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Texas Tech University System
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

n e w s r e l e a s e

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Dec. 1, 2005

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ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR PRESERVATION WORK

LUBBOCK -- Texas Tech University architecture students won the 2005 Kenneth L. Anderson Prize for their documentation of the Charles H. Bugbee and Harold Dow Bugbee Ranch House in Clarendon.

The Kenneth L. Anderson prize is awarded annually for the best set of measured drawings of a historic structure in Texas. The drawings must be prepared to Historic American Buildings Survey standards and donated from a Texas school of architecture to the Library of Congress Archives.

The award is sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey Foundation.

The prize honors Anderson, the former chief of the American buildings survey and a Texas Tech graduate. The prize includes a \$500 cash award endowed by a fund managed by the foundation.

Texas Tech's team included Samantha Hurst of Pampa; Nathan Schneider of Midland; Jeremy Vincik of Katy; and Melissa Wilson of Bonham. Texas Tech College of Architecture professor John White assisted the team. Their renderings can be used for future study and to preserve the details of the building for posterity.

Also, the team won third place for this structure in the 2005 Charles E. Peterson Prize Competition held by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

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PARTNERSHIP TO TEST SELENIUM-COATED CONTACT LENSES

Lubbock – Contact lenses may no longer be a breeding ground for bacteria thanks to an agreement between Lubbock-based Selenium Ltd. and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, that will test technology developed by Texas Tech University System professors.

The University of New South Wales' Institute for Eye Research has announced it will conduct laboratory and clinical testing of contact lenses coated with molecular selenium film. The research will seek to demonstrate that lenses coated with selenium stop the normal buildup of bacteria, protein and lipid deposits on the lenses. By doing so, the selenium coating is expected to eliminate adverse reactions, red eye and risk of corneal infection.

The selenium coating was developed by Dr. Ted Reid, a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and Dr. Julian Spallholz, a professor of biochemistry and nutrition at Texas Tech University. Results of studies using selenium coated lenses in rabbits will be published in the journal *Cornea*. Lead author of the article is Dr. Steve Matthews, a contact lens specialist in the Department of Ophthalmology at the TTUHSC.

More than 250 patients are expected to participate in the clinical trials, which will test daily wear and extended wear selenium-coated lenses.

Selenium, Ltd. was founded in 2004 based on Reid and Spallholz's discoveries. It is a portfolio company of the Austin-based venture capital firm Emergent Technologies Inc. through its WesTech Ventures, L.P. private investment fund. For more information, visit www.emergenttechnologies.com or www.selenbio.com.

-30-

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Dr. Ted Reid, professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, (806) 743-9500, ext. 262, or ted.reid@ttuhsc.edu.

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ROBOTS NAVIGATE TRACK USING GPS GUIDANCE

WHAT: Robot demonstration day

WHEN: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday (Dec. 3)

WHERE: The R4 parking lot west of the Texas Tech University's Electrical Engineering Building

EVENT: Teams of sophomore electrical and computer engineering students will test autonomous robots they have designed and built.

Their robots, guided a Global Positioning System sensor, must navigate a parking lot without assistance.

Systems like these have direct military applications in unmanned vehicles and show great promise for future civilian applications.

Dr. Andreas Neuber, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Dr. Richard Gale, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, are the sponsoring faculty members.

The event is hosted by the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in cooperation with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' South Plains Section and the Texas Tech University Student Chapter.

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Texas Tech University System
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2005

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**STATEMENT FROM TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
CHANCELLOR DAVID SMITH REGARDING STATE REP. PETE LANEY**

LUBBOCK – The following is a statement from Texas Tech University System Chancellor David Smith regarding the decision by state Rep. Pete Laney not to run for re-election for his House District 85 seat:

“Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center have enjoyed a long and productive partnership with Pete and his wife Nelda. We have been blessed by their leadership and loyal friendship. Their service – not only to the people of West Texas – but to all Texans will have a lasting and positive impact.”



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Dec. 5, 2005

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HOLIDAY SEASON PRESENTS TEMPTATIONS TO RECOVERING ADDICTS

LUBBOCK -- Sure, greeting cards ply people with messages of good tidings and yuletide bliss. In reality, the holidays are often a dizzying gauntlet fraught with anxiety, depression and excessive indulgences of every stripe. For these reasons, the season can be especially perilous for those recovering from addictive disorders.

