

Texas Tech University
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

News and Publications
Box 4640/Lubbock, Texas 79409-2022/(806) 742-2136

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 1-9-22-87

CONTACT: Beverly Taylor

LUBBOCK -- Dr. C.J. Nelson, agronomy professor at the University of Missouri at Columbia, will present a seminar about leaf growth in forage grasses at 4 p.m. Monday (Sept. 28) in Room 101 of the Goddard Range and Wildlife Building at Texas Tech University.

An internationally recognized forage physiologist, Nelson's lecture will be "Physiological Control of Leaf Growth in Forage Grasses." Visitors can meet Nelson in a 3:30 p.m. reception in the atrium area of the adjoining Plant and Soil Science Building.

Nelson is president elect of the Crop Science Society of America. He has an active research and graduate education program in photosynthesis-yield relationships of forage plants, especially perennial grasses. He has published more than 100 refereed research papers about leaf growth, tillering patterns, canopy architecture, leaf elongation, leaf meristem dynamics and environmental influences on leaf photosynthesis.

He interfaces his work with plant breeders to develop selection criteria and breeding strategies.

The seminar is sponsored by the Plant and Soil Science Department.

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REF: 2-9-22-87

CONTACT: Deborah Palmer/
Beverly Taylor

LUBBOCK -- West Texas teachers can fulfill in-service or continuing education requirements by participating in "Creative Reading, Creative Writing: Poetry," an extension class offered this month through the Texas Tech University Division of Continuing Education.

During the workshop, participants will read and write various kinds of poetry in an informal, interactive atmosphere. Teachers also will experience a variety of techniques and resources for teaching poetry. Dr. Michael Angelotti will instruct the course.

Participants will meet Saturdays, Sept. 26 and Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost for the workshop is \$60 which includes one semester hour of graduate credit.

For more information or to register, contact Sheri Lewis, Texas Tech Division of Continuing Education, Box 4110, Lubbock, Texas 79409, (806) 742-2352.

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(MEDIA ADVISORY: For more information on this research project, contact Dr. Gary Condra, (806) 742-1949.)

By Beverly Taylor

LUBBOCK -- People make decisions based on what they think and fear is true -- even when all the sophisticated statistical measurements of risk assure them they are in little danger.

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), which has chosen Deaf Smith County, Texas, as one of three possible locations for the nation's first geological repository for high-level nuclear waste, has told the people of Deaf Smith County and surrounding areas that, to date, there is no evidence that a nuclear waste repository would have an adverse impact on the area's economy.

But, if major agricultural and ranching industries quit their operations in the area because they don't want even the slightest risk of contamination of their products, the area could be in big economic trouble, said Gary Condra, project leader for a commissioned study of public perception of risk and potential economic impacts of locating the waste repository in Deaf Smith County.

"The DOE has made an initial assessment of the risk and concluded it is very small. Of course, many people in the area question that assessment," said Dr. Condra. "But, whether the fears are well-founded or not, people still make decisions based on the risks they perceive.

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"A couple of major agricultural processors in the area have said they will leave if the repository is located in Deaf Smith County and that would have a tremendous effect on the whole economy of the area."

In the 1982 U.S. Census of Agriculture, Deaf Smith County ranked as the 12th most productive county in the nation. The surrounding counties are leading agricultural and livestock producers. The land also overlies the Ogallala Aquifer, an underground water reservoir which serves several states on the High Plains.

Condra, an agricultural economist at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, is leading the study which was commissioned by the Castro, Parmer, Swisher Counties Repository Assessment Commission (CPSCRAC). The counties, located south of the proposed site, formed the agency in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The act mandates the DOE to provide funds for groups that would be affected by proposed nuclear waste sites to do independent studies about the potential impact of a waste dump.

CPSCRAC is made up of county commissioners and county judges in the three counties. Dale Winders, Castro County commissioner, is chairman of the group.

Condra said the DOE provides grants, generated from special nuclear waste funds, to states and communities to conduct the studies. Once a final nuclear waste site is selected and implemented, the DOE must also compensate for any adverse effects on the area, he said. Funds for the research were funneled to CPSCRAC through the state Nuclear Waste Program.

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The Texas Tech research group has been allotted \$295,000 for the first year of the study. Condra said he anticipates that CPSCRAC will exist and the study will continue as long as the possibility remains for a nuclear waste repository in Deaf Smith County. He said if the Deaf Smith site is chosen, the situation will then be monitored so that the DOE can make compensation for possible damages.

