our students and research efforts but also advance the reputation our institutions."

Each winner receives a commemorative medallion and a \$5,000 award. The Chancellor's Council raises funds for student scholarships and recruitment, faculty awards and support, and other programs of excellence.

The Distinguished Research Awards went to the following individuals:

- **Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D.**

Thomas Abbruscato is a professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and serves as associate dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo. Joining the School of Pharmacy in 2000, his research investigates novel therapeutic targets to improve brain recovery after a stroke and has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Heart Association. Currently a chartered member of the NIH Drug Discovery for the Nervous System Study Section, Abbruscato's research expertise is utilized in the areas of brain drug discovery and neurodegenerative diseases. Prior to

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coming to TTUHSC, Abbruscato received his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Arizona and his postdoctoral research was funded by an individual National Research Service Award from the NIH.

- **Guillermo Altenberg, Ph.D.**

Guillermo Altenberg is a professor and vice chairman of the Department of Cell Physiology & Molecular Biophysics at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Joining the university in 2007, his research has solved the crystal structure of a nucleotide-binding domain dimer, developed a novel spectroscopic technique and secured more than \$4.4 million in external grants from the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and many others. An author of 57 published papers and 13 reviews and book chapters, Altenberg received his Ph.D. and medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

- **Jaclyn E. Cañas-Carrell, Ph.D.**

Jaclyn E. Cañas-Carrell is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Toxicology and serves as associate director of the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Center for Outreach, Research and Education at Texas Tech University. Among numerous accolades, this year Cañas-Carrell has received the Texas Tech University President's Excellence in Diversity & Equity Award and the Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship, a tribute to her passion for helping underrepresented minorities succeed in higher education and science. Cañas-Carrell received both her bachelor's degree in zoology and Ph.D. in environmental toxicology from Texas Tech University and was a postdoctoral research associate at the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Corvallis, Ore.

- **Mayukh Dass, Ph.D.**

Mayukh Dass is an associate professor of marketing in the Rawls College of Business Administration and serves as program director for the Rawls Business Leadership Program at Texas Tech University. A faculty member at Texas Tech since 2008, Dass received the Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year award in 2013 and has published 19 journal articles in highly ranked journals, as well as four book chapters and 37 conference proceedings. He received his bachelor of engineering in electronics and power from Nagpur University in India, and a master's degree in artificial intelligence, master's degree in statistics and Ph.D. in business administration from the University of Georgia.

- **Sandra Huston, Ph.D.**

Sandra Huston is an associate professor and director of the Personal Financial Literacy Program in the Department of Personal & Financial Planning at Texas Tech University. Huston led the internationally recognized Financial Literacy Assessment Project from 2007-2009, which developed an instrument to measure financial literacy that is now included as part of a national consumer survey. She has produced a total of 97 scholarly works, including 31 refereed journals, received a total of nearly \$280,000 in research funding and has been recognized by 62 national and international academic conferences. In 2012 her article, *Measuring Financial Literacy*, was selected as the best paper of the



year in the highest ranked journal in her field. Huston received her bachelor's degree from University of Manitoba in Canada, her master's degree from the University of Guelph in Canada and her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

- **Ina L. Urbatsch, Ph.D.**

Ina L. Urbatsch is an associate professor in the Department of Cell Biology & Biochemistry at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Securing nearly \$3.8 million in external funding including grants through the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, her research examines transmembrane proteins associated with many human disorders such as cystic fibrosis and multidrug resistance (MDR) of cancers. Based on her expertise in protein engineering and to produce large amounts of recombinant protein *in vitro*, Urbatsch's lab has lead the way on structural characterization of MDR transporters. Her work has resulted in 41 peer reviewed papers in high impact journals, including in collaboration with the Chang laboratory, a *Science* paper on the structure of P-Glycoprotein, the first ever structure of a mammalian ATP-binding cassette transporter that has been cited more than 500 times in just four years. Urbatsch joined the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 2003 and received her Ph.D. in chemistry and biochemistry from the University of Kaiserslautern in Germany.

- **Siva A. Vanapalli, Ph.D.**

Siva A. Vanapalli is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas Tech University. With a research focus in the areas of microfluidics, cell biomechanics and worm biology, he has published 35 refereed journal articles and has been involved with 12 successful research proposals totaling \$1.88 million and including a prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The impact of his work is reflected in more than 470 citations, an h-index of 14 and multiple invited talks. His laboratory was the first at Texas Tech to receive a Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas grant for cancer research, as well as the first to receive a NSF Innovation-Corps grant to explore commercialization of technology discovered in his lab. Vanapalli received his bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in India, his master's degree from Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

- **Scott C. Williams, Ph.D.**

Scott C. Williams is an assistant professor of physics in the College of Sciences at Angelo State University. His research examines the various atomic processes involved in X-ray emissions and the behavior of carbon nanotubes in microwave fields. Since joining Angelo State in 2008, he has secured more than \$330,000 in grants and published 13 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, conference proceedings and books. Williams received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas, his master's degree from the University of Texas at Dallas and his Ph.D. from Texas Christian University.

The Distinguished Teaching Awards went to the following individuals:

- **Dan Blunk, M.D.**

Dan Blunk is a college master in the Department of Medical Education and associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, previously serving as clerkship director in psychiatry for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso. He played an important role in developing the psychiatry clerkship, and has received seven teaching awards, including Faculty of the Year, Lifetime Teaching Award, Outstanding Faculty Award and Preceptor of the Year Award. In addition, Blunk was inducted into the medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha, serves as councilor for Alpha Omega Alpha and advisor for the Psychiatric Interest Group, and has co-authored two children's books with Dr. Marie Leiner on addressing behavioral issues of children through a wellness approach. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, completed his medical training at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, held an internship at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas and completed his psychiatric residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

- **Claudia C. Cogliser, Ph.D.**

Claudia C. Cogliser is an associate professor in the Area of Management at the Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech University. She was inducted into the Texas Tech Teaching Academy in 2013 and named a Texas Tech Integrated Scholar in 2011. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Miami and previously held faculty positions at the University of Oklahoma and Oregon State University. With more than 35 publications featured in scholarly outlets, her teaching style is inspired by theory and service learning, and her research interests include leader-follower relationships, authentic leadership, entrepreneurial orientation, scale development, and multi-level analysis.

- **Melanie Hart, Ph.D.**

Melanie Hart serves as interim chair of the Department of Health, Exercise & Sport Sciences and associate dean in the College of Arts & Sciences at Texas Tech University, teaching courses in exercise and sport sciences and assisting the university in distance and online education. A member of Phi Kappa Phi, the National Association of Kinesiology in Higher Education and the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, she was inducted into the Texas Tech Teaching Academy in 2008 and has been commended by students for creating an atmosphere where they are free to express opinions and ask questions. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University and earned her Ph.D. in motor behavior from Auburn University.

- **Nikita Mirajkar, Ph.D.**

Nikita Mirajkar is an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the School of Pharmacy at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo. Joining the university in 2008, her teaching portfolio covers courses at all levels of pharmacy student education, and she has received six student-nominated awards, including multiple "Teacher of the Year" and "Outstanding Faculty" honors. Mirajkar earned a bachelor's degree in veterinary sciences and animal husbandry from



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

the Maharashtra Animal & Fisheries Sciences University in India and a Ph.D. in veterinary biomedical sciences from Oklahoma State University.

- **Rubini Pasupathy, Ph.D.**

Rubini Pasupathy is an assistant professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Joining the university in 2003, she has taught in both undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Clinical Administration & Rehabilitation Counseling, receiving the “Teacher of the Year” award from the TTUHSC Student Senate multiple times. A fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives, she has published in the areas of health care policy and delivery, as well as research and clinical self-efficacy among health care professions. Pasupathy received her bachelor’s degree in sociology, her master’s degree in business administration and her Ph.D. in higher education administration from Texas Tech University.

- **Brian Shannon, J.D.**

Brian Shannon is the Charles “Tex” Thornton Professor of Law at Texas Tech University, serving as a professor in the School of Law since 1988. Shannon serves as the university’s Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) to the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference, where he also serves as president of the national 1A FAR Association. Additionally, he is an appointed board member for StarCare Specialty Health Systems, an elected member of the American Law Institute, a past president of the Lubbock Area Bar Association, and was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to four terms on the Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities. Shannon received his bachelor’s degree from Angelo State University and his law degree from the University of Texas.

- **Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Ph.D.**

Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo is an associate professor in the Department of Human Development & Family Studies and director of the Graduate Minor in Cross-Cultural Studies and the online master’s in Youth Development Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance programs at Texas Tech University. Among numerous accolades, she was named to the Top 14 Hispanic Professors in Texas in 2013 and received the Texas Tech President’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012, which is a tribute to her goal of transforming the classroom into a cross-cultural experience. She received a double associate’s degree from the Castella Arts Conservatory in Costa Rica, a double bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University as a Fulbright Student, and went on to pursue both her master’s degree and Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Auburn University.

- **James J. Womack, D.M.A.**

James J. Womack is an associate professor of music in the College of Liberal & Fine Arts at Angelo State University. Specializing in double-reed instruments, the bassoon and oboe, he not only teaches students to better play their instruments, but also shows them how to make their reeds with a stick of cane. Womack also coaches the university’s Woodwind Quintet, is a founding member of the Mesquite Trio and performs with the San Angelo Symphony, Abilene Philharmonic and San Antonio Symphony. Womack

earned his bachelor's degree from Berea College in Kentucky, his master's degree from Illinois State University and his doctorate of musical arts from Louisiana State University.

