

(Untitled)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Josh Allen

LUBBOCK -- Michael R. Willig recently began his first semester as chairman of the department of biological sciences at Texas Tech University.

Willig first came to Texas Tech as a faculty member in 1983. Since 1994, he has served as the director for the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Texas Tech. Willig's predecessor as chairman, John M. Burns, assumed the position of Texas Tech University vice provost for academic affairs Sept. 1.

"Dr. Willig is committed to the further enhancement of the biology department's excellent record in undergraduate and graduate education, research productivity, and service to the community," said Jane Winer, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Tech.

"One of the things that has kept me at Texas Tech and attracted me to the chairmanship is that the biology department has dramatically increased research efforts while simultaneously increasing our commitment to quality undergraduate education," Willig said.

With more than 65 academic publications, Willig has secured more than \$8 million in research grants during his academic career. He has been a scientific reviewer for the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy's Theoretical Ecology Program.

Prior to his service at Texas Tech, Willig held faculty appointments at LaRoche College and Loyola University. Willig also was a research fellow of the Brazilian National Academy of Sciences in Rio de Janeiro. He holds a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in biology from the University of Pittsburgh.

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LUBBOCK -- Thomas D. Burton recently began his first academic year as department chairman of mechanical engineering at Texas Tech University. He officially began as chairman July 10.

Burton came to Texas Tech from Washington State University where he served as a professor from 1977-1995. While at Washington State, Burton also was an affiliated staff scientist at Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory in the applied physics section. Burton took over the reigns of the department from Edward E. Anderson, who returned to teaching and research.

"Dr. Burton brings a fresh voice to Texas Tech," said Jorge Aunon, dean of the College of Engineering at Texas Tech. "His practical experience as an engineer at General Electric, his excellent scholarly publication and external funding records, and his service as acting chairman at Washington State will help the mechanical engineering department at Texas Tech earn greater academic recognition."

A 1969 graduate of California Institute of Technology, Burton obtained his master's degree in mechanical engineering and applied mechanics in 1972 from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1976, Burton earned his doctorate in mechanical engineering and applied mechanics from the University of Pennsylvania.

"The challenge of being a department chairman brought me to Texas Tech," Burton said. "The mechanical engineering department at Texas Tech has a dedicated faculty committed to undergraduate instruction. I hope to continue that tradition while improving graduate and research programs."

Burton has written more than 25 professional journal articles and a text book titled "Introduction to Dynamic Systems Analysis" published by McGraw-Hill in 1994. Burton was named the outstanding undergraduate instructor, six times, in the department of mechanical engineering at Washington State University. He has secured more than \$200,000 in research and development funds during his academic career.

LUBBOCK -- Fulbright Grants and Scholarships are available for students interested in studying abroad for the 1996-1997 academic year. Current graduate students and Texas Tech University seniors planning to attend graduate school in the fall need to apply by Oct. 9. Students should allow one month to prepare the Fulbright application packet which requires three personal reference letters.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and have a bachelor's degree or the equivalent before disbursement. The selection process will include interviews with a Texas Tech faculty committee. Language fluency for scholars is not a requirement in all countries.

The Fulbright Program was designed to encourage mutual understanding through cross-cultural interaction. Recipients have the opportunity for personal development and international experience in any of 129 countries.

The scholarships, created in 1946, are named after former Sen. J. William Fulbright, who sponsored legislation to bring the program into reality. The program has become so successful that more than 800 students from the United States travel abroad each year.

Students awarded scholarships plan their own projects including university study, library or field research, special projects in the social or life sciences, and a number of other educational activities.

Three students from Texas Tech were awarded Fulbright Scholarships during the 1993-1994 school year. They traveled to France, Germany and Mexico. Paul Byrne, a graduate student in communications studies from Albuquerque, N.M., is studying in Germany as a recipient of a 1995-1996 scholarship.

After earning a bachelor's degree at Texas Tech in May 1993, Matt Weinheimer traveled to Ankara, Turkey, during the 1993-1994 school year. He said traveling abroad to another country was an experience of a lifetime.

"The best thing about being overseas is that it was a tremendous character building experience. There are so many excellent universities overseas that provide a quality education and the people are incredible. The whole experience was tremendous. I would encourage everyone to study abroad," he said.

For more information, contact Sandy Crosier, overseas opportunity counselor, or Shellie Scott, overseas counseling assistant, in the Office of International Affairs at (806) 742-3667.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Michael Sommermeyer  
or Tanya Mathena

LUBBOCK -- The first national "Food Safety Summit", a nationally televised panel discussion of the food service industry's hottest issues, will be shown at Texas Tech University Monday (Sept 11), from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Agriculture Science Building Room 214. The department of animal science and food technology and the department of education, nutrition and hotel/restaurant management will jointly host the broadcast.

Professionals in the industry are invited to attend the broadcast at no charge.

The one-hour program, a joint production of The Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association and Hospitality Television, will be broadcast live via satellite. Viewers can phone presenters during the broadcast with food safety questions.

The teleconference is presented as a part of National Food Safety Education Month.