The research will include three facets. In one project, Condra and his associates will study the potential economic impact of a repository on the agricultural markets and productivity of agricultural land and groundwater. Models will be developed to estimate the net economic impacts of possible scenarios. The effects will be traced as to their impact on the economy, land values and tax bases.

The second part of the research will involve study of possible effects on the environment, Condra said. At the Deaf Smith County site, the DOE proposes to hollow out a large salt dome in which to store nuclear waste. The salt and other heavy metals would be stored in huge mounds -- DOE specifications call for a 38-foot-tall salt pile, covering 55 acres.

"The DOE has said that there is little chance that the salt and other bore materials will pollute surrounding soil and underground water resources," Condra said. "That may be true, but we don't know it. We're going to build wind tunnels to approximate conditions the DOE is planning and see exactly what happens when the wind blows and the rain falls on a pile of salt."

Condra said sodium salts alter soil structure by making the land less able to absorb water and support plant growth. It is possible, he said, that salt and heavy metals could be carried to surrounding areas through wind erosion, surface runoff and groundwater movement.

The project proposal states, "It is unknown how erosive salt is compared to soil. Soil erosion by wind is a problem in West Texas... During extremely severe wind storms, it is not uncommon for paint on cars and windshields to become pitted due to the abrasive action of soil particles. It seems logical that this same action would erode salt."

The third aspect of the project will be a survey of public opinion in the three counties. Residents will be questioned, probably through a mail survey, about their attitudes and opinions regarding a high-level nuclear waste site in Deaf Smith County.

"These three counties stand very little chance of benefitting if the site is located in Deaf Smith County," Condra said. "In the immediate area, near Hereford, there may be increased trade and construction because of people moving in, but that won't affect these three counties. They do, however, stand the chance of being negatively affected if businesses in their counties and in Deaf Smith County leave and refuse to buy agricultural products and livestock for fear of contamination."

Dr. Robert C. Albin, associate dean of Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences is project coordinator. Others on the research team are Texas Tech Agricultural Sciences faculty members Dr. Bob Davis, Dr. Clifford Fedler, Dr. Ernest Fish, Dr. James Gregory and Dr. Richard E. Zartman and Rita M. Kozak, who earned a Ph.D. from Texas Tech and is now on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 4-9-23-87

CONTACT: Kippie Hopper

LUBBOCK -- A fascination with the mysteries of the earth and the study of visual messages form the basis of Betsy Stirratt's photographic works, which can be seen through Oct. 9 in the S.R.O. Gallery on the Texas Tech University campus.

Stirratt focuses on paper as an essential tool used by humans to record information. She states that paper, composed of natural elements, can act as a communication device.

"These elemental components of water, fiber and air insure the sensibility within the paper that suggests its final utilization. Special languages that appear in my work through the use of symbols and plant forms communicate the mystery concerning their previous use and existence, as well as their purposes. Ritual is revealed through the preciousness and value that is evident in the images. A preserved quality and texture of age suggests the importance of change, time and place and most significantly, the mysteries of past lives. Each piece serves as a record of the essence of memory and of all things that we draw upon to remember," she says.

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Currently director of the School of Fine Arts Gallery at Indiana University in Bloomington, Stirratt has shown her work in individual, two-person and group exhibitions throughout the United States. Most recently, her exhibitions have been seen at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., Penn State University in University Park, Pa., and Galeria Mesa in Mesa, Ariz.

The S.R.O. Gallery is located in the sub-basement of the Art Building on the Texas Tech campus.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 5-9-24-87

CONTACT: Beverly Taylor

LUBBOCK -- The art of 17th century Europe will be the focus this year in "Art through the Ages," weekly art seminars at the Museum of Texas Tech University.

This is the 27th year of the art seminars series sponsored by the Women's Council of the West Texas Museum Association (WTMA), a museum support group. The seminars are at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, following registration and coffee at 10:30 a.m.

The weekly sessions will include lectures and slide shows by Texas Tech experts and local artists on topics including 17th century European history, architecture, opera and Italian, Spanish, Flemish and Dutch painting.

Registration for the fall and spring seminars is \$25 for Women's Council members, \$10 for Texas Tech students and \$35 for others. Registration for either the fall or spring series is \$15 for Women's Council members, \$5 for Texas Tech students and \$20 for others. Individual lectures are \$3 at the door.

For more information, contact WTMA, P.O. Box 4499, Lubbock, Texas 79409 or (806) 742-2443.

The fall series will begin Sept. 29 with art Professor Gene Mittler presenting "Art Vocabulary -- De Ribera."