The Distinguished Commercialization Awards went to the following individuals:

- **Ted W. Reid, Ph.D.**

Ted Reid is a professor and vice chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and serves as the director of Ocular Cell Biology at the Lubbock campus of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. A founding scientist of the company Selenium, Ltd, Reid co-developed a technology called SeLect that prevents the formation of biofilms and the spread of infectious bacteria when added to polymer surfaces and medical devices. Protected by seven issued patents and multiple U.S. and international patent applications, SeLect helps save lives, offers cellular control across industries and cuts medical and other expenses. With TTUHSC for more than two decades, Reid received his bachelor's degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles, his master's degree from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles.

- **Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D.**

Mingtao Zeng is an associate professor of biomedical sciences in the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine and a principal investigator in the Center of Excellence for Infectious Diseases at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso. An accomplished vaccine immunologist, his research, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2002, is developing new-generation vaccines against respiratory pathogens such as influenza viruses and agents important for biodefense. Zeng holds several patent applications related to new vaccines and therapeutics against anthrax, botulism and influenza, and has served as a member of numerous grant review committees for the NIH and Department of Defense. Zeng received his bachelor's degree from Sichuan University in China, his master's degree from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Tel Aviv University in Israel.

About the Texas Tech University System

The Texas Tech University System is one of the top public university systems in the state of Texas, consisting of four component institutions and operating at 12 academic sites and centers. Headquartered in Lubbock, Texas, the TTU System has an annual operating budget of \$1.7 billion and approximately 17,000 employees focused on advancing higher education, health care, research and outreach.

In 2012, total research expenditures approached \$200 million and total enrollment exceeded 43,700 students for the first time in the TTU System's history. Whether it's contributing billions of dollars annually in economic impact or being the only system in Texas to house an academic institution, law school, and medical school at the same location, the TTU System continues to prove that anything is possible.

CONTACT: Randy Sanders, associate vice chancellor, Office of Communications & Marketing, Texas Tech University System, (806) 742-0057, randy.sanders@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of Communications and Marketing

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 6, 2013

CONTACT: Grace Acuna, grace.acuna@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Hispanic Honor Society Hosts Rescheduled Spanish Spelling Bee Championship

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University's Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi's third annual Lubbock Spanish Spelling Bee Championship
- WHEN:** 9 a.m. Saturday (Dec. 7)
- WHERE:** International Cultural Center, 601 Indiana Ave.
- EVENT:** Previously scheduled for Nov. 23 but postponed due to inclement weather, the Alpha Phi chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Society, hosts the third annual Lubbock Spanish Spelling Bee Championship. Students from 12 Lubbock area schools are scheduled to participate in the event.

Sigma Delta Pi was established in 1919. The Texas Tech chapter's mission is to encourage the study of the Spanish language and improve awareness of Hispanic culture in Lubbock and surrounding communities.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Comfort Pratt, campus advisor, Sigma Delta Pi, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5710, or c.pratt@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 6, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, megan.ketterer@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Local Public Television Screens Downton Abbey

WHAT: KTTZ-TV will screen the first hour of Downton Abbey's season four premiere.

WHEN: Dec. 12 (Thursday)

WHERE: Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA), 511 Ave. K

EVENT: Two screenings of Downton Abbey will be shown. The first begins with a 3 p.m. reception with tea and hors d'oeuvres, and then followed by a 4 p.m. screening.

The second screening begins with a 6 p.m. reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a 7 p.m. screening.

The screenings are free and open to the public. To reserve seating, call (806) 762-8606. The event is sponsored by KTTZ-TV, LHUCA and Flatland Film Series.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Robert Giovannetti, managing director, Texas Tech Public Broadcasting, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2209, or robert.giovannetti@ttu.edu.



Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 9, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Announces Fall Commencement

More than 2,300 students will graduate Friday and Saturday (Dec. 13-14) during five Texas Tech University ceremonies held at the United Spirit Arena.

Commencement exercises for the College of Arts & Sciences begin at 3 p.m. Friday. The Graduate School will follow at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, the Rawls College of Business, Honors College, College of Media and Communication, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts will begin their ceremony at 9 a.m. The Colleges of Architecture, Education, Engineering, Human Sciences, the Office of the Provost (B.A. University Studies) and Wind Energy will begin commencement exercises at 1:30 p.m. The School of Law will hold its hooding ceremony at 5 p.m.

All ceremonies will take place at the United Spirit Arena (18th Street and Indiana Avenue), with the exception of the School of Law, which will take place in the Lanier Auditorium at the law school (1802 Hartford Ave).

Paul L. Foster, founder and executive chairman of Western Refining, Inc., a Fortune 500 oil refining and marketing company based in El Paso will speak at Friday's ceremonies. Texas Tech Alumnus O. Wayne Isom, the Terry Allen Kramer Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center, will speak at Saturday's undergraduate ceremonies. William B. Dawson, a partner in the Dallas office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Texas Tech School of Law alumnus, will speak at the School of Law Hooding Ceremony.

Ceremonies can be viewed online at www.commencement.ttu.edu/livestream.

Jones AT&T stadium will be open for graduates to take photos with family members and friends from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Friday. Graduates may enter through the top of home tunnel on the southwest side by Gate 1. Graduates and their visitors will be able to park in the C1 lot west of the stadium.

For more information about commencement, including information on maps, guest seating, college receptions, parking and hotels, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/commencement/>.

CONTACT: Peggy Flores, commencement coordinator, Texas Tech University
Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement, (806) 742-7742
or peggy.flores@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 9, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Hosts Presidential Inauguration of M. Duane Nellis

WHAT: Texas Tech will inaugurate M. Duane Nellis as the president of Texas Tech University.

WHEN: 3 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 11)

WHERE: United Spirit Arena

EVENT: Nellis officially will be inaugurated as the 16th president of Texas Tech at the ceremony. Chancellor Kent Hance and Interim Provost Lawrence Schovanec will make remarks as well as representatives from the Board of Regents, Faculty and Staff Senates, and Student Government Association.

A reception will follow the ceremony beginning at 5 p.m. at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion.

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CONTACT: Sarah Barron, coordinator of presidential services and communications, Office of the President, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2121, or sarah.barron@ttu.edu.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 9, 2013

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

Texas Tech's Post-Doctoral Researcher on Team Finding Supernova Remnant Associated With a Binary System

The discovery makes this the youngest neutron star binary system found in our galaxy.

A Texas Tech University post-doctoral researcher was part of an international team of astronomers that recently discovered the glowing wreckage of the youngest-known neutron star yet discovered in a binary system in our Milky Way Galaxy.

Paul Sell, the astronomer who contributed to the research and currently is studying X-ray binaries at Texas Tech, said that younger neutron stars exist. However, none of these are in a binary system that still has the visible nebulous debris around it from its supernova.

A binary system is two objects in space, such as stars or planets, which are close enough that their gravitational interaction causes them to orbit around a common center of mass. Neutron stars are the densely packed, collapsed cores of massive stars that sometimes are left after a supernova explosion.

The results were published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

At about 26,000 light years from Earth, the binary system that the researchers studied is called Circinus X-1. It is the brightest source of X-rays in the constellation of Circinus.

“Circinus X-1 is whoppingly bright in X-rays and, therefore, has been known for a long time,” Sell said. “It’s easy to see. What makes this system so special is that we have discovered a remnant from the supernova that created the neutron star, implying that it is very young.”

Sell said the team found a tell-tale nebula of ionized gasses surrounding the neutron star. By studying it with the help of NASA’s [Chandra X-ray Observatory](#) and the [Australia Telescope Compact Array](#), researchers dated the neutron star at about 2,400 years old – the blink of an eye in celestial terms.

“In an analogy to a human lifetime, this neutron star is like a baby that’s only a few days old,” Sell said. “This discovery is important because it provides a unique laboratory to test key theories of stellar evolution, especially about the stage of a star’s life just after most of it has been obliterated in a supernova explosion.”

Sell said most neutron stars have a mass of about 1.4 suns packed into a ball with a diameter of just 12 miles (20 kilometers). Usually existing in isolation, only about 100 other neutron stars have held onto their companion stars in the Milky Way.

Circinus X-1 produces X-rays as material from the evolving star spirals in to its denser companion and is heated to very high temperatures, said Sebastian Heinz, lead author and an astronomy professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Heinz said scientists can look at the nebula of ionized gasses surrounding the neutron star to estimate how long ago the parent star exploded.

“It basically creates the historical record of that explosion,” he said. “These shells of ionized gas don’t last very long, so they are quite accurate clocks for finding things that are recent. They can only be seen for about 100,000 years or so before they dissipate and merge with the rest of the gas and dust in space. This is only a small fraction of the lifetime of an X-ray binary, making the chance to find one in this early phase of its life very small.”

Sell said the discovery provides critical information about the way neutron stars evolve.

“For example, the unusual oval-shaped orbit on which these two stars swing around each other is exactly what you would expect for a very young X-ray binary,” he said. “This may also have to do with why this infant neutron star has made such a fuss since its conception; powerful bursts and other large-scale features caused by bipolar jets, which are narrow flows of particles moving near the speed light originating from this binary, are only rarely seen in other X-ray binaries.”

