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JUNE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 1, 2006
CONTACT: Julie Toland, julie.toland@ttuhsc.edu
(806) 743-2143

NURSING STUDENTS TO HOST ANNUAL STORK'S NEST BABY SHOWER

LUBBOCK – The fourth annual Stork's Nest Baby Shower, hosted by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing students, will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. June 23 at the International Cultural Center, 601 Indiana Ave.

The shower is a joint project of students in the undergraduate maternal-child and the community health courses. The public is invited to attend the event, which will feature numerous raffle and auction items.

Prior to the event, Health Sciences Center nursing students will be in the community seeking donations of new baby items, auction items or money to be used by the Stork's Nest, a program designed to increase the number of women who get early and regular prenatal care. The Stork's Nest provides incentives to help pregnant women make and keep prenatal care appointments, as well as classes for expectant parents to learn about healthy prenatal and infant care practices.

"This project benefits the women who visit the Stork's Nest, many of whom are teenagers, as well as the nursing students who have a chance to see the importance of community health and have the opportunity to give back to their community," said Linda Brice, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Nursing and event organizer.

Brice said the students' goal this year is to raise $20,000 from the shower to purchase additional baby items.

The Stork's Nest is a cooperative national project of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and the March of Dimes.

Donations of new baby items are now being accepted. For more details, contact Brice at 743-2730, ext. 239.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 1, 2006
CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
742-2136

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE GIVES $1.5 MILLION TO TEXAS TECH'S SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

LUBBOCK – Texas Tech is one of four Texas universities and 50 universities nationwide to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant to support undergraduate research.

The $1.5 million grant will support TTU's Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Program for the next four years. This is the fifth consecutive grant for TTU since the program began in 1992.

The science education program allows undergraduate students the chance to work in the laboratory with faculty research scientists, said Dr. Michael San Francisco, director for the program. It provides students with new opportunities in research and hands-on science educational activities and motivates and guides area school teachers with new skills to bring science into their classrooms.

"The grant will help us to continue our current undergraduate research and science education activities with faculty," San Francisco said. "It will help us to continue our pre-college and outreach programs. Also, we work with teacher leaders in this area. We train them and have traveling labs for them to enhance their skills and their abilities to bring science into the classroom."

San Francisco said the program will expand over the next four years to begin a teacher training program to enhance the classroom skills for post-doctoral and doctoral students who wish to become future faculty members.

"This grant validates our activities," he said. "It shows the university's not only functioning within itself. It's going out and educating students and teachers. We bring science to the community at large."

Dr. Donald Haragan, Texas Tech's interim chancellor, said the HHMI Science Education Program distinguishes the university as a leader in science education.

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"The initiative to develop programs in undergraduate research resulted from HHMI support," Haragan said. "Furthermore, the science teacher support initiative was a direct result of the resources provided by HHMI. The HHMI – Texas Tech partnership has been one of the principal drivers for the development of science education at the university, and the undergraduate research models developed with HHMI support are now being used across the campus, particularly by the Honors College."

HHMI has supported undergraduate science education at the nation's colleges and universities since 1988. Through its undergraduate grants, the institute has provided 247 institutions of higher learning with nearly $700 million for programs that include undergraduate research opportunities; new faculty, courses, and labs; teaching and mentoring training; and work with precollege students and teachers.

A nonprofit medical research organization, HHMI was established in 1953 by the aviator-industrialist. The institute, headquartered in Chevy Chase, Md., is one of the largest philanthropies in the world, with an endowment of $14.8 billion at the close of its 2005 fiscal year. HHMI spent $483 million in support of biomedical research and $80 million for support of a variety of science education and other grants programs in fiscal 2005.

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CONTACT: Dr. Michael San Francisco, program director for the Texas Tech University Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Program, (806) 742-2706, or michael.sanfrancisco@ttu.edu.

[**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Media are invited to take photos or footage of Dr. David Straus, professor of microbiology and immunology, and his HHMI undergraduate research fellow. They are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at 4C127 of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Reporters must make an appointment with Straus by calling (806) 743-2523.]

