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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: 1-5-15-89
CONTACT: Steve Kauffman

Eight university faculty members were given President's Excellence in Teaching Awards during the spring faculty honors convocation. They were: David B. Wester, College of Agricultural Sciences; Virginia M. Thompson, College of Architecture; Joseph E. King, College of Arts and Sciences; Richard L. Peterson, College of Business Administration; Gerald D. Parr, College of Education; Milton Smith, College of Engineering; JoAnn Shroyer, College of Home Economics; and Daniel Benson, School of Law.

Wester, a lecturer and research scientist in the range and wildlife management department, came to Texas Tech in 1983. He earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University, a master's and doctorate degrees from Texas Tech.

Thompson has been a member of the Architecture faculty since 1964. Currently, she serves as an associate professor. She has a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech.

King, a professor of history, is the director of the Center for Historic Preservation and Technology. He has a bachelor's degree from Fordham University in New York and graduate degrees from the University of Illinois in Urbana, Ill. He came to Texas Tech in 1970.

A Briscoe Professor of Bank Management, Peterson has been at Texas Tech since 1982. He earned graduate degrees from the University of Michigan. He has had faculty appointments at Purdue University and Southern Methodist University.

Parr, an associate professor of education, came to Texas Tech in 1974. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska and graduate degrees from the University of Colorado.

Smith, a professor of industrial engineering, earned his doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees from Texas Tech. He has taught at the university since 1968.

An assistant professor in the department of merchandising, environmental design and consumer economics, Shroyer earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech. Her doctorate is from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. She began teaching at the university in 1980.

Benson, a professor of law, came to Texas Tech in 1973 after earning bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Texas. He also has served in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Federal Justice Department.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: 2-5-15-89
CONTACT: Chris Patterson

[MEDIA ADVISORY: Members of the media are invited to attend any or all of the events of the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration June 2-4 at the University Center, Texas Tech University. For complimentary passes to special events, contact Alvin Davis, executive vice president and general manager of the Ranching Heritage Association, (806) 742-2498.]

LUBBOCK -- Cowboy. The word evokes strong images: images of a rough, leathery man -- a solitary spirit with a zest for hard work and hard lands -- a man respectful of nature, polite to the ladies and best friends with his horse.

The public's vision of a cowboy did not materialize from the dust of the West. The portrait was created by people -- poets, writers, scholars, artists, musicians and craftsmen. It was created by cowboys themselves or by people who, through relationships or research and analysis, have come to know and understand cowboys and the spirit of the American West.

More than 250 of these authorities on cowboy culture will unite for one of the most comprehensive explorations of the traditions of the American frontier at the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration June 2-4 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, located in the heart of the plains of West Texas.

"Never before have such a diverse group of authorities on cowboys and cowboy culture gathered together to pay homage to these folk heroes of America," said Alvin Davis, executive vice president and general manager of the Ranching Heritage Association (RHA).

The RHA, a sponsor of the program, is the non-profit support organization for Texas Tech's Ranching Heritage Center. The outdoor museum represents the development of Texas ranching from 1836-1936 through a collection of 30 historic ranching structures.

Davis said the large number of participants and the wide range of disciplines represented in the symposium should appeal to anyone interested in the American West.

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COWBOY SYMPOSIUM/PAGE 2

"This is not just a chance to hear poetry and literature about the cowboy. It's a chance to see the art, hear the music and observe the work of the cowboy," said Davis. "Even the cowboy craftsmen will be on hand displaying boots, saddles, spurs and other gear."

Davis said that true, less than well-known facts about cowboy and Western culture will be topics of some of the discussions.

Davis said four women, Fern Sawyer of Alto, N.M., Dixie Mosley of Amarillo, Stella Hughes of Clifton, Ariz., and Betty Cooper of Durant, Okla., will lead a discussion about Western women. The women were not secondary figures in relation to the cowboys, but were, and are, primary characters in their own right.

"Even the contributions of the black cowboy to the American West will be examined by one of the panels," said Davis. "We've tried to cover every aspect of this Western culture."

Participants of the daily panel sessions and evening performances will include: Baxter Black and Carlos Ashley, two of the foremost cowboy poets; Red Steagall, traditional Western musician; Don Edwards, yodeler and singer of old-time cowboy ballads; John Erickson, author of "Hank the Cowdog" stories; Elmer Kelton, one of the great Western fiction writers; Barry Corbin and Barry Tubb, two of the actors in the television movie "Lonesome Dove"; Ace Reid, cowboy cartoonist and humorist; and Tom Ryan, artist and former president of the Cowboy Artists of America.