The observations also pose new questions, he said. For example, Circinus X-1’s neutron star appears to have a relatively small magnetic field, contrary to general theory stating that newborn neutron stars have large magnetic fields.

“Why that’s the case remains a mystery,” Sell said. “Circinus X-1 appears to be a unique X-ray binary, probably in large part because it is so young.”

To see a free, early version of the article, visit <http://arxiv.org/abs/1312.0632>.

CONTACT: Paul Sell, post-doctoral researcher, Department of Physics, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3767 or paul.sell@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 9, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech's Raider Red Defending Title in Mascot Finals Red takes on the undefeated bull.

Raider Red, Texas Tech University's costumed mascot and reigning National Mascot of the Year, has made it to the final round of the [Capital One 2013 Mascot Challenge](#).

The final week of the playoffs finds Red competing against the undefeated Rocky the Bull from the University of South Florida. Raider Red lost to the bull in week three of the regular season. Raider Red bested Sparty from Michigan State University in the semifinals.

Red's regular season record was 9-3, with his two other regular-season losses coming in week one against East Carolina's PeeDee the Pirate and week 10 against Wisconsin's Bucky Badger.

This week's 25-point challenge is "If your mascot wins the Mascot Challenge, what should the first line of his acceptance speech be?" For 100 points "film or photograph yourself kissing a trophy. Any trophy." Each upload also must use the #CapitalOneRaiderRed hashtag.

Fans also can follow Raider Red on Facebook.com/TTURaiderRed and Twitter @TTURaiderRed.

The mascot with the most votes at the end of the championship round will be the Capital One National Mascot of the Year and will be announced during the 2014 Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1, 2014. The winner will be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship to help fund its school's mascot program. Each of the 2013 participants also will receive \$5,000 for their university mascot program.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [Texas Tech Today Media Resources](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

CONTACT: Bruce Bills, cheer and mascot coach, Center for Campus Life, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-5433 or bruce.bills@ttu.edu; or Stephanie Rhode, Spirit Program supervisor, (806) 742-5433 or stephanie.rhode@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 10, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, megan.ketterer@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

13th Annual Caprock Celtic Christmas Celebrates Season

Poetry from Celtic texts interwoven with songs and dance of the season will highlight the 13th Annual Caprock Celtic Christmas, which will be held 6 p.m. Dec. 15 (Sunday) in Texas Tech University's Hemmle Recital Hall.

"In the old Celtic calendars, mid-winter was an opportunity for a festival of rebirth and community, and hope for the spring," said Christopher Smith, director of the Vernacular Music Center. "I am excited to see this role being played by Texas Tech student ensembles."

The production will be streamed live over the Internet and a social media area will be available, where attendees are encouraged to interact through Twitter, Vine and Facebook.

The Texas Tech Celtic Ensemble, Caprock Morris dance team, their junior team The Brothers Grimm, and the Irish Set-Dancers will perform.

This year's event will be formatted differently than previous years, which will allow more theatrical staging.

"The production is particularly focused around dance and dance music, along with the spoken-word poetry, and I think that'll be a unique combination," Smith said.

The event is a fundraiser for the Vernacular Music Center scholarships. Celtic Christmas is sponsored by the Vernacular Music Center, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Caprock Celtic Association and the Roots Music Institute.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu.

CONTACT: Christopher Smith, director, Vernacular Music Center, School of Music, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2270, or christopher.smith@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 10, 2013

CONTACT: Dailey Fuller, dailey.fuller@ttu.edu
(806) 742-0057

Chancellor to Address Rotary Club of Lubbock

WHAT: Chancellor Kent Hance will address the Rotary Club of Lubbock.

WHEN: 12-1 p.m., Dec. 11 (Wednesday)

WHERE: The Great Hall of the Christian Life Center, First United Methodist Church of Lubbock
*Accessed through the portico entrance at 13th Street and Avenue N.
Parking available across the street south of the building.*

EVENT: Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance will address members of the Rotary Club of Lubbock. Hance will provide an update on the accomplishments achieved at Texas Tech over the past seven years. A short question and answer session will follow Hance's address.

CONTACT: Randy Sanders, Office of Communications & Marketing, Texas Tech University System, (806) 742-0057, or randy.sanders@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 10, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Holiday Gifts Available

Several Texas Tech University gifts are available for this holiday season. A portion of the proceeds from each gift benefits Texas Tech student scholarships.

2013 Texas Tech Ornament

The 2013 Official Texas Tech Ornament contains 90 Double T's arranged in the shape of a snowflake. To commemorate Texas Tech's 90th anniversary, each Double T represents one year of the university's continued honor and excellence. The 2013 ornament is available for \$25.

To purchase the 2013 ornament, visit <http://merchandise.ttu.edu> or call (806) 742-2121.

I Am A Red Raider T-Shirt

Our students, faculty and alumni are many things. But wherever we go, and whatever we do, every day, we are Red Raiders. Show your Red Raider pride by ordering an "I Am A Red Raider" t-shirt. Supplies are limited. All proceeds benefit the Texas Tech University Presidential scholarship program. T-shirts are available in red and black for \$10.

To purchase the t-shirt, visit <http://merchandise.ttu.edu> or call 806-742-2121.

Red Raider Holiday Meats

Red Raider Meats, facilitated by the Meat Science program, offers a variety of items perfect for the holidays and gifts. The Meat Science program allows students to gain viable experience in practical business and meat science. All proceeds generated from the sale of Raider Red Meats provide funds for judging teams, graduate student research and scholarships for students within the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

To purchase Red Raider meats, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/meatscience/orders/> or visit COWamonogus! in the Animal and Food Sciences Building from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 10, 2013

CONTACT: Chris Cook, chris.cook@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Names CFO, Vice President for Administration & Finance

Texas Tech University today (Dec. 10) named Noel Sloan to the position of Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administration & Finance. Sloan has been the interim in the position since July.

“I am pleased to make this announcement today,” said M. Duane Nellis, Texas Tech University president. “Noel’s background in tax law and finance, along with her experience and understanding of the university’s financial structure, elevated her as the best choice for the position.”

Sloan arrived at Texas Tech University in 2006 and has held positions as tax director, interim managing director for Student Business Services, managing director for Financial Services & Tax, and most recently, interim chief financial officer for the university. She also has served as an adjunct faculty member in the Rawls College of Business.

“I am excited about this new role and look forward to working with President Nellis, his executive team and the Administration and Finance team,” Sloan said. “I am eager to collaborate with our faculty, staff and students as we lead Texas Tech forward to new levels of success.”

A native of Slinger, Wisc., Sloan received a bachelor’s in business administration in accounting and a juris doctorate from Baylor University. Upon graduation, she began working at Congdon, Ward and Walden law firm in Waukesha, Wisc., before handling wealth planning in the Private Client Services group of Arthur Anderson. Prior to her arriving at Texas Tech, Sloan practiced in the area of estate planning for Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP, in Milwaukee.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 11, 2013

CONTACT: Patrick Gonzales, patrick.gonzales@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Named Best Value Public College by Kiplinger's Personal Finance

The university is ranked 87th in its second time to make the list.

Texas Tech University was named today (Dec. 11) to “Kiplinger’s Personal Finance” list of 100 best values in public colleges for 2014.

Since 1998, the rankings have recognized four-year schools that combine outstanding education with economic value. Texas Tech is ranked 87th this year, marking the second time it has made Kiplinger’s list. The school was ranked 98th in 2003.

Among this year’s top 100 best value schools, Texas Tech ranked 11th in least average debt at graduation.

“We’re always proud to be honored as a best value school, because we work hard to implement strategies that will help offset rising operating costs without compromising our academic integrity,” said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. “Earning a spot back on the Kiplinger top 100 proves we’re headed in the right direction.”

Kiplinger assesses quality according to a number of measurable standards, including the admission rate, the percentage of students who return for sophomore year, the student-faculty ratio and the four-year graduation rate. Cost criteria include low sticker prices, abundant financial aid and low average debt at graduation.

“The college landscape today is very different — tuition increases and student debt dominate the national conversation surrounding higher education,” said Janet Bodnar, editor of “Kiplinger’s Personal Finance.” “This year’s top 100 schools have made admirable strides to maintain academic integrity and standards while meeting the financial needs of their students.”

The annual public school rankings appear in Kiplinger’s February 2014 issue — on newsstands Dec. 31 — and online [now](#). Web visitors will find special features, including a tool that lets readers sort by in-state and out-of-state cost, average debt at graduation, and admission rate; a slide show of the top ten schools; [archives](#) of previous years’ rankings, and an FAQ about the ranking methodology.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 11, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Named Campus of Integrity

With students all over campus working on final exams, Texas Tech University was honored for its efforts in academic integrity. Texas Tech recently was selected as a winner of the 2014 Campus of Integrity Award by the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI).

Texas Tech will be honored during the awards luncheon banquet at the 2014 ICAI Annual Conference in March.

“Texas Tech is committed to developing ethical leaders for a diverse and globally competitive workforce,” said Justin Louder, assistant vice provost for the Texas Tech Ethics Center. “Being recognized as a campus of integrity by the ICAI shows Texas Tech’s commitment to ethical development. This is a great honor for our campus, our students, our faculty and our staff.”