Dr. Kitty Harris, director of Texas Tech University's Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery, sees this all too often in her clients and students. Holiday festivities can present a host of challenges as recovering addicts visit old friends, face down temptations or struggle through unresolved family issues.

"I think that, for all people who struggle with addictive disorders, the holidays are a real challenge," Harris said. Harris would know: Her center provides support services to more than 80 students who have overcome chemical dependencies, eating disorders and other addictions.

Harris gives her students this advice before they return home for the holidays:

- **Be aware:** With old haunts comes the lure of old ways. Harris tells her students to be vigilant and realize they are swapping a nurturing environment for one where they may find themselves pulled back into old patterns.
- **Anticipate pitfalls:** Recovering addicts need to realize they may see people who do not support their choice to be in recovery. Also, they should try to predict situations that will present stress or temptation – such as long-running family disputes or parties where alcohol will be involved – and have a plan to cope.
- **Have realistic expectations:** With all the hype and anxiety surrounding this season, it's no wonder people wind up feeling blue. If celebrations fail to meet great expectations, depression is a natural part of the letdown.
- **Draw on support networks:** Recovering addicts should go to local recovery meetings and stay in touch with supporters.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RESEARCH COULD MAKE MOBILE HOMES SAFER

Study Prompts Call for Tougher Installation Standards in Tornado-Ravaged Town

LUBBOCK – Findings by Texas Tech University wind researchers helped prompt officials in tornado-ravaged Evansville, Ind., and the surrounding Vanderburgh County to call for strengthened installation standards for mobile homes.

Larry Tanner, a member of Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center, has released preliminary findings of a study he conducted to document damage to the approximately 400 manufactured homes in Eastbrook Mobile Home Park.

He found that poorly anchored mobile homes in the park sustained serious damage from the tornado that ripped through Indiana on Nov. 6, killing 22 people.

The properly anchored homes that were not hit by the storm's vortex generally withstood the tornado, Tanner said. However, the storm moved and severely damaged the mobile homes that were not properly secured.

Based in part on his findings and those of Roger Lehman, the Vanderburgh County building commissioner, city and county officials have prepared new standards for the installation of mobile homes that exceed state requirements.

Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners president Cheryl Musgrave have now requested that Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels strengthen requirements on anchoring and bracing of new mobile homes.

Tanner documented all of the homes in the park and randomly selected a sample of 60 units to analyze. He will report his findings to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, a non-regulatory federal agency to advance measurement science, standards, and technology. His research is funded by a five-year grant by the institute.

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**TEXAS TECH SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT WINS AWARD
AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**

LUBBOCK – Noaman Azhar, a second-year law student at Texas Tech, has won the best oralist award at the John Marshall International Moot Court Championships.

“It’s an extraordinary achievement to be voted the best oral advocate at a major international moot court tournament, and we’re extremely proud of Noaman for exhibiting so much hard work at this event,” said Texas Tech School of Law Dean Walt Huffman. “The John Marshall Best Oralist trophy is beautiful, and it makes a profound addition to our already impressive advocacy trophy case.”

The team was coached by Lubbock attorney and longtime moot court and mock trial coach Donald M. Hunt, who also serves as an adjunct professor of law.

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Texas Tech University System
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TEXAS TECH LIBRARY TO OFFER RESEARCH COURSE

LUBBOCK – The Texas Tech University Library will offer a research class for the Spring 2006 semester. "Introduction to Library Research" (LIBR 1100) is a one-hour credit course.

There are five sections of LIBR 1100 available:

- Mondays from 2 to 2:50 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 10 to 10:50 a.m.
- Wednesdays from 2 to 2:50 p.m.
- Thursdays from 2 to 2:50 p.m.
- Distance learning section, number 270 on WebCT

All the on-campus courses will meet in the Library's Instruction Laboratory, Room 150.

The course will teach students lifelong information literacy skills and how to do research in a university library. Students will learn how to identify, find and use resources that are most appropriate for their assignments.

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**OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF 2005
A BEACON OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM**

LUBBOCK – The Texas Tech University College of Education has announced Josh French as the recipient of the 2005 Outstanding Teacher Award.

French currently teaches K-4 Special Education at Casey Elementary in the Frenship Independent School District.

The award highlights the contributions of teachers in the field of Autism Education and honors two outstanding teachers each year. Becky Critz, a teacher in the Lubbock Independent School District, was presented with the award earlier this year.

Robin Lock, co-director of the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research, said French's contributions to teaching make a tremendous impact on children with Autism.

