



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 1, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Alum Appointed Executive Director of National Ranching Heritage Center

Jim Bret Campbell has been part of the ranching industry for most of his life.

A longtime member of the Texas ranching and equine communities will be the new executive director of the [National Ranching Heritage Center](#) (NRHC) at Texas Tech University.

Interim Provost Michael Galyean this week announced Jim Bret Campbell, a two-time alumnus from the [College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#) with 19 years as a leader in the industry, would return to Lubbock to head the NRHC. He will begin Jan. 9.

“The National Ranching Heritage Center is truly a gem on our campus,” Galyean said. “With his experience in leading various organizations and his roots and extensive connections in the ranching and livestock sectors, Jim Bret is exceptionally qualified to be the executive director of the center. We look forward to seeing the center grow in national prominence and increase its academic presence under his leadership, while continuing to serve our community and the region through high-quality outreach and engagement events.”

Campbell has worked for the American Quarter Horse Association, the Texas Cattle Feeders Association and the National Cutting Horse Association in the 19 years since he earned his master’s degree. His experience will help him oversee key priorities at the NRHC, including building its endowment, increasing membership, broadening university partnerships, expanding the center’s national scope and enhancing engagement between the NRHC and the public.

Campbell said he’s looking forward to returning to Texas Tech; the opportunity to partner with the NRHC and the university was one about which he and his family felt strongly. His goals include working with university administration, the Ranching Heritage Association (RHA) and the NRHC staff to increase national exposure by engaging ranchers from throughout the country and increasing membership in the RHA. He also will focus on increased attendance and effective programming and branding.

“The National Ranching Heritage Center is truly a special place,” Campbell said. “The collection that has been assembled there is one-of-a-kind, and I think it says even more with the way it was established: a group of committed ranching families and community leaders came together to ensure these important structures, and the stories behind them,

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are preserved. People all over the world love the ranching heritage that exists at the NRHC. Our jobs will be to ensure even more people know about the center, its purpose and our commitment to ranching heritage.”

Campbell replaces Carl Andersen, who came out of retirement to be interim executive director 16 months ago. Rob Stewart, senior vice provost for the university, said the administration appreciated Andersen’s willingness to serve while the hiring committee looked for a permanent director. He is excited with what Campbell will bring to the university, he said.

“Jim Bret brings a wealth of experience and a tremendous skill set to the executive director position,” Stewart said. “We anticipate a dynamic and progressive vision for the center under his leadership.”

About the National Ranching Heritage Center

The NRHC is a museum and historical park established to preserve the history of ranching, pioneer life and development of the livestock industry. The historical park has almost 50 structures dating from the 1780s to the 1930s, including windmills, ranch houses, a train depot and more. It is open to the public, and admission is free.

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Advisory

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DATE: Dec. 2, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
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Climate Science Center Hosting Final Interdisciplinary Seminar Series Panel of the Fall

The panel discussion will focus on the relationship between design and construction and climate science.

WHAT: Texas Tech University Climate Science Center Interdisciplinary Seminar Series panel discussion

This panel discussion, hosted by the Texas Tech [Climate Science Center](#), will feature three expert panelists from various disciplines who will discuss the relationship between climate science and design techniques both in architecture and landscaping.

Featured panelists are David Driskill, an associate professor in the [College of Architecture](#) and director of the Urban Tech Design Center; Jennifer Vanos, an assistant professor of atmospheric sciences in the [College of Arts & Sciences](#); and Jason Hodges, a professional landscape architect at Prairie Workshop, which specializes in the design of outdoor spaces that inspire appreciation of water-wise aesthetics.

The panel discussion is free and open to the public but seating is limited.

WHEN: Noon Tuesday (Dec. 6)

WHERE: Experimental Sciences Building, Room 120

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DATE: Dec. 2, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu

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Mirasol Quartet Wins Nationwide Performing Arts Competition

The American Prize recognizes the best performing artists in the country.

Texas Tech University's saxophone quartet has won the college division of a national competition.

The [Mirasol Quartet](#), composed of Texas Tech students Ben Still and Andrew Reinhart and alumni James Barger and Ben Donnell, won the American Prize in chamber music, said David Dees, a professor of saxophone in the [School of Music](#). The group won a cash prize and professional marketing and promotion from the American Prize organization.

"More than anything else, we cherish the experiences we have playing together and the memories we've made through our travels and performances," Reinhart said. "Being recognized for our collective musicianship is just the icing on the cake. Of course, we cannot acknowledge our success without recognizing professor David Dees and many other faculty and colleagues for their assistance with our growth in the past few years."

"We're very honored to have been selected as winner of the American Prize in chamber ensemble performance for 2016," Still said. "For me, it's truly a pleasure to collaborate with such fine musicians on a deep, artistic level, and I look forward to Mirasol's future endeavors."

Additional information

- The Mirasol Quartet formed in 2013 and has become one of the leading young chamber music ensembles in the country. The group won the Grand Prize in the 2015-2016 ENKOR International Chamber Music Competition and the Gold Medal in the 42nd annual Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.
- The American Prize is a series of new, nonprofit national competitions designed to recognize the best performing artists in the country. There are awards for college groups and professional musicians as well as church and community groups.
- The award is based on recorded, not live, performances, with the best performance in each category winning the American Prize. The number of finalists and semifinalists is chosen by the judges, and they are not ranked. The judging panel considered musicality, rhythmic incisiveness, ensemble, tone quality, accuracy, intonation, knowledge of style and the overall effect of the performance.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 2, 2016

CONTACT: Sue Jones, sue.jones@ttu.edu
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National Ranching Heritage Center Hosts 38th Annual Candlelight at the Ranch

Visitors can step back in time to experience a frontier Christmas Dec. 9-10.

Visitors to the [National Ranching Heritage Center](#) (NRHC) at Texas Tech University will experience a frontier Christmas from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 9-10 during the 38th Annual Candlelight at the Ranch.

Sponsored by Centennial Bank, the event will celebrate Christmas as it might have been on the open prairie from 1780 to 1950. More than 4,000 luminaries lining the paths of the historic park and more than 150 volunteer ranch hosts will dress in period clothing to recreate holiday scenes from another era.

“Christmas was an important part of family life on the plains, whether it meant stringing popcorn to decorate a tree, preparing holiday food, playing Christmas music or whittling a wooden toy,” said Julie Hodges, the Helen DeVitt Jones director of education. “Visitors will see our volunteers doing whatever a family might have done in that particular structure in that day and time. We’ll even have holiday travelers waiting for the train in our 1918 train depot.”

Holiday scenes will be recreated in 15 structures such as an 1888 half-dugout, an 1880 XIT ranch headquarters, an 1890 one-room schoolhouse, a 1780 fortified Spanish compound and the 1909 two-story Barton House. The pathways will be wheelchair- and stroller-accessible as visitors pass cowboys camped out with their horses nearby and a cowboy brewing coffee over a chuckwagon fire.

Guests can access park trails, buy kettle corn and hear Christmas carols provided by the Lubbock High School choir. Visitors can choose in what order they see the historic structures, which lighted pathways they take and when they exit the park prior to closing. Santa Claus will be located in the Pitchfork Pavilion until 9:30 p.m. Visitors can purchase hot cocoa, apple cider and cookies in the decorated 6666 Barn while they listen to Brazos West play Christmas music with a Texas swing.

Texas State Photographer Wyman Meinzer and Wilder Good author S.J. Dahlstrom will be at Cogdell’s General Store to sell and sign copies of their new books.

The annual event is free to the public with a minimum suggested \$5 donation per family. VIP tickets costing \$50 (max seven people per car) are [available for those seeking admission at 6 p.m. and VIP parking](#).

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The National Ranching Heritage Center is at 3121 4th St. For additional information, call (806) 742-0498 or visit nrhc.ttu.edu.

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News Release

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DATE: Dec. 2, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
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Rosen Named Interim Dean of the Texas Tech School of Law

Rosen serves as the director of the law school's Center for Military Law and Policy.

Richard Rosen, the Glenn D. West Endowed Professor of Law and the director of the [Center for Military Law and Policy](#), has been named the interim dean of the Texas Tech University [School of Law](#).

Rosen will fill the position held by Dean Darby Dickerson, who recently announced her resignation to assume the deanship at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Rosen's appointment will be effective Jan. 1.

"I am greatly honored to be given the opportunity to serve as interim dean of the Texas Tech University School of Law," Rosen said. "The law school is a wonderful institution, with outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni. I am also deeply grateful for Dean Darby Dickerson's five-and-a-half years of exceptional service to the school, and wish her the very best in her new position as the dean of The John Marshall Law School."

Rosen joined the Texas Tech University School of Law in 2003 after a 26-year distinguished career as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He is an expert in and teaches classes at Texas Tech in torts, constitutional law, military criminal law, national security law, human rights law, and international humanitarian law.

He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Miami in 1973 and later added a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia in 1987. He earned his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in 1970.

Before leaving the Army, Rosen was Commandant of the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. His other military positions include Staff Judge Advocate of the III Armored Corps and Fort Hood, at Fort Hood, Texas; Chief of the Army JAG Corps' Personnel, Plans, and Training Office; Special Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division at the Department of Justice; Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Staff Judge Advocate of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

“Professor Rosen is an outstanding choice to lead the School of Law as interim dean,” Interim Provost Michael Galyean said. “He is highly regarded by his colleagues in the school, which combined with his superb record in teaching, scholarship and administration, made him the right choice for the position. I look forward to working with Rick as he fills this important role for the School of Law and the university.”

As director of Texas Tech Law’s Center for Military Law and Public Policy, which was established in 2004, Rosen oversees a platform for conducting scholarly research and other discussions related to military law. The Center also serves as a resource for information about legal careers in military and national security law.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 2, 2016

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Worldwide eLearning Wins 14 National Marketing Awards

The marketing team was recognized for its work in social media, print publications and advertisements and interactive media.

Texas Tech University's [Worldwide eLearning](#) marketing team has been named winner of 14 national awards at the 25th annual UPCEA Marketing and Enrollment Management Seminar. The awards recognize the team's work in social media, print publications and advertisements and interactive media.

“Over the past year, the Worldwide eLearning marketing team has done a great job in promoting Texas Tech's online and regional site programs all over the state, region and nation,” said [Justin R. Louder](#), associate vice provost of Worldwide eLearning. “These awards showcase the team members’ outstanding work, and I look forward to what they have in store next year.”

The seminar gives leaders and practitioners a chance to network and attend workshops and general sessions related to marketing and enrollment for the online and continuing education side of higher education institutions. [David Hankins](#), director of eLearning marketing at Texas Tech, said he and assistant director [Melissa Morrow](#) were honored to represent the team at the award ceremony in West Palm Beach, Florida, last month.

“We submitted 15 nominations representing work done on behalf of the various components we serve,” Hankins said. “We are very happy to have received 14 awards, which I firmly believe is a testament to the quality of this team.”

Teams from across the country and institutions of all sizes attend and compete at the seminar. Texas Tech's showing this year is more than double the six awards won at the 2015 seminar.

“There are many other institutions with top-notch marketing teams represented at UPCEA, so this really is no small accomplishment,” Hankins said. “I have the pleasure of overseeing a great team of professionals that consistently produces great work, and we're really just getting started. I believe the best is yet to come.”

The Texas Tech team won the following awards:

- Interactive media, miscellaneous: Honduras Facebook post, Worldwide eLearning (gold)

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- Most improved: Facebook presence, [Texas Tech University Independent School District](#) (TTUISD) (gold)
- Interactive media, e-communications: From Anywhere e-newsletter, Worldwide eLearning (silver)
- Interactive media, streaming or on-demand content: YouTube skip ad campaign, Worldwide eLearning (silver)
- Print advertising, print ad campaign: athletic ad campaign, Worldwide eLearning (silver)
- Print publications, general catalog or tabloid, four colors throughout: The Regional Sites of Texas Tech, Worldwide eLearning (silver)
- Print publications, general catalog or tabloid, four colors throughout: homeschool solutions targeted brochure, TTUISD (silver)
- Print publications, postcard: graduation invitations, TTUISD (silver)
- Print publications, postcard: program advertisement, grapesandwine.ttu.edu (silver)
- Most improved: teacher newsletter, TTUISD (silver)
- Print advertising, single ad: foreign service journal ad, TTUISD (bronze)
- Print publications, poster: poster for best online school, TTUISD (bronze)
- Print publications, general catalog or tabloid, four colors throughout: regional site highlights and strategies, Worldwide eLearning (bronze)
- Print publications, general catalog or tabloid, four colors throughout: international business partnerships targeted brochure, TTUISD (bronze)

For more information about Worldwide eLearning and a list of online programs visit the [website](#).

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 5, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
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Caprock Celtic Christmas Brings Tradition, Familiar and Not, to Annual Concert
The 16th annual concert will include music, dancing and storytelling from Irish, British, French, English and Bassandan culture.

WHAT: The [J.T. and Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts](#) is hosting the 16th annual Caprock Celtic Christmas concert, “A Steampunk Christmas in Bassanda,” when singers, musicians, dancers, storytellers and other artists gather to perform traditional Christmas repertoires.

Special guests include Rick Cunningham, trumpeter Andrew Stetson and the Bassandan Brass, bagpiper Roger Landes, songwriter Curtis Peoples and the new Bal-Folk band RattleSkull. The [Tech Set-Dancers](#) and the Caprock Ceili Band will provide Irish social dances; [Caprock Morris](#) and the Brothers Grimm dance teams will do the wild capers of the Border Morris; step-dancer Sarah Wykowski will perform slip-jigs and reels; and the Elegant Savages Orchestra will perform traditional Breton, French, English and Irish songs and seasonal favorites from “the lost world of Bassanda.”

Returning guests include performances from local poets and readers William Gelber, Angela Mariani and Clint Barrick, with selections from Celtic and Bassandan holiday texts.

Tickets are \$10.50 for adults and \$4.50 for seniors. Texas Tech students with a valid student ID are admitted free. Advance purchase is highly recommended; purchase tickets online [here](#) or in person at the School of Music. The concert is a fundraiser for the [Vernacular Music Center](#) at Texas Tech.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 10)

WHERE: Charles E. Maedgen Jr. Theatre (18th Street and Canton Avenue)

What is Bassanda?