The ICAI was founded to combat cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty in higher education. Its mission has since expanded to include the cultivation of cultures of integrity in academic communities throughout the world. ICAI offers assessment services, resources, and consultations to its member institutions, and facilitates conversations on academic integrity topics each year at its annual conference.

Aaron Monson, membership director for the ICAI, said the committee was impressed by Texas Tech’s commitment to integrity in a variety of ways.

“It is especially heartening to see the work that Texas Tech has done incorporating academic integrity into the Red Raider Orientation Program, the success of Texas Tech’s Honor Week and, of course, the work Texas Tech and the Texas Tech Ethics Center are doing to establish a regional consortium of ICAI,” Monson said.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [Texas Tech Today Media Resources](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

CONTACT: Justin Louder, assistant vice provost and director of the Texas Tech Ethics Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-1505 or justin.louder@ttu.edu.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 12, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Chess Coach Brings Home Silver in World Team Chess Championship

Texas Tech Chess Coach Alex Onischuk recently won the individual silver medal for his performance on board three for the U.S. Chess Team at the 2013 World Team Championship.

The U.S. team finished fourth overall, behind Russia, China and the Ukraine. However, the U.S. team defeated the first place winner Russia during the tournament.

“I’m glad my strong performance helped the U.S. team finish in the top four at the World Team Championship,” Onischuk said.

Onischuk did not lose any games at the tournament.

Onischuk finished third in the 2013 U.S. Chess Championship in April and competed in the 2013 World Cup in September. He currently is rated third overall among top players in the U.S.

“Coach Onischuk’s medal-winning performance against the world’s best demonstrates that he remains a world-class chess player,” said Al Lawrence, director of the Texas Tech Chess Program. “Texas Tech is honored to have him train our students.”

Texas Tech is hosting the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship Dec. 27-30 at the Overton Hotel. It will be the first time the “World Series of Chess” has been held in Lubbock. Spectators are welcome.

The Texas Tech University Chess Program—part of the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & and Community Engagement—offers outreach programs to more than a dozen area schools and can provide teaching materials and other assistance on request.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [Texas Tech Today Media Resources](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

CONTACT: Al Lawrence, director, Texas Tech University Chess Program, (806) 834-0997, or al.lawrence@ttu.edu.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 12, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Inaugurates M. Duane Nellis

M. Duane Nellis was inaugurated Wednesday (Dec. 11) as the 16th president of Texas Tech University.

In addition to Chancellor Kent Hance, members of the Board of Regents and Texas Tech faculty and staff, the president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) M. Peter McPherson was in attendance.

The ceremony featured an academic procession with members of the Texas Tech faculty donned in their regalia. Many faculty members served as delegates of institutions of higher learning, processing in the order of the institution's founding. Interim provost Lawrence Schovanec presided over the ceremony and Danny Reible, the Donovan Maddox Distinguished Engineering Chair served as the Mace Bearer. Clint Barrick, KTTZ's station manager and director of programming was the announcer.

Board of Regents Chairman Mickey Long, Chancellor Kent Hance, Faculty Senate President Aliza Wong, Staff Senate President Christine Self and Student Body President Luke Cotton each make remarks during the ceremony.

McPherson gave the keynote address.

"We are here to celebrate a new wonderful president in Duane Nellis and also to dedicate a new public purpose in the university," McPherson said. "This institution has achieved enormously, and there is momentum to achieve so much more. It is important for the country, for the public, that you do so."

McPherson, who has known Nellis for many years, said Nellis is capable, competitive, committed to the goals of the institution and drives to get things done. He also mentioned that he was particularly impressed with Texas Tech's recent announcement of ten faculty Fulbright awards, and praised Texas Tech's focus on outreach problem-solving and commercialization of research.

"This sets a standard and an expectation for the university," McPherson said.

In his inaugural address, Nellis spoke about his vision for Texas Tech as a top research university and reflected on the school's West Texas setting.

“As we know, at Texas Tech, from here it is possible, and as president, and with this firm foundation, I am committed to a new beginning; working with our outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to move Texas Tech to higher levels of national excellence—be more AAU like, indeed to be at the highest level based on the Carnegie Foundation Classification of Research Universities,” he said.

Nellis laid out five key themes that Texas Tech, like other research universities, should strive for: innovation, interdisciplinary research, student and community engagement, globalization and diversity.

“I am excited about our future, proud to be your new president, and ask each of you here today, who are part of the Texas Tech University family, to join with me as we work passionately, energetically and strategically to continue the progress of recent years of this great university, as we capture the promise of tomorrow that will collectively elevate Tech to new levels of national and indeed international visibility,” Nellis said.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 12, 2013

CONTACT: Randy Sanders, randy.sanders@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech University System Announces Grant Supporting White-tailed Deer Industry

Researchers at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University (TIEHH) recently received a start-up grant from the Deer Breeders Corp. to look for drug residues and study insect-borne disease transmission dynamics in white-tailed deer.

The goal of the partnership between Texas Tech and Deer Breeders Corp. is to strengthen and promote an emerging and growing sector of the agricultural industry.

The Texas Tech University System Office of Corporate Engagement is hosting Chris Timmons, president of the Deer Breeders Corp., and members of his board in Lubbock Friday (Dec. 13) to discuss the ongoing research project and opportunities to develop a white-tailed deer research program at Texas Tech, with the vision to construct a dedicated research facility in the Lubbock area.

“Our office wants Texas Tech to be the research university of choice for the Deer Breeders Corporation and white-tailed deer industry,” said Russell Thomasson, associate vice chancellor of corporate engagement.

This grant is expected to mark the start of a long-term research partnership between the two entities. The grant went to TIEHH associate professors Ernest Smith, Steven Presley and senior research associate Galen Austin.

“Deer breeding and farming is a big industry,” Thomasson said. “Significant dollars are invested by breeders and ranchers to meet the demand of private and commercial hunting operations. Currently, deer breeders have no antibiotics or other pharmaceuticals labeled for use in these animals, and so they use medicines developed for cattle and other animals. We hope to find healthy solutions for the deer industry.”

Timmons, a Texas Tech alumnus and president of Deer Breeders Corp., said that deer breeding is an \$8 billion industry in the United States. Part of the problem producers face is that veterinary medications used on their animals are labeled for use in livestock, not white-tailed deer.

“We keep having the same questions crop up in our industry, such as how long do these medications stay in the deer’s system,” Timmons said. “No one is doing any research on it.”

“Right now, there are very few vaccines or antibiotics labeled for use in deer,” Timmons added. “Knowing the lifespan and effectiveness of these medications in white-tailed deer helps us, as producers, continue to offer a healthy product for the market. Finding these answers will be a

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real breakthrough for the deer industry. The beneficiaries of these studies not only will be the deer breeders but the ranchers who are managing their native herds for profit, which results in a better product for the hunter. Who better to do it than Texas Tech?"

For this initial study, Texas Tech will receive blood samples from deer bred in captivity. Texas Tech will develop testing procedures to detect pharmaceuticals to see how long it takes for the deer's body to eliminate them.

Thomasson said deer breeders have significant capital invested and need to use pharmaceuticals for the humane treatment and protection of their deer herd.

"By conducting the drug residue research, Texas Tech hopes to provide deer breeders with the information they need to ensure that their deer herds are healthy and profitable," Thomasson said.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 13, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu

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Texas Tech Board of Regents Approves \$13 Million Plant & Soil Science Building

New research facilities and offices will enhance department's functionality.

The Texas Tech University System Board of Regents today (Dec. 13) approved a \$13 million project to design and construct a new Plant & Soil Science Building and renovate the existing Plant Sciences Building. Groundbreaking is anticipated in June 2014 with completion in May 2015.

The Department of Plant & Soil Science (PSS) currently is housed in the Agricultural Sciences building. Teaching and research labs along with faculty and graduate students currently located in Agricultural Sciences will be relocated to the new wing. Additionally, the PSS departmental offices will be relocated to the new wing.

“The new addition represents a huge step forward for the Department of Plant and Soil Science and the college as a whole,” said Michael Galyean, dean of the College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources. “It will provide a state-of-the-art facility that is vital to the continued growth of our research and graduate education programs in the department, and the increased space will allow for greater flexibility in meeting the needs of other departments as well. We are grateful to the many donors whose generosity and vision for the future helped make this dream come true.”

The new facility will run north-south from the west end of the current Plant Science Building and connect at the second floor. The facility, which adds 20,490 square feet, will continue the Spanish Renaissance architecture which will tie PSS in with the historic parts of campus. The semi-enclosed courtyard will have the feel of a cloistered Spanish garden.

“This new facility will be a beautiful addition to our campus,” said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. “We are experiencing a period of tremendous growth in many areas, and this is another example of our commitment to providing the best learning atmosphere for faculty, staff and students.”

The building project is being funded through donations, TRIP and HEAF funds. Most all of the funding is donor contributions and TRIP funds resulting from donors. Details of those donations will be released at a later date.

“These new plant biotechnology research laboratories will help Texas Tech obtain AAU-like research facilities and foster research creativity,” said Richard Zartman, chair of the department. “The relocation of faculty and graduate students also will enhance educational experience.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 13, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, Callie.Jones@ttu.edu

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Texas Tech Celebrates Fall 2013 Graduates

More than 2,300 students will graduate today and Saturday (Dec. 13-14) during five Texas Tech University ceremonies held at the United Spirit Arena.

