



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 1, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Library to Host Pre-Game Study Break

Students can tailgate ahead of the Texas Tech versus University of Texas football game.

WHAT: The Texas Tech University library is hosting a pre-game study break tailgate for students before the Texas Tech football game. There will be free food, gifts, a photo booth and live music.

WHEN: Noon-1 p.m. Friday (Nov. 4)

WHERE: Plaza between the University Library and the Student Union Building.

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CONTACT: Kaley Daniel, director, Communications and Marketing, Texas Tech University Libraries, (806) 834-1040 or kaley.daniel@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 1, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Team Wins Silver in First International Competition

Eight undergraduates competed at the iGEM Foundation's Giant Jamboree.

The Texas Tech University [Genetically Engineered Machine team](#) won silver this weekend in its first international competition during the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Foundation's annual gathering.

The conference, known as the Giant Jamboree, was held Thursday through Monday (Oct. 27-31) in Boston. It included workshops, presentations from more than 275 international teams in attendance and an awards ceremony to recognize the best presentations.

The competition focuses on synthetic biology, which is the use of engineering principles to design biological components. Texas Tech's team presented a method to improve the healing of chronic wounds by using a protein-infused collagen scaffold.

The team consists of:

- Brandon Palomo, student team leader and founder
- Alejandra Duran
- Aric Denton
- Cody Fell
- Diane Ha
- Ellen Wilson
- Gregory Knox
- Holden R. Fried
- Kennady Abbott
- Marc Ordoñez
- Marilyn Mathew
- Marissa Martinez
- Timothy Salinas
- Zach Nguyen

The team is led by [Dr. Annette Sobel](#), an associate professor in the [Department of Medical Education](#) at the [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#) (TTUHSC) and an adjunct professor in the [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering](#); [Lou Densmore](#), a professor in the [Department of Biological Sciences](#) and director of the Texas Tech University/Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Julie Isom, in the [Center for the Integration of Science Education & Research](#), was an advocate for student involvement.

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Other faculty members involved with the team are [Dr. Roger B. Sutton](#), a professor in the TTUHSC [Department of Cell Physiology and Molecular Biophysics](#); Dr. Ron Banister, an assistant professor in the TTUHSC [Department of Anesthesiology](#); [Vickie Sutton](#), a Paul Whitfield Horn professor and associate dean for research and faculty development in the [School of Law](#); and [Ruth Serra-Moreno](#), an assistant professor in the [Department of Biological Sciences](#).

“All the team members have remarked about how incredibly valuable this experience has been to them and how well their undergraduate education at Texas Tech has prepared them to win this prestigious award at this international competition,” Sobel said. “We especially thank our corporate sponsors, National Instruments, Mr. DNA, IDT, GenScript and Research and Training Institute.”

About iGEM

For more than 10 years, iGEM has encouraged students to work in teams and solve real-world challenges by building genetically engineered biological systems with standard, interchangeable parts. Participation in the iGEM competition empowers teams to manage their own products, advocate for their research and secure funding. Teams also are challenged to actively consider and address the safety, security and environmental implications of their work.

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CONTACT: Dr. Annette Sobel, executive for critical infrastructure protection and health security initiatives, Office of the President, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-0565 or annette.sobel@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 2, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

National Wind Institute to Open 100th West Texas Mesonet Station

A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday morning.

WHAT: Ribbon cutting for the 100th station of the [West Texas Mesonet](#) Network

WHEN: 10 a.m. Friday (Nov. 4)

WHERE: Moore Crop Insurance Agency, 127 W. Broadway, New Home, Texas

From Lubbock, head south on U.S. 87 for 18 miles to Lynn County. Turn right on FM 211 and travel six miles to the intersection of New Home. The station will be visible on the left in the far open corner of the field.

DETAILS: Transportation will be provided from the covered parking area to the station. The event will include a reception and photo opportunities.

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CONTACT: Wes Burgett, research associate, National Wind Institute, Texas Tech University, (806) 632-5530 or wesley.burgett@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 2, 2016

CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Presidential Lecture & Performance Series Continues with The Second City

The comedy theater troupe will perform the best sketches and songs
from its 55-year history.

WHAT: Texas Tech University welcomes Chicago's legendary sketch and improv comedy troupe, The Second City, as part of the [Presidential Lecture & Performance Series](#).

The group will perform "[The Best of The Second City](#)." The must-see show features the best sketches and songs from its 55-year history – made famous by superstars like Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Mike Meyers, Chris Farley, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, John and Jim Belushi, John Candy, Steve Carell, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray and more – as well as their trademark improvisation.

The Second City is celebrating more than five decades of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and launching the careers of generation after generation of comedy's best and brightest.

Show content is suitable for ages 17 and older.

Tickets to the lecture are \$18 and are available through Select-A-Seat at (806) 770-2000 or www.selectaseatlubbock.com. Texas Tech students may receive one free ticket with a valid student ID at the Student Union Building ticket booth.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Nov. 11 (Friday)

WHERE: Texas Tech University Allen Theatre, Student Union Building

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CONTACT: Jo Moore, director, Presidential Lecture & Performance Series, Office of the President, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5261 or jo.moore@ttu.edu

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 2, 2016

CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Celebrates Veterans Day With Two Weeks of Events

The activities include several sporting and career events.

Texas Tech University [Military and Veterans Programs](#) will host several events over the next two weeks in honor of Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

The events begin at 3 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 3) with a presentation by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) on loans and resources available for veterans wanting to start a business, followed by a tour of the Texas Tech [Innovation Hub at Research Park](#), 3911 4th St, for the SBA National Veterans Small Business Week.

The events finish with the Veterans Arts in Medicine Symposium from 1-5:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at the [National Ranching Heritage Center](#), 3121 4th Street.

Below is a list of the other events honoring veterans and military personnel.

- **Saturday (Nov. 5)**
 - **9 a.m.:** The Military and Veterans Tailgate will be held at the Engineering Key for all military, veterans and family members.
 - **11 a.m.:** The Celebrating America football game against the University of Texas takes place at Jones Stadium.
- **Nov. 9**
 - **11 a.m.-1 p.m.:** The Veterans Career Prep Workshop will be held at the [University Career Center](#) in the Wiggins Complex.
- **Nov. 10**
 - **10 a.m.-2 p.m.:** The [Hiring Red, White and You! Veteran Career Fair](#) will be held in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane.
- **Veterans Day (Nov. 11)**
 - **5 p.m.:** A Flag Retreat Ceremony will take place at Memorial Circle.
 - **6:30 p.m.:** The Red Raiders will take on Houston Baptist University for the Military and Veteran Appreciation men's basketball game at the [United Supermarkets Arena](#).
- **Nov. 13**

- **2 p.m.:** The Lady Raiders go up against the University of North Dakota during the Military and Veteran Appreciation women's basketball game at the United Supermarkets Arena.

For more information about Military and Veterans Programs, visit the [website](#).

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

CONTACT: Lou Ortiz, director, Military and Veterans Programs, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-6877 or lou.ortiz@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 2, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Weindorf to Present Documentary Excerpts for U.N. Climate Change Conference “Between Earth and Sky” excerpts will be shown at the Council on the Parties international climate talks this month in Morocco.

Texas Tech researcher David Weindorf has been invited to Morocco later this month to present excerpts from his recent documentary examining climate change in the Alaskan frontier.

Weindorf, the associate dean of research in the [College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#) and the BL Allen Endowed Chairman of Pedology in [the Department of Plant & Soil Science](#), is the executive director of the documentary “Between Earth and Sky,” by Paul Allen Hunton of [KTTZ-TV Texas Tech Public Media](#).

The excerpts will be shown as part of the Council of the Parties (COP22) international climate talks Nov. 7-18 in Marrakech, Morocco. The feature-length film, which evolved from the work of University of Alaska-Fairbanks researcher Chien-Lu Ping, explores global climate change through soil sciences, using footage of the Alaskan wilderness and coastline to illustrate the growing effects of climate change on the arctic soils and ecosystems of Alaska.

“What began as a modest attempt to archive Dr. Ping’s brilliant work is now a cinematic-quality, research-based film that provides an excellent example of tangible steps the United States is taking to educate people worldwide about the importance of environmental stewardship,” Weindorf said. “I couldn’t be more honored to share this film – and the research – with the esteemed attendees at COP22 later this month.”

Weindorf was nominated for the honor by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Climate Change Program Office and invited by the U.S. State Department. The full film is expected to be released in early 2017.

Also featured in the film is Texas Tech [Climate Science Center](#) director Katharine Hayhoe, an associate professor in the [Department of Political Science](#) and one of the country’s foremost authorities on climate change. Eventually other scientists began contributing their expertise and findings, leading to a feature-length documentary.

“We as humans have never conducted an experiment with this planet, like we are with climate change,” said Hayhoe, who recently appeared with President Barack Obama and actor Leonardo DiCaprio during a climate change discussion on the south lawn of the White House.

Other presenters at the Arctic event include Stephen Vavrus of the University of Wisconsin, a NASA scientist utilizing NASA’s hyperwall; and Karen Florini, the deputy special envoy for climate change at the State Department.

Production of the film is complete, in addition to three trailers available at www.betweenearthandskymovie.com. It will be offered to multiple media platforms, including PBS stations across the country, in 2017.

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CONTACT: David Weindorf, associate dean for research and BL Allen Endowed Chairman of Pedology, Department of Plant and Soil Science, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5827 or david.weindorf@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 3, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

New Texas Tech Study Shows Participation, Trust by Hispanics in Politics Has Room for Improvement

The study was conducted by the Thomas Jay Harris Institute for Hispanic & International Communication.

A new report published by the Texas Tech University [Thomas Jay Harris Institute for Hispanic & International Communication](#) shows that, while Hispanic population in Texas continues to grow, the level of participation and trust in the political process has room for improvement.

The report, which surveyed 436 Hispanics of varying degrees of age, gender, education level, economic status and political views, found that participation in the political process, while having the ability to swing an election, remained at less than 50 percent. Hispanics' beliefs that participation in politics will positively affect their lives remains low, which impacts voter registration and voting.

Trust in both political parties and the various levels of government also scored low, and the survey also took into account the issues Hispanics consider most important.

“U.S. Hispanics are usually portrayed as disengaged from American politics, but there is little analysis as of what are the reasons for such a lack of participation,” said Magdalena Saldaña, assistant director of the Harris Institute. “Our findings show that political parties rarely approach Hispanics or show any interests in the issues they care about.”

Sleeping giant

Because the population of Hispanics is growing, it has been referred to as a “sleeping giant” because of its potential to swing elections at the local, state and national level. In 2012, a nationwide survey found that only 48 percent of eligible Hispanics voted, a number that fell to 39 percent in Texas. The Pew Research Center estimates that 4.8 million, or 46 percent, of Hispanics in Texas are eligible to vote.

However, demographic studies estimate Hispanics, which as of 2014 were estimated at 10.4 million in Texas, will outnumber whites in Texas by 2020 and will become the state's majority population by 2042. There is great growth potential for Hispanics to become an influential factor in future elections.

“The data reveal some underlying reasons for low levels of political participation by Hispanics in Texas,” said Kent Wilkinson, Harris Institute director. “For example, more than 60 percent of survey respondents who are eligible to vote said they were never contacted by either major political party; also, local, state and federal government along with Congress and political parties ranked at the bottom of U.S. Institutions in terms of trust.”

In terms of political participation by Hispanic voters, of those surveyed, only 24 percent indicated they always vote. Almost 40 percent indicate they never or rarely vote, and only 43.9 percent indicated they are interested or very interested in politics.

That lack of interest led, unsurprisingly, to a low level of participation in political activities. Very few participated in things such as signing a petition, contacting the media or a government official on issues, or commenting, forwarding or creating a social media post expressing a political view.

Similarly, few Hispanics actively campaigned for a candidate, whether it was talking to other voters, indicating support through signs, buttons or stickers, attending meetings, working in a candidate’s office or giving money to a candidate.