"The purpose of this award is to honor those teachers whose excellence in the education of children with autism will continue to impact children for years to come," she said. "Josh has certainly met that criteria and he is making a tremendous impact in the classroom."

French holds a Texas teacher certification in K-12 Special Education and 6-12 Social Studies. He will be presented the award on Thursday, Dec., 8 at 4:30 p.m. in room 152 of the Education Building.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2005

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TIS THE SEASON FOR THE PARTIES AND THOSE EXTRA POUNDS

Now that Thanksgiving has past, many of us may be feeling a bit guilty about overindulging in all the holiday trimmings. And to make matters worse, Christmas and New Year's are just around the corner, bringing holiday parties, office potlucks, Christmas sweets and more family get-togethers that often feature the turkey and trimmings all over again.

Jan Fry, a registered dietitian in the Department of Internal Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, says eating healthy during this time of year can be a challenge, but with the right attitude and a bit of planning, the New Year doesn't have to bring 10 extra pounds.

Here are a few suggestions to consider when faced with holiday temptations:

- Settle for just one dessert (preferably a small serving), and omit a few items from your holiday meal. For instance, choose either the mashed potatoes or the sweet potatoes; don't have both.
- Be safe with alcohol. One drink impairs the ability to drive and alcohol interacts with many medications. In addition, alcohol adds a minimum of 110 calories per ounce. A 4-ounce daiquiri contains about 200 calories, and it is not unusual for holiday beverages to contain up to 1,000 calories. Eight ounces of non-alcoholic eggnog has 350 calories.
- Drink lots of water. It's a simple and effective way to feel a little fuller. And it's good for you!
- Choose unsweetened beverages. A lemon or lime will add flair to most any beverage without increasing the calories.
- Don't feel obligated to eat anything that you don't want to. If you find yourself in a situation where you just can't say no, take a bite and then discreetly find a method of disposal.
- Eat slowly and savor each bite. It takes about 20 minutes before your stomach registers that you are full.

- Try to control stress levels. The holidays are a busy time and can be overwhelming with shopping, holiday events and family activities. Oftentimes, we find ourselves eating on the run or stress eating, which can mean excess calories. So take a few minutes to relax, breathe deeply, exercise regularly and perhaps even treat yourself to a massage.
- Purchase a pedometer to wear during the holidays and every day. Watching your number of steps increase can motivate you to be active. The daily goal for steps is 10,000, yet most of us average 3,000 to 4,000 steps daily. Walking also relieves stress.
- Be content to maintain. For most people on a weight-loss plan, it probably isn't realistic to expect to lose a substantial amount of weight over the holiday season. Instead, strive to make it to Jan. 1 without gaining; then it will be time to make those New Year's resolutions and get on track toward reaching your ultimate weight-loss goals.

For more information, contact Suzanna Cisneros Martinez, Office of Communications and Marketing, at (806) 743-2143.

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Texas Tech University System
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TECH STUDENT WINS BIG ON WHEEL OF FORTUNE

LUBBOCK -- Though she admits that she had to buy a lot of vowels, a Texas Tech geography major said that investment helped her win more than \$14,000 on "Wheel of Fortune."

Ada Rosenbaum, 21, a geography major from Abilene, said she never dreamed she'd wind up on the game show that she had watched throughout her childhood. The taped episode featuring Rosenbaum airs Dec. 23 on NBC affiliates.

"They had a tryout for the Big 12 show," Rosenbaum said. "You could sign up for it online. I just did it on a whim. Then, when people from the show came to Lubbock, probably about 200 kids were there trying out last February. They sent me a letter a few months later saying I was going to be on the regular show."

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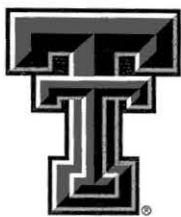
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**TEXAS TECH CHANCELLOR'S COUNCIL DISTINGUISHED
TEACHING AND RESEARCH AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

- WHAT:** News conference to announce award winners
- WHEN:** 10 a.m. Friday (Dec. 9)
- WHERE:** Board of Regents meeting room, 2nd floor of the Administration Building
- EVENT:** Announcement of four Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center faculty members who have been named the 2005 winners of the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards.

The awards recognize an outstanding teacher and researcher at each of the universities and carry a \$10,000 cash award.

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Texas Tech University System
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**TEXAS TECH CHANCELLOR'S COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
OUTSTANDING TEACHING, RESEARCH AWARDS**

LUBBOCK – Four faculty members from Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center today were named recipients of the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards.