Commencement exercises for the College of Arts & Sciences begin at 3 p.m. today. The Graduate School follows at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, the Rawls College of Business, Honors College, College of Media & Communication, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, and the College of Visual & Performing Arts will begin their ceremony at 9 a.m. The Colleges of Architecture, Education, Engineering, Human Sciences, the Office of the Provost (B.A. University Studies) and Wind Energy will begin commencement exercises at 1:30 p.m. The School of Law will hold its hooding ceremony at 5 p.m.

All ceremonies will take place at the United Spirit Arena (18th Street and Indiana Avenue), with the exception of the School of Law, whose ceremony takes place in the Lanier Auditorium at the law school (1802 Hartford Ave).

Paul L. Foster, founder and executive chairman of Western Refining, Inc., a Fortune 500 oil refining and marketing company based in El Paso, will speak at Friday's ceremonies. Texas Tech Alumnus O. Wayne Isom, the Terry Allen Kramer Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center, will speak at Saturday's undergraduate ceremonies. William B. Dawson, a partner in the Dallas office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Texas Tech School of Law alumnus, will speak at the School of Law Hooding Ceremony.

Ceremonies can be viewed online at www commencement.ttu.edu/livestream.

Honored students

Outstanding students, selected based on all-around achievement, will carry banners representing their respective colleges.

The following students are banner bearers:

Ashley Daggs, an animal science major from Killeen and Theresa Graf, an agricultural communications major from Momence, Ill., College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural

Office of Communications and Marketing

Resources; Sarah J. Armanovs, an architecture major from Dallas, College of Architecture; Timothy Robert Allen, a Spanish and biochemistry major from Bellaire, College of Arts & Sciences; Layne Thomas Kight, a marketing major from Alvarado, Rawls College of Business; Haley L. Arrington, a multidisciplinary studies major from Irving, College of Education; Alejandro M. Briseno, a civil engineering major from Las Cruces, N.M., Whitacre College of Engineering; Juan David Coronado, a history doctoral student from Edinburg, Graduate School; Kimberly E. Lundberg, a chemistry and math major from Lubbock; Sarah C. Miller, an arts and letters major from Lubbock; Niki N. Parikh, a university studies major from Lubbock, Honors College; Kelbi Jade Callaway, a human sciences major from Shallowater, College of Human Sciences; Elizabeth Michelle Bohm, an advertising major from Giddings, College of Media & Communication; Michelle Renee Sanchez, a university studies major from Austin, University Studies and Caitlin Lystle Flaherty, a music major from Austin, College of Visual & Performing Arts.

The highest ranking fall graduates for each college include:

- College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources: Ashley Daggs, an animal science major from Killeen and Theresa Graf, an agricultural communications major from Momence, Ill.
- College of Architecture: Sarah J. Armanovs, an architecture major from Dallas
- College of Arts & Sciences: Stephanie Richelle Dixon, an exercise and sports medicine major from Austin; Kathryn Louise Jones, an English major from Odessa; Elizabeth Faith Laughlin, an English major from Lubbock; Kimberly Elizabeth Lundberg, a chemistry and mathematics major from Lubbock; Ryan Wade Wakefield, an exercise and sports science major from Childress and Kelsey Elizabeth Young, an English major from Clovis, N.M.
- Rawls College of Business: Tyler David Creger, an accounting major from Sacramento, Calif., Tyler Kyle Horn, an accounting major from Alvin, Margaret Rose Ruebush, an accounting major from Lubbock and Stephen James Thorp, a management major from Lubbock
- College of Education: Haley L. Arrington, a multidisciplinary studies major from Irving; Joy Rebekah Forbes, a multidisciplinary studies major from Lubbock
- Whitacre College of Engineering: Alejandro M. Briseno, a civil engineering major from Las Cruces, N.M.
- College of Human Sciences: Lauren Ann Pocsik, an early childhood major from Houston; Debra Ann Gonzales, a human development and family studies major from Lubbock; Hayley Danielle Haagsma, a human development and family studies major from Bellflower, Calif.; Kelbi Jade Callaway, a human sciences major from Shallowater; Jennifer Olanio Hill, a personal financial planning major from Armarillo and Alesha J. Isaacs, a personal financial planning major from Wolfforth



- Honors College: Sarah C. Miller, an arts and letters major from Lubbock
- College of Media & Communication: Elizabeth Michelle Bohm, an advertising major from Giddings
- College of Visual & Performing Arts: Layne Thomas Kight, a music major from Alvarado
- University Studies: Michelle Renee Sanchez, a university studies major from Austin
- University Studies (Wind Energy): Rylan Ky Slone, a wind energy major from New Braunfels

Additional Information

Receptions for the colleges will be held immediately following the ceremonies. Receptions will be located as follows:

- College of Architecture: College of Architecture Gallery
- College of Arts & Sciences: Room 104 in Holden Hall
- Rawls College of Business: McCoy Atrium
- Whitacre College of Engineering: Livermore Center
- College of Human Sciences: El Centro
- College of Media & Communication: Third-floor student lounge
- College of Visual & Performing Arts: Holden Hall Rotunda
- Office of the Provost (University Studies): Red Raider Lounge
- Office of the Provost (Wind Energy): Room 107 of the National Wind Institute

Jones AT&T stadium will be open for graduates to take photos with family members and friends from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Friday. Graduates may enter through the top of home tunnel on the southwest side by Gate 1. Graduates and their visitors will be able to park in the C1 lot west of the stadium.

For more information about commencement, including information on maps, guest seating, college receptions, parking and hotels, visit

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/commencement/>

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 18, 2013

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Texas Tech's Physics Club Wins National Recognition

Texas Tech University's Society of Physics Students (SPS) recently won an Outstanding Chapter Award from the organization's national office.

This is the fifth time in more than 40 years that Texas Tech's chapter has received recognition for its excellence as a top-tier, student-led physics club. The designation is given to fewer than 10 percent of all SPS chapters at universities in the U.S.

"Winning the national recognition means a lot to the Texas Tech SPS chapter," said Catherine Fielder, chapter president and a physics major from Carrollton. "We work hard all year generating interest in physics for all ages as well as fostering a fun and relaxing environment for our members. Winning this award tells us that we are going in the right direction as a chapter and reassures us that our efforts are paying off. It is so exciting to be recognized by national SPS."

SPS chapters are evaluated on their level of interaction with the campus community, the professional physics community, the public and with SPS national programs. The Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes high levels of outreach as well as unique approaches to fulfilling the organization's mission to help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional community.

In addition to providing physics tutoring to Texas Tech students, Fielder said that SPS members assist with the South Plains Regional Science Fair and host Star Parties for the public at the observatory each year. Last fall, the chapter hosted the Texas Section of the American Physical Society Meeting.

"This upcoming spring, we are hosting a Physics Olympics for area high school and middle school students to compete in three physics-related events," she said.

This year, the SPS chapter at Texas Tech is advised by David Sand, an assistant professor of physics. Last year, Sung-Won Lee, an associate professor of physics, served as advisor.

"Personally, I am very happy and proud of our students' achievement they made for the 2012-2013 academic year," Lee said. "I am also extremely honored to be part of this prestigious award as a faculty advisor of Texas Tech Chapter of the Society of Physics Students. The award is a testament to the Texas Tech chapter's personal leadership skills

and superior performance and is the direct recognition of the magnificent work the Texas Tech chapter of SPS has been doing, and it has been recognized nationally. We are one of the most active chapters in the nation, and we are one of the nation's best in physics undergraduate activity.”

Other chapter officers for 2013-2014 include:

- Jonathan Hart, vice-president and a physics major from Castroville
- Trevor O’Loughlin, treasurer and a physics major from Joshua
- Zackary O’Connor, secretary and a physics and mathematics major from Hurst
- Ryan Gardner, historian and a physics and mathematics major from Paradise, Calif.
- Christopher Saint Ours, webmaster and a physics major from Rochester, N.Y.

Last year’s officers include:

- Catherine Fielder, acting chapter president, vice president
- Jonathan Clark, treasurer and a physics major from Dumas
- Jonathan Hart, secretary
- Carlos Silva, historian and a physics major from Bay City
- Lawrence Ethan Henderson, webmaster and a physics major from Irving

Texas Tech’s SPS Chapter was last recognized in 2010.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 20, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Hosts World Series of Chess

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University will host the 2013 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, otherwise known as the “World Series of Chess.”
- WHEN:** Dec. 27-30
- WHERE:** Overton Hotel and Conference Center, 2322 Mac Davis Lane
- EVENT:** The Pan-American championship, or the “World Series of Chess,” is open to all post-secondary schools in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. In addition to Texas Tech, more than 40 teams are registered, including several Ivy League and international institutions. This is the first time the tournament will be held in Lubbock.

More information, including a complete schedule can be found in the accompanying PDF.

Texas Tech Chess Program Director Al Lawrence is available for interviews throughout next week. Please contact him directly to arrange for an interview.