In addition to the panel sessions on poetry, songs, stories, photography and art, the symposium will feature a celebrity cutting and team roping event from 2-4 p.m. Sunday (June 4) at the Livestock Pavilion on the Panhandle South Plains Fairgrounds. Champion rodeo cowboys Toots Mansfield and Troy Fort will flag the team roping event and champion cutters Fern Sawyer, Buster Welch and Lex Graham will judge the cutting competition.

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COWBOY SYMPOSIUM/PAGE 3

A book fair and exhibit of cowboy gear, trappings, art and crafts will be from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday (June 2), 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday (June 3) and 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday (June 4) in the University Center. The Ranching Heritage Center will provide the setting for a barbecue and a tour of the center from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday (June 2).

The weekend symposium is sponsored by Texas Tech University's RHA, Southwest Collection, Department of English, Division of Continuing Education and the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies. The principal commercial sponsor for the event is Wrangler of Greensboro, N.C. Other sponsors include: Rodeo Video Inc. of Snow Flake, Ariz.; Hardin-Simmons University of Abilene; Luskey's Western Wear of Lubbock; and the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. The symposium also is supported by grants from the Lubbock Cultural Affairs Council and the Texas Committee for the Humanities.

A single ticket price of \$5 will provide admission to the Friday, Saturday and Sunday panel sessions. The first 5,000 people to purchase tickets will be given a 18"x24" poster. Evening performances and the Sunday afternoon arena performance tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Barbecue tickets are \$7 for a regular serving and \$5 for a small serving.

To register for any events, contact the National Cowboy Symposium, Division of Continuing Education, P.O. Box 4110 TTU, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. For more information about the symposium, contact Davis at (806) 742-2498.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: 3-5-15-89
CONTACT: Preston Lewis**

(MEDIA ADVISORY: You are invited to cover the telenetworking debut. Camera opportunities will be available in Room 2C223 and in the control room, 2B151. Giles McCrary, director of telenetworking, will be available to answer questions. For more information, contact the HSC News Bureau at 743-2143.)

LUBBOCK -- A seminar on women's health care issues Thursday (May 18) will mark the debut of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center's inter-campus telenetworking system.

The seminar "Wellness in the '90s" will be conducted simultaneously in El Paso and Lubbock. Through the two-way interactive system, participants at each site will be able to see, hear and even ask questions of speakers at the other site.

The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Room 2C223 of the Health Sciences Center Building. In El Paso, the seminar will be in Auditorium A of the Regional Academic Health Center.

Lubbock speakers will include Wayne Jones of the Phobia Center of the Southwest who will discuss anxiety and panic disorders in women, and Celia Michael of the department of psychiatry at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center who will talk about hidden substance abuse in women.

The seminar will give the health professional an overview of current concepts and concerns in women's emotional and physical needs. Continuing education units are available through TTHSC's Offices of Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Nursing Education.

The \$1.2 million telenetworking system will ultimately link the four TTHSC regional centers in El Paso, Lubbock, Amarillo and Odessa. The Amarillo and Odessa campuses will be included on the system by the end of May.

The network uses a combination of fiber optic and digital microwave transmission to link the campuses. With the network, continuing education programs at any site can be shared, making it possible for health professionals from throughout West Texas to take the courses without having to travel vast distances.

Additionally, the system will be used to enhance the educational and administrative flexibility of TTHSC. The network is part of a multi-tiered communication system TTHSC is developing with applications for rural health practitioners.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: 4-5-16-89
CONTACT: Steve Kauffman

LUBBOCK -- The Texas Tech University Delta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has been named one of the Top Five Alumni Chapters of Phi Theta Kappa, the national scholastic honorary for two-year college students.

The group was selected from 125 alumni chapters in two-year college communities and senior institutions of higher education around the nation. The award recognizes group programs, progress, service and related activities.

Texas Tech student Julie Landgraf of Brenham also was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Hall of Honor this spring. The award is given to alumni members who have given outstanding service to the honorary. Landgraf is a former national president of the group.

Troy Johnson, assistant director of the Office of New Student Relations, serves as adviser for the local chapter.

Phi Theta Kappa has a total of 750 chapters with an active membership of 45,000 students in the United States and U.S. territorial possessions and military installations abroad.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 5-5-16-89

CONTACT: Chris Patterson

(MEDIA ADVISORY: A student from your area recently was recognized as an outstanding student at Texas Tech University.)