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 2, 2006
CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
742-2136

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS $171,000 FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS

LUBBOCK – The National Science Foundation awarded $171,000 for an undergraduate research program at Texas Tech University's Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The money will fund the Multidisciplinary Summer Undergraduate Research program in Computation and Control of Biological and Biologically Inspired Systems, said Dr. Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, an associate professor of mathematics and principal investigator for the program.

This is the first program at Texas Tech to receive a Research Experiences for Undergraduates SITE award from the National Science Foundation.

Starting Monday, eight undergraduates from across the country will come to do research on how math can be applied to biology, Seshaiyer said. The program ends July 28.

"This program will give us the opportunity to increase the need for applying mathematics to biology," Seshaiyer said. "Hopefully, the students will enjoy working with the 10 faculty members they will be studying with and will want to come back to Texas Tech as graduate students."

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CONTACT: Dr. Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, associate professor of mathematics, (806) 742-2580, ext. 264, or padmanabhan.seshaiyer@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 2, 2006
CONTACT: Scott Slemmons, scott.slemmons@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

TEEN FITNESS CAMP AIMS FOR FUN, GOOD HEALTH

WHAT: Texas Tech University's Recreational Sports Department will host a Teen Fitness Camp for students 12-16 years old.

WHEN: June 5-16 or June 19-30 from 2-3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Texas Tech's Student Recreation Center

EVENT: The emphasis of the Teen Fitness Camp will be on having fun while learning correct form and principles of cardiovascular, muscular and flexibility conditioning.

Cost of the camp is $55 for members of the Student Recreation Center and $70 for non-members. To register, call (806) 742-3828.

CONTACT: Betty Blanton, associate director, Recreational Sports, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3828, or e-mail betty.blanton@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 2, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

TEXAS TECH EQUESTRIAN TEAMS ENJOY STRONG SEASON START

LUBBOCK – Despite lacking riders in three of the contest's nine divisions, the Texas Tech University Equestrian Team placed 3rd overall Sunday at the Hunter Seat Show hosted by University of Denver.

Tech's Western Team continued the successful rides this past weekend in Oakley, Kansas at the Western show hosted by Colby Community College. A string of first and second place finishes awarded the team Reserve High Point honors at Sunday, October 29th's show.

Texas Tech Equestrian rider Lindsay Lear earned Reserve High Point Rider honors at the event.

The team was helped by Emily Dodson, who placed 3rd in Intermediate Flat and Fences, and Kristy Schneider, who placed 2nd in Beginning Walk/Trot/Canter. Novice competitor Alex Miller qualified for Regional Championships in Novice Flat with a 2nd place finish at Saturday's show.

Team members Robin Morris, Alicia Daugherty, Jennifer Richards, Stephanie Miles, and Danielle Baker all left Oakley with blue ribbons. Second place finishers Alicia Daugherty, Storey Rivas, Cristina Talcott, and Jessica Jones also brought points to the team.

The Tech Equestrian Team's next competition is a Western show November 11-12 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

-Allison Griest (TTET Secretary)

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CONTACT: Larry Tanner, research associate, Department of Civil Engineering and Wind Science and Engineering Research Center, Texas Tech University, at (806) 742-3476 ext. 336, or larry.tanner@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 6, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

REPORT URGES IMPLEMENTATION OF MOBILE HOME STANDARDS

Researchers Call upon Governments to Beef up Standards after Indiana Tornado

LUBBOCK, TEXAS – After determining that faulty anchoring contributed heavily to devastation by a November tornado to an Indiana mobile home park, a Texas Tech University wind engineer is urging governments to adopt and implement in-depth construction standards and beef up manufactured housing inspection.

In a report for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Larry Tanner, a civil engineering research associate and member of the university's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center, called upon state, county and municipal governments to "adopt, implement, and inspect to ensure a strict compliance" with installation standards laid out in the National Fire Protection Association's Form 225, *Mobile Home Installation Standard 2005 Edition*. The association is one of two entities given the task of overseeing construction and installation of manufactured homes.

Their findings indicate that manufactured housing constructed with full wood sheathing and properly anchored can reasonably resist the minimum wind speeds to which they are designed – approximately 90 mph; however, improvements in construction methods and tie-down connections are needed. The anchoring systems are vital in keeping the structures from flipping over or being blown off supports during disasters such as tornadoes or hurricanes.