The Texas Tech University Chess Program—part of the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & and Community Engagement—offers outreach programs to more than a dozen area schools and can provide teaching materials and other assistance on request.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [Texas Tech Today Media Resources](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 22, 2013

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Schovanec Named to Provost and Senior Vice President Post

Texas Tech University today (Dec. 22) named Lawrence Schovanec to the position of provost and senior vice president, a post he has held on an interim basis since June. Schovanec's first official day as provost is January 1.

"We conducted a thorough and exhaustive search to ensure we selected the right person to lead our academic efforts, and Dr. Schovanec emerged as the top candidate from an exceedingly strong pool of finalists," Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis said. "Dr. Schovanec has a long history with Texas Tech University and is one of the most well-respected administrators on campus. He has a great rapport with the faculty and a vision for our academic mission that will positively lead us forward."

Prior to his appointment as interim provost, Schovanec served the university for nearly a year as interim president and two years as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

"This is a wonderful and humbling opportunity," Schovanec said. "I have had the pleasure of watching this great university grow during my time here and am proud of the faculty, staff and students who dedicate themselves to furthering the academic mission of Texas Tech. I look forward to working side-by-side with Dr. Nellis and thank him for his leadership and vision."

At Texas Tech for more than three decades, Schovanec previously served as interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences from September 2008 through May 2010. Prior to that, he served as chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics beginning in 1998. He joined the faculty in 1982.

Schovanec earned his doctorate in mathematics from Indiana University, his master's degree from Texas A&M University and his bachelor of science degree from Phillips University. He has received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award and is a member of the Texas Tech Teaching Academy.

Schovanec has published widely in academic journals and has spoken at numerous professional conferences. His research interests are in the fields of biomechanical and physiological control systems and solid mechanics. He has received more than \$3.2 million in external funding for his research.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 23, 2013

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San Francisco Named Honors College Dean

Michael San Francisco, Texas Tech University interim vice president for research, has been appointed dean of the Honors College, Provost Lawrence Schovanec announced Monday.

San Francisco will begin his new role January 1. Earlier this fall Robert Duncan was named vice president for research, a role he assumes also on January 1.

“It is my pleasure to appoint Dr. San Francisco as dean of the Honors College,” Schovanec said. “Dr. San Francisco is respected as an outstanding teacher, scholar and collegial faculty member. He is the ideal person to fill the position of dean of the Honors College at Texas Tech. I am confident that under his leadership the Honors College will provide exceptional opportunities to our students through the integration of innovative educational, scholarship and service opportunities.”

San Francisco said he is honored to be selected for the prestigious dean position at Texas Tech and looks forward to joining President M. Duane Nellis’ leadership team.

“I am very grateful to President Nellis and Provost Schovanec for the opportunity to serve our student body through the Honors College,” San Francisco said. “I would also like to thank Dr. Steve Fritz, who served as the interim dean of the college. I look forward to an energized university-wide partnership to promote the Honors College mission.”

A past associate dean in the Honors College, San Francisco also is a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. He’s worked on faculty development, interdisciplinary scholarship academy, strategic initiatives, proposal development and limited submissions as the interim vice president for research.

“Dr. San Francisco has displayed strong leadership as interim vice president for research, which is a crucial area for our research enterprise as we position the university as a national research leader,” Nellis said. “He is very student-centered and committed to encouraging undergraduate success at the highest level. He is a well-respected member of our faculty and administrative leadership and we are pleased he’s accepted this role.”

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San Francisco joined Texas Tech as an assistant professor in biological sciences in 1990 and was promoted to full professor in 2004. He also is an adjunct/joint professor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in the Department of Immunology and Molecular Microbiology. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1977 in India before attending Boston University, earning his master's in biochemical ecology in 1980 and doctorate in biology-microbiology in 1984. He did post-doctoral research at the University of Maryland in biochemistry and molecular biology (1984-1987) and subsequently at Ohio State University (1987-1990) in biotechnology.

San Francisco has been the director of the Clark Scholars Program since 1997. This program provides an intensive research experience for high school students from across the nation and globe. He was director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Science Education Program from 2005 to 2008 and now is associate director for undergraduate research. He also serves as co-director at the Center for the Integration of STEM Education and Research. He served as the faculty director for the Joint Admissions Medical Program (2001-2008), a program run by the State of Texas for those students who are academically eligible and economically underprivileged, and wish to attend medical school. San Francisco has an active research program that he will continue to direct.



Web Only

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources' Mentor Program helps transition freshman

Ag Pals provide incoming students with guidance and friendship during their first year at Texas Tech University.

Coming from a town with a population of less than 20,000 to Texas Tech University, where the fall enrollment was more than 33,000, can make some students feel intimidated. The College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) has been helping with this transition for more than 10 years with its Ag Pals program.

Ag Pals is a mentorship program where current undergraduate students volunteer to be mentors and are paired with incoming undergraduate students, pals, to guide and be a friend throughout their transition to Texas Tech.

“It gives incoming students an immediate connection to Texas Tech and the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources,” said Lori Dudley, coordinator of student development for the college. “They have someone they can call, text or whatever, I think they feel more comfortable with the mentors because they know that they were in their position a year ago.”

Sinclair Dobelbower, a freshman agriculture major student from Midlothian, said her mentors have given her care packages, cooked her dinner and escorted her to several different student organization meetings throughout her first semester.

“They are always a phone call away when I get lost on campus or have a question about a class, and they always go out of their way to check on me,” Dobelbower said. “They have taught me that the transition from high school to college can be a pleasant one by being great role models, support systems and friends.”

Garrett Coutts, an Ag Pal mentor, said the program sets CASNR apart from others on campus and shows all students how important they are to the college and university.

“CASNR truly wants them to feel at home and like we are their collegiate family,” said Coutts, a senior agricultural communications major from Pampa. “We want them to know that we are here for them, on a personal and professional level.”

Dudley said she believes the program has helped the college's retention rate and first-year student success.

“I hope our students benefit from this program or if they didn’t participate as freshmen maybe they can see the benefits and they’ll become mentors,” She said. “Just to see the program grow and getting more students involved with it is the goal for me.”

Applications to apply to become a mentor are distributed in the spring semesters and incoming freshmen may sign up for the program during their orientation. For more information visit the [Ag Pals](#) website.



Web Only

Faculty Member Becomes First President of Big 12 Diversity Organization

Jobi Martinez leads Big 12 chief diversity officers to develop initiatives.

Jobi Martinez strives to teach Texas Tech University students that diversity is more than skin color or gender. Now as president of the Big 12 chapter of Chief Diversity Officers she has a chance to promote these ideas on a national level.

“Diversity comes in many forms, so as a singular student here on campus, they bring a wealth of diversity,” said Martinez, the director of Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center. “Without all of those independent diverse units we wouldn’t have a campus as a whole.”

The Big 12 chapter is part of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), a professional organization serving as a preeminent voice for diversity officers in higher education.

The chapter originally formed in 2008 as a way for all Big 12 schools to join together and discuss joint programming and effective use of resources. It was formally inducted as part of the NADOHE this past year.

“Back when we formed, diversity in education was just starting to be looked at and addressed in small ways,” Martinez said. “Now we have chief diversity officers at every campus in our conference.”

Martinez served as president-elect for more than two years before officially becoming president this past spring. She was nominated by Juan Munoz, Texas Tech’s senior vice president for institutional diversity equity, and community engagement, and she also credits the university, which is seen as a model conference-wide for building a strong diversity program.

“Texas Tech is in a unique place because we are leading many activities, resources and programs that could really benefit the Big 12 as a whole and also campuses across the nation,” Martinez said. “It’s demonstrated with the many awards we have won as a division and as a diversity program.”

While president, Martinez wants to better market the organization within the Big 12 and build strong diversity programming so the chapter can become a more cohesive unit.

To learn more about the Big 12 Chapter visit the Big 12 Consortium of Diversity [website](#). For more information about the different diversity programs at Texas Tech visit the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement [website](#).



Web Feature

Graciously Giving Back – This Season and Year-round

MBA candidate's new wine label feeds the hungry across Texas.

As Cindy Sebek sat in the pew, she shook her head at the startling statistics her pastor projected on the screen. Just horrible. People going hungry. She thought of third-world countries and how her church was launching an effort to help feed 'those people.'

Wait, what? Cindy stared at the screen in disbelief as her pastor revealed that those hunger statistics were for San Antonio, her own city, not faceless people across the world. She could not fathom how so many of their own neighbors went to bed hungry each night. She agreed with him wholeheartedly when he said adamantly to the congregation, a second time, that these numbers were *unacceptable*. On her way out of the church that day in August of 2010, Cindy picked up as many empty food boxes as her arms could carry, intent on filling them with the listed items and vowing to make a difference.

She didn't know then that in a matter of a few years, she would make a huge difference with the gift of an idea and a bottle of wine.

A native of Kerrville, Cindy earned her bachelor's degree in human development and family studies in 2001 from Texas Tech's College of Human Sciences. For the past 12 years she has been in medical sales and currently works for Sanofi Biosurgery.

"I truly believe this is a special wine label," Cindy said. "I'll take credit for the manpower on the ground, but I honestly believe this is a higher-purpose business."

The second aha moment

In early 2012, Cindy's brother Todd approached her with an admittedly crazy idea that they should pursue their MBA degrees. They applied to the Texas Tech Rawls College of Business [executive MBA program](#) for working professionals, and that's where Cindy's story continues.