LUBBOCK -- The department of mathematics at Texas Tech University recently recognized 17 outstanding students and scholarship recipients at its annual Honors and Kappa Mu Epsilon Initiation Banquet.

Paula Kajs, of Crowell, received the 1988-89 Outstanding Undergraduate award in mathematics. Kajs has a 4.0 grade-point-average and has held every scholarship the department offers. She also was a Deans Scholar and a College of Arts and Sciences Ambassador. Kajs, who graduated May 13, has accepted a position with the Arthur Young Consulting Firm.

Dafeng Chen, of Shanghai, China, was named the Outstanding Graduate student of the mathematics department. The award, which carries with it a stipend from the graduate dean, recognizes Chen's superior work as a graduate student and his excellent work as a teaching assistant.

The department awarded its first Outstanding Teacher of High School Mathematics award to Stephanie Barrett of Muleshoe. The award recognizes individual dedication and exceptional abilities of the teaching of high school mathematics.

Professor Edward Allen was named the Kappa Mu Epsilon Teacher of the Year. The local chapter recognizes a university professor who exemplifies excellence in teaching.

Other award and scholarship winners for the 1988-89 year include: Kerry Phillips, of Boerne, the Rushing Family Scholarship; Stacy Blevins, of San Antonio, and Pei-Pei Tang, of Lubbock, the E. Richard Heineman Scholarship; Barbara Murray, of Snyder, the Mildred and Lonnie Langston Scholarship; Garry Tucker, of Lubbock, and Manuel Martinez-Morales, of Veracruz, Mexico, the Gordon Fuller Scholarship for Graduate Students; and Donald Ryan, of Lubbock, the Professor Amir-Moez Research Award.

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MATH AWARDS/PAGE 2

Award and scholarship winners for the 1989-90 year also were recognized at the banquet. Jill Smith, of Dimmitt, was awarded the Mildred and Lonnie Langston Scholarship, and Curtis Allan Prokuski, of Grapevine, received the Rushing Family Scholarship. Brian Christiansen, of Lubbock; Michael Clark, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dawn Gray, of Odessa; Pamela Lockwood, of Lorenzo; Jesse Money, of Henderson; and Pei-Pei Tang, of Lubbock, each received an Emmett Hazlewood Scholarship.

The Derald Walling Scholarship, intended for assistance in the training of secondary mathematics teachers, was given to Barbara Murray of Snyder. Karen Marshall, of Acuff, received the first Paul Thompson Scholarship. The new scholarship is for assisting the training of mathematics teachers, especially elementary specialists, in mathematics.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 6-5-17-89

CONTACT: Steve Kauffman

(MEDIA ADVISORY: A student from your area is included in this release. Their names, background information and scholarship amounts are attached. Please compile the information to complete the release for publishing.)

LUBBOCK -- The Texas Tech University Dads and Moms Association has announced scholarship recipients for the 1989-90 academic year.

Local scholars include:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 7-5-17-89

CONTACT: Chris Patterson

LUBBOCK -- Henry Nguyen, associate professor of agronomy, horticulture and entomology, recently was named director of the Institute for Biotechnology at Texas Tech University. He succeeds David Knaff who will assume the chairmanship of chemistry and biochemistry.

The institute, approved by the Board of Regents in September 1988, promotes graduate student education and research between faculty in various academic units in the areas of cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, microbiology, genetics and agricultural plant biotechnology.

Nguyen said the institute draws from faculty in the departments of chemistry and biochemistry, biological sciences and agronomy, horticulture and entomology and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Services. He said faculty from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center participate on an informal basis.

"Recently we were able to pull together seven scientists and submit a biological instrumentation proposal to the National Science Foundation," he said. "It was the first time that the institute has worked as a team to procure funding and it was the first time we received a true financial commitment from the university. The application for the grant requires that the university be prepared to match the funds."

Nguyen said the proposal is not for instruments for a specific research project, but instead, requests monies for equipment essential for general biotechnology research.

Nguyen said he has three primary goals as director of the institute. First, he said, he plans to work with the Office of Development to obtain endowment funds for graduate student fellowships and professorships.

"We need to bring in good quality graduate students from other universities and these graduate students must have a reason to come to Texas Tech," he said. "We need to provide a good research program with economic backing in order to attract these students."