"Both of the universities have many outstanding teachers and researchers. These awards highlight the quality of our faculty and reflect our commitment to academic quality," said David R. Smith, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System. "Both institutions have a commitment to quality. The job that these four professors do in educating our students and furthering our research mission is an example of that commitment."

The Distinguished Teaching Award goes to Dr. Ellen Peffley, professor of horticulture, in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. Barbara Johnston, R.N., Ph.D., professor and associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Nursing, is the winner at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

At the Health Sciences Center, the Distinguished Research Award goes to Douglas Stocco, Ph.D., professor in the Cell Biology and Biochemistry Department. Dr. James Dickens, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering in the College of Engineering, is the Texas Tech winner.

This is the fifth year for the Chancellor's Council to present the awards. The winners receive a plaque and a \$10,000 cash award. The Chancellor's Council raises funds to support student scholarships, faculty recruitment and support, and other programs.

Peffley has been recognized for her teaching with the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Teaching Award, the Texas Tech President's excellence in Teaching Award and is a charter member of the Texas Tech Teaching Academy. She has also earned national recognition with the L.C. Chadwick Educator's Award from the American Society of Horticultural Sciences and the L.M. Ware Distinguished Teacher Award by the Southern Region of the American Society of Horticulture. Peffley is also a key researcher in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, working as part of a multidisciplinary team with NASA to develop sustainable food production systems necessary for extended space exploration. She joined the Texas Tech faculty in 1986.

TEACHING & RESEARCH AWARDS/PAGE 2

Johnston is the associate dean for the graduate program in the School of Nursing. She is the winner of the 2005 School of Nursing Excellence in Distance Education Award. Since her arrival in 1998, the graduate enrollment in the School of Nursing has grown from about 40 to more than 150 students. Many graduate courses are taught online and Johnston is responsible for the national recognition that has come to the program. The Graduate Program in Nursing was the only program in the Health Sciences Center to be ranked nationally by U.S. News and World Report. She has been awarded several grants that have enabled the development of additional nurse practitioner and nurse educator programs in online formats. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has acknowledged her distance teaching expertise through invitations to speak at the National Student Nurses Association conventions.

Stocco has received national and international awards for his research on the StAR protein. The StAR protein is a key protein that allows cholesterol to be converted into bioactive hormones that are necessary for reproduction and the maintenance of carbohydrate and salt balance in the body. His discovery has allowed much research into how cholesterol is mobilized and utilized in cells to go forward. Stocco has also received the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President's Academic Achievement Award, the Dean's Research Award, the Grover E. Murray Distinguished Professorship, the Society for the Study of Reproduction Research Award and the British Endocrine Society Transatlantic Lecture Award. Stocco holds the Robert A. Welch Endowed Chair in Biochemistry and is a University Distinguished Professor.

Dickens' research fields include pulsed power, power electronics, high power RF generation and high power microwaves. He investigates how very short and powerful bursts of electrical power can contribute toward national defense and space applications. In the six years he has been at Texas Tech, he has received more than \$5 million in grants from the Department of Defense and private industry. Dickens, who is associate director of Texas Tech's Pulsed Power and Power Electronics Center, has won praise nationally for his work. A colleague working for the United States Air Force, which has funded Dickens' work for years, says "Jim's exceptional efforts have provided for the first time in many years, deep scientific insights."



Texas Tech University System
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SCHOOL OF LAW HOODING CEREMONY TO FEATURE
PRESIDENT OF TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

LUBBOCK – Lee Ann Reno, president of the Texas Young Lawyer's Association, will speak at the December Hooding Ceremony of the Texas Tech University School of Law.

The ceremony, which recognizes December's graduating law school class, will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. at the International Cultural Center Auditorium, located at 6th Street and Indiana Avenue in Lubbock.

The ceremony will honor 20 students graduating from the School of Law this month.

Omar Villa, a School of Law student from El Paso, will be the event's student speaker. He has served as the student editor of the *Texas Tech Lawyer* alumni magazine and is active in the Hispanic Law Students Association.

- 30 -

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Texas Tech University System
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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HONORS FUTURE EDUCATORS,
LEADERS AT PINNING AND MEDALLION CEREMONY**

LUBBOCK – The Texas Tech University College of Education will honor its December 2005 graduates at a Pinning & Medallion Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Merket Alumni Center.

“The Pinning and Medallion Ceremony is our way to let our family of graduates know how proud we are of their accomplishments before we send them off with a degree,” said Sheryl Santos, dean of the College of Education.