Bassanda is a mythical Eastern Bloc former Soviet satellite, created to give structure to the music the Elegant Savages Orchestra makes. The alternative history director Christopher Smith wove tells a story of diverse and adventurous musicians from the

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Soviet region called Bassanda, who created the Bassanda National Radio Orchestra, and the state, which sought to make the orchestra a tool for propaganda. Members of the orchestra went into exile, traveling the world and performing as a collective enterprise known as the Elegant Savages Orchestra. The mantra shared both by the mythical Bassanda orchestra and the real Elegant Savages Orchestra is “No boundaries. Fierce dedication to the traditions and to one another.” For more information, go to www.elegantsavagesorchestra.com.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

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DATE: Dec. 5, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
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Katz Given Lifetime Achievement Award in Financial Planning

Deena Katz was one of the founders of the financial advising industry before becoming a professor at Texas Tech.

Four decades ago, Deena Katz looked at her classroom of first-graders and realized teaching them to read wasn't her passion. It was too stressful.

That her passion was managing other people's money – frequently quite a lot of it – well, that was stress the longtime financial adviser could handle. Katz opened her own financial advising firm in Chicago in the 1970s, then moved to Miami where she and her now-husband, Harold Evensky, partnered to create Evensky & Katz Wealth Management.

Fifteen years ago, after a thriving career as a financial adviser and a successful surgery and treatment to beat breast cancer, Katz pivoted again, this time to Texas Tech University, one of only two universities in the nation with a [personal financial planning](#) (PFP) program. She talked to program director Vickie Hoffman about her desire to focus on mentoring and teaching the upcoming financial planners.

That program, through the work of now-professor Katz and many others, has become one of the best PFP programs in the country.

Little wonder, then, that InvestmentNews picked Deena Katz for its lifetime achievement award.

“The decision to name Deena Katz as the recipient of the 2016 Alexandra Armstrong Award was unanimous among all the members of the nominating committee, including Ms. Armstrong herself,” said Frederick P. Gabriel Jr., editor of InvestmentNews. “Deena has not only served her clients well and advanced the profession of financial advice, but she is a valuable role model for any woman in the advice business or thinking about entering the business. Deena epitomizes the spirit of this award.”

For the second straight year, InvestmentNews put Katz on its 2016 Women to Watch list and gave her the Alexandra Armstrong Award, recognizing her for a lifetime of achievements in both the professional and educational aspects of financial planning.

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“It’s embarrassing to be given an award for something I truly love,” Katz said. “I can only hope my career path can help pave the way for more young women choosing this career.”

Katz, still chairwoman of Evensky & Katz/Foldes Financial Wealth Management in Miami, was named to the Investment Advisor 35 for 35 list in 2015 as well as Accounting Today’s Top Ten Names to Know in Financial Planning and Financial Planning Magazine’s Most Influential People in the Planning Profession.

She has authored nine books, including “Deena Katz’s Complete Guide to Practice Management,” “Deena Katz’s Tools and Templates for Financial Advisers” and “Deena Katz on Practice Management.”

For more information about Katz, including the name of her airplane, watch the InvestmentNews [video](#) or read the magazine’s [profile on her](#). She will receive the award at a banquet in March.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 6, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
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Juan Muñoz Named Sole Finalist for Presidency at University of Houston-Downtown

Muñoz has served as the senior vice president for institutional diversity, equity and community engagement and vice provost for undergraduate education and student affairs since 2009.

Juan Muñoz was named Tuesday (Dec. 6) as the sole finalist for the presidency of the University of Houston-Downtown, part of the University of Houston System.

Muñoz has served as the senior vice president for institutional diversity, equity and community engagement since 2009 and later was named vice provost for undergraduate education in 2010 and vice provost for student affairs in 2011. He has played a critical role in Texas Tech's expansion in both undergraduate and minority enrollment.

"I am extremely grateful to Texas Tech for the many opportunities it has provided me and my family," Muñoz said. "From the beginning, my career at Texas Tech has been defined by the university's commitment to excellence and its belief that, 'From Here, It's Possible.' That belief has most certainly made this opportunity possible for me."

Muñoz is expected to begin as president at UHD in April. The UH System Board of Regents will meet Feb. 23 to formalize the appointment. He takes over for interim president Michael Olivas.

Opened in 1974, University of Houston-Downtown serves more than 14,000 students and offers bachelor's and master's degrees in five colleges – business, humanities and social sciences, public service, sciences and technology, and university college.

As senior vice president and vice provost at Texas Tech, Muñoz oversaw more than 40 units and departments, including the Texas Tech University Ethics Center, the Teaching, Learning and Professional Development Center and the Office of Academic Engagement. He also serves on numerous councils at Texas Tech and is a founding member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, serving on its executive board as treasurer.

“Under Dr. Muñoz’s leadership, Texas Tech has made significant progress in areas of diversity, student success and community engagement,” Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec said. “Texas Tech is a better institution because of his contributions. He has been a wonderful colleague and a dear friend and I will miss working with him. Juan is most deserving of this wonderful opportunity, and I am happy for him.”

Muñoz joined the Texas Tech faculty in 2004 as an associate professor in the [College of Education](#) and as a special assistant to the president. He served as coordinator for the Bilingual Education and Diversity Studies program and helped found the college’s Center for Research on Leadership and Education. He joined the provost’s office in 2006, eventually being named senior vice president and vice provost.

Muñoz earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of California-Santa Barbara and, after a two-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, earned his master’s degree from California State University-Los Angeles. He earned his doctorate from UCLA after spending time as a secondary school teacher, as an instructor in the California Community College system and as an adjunct faculty member at Pacific Oakes and Whittier Colleges.

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Expert Pitch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 7, 2016

CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
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Expert: Childhood Obesity Must Be Treated as Disease, Not Moral Failing

Six years after the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended that children as young as 6 be screened and treated for obesity, a report published Wednesday (Dec. 7) indicated doctors aren't screening children and insurance policies aren't covering treatment more significantly today. The report, which includes input from 43 multidisciplinary stakeholders, was published in *Obesity*, The Obesity Society's (TOS) journal and was the product of a conference sponsored by TOS, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the American Academy of Pediatrics Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight.

The report lists recommended changes, including family-based behavioral therapy, integrated chronic care and a multi-disciplinary team approach. For more on the study, go to [Obesity](#).

Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar, a past president of The Obesity Society and chairman of [the Department of Nutritional Sciences](#) at Texas Tech University, is available to discuss this report and the need for increased attention to childhood obesity. Dhurandhar began his career as a physician treating people with obesity, then turned to research, focusing on a human adenovirus that has been shown to cause obesity. He is a pioneer in the movement within the medical community to see obesity as a complex disease instead of the calories in vs. calories out model society accepted for decades.

Expert

Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar, chairman, Department of Nutritional Sciences, (806) 834-6446 or nikhil.dhurandhar@ttu.edu

Talking points and quotes

- Childhood obesity is a serious disease and not easy to manage. A week ago, a teenage girl in Texas City (outside of Houston), shot herself, citing bullying about her weight.
- For many, obesity still is seen as a product of poor behavior and choices that can be legislated away. Two years ago, Puerto Rico tried to fine parents of children with obesity.
- Another form of well-meaning but insensitive (and ultimately ineffective) discrimination used against children with obesity is to weigh them in school and send home letters about their weight – so-called “fat letters.” The relationship between the school system and students' weight is addressed in the documentary “[The Student Body](#),” in which Dhurandhar is interviewed.
- In reality, penalizing parents of children with obesity is similar to penalizing parents of children with cancer or other diseases.

- “Obesity in general is considered a personal failure and treated as an issue of greediness and laziness that can be fixed by simple behavioral measures. In children, these sentiments are even more amplified. These children should simply be ‘disciplined’ and parents be penalized, according to one view.”
- “We absolutely need to address childhood obesity. But it should be addressed as the disease that it is, not with a casual approach to address a moral failure.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

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DATE: Dec. 7, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech University Library to Host Dog Days of Finals

The stress-relieving dogs will be from the South Plains Obedience Training Club.

WHAT: The Texas Tech [University Library](#) and the South Plains Obedience Training Club will provide dogs for students to pet to de-stress from final exams.

WHEN: 4-6 p.m. Friday (Dec. 9)
1-3 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 10)
1-3 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 11)

WHERE: Texas Tech Library, Croslin Room

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

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DATE: Dec. 8, 2016

CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
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Statement from Engineering Dean Al Sacco on John Glenn

“I met John when flying to Cleveland to the NASA facility named after him,” Sacco said of the NASA Glenn Research Center. “We sat next to each other and he told me he wanted to fly in the shuttle, and you can imagine my hero asking me about it! I told him it was awesome and he should definitely try, which he did and loved it. He was a hero in every sense of the word and no one could represent the ideal of this country better. He had an infectious smile and a joyous life. He loved our space program and wanted everyone to experience the beauty of the universe.”

Al Sacco is dean of the Texas Tech University [Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering](#). He flew in the Space Shuttle Columbia as a payload specialist for mission STS-73 in 1995.

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Texas Tech Ranked Sixth in Nation for Online Doctoral Degrees

AffordableCollegesOnline.org also ranked the university as the 16th best online college in Texas.

Texas Tech University was recently ranked sixth in the nation on the list of top online doctoral degrees, according to AffordableCollegesOnline.org (ACO).

Factors in the ranking included tuition and fees for graduate students, number of online doctoral programs available, student-to-faculty ratio, availability of academic or career counseling services and availability of job placement services. Ranking eligibility was limited to accredited four-year public or private not-for-profit institutions that offered at least one online doctoral degree program and had annual in-state tuition and fees below \$25,000.

Texas Tech offers four online doctoral degrees:

- [Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education](#)
- [Doctor of Education in Higher Education](#)
- [Doctor of Philosophy in Systems and Engineering Management](#)
- [Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication and Rhetoric](#)

Other Texas universities on the list include Texas A&M University (No. 5), the University of Texas Medical Branch (No. 13), the University of Texas at Tyler (No. 21) and Texas A&M University-Commerce (No. 32). The only other Big 12 school ranked was Kansas State University (No. 36).

See the full list [here](#).

Online Colleges in Texas

ACO also ranked Texas Tech 16th in its list of the best online colleges in Texas. This list was based primarily on regional accreditation, in-state tuition and fees, the percent of full-time undergraduate students receiving institutional financial aid, the number of online programs offered and the student-to-faculty ratio.

“We wanted to honor the colleges and universities setting the bar for online learning,” said Dan Schuessler, CEO and founder of AffordableCollegesOnline.org. “These schools are going above and beyond the industry standard to help make online education programs more affordable.”

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Texas Tech has more than 50 fully online and hybrid programs available to students through [Worldwide eLearning](#). This includes seven [undergraduate minors](#), seven [bachelor's degrees](#), 19 [master's degrees](#), six [doctorate degrees](#), 25 [graduate certificates](#) and six [graduate certification prep programs](#).

“Texas Tech University wants to provide a high-quality Texas Tech degree to anyone who wants one,” said Justin R. Louder, associate vice provost for Worldwide eLearning. “These rankings highlight the outstanding work our faculty, staff and students do in our online and distance programs.”

Angelo State University, a campus in the [Texas Tech University System](#), ranked No. 19 on the list and the [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#) ranked No. 31.

See the full list [here](#).

About AffordableCollegesOnline.org

ACO began in 2011 to provide quality data and information about pursuing an affordable higher education. Its free community resource materials and tools span topics such as financial aid and college savings, opportunities for veterans and people with disabilities, and online learning resources.

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

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 9, 2016

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

Final Science by the Glass Series of the Fall to Feature English Professor Ken Baake Baake will deliver a talk entitled “Oil, Is It Still God’s Given Gift?”

WHAT: The upcoming “Science by the Glass” discussion series will examine the status of oil in regards to its status among energy production sources with professor Ken Baake in the Texas Tech University [Department of English](#).

WHEN: 5 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 13)

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.

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

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 9, 2016

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

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech University Press Author Takes First Place in Literary Contest

Joyce Gibson Roach was presented with the Will Rogers Medallion Award.

Joyce Gibson Roach, author of the [Texas Tech University Press](#) book “The Land of Rain Shadow: Horned Toad, Texas,” received first place in the Western Fiction-Short Stories category at the 13th annual Will Rogers Medallion Award Banquet on Oct. 26 in Fort Worth.

Two other Texas Tech University Press books were finalists in their respective categories: “Finding the Great Western Trail” by Sylvia Gann Mahoney in Western Nonfiction and “Texas is Chili Country” by Judy Alter in Western Cookbooks.

“Each year, the quality and level of excellence of the books being awarded goes up,” said Charles Williams, executive director of the contest. “It is a tribute both to the enduring appeal of the West and the high quality of publications being produced today. We are especially proud of our publishers, who have maintained such high standards in a marketplace where they face competition from e-books and other electronic media.”

The Will Rogers Medallion Award was created to recognize quality works of cowboy poetry that honor Will Rogers’ heritage. It has since expanded to include other works of western literature and film.

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

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 12, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
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Hunton Named Broadcaster of the Year by the Texas Association for Broadcast Educators

Hunton will receive the award during a spring conference in Waco.

Paul Hunton, an award-winning filmmaker and the general manager of KTTZ-TV in [Texas Tech Public Media](#), has been named the 2016 Broadcaster of the Year by the Texas Association for Broadcast Educators.

The Broadcaster of the Year Award honors those who have shown a commitment to excellence in educational broadcasting. It is open to any full-time employee of a Texas Association of Broadcasters member radio or television station.

“I am humbled and honored to receive such a prestigious award and recognition from an organization like TABE for Broadcaster of the Year for 2016,” Hunton said. “It is bigger than me, however, and a testament to the hard work of everyone at Texas Tech Public Media and a reflection of the investment that Texas Tech University has made in public broadcasting.”

Hunton will receive the award during the Texas Association of Broadcast Educators spring conference in February in Waco.

“As an organization of dedicated educational professional we take pride in selecting and honoring Mr. Hunton for the many years of broadcast professionalism and dedication to the industry,” said Sean Greenthaner, TABE President.

Hunton has served as the general manager for Texas Tech Public Television since 2015, overseeing the daily operations, after serving as production director since 2011. He was named Director of Texas Tech Public Media in October, overseeing KTTZ-TV, KTTZ-FM, the Texas Tech radio station, and KNCH-FM in San Angelo.