Nguyen said he also plans to obtain private industry and foundation supports for specific research areas and special lectures.

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INSTITUTE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY/PAGE 2

"Because Lubbock is sometimes considered to be geographically isolated, the institute must bring in prominent speakers for students and faculty. These lectures will provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration."

Finally, Nguyen said he would like to see the institute provide a service to the local community.

"We plan to organize internships and workshops for undergraduate students and high school biology and chemistry teachers to enhance the nation's competitiveness in science education," he said. "High school teachers need a chance to get back into the labs and work on research projects. They need to remain enthusiastic about science and they need to convey that excitement to their students."

"Nguyen said he believes graduate education and research in the area of biotechnology will play an important role as Texas Tech strives to become a major research institution."

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MEDIA ADVISORY

REF: 8-5-17-89

CONTACT: Chris Patterson

"LONESOME DOVE" ACTOR RETURNS HOME FOR COWBOY SYMPOSIUM

LUBBOCK -- Barry Corbin, Texas Tech University graduate and the "Roscoe" character in the television miniseries "Lonesome Dove," will be one of the participants of the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration June 2-4.

Corbin will be available May 17 for private interviews about his role in the symposium. The symposium will unite more than 250 authorities on cowboy culture for a comprehensive exploration of the traditions of the American frontier.

Interviews may be arranged by contacting Corbin at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kilmer B. Corbin, 4207 47th, 799-5844.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 9-5-17-89

CONTACT: Preston Lewis

LUBBOCK -- More than 200 Texas Tech Health Sciences Center students will receive diplomas on May 27, a day of special significance not only to the graduates but also to the institution.

The graduation ceremonies fall 20 years to the day that enabling legislation was signed creating the Texas Tech School of Medicine, forerunner of TTHSC. And the man who signed that legislation, then Gov. Preston Smith of Lubbock, will be recognized during the general convocation at 2 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

Convocation speaker Daniel C. Maguire, Ph.D., a professor in the department of theology at Marquette University, will discuss ethics in the health profession.

Individual school ceremonies will precede the general convocation.

The School of Nursing baccalaureate hooding ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in Room 5B148, Health Sciences Center Building. The School of Nursing will award 63 degrees. The commencement address will be delivered by Texas Tech Regent J.L. Gulley Jr.

The School of Allied Health will conduct its ceremony at 11 a.m. in the University Theater. Thirteen clinical laboratory science, 16 occupational therapy and 24 physical therapy students will be honored as graduates. Remarks will be given by Allied Health Dean Shirley McManigal and by Texas Tech Board of Regents Vice Chairman Wm. Gordon McGee, M.D.

The School of Medicine will hold its doctoral hooding ceremony at noon in the Civic Center Theater. The hooding will recognize 92 medical degree recipients and six doctoral degree recipients. Texas Tech Regent McGee will offer remarks.

After the 2 p.m. convocation each school will host a reception for new graduates in the Civic Center mall area.

During the general convocation former Gov. Preston Smith will be recognized for his efforts leading to the establishment of the Texas Tech School of Medicine. The Texas Legislature created the School of Medicine in 1969 and Smith signed the legislation into law on May 27, 1969.

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HSC COMMENCEMENT/PAGE 2

The school's first students entered in 1972 and the first class graduated in 1974. In 1979 the legislature broadened the institutional name to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The School of Nursing was added to the center in 1981 and the School of Allied Health in 1983.

Convocation speaker Maguire, the author of seven books, has written on a variety of ethical and medical issues, including elderly care, professional issues for nurses, death and dying, the old and new morality, ethical decision-making, mercy killing, sexuality, bioethics and moral theology.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
REF: 11-5-19-89
CONTACT: Steve Kauffman

PRICE MOVEMENT REGULATION COULD AID IN AVOIDING STOCK MARKET CRASH

LUBBOCK -- A limit on upward and downward trends during a set period has had a beneficial impact on the commodity futures market during the past several years. That same regulatory process could be applied to other markets as a "circuit breaker" to aid in avoiding a repeat stock market crash like the United States and world markets experienced in October 1987.

A Texas Tech University researcher has conducted an in-depth study of the price movement limitation structure of the commodity futures market. Stephen Sears has discovered a significantly low price volatility and price pattern stabilization when limits are placed on price movements in these markets. Covering a broad cross section with silver, treasury bonds, corn and soybean, the study gives credence to the idea that unchecked overreaction in the market often is the cause of volatile price swings. Price limitations (i.e. silver prices cannot move more than 50 cents either way in one day of trading) often stabilize angles of increasing or decreasing levels with sharp trends leveling or reverting during the next day of trading. The "cooling off period" also significantly decreases volatility in market prices in periods following the price limit moves.