College of Education students who will be receiving a bachelor’s degree will be presented with a commemorative College of Education Pin. Students who will be receiving a master’s or doctoral degree will be presented with a commemorative medallion.

Each student has asked a faculty member to present them with their respective award. Dean Sheryl Santos will pay tribute to the students as they become alumni of the College of Education. An explanation of university regalia will also be part of the program.

- 30 -

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TEXAS TECH TO HONOR GRADUATES

LUBBOCK – Almost 2,350 Texas Tech University students will receive diplomas during commencement ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Saturday (Dec. 17), in the United Spirit Arena, 1701 Indiana Ave. The featured speaker at both ceremonies will be playwright Arthur Kopit.

Kopit has written a number of plays, including Tony Award nominees "Indians" and "Wings," as well as "Road to Nirvana," "End of the World with Symposium to Follow," "Discovery of America" and an original musical called "Tom Swift and the Secrets of the Universe." His play "Indians" was adapted for the Robert Altman film "Buffalo Bill and the Indians, or Sitting Bull's History Lesson" in 1967. He also wrote screenplays for "Hands of a Stranger" and "Roswell." He is a member of the Dramatist Guild, the Writers Guild of America and PEN.

The morning ceremony will include students in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, Honors and Visual and Performing Arts. The afternoon observance includes the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Architecture, Human Sciences, Mass Communications and the Rawls College of Business Administration.

The Texas Tech School of Law has scheduled its ceremony for 6 p.m. at the International Cultural Center's auditorium, with a reception immediately following at the Law School. The speaker will be Lee Ann Reno, a 1994 graduate of the Law School and the current president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. She is a partner in the firm of Sprouse, Shrader and Smith in Amarillo. The class speaker will be Omar Villa of El Paso.

Receptions for the colleges will follow their respective ceremonies. Reception locations are: College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in the rotunda of the new Animal and Food Sciences Building, College of Architecture in the Architecture Gallery's courtyard, College of Arts and Sciences in the lobby area of Holden Hall Room 104, College of Business Administration in the Business Administration Building Rotunda, College of Engineering in the dean's office suite of the Engineering Center, College of Human Sciences in the El Centro lounge, College of Mass Communications in Frazier Alumni Pavilion and College of Visual and Performing Arts in the Maegden Theatre Lobby. The College of Education will hold a pinning ceremony at the Market Alumni Center at 6:30 p.m. Friday (Dec. 16).

Outstanding students will carry banners representing their respective colleges. Administrators selected the banner bearers based on all-around achievement.

The banner bearers are: Desiree Ann Childs, a food science major from Lamesa, and Guthry Lance Edwards, an agribusiness major from Earth, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural

Resources; Joseph Allen Ross, an architecture major from Henrietta, College of Architecture; Kathryn Celeste Harmonson, a biology major from Austin, College of Arts and Sciences; Robert Arthur Pearce, a management information systems major from Santa Anna, the Rawls College of Business Administration; Maria Emma Arias, a multidisciplinary studies major from Lubbock, College of Education; Trae Matthew Blain, a mechanical engineering major from Hereford, College of Engineering; Megan Blair Finney, a English major from Amarillo at 9 a.m., and Arielle Jene Thompson, a accounting and finance major from Lubbock, at 1:30 p.m., Honors College; Robin Kirk Sanders, a early childhood major from Floydada, College of Human Sciences; Stacey Elizabeth O'Brien, a public relations major from Claude, College of Mass Communications; and Chiyo Marie Wichman, a theater arts major from Spring, College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Selected to carry the banner for the Graduate School are Jimmie Kay Morgan from Lubbock, a doctor of philosophy student in curriculum and instruction in the College of Education, at 9 a.m.; and Susan P. Rupp from Santa Fe, N.M., a doctor of philosophy student in wildlife science in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, at 1:30 p.m.

Also recognized during commencement exercises will be bachelor's degree candidates with the highest grade-point averages in their respective colleges. In some cases, the honoree also is among the previously mentioned banner bearers.