A potential cause for that lack of participation could be a lack of trust in candidates, political parties and government. Of those surveyed, more than half (54.3 percent) feel government officials only care about themselves or special interests, and only 17.7 percent feel the government is truly interested in their opinions.

Not much effort has been made to mobilize Hispanic voters, the study found. Fifteen percent of those surveyed report being contacted regularly to participate in political activities. The report states those surveyed who identify as Democrats (171 respondents) have a more positive perception of their party than those who identify as Republicans (46), but that neither party has a strong relationship with Hispanic voters in Texas.

“Our report sheds light not only on political behaviors, but also on political preferences,” Saldaña said. “Considering Texas might become a swing state in this election, the fact that only 12 percent of Hispanics who participated in the survey identify themselves as Republicans is crucial.”

The issues

Respondents also were surveyed as to what issues are most important to them. The study found education, health care, the environment and the economy ranked as the most important issues while terrorism, foreign policy and the federal deficit are least important.

Of those surveyed, 84 percent felt a moderate or strong connection to the issue of education, while almost 77 percent indicated the same for the environment and the economy. Health care was important to more than 75 percent of respondents.



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Conversely, foreign policy ranked last in terms of interest in the issue, coming in a 46.7 percent, followed by the federal deficit (42.2) and terrorism (41.3).

Still, the impetus is on political parties on all sides to make an even greater effort to increase participation by, and trust from, Hispanic voters, 45.4 percent of whom identified as independents.

“Given demographers' projections that Texas Hispanics will outnumber whites and become the state’s majority population, we need to learn more about their attitudes toward, and involvement in, elections and civic affairs,” Wilkinson said.

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CONTACT: Kent Wilkinson, director, Thomas Jay Harris Institute for Hispanic and International Communication, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-0199 or kent.wilkinson@ttu.edu



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Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 3, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Political Science Lab to Announce Results of Statewide Election Survey

Registered Texas voters were polled on the 2016 election and policy preferences.

WHAT: News conference to announce the results of the Texas Tech University [Earl Survey Research Lab](#)'s (ESRL) statewide survey of registered voters on the 2016 election and policy preferences

[Department of Political Science](#) chairman Dennis Patterson, professors Jared Perkins and Sara Norman, and the student survey committee will be available to answer questions.

WHEN: 2:30-3:30 p.m. Monday (Nov. 7)

WHERE: Matador Room, Student Union Building

DETAILS: Parking is available in the R-13 East lot next to the Student Union Building

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CONTACT: Sara Norman, ESRL director, Department of Political Science, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-7364 or sara.t.norman@ttu.edu



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 4, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Nature Research Executive to Present ‘How to Get Published’

A question-and-answer session will follow the lecture.

Texas Tech University students and faculty looking to get their research published in a scholarly journal will have a rare opportunity next week to learn what those journals are really looking for.

Nick Campbell, executive editor and executive vice president for global institutional partnerships at [Nature Research](http://www.nature.com/nature-research), will speak on “How to Get Published in Nature” at 1:30 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 10) in the Formby Room of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. The lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

“I am delighted to have a chance to visit Texas Tech for the first time,” Campbell said. “I am really looking forward to learning more about their research program and future plans.”

Campbell joined what was then Nature Publishing Group in 2001 and has worked as an editor on Nature Reviews Genetics, executive editor of a suite of genetics journals and leader of publishing partnerships in the Asia-Pacific. As the managing editor of Nature, Campbell led a major digital and print re-launch. Most recently he was executive editor of Nature and director of Nature Research in China. Campbell’s first degree, doctorate and postdoctoral research were in genetics.

About Nature Research

Nature Research is a portfolio of high-quality products and services across the life, physical, chemical and applied sciences, including journals, online databases and researcher services, dedicated to serving the scientific community. Founded in 1869, Nature is the leading weekly international scientific journal and sits at the heart of the brand. Nature Research also publishes a range of Nature-branded research and reviews subscription journals, alongside leading open access multidisciplinary journal Nature Communications and other open access journals, including mega journal Scientific Reports and a range of partner journals known collectively as the Nature Partner Journals. Online, nature.com provides more than 8 million visitors per month with access to Nature Research publications and services, including news and comment from Nature, and the leading scientific jobs board Naturejobs. Nature Research also offers a range of researcher services, including online and in-person training (Nature masterclasses) and expert language and editing services (Nature Research Editing Services).

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CONTACT: Emma Carrasco, executive associate, Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5299 or emma.carrasco@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 4, 2016

CONTACT: Sally Logue Post, sally.post@ttu.edu
(806) 742-3905

New Landmark Exhibit Encourages Visitors to Touch History

Using 3-D technology, the exhibit offers replicas of tools, weapons and bones from the Folsom era of more than 10,000 years ago.

Whether you visit the Louvre or the smallest museum in the world, the message is the same – do not touch the objects. This November, the [Lubbock Lake Landmark](#) is breaking the mold and encouraging visitors to handle 10,500-year-old tools and bones in a new exhibit, Engaging Folsom (10,800-10,200) Hunter-Gatherers with 3D Technologies.

As the site of one of the oldest records of human existence in North America, the landmark is uniquely positioned to host the exhibit. The area once was a reservoir, drawing animals that provided a food source for humans who were either passing through or chose to live in the area. The Folsom people were a Paleo-Indian culture that occupied much of central North America.

Now dry, the area is rich in archaeological history, yielding tools and weapons used by Folsom hunters and bones from bison that roamed the area. Stance Hurst, the regional research field manager at the landmark and an instructor in the [museum science](#) master's program, said the exhibit is one of the first to use 3-D technologies to provide a deeper level of interaction and understanding of the prehistoric hunter-gatherer society.

“The Folsom hunters had the most sophisticated stone tool kits in history,” Hurst said. “Using 3-D printing, we’re able to demonstrate just how sophisticated they were.”

The exhibit relates to research at the landmark and at a campsite near Abilene, the location of a workshop of sorts where the Folsom people made stone tools.

“This is a place that’s about a two-hour drive from the landmark now,” Hurst said. “Back then, they didn’t have pack animals so they had to carry everything as they moved around. The exhibit lets us make connections between how they made and transported these tools across the area.”

The exhibit begins Saturday (Nov. 5) and will be open for a year. Hurst said in addition to the 3-D printed bones and tools, the exhibit will include features like braille and audio components for the visually impaired.

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“People should come to this exhibit to learn what life was like more than 10,000 years ago in this region and how technology has changed but also has stayed the same,” Hurst said.

About The Lubbock Lake Landmark

The landmark, part of the [Museum of Texas Tech University](#), is an internationally known archaeological and natural history preserve. It is located in north Lubbock in a meander of the Yellowhouse draw, an area of ancient springs.

People of the southern High Plains have lived in the area continuously for about 12,000 years. The first exploration of the site was conducted in 1939 by the West Texas Museum, now the Museum of Texas Tech University.

CONTACT: Deborah Bigness, manager of site operations, Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark, Museum of Texas Tech University, (806) 806-742-

1116or deborah.bigness@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 4, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Meat, Livestock Judging Teams Fare Well in Final Fall Tuneups Both teams will compete in the national championships Nov. 13-14.

In the final competitions before the national championships later in November, the Texas Tech University [Meat Judging Team](#) and [Livestock Judging Team](#) had strong showings in competitions held this past weekend.

The Meat Judging Team continued its roll through the fall season, claiming its third straight team championship at the Cargill High Plains Meat Judging Contest in Friona on Sunday (Oct. 30). The Livestock Judging Team, meanwhile, finished second the day before at the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City.

“The students have a great desire to pursue excellence and to represent Texas Tech with honor,” said Mark Miller, the San Antonio Stock Show Distinguished Chair in Meat Sciences and coach of the meat judging team.

The Meat Judging Team won with a total of 4,137 points, outdistancing Oklahoma State University by 33 points and Colorado State University by 36 points. The team’s victory came on the strength of first-place finishes in overall beef (2,087 points) and beef grading (1,017) and second-place finishes in pork judging (1,104), specifications (388) and reasons/questions (839).

Individually, Texas Tech was led by Kye Schwartz, a junior from Wall, who finished first with 1,053 points. Schwartz finished first in overall beef and beef grading and was third in beef judging while finishing in the top 10 in specifications and total placing.

Cole Perkins, a junior from Llano, finished fifth with 1,037 points and took third in reasons/questions, fourth in pork judging and made the top 10 in beef grading and lamb judging. Tommy Fletcher, a junior from LaVernia, gave Texas Tech its third top-10 finish with 1,027 points.

Other members of the Meat Judging Team are:

- Jessica Humphrey, a senior from Okeechobee, Florida
- Kyle Caldwell, a junior from Midlothian
- Katlynn Freeman, a junior from Panhandle

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- Lane Harrington, a senior from Frost
- Boyd Henry, a junior from Wall
- Courtney Jasik, a junior from Mertzon
- Shannon O'Quinn, a junior from League City
- Kiersten Scott, a senior from Scott City, Kansas
- Keeley Sears, a junior from Peaster
- Blayne Troxell, a junior from Pampa
- Chelsi Vineyard, a junior from Stephenville
- Megan Witt, a junior from Houston

Graduate students Loni Lucherk, Nick Hardcastle and Mallorie Phelps serve as assistant coaches for the team.

The Livestock Judging Team, meanwhile, missed the overall title in Kansas City by just eight points to Texas A&M University. Oklahoma State finished third and South Dakota State University finished fourth.

Chama Martin, a senior from Mason, led the way for Texas Tech by finishing second overall. Brody Halfmann, a senior from Garden City, finished 10th overall.

Texas Tech also placed first, second and third in the sheep/goats division, led by Gabe Jennings, a senior from Fredonia.

Other members of the livestock judging team are:

- Austin Adams, a senior from Hedley
- Zane Webster, a senior from San Simon, Arizona
- Jonathan Neiman, a senior from New Home
- LJ Young, a senior from Pendleton, Indiana
- Dakota Crissman, a senior from Bells
- Maclaine Shultz, a senior from Meeker, Colorado

Ryan Rathmann, an associate professor and the John W. and Doris Jones Professor in the [Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#), coaches the team. Graduate student Jon DeClerck is the assistant coach.

Both teams now will prepare for the national championships. The Meat Judging Team will be looking to defend its 2015 national title when it competes at the national championships Nov. 13 in Dakota City, Nebraska. The Livestock Judging Team will compete at the national championships Nov. 14 in Louisville, Kentucky, seeking to also repeat as champions.

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**CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, coordinator, Department of Animal and Food Sciences,
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University, (806)
742-2805 or moriah.beyers@ttu.edu**



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DATE: Nov. 7, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

National Wind Institute, Western Texas College to Sign 2-plus-2 Agreement

The agreement will help students from Western Texas earn a bachelor's degree in wind energy at Texas Tech.

WHAT: Texas Tech University [National Wind Institute](#), Western Texas College to sign 2-plus-2 partnership

WHEN: 1-2 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 10)

WHERE: West Hall Conference Room

EVENT: Texas Tech University's National Wind Institute (NWI), one of the nation's leading research entities on wind and its effects on human life, will sign an agreement with Western Texas College in Snyder that will allow students to transfer coursework from an associate of arts in general studies-science degree from WTC and apply it toward a Bachelor of science in wind energy degree at Texas Tech.

The agreement, one of several between the two institutions, is an effort to attain the goals set out by the State of Texas and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's recent report calling for an increase in the number of Texas residents earning a bachelor's degree.

Andy Swift, the associate director of education for the NWI, and Chris Pattison, assistant director of wind education and professor of wind energy at the NWI, will be among the Texas Tech representatives attending the event. Barbara Beebe, president of Western Texas College, and Stephanie Ducheneaux, dean of instructional affairs at Western Texas College, are expected to attend.

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CONTACT: Andy Swift, associate director of education, National Wind Institute, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1990 or andy.swift@ttu.edu

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 7, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Voter Survey: Texans Support Trump, Split on Muslim Ban and Border Wall

The Earl Survey Research Lab conducted the survey from Oct. 11 to Nov. 3.