He is also a part-time instructor in the Texas Tech University [College of Media & Communication](#), where he teaches video production, as well as a member of the [Staff Senate](#).

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He has been nominated for six Emmys and won three in the Lonestar Region for his non-fiction directing for the films “Guns Up! The History of Raider Red,” “Put Me to Suffering,” and the film “There Will Be No Bad Talk or Loud Talk in This Place, which is an episode of the KTTZ show “24 Frames.”

He recently served as the director, writer and producer on the documentary “Between Earth and Sky,” which examines the effects of climate change through soil science in the Alaskan frontier.

He was also instrumental in creating “24 Frames” for KTTZ, which highlights film, art, music and culture in Texas.

“We are dedicated to not only serving the community and university through our programming and production but also in educating the next generation of media professionals in partnership with the college of Media and Communication through our internship program and the courses KTTZ staff teach,” Hunton said. “I’d like to thank Dr. Robert Peaslee, chair of [Journalism and Electronic Media](#) in the College of Media and Communications, for nominating me for this award.”

Peaslee praised Hunton for providing countless opportunities for students to experience both the joys and challenges of a career in the media both inside and outside the classroom.

“Paul has had an enormous influence in a relatively short time on the students of College of Media & Communication,” Peaslee said. “This pedagogical impact has been achieved in addition to that derived from his professional responsibilities with the station, his creative contributions to the Lubbock community as a producer of locally relevant content, and his civic efforts with organizations such as the Flatland Film Festival.”

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

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 13, 2016

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

Brashears Chosen as Fellow for the National Academy of Inventors

The Texas Tech food safety expert will be recognized at the NAI convention in April.

Mindy Brashears, a professor of food microbiology and food safety in the Texas Tech University [Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#), has been named a fellow to the National Academy of Inventors.

The fellowship is awarded to academic inventors who demonstrate an enhanced spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a significant impact on quality of life, economic development and welfare of society.

“I am honored to have been selected as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors,” Brashears said. “The support I have received from Texas Tech University over the past few years has enabled me to develop my ideas into patents and ultimately into products that have been commercialized. I am genuinely thankful to the university, the administration and fellow scientists and students for the support they have given to me that made this recognition possible.”

Those selected as fellows by the NAI are named inventors on U.S. patents and were nominated by their peers for outstanding contributions to innovation in areas such as patents and licensing, innovative discovery and technology, having a significant impact on society and the support and enhancement of innovation.

“Dr. Brashears is very deserving of this honor,” said Michael Orth, chairman of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. “She is an extremely bright and creative scientist with an entrepreneurial spirit.”

Brashears, a worldwide expert in food safety issues both in pre-harvest and post-harvest environments, is also the director of the [International Center for Food Industry Excellence](#) at Texas Tech. The center works to provide the world with a more secure food supply through innovation, research and technology transfer across the four pillars of food security – access, availability, stability and utilization.

Brashears, who earned her bachelor’s degree in food technology from Texas Tech’s [College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources](#), also directs extensive research

efforts into reducing the occurrences of pathogens in food and its resistance to drugs and other methods meant reduce it.

Brashears, who is also a faculty member on the Texas Tech [Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy](#) in the Texas Tech [School of Law](#), becomes one of 757 NAI fellows representing 229 research universities and government and nonprofit research institutes.

“Being selected as a fellow for any professional organization is an honor and a mark of success and excellence for an individual’s career and work ethic,” said Steve Frazee, interim dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. “Dr. Brashears’ selection as an NAI fellow is testimony to this.”

With the addition of the new fellows, NAI fellows now are credited with more than 26,000 patents.

She will be inducted with the other new fellows on April 6, 2017, as part of the NAI’s sixth annual convention at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. The new fellows will be presented with a special award, medal and rosette pin. They will also be recognized in The Chronicle of Higher Education in January 2017 and in upcoming issues of Inventors Digest and Technology and Innovation.

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

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 13, 2016

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

Texas Tech Engineering Students Give the Gift of Mobility Through Class Project

The toddler mobility device allows children with physical disabilities to explore their world and experience the world around them that previously seemed out of reach.

Right now, across the globe, employers are being bombarded with thousands of resumes from potential employees graduating from college in the next few weeks, each thinking their work and experience will put them over the top.

A group of mechanical engineering students at Texas Tech University, however, can put an accomplishment on their slate that truly is something unique and special. Their feat – giving a little girl the gift of mobility.

The students are part of the senior design class in the [Department of Mechanical Engineering](#). Each year the class, which is divided into two semesters, Design I and Design II, have to design, manufacture and produce a product. Most times, the product is something for use in the petroleum industry but has also included products created for companies like Lockheed-Martin.

This year, however, the class produced a product that is fairly rare, but at the same time, much needed in terms of giving toddlers with disabilities the freedom to move at will and develop through cognitive spatial awareness. The idea came from physical therapist Pamela Baker at Pediatric Therapy, Inc. in Lubbock, who contacted mechanical engineering instructor Jeff Hanson about producing the device as a class project.

The result was a motorized mobility device that allows a child with disability the same freedom of movement as others her age without disabilities.

“It kind of hit us by surprise,” said senior design student Sebastian Bahamonde. “We chose the project because it seemed like it would be fun, like making a go-kart, at the beginning. We got a video from Pam of this child. She’s a happy little child and that was great, but she was rolling around however she could to get around. We all just went silent.

“We are changing someone’s life and this is no longer a go-kart. And if we can do this well enough, we can change hundreds of lives. That was the biggest thing for us.”

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The girl, Ava Rosales, received the finished product on Wednesday, and the result was overwhelming joy all the way around as Ava begins exploring her new world, previously unattainable until now.

“The students who worked on this project, in 20 years will remember what they built, and seeing that little girl, will remember it like it was yesterday,” Hanson said. “The kinds of things that stick in your mind and the things that I still remember about engineering school are the hands-on projects.”

Trial and error

Studies show children with physical disabilities that limit their mobility struggle to develop an understanding of their surroundings and how far away items actually are. This is called cognitive spatial awareness and is something that those without physical limitations tend to take for granted, especially growing up.

“Basically they’re not getting to see the concept of gravity, they’re not developing depth perception and they’re not developing hand-eye coordination,” said Eddie Erlbacher, a senior design student who was part of the team. “We take for granted that we’re crawling around, picking things up, dropping things. Some kids don’t get that because they don’t have the ability to move around.”

That’s where the idea of the toddler mobility device comes into play. Designed to be used by children ages 1-5 or before they hit their first big growth spurt, it is a frame containing electronic parts that control two independent motors that operate the back wheels. The front wheels are caster wheels, and the combination allows the device to possess a zero-turn ratio. It’s part zero-turn lawn mower, part Roomba.

“It can be adjusted however it needs to be,” Bahamonde said. “Also, the parent can pick the device up and put it in the back of the car and take the kid to class, and then when they get to school the parent can take it out and the kid can keep going.”

The motor and electronic components are covered by a hard shell with a padded seat and back support, plus a seat belt to prevent the child operating the device from being accidentally thrown off of it, though it goes slow enough that falling off is not a major problem.

It sounds like a simple device, but getting to a final product was anything but easy.

The first semester of design involved talking with Baker to figure out the problem and the best way to attack it. The rest of the semester was spent planning, doing Computer Aided Design drawings and 3-D drawings to get an idea of what the product looked like.

“We wanted the chair to be as big as possible but still fit through a door,” Erlbacher said. “The reason it is so wide in the middle of the chair itself is because sometimes kids sit cross-legged, sometimes they sit straight, and we wanted it to be adaptable to any kid.”



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The second semester of design involved the actual manufacturing and troubleshooting of the device and making sure the controls were safe. That involved a lot of work, questioning and, in some cases, starting over. One minor change could alter the balance of the device, which made the process tedious.

It also entailed some aspects engineers don't always think of. Other methods of manufacturing had to be used with the mechanical engineering's machine shop out of order. The shell was produced with the 3-D printer, but it came out deformed and had to be fixed by using Bondo, a heating gun and two days of sanding.

Students also had to purchase padding and fabric from a local store and then fabricating them into the padded seat on the device.

This encompassed basically the whole month of November and part of December.

“We had to overcome what I like to call the ‘You’re Wrong’ phenomenon,” Bahamonde said. “It was hard to get anything going at first because it was always like, ‘you have to do the seat belt like this’ and someone else was like, ‘no, you’re wrong.’ So if you are constantly saying you’re wrong to each other you’re not going to get anything done. We eventually figured out what each individual person could do best, and little by little, it transformed into what we all decided.”

Erlbacher added that working in a group was also a challenge in itself.

“Most of our projects have been sort of on our own,” Erlbacher said. “But when you’re bringing several participants into it, it’s a lot different. Everybody’s trying to get things done, trying to do it simultaneously, so it takes a lot of coordination. It was definitely a learning experience.”

Finished product

Ava Rosales spins around the floor at Pediatric Therapy, Inc. on a device that, quite honestly, would make her the envy of kids everywhere. She gets to zoom around on this light blue device that looks like something that jumped straight from the film “Back to the Future.”

It’s as much a cool toy as it is a functional mobility device.

“We wanted it to look like a little car, almost,” Erlbacher said. “That was the most fun for us; we got to imagine what we would want as children. I remember driving a toy jeep when I was a kid and I thought I was a race car driver. We wanted that for her, to get into this, not have that disability and think about being a race car driver or something. We wanted it to be fun as well as practical.”

The hope, also, is this isn’t just a one-time device. The students have applied for a patent for the product and feel it could be easily reproduced on a large scale and at a cost that

would make it affordable without the need of Medicare, Medicaid or help from insurance companies.

“I’d love it if we never sold one of these because that means there are no more handicapped kids, but unfortunately, that’s not the case,” Hanson said. “Now she can drive right into the room and go see mom, and this gives her the freedom that we all take for granted. I can see this thing going big and lasting. There’s a need for this product that is not out there right now.”

In addition to the tremendous sense of satisfaction from a completed project and giving a little girl the gift of mobility, it also provides a sense of achievement for those involved in the production as well as a leg up as they head out into the real world.

“It has really helped my confidence,” said Erlbacher, who like Bahamonde will be graduating this week. “To go through engineering school, it is a lot of math and calculations. But really seeing something go from the beginning stages of just an idea to a full-on product, it really is satisfying and a boost to my confidence that I can actually be an engineer. This has affirmed that this is exactly what I want to do and go into design after college. Now I have the confidence that I can be productive and innovative.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 13, 2016

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

Texas Tech Releases Fall Commencement Schedule

WHAT: Texas Tech University hosts fall commencement and law school hooding ceremonies.

WHEN: Friday (Dec. 16): 3 p.m. [College of Arts & Sciences](#)
7 p.m. [Graduate School](#)

Saturday (Dec. 17): 9 a.m. [College of Architecture](#)
[College of Education](#)
[Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering](#)
[College of Human Sciences](#)
[J.T. and Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts](#)

1:30 p.m. [College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#)
[Rawls College of Business](#)
[College of Media & Communication](#)
[Honors College](#)
[University Programs](#)
[Wind Energy](#)

5 p.m. Texas Tech University [School of Law hooding ceremony](#)

WHERE: **Law school hooding ceremony**
School of Law Lanier Auditorium, 1802 Hartford Ave.

All other ceremonies
United Supermarkets Arena, 1701 Indiana Ave.

EVENT: John T. Montford, president and chief executive officer of JTM Consulting, LLC, [will speak at all the commencement ceremonies](#). Montford was Texas Tech's first chancellor, the chief executive officer of the [Texas Tech University System](#), and was named chancellor emeritus in 2001. His career includes numerous leadership roles within a variety of

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companies, including General Motors, AT&T and Southwest Airlines. Montford served as a member of the Texas Senate for 14 years and was named among the Top 10 Best Legislators by Texas Monthly for five legislative sessions. He also served in the United States Marine Corps and as an elected district attorney. He received a bachelor's degree in political science and a juris doctorate degree from The University of Texas at Austin.

Tim Perrin, president of Lubbock Christian University (LCU), is the [keynote speaker at the School of Law's hooding ceremony](#). He graduated with honors in 1987 from the Texas Tech School of Law, where he served as a member of the Law Review. He published two student articles and was selected for membership into the Order of the Coif, the honor society for law school graduates. Perrin served as a professor of law, associate provost and vice dean of the law school at the Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California, before beginning his tenure at LCU as president in 2012. He is a published author and graduated summa cum laude in 1984 from LCU.

Additionally, Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec will present C. Carey Hobbs, a 1958 graduate of Texas Tech and member of the State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, with an honorary degree of doctor of humanities at a special ceremony.

Ceremonies can be viewed online at <http://www.ttu.edu/livestream/>.

For more information about commencement, including guest information, maps, parking and hotels, visit <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/commencement>.

For more information on the School of Law hooding ceremony, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/studentlife/graduation.php>.

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

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



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 14, 2016

CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu

(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Students Participate in Fall Commencement

Top graduates and banner bearers also are announced.

Texas Tech University will host two [fall commencement](#) ceremonies Friday (Dec. 16) and Saturday (Dec. 17) at United Supermarkets Arena (1701 Indiana Ave.), where 2,710 undergraduate and graduate students will earn their degrees. The [School of Law](#) hooding ceremony will be Saturday (Dec. 17) at the Lanier Auditorium (1802 Hartford Ave.).

“Our students continue to make their dreams a reality as they reach the culmination of years of hard work and dedication,” Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec said. “As they take part in commencement, we proudly look forward to the ways they will use the talents and skills they cultivated at Texas Tech to benefit their communities and the world.”

Ceremonies can be viewed live online at <http://www.ttu.edu/livestream/>.

The 3 p.m. ceremony Friday (Dec. 16) features the [College of Arts & Sciences](#).

The 7 p.m. ceremony Friday (Dec. 16) features the [Graduate School](#).

The 9 a.m. ceremony Saturday (Dec. 17) features the colleges of [Architecture](#), [Education](#), [Human Sciences](#), [J.T. & Margaret Talking College Visual & Performing Arts](#) and [Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering](#).

The 1:30 p.m. ceremony Saturday (Dec. 17) features [Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources](#), [Media & Communication](#), [Rawls College of Business](#), [Honors College](#), [University Programs](#) and [Wind Energy](#).