The report found that guidelines prescribed by Housing and Urban Development, the federal agency with oversight of mobile home manufacturing, are "non-prescriptive and general." These are the primary guidance for manufactured housing construction, the report says.

"While information regarding the wind resistant design of mobile home tie-downs is discussed in the (American National Standards Institute) and HUD standards, nowhere in the standards are there found specifications governing the installation and the inspection of manufactured housing anchors," the report noted.

Recognizing this loophole in the standards, Congress passed the National Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 requiring each state to develop a manufactured housing installation program in order to provide oversight and

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enforcement. This led to an update of the NFPA's 225, *Model Manufactured Home Installation Standard, 2005 Edition* to provide specific information on site preparation, determination of soil bearing capacity, foundation design, support piers, and anchoring guidelines. It also prescribed the maximum anchor spacing.

"The general consensus has long been that a mobile home can be a nice place to live, but that it's just not going to be safe in severe windstorms," Tanner said. "Through our investigations, we discovered that by making these few changes – and they are not necessarily small changes, but they are not insurmountable – a mobile home owner could safely ride out a 50-60 mile wind storm."

Tanner added that the report is not intended as an indictment, but simply a statement of facts the researchers have gathered with recommendations.

Working with James Waller, a Tennessee structural engineer and president of RemagenSafeRooms, Tanner investigated damages caused by the November 6 tornado, which killed 22 people in Evansville, Ind. While the two men studied the entire path of the tornado, their investigation focused on the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park, where 18 people died and 110 homes were damaged.

The engineers, utilizing a uniform damage scale, surveyed all units within the park for damage and randomly sampled 1/3 of the units specifically for installation performance. They stated that manufactured homes fail during wind storms for three reasons: high pressures as air flows over and around a structure; impacts from flying debris or missiles such as sheet metal or vehicles from upwind locations; and atmospheric pressure change, sometimes referred as the "explosive effect," which is unique to tornadoes.

A preliminary report released in November prompted officials in Evansville and Vanderburgh County to adopt tougher installation standards and ask Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels to strengthen state requirements on anchoring and bracing new mobile homes.

The report can be found here:
http://www.wind.ttu.edu/downloads/20060602/EvansvilleTornadoReport5x30x06.pdf

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CONTACT: Larry Tanner, research associate, Department of Civil Engineering and Wind Science and Engineering Research Center, Texas Tech University, at (806) 885-2333, ext. 226, (806) 742-3476 ext. 336, or larry.tanner@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 6, 2006
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TEXAS TECH TEAM BUCKLES DOWN FOR NATIONAL TITLE BID

LUBBOCK – Adam Gray, the Southwest Region's champion calf roper, will be available for interviews as he and teammates Hunter Cure and Ryan Gray gear up to compete June 11-17 for the national team championship at the 58th annual College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

"We have a shot at winning a national team championship with only three guys, but three of the toughest I have ever seen," said Chris Guay, Texas Tech Rodeo Team coach.

Adam Gray, a senior civil engineering major from Seymour, qualified for nationals as the Southwest Region champion calf roper. Guay describes Adam as a dedicated and hardworking individual and his pick to win the national championship.

Hunter Cure, a senior agricultural economics major from Electra, is the Southwest Region champion steer wrestler and will compete in this event at the national finals. Cure is the first intercollegiate national champion that Guay has ever had on his team.

Ryan Gray, a senior agriculture leadership major from Cheney, Wyo., qualified for nationals as the Southwest Region reserve champion bareback rider. He recently suffered a broken leg in a Stephenville rodeo, but may compete in the finals anyway.

The College National Finals Rodeo will take place at the Casper Events Center. Qualifiers from 11 U.S. regions will compete for a share of more than $200,000 in scholarship money from the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co. Scholarship Awards Program.