After the events of October 1987, this type of regulation is under consideration for uses in other U.S. markets. Ideally the regulation would be used in all U.S. financial markets and foreign markets as a method to aid in avoiding a worldwide market drop that could rival the crash of 1929. However, Sears says, even the mention of limited implementation is controversial; and worldwide installation could mean a network of controversy and the monumental task of forming and operating a central regulatory agency.

SOURCE:

R. Stephen Sears, Ph.D., (806) 742-3377

Professor of Finance and Director of the Institute for Banking and Financial Studies at Texas Tech University

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sears, with business professors K.C. Ma and Ramesh Rao, co-authored the academic study that outlines the commodities price limitation research and its applications in other markets. Sears can provide pro and con sides of the ensuing issue of regulation, its merits and the intricate central regulatory process.)

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CALENDAR WEEK MAY 19-26

REF: 12-5-17-89

CONTACT: News and Publications

This Texas Tech calendar is compiled to let you know of upcoming events, upcoming releases and to serve as a reminder of releases already sent. If you need more information, call News and Publications at 742-2136.

MAY 19 Conference -- "Protecting Yourself Legally During Times of Nursing Shortage"
8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., health sciences center Room 2B152

Architectural reviews seminar
sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education
(release ref: 12-4-28-89)

MAY 25 Conference -- "Practical Bench-Level Microbiology"
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., health sciences center Room 2C223

MAY 26 School of Medicine senior awards ceremony
10:30 a.m., health sciences center Room 5B148

School of Nursing graduation banquet and pin presentation
7:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Civic Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: 13-5-19-89
CONTACT: Jennifer LeNoir

LUBBOCK -- Problems associated with highway safety, specifically related to trucks and heavy vehicles, will be discussed at the Transportation Safety Workshop on Wednesday (May 24) at the Ranching Heritage Center. The workshop, sponsored by Texas Tech University's mechanical engineering department, is scheduled from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The safety workshop is significant now because the Car and Motor Vehicle Act of 1986, which affects heavy vehicle licensing and driving procedures, is beginning to be more widely implemented, said Jesse Jones, mechanical engineering lecturer and workshop organizer.

The act involves additional penalties for drivers who do not meet its new standards and requires additional written and driving tests for operators, said Jones.

"We want to provide information, but the workshop's primary objective is to provide a forum for various members of the trucking industry, state agencies and additional parties interested in vehicle safety," he said.

In an afternoon presentation, Tim Maxwell, Texas Tech mechanical engineering professor, will discuss the formation of the Texas Tech Truck Research and Information Center.

In other panel sessions, presenters will identify existing and potential safety problems facing the trucking industry and will discuss possible solutions to those problems, said Jones.

The workshop will include brief presentations by the following speakers. Mel Pope, district supervisor of the Texas Highway Department, will discuss the outlook for highway development and maintenance in Texas. Jim Tillingshast, a lieutenant with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Drivers License Division, will describe the current DPS interpretation of the Commercial Driver Testing and Licensing Standards included in the Car and Motor Vehicle Act of 1986. Rainey Turpin, American International Group Transportation Division safety director, will speak on truck safety from an insurers' perspective. Mark Whittaker, Frito-Lay Inc. regional logistics manager, will describe the company's driving safety program.

The workshop will conclude with a tour of the mechanical engineering department's research facilities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 14-5-19-89

CONTACT: Kippie Hopper

LUBBOCK -- Cowboys, or "mounted herdsman," in the 19th century memorized poetry and recited the verses to cattle to calm the creatures. Modern cowboys keep alive this oral tradition by continuing to recite poetry and to tell stories.

Cowboy poetry and Western literature is popular for the same reason that the ballads of the wandering minstrels or troubadours were popular during the Middle Ages, explains Kenneth W. Davis, professor of English at Texas Tech University.

"It all goes back to a fundamental longing for a physically visible, present storyteller," Davis said. "Poetry is an artistic song-form. Ballads are short stories set to song. Nearly every culture has its storyteller to interpret, celebrate and exhort the experience of life. The storyteller deals with saga material in a piecemeal fashion, sometimes satirically, sometimes critically."