The School of Law hooding ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 17).

John T. Montford, president and chief executive officer of JTM Consulting, LLC and Texas Tech’s first chancellor, [will speak at all ceremonies](#).

Tim Perrin, president of Lubbock Christian University and a 1987 Texas Tech law graduate, is the [keynote speaker at the School of Law’s hooding ceremony](#).

Additionally, Texas Tech President Lawrence Schovanec will present 1958 alumnus C. Carey Hobbs with an honorary degree of doctor of humanities at a special ceremony. Hobbs, who is a member of the State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is on the Texas Tech Athletic Council and treasurer for the Texas Tech Alumni & Friends Political Action Committee. He is a past member of the Board of Regents for Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and was president of the Texas Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors.

About John T. Montford

John T. Montford is president and chief executive officer of JTM Consulting, LLC and Texas Tech's first chancellor, the chief executive officer of the [Texas Tech University System](#). His career includes numerous leadership roles within a variety of companies, including General Motors, AT&T and Southwest Airlines. Montford was a member of the Texas Senate for 14 years and named among the Top 10 Best Legislators by Texas Monthly for five legislative sessions. He also served in the United States Marine Corps and as an elected district attorney. He received a bachelor's degree in political science and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

About Tim Perrin

Tim Perrin is president of Lubbock Christian University (LCU) and a 1987 graduate from the Texas Tech School of Law, where he served as a member of the Law Review and was selected for membership into the Order of the Coif, the honor society for law school graduates. Perrin served as a professor of law, associate provost and vice dean of the law school at the Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California, before beginning his tenure at LCU as president in 2012. He is a published author and graduated summa cum laude in 1984 from LCU.

Honored students

Outstanding students, selected on all-around achievement, will carry banners representing their respective colleges. The banner bearers are:

- College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources: Chamonix Estelle Mejia, agricultural communications
- College of Architecture: Nicole Glitsch Lide, architecture
- College of Arts & Sciences: Devin Nicole Gunstream, psychology
- College of Education: Roberta Jo Morales, multidisciplinary studies
- College of Human Sciences: Susana P. Carillo, early childhood development
- College of Media & Communication: Laura Isabel Gonzales, public relations
- J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts: Ashley Lynn Allen, music
- Graduate School: Ashley Marie Gonzales, doctor of higher education research, higher education
- Honors College: Sydney Squires, honors arts and letters
- Rawls College of Business: Ashley Varqa Maveddat, general business
- University Programs: Kelly Rae Meredith, university studies
- Whitacre College of Engineering: Thomas Taylor O'Hair, industrial engineering



The highest-ranking fall graduates for each college/program are:

- College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources: Chamonix Estelle Mejia, agricultural communications
- College of Architecture: Nicole Glitsch Lide, architecture
- College of Arts & Sciences: Nolle Alexandra Cavalier, psychology; Stephan Alexander French, language studies; Devin Nicole Gunstream, psychology; Madison Marie Herman, psychology; Amanda Marie Huerta, English; Danielle Alyse Roberts, kinesiology; Alexandra Maria Trevino, sociology
- College of Education: Roberta Jo Morales, multidisciplinary studies; Stephanie Olivia Taylor, multidisciplinary studies
- College of Human Sciences: Lauren Shy Tippett, restaurant, hotel and institutional management
- College of Media & Communication: Laura Isabel Gonzales, public relations
- J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts: Ashley Lynn Allen, music
- Honors College: Sydney Squires, honors arts and letters
- Rawls College of Business: Ashley Varqa Maveddat, general business; Caitlin McKenzie Scorgie, management; Jenna Marie Jernigan, marketing; Amanda LaRue Calvert, general business; Phi Thanh Nguyen, management information systems
- Whitacre College of Engineering: Cody Tyler Karp, civil engineering; Bobby Mark Clift, electrical engineering; Thomas Taylor O’Hair, industrial engineering; Alex Chase Johnston, mechanical engineering
- University Programs: Kelly Rae Meredith, university studies
- Wind Energy: Eric Piontek, wind energy

Reception information (immediately following respective ceremonies)

- College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources: Animal & Food Sciences building, Room 101
- College of Architecture: College of Architecture gallery
- College of Arts & Sciences: Holden Hall foyer, Room 104
- College of Education: Second floor foyer in College of Education
- College of Human Sciences: El Centro room of the Human Sciences building
- College of Media & Communication: Matador Room of the Student Union Building (SUB)
- J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts: Holden Hall rotunda
- Graduate School: City Bank Coliseum
- Rawls College of Business: McCoy Atrium of the Rawls College
- University Studies: Red Raider Lounge of the SUB
- Whitacre College of Engineering: 101 Livermore Center
- Wind Energy: National Wind Institute, Room 107

Reception information (prior to ceremony)

- School of Law: Law School Forum and Lanier Atrium

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Additional Information

For more information about commencement, including maps and parking, visit its [website](#).

For more information on the School of Law hooding ceremony, visit its [website](#).

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

CONTACT: Amiee Dixon, commencement coordinator, Office of the Provost, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-8309 or amiee.dixon@ttu.edu

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 15, 2016

CONTACT: Kristen Barton, kristen.j.barton@ttu.edu
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Anne Noggle Foundation Contributes to Art Division of Museum of Texas Tech University

The foundation donated 43 original photographs by Anne Noggle.

The Anne Noggle Foundation donated 43 original photographs by Noggle to the art division of the [Museum of Texas Tech University](#).

Her art is marked by honest portraits of herself, her friends and her family. One of her more famous series is a compilation of self-portraits while undergoing a facelift in 1975. The photos in the collection at the museum range from 1970 to 1987.

Noggle once said in an interview her work focused on aging faces because she liked “older faces, not because of aging itself, but rather the look of the face, the revelation of life and the conflict between what was and what they are now.”

Noggle was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1922 and died in Albuquerque in 2005. Noggle was a pilot and served in the Women Airforce Service Pilots for a year in 1943. She also flew a crop duster. Later, she earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in art at the University of New Mexico.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 15, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Part of Institute Chosen for Department of Energy Initiative

The new group will seek to increase domestic energy efficiency and manufacturing through innovation and improved manufacturing processes.

Through the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Texas Tech University will play an active role in a new \$140 million institute selected by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as part of its new network of Manufacturing USA Institutes.

The Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment (RAPID) Manufacturing Institute, led by the AIChE, will be the 10th and newest member of this network, which has a \$70 million commitment over five years from the Department of Energy and another \$70 million from private partners and energy industries. The goal is to increase domestic productivity and efficiency of various forms of energy by 20 percent over the next five years through improved manufacturing processes.

Texas Tech is one of 34 academic institutions participating in RAPID and has contributed multiple research projects for a commitment of more than \$10 million in the first five years of the proposal.

“As an enterprise member of the partnership led by AIChE, we are pleased to join a growing list of elite research universities, national laboratories, companies, and non-governmental organizations to improve U.S. energy efficiency and manufacturing productivity through successful development and demonstration of innovative modular process intensification technology, said Chau-Chyun Chen, the Jack Maddox Distinguished Engineering Chair in the Texas Tech [Whitacre College of Engineering’s Department of Chemical Engineering](#).

According to the AIChE, RAPID evolved from the Department of Energy’s call earlier this year for the establishment of a network of manufacturing innovation institutes that will use modular chemical process intensification, such as combining large, complex processes into a single step, for clean energy manufacturing.

These institutes will combine the strengths of private industry, academia and governmental resources to increase energy efficiency and manufacturing productivity through cutting operating costs and reducing waste associated with traditional chemical

manufacturing. The DOE estimates these technologies in the chemical industry alone could save more than \$9 billion annually in process costs.

“Our investment in this cross-cutting technology is an investment in the future of U.S. manufacturing,” said DOE acting assistant secretary David Friedman. “As we expand the Manufacturing USA Network, we provide greater opportunities for businesses of all sizes to solve their toughest technology challenges and unleash major savings in energy-intensive sectors like oil and gas, pulp and paper-making and other industries.”

RAPID is a collection of 75 companies, 34 academic institutions, seven national laboratories, two government laboratories and seven non-government organizations from across the U.S.

The Texas Tech Department of Chemical Engineering ranks eighth nationally in best value by Value Colleges and ranks 47th national in overall faculty scholarship according to Academic Analytics.

For more information on the RAPID Manufacturing Institute and its objectives, visit its [website](#).

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 16, 2016

CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu

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World Championship Highlights Fall Semester for Texas Tech Ranch Horse Team

The group captured the title at the 2016 Stock Horse World Championships in Abilene.

On the strength of three top-three individual finishes in various categories, the Texas Tech University Ranch Horse Team capped a successful fall semester by capturing the overall title at the 2016 Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) World Championships in Abilene.

The Texas Tech Red team easily outpaced Texas A&M by 69 points, 410-341, to win top honors. The Texas Tech Black team finished fourth with 307 points, just five points out of third place. The SHOT show was open to both colleges and individuals from across the state.

“The SHOT world show is a show for everyone involved with SHOT, not just college students like the nationals,” said Ranch Horse Team coach Chance O’Neal. “This is a two-day show where each rider must compete in all four events both days with the average naming the world champion. With Nationals being won by such few points, I was very proud of our team bringing their ‘A’ game and leaving no question as to who the collegiate world champion was.”

The championship followed a successful spring competition schedule as well where the Ranch Horse Team competed in six shows, capturing four championships and two reserve championships. That included the team’s seventh national title at the Collegiate Nationals in Sweetwater in April.

Texas Tech was led by three individuals who each finished in the top three all-around in their respective levels at the SHOT show.

Jayton Baca, a junior from Vega, captured the Non-Pro All-Around title with 140 points. Riding Smart Lil Redman, he finished first in the trail and reining categories, fifth in pleasure riding and eighth in working cow. Morgan Holmes, a sophomore from Sarasota, Florida, for the Texas Tech Black team riding Ivedunitbig, finished sixth in the all-around and was the No. 2 collegiate competitor behind Baca.

Cassidy Coltrain, a senior from Longmont, Colorado, finished fourth in the Limited Non-Pro All-Around category and second among collegiate riders with 184.01 points.

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Competing for the red team aboard Spoon Shine, she took second in the reining and working cow categories. Ashley Adams, a senior from Lubbock riding Shiners Mighty Mile, finished fifth for the red team and third among collegiate riders. She won the reining category and was seventh in trail riding.

In the Novice category, Chance Campbell, a junior from Sonora, took second place both overall and among collegiate riders with 280 points. He was first in working cow, fourth in reining, ninth in pleasure and 12th in trail while riding A Brownbag Special.

Kameron Buchanan, a senior from Turkey, Texas, was 10th in the Non-Pro all-around aboard Heza Hickory Colonel. Trinity Haggard, a junior from Throckmorton, finished eighth in the Non-Pro all-around riding Purr Cat. Mandy Harris, a senior from Saratoga, Wyoming, tied for 10th in the Novice all-around riding CR Wolfwood.

Other members of the ranch horse team are:

- Mariann Easter, a senior from Wichita Falls
- Emily McCartney, a senior from Throckmorton
- Ryan Cude, a senior from Munday
- Tanner Cadra, a senior from McLean
- Justin Stanton, a senior from Idalou
- Lynn Robinson, a junior from Rosharon
- Lanham Brown, a sophomore from Throckmorton
- Casey Mitchell, a sophomore from Throckmorton

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Web Only

75 Years Later: Retired Professor Recalls Pearl Harbor and How it Shaped His Life

William R. Pasewark Sr. was a Marine sergeant during the Iwo Jima invasion.

By Glenys Young

Seventy-five years ago today, on the 73-degree Sunday morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the Hawaiian island of Oahu awoke to the roar of hundreds of Japanese planes flying overhead and explosions as those planes dropped bombs and torpedoes on the American naval fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor.

Five time zones away, 17-year-old William R. Pasewark Sr. was in his bedroom in his parents' house in the Bronx, New York. It was a cold, clear Sunday afternoon and he was studying for a history exam the following day.

"In the afternoon, one of my parents came up and said, 'The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor.' Very vivid in my memory," he said.

And then he did what many other teenagers would do in his position.

"I went back to studying history," said [Pasewark](#), now 92, who retired from Texas Tech University in 1982 after 26 years as a business professor. "It did not affect me then as much as you would think now. I was 17 years old, I was not threatened with the draft yet, and I had other things of concern, like a history exam the next day. Pearl Harbor was 5,000 miles away. At 17 years of age, that didn't have as severe an impact as you would think. Hawaii was far away – geographically and mentally – from people like me. Young men who were 18 and 20 and vulnerable to the draft, I'm sure that had much more of an impact."

He didn't know yet how much his life was about to change.

Altering the country

The next day, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave a speech that would go down in history, calling Dec. 7, 1941 "a date which will live in infamy" and urging Congress to declare war on Japan, which it did, one vote shy of complete unanimity.

War efforts made a big difference in the country Pasewark saw around him.

"It was dramatic," he recalled. "It rallied us. Everybody was on the same beam of 'we're at war and we need to do something about it.'"

Food and supply rations went into effect to save needed materials for the war effort and those fighting overseas, but that wasn't the only change.

“There was a patriotic fervor in the country,” Pasewark said. “I’ve never known anybody who wasn’t patriotic in those days, with a common cause: ‘we’re at war.’”

Because rationing came on the heels of the Great Depression, during which Pasewark’s father had been out of work for 10 years, he doesn’t recall a drastic effect on the family’s lifestyle.

“In our home we ate very frugally,” he said. “I remember one Saturday my mother came downstairs and said, ‘We don’t have any more money and from now on we’re going to have to eat oatmeal every day.’ So the first day we’d have just plain oatmeal, the next day oatmeal with brown sugar, the next day oatmeal with nuts, and on Saturday we looked forward to it because all the leftover oatmeal she made into pancakes and put Karo on it.”

Joining the military

Like a lot of teenagers, Pasewark was focused on his goals as his 18th birthday approached. He wanted to get a job in Manhattan and start his career. But the U.S. government had other plans.

“Right now, I’m much more patriotic than I was before,” Pasewark said. “On a scale of 1 to 10, right now in terms of patriotism and concern for my country and wanting to defend it, I would rate me about a 9. On Dec. 7 and for the next year until I became 18, I would rate it about a 5.”