In a year with legitimate political discussion of Texas turning from tradition to vote Democratic, the results are in and, unsurprisingly, most Texans still lean conservative.

The Texas Tech University [Earl Survey Research Lab](#) (ESRL) released on Monday (Nov. 7) the results of its statewide survey of registered voters on the 2016 election and policy preferences.

From Oct. 11 to Nov. 3, undergraduate students conducted interviews as part of a project in two classes: Political Analysis and Environmental Law, taught by Jared Perkins, and Introduction to American Government, taught by Sara Norman. The margin of error is +/- 4.2 at the 95 percent confidence level.

The survey found:

- A majority of Texas registered voters support Donald Trump (50 percent) for president. Hillary Clinton follows at 34 percent. Gary Johnson has 5 percent support and Jill Stein has 2 percent.
- The state of Texas is split on Donald Trump's policy to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the country: 47 percent support the policy and 45 percent do not.
- Respondents are evenly divided on Donald Trump's policy to build a wall between the United States and Mexico: 48 percent approve this policy and 48 percent do not.
- According to Texas respondents, 80 percent believe Hillary Clinton's email investigation makes her less trustworthy, while 8 percent believe it makes her more trustworthy.
- Forty-two percent of the respondents support Hillary Clinton's plan to make college debt-free for public universities, while 54 percent do not support this policy.
- When asked their approval for the way Ted Cruz is handling his job as United States senator for Texas, 44 percent of the respondents approve, 36 percent of the respondents disapprove, and 18 percent of the respondents indicated "Don't know."
- Among Republican voters who are aware Ted Cruz can be challenged for his seat in the U.S. Senate in the Republican primary election of 2018, 23 percent of respondents indicated they would vote for that challenger and 30 percent indicated they would not vote for that challenger. 47 percent of the respondents said they "Don't know."

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- Forty-four percent of the respondents believe Judge Merrick Garland should be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court, while 46 percent of the respondents do not believe he should be confirmed.
- According to registered voters in Texas, 65 percent support Greg Abbott's decision to deny refugees entrance into the state of Texas, and 31 percent do not support this policy.
- Seventy-seven percent of the respondents support a Muslim woman's right to wear a hijab that covers her head, while 18 percent do not.
- A large majority (67 percent) believe citizens should have the right to ban fracking for natural gas in their city limits, while 16 percent of the respondents do not.
- According to the poll, 35 percent of the respondents think transgender students in public schools have the right to use bathrooms matching their identity. 52 percent of the respondents do not support this policy.
- The state of Texas is divided on the policy of transgender people having the right to use public bathrooms matching their gender identity: 44 percent of the respondents support this policy issue and 48 percent do not.
- Finally, 59 percent of the respondents approve of the bill passed by the Texas Legislature that allows people with concealed handgun licenses to carry guns into some college buildings and classrooms; 37 percent of the respondents do not approve.

For further analysis of this survey and other ESRL administered surveys, see the [ESRL blog](#).

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CONTACT: Jared Perkins, professor, Department of Political Science, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas Tech University, (817) 721-9842 or jared.perkins@ttu.edu or Sara Norman, ESRL director, Department of Political Science, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas Tech University, (817) 988-5940 or sara.t.norman@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 9, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Architecture Student Wins National Design Competition

Mario Ramos won first place in the Tall Building category.

Mario Ramos, a graduate student from Brownsville studying architecture, won first place in the Tall Building category in the [ACSA/AISC Steel Student Design Competition](#). The prize for the national competition was \$2,500.

“The competition is focused on trying to solve the issue of the tall building/high-rise being a sculptural piece that can be placed in any country and not be inspired by its location,” Ramos said. “It’s also focused on sustainable and social issues.”

Participating in these competitions allows students to showcase their unique talents on national and international platforms, said Jim Williamson, dean of the [College of Architecture](#). Exposure allows students and faculty to connect to larger discussions about the profession.

“Our ability to compete, and win, is a testament to our College’s dedication to the education of world-class graduates from Texas Tech,” Williamson said. “We look forward to fostering and furthering this national and international discussion through our course work, design studios and evolving pedagogy.”

Ramos learned about the competition from his faculty adviser [Peter Raab](#), a professor in the College of Architecture, in one of his classes. Ramos was so excited to take Raab’s studio class and submit his designs for competition, he logged into Raiderlink 30 minutes before registration opened to make sure he would get a seat.

Once he started the class, Ramos said he was not focused on competing, but more so on designing a tall building, since few studio classes focus on skyscrapers and high-rises.

“I wanted to approach the challenge with the goal of learning to become a better architect for the future,” he said. “I was inspired by two classes I had taken during my time as an undergraduate.”

In the class, Ramos worked on his design with input from Raab and other students. The class offered constructive criticism for designs throughout the semester.

“Oftentimes, as an architecture professor, it is more about getting the students to ask the right questions as opposed to giving them answers,” Raab said. “Throughout the semester,

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we had several dozen conversations about his design intentions, and I tried to assist him in getting his language, imagery and design closer to what was needed.”

The idea for his design was to reduce food travel steps from farm to consumer and create a source of food in an urban core. This could help promote a healthy, sustainable lifestyle and provide plots of land for community garden areas.

Ramos spent an intensive amount of time researching the topic. He drew ideas from books, online journals and documentary films.

Ramos had fun creating the design, despite a rough start. After looking back over his sketchbooks, he realized he had not settled on a final form for the building until there was roughly a month and a half left in the Spring semester.

“We had to submit all the information we wanted in four posters that told the story of our project to convince the jury,” Ramos said. “But after all that, I’m glad I gave it my all and invested all the time I could into coming up with a successful project.”

Ramos and Raab celebrated when they received the news he won first place. And are looking forward to more competitions in the future.

“I was so extremely happy to receive the news. It is an acknowledgment of his hard work, dedication and passion for his design,” Raab said. “This is great for broadcasting the fine work happening in the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University, but also it honestly could not have been awarded to a better student.”

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CONTACT: David Isern, director, Communications and Outreach, College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-0096 or david.isern@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 9, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

British House of Lords Member to Speak on Rational Optimism

The Free Market Institute is sponsoring the speech.

- WHAT:** Matt Ridley, a columnist for The Telegraph and The Times (UK) and a member of the science and technology select committee in the British House of Lords, will speak on “Rational Optimism and the Evolution of Everything.” He also will have a book signing. The [Free Market Institute](#) at Texas Tech University is hosting the event.
- WHEN:** Book signing: 4:45-5:15 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 10)
Lecture: 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday
- WHERE:** Red Raider Ballroom, Student Union Building
- WHO:** Ridley is a best-selling author and scientist who writes a weekly column in The Times and writes for the Wall Street Journal. As a viscount, he was elected to the House of Lords in February 2013. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Academy of Medical Sciences. His latest book is “The Evolution of Everything.”

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



News release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 9, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

BurkTech Players Return to Stage To Discuss Love, Relationships

The theater company, composed of students from the School of Theatre & Dance and the Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research, will perform several original works.

It's complicated.

That relationship status is more or less the theme of the Texas Tech University BurkTech Players' fall performance. The theater company, which is composed of students from the [School of Theatre & Dance](#) and the [Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research](#), will look at the entanglements of relationships, the sometimes challenging pursuit of love and the mixed emotions that accompany love and loss.

"Relationships are universal," said Winter Davis, managing director of the BurkTech Players. "Whether we are seeking another to know us better or trying to reconcile our choices, we are all intimately connected through the nature of human existence."

The BurkTech Players is a student-led effort that grew from a community theater course connecting theatre and dance students with students who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Enough college students with ASD expressed interest beyond the classes that the group came together, with the support of Mark Charney, the director of the School of Theatre & Dance, and Wes Dotson, co-director of the Burkhart Center.

As the initial performances filled the theater, the company looked for more and bigger opportunities, including writing their own one-act plays and choreographing dance routines. This year's performance ends with a piece choreographed by Sam Shreffler, the co-artistic director and one of the early and enthusiastic members.

"It's a story of desire and regret, that in a moment we can let our desire outweigh our better judgment," Shreffler said.

The company will perform:

- "Apres Opera" by Michael Begelow Dixon and Valerie Smith, directed by Caroline Jane Davis
- "Almost Maine: 'Sad and Glad'" by John Cariani, directed by Winter Davis
- "A Study in Relationships" conceived by the BurkTech Players Ensemble, directed by Reese Thompson
- "Park Bench 10: A Satirical Examination of Early Playwriting" by Meg Davis, directed by Caroline Jane Davis

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- “Projected Pieces” conceived by the BurkTech Players Ensemble, directed by Caroline Jane Davis
- “Lovers Past Nightmare,” an original dance piece conceived and choreographed by Sam Shreffler

The performances are at 4:30 p.m. Sunday (Nov. 13) and 7 p.m. Monday (Nov. 14) in the Escondido Theater of the Student Union Building. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited. Seats can be reserved at the group’s [Facebook page](#).

The BurkTech Players also offer free workshops from 5-7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month. The workshops will be at the Burkhart Center. The December and January workshops will be geared toward teachers and students who are interested in bringing theatre techniques and activities into the classroom, specifically for students with ASD and developmental disabilities. More information will be posted on the Facebook page.

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CONTACT: Winter Davis, managing director, BurkTech Players, Texas Tech University, winter.davis@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 9, 2016

CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Institutional Diversity Hosts Maria Hinojosa for Latino Lecture Series

The award-winning journalist delivered two lectures as the first speaker in the new series.

The Texas Tech University [Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement](#) (DIDECE) has launched a new lecture series that will serve as a catalyst to raise the university's presence in the Latino community in Lubbock and beyond.

Maria Hinojosa, an award-winning journalist and reporter with almost 30 years of experience, served as the inaugural speaker of the Latino Lecture Series on Nov. 1. Her career in journalism includes reporting for PBS, CBS, WNBC, CNN, NPR, Frontline and CBS Radio. She also served as host on the Emmy Award-winning talk show "Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One" and has received numerous awards, including the Edward R. Murrow Award and the Ruben Salazar Lifetime Achievement Award.

Hinojosa helped launch "Latino USA," one of the first public radio programs that focuses on the Latino community, in 1992 and has served as host since then. In 2010, she created the Futuro Media Group, an independent nonprofit organization that uses multimedia journalism to explore and give a voice to the diversity of the American experience.

DIDECE has joined forces with other organizations, including the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education, [Raiders Rojos](#) and the Latino/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association, to invite prominent individuals like Hinojosa to speak on campus at future events.

"The university is moving toward its status as a Hispanic Serving Institution, which would support research and curricular offerings that address Latino issues in our broader community," said Miguel Levario, associate professor of U.S. history and borderlands. "Ms. Hinojosa spoke in part of Latino agency, cultural awareness and the power of multi-platform media on promoting Latino issues."

Hinojosa's visit included a lecture with students, followed by a lecture to the general public. Parts of her lectures focused on the presidential campaign and election.

"It is your role as a citizen or a non-citizen to be a part of the political conversation," Hinojosa said. "It is during this divisive time in our country that we should listen and dialogue with one another. Find your voice and do not be silent."

Hinojosa also praised the university's efforts to better serve its diverse population.

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“After reviewing the room and the campus it is clear to me that Texas Tech had the foresight to anticipate demographic change by aiming toward achieving its status as a Hispanic Serving Institution and increasing its enrollment of people of color,” Hinojosa told attendees.

Levario said the series will raise awareness and inform the community on issues that affect Latinos.

“As a Carnegie Tier One research institution and one that serves as one of the top universities in awarding degrees to Hispanics, it is important that the university research, engage and inform on Latino issues,” Levario said. “By bringing national and international figures like Maria Hinojosa to Texas Tech, we are able to engage in dialogue over these pressing topics and raise the profile of the university and Lubbock’s place in the national discourse.”

For more information about the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, visit the [website](#).