Her next revelation came in the fall that year in a social values class, a one-day workshop on good corporate citizenship taught by Keith Brigham, an associate professor of management in the Rawls College. One of Brigham's foremost examples of a company that gives back through its business model is TOMS shoes. Cindy and Todd spent the six-hour drive back to San Antonio after that workshop chattering away about the ideas discussed in Brigham's class.

"That whole six hours ... my mind was just ... I couldn't stop thinking about what I'd just learned," Cindy said. "I told Todd, 'You know, TOMS is awesome, but how many pairs of shoes do you buy in a year? What if you did this with a consumable product?' I knew water had been done; there had to be something no one had thought of."

A couple months later, exactly Dec. 3, 2012, Cindy was on a girls' trip to Chicago when the idea came to her.

"I woke up in the middle of the night with this idea," Cindy said. "All of a sudden I wondered if we could fight hunger through a bottle of wine. As they woke up, I told my girlfriends, 'what if a bottle of wine supplied a certain number of meals for people in your local community, would you buy it?' The answer was a resounding 'absolutely!' And the name Gracious Gift came to me instantly."

The socially conscious business model

Brigham, along with Ron Mitchell, the Bagley Regents Chair in Management and a professor of entrepreneurship in the Rawls College, put together the one-day workshop on social values.

"We look at these new ventures that are for-profit companies, but they also have this important component where they are built to address some kind of social need or problem," Brigham said. "It's a rather new business model. Most people think social challenges should be addressed by government or non-profit entities. But there is a new group of for-profit companies becoming very successful with this model."

Brigham said the students are asked to do an exercise in class where they come up with their own company and what kinds of products would work. Most students do the exercise and that's the end of it.

"Cindy not only did the exercise, she took hold of the concept, and before I knew it, she'd started this whole thing," Brigham said. "People and projects can be much more successful when you can combine something you're passionate about with training you've had."

The pieces fall into place

As soon as Cindy had the idea, she approached a friend who works for H-E-B, who passed the idea to its wine department. Within a week of her brainstorm, she was sitting across the table having dinner with a group from the supermarket chain.

"The head wine steward asked me if I'd trademarked the name," Cindy said. "I said no, thinking to myself, 'it's only been a week!', and he said 'I'll give you a month to do that. And if you don't, I may steal it.'"

"When he said that, even jokingly, my fire went from a little flame to a roaring blaze!"

She approached the San Antonio Food Bank to become the first recipient, and the partnership was born. She set up the company, filed the trademark and began design on the label.

"The next step was to insure quality inside the bottle," Cindy said. "My goal was to find a consistent, sustainable, high-quality and delicious wine to represent my mission. I had high, high – unrealistically high – standards of what I was looking for in a wine, only because I knew if H-E-B was going to jump on board, I had to bring them the highest-quality product."



After much research and a trip to California, she found exactly what she was looking for in the town of Lodi. [Oak Ridge Winery](#) was perfectly aligned with what Cindy wanted to do. They never ever would have done something like this, Cindy said, except that their vision of what they wanted to accomplish as a corporation was all about doing good – the perfect association I was looking for.”

Cindy said everyone, though, from H-E-B to the distributor, to the winery, told her it would be at least two years before the project would be ready to launch.

“I told them that was unacceptable and that I would get Gracious Gift launched before the next Thanksgiving (2013), because it’s the season of giving, and it’s called Gracious Gift.”

Cindy traveled to Lodi in October to see her dream become a reality when 50,000 bottles of Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Old Vine Red were prepared and labeled.

The company launched Nov. 25 – three days before Thanksgiving.

Bottles + food banks = meals

Cindy’s desire is to keep the equation as local as possible for each of her food bank partners. For example, if wine is bought in San Antonio or the area, the meals go to the San Antonio food banks. If the wine is purchased in Corpus Christi, the meals go to the Food Bank of Corpus Christi, and so on. In San Antonio, each bottle purchased provides seven meals, but in the Rio Grande Valley, it’s five. In some locations it depends on the availability of food at the local food bank, for instance, in Austin each purchase equals 2.5 meals and in Houston it’s three. Currently Cindy has 12 food bank partners and is looking to expand statewide and even nationally.

The wine is available in all H-E-B stores that have wine stewards and in most major areas in Texas, including San Antonio (and surrounding areas), Houston (and surrounding areas), Austin, Laredo, Midland, Bryan/College Station, Georgetown, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Boerne, Granbury and Beaumont. The wine also can be purchased on heb.com. Orders made on the website will be shipped to customer’s H-E-B of choice.

Once Cindy gets her initial sales numbers from H-E-B, and how many meals that equates to, she sees The Gracious Gift spreading like wildfire. Conversations already are going on with food banks in other states.

“There’s really no reason not to carry it in stores, and there’s really no reason for a food bank not to get involved,” she said. “I visualize this map of the United States on my website where there are little Gracious Gift signs all over it; click on one and it will tell you how many meals to-date Gracious Gift has served in that area.”

Social value trumps new company

Brigham said new business startups that have a social component overcome some of the pitfalls of being new by having that social component in place. It helps to attract resources, people and publicity. With the right social component, a new business can become a very compelling story because people want to help.

“It takes two things for these to be successful,” Brigham said. “You have to have a very passionate entrepreneur and, the person has to be very genuine. They have to be doing this for the right reasons. And I think those both come across extremely well in Cindy.”

But Cindy only takes part of the credit.

“Everything that has happened, from sitting in that hunger presentation more than three years ago, to me being at Texas Tech and in Keith’s class, to knowing someone at H-E-B, to finding the right winery – I could never arrange all that myself. When people say it can’t be done, there’s only so much we can do. And then comes God.”



Web Only

Native American Student Puts Heart and Sole into Heritage By Megan Ketterer

Typical graduation attire includes a cap, gown and tassel, but Michaela Red Cherries will stray from the norm: handcrafted moccasins and a feather plume representing her Native American culture will embellish her cap and gown as she walks across the stage.

Michaela will graduate Friday with bachelor's degrees in history and sociology. She is one of more than 2,300 students graduating this weekend, but she considers her education and college diploma a product of her hope for the future of Native American communities.

“Michaela came to Texas Tech and then became a counselor for our Native American Summer Bridge Institute,” said Jobi Martinez, director of Texas Tech’s Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center. “She has such enthusiasm and passion in particular for helping Native American students as they come to Texas Tech.”

Michaela, a first-generation college student, is recognized as the first ambassador who will serve as a liaison between Texas Tech and Native American communities. She became involved in the program when she read TechAnnounce and learned there was an open position for a counselor for the Native American Summer Bridge Institute camp.

“My people and nation inspire me,” Michaela said, “I believe my compassion will help me become an ambassador for Native American students because I consider Native Americans my family.”

She was born into the Northern Cheyenne tribe in Montana and at three days old was given up for adoption because her mother wanted her to have more opportunities. Michaela said she was adopted by a loving, generous family in Edgewood, Texas, but continued to remain close to her biological family.

When it came time to decide which college to attend, Michaela followed in the footsteps of her adoptive father, who graduated from Texas Tech in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. Both her biological and adopted families will be in attendance Friday afternoon when Michaela graduates with bachelor's degrees in sociology and history.

“As a first-generation college graduate, I consider myself incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to attend Texas Tech,” Michaela said. “My native family is close to my adoptive family, so it will be nice to have them together and visit with each other for the holiday season. Any time together is a blessing.”

Michaela's biological family will travel to Texas for the first time and will arrive with beaded, handcrafted moccasins for her to wear when she walks across the stage. In addition to the plume, she will wear an eagle feather in her hair.

Michaela said she is proud to wear the moccasins that represent her Native American culture. She said she takes advantage of any opportunity that highlights her ethnicity and background, and by doing so, she makes her nation proud.

"I am Native American and I am very proud and thankful that I am," she said. "When I wear my moccasins, I hope to send a message to all Texas Tech students that are Native Americans. Despite adversity, we can graduate and succeed in a future that was once dim, but is now obtainable."

After graduation, Michaela said she wants to continue creating a brighter future for Native American students. She plans to attend law school next fall, where she hopes to focus on Native American law so she can become a political liaison and fight for Native American rights. Ultimately Michaela aspires to become the legal representative of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, as well as the liaison between the United States government and the Northern Cheyenne Nation.

"I hope to give back to Native America with my education through a career in law and politics and encourage them that anything is possible for Native Americans nationwide," Michaela said. "I hope to provide positive change for my people."

What is your favorite memory at Texas Tech?

The relationships I made over the past two years. I met great professors, mentors and friends, and the Chancellor Hance has been very instrumental to my success. I also had the opportunity to meet privately with the chancellor. He has opened the doors for me that were once closed. He is a great chancellor and has progressed Texas Tech far into the future. Because of him, Texas Tech's future is greater.

Is there a professor or someone on who helped make this a memorable experience?

Paul Bjerck, Saad Abi-Hamad, Erica Morin, Melanie Wilson, Chancellor Hance and Linda Kaye Larrabee were encouraging and supportive as professors and mentors during my time in and out of the classroom.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

The stacks of the library. I also enjoyed going to the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center to play basketball.

What is your favorite Texas Tech tradition?

The Masked Rider, especially at the beginning of football games.

What do you love most about being a Red Raider?