Panelists for the broadcast include representatives of the National Council of Chain Restaurants, the Food and Drug Administration state training branch, independent operators and small chains, the National Food Processors Association and The Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association. They will discuss their perspective on concerns specific to their segment of the food service industry.

"By hosting a viewing site for the Food Safety Summit, we hope to make important food safety information available to people involved with the food service industry," said Linda Hoover, assistant professor in the Texas Tech College of Human Sciences.

People attending the program can receive hours toward continuing education credits from Dietary Managers Association or the National Environmental Health Association. In addition, all food service management professions will receive four maintenance points for maintaining certification.

For more information on viewing this live satellite broadcast, contact Linda Hoover at (806) 742-3068 or Leslie Thompson at (806) 742-2469.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Steve Kauffman

**(Editor's Note: Members of the media are invited to attend this opening.)**

LUBBOCK -- "Eight by Four," a photo exhibit featuring the works of four internationally renowned British architects, will open with a public reception at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday (Sept. 13) in the Texas Tech University College of Architecture Gallery. The exhibit will be on display weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Oct. 11.

At the opening, Martin Harms, dean of the College of Architecture, will present opening remarks. Michael Jones, associate dean of research, will present brief comments on the background of the exhibitors and philosophy of the exhibit.

The exhibit highlights photographs of works designed by architects Sir Norman Foster, Richard Rogers, Nicholas Grimshaw and Michael Hopkins and focuses on the successful design and construction of modern, technologically advanced buildings.

According to Jones, these respected British architects are among a key group of designers who continue to explore appropriate technology, modern materials and new methods of construction while holding to the intentions and philosophies of the earliest Modernists. Their concepts, Jones added, have re-established the importance of urbanism as a concern of contemporary architecture and addressed ecological issues in imaginative ways through the use of appropriate technology.

Included in the exhibit are photos of Stansted Airport and Sackler Galleries-Royal Academy, both in London, by Sir Norman Foster and Partners; Kabuki-cho in Tokyo and Zoofenster in Berlin by Richard Rogers Partnership; the British Pavilion, Seville Expo, in Spain and the International Rail Terminal-Waterloo in London by Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners; and the Bracken House in London and the Schlumberge Research Center in Cambridge, England, by Michael Hopkins and Partners.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Steve Kauffman

LUBBOCK -- Texas Tech University recently was honored by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for achieving significant increases in Hispanic and African American student enrollment from 1989 to 1994.

During that period, Coordinating Board records indicate the number of Hispanic students at Texas Tech increased 32.4 percent from 1,788 to 2,368. The number of enrolled African American students increased 16 percent from 607 to 704.

"This award indicates that our efforts at recruitment and retention of minority students at Texas Tech are headed in the right direction," said Texas Tech President Robert W. Lawless. "And while this is a great honor, we still have a long way to go in achieving our goals that are fully dedicated to the principles of multiculturalism and diversity on campus."

Lawless noted that Texas Tech and the University of Houston were the largest universities, based on student population, to be singled out for the award.

The Coordinating Board recognized a total of nine senior universities and 12 community colleges for increased minority enrollment of at least 10 percent during the five-year period.

The remaining senior university honorees were Midwestern State University, Sam Houston State University, Southwest Texas State University, Tarleton State University, University of Houston-Victoria, The University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The certification program was created by the Texas Educational Opportunity Plan for 1989-94 which endorsed acknowledgements for success in creating a positive multicultural environment for Texas public higher education. The certificates were presented at the summer quarterly meeting of the Coordinating Board.

**MEDIA ADVISORY**



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**HEALTH TIPSHEET**

from

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER**

**September 8, 1995**

**ROBBING THEM BLIND** -- Glaucoma is often a silent thief, stealthily stealing vision until its victims are blind. But simple screenings and tests can weed out glaucoma before it causes major, irreparable damage to the eye.

"Many people do not realize they have the disease until it is too late," said Jose Morales, M.D., an ophthalmologist at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. "Most people do not realize what glaucoma does."

Glaucoma is the name for an entire family of diseases that cause pressure to build in the eye. This pressure injures the optic nerve, causing a gradual loss of peripheral vision that eventually leads to blindness.

Through two separate research projects, Morales hopes to make glaucoma peripheral vision testing shorter and to find ways to prevent and/or treat inherited forms of the disease earlier.

For more information on glaucoma, contact Morales at 743-2400.

**FINDING HOPE** -- Researchers at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will be one of 36 teams across the nation studying Vigabatrin, a new drug to control epilepsy.

Vigabatrin is already available in 44 countries and has been used effectively by more than 80,000 adult patients. This study will see whether children with epilepsy can also benefit from the medication.

"We are currently enrolling children between the ages of three and 16, who suffer from complex partial seizures," said Ruth Nemire, the director of clinical research trials for the Texas Tech Department of Neurology. "The children who qualify will be those who still experience seizures even though they are currently taking one or two medications."

The study has already attracted patients from as far away as Clovis, N.M., Nemire said. For information on the medication trial, contact Nemire at 743-2587.

A-9-8-95

For assistance on these or other stories, contact Sandra Pulley or Preston Lewis at TTUHSC News and Publications, (806) 743-2143.