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CONTACT: Miguel A. Levario, associate professor of U.S. history and borderlands, Department of History, Texas Tech University, 806-834-8096
or miguel.levario@ttu.edu

Expert Pitch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 10, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Experts Available For Post-Election Analysis from Political Science to Personal Relations

The 2016 election cycle is being called one of the most divisive on record. An unexpected presidential victory by Donald Trump paired with Republican majorities in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate may have major effects on the United States and the rest of the world in the coming months and years. The political divisions between friends and family members – although on a personal rather than public level – are no less dramatic.

Texas Tech University has experts available to discuss many of the questions lingering from the elections process and those the country faces as it prepares to move forward.

Effects on the American elections process

Seth McKee, associate professor, [Department of Political Science](#), (806) 834-1880
or sc.mckee@ttu.edu

- McKee can speak about the processes in the presidential election, U.S. House and Senate elections, Texas politics and statewide races, including questions such as:
 - Has the political process been permanently altered by this election cycle?
 - Can the public trust the political process, or is there any legitimacy to the claims of election rigging?
 - How do parties move forward?
 - Could there be a brighter future for third-party candidates?
- McKee's recently published research includes white conservative voting for minority Republican candidates in Senate and gubernatorial elections, voting behavior in different parts of the South, and factors influencing the passage of voter ID laws in states. To view more of McKee's research, click [here](#).

Effects on Congress

Joel Sievert, visiting assistant professor, Department of Political Science, (806) 834-4103
or joel.sievert@ttu.edu

- Sievert can discuss the effects of the election on the U.S. Congress.
- Sievert's areas of expertise include American political institutions with an emphasis on Congress, congressional elections, the presidency and separation of powers. His recently published research includes the role of congressional candidates in an era of party ballots, electoral reform and changes in legislative behavior, and the establishment of party policy committees in the U.S. Senate. To view more of Sievert's research, click [here](#).

Effects on the judiciary

Arnold H. Hoewy, George R. Killam Jr., Chair of Criminal Law, Texas Tech [School of Law](#), (806) 834-1852 or arnold.loewy@ttu.edu

- Loewy teaches a seminar course on the Supreme Court as well as courses in criminal law, criminal procedure and the First Amendment.
- The ability of the new president to appoint Supreme Court justices was a central theme in the election as numerous judges are approaching ages where they are expected to retire. This will shift the balance of thinking in the Supreme Court.
- Donald Trump has indicated he will lean toward appointing conservative judges, which could bring Roe vs. Wade and marriage equality issues back before the court.
- “I don't think the election will affect current Supreme Court justices or their opinions. I do think that the president-elect will be more likely to pick justices in the mold of Clarence Thomas or Samuel Alito rather than Sonia Sotomayor or Elena Kagan. Of course, how a particular new justice will vote cannot be known until he/she actually sits on the court and hears or decides cases.”

Polling discrepancies

Sara Norman, [Earl Survey Research Lab](#) director and professor, Department of Political Science, (806) 834-7364 or sara.t.norman@ttu.edu

- Norman can speak about the discrepancies between the pre-election polling results and the actual outcome of the elections.
- Norman teaches the Introduction to American Government class. Students in her class and another course conducted a pre-election poll of registered Texas voters that predicted a Trump win with 50 percent of the popular vote; he ended with 52.7 percent.

Relationships and social media

Jaclyn Cravens, assistant professor of addictive disorders and recovery studies, [College of Human Sciences](#), (806) 834-2705 or jaclyn.cravens@ttu.edu

Jason Whiting, professor of [marriage and family therapy](#), College of Human Sciences, (806) 834-4560 or jason.whiting@ttu.edu

- Cravens and Whiting can discuss how communicating through social media implies a distance or a lack of reality that allows people to disconnect real life from online life, as well as creating a raft of opportunities for misinterpretation, escalation and emotional reactions to political comments from family and friends.
- Cravens' research focuses on the role technology and the Internet plays in intimate partner relationships. To view more of her research, click [here](#).
- Whiting's research focuses on couple conflict and violence, and relationship education. To view more of his research, click [here](#).

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 10, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

National Wind Institute, Western Texas College Sign Educational Partnership

The agreement will allow students earning an associate's degree at Western Texas College to transfer coursework toward a bachelor's degree in wind energy at Texas Tech.

Texas Tech University's [National Wind Institute](#) (NWI) and Western Texas College (WTC) on Thursday (Nov. 10) signed an agreement that would allow students at the college in Snyder to transfer coursework earned on an associate's degree and apply it toward a bachelor's degree in wind energy.

The agreement was signed by representatives of both NWI and Western Texas College in a ceremony on the Texas Tech campus. It allows students who have earned an associate of arts in general studies-science at WTC to transfer their coursework to Texas Tech toward a bachelor of science in wind energy. Students will be encouraged to complete the associate's degree before transferring to Texas Tech.

"Our relationship with Western Texas College has been important in the growth of the Wind Energy Education Program within the National Wind Institute at Texas Tech," said Andy Swift, associate director of education for the NWI. "With more than 180 students now majoring in wind energy and an 80 percent placement rate in the growing renewable power sector, we look forward to formalizing transfer opportunities for regional students from WTC to complete their studies at Texas Tech and be successful leaders and professionals in this growing energy industry."

Students at Western Texas College also will be able to transfer additional coursework, and Texas Tech will accept both the transferrable core curriculum and other coursework within the Texas common course numbering system.

"With the robust development of wind power we are seeing in our community and the nation, WTC is excited to offer this innovative program," said Barb Beebe, president of Western Texas College. "Our partnership enables WTC to better serve the needs of our students by offering a seamless transfer to Texas Tech. This partnership provides students with the tools and education needed to succeed in the energy sector. Western Texas College hopes to continue the history of successful partnerships with Texas Tech University far into the future."

WTC students who wish to transfer their coursework to Texas Tech must meet assured admission requirements for the wind energy program. Those requirements include:

- Earning an associate of arts in general studies-science degree at WTC with a 2.25 or better GPA; or
- Completing 30 or more semester hours of transferrable college work beyond high school with a 2.25 cumulative GPA, which allows students to complete an associate degree via reverse transfer option; or
- Completing 24 hours or more semester hours of transferable college work beyond high school with a 2.25 cumulative GPA; or
- Completing 12-23 semester hours of transferable college work beyond high school with a 2.50 cumulative GPA; or
- Students transferring with fewer than 12 transferable hours must meet the same assured admission standards required of new freshmen from high school with a minimum 2.50 GPA in the work completed.

The agreement will run through 2018 unless either institution desires to terminate the partnership prior to the end of the term. The agreement will be subject to an annual review by representatives of both Western Texas College and Texas Tech.

This is not the first agreement between the schools to help students earn degrees at both institutions. In 2012, a similar partnership was executed to allow students to transfer coursework earned in an associate of science in wind energy at WTC toward a bachelor of science in wind energy at Texas Tech, with a goal of increasing opportunities for Hispanic and low-income students.

“Texas Tech and Western Texas College have had a long partnership working together in wind energy that spans more than six years,” said Marina Gonzales, WTC wind energy curriculum specialist. “WTC received funding to start a wind energy program through a Title V grant. Since then WTC has established the necessary science courses needed to provide a seamless transfer. We have worked with Texas Tech very closely to write a hands-on curriculum that prepares students to develop and design wind farms.”

Texas Tech aided Western Texas College in the creation of five wind energy courses at the community college level that were the equivalent of lower division undergraduate courses toward a bachelor’s degree in wind energy. Those five courses are part of the transferrable curriculum in the new agreement between the institutions.

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CONTACT: Andy Swift, associate director of education, National Wind Institute, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1990 or andy.swift@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 10, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech University to be Recognized For Excellence in International Education The Paul Simon Award presentation will be livestreamed.

WHAT: NAFSA: Association of International Educators will host a panel discussion with college and university presidents and chancellors on expanding access to global learning. Texas Tech University will be honored at the event as a Sen. Paul Simon Spotlight Award recipient.

WHEN: Tuesday (Nov. 15)
Presidential panel: 3-4:15 p.m.
Reception and awards ceremony: 4:30-6 p.m.

WHERE: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Livestream: While space is limited for this invitation-only event, the presidential panel will be broadcast live via webcast beginning at 3 p.m. at www.nafsa.org/simonwebcast. INTO University Partnerships Limited wrote the 2016 Sen. Paul Simon Campus Internationalization Presidential Panel webcast.

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CONTACT: Katie O'Connell, NAFSA: Association of International Educators,
(202) 737-3699 x2559 or katieo@nafsa.org



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 10, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech University to Host Student Leader Academy

The academy is free for all Texas Tech students.

The Texas Tech University Center for Campus Life will host its Student Leader Academy from 1-5 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 12). The academy is a free leadership conference for all Texas Tech students.

Keri Shippet, unit assistant director of the Center for Campus Life, said the academy is an opportunity for students to learn who they are as leaders, build leadership skills and make connections with other students. There will be educational breakout sessions, a keynote speaker and time to network with campus leaders.

“The Student Leader Academy is designed to impact everyone, from emerging, to accomplished leaders, so all Texas Tech students are encouraged to register and attend,” she said.

This year’s session is designed around the social change model and there will be at least three educational sessions with one session for each of the model’s identified core values: individual, group and community.

“Developing leadership is important because there are skills and experiences students need to be successful in the community,” Shippet said. “We want students to be better prepared to get jobs once they graduate and to keep those jobs.”

Students can register for the academy [here](#).

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CONTACT: Keri Shippet, unit assistant director, Center for Campus Life, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-5433 or keri.shippet@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 11, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Associate Vice Provost Selected as Mid-America Universities International Vice President

After two years, Sukant Misra will serve as the president.

Sukant Misra, associate vice provost for international programs at Texas Tech University, was selected as the next vice president for Mid-America Universities International (MAUI). Tibor Nagy, vice provost for international affairs, nominated Misra to the council.

[Misra](#) has been involved with MAUI for two years; he became after joining the Texas Tech [Office of International Affairs](#).

As vice president, Misra will assist the officers in developing international relationships, facilitating collaboration on external joint grant opportunities with member institutions, and establishing formal site visits with international partners to promote study abroad.

The mission of MAUI, primarily composed of Big XII Conference and affiliated universities, is to work together to promote overseas educational opportunities for students and international teaching, consultation and research opportunities for faculty, according to its [website](#).

“This mission resonates with me because I believe higher education must provide an adequate preparation for our graduates, staff and faculty to be productive citizens of our globalized societies and economies,” Misra said. “MAUI promotes internationalization of higher education, and any effort to promote internationalization of higher education inspires me.”

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CONTACT: Jane Bell, senior director, Outreach and Operations, International Cultural Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3667 or jane.bell@ttu.edu



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Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 11, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Drought and Demographics the Topic of Upcoming Lecture

Julie Hoggarth is an assistant professor at Baylor University who will discuss historical and archaeological perspectives of drought in the Mayan Lowlands.

WHAT: Lecture by Julie Hoggarth, "Drought and its Demographic Effects in the Maya Lowlands: Bridging Historical and Archaeological Perspectives."

WHEN: 5:35 p.m. Monday (Nov. 14)

WHERE: Room 001, English/Philosophy Building

EVENT: Hoggarth is an assistant professor at Baylor University who has studied the effects drought had on the disintegration of regional governments in the Maya Lowlands at the end of the Classic Period (750-1,000 C.E.). The demographic effects of climate change are largely unknown in the absence of written evidence of the decline of agricultural productivity and population during this period and in this area.

The lecture is sponsored by the Lubbock Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the [Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work](#) in the [College of Arts & Sciences](#).

Admission to the lecture is free.

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CONTACT: Hannah Friedman, assistant professor, Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2135 or hannah.friedman@ttu.edu



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Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 11, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Railroad Commissioner to Speak at Texas Tech

The School of Law's Energy Law Lecture Series will host Ryan Sitton.

WHAT: Ryan Sitton, the Texas railroad commissioner, will be the featured speaker for the Energy Law Lecture Series hosted by the Texas Tech University [School of Law](#).

WHEN: Noon Monday (Nov. 14)

WHERE: Lanier Auditorium, Texas Tech University School of Law, 1802 Hartford Ave.