In September 1942, Pasewark turned 18 and he received a letter from the draft board instructing him to report for his physical exam. He met a friend on the subway who also was headed to Grand Central Palace, where the examinations were being done. His friend wanted to become a Marine, but Pasewark preferred the air corps. For one thing, it was only a few months after “bloody Guadalcanal,” a hotly contested six-month campaign for control of a strategic Pacific island in which 1,600 American Marines and 24,000 Japanese soldiers died, not including thousands more who succumbed to tropical diseases such as malaria.

As it ended up, Pasewark didn’t have much choice in the matter. A Marine recruiter commandeered his enlistment paperwork and that was that: “I was shanghaied into the Marine Corps,” Pasewark said.

In the military

Pasewark had good reason to be afraid. Two years later, he would play a role in the invasion of Iwo Jima, the costliest battle in Marine Corps history and the only battle in which the Marines suffered more casualties than the enemy.

Pasewark [said](#) he was not in the first waves of the Feb. 19, 1945, invasion, so he watched as injured Marines were brought back to the ship. One afternoon the bursting mortars were so close and loud it affected his hearing.

The battle lasted four weeks and included some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific theater. Before leading Iwo Jima, Pasewark and the other Marines brought bodies of fallen warriors from the hills for mass burial near the beach. Aboard ship, early the next morning,



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he was a member of the burial-at-sea honor guard for a Marine who died during the night. The vivid events are forever burned in his memory.

After returning from Iwo Jima, Pasewark was on the Hawaiian island of Maui training for the planned invasion of Japan. Hoping to avoid the expected 1 million casualties of such an invasion, the United States dropped atomic bombs on two major Japanese cities: Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and Nagasaki on Aug. 9. On Aug. 14, the Japanese announced their unconditional surrender, bringing an end to the war in the Pacific.

Only later did Pasewark realize that on Maui he was only about 100 miles from Pearl Harbor, where it had all started.

Looking back

Seventy-five years after the attack at Pearl Harbor, Pasewark said the politically and socially fractured United States of today is nearly unrecognizable from the country that banded together to defeat the Axis powers.

“I can’t think of very many ways it is similar, in terms of common goals, in terms of protecting our country, in terms of citizenship,” he said. “American citizens must understand what’s at stake.

“Dec. 7 led to the war in the Pacific as well as the war in Europe. It shaped us, but just temporarily, unfortunately. It shaped us but not on a permanent basis. It pulled us together. As in any argument or battle, when you have a family, if one person is attacked in the family, everybody joins in if it’s a strong family. It’s the same thing with a country – if it’s a strong country.”

For a man who 75 years ago heard the news and – unaware of its significance – went back to his history book, it’s been quite a journey.

“Actually, now, looking back on all that’s happened, it’s a very significant date,” he said. “In fact, it’s not commemorated enough.”



Web Only

Center for Adolescent Resiliency Programs Encourage Student Development

The center's programs focus on helping students within Lubbock schools grow academically, physically and socially.

By Amanda Castro-Crist

The [Center for Adolescent Resiliency](#) has gone by many different names and housed many different programs since it was first created at Texas Tech University in the 1990s. But its core purpose has remained the same: to provide adolescents with a caring and supportive environment to help them develop healthy academic, physical and social habits.

In collaboration with Lubbock schools, nonprofit agencies and other partners, the center houses two main programs: [Covenant BodyMind Initiative](#) (CBMI) and [United Future Leaders](#) (UFL). These programs serve Lubbock area students from elementary to high school age and offer a wide range of activities, lessons, discussions and participation opportunities to help students build strong relationships, interact positively with peers and community members, prepare for the future and build strong, lifelong characteristics.

Kayla Sherman, assistant director of the UFL program, said the program's curriculum focuses on the promotion of three main values: civility, ethics and leadership.

"Along with teaching kids these qualities, we really want to empower them to 'take it out to the world,' which is our motto," Sherman said. "The way we do that is through service, mentoring and relationship-building, but most importantly by encouraging them to share the things they're learning with their friends, family and the community."

Created by Texas Tech [Human Development & Family Studies](#) (HDFS) faculty, the center originally was intended to work proactively with area youth via programming focused on protecting adolescents from developing addictive behaviors or succumbing to risky environments. Since its development, it has evolved to feature the three youth outreach programs focusing on a wider range of adolescent development as well as extending beyond the range of the HDFS program.

CBMI

The Covenant BodyMind Initiative program was created in collaboration with Covenant Health to promote self-care, develop resilience and support overall wellness in adolescents. The program's curriculum aims to provide a comprehensive approach to wellness by providing experiential school activities, family resources and community involvement to participants.

The program educates students of all ages about physical health, nutrition and exercise as well as social and emotional wellness. The 16-week program is used to enhance existing classroom programs. In the Lubbock area, the Talkington School for Young Women

Leaders serves as the primary research site for CBMI, which has been part of the Talkington School's core curriculum for years and has seen the school's first graduates enroll at Texas Tech and continue the relationship with CBMI through classes, support groups and volunteer opportunities.

The program has a variety of curriculum options for different age groups, including 10-minute wellness spotlights for fifth- and sixth-graders, lesson plans for middle schoolers that work into the existing coursework and a variety of elective, semester-long courses for eighth-graders through seniors in high school.

CBMI also includes the Comprehensive Wellness Advocacy Project for sixth-graders through seniors, with lessons focused on youth who are at work and the challenges specific to them.

"CBMI believes resilience, wellness and self-care promote healthy minds and bodies, which allow the individual to make better life choices," Walker said. "When we teach students, we reach families; when we reach families, we impact communities. We hope for healthier communities."

UFL

The center's most well-known program, United Future Leaders, is an after-school leadership development program celebrating its 10th anniversary. Beginning as a partnership between Texas Tech and United Supermarkets, the program was created to develop young leaders in the Lubbock community, specifically targeting fifth-graders transitioning into middle school.

Students in UFL attend after-school sessions on their respective campuses once a week to participate in interactive, hands-on leadership training revolving around various theme-based lessons. Gloria Gonzales, director of the program, said though civility, ethics and leadership are the program's primary values, the UFL framework consists of numerous other sub-themes taught to students each week.

"We focus on themes like identity, emotional security, physical safety, belonging, competence and service in order to help kids build their leadership and confidence skills as they transition into middle school and navigate those muddy waters," Gonzales said.

Beginning with only two campuses, the UFL program now visits 13 campuses in the Lubbock area each week, reaching more than 240 participants from fifth grade to high school in the 2015-16 school year. Students engage in discussions, team-building activities, problem solving and exercises focused on applying knowledge and skills to students' daily lives as young leaders.

"After our fifth-graders finish half of their sixth-grade year, we hold a celebration banquet for them and all of their families, where they get framed certificates and recognition – it's kind of like a graduation for them," Sherman said. "At that point they're invited to join our UFL Ambassador program, which they can be a part of all the way through high school if they choose."



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The UFL Ambassador program, created to make it easier for youth and families to maintain involvement after sixth grade, provides support for students' individual endeavors as well as opportunities for leadership development, mentoring and service. Though no longer a weekly after-school program, UFL Ambassador promotes leadership and service development by hosting six to eight service events each year for students, their families and friends to attend.

In addition to the service events, UFL Ambassadors have the opportunity to attend an annual leadership conference, a Service Summit where they receive service-focused training, meetings with the [Texas Tech Career Center](#), a Q&A panel with former UFL students now in college and workshops focusing on things like resumé building and college prep.

“A lot of the ambassador activities are more event-based, but what we’re finding is as our program is growing, we’re looking to offer things that the kids need,” Gonzales said. “So if we’re going to have juniors and seniors be a part of our program then we need to provide them with some pre-college skills. Most of all we just want to ask ourselves, what’s important to them?”

With more than 70 Texas Tech student volunteers participating in delivering curriculum to local students each week, participants of the UFL program have the opportunity to build lasting relationships with positive role models who encourage them to pursue any path they desire.

“This program is definitely an illustration of Texas Tech’s slogan,” said Sarah Dodd, director of the center. “Anything is possible, and that’s what we want to show these kids, that they have the ability to do anything.”



Web Only

Finding the Right Harmony: Drum Major Authors Cookbook

Senior Alex Williams self-published his cookbook, “No Money, No Time, No Problem,” after years of experimenting in the kitchen.

By Heidi Toth

Alex Williams is a familiar sight at Texas Tech University.

It’s not that his face is easily recognized or his is a household name. No, Williams is well-known because at every home football game, his stride is one of two 50,000 fans see racing down the field as the [Goin’ Band from Raiderland](#) converges around him.

Williams, one of the drum majors of the Goin’ Band, is a senior in music education who wants to teach music in England when he graduates. He is a tuba player from Mansfield who has risen through the ranks to be one of two students who leads the finest band in the land into Jones AT&T Stadium on Saturdays in the fall.

He also is a gourmet chef who wrote and published a cookbook on the side, making him the Red Raiders’ celebrity chef. “No Money, No Time, No Problem” is a collection of recipes that got him through collegiate life with health, wallet and schedule intact.

“My friends think I’m crazy because I’m taking the two hardest classes you can as a music major,” he admitted the week after Thanksgiving, end of the semester in sight. “I already knew it would be hard going into it, and for some reason I decided to publish a cookbook while I was at it.”

Early days in the kitchen and the one-bite rule

Williams spent a lot of time in the kitchen with his parents. His father had only one rule: Williams had to try a bite of everything made. One bite.

“Usually that wasn’t a problem, but when it came to things like Brussels sprouts and sauerkraut and anything that didn’t sound good, I was just like, ‘eww, no,’” Williams said. “But he made me try it.”

Williams applied the same rule as he got older and began traveling. No matter how weird the food in front of him looked, he tried a bite.

He went to cooking classes during the summer. Executive chefs from throughout the Dallas area taught students the ins and outs of knife skills, cooking techniques and what foods work together.

“It was cool because I was working with expensive ingredients, expensive kitchens and expensive restaurants, but I was like 12 years old,” he said.

Although he did plenty of cooking for himself growing up, it got serious when he got to college and realized, between studying and band practice, he didn't have a lot of time to actually cook. He didn't want to eat boxed casseroles or ramen noodles, though.

Getting his own kitchen marked the turning point in his relationship with food as he started meal prepping, developing recipe ideas and going a little off-script.

"I watched a lot of Food Network and kind of became obsessed with it, and then I started experimenting with food," Williams said. "Over the years it developed into something where I understood the science of food, I understood what flavors complemented each other, and I understood a lot about nutrition – what should be on the plate, not just what is flavorful."

But he still wasn't writing a cookbook. That idea came over the summer as a friend chronicled one of his kitchen adventures on Snapchat, titling her story "Cooking with Alex Williams."

"She was like, 'you should have your own show,'" he remembered. "And then another kid said, 'you know, you should write a cookbook.' Obviously a cookbook is easier than a show. I thought, 'you know what? I should.'"

Hitting the right notes

Williams prepared "No Money, No Time, No Problem" intending to solve a number of cooking problems – tight budgets, busy schedules, minimal cooking skills, lack of knowledge about food, what's healthy and what works. But he also didn't want his recipes to be a smorgasbord of ingredients that checked off each box. The food should look nice on the plate and it should taste good, in addition to meeting all of those other needs.

It's a lot to do in 92 pages, but he feels pretty good about the outcome, especially since he routinely refers to the book.

"Whenever I meal prep, I usually try to think of a new recipe every week, but sometimes it's just so fast-paced; I'm just too busy," he said. "I jump to a recipe I already know is easy."

The cookbook includes 40 recipes ranging from all three meals to desserts and snacks. Some, like the chocolate cake with gingersnap amaretto cream cheese frosting, look fancy and look like they take a long time. In reality, he said, that recipe takes an hour of work plus two hours of down time, and as it's a "naked cake" – frosting between the layers but not covering the whole cake – it's easy to put together and both looks and tastes amazing.

Others literally take five minutes. Williams' favorite fast meal is the coronation chicken salad; it's like regular chicken salad but with a curry twist. It's based on a dish served at a British princess' coronation. If the chicken is already cooked, adding the ingredients and mixing it takes five minutes.

"Not to toot my own horn, but I love it," he admitted.



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The book includes recipes from a variety of cultures; much of Williams' inspiration came from seeing a dish that he wanted to replicate or improve upon or an ingredient with which he wanted to experiment. It also includes wine pairings, recipes for spice mixes and lists of kitchen essentials, including dishes and ingredients.

On top of that, it includes a glossary of cooking terms in case a cook doesn't know what a julienne cut is, ideas for substitutions to make recipes easier, quicker, healthier or less costly, a list of cooking tips and a blank page for note-taking while cooking.

"That way you learn while you're cooking," he said.

Picking a favorite recipe

Williams can talk about julienning, chiffonade cuts and wine pairings with ease, but one question stymied him: What's his favorite recipe?

"That's a really hard one," Williams said, pulling the book to him and flipping through it. "Every time someone's looking at this book they'll flip to one and I'll be like, 'Ooh, that's my favorite.' And then they'll flip the page and I'll be like, 'Oh no, that's my favorite.'"

He kept flipping pages, narrating as he went.

"These are original recipes, not the basic things you see all over Pinterest. I try to make things you can take to a dinner party and impress your friends.

"You could make an entire day's worth of food. And it's big servings, so if you're cooking for one you could make three breakfasts, four lunches and five desserts.

"I know one person who has already bought the book, and they didn't expect to like the kale chips but they've made them three times already. My friend tried them and said, 'Wow, these taste like pizza. But they're healthy!'"

More people than his friends like the cookbook so far. His first batch was more than 100 cookbooks. Williams estimated about 70 percent of his buyers are busy parents, 25 percent are busy college students and 5 percent are followers of his Instagram account who are as far-flung as the East Coast and even one in Finland.

All the while he flipped pages.

"Oh, I know what my favorite one is, absolutely," Williams said, turning back a few pages. "Roasted blueberry ice cream sandwiches. Those are so good. They are addicting."

The recipe started out as a healthy Pinterest recipe. Williams, although he believes in healthy food and in making food healthy, does not extend that philosophy to dessert.

"For me, when it comes to dessert, I'm like, just have dessert," he said. "Enjoy it."