History Professor David Troyansky will talk about "Historical Approaches to the 17th Century" Oct. 6.

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On Oct. 13, architecture professor Elizabeth Skidmore Sasser will discuss "Italian Sculpture and Architecture -- Bernini."

Art Professor Eugene Alesch will present "Italian Sculpture and Architecture -- Borromini, Guarini, Da Cortona, Maderno" on Oct 20.

"Italian painting -- The Eclectics" will be the topic for Dr. Alesch on Oct. 27.

Dr. Sasser's topic on Nov. 3 will be "Italian Painting -- Caravaggio."

On Nov. 10, Dr. Alesch will discuss "Spanish Painters -- Murillo and Zurbaran."

Art instructor Jody Brotherston will lecture on "Spanish Painting -- Velasquez" on Nov. 17.

Lubbock artist Eleanor Kreneck will present "Flemish Painting -- Rubens and Van Dyck" on Nov. 24.

The fall series will end on Dec. 1 with a lecture by Idris Traylor, history professor and director of the Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies (ICASALS), on "Vienna Baroque."

The spring series will begin Jan. 28 with Dr. Troyansky presenting "Historians Look at Pictures."

On Feb. 2, Kreneck will talk about "Dutch Painting -- Honthorst, Terbrugghen, Hals." She will present "Dutch Painting -- Rembrandt" on Feb. 9 and "Dutch Painting -- The Little Dutch Masters" on Feb. 18.

Alesch's topic on Feb. 23 will be "French Painting -- Latour, Le Nain, Poussin, Lorrain."

Sasser will discuss "The Palace of Versailles and Life at Court" on March 1. Her topic for the March 8 seminar will be "The Gardens of Versailles."

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"German and Austrian Architecture, Sculpture and Painting -- Wurzburg, Diewies, Vierzehnheiligen" will be the topic for Alesch on March 23.

Brotherston will talk about "Interior Design and the Minor Arts" on March 28.

The spring series will end on April 5 with a lecture by music Professor John Gillas on "Opera -- The 17th Century."

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CONTACT: Beverly Taylor

(MEDIA ADVISORY: Contact David Murrah at the Southwest Collection, (806) 742-3749, to arrange interviews with author Leon Metz.)

LUBBOCK -- Author Leon Metz will shoot up the stage with Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, John Selmon, Sam Bass and other notorious gunfighters at the banquet and annual meeting of the Friends of the University Library/Southwest Collection Oct. 1.

Metz, of El Paso, is a speaker and author of historical non-fiction of the Southwest. He will speak about "Chasing Gunfighters Across the Southwest" at the 7 p.m. dinner and meeting of the Friends in the University Center Ballroom. A reception for Metz and exhibit opening will be at 6 p.m. in the Special Collections area of the Library.

The exhibit, "Chasing Gunfighters Across the Southwest" will be displayed in the Special Collections area through Oct. 31. Exhibit items from the Southwest Collection will include some of Metz' books and memorabilia as well as artifacts of famous Southwestern characters.

Metz wrote "Turning Points in El Paso, Texas," an award-winning book. In 1985, the Western Writers of America gave him the Levi Strauss Saddleman Award for overall contributions to western writing.

He is author of seven books and has had numerous articles published in magazines, newspapers and historical journals. He is past president of the Western Writers of America, El Paso County Historical Society, El Paso Corral of the Westerners and Discover El Paso.

Banquet tickets are \$8. Sept. 28 is the reservation deadline. To register, contact the Friends' office, (806) 742-3758.

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HEALTH TIPSHEET
from
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
September 25, 1987

HEART STOPPER -- By some mechanism not fully understood, the same white blood cells which protect the body against pathogens and their toxins can turn against the organs they are meant to defend. This mechanism, activated when the blood flow is reduced or stopped, causes the white blood cells to release chemicals and enzymes which, in effect, begin to digest the cells around them. For victims of heart attacks, this change in the white blood cell behavior creates a double jeopardy, says TTUHSC Physiology Professor Paul F. McDonagh, Ph.D. First, myocardial ischemia -- insufficient blood supply to the heart muscle -- deprives the heart of needed nutrients. Second, the white blood cells, because they are no longer flowing through the coronaries, will actually attack the muscle, inflaming it at best and damaging it at worst. McDonagh has just begun work on a three-year, \$135,000 Johnson and Johnson Focused Giving Grant to study this white blood cell phenomenon. Using an experimental laboratory model, McDonagh pumps a blood solution through an isolated rat heart, then stops the flow to create the same effect as ischemia. Using a special microscope and video system, he can view individual blood cells in the heart and study how they damage the muscle cells. By understanding how the white blood cells deteriorate the heart muscle, researchers may one day be able to develop a treatment to prevent the damage. For more, contact McDonagh at (806) 743-2520.