EVENT: Sitton earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University and has nearly 20 years of experience in the oil, gas and petrochemical industry. He has served on the boards of numerous energy trade associations and in 2015 was recognized as one of the 40 most influential leaders under 40 in the Houston area.

In 2006, he and his wife, Jennifer, founded Pinnacle Advanced Reliability Technologies, an engineering and technology business focused on the reliability and integrity programs for the oil, gas and petrochemical industries. Today, Pinnacle employs more than 600 people and has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing privately held companies in the nation.

He is the first engineer to serve as railroad commissioner in more than 50 years and has provided expert testimony in both regulatory and civil court cases.

Those attending the event are eligible for one hour of Texas Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit. Contact Erica Lux at erica.lux@ttu.edu for details.

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CONTACT: Sarah Salazar, director of communications, School of Law, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5074 or sarah.e.salazar@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 11, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Science by the Glass Series to Feature TIEHH professor Steve Presley

The discussion will be held at the Fox & Hound Sports Tavern.

WHAT: The upcoming “Science by the Glass” discussion series examine the connection between climate science and arthropod-borne infectious diseases, featuring Steve Presley, a professor of immunotoxicology in [The Institute of Environmental and Human Health](#) at Texas Tech.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Tuesday (Nov. 15)

WHERE: Fox & Hound Sports Tavern, 4210 82nd St., Ste. 240

EVENT: “Science by the Glass” is an informal discussion series hosted by the Texas Tech University [Climate Science Center](#) (CSC). The series is designed to bring members of the community and Texas Tech faculty and students together to discuss topics related to science, climate and society.

The discussion is open to the public and admission is free.

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CONTACT: Breanna Allen, communication and outreach coordinator, Climate Science Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-6911 or breanna.allen@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 11, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Recycling Efforts Spotlights in Two Events

Recycle Old Electronics Day is a partnership with the USDA, and a webinar is sponsored by Coca-Cola.

WHAT: [University Student Housing](#) and the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service are sponsoring Recycle Old Electronics Day. People can bring telephones, stereos, records, gaming consoles, hard drives, keyboards, VCRs, cables, televisions, computers, laptops and other electronics.

WHEN: The old electronics day will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 12).

WHERE: People can drop off old electronics in the parking lot of the USDA building at 3810 4th St.

WHAT: Texas Tech University also will be featured in a RecycleMania webinar sponsored by Coca-Cola. Melanie Tatum, unit assistant director of [Sustainability and Warehouse Operations](#), will be speaking in the webinar about how Texas Tech promotes RecycleMania to raise awareness with students.

WHEN: The webinar will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday (Nov. 14).

WHERE: Click [here](#) to join to webinar.

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CONTACT: Melanie Tatum, unit assistant director, Sustainability and Warehouse Operations, College, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1570 or m.tatum@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 11, 2016

CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech's Sigma Delta Pi Hosts Sixth Annual Lubbock Spanish Spelling Bee The championship round includes students from 10 area schools.

WHAT: Texas Tech University's chapter of [Sigma Delta Pi](#), the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, hosts the sixth annual Lubbock Spanish Spelling Bee.

Ten schools from Lubbock and Frenship independent school districts will participate:

- Bean Elementary School
- Harwell Elementary School
- McWhorter Elementary School
- Ramirez Elementary School
- Roscoe Wilson Elementary School
- Willow Bend Elementary School
- Atkins Middle School
- Hutchinson Middle School
- Talkington School for Young Women Leaders
- Terra Vista Middle School

Margaret Del Toro, a Lubbock Independent School District bilingual and English as a second language instructional specialist, will be the guest of honor.

Winners will receive cash prizes and a plaque, and all participants will receive certificates.

The Lubbock Spanish Spelling Bee began in 2011 and is open to the Frenship, Lubbock and Lubbock Cooper school districts. About 300 students participate in the spelling bee every year with about 60 students advancing to the championship round.

Sigma Delta Pi hosts the event in collaboration with the [American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese](#).

WHEN: 9 a.m. Saturday (Nov. 12)

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WHERE: International Cultural Center auditorium, 601 Indiana Ave.

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



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Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 14, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

National Ranching Heritage Center Hosting Symposium for Veterans

The symposium is designed to help veterans adapt to civilian life after their time in the service ends.

WHAT: The [Military & Veterans Programs](#) at Texas Tech University and the [National Ranching Heritage Center](#) will host a symposium titled “Exploring the Frontier of the Arts, Innovation and Medicine – In Support of the Veteran.”

WHEN: 1-5:30 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 17)

WHERE: National Ranching Heritage Center, 3121 4th St.

EVENT: Hosted by the National Ranching Heritage Center (NRHC), the symposium “Exploring the Frontier of the Arts, Innovation and Medicine – In Support of the Veteran” is designed to use the arts and humanities to help veterans to heal, reintegrate into society, innovate and succeed as entrepreneurs.

The NRHC was chosen for the venue for its emphasis on the frontier, adaptation and pioneering spirit of the men and women who explored, adapted to and flourished in that frontier.

The symposium will include lectures from Texas Tech professors Kelli Frias from the [Rawls College of Business](#), Alexandra Protopopova and Nathaniel Hall from the [College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources](#), and Jacqueline Kolosov from the [Department of English](#). Other featured speakers include Texas Tech [Innovation Hub](#) director Kimberly Gramm and Texas Tech [Women’s Studies](#) director Charlotte Dunham.

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CONTACT: Annette Sobel, executive for critical infrastructure protection and health security initiatives, Office of the President, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2121 or annette.sobel@ttu.edu

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 15, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech School of Law Hosting Mental Health Law Symposium The symposium will feature Judge Steve Leifman as the keynote speaker.

WHAT: Mental Health Law Symposium, sponsored by the *Texas Tech Law Review* and the *Texas Tech Administrative Law Journal*

WHEN: 7:45 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday (Nov. 18)

WHERE: Lanier Auditorium, Texas Tech University [School of Law](#), 1802 Hartford Ave.

EVENT: Featuring experts from around the U.S., the Mental Health Law Symposium will delve into the legal and policy issues that could address significant issues faced by the criminal justice system when dealing with offenders suffering from mental illness.

Judge Steve Leifman from Miami and the Miami-Dade County Court will serve as the keynote speaker. Leifman earned the 2015 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts for his work in helping people with mental illness who are in the criminal-justice system or at risk of falling into it.

Also scheduled to speak is State Representative Four Price, who as the chairman of the House Select Committee on Mental Illness was tasked with conducting a thorough review of the state's mental-health system. The final speaker will be Texas Tech School of Law Paul W. Horn Professor Brian Shannon, an expert on mental-health law who will speak on competency and ethics.

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CONTACT: Sarah Salazar, director of communications, School of Law, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5074 or sarah.e.salazar@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 15, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech University to Receive Paul Simon Award

The president will be featured on a panel about international education.

Texas Tech University will be honored with the Sen. Paul Simon Spotlight Award at 4:30 p.m. today (Nov. 15) at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. NAFSA: Association of International Educators will present Texas Tech with the award for excellence in international education.

There will also be a presidential panel at 3 p.m. featuring Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec.

“Through the [Office of International Affairs](#) and the [K-12 Global Education Outreach Program](#), we are able to promote international awareness among our students at Texas Tech and youth in our community,” Schovanec said. “This program is an innovative approach to introducing areas and cultures of the world to K-12 students, an experience not otherwise available to them. This award is wonderful recognition for Texas Tech and our commitment as an institution to promote diversity and cultural awareness on our campus, and in the local community as well.”

The panel will be broadcast live online at 3 p.m. at www.nafsa.org/simonwebcast. INTO University Partnerships Limited wrote the 2016 Sen. Paul Simon Campus Internationalization Presidential Panel webcast.

“We are deeply honored for Texas Tech being selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2016 Sen. Paul Simon Spotlight Award for its innovative and creative educational outreach to K-12 students,” Sukant Misra, associate vice provost for International Affairs, said. “This award recognizes the K-12 Global Education Outreach Program for its unwavering commitment to foster global competence among K-12 students of the West Texas region. We help local schools to produce citizens of the future that actually know something about the world – its culture, languages and how its social systems work.”

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CONTACT: Katie O’Connell, senior director, Media Relations and Advocacy
NAFSA: Association of International Educators, (202) 737-3699 x2559 or
katieo@nafsa.org

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 15, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

MEDIA: Reporters interested in interviewing Mark Wood can contact Heidi Toth to set up a time.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra Co-Founder Teaches Violinists to Shred

Mark Wood is an electric violinist who created Electrify Your Strings, a traveling music education experience for orchestra students.

If the fiddle is a violin with attitude, the electric violin is a violin with tattoos, piercings, a leather jacket and a rap sheet.

It's perfect for shredding. Just ask Mark Wood, one of the founders of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and world-famous shredder. Or see it firsthand when Wood, the [Texas Tech University Symphony Orchestra](#) and almost 1,300 youth violinists shred the South Plains Fairgrounds Coliseum as part of Wood's [Electrify Your Strings](#) tour this week (Nov. 16-19).

"We know music has the power to change lives, and with Electrify Your Strings I have the opportunity to witness that at every workshop," Wood said. "You give a quiet string student an electric violin, and they become a rock star before your eyes."

Wood and colleagues Haydn Vitera and Val Vigoda, along with members of his band, The Mark Wood Experience, will be in Lubbock this week rocking out with Electrify Your Strings, which is a musical education experience Wood created to introduce and encourage young string musicians and choral singers to perform rock 'n' roll.

Student musicians from the Lubbock Independent School District, the Youth Orchestras of Lubbock, All Saints Episcopal School and the [TTU String Project](#) will get to work with Wood and other musicians, including members of the University Symphony Orchestra, before the concert at 2 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 19) at the South Plains Fairgrounds Coliseum. Selections during the concert will include Wood's arrangements of several hits – listen for the familiar tunes – and a closing number that will combine the forces of all the musicians who participated in the workshop.

This will be the second time the University Symphony Orchestra performs with Wood; the groups collaborated at the Texas Music Educators Association State Convention in February 2015, and David E. Becker, director of orchestral studies, was eager for a reprise.

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“This outstanding musician, innovative music educator and human being is so infectious, and his progressive contribution to music education around the world is huge,” Becker said. “He is about empowering students to dream big, take chances and break down barriers so they can achieve success in any field.”

Tickets for the rock ‘n’ roll concert are \$10 for general admission and can be purchased online at www.SelectASeatLubbock.com, or at the Select-A-Seat outlets at Amigo’s Supermarket, Dollar Western Wear, the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, Market Street, Ralph’s Records, the Texas Tech Student Union and United Supermarkets.

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CONTACT: Hannah Porter, senior business assistant for the University Orchestras, School of Music, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-7828 or hannah.porter@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 16, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Abbott Appoints Education Dean to State Board for Educator Certification

Scott Ridley has been at the forefront of teacher preparation reform since before coming to Texas Tech in 2011.

The architect of Texas Tech University's nationally recognized teacher preparation program now will have a chance to influence the direction of education statewide as a member the State Board for Educator Certification.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott this week appointed Scott Ridley, dean of the [College of Education](#) at Texas Tech University, to the board, which oversees the preparation, certification and standards of conduct for public school educators. The dean's role is a non-voting seat, but he will be able to contribute to the board's discussion, deliberations and scholarship.

It's an achievement for West Texas and Texas Tech, he said.

"This appointment increases Texas Tech's profile in the field of education throughout the state and our efforts to influence standards set in the state for quality not only for teachers but also for principals and administrators," Ridley said.

This also is a big step for improved teacher preparation statewide. Only about a third of Texas' teachers received an education in teaching, compared to the national average of 80 percent. More than half of teachers in Texas classrooms got jobs when districts needed teachers; they got minimal training and education after beginning the job. This problem is especially prevalent in low income schools. Satisfaction rates with these teachers are low, but as long as it is allowed, districts are still hiring.

However, Ridley said that is changing, and this appointment will put him and Texas Tech in a place of influence as the change begins.