He came up with a better oatmeal cookie recipe – one that held up in the freezer but still stayed soft – and suggested people use homemade vanilla ice cream, although he included ice cream from the store as an acceptable substitute. They're indulgent and delicious, he said. He may have eaten four in a day when he made them.

Sidebar:

Follow Alex's cooking on Instagram: [willyums_bistro](https://www.instagram.com/willyums_bistro)

Purchase his cookbook: willyumsbistro.wixsite.com/home



Web Only

Schovanec Participates in Higher Education Media Dinner

Lawrence Schovanec was one of nine presidents from throughout the country who participated in the New York City event with over 20 national media members.

By Scott Lacefield

Texas Tech University President Lawrence Schovanec participated at last week's 29th Annual New York City Higher Education Media Dinner at The Harvard Club.

Schovanec was one of nine presidents from throughout the country invited to represent their universities while discussing higher education topics with an assortment of media from around the nation.

Other universities represented at the media dinner were, Arizona State University; Robert Morris University; Georgia State University; University of Minnesota; University of Virginia; University of California, Riverside; Worcester Polytechnic Institute; and Bennington College.

Discussion among the presidents and media members centered on various topics throughout the evening, including sexual assault on college campuses, the arms race in collegiate athletics, what the incoming Donald Trump administration may mean for higher education and many other topics.

Reporters represented media outlets from throughout the nation, including 60 Minutes, NBC Learn, CBS News, Quartz, Huffington Post, The New York Times, Bloomberg News, Hechinger Report, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Money Magazine, Slate Magazine, The Christian Science Monitor and The Economist, to name a few.

Schovanec also attended Texas Tech alumni chapter events in Boston, Philadelphia and New York City.

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Web Only

Texas Tech Engineering Students Give the Gift of Mobility Through Class Project

The toddler mobility device allows children with physical disabilities to explore their world and experience the world around them that previously seemed out of reach.

By George Watson

Right now, across the globe, employers are being bombarded with thousands of resumes from potential employees graduating from college in the next few weeks, each thinking their work and experience will put them over the top.

A group of mechanical engineering students at Texas Tech University, however, can put an accomplishment on their slate that truly is something unique and special. Their feat – giving a little girl the gift of mobility.

The students are part of the senior design class in the [Department of Mechanical Engineering](#). Each year the class, which is divided into two semesters, Design I and Design II, have to design, manufacture and produce a product. Most times, the product is something for use in the petroleum industry but has also included products created for companies like Lockheed-Martin.

This year, however, the class produced a product that is fairly rare, but at the same time, much needed in terms of giving toddlers with disabilities the freedom to move at will and develop through cognitive spatial awareness. The idea came from physical therapist Pamela Baker at Pediatric Therapy, Inc. in Lubbock, who contacted mechanical engineering instructor Jeff Hanson about producing the device as a class project.

The result was a motorized mobility device that allows a child with disability the same freedom of movement as others her age without disabilities.

“It kind of hit us by surprise,” said senior design student Sebastian Bahamonde. “We chose the project because it seemed like it would be fun, like making a go-kart, at the beginning. We got a video from Pam of this child. She’s a happy little child and that was great, but she was rolling around however she could to get around. We all just went silent.

“We are changing someone’s life and this is no longer a go-kart. And if we can do this well enough, we can change hundreds of lives. That was the biggest thing for us.”

The girl, Ava Rosales, received the finished product on Wednesday, and the result was overwhelming joy all the way around as Ava begins exploring her new world, previously unattainable until now.

“The students who worked on this project, in 20 years will remember what they built, and seeing that little girl, will remember it like it was yesterday,” Hanson said. “The kinds of

things that stick in your mind and the things that I still remember about engineering school are the hands-on projects.”

Trial and error

Studies show children with physical disabilities that limit their mobility struggle to develop an understanding of their surroundings and how far away items actually are. This is called cognitive spatial awareness and is something that those without physical limitations tend to take for granted, especially growing up.

“Basically they’re not getting to see the concept of gravity, they’re not developing depth perception and they’re not developing hand-eye coordination,” said Eddie Erlbacher, a senior design student who was part of the team. “We take for granted that we’re crawling around, picking things up, dropping things. Some kids don’t get that because they don’t have the ability to move around.”

That’s where the idea of the toddler mobility device comes into play. Designed to be used by children ages 1-5 or before they hit their first big growth spurt, it is a frame containing electronic parts that control two independent motors that operate the back wheels. The front wheels are caster wheels, and the combination allows the device to possess a zero-turn ratio. It’s part zero-turn lawn mower, part Roomba.

“It can be adjusted however it needs to be,” Bahamonde said. “Also, the parent can pick the device up and put it in the back of the car and take the kid to class, and then when they get to school the parent can take it out and the kid can keep going.”

The motor and electronic components are covered by a hard shell with a padded seat and back support, plus a seat belt to prevent the child operating the device from being accidentally thrown off of it, though it goes slow enough that falling off is not a major problem.

It sounds like a simple device, but getting to a final product was anything but easy.

The first semester of design involved talking with Baker to figure out the problem and the best way to attack it. The rest of the semester was spent planning, doing Computer Aided Design drawings and 3-D drawings to get an idea of what the product looked like.

“We wanted the chair to be as big as possible but still fit through a door,” Erlbacher said. “The reason it is so wide in the middle of the chair itself is because sometimes kids sit cross-legged, sometimes they sit straight, and we wanted it to be adaptable to any kid.”

The second semester of design involved the actual manufacturing and troubleshooting of the device and making sure the controls were safe. That involved a lot of work, questioning and, in some cases, starting over. One minor change could alter the balance of the device, which made the process tedious.

It also entailed some aspects engineers don’t always think of. Other methods of manufacturing had to be used with the mechanical engineering’s machine shop out of order. The shell was produced with the 3-D printer, but it came out deformed and had to be fixed by using Bondo, a heating gun and two days of sanding.



Students also had to purchase padding and fabric from a local store and then fabricating them into the padded seat on the device.

This encompassed basically the whole month of November and part of December.

“We had to overcome what I like to call the ‘You’re Wrong’ phenomenon,” Bahamonde said. “It was hard to get anything going at first because it was always like, ‘you have to do the seat belt like this’ and someone else was like, ‘no, you’re wrong.’ So if you are constantly saying you’re wrong to each other you’re not going to get anything done. We eventually figured out what each individual person could do best, and little by little, it transformed into what we all decided.”

Erlbacher added that working in a group was also a challenge in itself.

“Most of our projects have been sort of on our own,” Erlbacher said. “But when you’re bringing several participants into it, it’s a lot different. Everybody’s trying to get things done, trying to do it simultaneously, so it takes a lot of coordination. It was definitely a learning experience.”

Finished product

Ava Rosales spins around the floor at Pediatric Therapy, Inc. on a device that, quite honestly, would make her the envy of kids everywhere. She gets to zoom around on this light blue device that looks like something that jumped straight from the film “Back to the Future.”

It’s as much a cool toy as it is a functional mobility device.

“We wanted it to look like a little car, almost,” Erlbacher said. “That was the most fun for us; we got to imagine what we would want as children. I remember driving a toy jeep when I was a kid and I thought I was a race car driver. We wanted that for her, to get into this, not have that disability and think about being a race car driver or something. We wanted it to be fun as well as practical.”

The hope, also, is this isn’t just a one-time device. The students have applied for a patent for the product and feel it could be easily reproduced on a large scale and at a cost that would make it affordable without the need of Medicare, Medicaid or help from insurance companies.

“I’d love it if we never sold one of these because that means there are no more handicapped kids, but unfortunately, that’s not the case,” Hanson said. “Now she can drive right into the room and go see mom, and this gives her the freedom that we all take for granted. I can see this thing going big and lasting. There’s a need for this product that is not out there right now.”

In addition to the tremendous sense of satisfaction from a completed project and giving a little girl the gift of mobility, it also provides a sense of achievement for those involved in the production as well as a leg up as they head out into the real world.

“It has really helped my confidence,” said Erlbacher, who like Bahamonde will be graduating this week. “To go through engineering school, it is a lot of math and calculations. But really seeing something go from the beginning stages of just an idea to a full-on product, it really is satisfying and a boost to my confidence that I can actually be an engineer. This has affirmed that this is exactly what I want to do and go into design after college. Now I have the confidence that I can be productive and innovative.”



Web Only

Texas Tech Gives back to Campus and Local Communities

Various on-campus organizations are collecting donations this holiday season.

By Amanda Castro-Crist

It's the season of giving and several groups at Texas Tech University are doing their part to help local organizations and others in need. Below are some of the donation drives happening on campus, along with information on how to donate.

Transportation and Parking Services Toys for Tickets Program

The [Toys for Tickets Program](#) allows those who have received a parking citation from Texas Tech [Transportation and Parking Services](#) to have it dismissed by donating a new, unwrapped toy. The toy must be equal to or more than the fine on the citation, and a receipt is needed for verification. Toys will be collected from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Monday (Dec. 12) at the permit/citation office, 2903 4th St., and will benefit the [U.S. Marines Toys for Tots](#) program.

Mentor Tech Food Drive

[Mentor Tech](#) is collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations to benefit the South Plains Food Bank. Organization members are working to meet a 2,500 pound/\$2,500 goal this year. Donations will be collected until Wednesday (Dec. 7) and can be dropped off at the Mentor Tech office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Doak Hall 106 or at the Mentor Tech Annual Holiday Social from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion.

Student Organization Toy Drive

Several student organizations have joined forces to collect new toys for children of all ages. Toys can be wrapped or unwrapped and will be donated to the Children's Home of Lubbock. Unused gift cards also are being accepted. Donations can be dropped off until Wednesday (Dec. 7) at the TAB desk in Student Union Building Room 020.

Wreck Hunger: TTU Graduate and International Food Pantry Food Drive

[Wreck Hunger](#) is asking for help restocking pantry shelves with the most needed and demanded foods. The list includes tuna and canned chicken, low-sodium canned vegetables, pasta, rice and beans. Other needed items are listed in the pantry's [Amazon Wish List](#). Donations can be dropped off at any entry station on the Texas Tech campus or at the food pantry in the Graduate Center, Administration Building Room 41.

KTXT Toy Drive

[The Raider 88.1 KTXT](#), the [College of Media and Communication](#)'s (COMC) student-run radio station, is accepting toy donations to benefit the Children's Home of Lubbock. New toys for children of all ages will be collected until Friday (Dec. 9) and can be dropped off in COMC 303.



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Texas Tech University System's First First Couple Will Always Be Red Raiders

John Montford will give the commencement addresses at this weekend's ceremonies.

By Glenys Young

John T. and Debbie Montford are surprisingly approachable people.

When he introduces himself as, “just John; I got a juris doctorate, not a Ph.D., so I’ve never really been comfortable being called ‘doctor,’” one tends to forget his reputation as an aggressive criminal district attorney and subsequent higher-profile positions: 14 years as a Texas state senator and five years as the first chancellor of the brand-new [Texas Tech University System](#).

Debbie is immediately warm and charming. The Texas Tech student-turned-first-lady-turned-regent is the kind of person whose whole demeanor indicates no one is a stranger for long.

They’re also humble, sharing credit with others for accomplishments such as an unprecedentedly successful fundraising campaign, the birth of the [Public Art Program](#), the rebirth of Texas Tech’s [Arbor Day](#) celebration and the creation of notable campus sites including the [United Supermarkets Arena](#) and the Pfluger Fountain in [Memorial Circle](#).

“The Montfords epitomize all that is great about the Texas Tech University System,” said Robert Duncan, Texas Tech University System chancellor. “Their humility, concern for others, spirit of giving and leadership of the system is unmatched. Terri and I are proud to call them friends.”

And after more than two decades of connection to the university, they’re not done yet.

Coming to Texas Tech

John was a student at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst when he came out to West Texas for the first time to help on his uncle’s farm in Littlefield.

“Driving past the campus, Texas Tech had the prettiest girls I’d ever seen,” he recalled.

Debbie, who was born in Littlefield and grew up in Friona, said her first recollections of Texas Tech came from her older brother, who had by then moved to Lubbock. But it wasn’t long before she came to campus to make memories of her own.

She started studying political science.

“I was drawn to that,” she said. “At that time I could have never envisioned we would have this political tilt in our lives with John’s career.”

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1965 and finishing law school in 1968, both at the University of Texas, John served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps until he moved to Lubbock in April 1971. As he would later say, "I didn't go to Texas Tech, but I got here as quickly as possible."

He started practicing law at the firm of Key, Carr, Evans & Fouts in Lubbock. One day, a young woman walked into his office to deliver some papers. A conversation turned into a friendship, and before long that blossomed into a romance.

John and Debbie married in late 1975. Three years later, he was elected Lubbock County district attorney and quickly earned a reputation as a tough prosecutor. At the time, Lubbock was seeing a lot of aggravated robberies and homicides.

"For right or wrong, I got the nickname 'John T. 99' because I secured a lot of 99-year sentences," he said. As a gift to John, Sheriff Sonny Keesee cut out a section of the jail wall where an inmate had carved "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime, because John T. will give you 99."

On the heels of that position, John was elected to the Texas Senate in 1982, where he became chair of the Senate finance committee and later Senate president pro tem. While there, he proposed the creation of the Texas Tech University System.

"I spent 14 years in the Senate, and Texas Tech was one of my primary responsibilities," he said. "I've always been a supporter of higher education. That's what makes Texas a great state: the opportunities available here."

As his familiarity with Texas Tech grew, he began to realize something.

"One thing has been pervasive throughout my knowledge of Texas Tech: I have never talked to anyone who attended Texas Tech who didn't like it," John said. "So I thought I might have missed the boat by not going to Texas Tech. It really impressed me."

Taking the reins

In the mid-1990s, Texas Tech alumnus Edward E. Whitacre Jr. was chairman of the Board of Regents in addition to his day job as chairman and chief operating officer of Southwestern Bell. As plans solidified for the creation of the university system, Whitacre reached out to John about becoming its first chancellor.

Initially, John refused. He was happy as chair of the Senate finance committee. But as a conservative Democrat in Texas politics, he realized he was one of a vanishing breed, so in 1996, he accepted the appointment and the reins of the Texas Tech University System.

"Being the chancellor at Texas Tech was the best job I ever had," John said. "I was able to accomplish more for education there than in any other role. Debbie focused on campus beautification and appearance; I focused on raising money."