It makes me feel part of a family full of pride and loyalty to their mascot, traditions and teams. I am happy I am leaving Texas Tech with the same pride and loyalty because I am a Red Raider for life.

Poinsettia Sale 2013

By Sarah Harlan

Carol of Lights is one of the most popular Texas Tech University winter traditions, but the annual poinsettia sale also is an important part of getting Red Raiders in the holiday spirit.

The poinsettia sale tradition started 25 years ago during fall commencement when the stage was decorated with the plant associated with the holiday season. Several parents, faculty and staff inquired about buying the poinsettias from Texas Tech when commencement ended. This happened so frequently Texas Tech decided to start selling the plant as an annual fundraiser for the Interior Plants Division of the Grounds Maintenance department.

So far, more than 500 orders have been placed this year and limited quantities are available. The last day to order is Dec. 12 and all orders must be paid by Dec. 13. Deliveries have already started, so order a poinsettia today for your office or home before it's too late.

Sizes & Colors:

6" Pot; Red Only - \$12.00

10" Pot; Red Only - \$35.00

*Price includes: pot cover, bow & Lubbock or campus delivery

Payment

Cash, check or money order

Payable to Texas Tech University (please include tax 8.25 percent)

Send payment to mail stop 3144

Email order to:

Maria.rosales@ttu.edu

Order confirmation by return email

Questions call 806.742.3801

Sidebar

The First Cultivation of Poinsettias in America

The Aztecs in Mexico first cultivated the flowering native evergreen shrub as a symbol of purity and for its reddish purple dye and medicinal latex. But it wasn't until the 17th century that poinsettias started to be associated with Christmas.

In 1825, Joel Robert Poinsett – botanist, first American ambassador to Mexico and the poinsettia's namesake – introduced the shrub to the United States. It took another century

before they started to be sold as potted plants in the U.S. and Canada during the holiday season. Today, poinsettias come in more than 100 varieties, with many shapes and sizes.



Web Only

Student Spotlight: Lakeiva Council

Texas Tech student triumphs and excels despite circumstances.

By Karin Slyker

Students can face adversity in at least two different ways: quit or fight through it. Texas Tech University student Lakeiva Council chose to fight.

Council, a senior from Houston, is a single mother to a two-year-old boy, but still is involved in various organizations and holds leadership positions on campus. Most importantly she is scheduled to graduate with three degrees – a bachelor’s and masters in accounting and a bachelor’s in energy commerce – May 2015.

“I have a lot to learn but I am proud of where I am and how far I’ve come,” Council said. “I have been taught so many life lessons through the good and bad, and each day I am becoming a stronger mother, sister, friend and mentor. I am proud of what I do but I get more joy out of watching others achieve their goals no matter what obstacles they overcome.”

Council became pregnant in 2010 during her junior year, and she said the situation was difficult because all eyes were focused on her. Fellow students stared, made up stories and judged her.

“I thought I let everybody down. Everyone had such high expectations,” she said, “I felt just so many emotions. There is a stigma behind being pregnant in a college atmosphere.”

Despite her situation, Council worked two jobs and was enrolled as a full-time student. She received help from various members of the Texas Tech family, but she said she learned a lot on her own.

She credits Cory Powell, who is the director of Texas Tech’s Mentor Tech program, for connecting her with a previous student who was once in Council’s position.

In the summer of 2011 Council gave birth to her son Landon and returned to Texas Tech in the fall.

“I still wanted to complete my goal of finishing school,” she said. “My goal has always been to become a CPA.”

Council said the Work Force Solutions program at Texas Tech helped her make the transition back to school as a mother. She wants other student mothers to know that no matter how difficult your life may seem, there is always someone on campus you can talk to.

“I’m very grateful for the friends and people I have met at Texas Tech,” she said. “When I first got here I received a mock class ring, and I just recently received the official class ring. It helps to remind me that I have achieved my goals.”

What has been your favorite memory at Texas Tech?

My friends and the people I’ve met.

Who is your favorite professor and why?

Quepha Lynn because when I was pregnant she wrote my letter of recommendation to the master’s program.

Why did you choose to come to Texas Tech?

I chose Texas Tech on a whim because my best friend came here for engineering.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

The Mentor Tech office.

What is your favorite Tech Tradition?

Probably the football games — the atmosphere of all the students getting together.

What do you love most about being a Red Raider?

I love representing Texas Tech and showing other people what Texas Tech is all about.

What’s your favorite Tech memorabilia?

My class ring.



Web Only

Student Spotlight: SisterHoodies

By Lauren Koslovsky

Texas Tech University freshman Ariana Martell and her younger sister recently received the Summer of Service Award from ABC Television and Youth Service of America for their volunteer efforts with SisterHoodies.

SisterHoodies is a nonprofit organization founded by Martell, who is majoring in communication disorders, and her sister Diana, a sophomore at El Paso Eastwood High School. Their mission is to serve the community by collecting donations such as coats, jackets, warm weather attire and toiletries to help the less fortunate.

“My sister and I have always volunteered in the community,” Martell said. “Winning this award and being able to donate the money is something my sister and I are proud of.”

This past summer, Martell applied to the Youth Service of America contest sponsored by “Good Morning America.” Five organizations were awarded \$1,000 based on the individual entry’s organization, participation in the organization and how the money would be used if chosen.

“After I moved to Texas Tech, I heard we had won,” Martell said. “At the end of Thanksgiving break, we donated our winnings of \$1,000 to the Reynolds Home for a remodeling project.”

The Reynolds Home in El Paso is a non-profit organization that provides shelter for homeless women and children who have suffered from domestic violence and other crisis situations. Its mission is to provide housing, food and programs that build physical and mental health needs to help keep from becoming homeless.

How It Began

SisterHoodies began at the Humane Society because of the sisters’ love for dogs. While volunteering, they came in contact with a homeless man and his dog named Hero.

“A few months later, the man passed away from hypothermia behind a bowling alley near our home,” Martell said. “My sister and I decided that something had to be done.”

The sisters started SisterHoodies to prevent anymore hypothermia-related deaths. That year, their coat drive received more than 100 coats, jackets and other items, which were donated to the Reynolds Home.

SisterHoodies has raised more than 1,000 coats since the organization started in 2011. The Martell sisters plan to continue the organization in El Paso and eventually expand to Lubbock.

“My sister is very active about keeping it up in El Paso,” Ariana said. “Next year, once I move out of the dorm and into an apartment, I plan to continue to collect donations for the Reynolds Home.”

For more information about donating, visit <http://sisterhoodies.weebly.com>.

What brought you to Texas Tech?

It has always been my dream school.

What has been your favorite memory at Tech?

The snow Lubbock recently had.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

Einstein Bagels.

What is your favorite Tech tradition?

The Masked Rider running across the field on game days.

What do you love most about being a Red Raider?

School Spirit.



Web Only

Student Spotlight: Student Wins International Horse Show Title

Texas Tech doctoral candidate competes in the Open World Championship.

By Grace Acuña

Texas Tech University student Ashley Lembke was four when she mounted a horse for the first time. Now she is an American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) world champion.

“I’ve always had a horse and I absolutely love it,” said Lembke, a doctoral candidate in animal science from Northfield, Minn. “It’s such an adrenaline rush when I compete, that’s what keeps me hooked.”

Lembke recently won the amateur working cow horse competition at the AQHA Open World Championship Show in Oklahoma City. Along with the title, Lembke earned \$2,800 with her sorrel Sir Rey of Oak. She plans to keep competing nationally and internationally.

“I have to train a lot and get the horse ready,” Lembke said. “My horse really does most of the work, I just ride him.”

The AQHA is the largest equine breed organization in the world with more than 300,000 members and five million registered horses in 95 countries. Association members must earn a predetermined number of points to qualify to compete in the championship.

Lembke grew up around cattle, so the event brings her horsemanship and ranching training together. But she was first introduced to the competition world when she came to Texas Tech to pursue her master’s degree, and joined the [Ranch Horse Team](#).

“We competed in stock shows and ranching events and that was kind of my introduction to cattle competitions,” Lembke said. “It was kind of a way to get my feet wet in the horse showing world.”

Lembke works full time at American Foods Group and said Texas Tech’s renowned meat science program has helped her become a desirable candidate in the beef industry.

“The research and the classes that I am taking at Tech have definitely been beneficial and helped me with my job,” Lembke said. “They’ve basically complemented each other.”

Lembke said she will continue to train and will compete in the world show next year.

Side bar:

What has been your favorite memory at Texas Tech?

I would say the road trips with the ranch horse team, friendships and being able to compete for Texas Tech and represent our school.

Is there a professor that really helped you or made Texas Tech a memorable experience?

I'd probably have to say my major advisor, Chance Brooks; he was very supportive and he doesn't have to be. For grad students it's not common for them to do all of those extracurricular stuff, so he was really supportive in that aspect of allowing him to do both and helping me with the academics.

Where's your favorite spot on campus?

The Animal Science Building, it's a very nice facility. It's kind of home away from home.

What is your favorite Texas Tech tradition?

Because I'm a horse girl, I have to say the Masked Rider.

What do you love most about being a Red Raider?

I guess from being in the beef industry and the meat industry I take a lot of pride when I go to conferences or other national events and I see the work other Texas Tech students have done within the industry, or I see that my professors are the key note speakers. I think it's really neat to have those connections and that representation within the national industry.