Highest ranking December graduates are:

Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources –Childs of Lamesa; Edwards of Earth; and Jerod Wade Foster, an agricultural communications major from Paradise;

Architecture –Ross of Henrietta;

Arts and Sciences – Abbigail Horn Arellano, a psychology major from Floydada; Alice Liang Hon, a psychology major from Lubbock; Amber Marie LeJeune, a biology major from Roswell, N.M.; Ashley Dawn Patrick, a sociology major from Lubbock; Megan Shea Pratt, a history major from Lakeville, Minn.; and Melody Lynn Van Marter, a communications studies major from Amarillo;

Business Administration – Sam Hulin Hall, an accounting major from Houston; Pearce of Santa Anna; and Arielle Jene Thompson, an accounting major from Lubbock;

Education –Arias of Lubbock;

Engineering –Blain of Hereford;

Human Sciences –Sanders of Floydada; and Janet Marie Kriger, a human development and family studies major from San Antonio;

Mass Communications – Haley Elaine Burks, a journalism major from Big Spring; Lauren Michelle Goode, a public relations major from Marble Falls; Emily Kay Harrison, a photocommunications major from Lubbock; James Patrick Hodgins, an electronic media and communications major from Needville; Carla Kay Holderbaum, an advertising major from Denton; Erica Lynn Leake, an advertising major from Lubbock; Chelsi Nichole Lewis, an advertising major from Flower Mound; Meagan Renee Lewis, a public relations major from Fort Worth; Michael Patrick Merrell, an electronic media and communications major from Odessa; O'Brien of Claude; Nathan Roy Pressler, an advertising major from Keller; Jacquelyn Renee Schirard, a journalism major from League City; Tasha Ann Starkey, a public relations major from Dumas; Connor Craig Threlkeld, a journalism

major from Carrollton; Leah Suzanne Vowels, an electric media and communications major from Weatherford; and Jennifer Lindsey Walker, an advertising major from Lufkin;

Visual and Performing Arts – Maren Elaine Roberts, a music major from Lubbock.

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NASA AND TEXAS TECH TO DEVELOP NEW SPACECRAFT SYSTEMS

LUBBOCK -- Faced with the challenging task of shuttling humans to the moon and later to Mars, NASA has tapped Texas Tech University computer scientists to help the agency develop software language that could save it time and money as it builds an abort system for the new Crew Exploration Vehicle.

Beginning in January, NASA's guidance, navigation and control engineers will work with Texas Tech scientists as they develop a prototype Onboard Abort Executive – decision-making software intended to aid the crew and flight controllers in determining the safest abort decision should a failure occur in flight.

The abort executive will monitor the crew exploration vehicle for problems, predict its abort capability and determine an appropriate strategy for doing so.

The prototype will use a declarative language called SequenceL developed at Texas Tech. The language, created by Texas Tech computer science department chair Dr. Daniel Cooke, will be used to test the abort executive's behavior before NASA commits to building costly onboard software. This should result in fewer errors and reduce overall development costs.

Recent NASA workshops have indicated that current software development practices and computer languages – even with evolutionary changes – may not be rapid or dependable enough for future missions. This is especially true as the agency prepares for its new call to send humans to the moon again and later to Mars.

Creating software prototypes and system requirements that would be easier to develop and understand while requiring less coding would allow the engineers to build and deploy new systems more rapidly – something that could be necessary as unexpected situations arise during lunar or Mars exploration missions.

Texas Tech already has been working with members of Johnson Space Center's Guidance, Navigation and Control organization to apply SequenceL language to abort software that NASA had developed for its Shuttle Cockpit Avionics Upgrade Project, a cockpit display upgrade for NASA shuttles.

The new project will determine whether SequenceL should be used to develop requirements and create software prototypes for the new Crew Exploration Vehicle.

This collaborative project will be led by Howard Hu, Johnson Space Center's Aeroscience and Flight Mechanics Division chief engineer for Crew Exploration Vehicle Guidance, Navigation and Control. It will also involve Cooke, faculty member Dr. J. Nelson Rushton and Texas Tech – Abilene doctoral candidate Robert Watson, who will relocate to Houston for six months.

In related research, an A-Prolog language, created by Texas Tech computer science professor Dr. Michael Gelfond in collaboration with Houston-based space operations company United Space Alliance, is a system that quickly finds work-around plans in response to even multiple failures of the shuttle's Reaction Control System. It can be used in a similar fashion for other types of onboard systems.

A Concrete State Machine Language, developed by Rushton, is a language to tie A-Prolog and SequenceL into existing onboard systems. If this succeeds, it will result in a more general, integrated and formal approach to the implementation of different types of systems, including guidance, navigation and life support, Cooke said.

The Crew Exploration Vehicle will be a manned spacecraft capable of ferrying astronauts and scientists on extended space missions after the existing shuttle fleet is retired.

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