The [chancellor](#)'s job is to increase the value of a Texas Tech degree while making students and alumni proud and involved in the community, Debbie said. It's about creating



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excitement and passion about Texas Tech and its possibilities and putting the university on the map.

“He wanted to move the university forward,” she said. “That was first and foremost, and the way you do that is to raise funds, and he was very good at that. When you’re passionate about something, you can sit and tell the story of why funds are needed, why scholarships are needed, why we need new labs and more faculty, trying to get the message points across. I think that was important.”

Fundraiser-in-chief

John was supposed to start his new job on a Monday in September 1996. But his role as fundraiser-in-chief couldn’t wait that long.

“The Friday before that, we got word that United Supermarkets was willing to make a substantial gift to help build an arena, so we went to see the CEO of United and asked for \$10 million,” John said. “He agreed to give \$10 million. I told him, ‘I’ve never been chancellor, I’ve never built an arena and I’ve sure never had anyone give me \$10 million. Can we write this out?’ So we wrote it out on a typewriter.”

John credits assistant vice chancellor Steve Locke, who was the senior associate athletics director and executive director of the Red Raider Club at the time, with laying the groundwork for that gift. Out of it would grow the United Supermarkets Arena.

One of John Montford’s greatest fundraising achievements, though, was the Horizon Campaign.

“I said I wanted to raise \$250 million and I thought the board would have me committed as insane,” he said. “But when I started making calls, I found a lot of people who hadn’t heard from Texas Tech in 20 years and were happy to give.”

While the Horizon Campaign is often remembered for funding renovations to the Jones AT&T Stadium, that was only a small part of it.

“We raised \$511 million in my tenure, and 90 percent of that was for academic purposes,” John said proudly. And then true to his nature, he immediately quipped, “I thought I was something special, then Kent Hance raised \$1 billion.”

The ‘fun’ in fundraising

Montford said he has more than enough good stories from his fundraising days to fill a book, which he may do someday.

On one occasion, a donor in Denver agreed to give the university several million dollars. Not long after, Montford received a hand-addressed envelope with a hand-written return address from the donor. Opening it, he found a hand-written check for the agreed upon amount.

Surprised that the donor felt safe sending such a large check relatively unsecured, John called him.

“I told him, ‘I would have been happy to come up to Denver to get that from you,’” he said. “And he said, ‘What would someone do if they stole it, cash it at 7-Eleven?’”

John also recalled what he termed “the only time I needed a defibrillator in fundraising.”

Mike Moses, who then was deputy chancellor for systems operations, had tracked down an alumnus who had made a large donation to another institution.

“We did our research and we were going to ask for \$10 million,” John said. “We stayed up most of the night, we had our paperwork, we had rehearsed our presentation. He opens the door and says, ‘I’m not prepared to talk about a gift in excess of \$25 million.’ My heart skipped a beat.”

Campus beautification

While John was working with donors and the Legislature to increase Texas Tech’s endowments, Debbie was working on recruitment. Without a previously defined role for the first lady of the Texas Tech University System, she was able to shape it as she wanted.

“I knew I wanted to be a part of the campaign but in a different way than John was,” she said. “I am more of a visual person, so I looked at campus beautification.”

Debbie took walks around the campus with regent Jim Sowell, founder and CEO of Jim Sowell Construction Co., who pointed out opportunities for improvement.

“We thought an emphasis on beautification would help recruitment,” Debbie said. “He told me if I would get engaged, if I would raise money, he would invest in it. When someone gives you that opportunity, you take it. So that started Campus Caregivers.”

The program included planting trees and irrigating the campus, among other projects. A natural extension of Campus Caregivers was the revival of Texas Tech’s Arbor Day celebration, which began in 1938 but had faded over the years. Debbie worked with the Pfluger family to create the fountains in the center of Memorial Circle and with artist Glenna Goodacre for Park Place, the statues now seen along Broadway in front of the [Human Sciences](#) building.

“I’m not so comfortable in saying ‘I did this, I did that;’ I don’t think it’s ever about ‘I,’” Debbie said. “John had a lot of great initiatives that were ‘I’-based because he had the vision, but he will tell you up front, it’s a team effort. You have to have buy-in, and you have to have a team work on it. I didn’t do anything. I worked with people to create visions to move certain things down the road. Not one person creates anything, any opportunity or particular legacy. It’s all team-based. If anything, you just try to get people to buy into a vision of what can be.”

Debbie’s vision was a campus with lots of visual appeal. She felt strongly about the need for a public art program, so she went to the [Board of Regents](#) and asked them to dedicate 1 percent of the budget of each construction and renovation project to public art.



“That was a big vote when you look at size of budgets for our buildings,” she said. “One could argue, ‘why don’t you do set-asides for a lot of other things?’ But sometimes this is the only way you can address these needs. We’d build these buildings and they’d be great, but then there would be dirt, maybe a sidewalk and no irrigation because there was no thought given to it. We had to make some decisions and finish it. You wouldn’t build your own house and then never finish it out.”

She also saw campus beautification as a way to attract donors who might not be interested in buildings or athletics.

“I saw them also as opportunities to get other people involved,” Debbie said. “Maybe they weren’t drawn to scholarships. Maybe they weren’t necessarily going to be big donors to name places and buildings. When you fundraise, you need to have a place in your menu for all levels of gifts. All I tried to do was have some offerings of ways people could get involved in the Horizon Campaign that were not in competition with what John was trying to do, so they were complementary.”

Other contributions

One small but significant change John made as chancellor was instructing workers at campus entrance booths to give the Guns Up hand signal instead of simply waving.

“You need to feel welcome when you approach something that looks like a guard gate,” Debbie said. “There had been a lot of talk in the community about Texas Tech seeming to be closed in. John tried to change that. They’re not there to keep people out; the perception needed to be, ‘We’re here to provide information and welcome people in.’ This is a campus we want everybody to be able to come in, and those places of entry are just that, a place of entry – not a place to stop people.”

It contributes to the welcoming spirit of Texas Tech that Debbie said she recognized from her student days upon coming back as first lady.

“One thing I noticed about Texas Tech, it has always kept this kind of close-family, small-town feel, wholesome, where faculty and administration seem to care about the students,” she said. “I know as universities get larger, sometimes that personal touch is difficult to hang on to. I think Texas Tech has tried mightily to ensure that doesn’t get lost. Some does just in sheer numbers, but I truly believe it’s something the faculty and administration see as an opportunity for us to distinguish ourselves. We put emphasis on trying to do that one-on-one with students and going the extra mile to be helpful and mentoring. Texas Tech’s done a good job of that.”

In that same mindset, John made a point to teach one section each semester while he was chancellor: freshman honors political science.

At the time, now-Texas Gov. Greg Abbott was the state's attorney general. As a personal favor to Montford, Abbott flew to Lubbock each semester, "wheelchair and all," to teach class for a day.

"He is a tremendous friend and supporter of Texas Tech," John said. "That wasn't easy for him to do. It took days out of his schedule, but he felt very committed to teaching those kids."

Stepping down

As the Horizon Campaign wound down in the summer of 2001, John began to think about his eventual departure.

"The average lifespan nationally for a university chancellor was about six years and I was nearly there," he said. "I decided I felt good about what we'd accomplished and it was time for me to move on."

Debbie supported his decision, knowing he was going out on top.

"One of the things John does very well is put his mind to a goal, finish that goal and then step aside and let someone else run with that," she said. "Could we have stayed? Yes, but sometimes it's best to do your deal and get out. I think you preserve your legacy that way. There is no person who stays in one job and always is on the rise. There's going to be a plateau and then a downward trend. If you look at your life and careers, you always try to leave after a job well done while everybody still loves you."

John resigned as chancellor in September 2001. He later accepted a top position at Southwestern Bell, and he and Debbie moved to San Antonio where they have become civic leaders and continued their philanthropic efforts.

"We always kept our friends out here," Debbie said, "but when you have a new person come in, you need to have the old person step aside and not plant themselves in trying to still be involved. We did try to keep our distance while always being supportive."

Part of being supportive was understanding the changes they made might not last.

"It took some years to get the campus beautification and especially the public art going," Debbie said. "I knew that was a long plan. You don't just go out and start adding these pieces; you have to have a process. When I left, I had no idea if they would continue. I realized I can start things, John can start things, but the next board, the next president, the next chancellor, they can do away with things at any time and that's just part of it. So I am very pleased everyone has embraced the efforts to keep the campus beautification and public art going; I think it's made a huge difference in the way the campus looks and in recruitment. We've gotten national recognition for our public art. It's something that adds to every building."

Returning as a regent

As a lifetime community volunteer, [Debbie](#) had filed her appointment application with the governor's office in case she was needed for a position. When Texas Tech University



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System regent Mark Griffin resigned in September 2009, creating a vacancy on the board, Debbie received a phone call from the state press secretary.

Then-Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to Griffin's unexpired term on Nov. 12, 2010, and when the term expired on Jan. 31, 2011, she was reappointed for a six-year term. She is now the vice chairwoman of the board in addition to chairing the regent's rules committee. Formerly, she chaired the facilities committee and served on the academic and clinical affairs committee.

"I enjoyed serving as facilities chair of the board," she said. "I thought it strange that I sat as facilities chair of the board when I'm the one who went before the facilities chair of the board while I was first lady of Texas Tech in order to request the 1 percent for these campus art projects. I see all these reports that come, and it's this circle of life. It's very satisfying that it has stayed important. If one creates something that others see as valuable, that's success, I guess."

She is honored to have served the Texas Tech University System as both a first lady and a regent, but still prefers not to talk too much about her own role.

"I probably brought a different perspective to our conversations among regents because I knew how it worked inside," she said. "It's a different animal. It's not like a corporate board or a nonprofit board. It takes a long time for new members to get up to speed, and you have a lot of information you have to process that you need to understand to make good decisions. I think I had some advantages in knowing that.

"It's always hard to talk about what you think your contributions are," she added. "I don't want to be bragging and proud. I'd prefer other people decide what contributions I've made."

Leaving a legacy

Texas Tech University President Lawrence Schovanec says the pair's contributions have been significant.

"John and Debbie Montford have a long history of selfless contributions and dedication to the Texas Tech University System," he said. "Through their philanthropy and leadership, they have been wonderful stewards of Texas Tech and the System's component institutions and we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Debbie said it's gratifying to know people trust you to do your job well, especially when you're honored to be considered for that job.

"It's surreal in a lot of ways," she said. "You never plan on where life is going to lead; you don't know what doors of opportunity are going to open. When John was in the Senate, I could have never envisioned that he would be at Texas Tech. You don't necessarily train for these jobs and so when you're called upon to do them, you try to make a difference and

try to do it right. You try to do it in such a way that people see it as the best for Texas Tech and for the system.”

So even when her term as regent ends on Jan. 31, 2017, Debbie and John will still always be connected to Texas Tech.

“What I’ve learned is the world is very small,” she said. “People stay connected to Texas Tech whether they’re in another city, another state or wherever. It’s been this thread through our lives, through these different careers, people we meet, business associates. I don’t know how you’d ever say, ‘no, I’m walking out the door and we’re done.’”

“Once you’re connected to Texas Tech, you’re never really separated,” John agreed. “It doesn’t leave you, and you don’t want it to. This is a very special place. I grew attached to Texas Tech. I hope when all is said and done, I’ve been able to make some meaningful contribution to it.”

Sidebar

John Montford will be the speaker for this weekend’s [commencement ceremonies](#).

“I want to tell them I have endured a number of graduations myself,” he said. “I remember when I was commissioned into the Marine Corps, thinking ‘I wish this gray-headed guy would hurry up so I can get my diploma.’ I guess now I’m the gray-headed guy.”

He said his comments won’t be long and he’ll share a few stories, but he wouldn’t say any more because, as he put it, “They deserve the first version of it.”



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Texas Tech, Brazilian Researchers Examine Effects of Toxic Stress on Children's Brain Development

The study uses fMRI data to compare brain development between children who experience pervasive, continuing trauma and those with “normal” development.

By Heidi Toth

Ann Mastergeorge and Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo appeared to be in a scene from a dystopian novel.

They stood in a clean room on the upper floor of a new, government-built apartment building. From the window, it was a spare but pleasant space for somebody to make a temporary home.

One glance out the window, however, showed a different world: crack addicts, just finishing a hit, sprawled on the pavement, many half-dressed. The pavement was heated to the point of pain by the 100-degree weather, but none were sober enough to recognize their skin was burning. Fumes filled the humid air, wafting into open doors and windows. Police watched nearby.

This was no dystopian novel. It was October in São Paulo, Brazil, in an area known as Cracklandia. And it wasn't just adults who lived and died there.

“We watched children,” said Mastergeorge, chairwoman of the [Department of Human Development and Family Studies](#) at Texas Tech University. “It just broke my heart to look at these young children in abandoned buildings eating a piece of bread, and they're hanging their shorts out over this windowsill and the street is just filled with people who are abusing drugs. They're inhaling toxic fumes. That is what they witness every single day.”

The two researchers – Trejos-Castillo is a professor in the same department – have spent their careers examining what's broken in schools, homes, government and society and the effect that damage has on children. More importantly, they look at what can be done to fix these problems.

That is how they came to be standing in an upstairs room of a detox facility in downtown São Paulo, looking at the scene in Cracklandia. Mastergeorge and Trejos-Castillo were among the half-dozen Texas Tech researchers who partnered with Brazilian researchers through the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP). FAPESP donated \$20,000 over a two-year period through the São Paulo Researchers International Collaboration (SPRINT) program, and Texas Tech matched the money.

Trejos-Castillo and Mastergeorge, along with Andrea Jackowski, a researcher from the Federal University of São Paulo, are examining the effects of toxic stress on the brain development of children using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) technology. The Texas Tech researchers spent a week in São Paulo in October to meet with current and potential collaborators and see what the children whose brains they're studying see every day and how the experiences of these children could be applied to the world over. It turns out, it's not so different elsewhere.

"We have forgotten what the basic needs of a child are: feeling safe, cared for, loved, protected and supported," Trejos-Castillo said. "The very basic things that should happen in a family, we may be forgetting about these."

What is toxic stress?

Stress comes from the car breaking down and putting the repair on a credit card, setting you back financially for a couple of months.