"There's a growing consciousness in the state that we need to do better, and TechTeach is the high-end preparation that has high expectations and high demands. You've got to demonstrate you can actually teach before you finish the program," he said. "I think they wanted more of that perspective on the board."

Other information

- Ridley pioneered TechTeach, the competency-based teacher preparation program the College of Education uses to prepare its students for the classroom.

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- He authored a \$7 million grant that created the [U.S. PREP National Center](#), which works with six regional teacher preparation programs to help prepare them for education reform.
- He authored the grant that created the East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood grant, a multi-agency project aimed at improving the health, life and livelihood of one of Texas' most struggling areas.
- Ridley is a member of Deans for Impact, Educate Texas and the Southern Regional Education Board Teacher Preparation Commission.
- He will finish the term of a retired member and next year be reappointed to serve a full term.

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CONTACT: Lauren Brownell, marketing director, College of Education, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5188 or lauren.brownell@ttu.edu

Expert Pitch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 16, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Expert: Expect Black Friday, Cyber Monday, Super Saturday All to Be Big Shopping Days

More people will be buying online, but plenty of people still shop brick-and-mortar stores for Christmas, and if projected Super Saturday sales are any indication, plenty of people put off holiday shopping for the last minute, said Deborah Fowler, program director and professor in the [retail management program](#) at Texas Tech University. She's not expecting too much to be different this year from past years, although the amount of shopping Americans do is projected to increase.

Fowler, who has tracked retail trends for years, is the author of "Retail Category Management," which focuses on the nature of retail processes and concepts. She has partnered with a variety of major companies, including teaching a class on retail trends as well as a course that allows graduate students to analyze and present a profit-making plan to a major retailer.

Expert

Deborah Fowler, professor of retail management, (806) 834-1779 or deborah.fowler@ttu.edu

Talking points

- Sales are expected to be up this year. The National Retail Federation estimated retail sales would be up 10 percent from last year and Deloitte estimated a 19 percent increase in online sales.
- Black Friday ads are available online, but don't expect offerings that vary significantly from previous years, either in product or price.
- Shoppers need to make a list and stick to it; a sale tag in the excitement of Black Friday doesn't make a purchase good. Also keep receipts in case the prices drop again by Super Saturday (the last Saturday before Christmas).

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 16, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Livestock Judging Team Claims Back-to-Back National Championships

The team earned its ninth overall title and sixth crown in the last decade.

The national championship of livestock judging is staying in Lubbock.

On the strength of three top 10 individual finishes, the Texas Tech University [Livestock Judging Team](#) from the [Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#) in the [College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#) claimed its second straight national title and ninth in program history Monday at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky.

“This is a humble group of Christian young men and women on this team that mean the world to me personally,” said coach Ryan Rathmann, an associate professor and the John W. and Doris Jones Professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. “This is a very special win.”

Texas Tech edged Kansas State University by just three points, 4,878-4,875, to claim the win. Oklahoma State University was third, followed by the University of Nebraska and Texas A&M University.

Texas Tech claimed first place in the reasons division by seven points over Oklahoma State while taking second in swine and sheep judging and third in cattle.

The team was led by Zane Webster, a senior from San Simon, Arizona, who finished second overall. Gabe Jennings, a senior from Fredonia, finished sixth overall while Jonathan Neiman, a senior from New Home, was eighth.

Jennings and Chama Martin, a senior from Mason, were named All-Americans based on their academic record, leadership and livestock judging success.

The livestock team this season also captured the championship at the State Fair of Texas Collegiate Livestock Contest in Dallas and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in March.

“The consistency at which our CASNR collegiate judging teams compete on the national level is truly amazing,” said Steve Frazee, interim dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources. “Our students and coaches are commended as we embark on a new era of excellence and start the count for another 100 national championships.”

Other members of the livestock judging team are:

- Austin Adams, a senior from Hedley
- Dakota Crissman, a senior from Bells
- Brody Halfmann, a senior from Garden City
- LJ Maclaine Shultz, a senior from Meeker, Colorado
- Li Young, a senior from Pendleton, Indiana

In addition to Rathmann, Jon DeClerck, a doctoral student, co-coached the team with Rathmann.

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CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, coordinator, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2805 or moriah.beyers@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 16, 2016

CONTACT: Aleesa Ross, aleesa.ross@ttu.edu
(806) 834-0348

National Communication Association Conference Features Numerous Texas Tech Experts

The College of Media & Communication was well represented at the conference.

The 2016 National Communication Association (NCA) conference featured presentations from more than a dozen professors and graduate students from Texas Tech University's [College of Media & Communication](#).

The conference was held Nov. 8-13 in Philadelphia

Glenn Cummins, associate dean for research in the College of Media & Communication, said the college's presence at the conference is a testament to the excellent quality of research produced by its faculty and students.

"The conference is a showcase for some of the best and timeliest research in our field," Cummins said. "Having faculty and students from the College of Media & Communication among the presenters is proof of the great research coming from our college."

Faculty members who delivered presentations included:

- Marjorie Buckner, assistant professor, [Department of Communication Studies](#)
- Erik Bucy, the Marshall and Sharleen Formby Regents Professor of Strategic Communications, [Department of Advertising](#)
- Mark Gring, associate professor and assistant graduate director, Department of Communication Studies
- Luke LeFebvre, director, Communication Training Center
- Katie Langford, associate professor, Department of Communication Studies
- Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, assistant dean of international affairs and associate professor, Department of Communication Studies
- David Roach, associate dean of the [College of Arts & Sciences](#) and professor, Department of Communication Studies
- Jenna Shimkowski, assistant professor, Department of Communication Studies
- Rob Stewart, professor and senior vice provost, Department of Communication Studies
- John Velez, assistant professor, [Department of Journalism & Electronic Media](#)

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Also featured as presenters were several graduate students or instructors in the college – Richelle Hair, Terri Manley, Santiago Arias, Travis Loof and Casey Smith – as well as Sylvia Niehuis and Dana Weiser, professors of [human development and family studies](#) in the [College of Human Sciences](#).

LeFebvre said it is a privilege and an honor to contribute to the NCA conference.

“It’s an organization that helped to establish and recognize the value of our discipline each year through the sharing of research presentations, panel discussions, networking with colleagues at other institutions and serving in roles of division leadership to better the organization for future scholars in the field of communication,” LeFebvre said.

Brian Ott, chair of the Department of Communication Studies, said NCA’s prestigious reputation creates a unique opportunity for scholars in communication studies to thrive.

“Our department is proud to have so many faculty and graduate students presenting their original scholarship in this venue,” Ott said. “It’s an excellent opportunity to showcase the exciting and innovative scholarly work happening in communication studies at Texas Tech on a national stage.”

In addition to the presenters, the college’s faculty also won Top Paper awards in the areas of international communication, advertising, mass communication and society, communication science, health, environment and risk, and communication theory and methodology.

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CONTACT: Glenn Cummins, assistant professor and associate dean for research, Journalism and Electronic media, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-3117 or glenn.cummins@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 16, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech President Embarks on Tour of Local High Schools

Lawrence Schovanec is touting the values of Texas Tech in an effort to encourage West Texas high school students to enroll in their hometown university.

Part of Texas Tech University's efforts to become a global university have centered around attracting the best and brightest students from throughout the world.

Texas Tech officials, however, are making sure that effort is in conjunction with ensuring the most deserving local students find a place with their hometown academic institution as well. To that effort, new Texas Tech president Lawrence Schovanec is visiting all the local high schools and many others from across West Texas with a message to explore what Texas Tech can do for them.

Schovanec, along with the [Office of Admissions](#) and representatives of all colleges at Texas Tech, has just completed a series of Top Scholar recruitment visits to Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. Red Raider Roadshows are scheduled for these and other larger markets in the spring. But Schovanec wanted to be sure that a special message was conveyed to local students.

"We wanted to take Texas Tech to this population of West Texans, encourage their pursuit of a college degree and emphasize the opportunities Texas Tech has to offer," Schovanec said.

The tour began at the first of November with trips to Levelland, Shallowater and Lubbock Cooper high schools. He also visited Coronado and Frenship high schools as well as the Talkington School for Young Women Leaders.

At each school, Schovanec has shared the wonderful educational opportunities of a national research university that sits in their own backyard as well as the education students can receive and the benefits of a college degree.

Earlier this year, Texas Tech achieved Tier One status from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, one of 115 universities listed in the Highest Research Activity Category and one of 81 public institutions in the top tier. Texas Tech also continues to set enrollment records, reaching more than 36,500 students this fall. Texas

Tech also reached a record for Hispanic enrollment, which accounts for just more than 24 percent of the university's student body and puts the university closer to becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution, a highly esteemed recognition through the U.S. Department of Education.

Schovanec's tour is an effort to increase the 15 percent of the student body that calls West Texas home. Through the tour, Schovanec is determined to ensure local high school students know that he recognizes the importance of keeping students in West Texas.

"I personally wanted to convey to these students that they don't have to travel far to access a world class education, and that staying near home doesn't diminish the excitement and opportunities of the college experience," Schovanec said. "But also, we value the quality and character these West Texas students bring to Texas Tech and the positive impact they have on the culture of Texas Tech and other students from around the state, nation and the world."

The tour continues on Thursday (Nov. 17) with visits to Estacado, Monterey and Lubbock high schools. It will continue next month with visits to Sweetwater and Snyder high schools on Dec. 8, Plainview, Amarillo and Canyon Randall high schools on Dec. 9 and Midland Trinity, Midland and Odessa Permian high schools on Dec. 12.

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CONTACT: Chris Cook, managing director, Office of Communications & Marketing, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-4129 or chris.cook@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 17, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Museum of Texas Tech Students, Faculty Win Big at Conference

Eileen Johnson received the most prestigious award offered by the Mountain-Plains Museum Association.

Faculty and students from the [Museum of Texas Tech University](#) brought home all the hardware from a recent conference.

The big winner was Eileen Johnson, the director of the [Lubbock Lake Landmark](#) and director of academic and curatorial programs at the Museum of Texas Tech. She received the Hugo G. Rodeck Award for Excellence from the Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA), a 10-state regional museum association. This award, named for the founder of the MPMA in 1953, is the association's most prestigious and honors service to the museum profession. It is not given every year.

"I have known Dr. Johnson for a long time, and she is one of my personal mentors," said Mark Janzen, president of MPMA. "It was a great honor to have the opportunity to present her with the 2016 Rodeck Award."

The other awards were:

- President's Award for service to the MPMA: Nicky Ladkin, assistant director, Museum of Texas Tech
- Carolyn Garrett Pool Outstanding Museum Studies Student Award: Andrew DeJesse, museum science graduate student
- Student poster competition: Katy Schmidt and Kathleen Wilson, museum science graduate students (first place); Kathryn Faircloth and Jessica Stepp, graduate students in interdisciplinary studies and museum science, respectively (second place)

This is the third consecutive year a Texas Tech student has won the Outstanding Museum Studies Student Award and the fifth consecutive year a Texas Tech team has placed first in the poster competition.

"All of these awards underscore the quality of the faculty, staff and graduate students of the museum and the museum science program," Johnson said. "For the museum, it recognizes the staff provides leadership on a national scale and is dedicated to professional service. For museum science, it denotes the faculty and students are quite active in the profession, and the education and training provided our students prepares them to be involved, knowledgeable leaders in the profession."

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CONTACT: Eileen Johnson, director, Lubbock Lake Landmark, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2442 or eileen.johnson@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 17, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Rawls College of Business Schedules Presentation and Open Forum for Dean Candidate

Craig Van Slyke is the dean of the W.A. Franke College of Business at Northern Arizona University.

WHAT: Rawls College of Business dean candidate presentation and open forum

WHEN: 1:30 p.m. Friday (Nov. 18)

WHERE: Room 105, Rawls College of Business

EVENT: Craig Van Slyke, professor and dean of the W.A. Franke College of Business at Northern Arizona University, is one of four finalists selected by the search committee to become the new dean of the [Rawls College of Business](#) at Texas Tech University.

The Texas Tech and Lubbock community is invited to a presentation and questions/answer session with Van Slyke, and a reception will follow.