Adam Gray will be available for on-camera interviews from noon-1 p.m. or after 5 p.m. Wednesday. He will also be available Thursday morning. He can be reached by cell phone at any time at (940) 631-8348.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 7, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

PATTERSON TAKES HEAD OF TEXAS TECH INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

LUBBOCK – Dr. Patrick Patterson will join Texas Tech University's College of Engineering Aug. 1 as chairman of the Industrial Engineering Department.

The current chairman of Iowa State University's Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering was tapped to lead a team of faculty with research interests spanning manufacturing, ergonomics, engineering management, biomechanics and human and environmental safety.

Patterson, whose own research focuses on rehabilitation engineering and ergonomics – or designing user-friendly equipment for rehabilitation use – recently ticked off a list of factors that attracted him to Texas Tech. These include the department's esteemed reputation, its focus on student-driven research, its association with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the college's "impressive" level of support – a must, he said, to ensure the department continues its growth into one of the nation's top 25 industrial engineering programs.

"These are all benefits in terms of being able to actively pursue research within a dynamic university system." said Patterson. "These factors all added up to make this a great decision for me."

Patterson returns to Texas after 22 years in Iowa, where, in addition to his chairmanship, he was an associate professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering and was interim chair of the Industrial Education and Technology Department. Prior to that, he was a lecturer in both industrial engineering and health and physical education at Texas A&M University, where he received his Ph.D. in ergonomics.

He earned his bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation from Springfield College and a master of education degree in adapted and developmental education from Cleveland State University.

Patterson has served on review panels for a range of entities including NASA, the U.S. Army and the National Institutes of Health. He was named the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering's outstanding professor 10 times while at Iowa State.

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"Dr. Patterson has the outstanding qualifications and experience we are seeking to lead our industrial engineering department's progress toward being one of the country's premier engineering programs," said College of Engineering Dean Dr. Pamela Eibeck. "We look forward to having him on board."

CONTACT: Sharon Smith, communications coordinator, College of Engineering, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3451, ext. 267, or sharon.smith@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 9, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

DIGITAL INNOVATOR USES SPEAK & SPELL TO SELL ENGINEERING

LUBBOCK – For teenage girls reared in today's tech-savvy society, Speak & Spell is hardly groundbreaking technology. Yet a digital innovator and one of the country's foremost experts in digital signal processing is using that very education tool to hype the cutting edge fields of electrical and computer engineering.

Gene Frantz, principal fellow of Texas Instruments' Digital Signal Processing Group, and his daughter, Allison, will speak from 3-4 p.m. Monday (June 12) to participants in Texas Tech's WE CAN, or Women in Engineering: Curriculum, Applications and Networking, camp.

He will discuss the introduction of the Speak & Spell in the late '70s, which allowed children to learn spelling by using a talking toy. This break-through signaled the beginning of the Digital Signal Processor, or a processing device that converts physical input into digital data, and helped usher in the current digital era.

Aimed at recruiting more females to Texas Tech's Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, the WE CAN program provides stimulating and confidence-boosting activities emphasizing teamwork and collaboration. The camp began June 4 and will continue through June 16 on the university campus. It is funded by a Higher Education Coordinating Board grant through the Texas Workforce Commission Development Program.

WE CAN's project-oriented curriculum exposes participants to various aspects of computer and electrical engineering as students complete a number of software and hardware projects. Those who complete the camp and a follow-up program during their senior year of high school may apply to obtain three hours of electrical engineering credit from Texas Tech.

Frantz, an electrical engineer who received an MBA from Texas Tech, was program manager for the Speak & Spell learning aid and led the development team for all early TI speech products. He is one of only four technology innovators named a Texas Instruments principal fellow. Allison also is a Texas Instruments engineer.

Frantz will speak from 2-3 p.m. and hold a discussion session from 3-4 p.m. in room 217 of the Electrical Engineering Building, located on the Engineering Key north of Memorial Circle.
NOTE: Frantz and students will be available for interviews around 3 p.m.

CONTACT: Dr. Tanja Karp, associate professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, (806) 742-3533, or tanja.karp@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 12, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
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ARCHITECTURE TEAM WILL DOCUMENT STATUE OF LIBERTY

LUBBOCK – A team of Texas Tech architecture faculty, student research assistants and others is in New York this week to continue creating the only existing measured drawings of the Statue of Liberty's exterior.