Modern cowboy poets, Western writers and scholars will share their works and perspectives during the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration June 2-4 at Texas Tech University.

Vice President of the Texas Folklore Society, Davis is a co-organizer of the event along with Alvin Davis, executive vice president and general manager of the Ranching Heritage Association. The symposium will focus on popular material that covers the culture of the cowboy and the nature of the Western experience.

Davis said Western writers and cowboy poets love -- and sometimes romanticize -- their particular way of life. Cowboy poetry reveals a sensitivity and gives us a popular "mythos," or a pattern of beliefs that express often symbolically the characteristic or prevalent attitudes in a group or culture.

"Poetry, fiction or film is popular because it makes us believe somewhere, somehow, there yet survives a way of life that the literature celebrates. When we read a poem or a book or we see a movie that is about courage and other values, we believe that world exists. The works hold up an image that seems to be better than reality truly was."

The best Western fiction, such as "Lonesome Dove," recently broadcast as a network television miniseries, offers reality to readers, "warts and all," Davis said. The author of the novel, Larry McMurtry, is a good novelist because of his awareness of what happens when a traditional way of life changes.

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COWBOY POETRY/PAGE 2

The characters in "Lonesome Dove" showed much physical courage to face fire, famine, floods and strange wild beasts. Those themes are parallel to themes found in classical literature, such as in the "Iliad" and "Aeneid," he said.

"Cowboy poets and Western fiction writers, although highly individualistic, are traditionalists. They take pride in traditional values: courage, dignity, integrity, rugged individualism, freedom, loyalty and honesty. Western writers also share a love of nature and its impact on life. They deal with these elemental struggles with wit and humor. They delight in their craft and celebrate their independence."

Western writers like Elmer Kelton, author of "The Time It Never Rained" and "The Man Who Rode Midnight," record those virtues and can be called "neo-pastoral writers." The writers deal with the countryside and celebrate a sort of innocence in a lonesome, solitary, country way of life, he said.

In his work, Kelton is dealing with the same elemental struggles that have been examined throughout time: nature, governmental rules, human frailties and the endurance of human beings that is part of the region that made them, Davis said.

"Kelton gives us a realistic picture, but because he is an artist, he shapes and molds that reality but stays true to the spirit. Kelton often has commented that there is no real conflict between history and fiction. The literary figure shapes truth and goes beyond the facts," Davis said.

In most Western fiction, as in Kelton's work, the potential for growth and education exists in the bittersweet compromises reached by characters in the stories.

There are no '... and they lived happily ever after ...' endings," Davis said. "The human heart is the human heart whether it's found in Alpine, Crane or London. Western writers and poets, whether they are widely published or obscure, seek to examine, evaluate and celebrate the quality of the human life."

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HEALTH TIPSHEET from TEXAS TECH HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER May 19, 1989

TWO DECADES -- Coming 20 years to the day after creation of the Texas Tech School of Medicine, the 1989 TTHSC commencement exercises May 27 will honor former Gov. Preston Smith, who signed the enabling legislation in 1969. The graduation convocation will recognize 214 students, beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, and will bring to 1,484 the institution's total number of graduates. Scheduled earlier in the day will be individual school ceremonies: Nursing, 10 a.m., Room 5B148, Health Sciences Center Building, 63 graduates; Allied Health, 11 a.m., University Theater, 53 graduates; and Medicine, noon, Civic Center Theater, 98 graduates. For details on graduation and the institution's 20th anniversary, contact Vonda K. Somerville, director of student services, at (806) 743-2302.

CELL-TO-CELL -- The human grace and coordination which may reach its zenith in a ballerina or gymnast has its roots in the cerebellum of the brain. Neurons called Purkinje cells transmit messages to other neurons which coordinate our muscular movements. Jean C. Strahlendorf, Ph.D., of the TTHSC physiology faculty is studying how these chemical messages are sent by Purkinje cells. Though cellular communication was once thought to be achieved by electrical impulses, it now appears to be accomplished through a chemical process which research is gradually helping define. With grant support from the National Institutes of Health, Strahlendorf is examining Purkinje cells in rats to give insight into the human brain's interworking. Findings from her research can ultimately provide clues into how motor function coordination develops through the brain and how alcohol consumption leads to poor muscular coordination. For more on this basic research, contact Strahlendorf at (806) 743-2554.

For assistance in covering these or other stories, contact HSC News Bureau manager Preston Lewis at (806) 743-2143.

15-5-19-89