A presentation and open forum for the other candidates will be announced at a later date. Feedback on the candidates can be submitted to search committee chairman Rick Rosen at richard.rosen@ttu.edu.

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CONTACT: Michele Moskos, senior director of marketing, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1413 or michele.moskos@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 18, 2016

CONTACT: Norman Martin, norman.martin@ttu.edu
(806) 834-6570

Industry Magazine Honors Texas Tech Food Sciences Researcher

The National Provisioner recognized Mindy Brashears as one of its '25 Future Icons.'

The National Provisioner, a national magazine that focuses on the meat processing profession, has selected a professor in Texas Tech's [College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#) as one of its "[25 Future Icons](#)."

Mindy Brashears, a professor of food microbiology and food safety in the [Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#) who also serves as director of Texas Tech's International Center for Food Industry Excellence (ICFIE), is featured in the publication's November issue.

"I am genuinely honored that they selected me as a future icon," Brashears said. "Being selected as one among this outstanding group of individuals is truly a big responsibility. I am thankful to Texas Tech and my colleagues for providing me the support needed to achieve the things that I have in my career. No person stands alone in any accomplishment, and I am truly grateful to work at such a supportive university surrounded by outstanding colleagues and students."

In the past two decades Brashears, one of the nation's top food safety experts, has been the recipient of millions of dollars in federal, commodity and research grants. She has made breakthrough discoveries with her research and helped develop innovative new technologies in food safety.

Last month, the ICFIE was selected as a National Surveillance Lab for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System, Retail Meat Surveillance Program through a competitive federal grant process.

Andy Hanacek, editor-in-chief of The National Provisioner, said the magazine serves meat processing professionals who want to stay updated on the latest processing and packaging information, including updates on food safety, new products and industry trends.

For more than a century, Hanacek noted The National Provisioner has offered meat and poultry processing professionals with innovations in protein processing, food safety, new

products, meat plant operations, company profiles and industry trends via its website, eNewsletter and monthly magazine.

One of the highlights of Brashears' research was development of a treatment shown to reduce food-borne pathogens such as Salmonella and E. coli in processed beef and poultry. The treatment consists of a combination of lactic acid bacteria cultures, a "good" bacteria already found in foods like yogurt, cheeses and sausages. Researchers found when the mixture was added to hamburger meat, Salmonella was non-detectable and the meat was unharmed after five days.

Brashears' endeavors also involved industry collaboration supported by the State of Texas Emerging Technology Fund to develop MicroZAP, a company that supports a microwave pasteurization technology. MicroZAP was spun off from patented technology developed through the cutting-edge food sterilization research at the Texas Tech research center.

After earning a bachelor's degree in food technology from Texas Tech, Brashears received her master's and doctorate degrees in food science from Oklahoma State University. She was an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska's Department of Food Science and Technology before returning to her first alma mater.

Recent awards for Brashears include the Maurice Weber Laboratorian Award from the International Association for Food Protection (2014) and the ARCS Foundation-Lubbock chapter 'Scientist of the Year' Award (2011).

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CONTACT: Mindy Brashears, professor, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, director, International Center for Food Industry Excellence, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-4274 or mindy.brashears@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 18, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Meat Judging Team Edged Out for National Championship Four individuals from Texas Tech earned All-American status.

The Texas Tech University [Meat Judging Team](#) in the [Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#) in the [College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#) came up just four points shy of defending its national championship after claiming wins in all six competitions leading up to the national championships.

Oklahoma State University outlasted Texas Tech at the International Meat Judging Contest on Nov. 13 in Dakota City, Nebraska, 3,990 points to 3,986. Angelo State University finished third with 3,905 points while Colorado State University (3,875) and Texas A&M University (3,850) rounded out the top five.

“I am very proud of our coaches and our Reserve National Champion Team,” said Mark Miller, the San Antonio Stock Show Distinguished Chair in Meat Sciences and coach of the team. “All of their hard work and pursuit of excellence gave Texas Tech University an excellent national representation.”

Kye Schwartz, a junior from Wall, captured the individual crown, the second straight year a Texas Tech competitor won individual honors. Schwartz totaled 1,027 points to edge Julianna Albrecht from Oklahoma State by two points.

Jessica Humphrey, a senior from Okeechobe, Florida, finished eighth overall with 944 points while Cole Perkins, a junior from Llano, was 10th. All three earned first-team All-American status while Tommy Fletcher, a junior from La Vernia, was named second-team All-America.

Other members of the team are:

- Kyle Caldwell, a junior from Midlothian
- Katlynn Freeman, a junior from Panhandle
- Lane Harrington, a senior from Frost
- Boyd Henry, a junior from Wall
- Courtney Jasik, a junior from Mertzon
- Shannon O’Quinn, a junior from League City
- Kiersten Scott, a senior from Scott City, Kansas

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- Keeley Sears, a junior from Peaster
- Blayne Troxell, a junior from Pampa
- Chelsi Vineyard, a junior from Stephenville
- Megan Witt, a junior from Houston

Graduate students Loni Lucherk, Nick Hardcastle and Mallorie Phelps also serve as coaches for the team.

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CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, coordinator, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2805 or moriah.beyers@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 18, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Rawls College of Business Schedules Presentation and Open Forum for Second Dean Candidate

Robert Dooley is the dean of the College of Business at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

WHAT: Rawls College of Business dean candidate presentation and open forum

WHEN: 9 a.m. Monday (Nov. 21)

WHERE: Room NW 112, Rawls College of Business

EVENT: Robert Dooley, dean of the College of Business at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, is one of four finalists selected by the search committee to become the new dean of the [Rawls College of Business](#) at Texas Tech University.

The Texas Tech and Lubbock community is invited to a presentation and questions/answer session with Dooley, and a reception will follow in the McCoy Atrium.

A presentation and open forum for the remaining candidates will be announced at a later date. Feedback on the candidates can be submitted to search committee chairman Rick Rosen at richard.rosen@ttu.edu.

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CONTACT: Michele Moskos, senior director of marketing, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1413 or michele.moskos@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 21, 2016

CONTACT: Aleesa Ross, aleesa.ross@ttu.edu
(806) 834-0348

College of Media & Communication Seeking Assistant Professors for Waco, D/FW The assistant professors will administer 2-plus-2 programs at community colleges.

The Texas Tech University [College of Media & Communication](#) is creating two full-time faculty positions for assistant professors of practice based in Waco and the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

College of Media & Communication Dean David Perlmutter said the new faculty members will be an integral part of the college's mission to grow and create a network that extends beyond the Lubbock area.

"This is the beginning of a new, exciting and transformative chapter for our college," Perlmutter said. "We can now reach students who, because of personal, family, financial or other circumstances, could not matriculate in Lubbock. In addition, the growing and stronger ties with the business, government, nonprofit and alumni communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth and Waco areas and beyond will be of great benefit to all our students for their studies and their future."

The professors of practice will be based at community colleges in Dallas and Waco to administer the 2-plus-2 degree program. This includes teaching online in the college's undergraduate and professional master's of arts programs and on site in hybrid classes. They will be based at existing offices on site and will help the college recruit for programs there and in Lubbock.

Texas Tech Interim Provost Michael Galyean said he thinks the process of establishing the college's faculty members in Dallas and Waco will benefit the students at each campus.

"We are excited the College of Media & Communication will be expanding Texas Tech's footprint by offering new degree programs at regional sites," Galyean said. "Placing faculty members at these locations will be a great way to ensure the success of the programs and provide the quality student-faculty interaction that is a hallmark of a Texas Tech degree."

Lewis Snell, director of the [Texas Tech University at Waco](#) program, said he hopes the additional faculty will help facilitate students who want to pursue bachelor's degrees in Waco, followed by online graduate degrees from Texas Tech.

“We feel fortunate that Dr. Perlmutter, Dr. Todd Chambers, and Dr. Kevin Stoker have selected Waco as one of the regional sites to expand,” Snell said. “We have seen a recent increase in enrollment and think any new degree options will help maintain the growth in central Texas.”

Melanie Hart, vice provost for [Worldwide eLearning at Texas Tech](#), said she sees this addition as a way to strengthen the partnerships between community colleges and Texas Tech.

“They allow excellent students to receive a high-quality Texas Tech degree without relocating to Lubbock,” Hart said. “Many of the students at our regional sites have other responsibilities, such as families and jobs, and they often would not be able to continue their education if it were not for these partnerships. I am very appreciative of the College of Media & Communication's willingness to offer new degree programs for these students.”

For more information on specific qualifications and details on how to apply, please visit the program's [website](#).

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CONTACT: Aleesa Ross, director, Center for Student Success, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-0348 or aleesa.ross@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 21, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Financial Planning Professor Named To Magazine's Ten to Watch in 2017 List

John Gilliam started the Best Interest Initiative after the Department of Labor approved a rule requiring financial advisers to act in their clients' best interests.

A Texas Tech University professor has been named to WealthManagement's [Ten To Watch in 2017](#), which identifies people expected to be innovators and influences in the financial advice industry.

John Gilliam, an associate professor in the [Department of Personal Financial Planning](#), started the [Best Interest Initiative](#) in 2016 after the Department of Labor's approval of the fiduciary rule requiring financial advisers who make recommendations to employer-sponsored plan participants and owners of individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to act in their clients' best interests.

Gilliam, who has been a financial adviser for 37 years, collaborated with other financial services professionals to create the Best Interest Initiative. He has since brought on a board of directors representing multiple disciplines in the financial services industry.

"I am very honored to be chosen by Wealth Management magazine as one of its Ten to Watch in 2017," Gilliam said. "This is due to our research focusing on the consumer's attitudes and beliefs. Our college is committed to improving the human condition, and we feel strongly our research contributes to this goal."

David Armstrong, editor-in-chief of WealthManagement.com, said the magazine staff included Gilliam on the list because of his research into best interest.

"The research John is doing fills a huge need in the financial services industry and one that, until now, has not really been addressed," Armstrong said. "His work should go a long way to creating objective and conflict-free standards around the best options for investors when it comes to their money given their individual circumstances."

[Read the story in Wealth Management](#). For more information on the research, go to www.bestinterestinitiative.org.

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CONTACT: John Gilliam, associate professor, Department of Personal and Financial Planning, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-8864 or john.gilliam@ttu.edu



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 23, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Rawls College of Business Returns to Bloomberg MBA Rankings

The program at Texas Tech University earns the No. 77 spot in the annual ratings.

The [Master's of Business Administration](#) program in the Texas Tech University [Rawls College of Business](#) has been rated as one of the top programs in the U.S. in the annual Bloomberg Businessweek rankings.

The Rawls MBA program was ranked No. 77 based on surveys by employers, alumni and students as well as rankings in salary and job placement.

“This ranking is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the Rawls College’s faculty and staff to deliver a world-class learning experience for our MBA students,” said interim dean Paul Goebel.

According to Bloomberg, the [rankings](#) are based on data compiled from more than 1,000 recruiters, 15,000 alumni and 9,000 recent graduates. Bloomberg also examined how well schools connect their students to good jobs and what graduates can expect from their careers.

In determining the rankings, Bloomberg weighed the survey of employers who hire graduates (35 percent), the alumni (30 percent) and the students (15 percent) as well as the rankings of salaries (10 percent) and job placement (10 percent). The results from the alumni surveys alone yielded a 79 percent ranking

In terms of the aspects of the MBA programs surveyed, the Rawls College ranked 49th in terms of job placement.

“Inclusion in the Bloomberg rankings is a significant milestone for the Rawls College of Business,” said Michael Galyean, Texas Tech interim provost. “This recognition puts Texas Tech in the spotlight and highlights the fine work the faculty, students and staff of the college have been doing for many years.”

The Rawls College of Business offers three MBA programs – a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) MBA, an MBA for working professionals and

a dual degree MBA program that allows students to pursue an MBA in conjunction with another master's degree.