Using 3-D laser scanning and hi-definition photography equipment, the College of Architecture team will work until Thursday in the second phase of a project in cooperation with Historic American Buildings Survey to document the Statue for the National Park Service. The Park Service will use the documents for preservation and maintenance purposes.

Since the statue was constructed by a sculptor who used calipers, or measurement instruments, to transfer the study model dimensions, no architectural plans were drawn for the exterior. Gustave Eiffel, the renowned creator of Paris' tower and engineer for the Statue of Liberty's internal structure, created plans for the internal pylons and stairs, but not the surface. The Historic American Building Survey approached Texas Tech professors about documenting this aspect of one of America's most iconic symbols.

Texas Tech conducted the first phase of its Statue of Liberty documentation project in 2001, scanning approximately 80 percent of the statue's exterior. During this current trip, the team will record much of the remaining structure, including the pedestal and portions of the interior. These features include the feet, blocked by the pedestal, and the top of the statue's head.

Team members also will document two auxillary buildings related to Fort Wood, which is the star-shaped battery located at the base of the statue.

Texas Tech Architecture's Historic Preservation program was one of the pioneers in using laser scanning technology, which quickly and accurately captures measurements that may be used create documentation drawings. The university purchased its first scanner in 2001 and researchers have used the equipment on projects including a sleeping tent used by George Washington in the field during the American Revolutionary War and ancient dwellings in Mesa Verde National Park.

Those interested in interviewing team members can contact **Elizabeth Louden**, professor of architecture and project manager, at **(806) 252-3026**, or elizabeth.louden@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 16, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

TEXAS TECH PLANTS 80 RED OAKS IN MEMORIAL CIRCLE; CLASS OF 2006 GIFT

LUBBOCK – Thanks to a generous gift from the graduating class of 2006 of Texas Tech University, Memorial Circle on campus will once again be shaded by groves of trees.

The class donated funding to purchase and plant 80 red oaks, which will be planted in the four quadrants of the circle. The oaks are a hearty species that will thrive in the West Texas climate and provide exceptional fall color.

"We are extremely grateful to this year's graduates for this lasting gift to the Texas Tech campus," said Theresa Bartos Drewell, associate vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction at Texas Tech University System. "These trees will grow and flourish for many years to come. They will add a welcome aesthetic touch to the pedestrian flow around Memorial Circle, eventually forming a series of outdoor rooms that will enhance the vistas as originally designed and create memorable spaces."

As part of the tree-planting project, work crews are removing the remaining Siberian elms that formerly populated the circle. Most of the trees have been lost due to disease, winds and storms and the few that remain have lived longer than expected. Siberian elms, which were popular for public spaces in the mid '50s, usually live about 40 years before they begin to deteriorate.

The project continues implementation of the campus master plan approved by Texas Tech's Board of Regents in 1997. The plan maintains the original cross-axial plan designed in 1923 by William Ward Watkins. Memorial Circle evolved from a square formed by two intersecting axes; the square's corners were rounded to facilitate traffic once automobiles were introduced on the mainly pedestrian campus.

"Texas Tech has waited a long time for the opportunity to build upon this heritage," Drewell said. "The students of the class of 2006, aided by the leadership of the Student Government Association, have embraced the history of the master plan and have been critical to its realization."

Students celebrated the project with the inaugural planting of the first red oak on Arbor Day, April 28.

CONTACT: Theresa Bartos Drewell, associate vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction at Texas Tech University System, (806) 742-2116, or Theresa.drewell@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 20, 2006
CONTACT: Angila Faison, Angila.faison@ttuhsc.edu
(806) 743-2143

FAREWELL RECEPTION TO HONOR DEPARTING HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER PRESIDENT

WHAT: Reception for M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., and Suzanne Arkle Wilson

WHEN: 5 p.m. Wednesday (June 21)

WHERE: Academic Classroom Building first-floor foyer, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, 3601 4th St.