Toxic stress comes from a constant, unending worry about money, wondering where food is going to come from, if there's enough money to pay rent, not being able to afford a much-needed doctor's visit, not being able to leave an abusive spouse because of a lack of resources.

The first, while difficult in the moment, does not consume a person's life. The end is in sight, and in the long run he or she will suffer little because of it. The second, if left unchecked, can literally become a part of the people struggling with it. Toxic stress is pervasive. It bleeds into every aspect of a person's life, offering no respite or recourse. There is no visible end. It is that person's normal.

Clinically, Mastergeorge said, toxic stress is defined as "unrelieved activation of the body's stress management system due to strong, frequent and/or prolonged adversity such as physical/emotional abuse, neglect, extreme poverty, exposure to violence and other traumatic events without adequate adult support."

There's also no outlet to relieve this stress, Trejos-Castillo said. People who experience stress or even trauma, such as witnessing a terrible car accident, usually are able to go home, talk it out with a spouse or friend, eat dinner with the family, cry, take a long bath or walk or find some way to release the stress of what they experienced. That's not true with toxic stress.

"In this case you're not able to de-escalate the stress," Trejos-Castillo said. "You're exposed to stress continuously for a long period of time, and then the body basically starts developing non-positive ways of coping with the stress."

The causes of toxic stress are varied. Abuse (verbal, emotional, physical and sexual) and neglect can cause toxic stress, as can extreme poverty or witnessing violence, including domestic violence between parents or violence in the community.

What is the effect of toxic stress on children?

Some of the effects have been determined, particularly in recent years. Improved technology and society's recognition that long-term exposure to trauma causes damage



have led researchers in recent years to pinpoint certain effects of toxic stress. Children experience externalizing behaviors like aggression and internalizing behaviors like anxiety and depression.

The difficulty for many observers is these behaviors aren't exclusive to children whose development has been stunted by how they grew up, and often people see only an aggressive child who's acting out, not a child who's acting out trying to get someone to notice the constant pain he or she experiences.

The trauma causing toxic stress and its effects also can have the subtle but equally dangerous effect of normalization. Children who don't have a bigger worldview may come to think domestic violence happens in every family or people being shot in the streets is a part of life. They expect to get caught up in gang violence, go to prison or die young.

"Some talk about how long they're going to live," Trejos-Castillo said. "It sounds very pessimistic, but they say they don't expect to live more than 25 years because that's what they see."

What is perhaps scarier for the researchers is how insidious this toxic stress is. Jackowski collected fMRI data of children who experienced toxic stress, and Mastergeorge and Trejos-Castillo analyzed that data. What they see is unrelenting, unending trauma seeps into a child's brain development, altering his or her cognitive abilities and ability to function. A child reaches a point where trauma-affected behavior cannot be unlearned. The damage is already done.

Where are children most likely to experience toxic stress?

Syrian refugees have been exposed to trauma, both in their ISIS-controlled homeland and in the difficult journey away from Syria. Children who grow up in the *favelas* of Brazil, where drug- and gang-related crime are rampant, witness trauma that affects them.

It is not, however, a problem exclusive to the developing world. Children in the United States, including children in Lubbock, are exposed every day to the kind of stress and trauma that can damage their cognitive development.

Children in Texas are particularly vulnerable, both researchers said.

"Lubbock has one of the highest percentages of child abuse and neglect in Texas and in the country," Trejos-Castillo said. "It has to do, among other things, with a lot of ignorance and generational abuse in families."

It also has to do with the lack of funding and awareness from those making funding decisions, Mastergeorge said.

"Services have been cut at the state level, in particular to cities," she said. "We're learning from our international colleagues that we have much more in common than we would have thought."

Research so far hasn't shown much difference in how a child reacts to toxic stress based on geography. Children in East Lubbock who experience extreme poverty, children in south central Los Angeles and Brazil who see gang violence every day and children in Syria who see war all experience basically the same cognitive and behavioral effects.

"What's important for a layperson to understand is a child in East Lubbock who's experiencing toxic stress is very similar to a child you might see in another country who's homeless or who's been exposed to the bombings in Syria," Mastergeorge said.

"The way the body responds to toxic stress is similar across contexts – we're all human beings; we're not very different from people in other parts of the world," Trejos-Castillo echoed.

What can be done to prevent or at least mitigate the effects of toxic stress?

This is, after all, the million-dollar question. Knowing the effects is most valuable in how it informs the way society responds to these issues.

"It doesn't get better on its own," Trejos-Castillo said. "People feel like they'll grow out of that, it's just children and teens acting out."

Teachers, counselors, hospital workers

Much can be done by providing children with a safe space filled with people who can help them. To that end, Trejos-Castillo and Mastergeorge would like to focus on training school teachers and counselors to recognize the effects of trauma. Instead of taking a child who is acting out to the principal's office, calling his or her parents or sending the child to in-school suspension, a teacher may recognize the child is asking for help, albeit in a disruptive way.

"Probably the only place they actually feel safe and are able to show what they're going through is in school," Trejos-Castillo said.

Those who are in positions of authority should talk to the child, look for signs of trauma in their lives and take proactive steps to teach the children healthy coping mechanisms. Even actions as simple as explaining that what these children are experiencing is not normal can help.

"In a way it helps them realize what is going on in their house, although it's normal for them, it's not positive and it's not good, and they don't have to follow exactly the same kind of behaviors they're seeing," Trejos-Castillo said.

Teachers, counselors and religious leaders also need to know what challenges students are facing. Lubbock may not have the rampant gang violence that Brazil does, but for families in extreme poverty, the situations aren't noticeably different. However, poverty and its effects are less dramatic in terms of headlines and grabbing community attention.

"Hunger is a huge issue in in our culture that affects children every day," Mastergeorge said.



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Policymakers

Get either of these women in a room with someone at the Texas Capitol and they'll give the same message every time: Texas needs to invest more money protecting and helping children and families affected by abuse, neglect and extreme poverty. If the state continues underfunding these programs, the children affected today likely will suffer the rest of their lives because of it, and the largely fixable problem will be passed onto another generation, thus exacerbating the problem.

“There’s something called a return on investment, and it’s true in development as well,” Mastergeorge said. “We know if you invest early, the return on your investment is very, very high. We have data on that from economists and developmentalists; it’s all been well-documented. I just hope the investment in funds for these families in need, especially in our state, is heard.”

After media reports earlier this year showed almost 1,000 at-risk children in Texas had gone unseen by Child Protective Services employees for six months and the Department of Family and Protective Services had a budget shortfall of \$40 million, the organization asked for millions to hire additional employees and pay their current employees more. Legislators have committed to take on the issue in the 2017 session.

It has to be a priority, Mastergeorge said.

“It’s critical for our legislators and government officials to really understand the impact of poverty and stress, in particular toxic stress, on the outcomes for young children and children in general,” Mastergeorge said. “If we don’t do something to effect a more positive approach to children’s development, we will continue to have long-term problems in our society.”

Researchers

All three researchers expect their work to advance the collective knowledge not only of the effects of toxic stress on children but also where this question is leading, informing other researchers on similar studies. It also may destroy some assumptions researchers have held previously that restricted the questions they asked and open the door to additional collaboration.

“The research we do, the impact it can have on the field – it’s substantial,” Mastergeorge said. “We talk about impacting professionals and the community at large, but there are other scientists who do work in the field and they need this information to help propel them forward in terms of what they’re going to be doing both clinically and in the field.”

“This is not a group of researchers’ problem,” Trejos-Castillo said. “This is society’s problem.”

Prevention vs. Intervention

Most people agree preventing problems is easier and more cost-effective than fixing what’s already broken. However, that doesn’t always pan out in the real world.

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“A problem with prevention is you don’t see the effects,” Trejos-Castillo said. “When we do intervention we can say we changed something, but when we do prevention we’re trying to not have the problem. As a culture we are really backward about that.”

While pushing for opportunities for prevention, they’re taking the situation as it is now and looking at ways to mitigate the harmful effects of toxic stress. Mastergeorge is a frequent and vocal supporter of programs like Early Head Start, which helps provide children with a safe environment for several hours throughout the week, thus relieving some of the pressure, but also works with parents and families to break the cycle of poverty, drug abuse or domestic violence that contributes to volatility at home.

Regardless of the focus, this research and related studies have made one point clear: a significant amount of work remains to reduce the far-reaching effects of extreme poverty and the related issues of drug abuse and domestic violence on children and families the world over. It’s a difficult subject for researchers to consider because of the emotions that came when studying children who are suffering, but one they can’t let go.

“Basically, to do this kind of work you have to have hope,” Mastergeorge said. “I have a lot of hope that the work we do can make a difference. Not only is it essential that we pay attention to these areas that are very difficult to pull the veil off of and really take a hard look at, but I do strongly believe based on what I have observed both as a clinician and a researcher and also just being in the trenches with families that the kinds of preventions and interventions we can provide really do have an impact.

“I think that’s why we do what we do.”



Web Only

Understanding Randomization of Clinical Trials Crucial to Success

Texas Tech researcher Melanie Sarge was part of a team that analyzed linguistic approaches to help cancer patients better comprehend the concept of randomization, being assigned by chance to treatment or control groups, in clinical trials.

By George Watson

A doctor's office can be one of the most nerve-wracking places for some people. Being sick, going through a battery of tests or the anxious moments in anticipation of a diagnosis can bring a flood of thoughts and emotions.

It is a time when receiving, understanding and processing medical information is critical but can also hit roadblocks, not the least of which is patients' level of medical literacy. For some, hearing and understanding medical information can be like trying to understand Charlie Brown's teacher.

Ensuring comprehension becomes even more critical for patients considering participating in a randomized clinical trial. Not only is this an extremely difficult time to be making decisions but there is also a lot of information to digest before patients can truly make an informed decision, including understanding that they will be randomly assigned to a treatment.

Melanie Sarge, an assistant professor of [advertising](#) in the [College of Media & Communication](#) at Texas Tech University, was part of a research group led by Janice Krieger, an associate professor in the advertising department and director of the STEM Transitional Communication Center (STCC) at the University of Florida. The group studied how the health literacy of cancer patients influenced the effectiveness of various linguistic strategies in aiding understanding of the randomization of treatment in clinical trials.

"Dr. Krieger conducts research on clinical trials in an effort to make the clinical trial experience more understandable and possibly help individuals feel more comfortable about participating," Sarge said. "Overall the rate for clinical trial participation is about 3-5 percent for Americans. At the same time, clinical trials are imperative for this generation in advancing knowledge and medical treatment as well as patient care."

Sarge, who previously worked with Krieger at Ohio State University, was invited to participate on the project after moving to Texas Tech to contribute her expertise in data analysis and interpretation. Together with STCC research assistant Jordan Neil, Sarge analyzed which commonly used linguistic strategies for explaining randomization produced the highest levels of comprehension for people with both low and high levels of health literacy.

“There have been different linguistic strategies already identified as ways in which physicians explain the concept of randomization to their patients,” Sarge said. “Metaphors appear to be one method that can enhance comprehension. A metaphor takes a concept that is unfamiliar and pairs it with a concept that is familiar to the patient. Creating this association enhances comprehension.”

Gambling vs. benign

Through their research, the team found that certain metaphors were successful for patients possessing different levels of health literacy. Not all metaphors worked with all patients and for some, the metaphors were no better than using plain language to describe the situation.

One metaphor the team examined was termed the “gambling” metaphor. Simply put, it equates patient’s chances of being placed in treatment groups to a coin flip, i.e. a 50-50 chance of being in one group or another. The other metaphor examined was termed the “benign” metaphor, sometimes referred to as the “baby” metaphor. This involves equating the patient’s chances of being placed in treatment groups to guessing the sex of an unborn child, with an equal chance of having a boy or a girl.

“The gambling metaphor is a common strategy used by physicians to increase patient understanding of randomization,” Sarge said. “However, we found the benign metaphor to be more effective among cancer patients with low health literacy because it provides a comparison that is familiar to them but does not imply a win-loss scenario.”

Sarge and her fellow researchers discovered that the gambling metaphor worked best for those who reported high levels of health literacy, while the benign metaphor worked best for those with the lowest levels of health literacy. For those who were in the middle between high and low health literacy, both metaphors and plain language had about the same effect.

Debunking myths

In this study, the researchers also identified some of the affective factors that influence participation in clinical trials. There are many additional barriers that exist to clinical trial participation besides a lack of understanding. For instance, many worry that not being selected to a certain group would diminish the level of care received, despite assuring patients that no matter what treatment group they are randomly assigned to they would still receive, at a minimum, the acceptable standard of care for cancer patients.

“Randomization is important for several reasons,” Sarge said. “Mostly it’s the ability to make a comparison where otherwise you wouldn’t be able to make conclusions about the effectiveness of one treatment over another. It’s a good thing, but it’s hard to understand, ‘Why is my doctor not telling me what group I’m going to be in?’”

There’s also the issue of certain patients having the feeling that, upon understanding the randomization aspect, they won’t be getting a treatment they feel is tailored specifically to them, even though it could be the best treatment available. That increases anxiety about participation and anticipated success of the treatment. However, informed consent for a clinical trial is vital, both for medical and ethical reasons.



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Indeed, Sarge and the researchers found a negative correlation between the understanding of randomization and the willingness to participate in clinical trials. “When patients have greater comprehension of the randomization process and realize it is not a tailored treatment, it is less personally relevant,” Sarge said. “That increases anxiety and, in turn, we found, decreases the intention to participate.”

Then there are other barriers that have to be overcome related to patient anxiety – concerns about a reduction in quality of life, potential side effects from treatment, the feeling of this treatment being the last life-saving chance. Those all are concerns that have to be dealt with no matter the level of health literacy, and where metaphors play a key role. Sarge is involved with research examining messaging for breast cancer trials in order to decrease some of these concerns and increase the willingness to participate through cancer advocates sharing their own stories of participation.

“This type of communication research is extremely important for finding the language that will make physicians feel more comfortable talking to their patients about clinical trials as an option,” Sarge said. “Equipping them with the message strategies they need to be able to increase understanding and willingness to participate is vital. However, while we’re giving doctors recommendations on how to increase comprehension among certain groups, they need to keep in mind they might be lowering personal relevance and giving them more anxiety.”

“It is important for the doctor to be there or some health practitioner to be there to help with the additional psychosocial barriers that exist.”