HOSPITAL NURSES -- As a group, hospital patients are sicker today than they were four years ago. The reason is related to 1983 changes in federal government policy regarding Medicare reimbursement, and the results are placing greater demands on today's hospital nurses. Until 1983, the government reimbursed hospitals for care on the basis of actual cost. That changed in 1983 when the government adopted Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs), or fixed reimbursement for specific illnesses. As a result, hospital patient populations declined significantly as greater emphasis was placed on outpatient care and home health services, both of which are still reimbursed at cost. In effect, only the sickest patients remain in the hospitals, said Joe Daugherty, R.N., M.S.N., of the TTUHSC School of Nursing. Consequently, hospital nurses are involved in more intensive care for patients, as a group, at higher risk than patients four years ago. Despite the need for more and better educated nurses in hospitals and other areas as well, the supply is down. Traditionally a female profession, nursing must now compete with many other career options open to women. Prospects for an adequate supply of future nurses, like enrollments in nursing schools nationally, are down. For more on the problem, contact Daugherty at (806) 743-2731.

For assistance in covering these or other stories, contact TTUHSC news manager Preston Lewis at (806) 743-2143. Photographs and video footage can be arranged upon request.

7-9-25-87

AFTER HOURS CALL: Joe Sanders, University News, 799-1781 • Preston Lewis, Health Sciences Center, 745-1718 • Dorothy White, Broadcast, 745-4493

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8-9-25-87

HEART RESEARCH -- A three-year, \$135,000 grant has been awarded to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Physiology Professor Paul F. McDonagh to study damage done to the heart by white blood cells during cardiac arrest. The funds are part of the Johnson and Johnson Focused Giving Grant program. TTUHSC Medical School Dean J. Ted Hartman, from left, and McDonagh accept a \$45,000, first-year installment from Dr. Siu Po Sit of McNeil Pharmaceutical, a Johnson and Johnson subsidiary. (TECH PHOTO)

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CONTACT: Marydawn Webber

LUBBOCK -- The presence, both in bodies and spirits, of two veteran employees have long haunted the halls of the Texas Tech University, School of Law.

Registrar Ann Burbidge, and Rosalee Hardwick, senior library assistant, have both surpassed 20 years of employment with the law school, witnessing and actively participating in its growth and transition stages.

"I've had a wonderful opportunity to see the law school grow from its first days in some old army barracks to a beautiful new building, and from a student body of 72 to approximately 560 students," said Burbidge, who began her 22nd year at the law school this month.

Hardwick, who is entering her 21st year of employment at the school, began her career in September 1967 when the law school opened its doors to the first class.

Hardwick said she attributes her longevity to a continued appreciation of, and association with the law school administration, faculty, staff and students.

"I enjoy working in a library environment, especially the law library (and) I've had the opportunity to observe and contribute to the growth of the law school," she said.

She said she also watched as the law school moved from barracks to its permanent building in 1970.

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Hardwick now supervises the acquisitions division of the law library. Prior to that, she worked at the circulation desk and in acquisitions before becoming the library secretary.

She is a recipient of the 1986 Staff Recognition Award presented by the Cardinal Key National Honor Society.

Hardwick is also a member of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries and a member of the Lubbock Christian University Alumni Board.

Responsible for records and registration and coordination with admissions for law students, Burbridge cites numerous reasons for her long-standing status within the law school.

"I feel I have been most fortunate to be working at the law school as I have had wonderful support from the deans and from fellow workers. This position continues to be a challenge as we find new and better ways to do things."

Burbridge said working with students is also a privilege, and one which keeps her on her toes. "I try to be helpful and supportive of their efforts," she said.

The opportunity to attend classes at Tech has also been important to Burbridge, who has completed a masters of education degree while working at the law school.

Burbridge said she is currently working with registrars from eight other law schools to compile a law registrar's handbook.

"We hope this will be a helpful tool to new registrars as well as a sharing of ideas of experienced registrars," she said.

Burbridge received the University Superior Achievement Award in 1986.

In addition to her work at the law school, Burbridge is active in the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and currently serves on the Professional Schools Committee of that organization. She is also a charter member of the National Network of Law School Officers and has served on that board as director for two years.