EVENT: Health Sciences Center faculty, students, staff and other members of the community will bid farewell to departing Health Sciences Center President Wilson and his wife, Suzanne. Wilson is leaving Lubbock to serve as chancellor of the newly consolidated University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 23, 2006
CONTACT: Norman Martin, norman.martin@ttu.edu
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SCIENTISTS TRACK BEARS MIGRATING NORTH INTO TEXAS

LUBBOCK – A rare migrant population of small black bears has crossed the U.S.-Mexico border and established a tenuous toehold along a swath of rugged Chihuahuan desert in a remote corner of Texas.

Texas Tech University scientists believe there are less than 50 of the bruins in the arid Trans-Pecos region, and they're likely to migrate northward toward the Davis Mountains as their numbers rise.

For the past three years, a research team headed by Warren Ballard has worked with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to identify the likely movement of the bears and pinpoint any affected landowners, especially ranchers with livestock.

The findings will be incorporated into a statewide strategic plan for the conservation and management of bears.

"These bears are living in a completely different environment than other bear populations in North America," said Ballard, a wildlife biologist and internationally recognized expert on predator-prey ecology.

The North American Bear Center in Ely, Minn., estimates 750,000 black bears live in the United States, Canada and northern Mexico. About 55,000 black bears are killed annually by hunters in North America. In Texas, however, the bears are so rare that they're considered threatened under Texas law.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is not attempting to reintroduce black bears to the Trans-Pecos.

"Really, the core population of this group of bears is down in Mexico," Ballard said. "What they're concerned about is making sure the habitat is available if necessary for expansion."

Today, scientists estimate that there are only 30 to 50 black bears in the Trans Pecos. The isolated region encompasses the state's nine far western counties between the banks of the Rio Grande to the Pecos Rivers. The area is known for the 801,000-acre Big

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Bend National Park on the southwest point of Texas, and the even less accessible Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

To determine the bears' likely movements, Mindy Rice, a doctoral student who helped to guide operations in the field, mapped a number of variables, including land cover, elevation, water sources and roads throughout the Trans-Pecos. Bear sightings were then added to the map. Over the past century there have been about 3,000 reported sightings of black bears in this area of Texas.

Texas Tech scientists believe the black bears crossed the border from Northern Mexico in recent years, and the population is expanding north in search of more suitable woodlands.

"One of the most probable expansion areas is Davis Mountains in the central Trans-Pecos," Rice said. "This area will better support them with wooded areas."

Despite the abundance of wide open spaces, there's barely room for bear expansion.

"Really, less than 10 percent of this entire region is suitable for bears," she said. "That's certainly going to limit growth. This population will always be small because of that Chihuahuan desert environment."

Trans-Pecos black bears are a little different than their counterparts in other parts of the country.

"There's some evidence that due to the weather they may not go into hibernation for long periods," she said. "They're also smaller because they don't get the nutrition that other bears receive."

Separately, the Tech researchers conducted a landowner survey, ranking how 472 residents felt about recolonization of the black bears. Younger, better educated residents tended to favor the presence of the bears, while older, more traditional participants were more negative.

"Obviously, in a ranching community some people don't welcome predators, but we found a clear split among the population," Ballard said.

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CONTACT: Warren Ballard, professor of predator/prey interactions, Department of Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University (806) 742-1983, or warren.ballard@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 26, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

DESPITE CARBON MONOXIDE, BEEF CONSUMERS STILL SAFE

Smell Indicates Spoiled Meat; Carbon Monoxide Kills Pathogenic Bacteria, Study Shows

LUBBOCK – Texas Tech University food researchers have found that using carbon monoxide in beef packaging to maintain redness prevents the growth of pathogenic bacteria and may result in reductions of the harmful bacteria during storage over extended periods.

The two-pronged study also showed that while meat that has been treated with the gas stays red longer, a majority of consumers can still identify spoiled meat by its smell.

In a process approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, some meatpackers mix small amounts of carbon monoxide with other gases, including nitrogen and carbon dioxide, to maintain color stability in modified atmospheric packaging. While the carbon monoxide does not harm consumers, some fear that hiding meat discoloration can mask an indicator of spoilage.

Yet a team led by Dr. J. Chance Brooks found that 83.3% of trained panelists detected an unpleasant odor in packages containing carbon monoxide after 14 days of storage in the retail case.