Rawls College of Business MBA programs provide students an in-depth understanding of the business world while preparing them for successful careers as leaders, managers, executives and innovators. Students earning an MBA from the Rawls College possess enhanced analytical skills, advanced skills and knowledge in core business fields, enhanced ethics and an understanding of international and cultural environments.

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CONTACT: Michele Moskos, senior director of marketing, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1413 or michele.moskos@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 28, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Two Engineering Faculty Members Honored as AAAS Fellows

W. Andrew Jackson and Hongxing Jiang are being recognized for their contributions to science.

Two Texas Tech University faculty members have joined an elite, highly selective group after receiving one of the most prestigious recognitions in science.

[W. Andrew Jackson](#), a professor and associate chair of the [Department of Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering](#), and [Hongxing Jiang](#), Horn Professor, the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. chair in the [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering](#) and a faculty member in the Texas Tech [Nanophotonics Center](#), have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

AAAS is the world's largest multidisciplinary scientific society. To be elected an AAAS fellow, an AAAS member must have made scientifically or socially distinguished efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications and have been a continuous member for the four-year period leading up to the year of nomination. A candidate can be nominated by three previously elected fellows who are current AAAS members, so long as two of the three sponsors are not affiliated with the nominee's institution.

Nominees must have made significant contributions in research; teaching; technology; services to professional societies; administration in academia, industry and government; or communicating and interpreting science to the public.

"I think it is safe to say in Texas Tech's nearly 100-year history, fewer than 20 faculty have ever been elected fellows," said Todd Anderson, interim director of [The Institute of Environmental and Human Health](#) and one of three AAAS fellows who nominated Jackson. With Jackson and Jiang, 10 current AAAS fellows are now Texas Tech faculty members.

Other current AAAS fellows are:

- Todd Anderson, biological sciences
- Sankar Chatterjee, geology and geography
- William Hase, chemistry
- Todd Little, psychology
- Duane Nellis, geology and geography
- Danny Reible, engineering

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- Robert Shaw, chemistry
- Ruiwen Zhang, pharmaceutical sciences

“It is a privilege and honor that our work performed in the Nanophotonics Center at Texas Tech has been recognized by the broader community such as AAAS,” Jiang said.

The center conducts research and development on manipulation of photons-electrons in nanoscale materials for innovative photonic devices and emerging technologies. Its research areas cover a broad spectrum and deal with state-of-the-art nanoscale material synthesis, fundamental physics, device fabrication and testing.

Jackson said he would like to think his group has made a significant advance in the understanding of perchlorate production and fate in the environment and, to a lesser extent, the solar system.

“This work has had significant implications to society in relation to both practical aspects such as innovative remediation technologies as well as regulatory processes by defining the role of natural perchlorate,” Jackson said. “It also has had some interesting implications to our basic understanding of atmospheric reactions, deposition and understanding of long-term environmental conditions around the Earth.

“I feel very honored. Being recognized by other leaders in their fields as well as some truly exceptional scientists is a wonderful affirmation of my career so far. I hope I can continue to pursue answers to interesting and relevant questions. I sincerely enjoy being a scientist and engineer.”

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CONTACT: Andrew Jackson, professor and associate chair, Department of Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering, Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-6575 or andrew.jackson@ttu.edu and Hongxing Jiang, Horn Professor and Edward E. Whitacre Jr. chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5739 or hx.jiang@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 29, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

MEDIA: Craig Kuehnert will not be available for interviews on the day of Carol of Lights®. All requests should be made ahead of time.

Texas Tech University, Residence Halls Association to Host Annual Carol of Lights®
The theme of this year's celebration is "The Stars at Night: Raiders Shine Bright."

WHAT: The Texas Tech University Residence Halls Association (RHA) will host the 58th annual [Carol of Lights®](#) with the theme "The Stars at Night: Raiders Shine Bright." More than 25,000 colored lights will light up Memorial Circle, the Engineering Key and the Broadway entrance to campus. The 38-foot Christmas tree will be decorated west of the Texas Tech seal again this year. Numerous student organizations participated in preparing campus for the Texas Tech tradition.

Parking will be available in most faculty/staff or commuter lots. ADA parking will be available in the Z1 parking lot, accessible from 15th Street and Detroit Avenue.

WHEN: Friday (Dec. 2)

- At 6:30 p.m. a carillon concert will be performed at the Administration Building west tower (closest to the Chemistry Building) by Thomas Hughes.
- At 7 p.m. Raider Red, the Saddle Tramps and the Masked Rider will begin the Torch Light Processional.
- The livestream will begin at 6:30 p.m. at ttu.edu/livestream.

WHERE: Memorial Circle, the Engineering Key and the Broadway entrance to Texas Tech

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CONTACT: Craig Kuehnert, assistant director, Student Leadership Development, University Student Housing, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1113 or craig.kuehnert@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 30, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Education Professor Heads to Atlanta for White House STEM Initiative

Kristopher Childs developed a commitment to help make STEM education engaging for elementary school students.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning is really more of a boots-on-the-ground experience.

For Kristopher J. Childs, an assistant professor of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the [College of Education](#) at Texas Tech University, that meant getting his boots to Atlanta.

Childs will be at M. Agnes Jones Elementary School, part of the Atlanta Public Schools (APS), next week with Advancing Active STEM Education for Our Youngest Learners, a White House initiative that is a partnership between the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) and Texas Tech. As a board member of NCSM, he created this commitment at the behest of the NCSM president.

On Monday (Dec. 5) he will join NCSM President John Staley and APS K-5 mathematics coordinator Stephanie Reddick to work with 75 fifth-graders to complete a mathematics-based challenge. Groups of students will compete, and the winner will receive a prize.

“The goal of this event is to expose the students to STEM problem-based, high-cognitive demand tasks and provide students with a mathematics-based, problem-solving foundation through this highly interactive workshop,” he said. “We want students to work with role models and see positive images in STEM fields, which we hope will inspire them to pursue careers in STEM.”

This is his second event as part of the White House initiative to promote STEM education. In April, Childs attended a symposium in Washington, D.C., to discuss the collaborative effort of which he is a part and learn what other schools, universities, corporate and nonprofit groups are doing to increase STEM learning among American students. In February, the collaboration will move to Orlando, Florida for an event similar to what they will be doing in Atlanta.

Childs will be live-tweeting his experiences with students. Follow him on Twitter or reach out with questions at @drkchilds.

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CONTACT: Kristopher Childs, assistant professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-6873 or kristopher.childs@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 30, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Rawls College of Business Schedules Presentation and Open Forum for Second Dean Candidate

Margaret L. Williams is the dean of the University of North Dakota College of Business and Public Administration.

- WHAT: Rawls College of Business dean candidate presentation and open forum
- WHEN: 9:15 a.m. Thursday (Dec. 1)
- WHERE: Room NW 112, Rawls College of Business
- EVENT: Margaret L. Williams, dean of the University of North Dakota College of Business and Public Administration, is one of four finalists selected by the search committee to become the new dean of the [Rawls College of Business](#) at Texas Tech University.

The Texas Tech and Lubbock community is invited to a presentation and questions/answer session with Williams. A reception will follow in the McCoy Atrium.

A presentation and open forum for the final candidate will be announced at a later date. Feedback on the candidates can be submitted to search committee chairman Rick Rosen at richard.rosen@ttu.edu.

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CONTACT: Michele Moskos, senior director of marketing, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1413 or michele.moskos@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 30, 2016

CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Research Centers Host Open House

The event will include tours of the five research centers located in the Experimental Sciences Building.

WHAT: Open house hosted by the research centers housed in the Experimental Sciences Building

WHEN: 1-5 p.m., Wednesday (Nov. 30)

WHERE: Experimental Sciences Building

EVENT: The research centers in the Experimental Sciences Building include [The Center for Biotechnology and Genomics](#), [College of Arts & Sciences Microscopy](#), [Center for Geospatial Technology](#), [High Performance Computing Center](#) and the [Texas Tech Neuroimaging Institute](#).

The event will include tours of the facilities and will highlight the activities conducted in each center. Faculty and staff will be in attendance to answer questions from attendees.

The event is free and open to the public.

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CONTACT: Breanna Allen, communication and outreach coordinator, Climate Science Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-6911 or breanna.allen@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 30, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech University Students Assist With Carol of Lights® Tradition Student leaders from numerous organizations work together on Carol of Lights®.

Every December Texas Tech University shines with thousands of lights during the Carol of Lights® ceremony. Behind the scenes, countless hours are put into the planning, setup, execution and cleanup by Texas Tech students for one of its most cherished traditions.

Craig Kuehnert, assistant director of [Student Leadership Development](#) in [University Student Housing](#), said approximately 200 students are involved in some capacity with the planning and implementation of Carol of Lights®.

These students are led by the Carol of Lights® committee within the [Residence Hall Association](#). The committee plans and works on the event months in advance and starts planning for the next year soon after it completes the ceremony for the current year.

“The Carol of Lights is a wonderful tradition of Texas Tech University that has been celebrated for decades,” Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec said. “I look forward to joining with the Texas Tech family and our community at this event which marks the beginning of the holiday season.”

Amy Witt, a senior biology major from Sweetwater, is one of those 200 students. As the president of the [Women’s Service Organization](#) (WSO), she helps build the wreath on display in front of the Science Building.

“It is an honor and blessing for every member of WSO to be a part of such an amazing tradition at Texas Tech,” she said. “WSO has been participating in Carol of Lights® for as long as I can remember, and it is something we all look forward to every year.”

The organization is more than happy to have a hand in Carol of Lights®. Witt has been part of WSO for four years and has helped build the wreath every year. Traditionally, returning members will pass on their knowledge to new members in the organization. The Carol of Lights® committee and Texas Tech grounds crew also work with the women on preparing and finishing the wreath.

WSO started preparing for Carol of Lights® at the beginning of November and started building the wreath Monday. The entire building process typically takes three days and the wreath is expected to be completed today in preparation of the event on Dec. 2.

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Roman Padilla, a senior sociology major from Lubbock and the president of Alpha Phi Omega, is another student who helps with Carol of Lights®. The organization, in conjunction with Chi Ro, lights all of the luminaries around Memorial Circle, the Broadway entrance to campus and the Engineering Key.

“It is very fulfilling getting to be a part every year of such a tradition,” he said. “Knowing you are a part of the celebration that so many people come out and see, I can’t even explain it.”

Padilla received his first email about helping with Carol of Lights® about three months ago. For about a month, the group has been getting the materials and folding the bags for the luminaries.

Whitney Shaffer, a senior biochemistry major from Amarillo, is the president of Raiders Helping Others.

“Our organization assists with some of the behind-the-scenes work when it comes to Carol of Lights®,” she said. “We run the lost and found tent, pass out the glow sticks, help with cleanup and other small tasks during the event such as guarding the sound booth or escorting people from one place to the other.”

Shaffer said it is amazing to see the Texas Tech and Lubbock communities come together for the event. The smile and excitement on people’s faces is rewarding.

“It is eye-opening to me because there is so much preparation that goes into Carol of Lights® and so many people that help in some way or another,” she said. “Overall this is something I feel everyone should attend, it really helps to ring in the holiday season.”

There are many people across campus involved in making Carol of Lights® successful. Being behind the scenes has opened Shaffer’s eyes to how much goes into the event.

“The Residence Halls Association has sponsored Carol of Lights® for 58 years, and student involvement in the coordination of the event remains vital to our operations,” Kuehnert said. “Many of the student groups that are involved, like the Saddle Tramps, High Riders and Women’s Service Organization, have been connected in the planning process for more than 30 years. Many of the most loved parts of the tradition are possible because of the work of our student groups on campus.”

Every year students bring new and creative ideas to Carol of Lights®. Students who are connected with the university by participating in campus traditions are more likely to succeed academically, Kuehnert said.

“The students help us create advertising, facilitate the event and bring holiday cheer to campus,” Kuehnert said. “From the vocal performers to the students that help pick up trash after the event, students are critical to the overall success of the Carol of Lights®.”



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

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CONTACT: Craig Kuehnert, assistant director, Student Leadership Development, University Student Housing, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1113 or craig.kuehnert@ttu.edu