"You cannot mask odor," said Brooks, assistant professor of meat science at Texas Tech. "What you'll find is that the meat may look good in the store, but once someone gets it home and peels the wrapping off, they'll know it has spoiled by the smell."

Brooks recommends that consumers use a decision tree that considers color first, then smell and taste, before deciding meat is good to eat.

In a related microbiological study, a research team headed by Dr. Mindy Brashears found that beef inoculated with pathogenic bacteria, Salmonella and E. coli 0157, and then packaged with carbon monoxide had less pathogenic bacteria after 14 days than similarly inoculated beef wrapped in traditional packaging without carbon monoxide.

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Brashears, an associate professor and director of Texas Tech's International Center for Food Industry Excellence, used a unique testing facility that allows beef packaging under conditions identical to those in processing facilities.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Beef Checkoff Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service provided research funding.

Brashears and Brooks presented their findings last week at the Reciprocal Meat Conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Note: The professors can be contacted by cell phone: Mindy Brashears (806) 441-3214; J. Chance Brooks, (806) 790-4452

CONTACT:
Mindy Brashears, director, International Center for Food Industry Excellence, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2805, ext. 235, or mindy.brashears@ttu.edu.

J. Chance Brooks, assistant professor of meat science, Department of Animal and Food Science, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2805, ext. 230, or chance.brooks@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: June 27, 2006
CONTACT: Scott Slemmons, scott.slemmons@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH SPRING GRADUATES NAMED

LUBBOCK – Texas Tech University has announced Spring 2006 graduates. To obtain a list of graduates and honor students from your area, please go to http://hometowners.ttu.edu/.

You may search by first name, last name, city, state and ZIP Code. If you need assistance using the database, please contact Scott Slemmons at (806) 742-2136.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 28, 2006
CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

RESEARCHER HONORED FOR FAMILY AND CONSUMER CONTRIBUTIONS

LUBBOCK – Dr. Ginny Felstehausen has received the Outstanding Researcher Award for the Education and Technology Division of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the body of research related to family and consumer sciences.

Felstehausen, a professor and graduate advisor in Texas Tech's College of Human Sciences, has served on 48 doctoral committees and 17 master's committees. Much of her past and current research pertains to managing and balancing work and family roles.

She received the award during the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 97th Annual Conference & Expo, which took place from June 22-25 in Charlotte, N.C.

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CONTACT: Dr. Ginny Felstehausen, professor and graduate advisor, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-5050, ext. 238, or ginny.felstehausen@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 28, 2006
CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
742-2136

PROFESSOR EARNS POSITION ON STUDY SECTION FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

LUBBOCK – A Texas Tech professor has been invited to join a study section responsible for reviewing grant applications submitted to the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Alice M. Young, a professor of psychology at Texas Tech University and professor of pharmacology and neuroscience at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, will serve as a member of the Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology Study Section at the NIH Center for Scientific Review. She begins a four-year term on July 1.

Study sections also make recommendations on these applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their fields of science.

Members of study sections of the Center for Scientific Review are selected based on outstanding achievement in their scientific discipline, which entails significant publications in scientific journals as well as laudable scientific activities and honors.

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CONTACT: Dr. Alice Young, professor, Department of Psychology, Texas Tech, 742-3711 ext. 252, or alice.young@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 30, 2006
CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
742-2136

TEXAS TECH ALUMNUS TO SERVE AS DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LUBBOCK – A Texas Tech University alumnus has been named as deputy undersecretary of defense for laboratory sciences and basic sciences for the Department of Defense.

Dr. William S. Rees Jr., who in 1980 received an American Chemical Society Certified bachelor's degree in chemistry from TTU, was named to the position June 2.

In this position, Rees will provide scientific leadership, management oversight, policy guidance and coordination of the more than $1.3 billion annual basic research programs of the military services and defense agencies.

Prior to joining the Department of Defense, Rees was a program manager for the CBRNE Countermeasures and the Critical Infrastructure Protection portfolios at the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency, in the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate.

Rees was born in Quanah, raised in Turkey and graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in Pleasant Grove.

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